



Milaeger's

Got Icicles? Winter chill is here!

Kevin Milaeger

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Some of you may recall a past Christmas ornament blog I wrote called "The Value of Vertical." ([Here is a link if you want to refresh your memory.](#)) It was mostly about how the addition of vertical ornaments can enhance the appearance of your Christmas tree. This remains a strong opinion of mine, and I know a number of you responded favorably to my comments in that blog, so I am not alone. In the off season I have acquired a number of vertical ornaments, some of which are pictured here. I try to focus on the more reasonably priced ornaments. Most of these are made in Europe, generally West Germany or Poland. Of course, the ones with a simple design and solid colors are most affordable. Larger sizes, those with multiple colors,



6" icicles

indentations, twists, and other features call for a corresponding increase in the price.



6-10" icicles

The term "icicle" is often used for these ornaments, but if you picture icicles hanging from your gutter in winter when you read that, you will be surprised. Although silver and white icicles are sometimes found, most collectors want color, so we see a wide variety of colors, sometimes multiple colors with a shiny finish, and occasionally a matte finish. We also see indentations and glitter to increase reflectivity, as well as swirls and stripes to accentuate the vertical aspect. We have a few larger

icicles, up to about 10.5", but we also have some miniature types, measuring only 3.5" or so. They are great for table top trees.

I remember the Christmas tree at my grandparent's house very



well. One of the distinctive features was the solid, clear glass icicles that were maybe 10-15" long. This was something we didn't have at home, and they seemed ancient and fragile. As I scour the secondary market for icicles like those my grandparent's had, I have discovered that they almost never become available in that size. I do see some shorter ones in the 4-6" range, but I have had



5½-6½" icicles

no luck acquiring any of the big ones.



5-6" icicles

Fortunately, new solid glass (clear) icicles are still being made, and are available at very reasonable prices. I have no problem using these on a "vintage" tree. I refuse to be restricted by my own arbitrary rules. The 5.5" size sells for about 60 cents each when you buy a box of 20. At the high end are 14" sculptural icicles for \$8 each. But my favorite is the Dept 56 Collection of 24 flat glass icicles---6.5", 8.5", and 11.5" for \$32. I like the varied lengths for added

dimension and interest. Some people have asked me "Who needs 24 icicles?" I know, I reply---that's just barely getting started!

Please [email me](#) if you have any questions or comments. If you are interested in purchasing ornaments pictured in this blog, please contact Lori at 262.693.2040 x158 or lori@milaegers.com.



Dept 56 icicles

