



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Icicles Add Much to the Christmas Tree!

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Some of you may recall the Christmas blog I wrote about a year ago titled "The Value of Vertical." ([Here is a link](#) if you want to read the entire blog.)

In that blog I opined that the look of the Christmas tree can be enhanced with the inclusion of vertical ornaments. This is because most ornaments are generally round or roundish in shape, and the vertical ornaments, such as icicles, play well off them. Vintage icicle ornaments are not real easy to find, at least not in large quantities and at a reasonable price. Because of their shape, they are prone to breakage. This accounts for their relative scarcity and for a higher price. (Even new icicle ornaments



command a higher price; the breakage that occurs during production must



"Blown" icicles

be figured into the cost of those ornaments that eventually find their way to the store shelves.) But despite the relative scarcity of these vintage ornaments, I managed to find a reasonable number of them during the off season and we are now ready to offer them to you. We have a variety of icicle styles. One type is the blown glass tapered ornament, usually made in Germany or Poland. It comes in various lengths, and many colors, including multicolor. A few are frosted with mica chips. Another, more common form is oftentimes known as a "drop" or "teardrop" shape. Usually about 5-6" long, these are pointed at both ends and thicker in the middle. They also come in many colors, and



sometimes they have indents, or are painted with fanciful patterns. Occasionally they are transparent, and have tinsel inside. These were mostly American made, and they were mass produced so they are not so hard to find. The solid colored ones are the most common and the least expensive. The indents, painted and transparent icicles are more unusual, and as with other things in life, the more exotic or unusual, the higher the



"Drop" or "Teardrop" icicles

price (but not by much, in this case.) Another icicle type is the "solid" glass rod, again usually 5-6" long, and very thin. These came in many colors, but are fairly hard to find. They aren't particularly fragile---perhaps they weren't very popular when they first came out, and that is the reason for their scarcity. Lastly is a type of icicle produced by an American manufacturer named Kentlee. They made their "barrel" icicles in two lengths, about 3.5" and 5.5", in solid colors and also a candy cane stripe. These are heavier and less elegant than the European icicles, but I like their simplicity. The smaller Kentlee icicles were also offered as candles, inverted and set in a little candleholder stand.



**Kentlee icicles (top row)
"Rod" icicles (bottom row)**

When buying large quantities of ornaments, some of the common, round, solid colored ornaments are sometimes included in the mix. I call them "filler" ornaments, not terribly interesting. So, what to do with several boxes of these that I have accumulated. My daughter-in-law, Elsa, who sometimes spends part of her day working in our design department, said she had some ideas. Here are some of her creations. Of course, in your own creation you can include any type of ornament, or any other object that appeals to you. First choose an interesting base, then gather some different sized ornaments, different colors (or not), get a glue gun, and spark your imagination. Remember that these arrangements don't necessarily have to be "Christmassy." The silver arrangement, for example, could be used at any time of year. Try making something with the ornaments you don't use anymore---you'll surprise yourself. Please [email me](#) if you have any questions or comments.



