



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Granny-esque Ornaments

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'Tis the season for tree decorating and I'm sure you are all busy with your Christmas décor like I am. I spend about twelve hours on my main tree. It's ten feet tall but not too wide. One trick I've learned is to put a lot of ornaments in a shallow box and then go up the ladder. Up and down the ladder is tiring and can be dangerous, the older we get. Saves time too. When the tree is about half done I start to get very picky about where I want the next ornament placed. I don't want two ornaments alongside each other that are of a similar color or shape, for example.



a glimpse of my home tree

Ornaments show off best if they are placed next to a contrasting color or shape, or preferably, both.



a glimpse of my home tree

To make the placement decision quickly, I spend a few seconds squinting at the tree. This gives me a sense of what color is lacking in a certain area, and then I can find a suitable ornament for that spot. I'm sure some of you think this is fanatical, but that's what works for me. Most everyone is obsessive about something, I think.

I'm putting in the store now. The most common instrument is a horn and there are many different horn shapes, sizes, and colors. Most are meant to be hung with a hook, but a few are just slipped over a branch tip. Some are fitted with a metal gizmo that allows you to actually sound a musical note when you blow it! Bells are also a popular ornament form. Most are solid colored but we have some with stripes or other designs. Some even have clappers and make noise. We also have a few stringed instruments including two with very

I've assembled a nice group of glass musical instruments that



long necks. They even have wire "strings."

Earlier this season we had a request for ornaments with faces. I'd never had that request so it triggered my interest. I acquired a number of "face" ornaments and thought I would show them here. The most popular is Santa Claus, followed by people and dogs. We even have a wonderful red owl.



While discussing old ornaments with some of our staff here, someone remarked that they were "granny-esque." I liked the sound of that. Probably most of us had our first exposure to old ornaments at

our grandparent's house. I know I did. I've been enjoying talking with Lucy, my new granddaughter, as I put the ornaments on my tree. I know she is too young to grasp what I'm doing but she is all smiles nonetheless. Maybe she will someday think the ornaments are "grandpa-esque!"



Please [email me](#) if you have any questions or comments. If you are interested in purchasing ornaments pictured in this blog, please contact Rosemary, who handles mail order sales, at 262.693.2040 x101 or info@milaegers.com.



