HOW TOMAKE CHIRISTANAS TREE ORNAMENTS

COMPILED BY ANASTASIA SMERECZYNSKA

TO MAKE CHIRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS

TRANSLATED BY MARY JARYMOWYCZ

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The custom of decorating Christmas trees at Christmas time came from Germany and quickly spread over all of Europe by the beginning of the 19th century, and even earlier in some places. This custom came to Ukraine as well and spread mostly throughout the cities. The first Christmas tree ornaments were apples, candles and cookies. Eventually imaginative individuals began creating more and more ornaments made of inexpensive and readily available materials. It is difficult to determine which nation developed which ornament since they quickly spread over many countries and their origin was soon forgotten.

Some Christmas tree ornaments used by Ukrainians came to us from international sources but there are also those which are solely of Ukrainian style. Such ornaments as doves of eggshells and tissue paper, roosters, straw crosses, spiders of straw and tissue paper, cut-outs and others came from the Ukrainian village; the housewife and her daughters would decorate the walls, ceilings, windows, and "pokutia". The preparation of Christmas tree ornaments soon became one of the "home economics" courses taught in all schools and every student willingly and gladly learned this required course. However, when mass-produced inexpensive glass balls, garlands and other ornaments appeared on the market, these courses and the custom of making ornaments waned, and Christmas became mechanized and commercialized. Today we see a return to the old handiwork. People want to decorate their trees and their homes with their hand-made works, and not store-bought ornaments, and are looking for instructions. This handbook will fill the need.

> Lubow Wolynetz Translated by Mary Jarymowycz



BEAD ORNAMENTS



STAR WITH BELLS

thin cardboard scissors glue small needles — for threading beads large needles — for puncturing cardboard beads — in any two colors and of any two sizes "elongated" beads ("jets") — in a complementary color nylon thread

- 1. Cut out an 8-rayed cardboard star. Length of rays 21/2 inches
- 2. Cover the star with silver or gold metallic paper.
- 3. Cut out 8 circles (diameter 1 in.) from the same color paper as the star.
- 4. Cut out 8 circles (diameter ½ in.) from a contrasting color. Possible color combinations: gold-red; gold-blue; gold-green; silverany other color.
- 5. Glue the smaller circle on top of the larger circle.
- 6. Cut out a quarter circle triangle from each.
- 7. Glue together cut edges to form "bells".
- 8. To each bell, attach a center consisting of one small bead 1 large 1 small.

- 9. Continue threading beads in the following order: 3 small, 8 jets, 3 small, 1 large. When all the bells are finished, thread the needle through the top of each bell.
- 10. Continue threading beads in the following order: 3 small, 8 jets, 3 small, 8 jets, 3 small. End each string with one large bead, thread through the star and tie. Make a hanger ornament is ready.

NOTES:

- 1. Bead color and size combinations are arbitrary.
- 2. The length of string attached to each bell is arbitrary.
- 3. The size of the star and bells may be altered to your taste.
- 4. In place of bells, one may attach small stars. The hanging stars may be 8-rayed or 5-rayed. 5-rayed stars may be bought at school supply stores. They come in various sizes and colors. Simply glue them onto thin cardboard and cut out. The best glue to use is Elmer's Glue. If you wish, you may also hang metallic "porcupines" from the star.



RING WITH HANGING TEARDROPS



thin cardboard metallic paper scissors glue beads and jets small and large needles, nylon thread

- 1. Cut out a cardboard ring, 1/2 inch wide and 8 in. in diameter.
- 2. Cover both sides with metallic paper.
- 3. Cut out four cardboard "teardrops".
- 4. Cut out one slightly larger cardboard teardrop, which is to hang from the center.
- 5. Cover all the teardrops with metallic paper.
- 6. Cut out smaller teardrops from a contrasting color of metallic paper and glue one on each side of the original teardrops.
- 7. Cut out and glue onto the teardrops still smaller teardrops of still a third color.
- 8. Attach threads to the 4 small teardrops.
- 9. Thread through the ring, threading beads in the following order:
 - 1 small, 1 large, 6 small, 8 jets, 1 small, 1 large.



