

Supplies

- Oasis foam- 1/2 of a 'brick'
- 4.5 yds of Ribbon, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. (1.5 yds for "top", 3 yds for "tail")
- Wired Pick for inserting "tail"
- Pruners
- Gloves
- Hook for hanging ball in your work space
- 2 Sleeves of Boxwood (or balsam greens)
- Decorative elements if desired: Small Red Bows on picks, Pinecones on picks and/or Sprays of Berries (pulled apart or if natural, carefully trimmed into 3, 5 or 7 pieces)
- For each small bow, use 16" of ribbon, 1 wired pick or 12" florist wire (8 bows=3.5 yds. ribbon, 2.66 yds. wire)

How to Make a Kissing Ball

1. Submerge your Oasis in water until thoroughly soaked.
2. Wrap Oasis with 1.5 yards "top" ribbon like a package; knot tightly at top of Oasis and knot ends together to form a loop for hanging.
3. Hang ribbon wrapped Oasis on a hook to allow for easy insertion.
4. **PREPARE YOUR BOXWOOD GREENS:** Pull one branch of boxwood. Start at the tip and prune a spray of leaf stems about 6-8" long. Move around the branch and cut similar length pieces. Strip leaves off about 1-2" from insertion tip of piece to make it easier to insert. (If stem seems too thick, you can slice at a lengthwise angle to make a sharp point that will be easier to insert.) The whole branch should be usable.
5. **INSERT GREENS** as pairs, one opposite the other as you go.
6. Start by inserting boxwood pieces around center knot on top of the Oasis and then opposite around the bottom center.

(cont'd. over)



7. Insert paired pieces opposite each other in the centers of each side face of the Oasis block.
8. Insert pieces at 4 corners of block. By now, you'll see the overall shape of the ball forming.
9. FILL IN by inserting pairs oppositely along the side edges of the Oasis block and opposite sides of the faces until full.
10. FORM THE TAIL. Take the remaining 3 yards of ribbon. Form 2 smaller loops and 1 longer loop that will extend below the greenery and form the "tail". Wrap the top center of the loops tightly with wire from your Wired Pick. Loop the extra wire around the Pick to keep secure. Cut one longer loop to make 4 ends that flutter in a breeze. Insert Pick into bottom center of Oasis.
11. Once all the greenery has covered the Oasis, insert your decorative elements: small bows, pine cones, sprays of berries, and/or mistletoe wherever you wish!

Caring for your Kissing Ball

Hang along porch eaves or in a cool location indoors.

Boxwood or Balsam Kissing Balls should stay fresh for 1 month.