

Vintage Vessels... KEEPERS OF MEMORIES



BY CHRIS FRANCIN
VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

Teacups are often handed down in families, many are cherished heirlooms and proudly displayed. Some though, are tucked away in cabinets or stored in boxes usually never to be used. What if you could create a whimsical sense of nostalgia, a holder of memories by repurposing these vintage vessels? The small size of teacups makes them perfect for creating miniature gardens, holiday steamers or candle holders. If you prefer to use a larger type of cup to display your designs, that works too—so let your imagination soar! Here are some ideas...



MINIATURE
GARDENS

When planting herbs, small flowers like violets or pansies, or succulents in a teacup you will want to create a layer of pebbles at the bottom of the cup to aid with drainage. Then, fill the cup with a good potting mix. Leave a bit of space for the plant's roots and a little room at the top. Carefully remove the plant from its current container and place it into the cup making sure you have positioned it in the center of the vessel. Fill the remaining space with more potting mix, patting it down to secure the plant.



Then, top the cup with moss, stones or sea glass to add more charm to your creation. Select a destination to showcase your teacup that provides the amount of sunlight needed for the plant to thrive. When dry, water the plant and make sure it drains before re-watering it.



MORNING LIGHT

Create a charming and inviting ambiance with these enchanting teacups by simply inserting a battery-operated candle inside the cup. We suggest using battery-operated candles over making wax candle teacups, but if you choose the latter, you may want to visit the many websites dedicated to safely making wax candle teacups.

DESSERT WITH CHARM

Transform an ordinary dessert into an elegant and whimsical piece of sweetness with the charm of cupcakes served in teacups. These vessels have a rich history of symbolizing friendship and hospitality creating the perfect ambiance for celebrating any special occasion. No cake cutting here—just simply slip the cupcake right into the cup!



VACATION ISLAND

Creating a tropical vacation scene in a teacup can be quite intriguing. Because of its compact size, it can be displayed in most areas of the home. Start by choosing a cup that would work well with your design. Consider the shape, size and color. You may want to draw up a sketch on paper before you start designing your scene in the cup. Start building the base first with sand or other materials and work up from there, securing all miniature items like palm trees, beach chairs, umbrellas, and any other design elements with a bit of glue. Use blue tinted craft sand to represent the beautiful waters of the Gulf. This teacup can be placed in your guest room and gifted as a memorable souvenir when your guests leave paradise.



HOLIDAY SPICE

Celebrate the spirit of the season by turning a teacup into a holiday spice diffuser. To release festive fragrances in the air, begin by selecting a vintage cup that evokes the holiday spirit. Fill a small sized pot half way up with water, add cinnamon sticks, star anise, whole cloves and a slice of dried orange. Bring to a boil and let it simmer for about an hour. Then, fill the teacup with the aromatic

liquid and place it on an electric cup warmer to gently maintain the heat in the cup. You can store the remaining spiced water in a jar for use at another time. Enjoy the scents of the season!

Whether inherited or purchased in thrift stores, repurposing teacups is a wonderful way to enjoy the vintage ambiance of the past.