- 10. Thread through the ring crosswise. Unite all four threads with one large bead.
- 11. Attach a string to the large teardrop, making it slightly longer than the first four. (Insert 3 small beads, 1 large, 3 small into the sequence) Unite it with the large center bead.

NOTES:

1. Instead of the jet, one can use a thin straw and small beads.



PEACOCK'S EYE

thin cardboard metallic paper scissors glue small and large needles, nylon thread beads and jets

- 1. Cut out a cardboard circle, 4 inches in diameter.
- 2. Cover both sides with metallic paper.
- 3. Cut out two circles, 3 inch diameter, of a contrasting color.
- 4. Cut out two circles, 2 inch diameter, of a third color.
- 5. Cut out two circles, 1 inch diameter, of a fourth color.
- 6. Glue the circles on top of one another in that order.
- 7. Cut out three cardboard circles, 2 inch diameter.
- 8. Cover with the same color metallic paper as the original circle.
- 9. Cut out 6 slightly smaller circles of a second color, then 6 still smaller ones of the third color, then 6 still smaller ones of the fourth color.
- 10. Glue the metallic circles onto the three cardboard circles in the same manner as the original larger circle.
- 11. Puncture the large circle in 4 places, crosswise.





- 12. Attach a thread to a smaller circle, thread beads arbitrarily, thread a $1\frac{1}{2}$ piece of straw in the center, then thread beads in the same order as before.
- 13. Attach the three small circles at 3 of the prepared holes in the large circle.
- 14. Make a hanger from gold string or ribbon or of bead threaded onto a thin wire.





CUBE

white construction paper metallic paper or glue and glitter in the color of your choice scissors beads

thin needles for threading beads, nylon thread

- 1. Draw a grid of a flattened cube using 2 inch squares.
- 2. Cut out and glue into a cube.
- 3. Cover glue with any color glitter
- 4. Make 6 smaller cubes (of 1½ inch squares). Cover with glitter of various colors.
- 5. Attach threads of various lengths to the 6 small cubes, thread with beads and attach to the corners of the large cube.
- 6. Attach a hanger on top.



CONE WITH HANGING CONES

white construction paper glue and any color glitter scissors thin needles for threading beads, nylon thread, beads

- 1. Cut out a circle, 6 inch diameter, from the white construction paper.
- 2. Fold and cut in half.
- 3. Roll each half to form a cone.
- 4. Glue ends together.
- 5. Cut out circles, 3 in. diameter. Form 5 small cones.
- 6. Cover all cones with glitter.
- 7. Attach threads to the 5 small cones, thread with beads and attach to the large cone as shown. 4 cones are attached to the bottom of the large one, crosswise. The center cone, hanging from a longer thread, is attached to the center of the large cone.
- 8. Attach a hanger and hang on your Christmas tree.



CRESCENT MOON WITH CONES

thin cardboard silver and blue metallic paper scissors glue white tissue paper

- 1. Cut out a cardboard crescent moon.
- 2. Cover with metallic paper.
- 3. Cut out 3 metallic paper squares, roll into cones and secure.
- 4. Fold a strip of tissue paper in two. Cut fringes along one edge, roll up the strip and tie securely. Place into the cone, threading it through the top.
- 5. Thread through the top of the cone, thread beads and attach to the moon, as shown.
- 6. Make a hanger, attaching it to both corners of the moon.

7. Hang evenly, or else by one corner of the moon.

NOTE:

The moon and cones can be decorated with a cut-out "embroidery" using the blue paper.

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DIAMONDS



thin cardboard metallic paper in various colors scissors glue small and large needles, thread, beads

- 1. Cut out a 2 inch cardboard diamond.
- 2. Cover with metallic paper.
- 3. Cut out two smaller diamonds in a second color and glue onto the two sides of the cardboard diamond.
- 4. Cut out 2 still smaller diamonds in a third color and glue onto the cardboard diamond as before.
- 5. Cut out 2 still smaller diamonds in a fourth color and glue onto the 2 sides of the cardboard diamond.
- 6. Cut out 3 one-inch cardboard diamonds
- 7. Cover with the same color metallic paper as the large diamond.
- 8. Cut out smaller diamonds of metallic paper in the same colors as before and glue onto the 3 small diamonds in the same sequence as on the large diamond.

