

*Glow-in-the-Dark*  
**TREAT BUCKETS**

*Boo!*  
*Sp*  
*Trick or treat?*



## MATERIALS

lacy cut paper (find it in the scrapbooking section of your local craft store)

temporary spray-on adhesive  
plain metal bucket

glow-in-the-dark spray paint

optional: black latex paint (spray or brushable) for striped bucket

optional: spray-on clear finish to protect the painted design

## TOOLS

scissors

masking tape

Pillowcases are out of the question these days. And those plastic pumpkins are just so uninspired. Send your trick-or-treaters out into the night with a bucket that glimmers and glows by day as well as by night. These plain buckets from the hardware store get a quick shot of glow-in-the-dark spray paint through an improvised stencil so they pack an extra punch even in the dark. If you are not a fan of florals or a connoisseur of curlicues, the striped bucket is a nice graphic touch. Or you could stencil an initial on the bucket to make it personal.





A

## how to:

**1** Cut the lacy paper so that it fits on your bucket. You may need to cut multiple pieces to wrap completely around the entire bucket. You also may need to cut a section out where the handle meets the bucket so the paper stencil will lie flat. Spray the stencil with the adhesive, and stick it firmly to the bucket (photo A).

**2** Lightly spray the bucket with multiple coats of glow-in-the-dark paint (photo B).

**3** Carefully remove the stencil from the metal bucket to reveal the stenciled design. Let dry completely (photo C).

**4** For maximum glowiness, paint the inside of the bucket as well. Use a piece of newspaper to wrap the outside of the bucket, and secure it with masking tape around the top edge to protect the design on the outside. Spray multiple coats of the glow-in-the-dark paint on the interior. For a more long-lasting bucket, spray the entire painted surface with clear finish (photo D).

**ALTERNATE STRIPED BUCKET:** I discovered this cool effect quite by accident, although faux painters know this technique well. I first sprayed this bucket with black high-gloss latex paint and let it dry. Then I taped off stripes about 1½ inches wide with masking tape. Then I sprayed on the enamel-based glow-in-the-dark paint. Because the compositions of the two paint formulas are not wholly compatible, the glow-in-the-dark paint cracked and peeled over the black latex. But happily, it made a really cool distressed surface that was perfect for the general disaster and distress theme of the Halloween season (photo E).



B



C



D



E



## *Note...*

The glow-in-the-dark paints that are available at your local hardware store do a nice job of recharging their glow under normal light. Depending on the manufacturer, it takes between 2 and 8 hours for the paint to have a full "charge." It should then glow for a couple of hours at least.

