

# Simple Marbled Christmas Ornaments

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For thrifty teachers' gifts or other gift recipients this Christmas, make simple but elegant marbled ornaments. Get the kids involved in making these swirled ornaments.



## Materials:

Clear glass ornaments  
Vinegar  
Acrylic paint in various colors  
Dixie bathroom size cups  
Gift tins or boxes

## Instructions:

1. Before working with your ornament, you should remove the hanger and clean the inside of the bulb with vinegar. Swirling around a small amount of vinegar inside the bulb will help remove any dust, dirt, and glass particles that may have gotten trapped inside and will help the paint stick. Make sure that the ornament is completely dry before proceeding to the next step. You can skip this step, however, if the bulb is too dirty, the paint will not adhere to the glass properly.
2. Next take the dry ornament and squirt a stream of acrylic paint inside the bulb. Do this several times, alternating desired colors and creating 'stripes' inside the ornament. Do not cover the entire bulb with paint - make sure that there is some glass peaking through! (See picture on next page.)



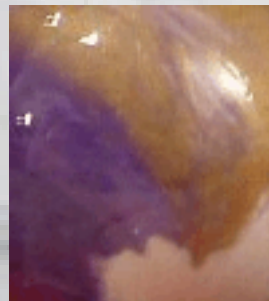
3. Now rotate the ornament so that the paint begins covering all of the glass surface. You'll notice that you're already getting a marbled effect!



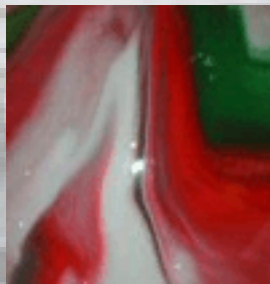
4. After the inside of the bulb is coated in paint, drain the ornament upside down in a bathroom size Dixie cup. If you're in a hurry, you can stop here. However, for more dramatic swirled effects, allow the paint to drain approximately 30 minutes (it may take longer if you used a lot of paint or a shorter amount of time if you used less. I tend to use a lot of paint and 30 minutes allows for most of the paint to drip out, but is not completely gone) and begin rotating the bulb again. You can do this by resting the bulb on its side or right side up for several hours. Each time you rotate the bulb, you'll get more swirling in that area.



5. For a soft marbled look like the image on the left (where colors gently blend together into each other), rotate the bulb gradually until the ornament is dry.



6. However, for dramatic marbleization such as the photo on the right, make sharp rotations. I do this by making 180 degree turns after it has sat for several hours.



7. After the bulb has dried, replace the ornament top and package in a pretty gift box. Don't forget to make a few extras for yourself to hang on your tree.