- 9. Attach threads to the 3 small diamonds, thread beads and attach beaded strings to 3 corners of the large diamond.
- 10. Attach a hanger to the top of the large diamond.

NOTE:

Instead of diamonds, one may use other shapes, such as bells, flower petals...

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PLAIN WOVEN BASKET

tissue paper — in two colors scissors needle and thread

- 1. Cut out a number of tissue paper strips, in two colors.
- 2. Lay strips out on a sheet of cardboard and make a warp (base) of one color. The width of the warp may vary, depending on the desired basket size.
- 3. Secure the ends of the warp with Scotch tape.
- 4. Weave tissue paper strips of the second color carefully in and out of the warp. Starting at the center, add strips, one at a time, at each end. Continue until a woven checkerboard square is formed.
- 5. Pull together the ends of the warp on the right side and tie lightly to the pulled together ends of the woven top strips. Then proceed with securing the left side.
- 6. Arrange and pull together ends until the desired basket shape is achieved. Tie the ends together tightly and even out edges.
- 7. Braid a handle of the 2 colors used in the basket. Make 2 bows of the same 2 colors of tissue paper. Attach a bow to each side of the handle at the ends of the basket.
- 8. Put a walnut into the basket and hang on your tree.







WOVEN HORN



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NOTES:

- 1. 2 colors should be used.
- 2. The braided handle should be sewn to both sides of the basket, on the inside.
- 3. Put either 1 walnut or 2-3 peanuts into the basket. If load is too heavy, the basket may rip.



FUNNEL BASKET

white construction paper and white tissue paper scissors glue silver metallic paper

- 1. Cut out a circle from the white construction paper, 12 in. diameter.
- 2. Cut into 4 equal quarters. Roll one quarter into a funnel and tape securely.
- 3. Cut the white tissue paper into strips 1 inch in width.
- 4. Make fringe cuts along one edge and curl with a scissor blade.
- 5. Spread glue onto the prepared funnel. Cover with the fringed tissue paper strips, starting at the bottom.
- 6. Cut out a thin strip of silver metallic paper and glue in onto the top of the funnel.
- 7. Make a hanger from silver thread or from a thin beaded wire. Attach.
- 8. Fill the basket with nuts of candy and hang on your tree.



ROUND BASKET





white construction paper and ridged tissue paper of any color scissors

glue

needle and thread

- 2 large shiny beads
 - 1. Cut out a strip of construction paper of any length and width. Pull tightly along table edge, so that the strip will curl evenly.
 - 2. Tape or sew together the 2 edges to form a cylinder.
 - 3. Cut out a tissue paper strip 2 times longer and 2½ times as wide as the construction paper strip.
 - 4. Cut along one lengthwise edge to form a fringe and curl with a scissor blade.
 - 5. Cover the construction paper cylinder with the fringed tissue paper strip. Glue or sew to the top edge of the cylinder. Roll together to the lower half and tie.
 - 6. Make 2 braids of tissue paper. Glue or sew on braid onto the top edge of the basket. Make bows on the end of the second braid and attach to the basket as a handle. Sew a large bead onto the center of each bow.
 - 7. Fill the basket with peanuts or candy.

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SURPRISE CONES

metallic paper and tissue paper candy or chocolates heavy thread for hanger glue staples

- 1. Draw and cut out a circle of metallic paper, 4 in. diameter. Cut into 4 quarters, using one quarter for each cone. Fold in four and cut a scalloped edge as shown.
- 2. Cut a wide strip of tissue paper, long enough to fit around the scalloped edge of the cone. Glue the tissue paper to the back side of the scalloped edge. Trim as needed. Glue the flap to the side of the cone and fasten the tissue paper.
- 3. Fill the cone with your favorite candies, preferably home-made, and tie and attractive string around the tissue collar, about ½ inch from the top. Tie the string into a loop for hanging.







