



# DIY 4<sup>th</sup> of July

**By: Abby Slater**

## **Decorations**

Is it really an Independence Day celebration if there are no over-the-top USA décor? Nothing is more symbolic of the USA, than the American flag. Make your own flag using:

- Red Ribbon, Yarn, Fabric, and/or Lace
- White Ribbon, Yarn, Fabric, and/or Lace
- Wooden Dowel (Any size)
- Blue Denim
- White Fabric paint
- Star shaped stamp or stencil
- Twine

If you would like to sew the flag together follow this link [here](#). If you would like to avoid sewing, follow the directions below.

Make sure to precut whatever material you decide to use to whatever length you decide. The ribbons can either all be the same length or they can vary in length. I suggest allowing the pieces to be at least 1 ½ feet long. Begin at one end of the wooden dowel and tie 3-4 red pieces of red ribbon about 2 inches from the end. Next add 3-4 pieces of white ribbon and continue this pattern until about 2 inches from the end of the wooden dowel. Next tie the twine at each end of the dowel so that flag can be hung once completed. Next take your piece of blue denim, which you can use upcycled jeans for. Cut the denim into a rectangle that is about ¼ the length of the ribbons. Using the white fabric paint and the stamp or stencil paint stars on the denim. Feel free to take some creative liberty here and paint however

many stars you would like in any pattern. Once the paint has dried, secure the denim onto the left side of the flag either by sewing it onto the ribbons or simply fastening it with some safety pins. Then your flag is ready to rock!

## Snacks

If you're looking for healthy and kid friendly snacks then fruit kabobs are the way to go. Mix and match the options below on a small skewer for a light bite.

Red:

- Strawberries
- Watermelon
- Raspberries

White:

- Bananas
- Marshmallows
- Mozzarella balls
- String Cheese

Blue:

- Blue Berries
- Blackberries
- Dark Purple Grapes

For a mix of sweet and salty mix popcorn and pretzels with red and blue M&Ms or go for some gummy candies such as Swedish fish and gummy sharks. If you have more time on your hands, an alternate version of this snack could be popcorn balls or Rice Crispy treats. Find the recipe for [rice crispy treats here](#) or the recipe for [popcorn balls here](#).

## Drinks

Make some punch for the kids and a boozier version for yourself. Grab some red and blue Jell-O as well as unflavored gelatin, milk, and sugar. First step is to make the red Jell-O. Follow the instructions that come along with the packet, however, if you opt to make an alcoholic version, make sure to add about  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of vodka to the water mixture before adding in the powder. Once you have finished the red batch and poured it into separate clear glasses about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the way. Then let the Jell-O cups cool in the fridge for about 2 hours.

Once the time is almost up, start on the next batch. In order to make the Jell-O white rather than clear, add  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup of milk into a bowl, then sprinkle the clear gelatin powder over it. Heat a separate  $\frac{2}{3}$  cups of milk until it boils, then mix sugar into the heated milk. Once the sugar has dissolved, pour the heated milk in with the milk/gelatin mixture and stir. Let this batch cool most of the

way before adding  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of vodka, and pouring it to the glasses with the red mixture already in it. Once it has cooled for some time, pour the mixture into each cup so that they are filled about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way.

For the final, blue batch repeat the same steps as you did for the red batch, but this time make sure to let it cool a bit before adding it to the cup. After letting the drinks cool for another 2 hours you are finally done and ready for your 4<sup>th</sup> of July bash!