

# CHRISTMAS DECORATION

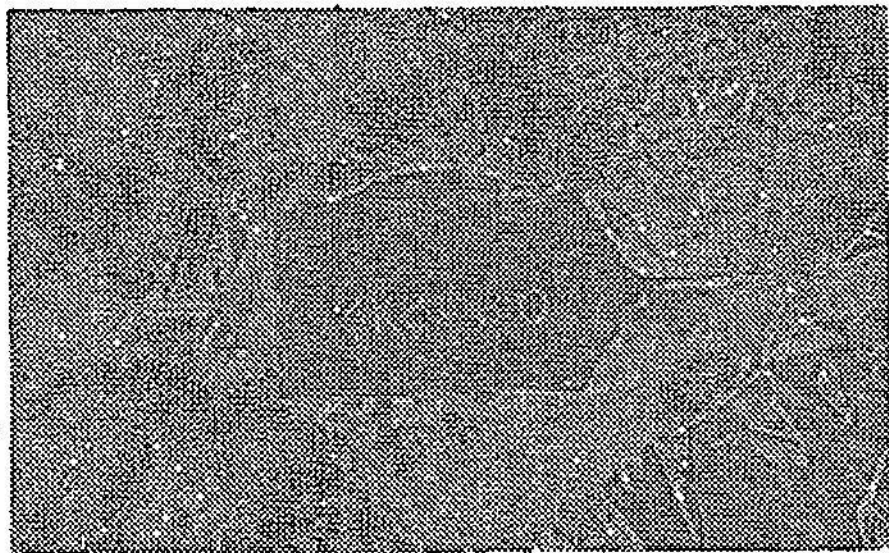
If you have any old metal foil capacitors lying around, here's a great idea for Christmas!

It will only take a few minutes to retrieve yards and yards of bright aluminium foil.

The best capacitors for the job have ratings from 100n/250V up. Once a suitable capacitor has been unearthed, the first thing to be done is to remove the outside covering. For the black tarry types shown on the photo this will require a few minutes surgery with a pen-knife; the yellow types have a more brittle covering that will usually crack open if you give it a tap with a hammer.

You should now be left with a roll of bright foil that can be unwound with very little difficulty.

Note: the physical size of the capacitors tells nothing about the amount of foil inside. Several different capacitors were unwound in our laboratories, and the smallest one yielded the most foil.



P.S. After the foil has served its purpose as decoration it can be re-used for some sound-and-light effects. Charge a large electrolytic (4700 $\mu$ /63V, for instance) to 25V or so. Then short the electrolytic with one end of the foil. This will produce an interesting flash and bang.