TISSUE PAPER ANGEL

any color tissue paper, silver metallic paper scissors sequins or glitter glue head for angel

- 1. If store-bought angel's head is not available, draw and cut out a cardboard head.
- 2. Cut out 2 strips of tissue paper, 6 in. wide and 18 in. long.
- 3. Fold both strips into an accordion.
- 4. Decorate one long side with sequins or glitter.
- 5. Fold one strip in half. This will form the sleeves of the angel's gown.
- 6. Attach the second strip to the head of the angel. Unfold the decorated bottom of the gown. Attach the sleeves just underneath the neck. Unfold the sleeves.
- 7. Cut out a collar of metallic paper. Glue it onto the neck of the gown, so that the ends will overlay the sleeves of the gown.
- 8. Fold the metallic paper in two and glue together. Fold in two again. Trace the wings onto the metallic paper and cut out. Attach to the back of the angel.
- 9. Attach a hanger of gold thread to the head of the angel.



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"HAYSTACK" ANGEL



white construction paper and white tissue paper metallic paper of various colors yellow cellophane for hair. glitter scissors pencil glue

- 1. Draw a circle, of any desired size, on the white construction paper. Cut out. Fold and cut into two halves.
- 2. Decorate the edge of the gown with bits of metallic paper aranged into an embroidery design. Decorate the rest of the gown with glitter.
- 3. Make the head out of bits of tissue paper. Place small pieces of tissue paper onto a tissue paper strip. Fold in corners and tie to-gether.
- 4. Make eyes, eyebrows, nose and mouth out of metallic paper and glue in place.
- 5. Glue on hair of shredded cellophane or cotton.
- 6. Form a cone out of a previously decorated half-circle and secure. Cut off the tip.

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- 7. Insert the tied end of the head into the cut-off tip of the cone. Glue securely.
- 8. Make a funnel of metallic paper, cut off the tip and decorate the edge this is the collar.
- 9. Cut out construction paper wings of desired size and shape. Decorate both sides with glitter.
- 10. Attach the wings to the back of the angel at the neck.
- 11. Make a hanger and hang on your tree.



RIDGED TISSUE PAPER ANGEL

head of an angel — either store-bought or hand-made ridged tissue paper of any desired color scissors needle and thread

- 1. Cut out a tissue paper strip, 2½ inches wide and 24 inches long.
- 2. Stitch a thread along one edge of the strip, lengthwise. Pull the two ends of the thread together tightly and tie.
- 3. Cut out a second tissue paper strip, 1% inch wide and 20 inches long.
- 4. Stitch a thread through the strip and pull ends together, as before.
- 5. Cut out a third strip, 11/4 in. wide and 18 in. long. Gather as before.
- 6. Place the largest circle on the bottom, then the middle-sized one and the smallest one on the top. Make sure all centers are aligned evenly.
- 7. Sew all the circles together in the center.
- 8. Glue on the head of the angel, attaching at both sides. This ornament resembles hats of several sizes, folded into a circle and sewn together.

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PAPER ORNAMENTS

LANTERN



metallic paper

silver or gold thread or embroidery floss

, glue

little stars and Christmas scene cut-outs

- 1. Cut out a metallic paper rectangle, 2½ inches wide and 6% inches long. Fold in three as shown in the diagram.
- 2. Decorate the three sides of the lantern with little stars, angel heads, Nativity scenes (look through old Christmas cards for ideas and supply of small suitable decorations). Glue the decorations to the sides and let dry.
- 3. Bring the small sides of the rectangle together, form into a three sided cylinder and glue together. Let dry and meanwhile make the tassels.
- 4. From silver or gold thread or embroidery floss make three tassels; attach them with a needle and thread to the bottom corners of the lantern. Start with 1½ inch tassels and trim to desired length.
- 5. Cut three 4 inch long threads, sew or glue them to the upper corners of the lantern and tie in a bow for hanging.

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CONSTRUCTION PAPER LANTERN

white construction paper scissors glue and glitter

- 1. Cut out a 4 inch by 41/2 inch rectangle.
- 2. Fold in two lengthwise. The folded edge is the bottom. Mark off a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip on the top border.
- 3. Starting at the folded edge, make cuts, 1 inch apart, up to the marked upper border.
- 4. Unfold the paper.
- 5. Roll into a cylinder so that slits run vertically (top to bottom).
- 6. Secure ends together.
- 7. Cut out a strip of paper and attach as a hanger.

