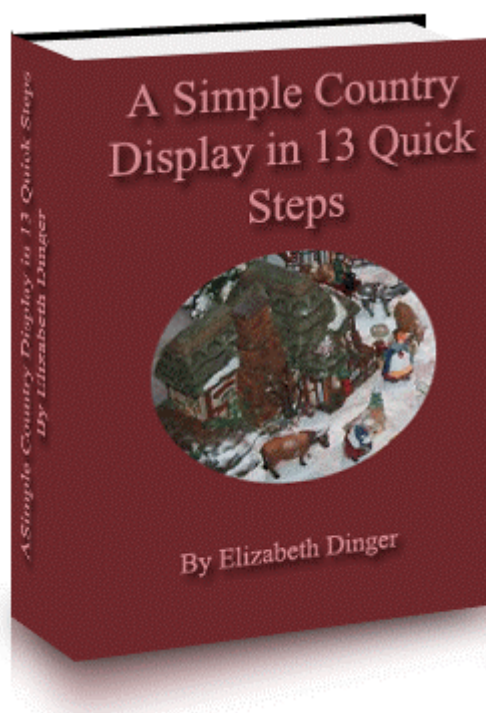


How To Easily Make A Simple Country Display in 13 Quick Steps



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A Simple Country Display

Items Needed:

Non-Dept 56 Items Needed:

- Table - about 30 inches by 20 inches
- Table cover (plastic or cloth)
- 1 inch piece of styrofoam (or something similar, about 6 inches x 12 inches)
- Baking Soda (4 lbs is more than enough)
- Slate (optional)
- Small rocks
- Sawdust
- Batting (pillow stuffing)
- Multiple Electrical Outlet Strip
- Timer

Dept 56 Items:

- Church
- House (Crooked Cottage) – [or similar]
- Shop / House (Dursly Manor) – [or similar]
- Shop / House (Ashbury Manor) – [or similar]
- Fast Action Accessories – (sled, cart, running horses, etc.)
- Slow Action Accessories – (person working, kid's playing)
- Farm animals
- Trees (we used 13 – all different types)

Introduction

This short ebook will tell you everything you need to know to set up a cute little table display in 15 minutes.

This display is one of the 20 displays that can be found in the *“Displays By Number”* ebook, except, this condensed ebook gives you a lot more “play by play” of what to do and why.

The *“Displays By Number”* ebook just gives you detailed diagrams, loads of high resolution photos and a short commentary on things.

If you want more display ideas and tips and understanding on how to do other things to make your displays beautiful and memorable, you need to refer to *the “Collectible Houses Display Tips”* ebook.

Steps To A Beautiful Display

1. Gather together as many of the above items as you possibly can.
2. In regards to your table, select one as close as possible to the indicated size. If the table is slightly bigger or smaller, simply add or subtract a few pieces or space the pieces either closer or further apart.
3. Cover your table. It doesn't really matter what you cover your table with. Whatever you use, make sure it is in good shape since you will probably see a good bit of it.

Typical table covers are large pieces of cloth, tablecloths, or simply a nice piece of thin plastic. Sometimes you can buy a roll of plastic tablecloth material which you can cut to whatever size you need.

Also, for small displays like this you don't have to worry about skirting the sides of the table. (Just to clarify, skirting means draping a cloth or piece of plastic down from the table-top all the way to the floor. This draping, or skirting, covers whatever is under the table. With small displays you don't usually have much under the table so this isn't typically necessary. However, if you want to hide the cords easier you might want to have a skirt.)

4. Print out the following diagram on a color printer so you can use it as easy reference.
5. Your goal is to set up a cute little display. In this example, we are making a country scene so we have a church, a *country-ish* style house and a couple of other houses / shops.

With your selection of houses for your display, the idea is to select a few homes (and accessories) that go together with each other. For instance, a church and home always go together.

The Items List above states to use *fast* action and *slow* action pieces. There may be a better way of describing these accessories but the idea is that we want different types of action in our displays. *Fast* action would be things that move pretty fast – like a horse pulling a cart or sleigh, men riding horses and so forth. *Slow* action accessories would be things that move, but not very quickly. Examples would be a lady working in the farmyard, a man painting, a man selling things with his cart, or children playing.

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6. Based on the diagram, start laying out your houses accordingly. Under the building in the back right, place the 1 inch thick piece of styrofoam. The reason for this is to break up the flow. Varying house heights draw the eye in more than a straight display of houses all the same level. Some buildings we raise an inch or so, some 5 or 6 inches and some we just leave flat on the table. (Sometimes the house elevation also helps to hide the electrical cords.)

Houses are also placed on angles (or crooked) so you can show off the beautiful details on the different sides of the houses. It also contributes to making a more interesting display.

7. Place the lights into the houses and lay out the cords. Since this is a small display with the houses around the sides of the table, most of these cords will be easy to drape over the side and pull under the table.

Keep in mind - when making bigger displays, you want to place the cords now before you put out all the other accessories. This will help you place the cords without knocking over the accessories.

You can also use the accessories and other additions (like trees, stones or water) to help hide the cords.

8. Next place the trees. You can use any, or all, kinds of trees – whether they be ceramic, plastic, bare, or topiary trees.

When placing your trees, try to vary the heights. Taller trees usually go in the back and to the sides. Smaller trees usually go in front and in the center. These are not hard and fast rules but guidelines. You just want trees to enhance your display and hide your cords – not block the houses.

When placing trees, you rarely ever place a tree by itself or with one other tree. You typically think in triangles and three's. (This tip comes from an landscaping book) That being said, you CAN have an occasional tree here or there by itself or have more than 3 in a group.

When using the triangle technique, you usually use one large tree (as the main focus) and then balance it out with a small and or medium size tree.

Trees can make or break a display. Make sure you have enough. A typical rule of thumb is to have at least twice the number of trees as houses. Get different kinds of trees also. Just make sure they don't distract from the display.

In this particular display, the location of trees is already decided – if you want to use it.

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9. Now we place the snow. We typically use baking soda and sometimes a small amount of that sparkling snow that costs a fortune.

For now, we will only use baking soda. Dump it around the place and make some areas higher than others – just like in real life. We will make the final dusting later.

10. Time for the accessories. When placing them you don't just want to place them in a straight line. You want them displaying their action. To help place them, think what they might be doing and place them accordingly.

Also, when selecting the accessories, just because they come in a box together doesn't mean that they have to stay together. Some will naturally go with each other but you certainly can mix them up.

When placing the accessories, place the larger ones first since they will take up more room and will take more planning.

You can put related accessories with their corresponding houses, like firemen with the firehouse, but you don't have to. Be creative. Be whimsical. That is the fun of it.

Go ahead and place your accessories. Either use the diagram and place them accordingly or just add your own accessories however you want.

11. Now that all the accessories are placed, you can fine-tune your display. By this we mean adding the small animals, the haystacks, rocks or other decorative touches.

Remember to try and hide your cords – if they are not hidden already. Use the accessories and other touches to help accomplish this.

You may also like to add small pieces of batting (or stuffing) here and there. This will make it look like the morning fog is lifting.

If you have a farm, you may want to sprinkle sawdust around.

If you have slate, it makes a good base and adds a “country feel”.

12. After you are satisfied that everything is in place, make a final dusting of snow. This means sprinkle a little baking soda on the accessories, the houses and anything else.

Also, one last time, if you still have an exposed cord, cover it with snow.

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13. Lastly, take a multiple plug outlet and plug all your cords into it. Connect it to a timer and enjoy your display. Using a timer and outlet takes all the hassle out of turning your lights on and off. Believe it not, it makes it all the more enjoyable not having to turn those blasted lights on and off every day!

Close-up Photos of the Country Display

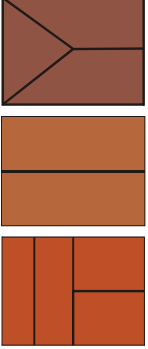

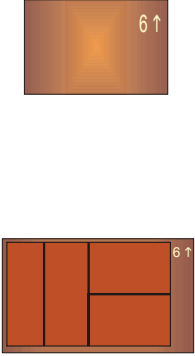

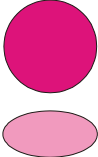

If you have any questions on how to do something, simply study these close up photos






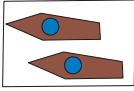
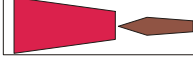




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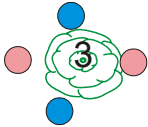
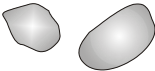




Symbols for Chart

	<p>Houses These are just 3 of the many types of house symbols used.</p>
	<p>Churches All Churches will be denoted by this symbol.</p>
	<p>Elevation This symbol denotes elevation. Some pieces are placed on an object to raise it up. When a piece is raised, this elevation symbol will be seen under the other symbol. (like the bottom example) The number in the top right denotes how high it is raised. In this case it is 6 inches.</p>
	<p>Man Any kind of man.</p>
	<p>Woman Any kind of woman.</p>
	<p>Boy Any kind of boy.</p>

	<p>Girl Any kind of girl.</p>
	<p>Horse Any type of horse</p>
	<p>Large Animal Any type of larger animal like a cow</p>
	<p>Small Animal Any type of smaller animal, like chicken, baby pig, lamb, duck</p>
	<p>Dog or Fox</p>
	<p>Fox Hunters on Horses</p>
	<p>Horse Pulling A Sled</p>
	<p>Tree Cone-shaped bristle tree. Diameter of circle is ~ tree diameter. Number denotes ~height of tree. In this example, the tree is ~7 inches tall</p>
	<p>Tree Any type of ceramic tree. Diameter of circle is ~ tree diameter. Number denotes ~height of tree. In this example, the tree is ~7 inches tall</p>

Symbols for Chart

	Tree Bare – no leaves
	Bales of Hay
	Tree Ice or crystal tree. Number denotes height of tree
	Accessories May-Pole, Pavilion, Monument, etc
	Slate – Various Sizes
	Bales of Hay
	Various Stones / Rocks

If you are an avid Dept 56 collector, you know the importance of creating beautiful and memorable displays. You also understand the wonderful traditions that develop by displaying your displays every year. If you need help in accomplishing these things, please check out the following:

For more display tips and ideas on setting up your displays, please consider our *“Display Tips for Collectible Houses”*

For 19 more Display plans, please consider our easy to follow *“Display By Numbers”*



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