NOTES:

Metallic paper may be used in place of construction paper.

- 1. Lantern may be decorated with glitter.
- 2. Top and bottom borders may be decorated with glitter of a different color.



PAPER PITCHER







construction paper or metallic paper glue colored felt pens or pencils

- 1. From desired paper cut out a rectangle, 4 inches by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Cut out a strip $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide for the handle.
- Make a ½ inch crease toward the middle on each long side of the rectangle. Decorate the inside of the fold with a design suitable for pottery. If metallic paper is used, cut strips and other designs from different colored paper and glue to the border.
- 3. Fold the rectangle lengthwise in half, with the decorated borders on the outside and make a center crease. From the center crease towards the decorated border cut strips 5/16 inches wide.
- 4. Open the rectangle and bring the small ends together to form the pitcher; glue the opposite border ends together. Attach the handle strip.

PAPER STAR #1

tissue paper — white or colored scissors glue thread

- 1. Cut eight 3 inch squares of tissue paper. Fold the squares in half on the diagonal to form triangles.
- 2. Starting at the folded end of the triangle make a neat ¹/₆ inch fold, turn the triangle over and fold again, continue until the whole triangle is folded accordion fashion but do not unfold the tightly pleated triangle. Proceed in the same manner with the remaining seven.
- 3. Fold the pleated triangles in half, the long smooth part inside and glue together. The pleats will fan out. Into one of the segments (before they are glued together) insert a looped thread for hanging.
- 4. Assemble the fans into a star by applying some glue to the folded section nearest to the center fold and attach a second fan section. Proceed in a circle until all eight fan sections are put together. This is an easy project but requires exact measuring, neat folding, and precise assembling of the eight fan-like sections.
- 5. A small silver or gold star, or a little angel head may be glued in the center where all the fans meet.









PAPER STAR #2

white tissue paper glue needle and thread

- 1. Cut out a 2½ inch tissue paper square.
- 2. Fold into 8 even parts.
- 3. Unfold and place upside down. Fold into an accordion, following the folds.
- 4. Cut off the ends of the folded paper diagonally.
- 5. Cut out two semicircles.
- 6. Run a needle and thread through the center of the strip, wind the thread around and tie.

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- 7. Unfold the ends of the accordion.
- 8. Glue together the inner ends

This star may also be made of metallic paper.

TISSUE WRAPPED CANDY

oblong hard candy tissue paper — white or colored silver, gold or other foil

- 1. From three to four thicknesses of tissue paper (one color or white, layered with yellow, orange, etc.) cut a 6 inch square.
- 2. Place the candy in the middle of the paper; mark with a pencil across the paper the two position lines. Cut a fine fringe on both ends, almost to the pencil line.
- 3. Place the candy at one end and roll up tightly. Twist the paper around the ends of the candy. If necessary tie with a thread and at one end tie the thread into a loop for hanging. Fluff the fringe.
- 4. Wrap a small rectangle of foil around the candy and twist it at the ends.







FISH

(the symbol of Christ)

oblong pine cones — about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long foil gift wrapping paper in a bright color glue

- 1. Following the patterns given cut from the paper the fish tail and gills. Cut out the head. Fold the head pattern on dotted line and glue on eyes from a contrasting paper. Make a zig-zag design on the upper gill.
- 2. Position the various parts on the pine cone and glue into place. Let dry thoroughly.

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PORCUPINES

tissue paper — white or colored, e. g. yellow scissors glue needle and thread sharpened pencil

- 1. Cut 14 circles of tissue paper of one color, $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 inches in diameter. Cut each circle evenly into 8 segments to within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the center.
- 2. Using a sharpened pencil place it pointing toward the outer edge of a circle segment and roll the paper around the pencil into a sharp and neat looking point. With a toothpick apply a minute amount of glue to the edge of the flap and carefully remove the pencil. Proceed to form the remaining cones. The rolling and glueing of cones requires some practice, but after trying a few circles you will get the feeling of how tightly to roll around the pencil: the cone has to be pointy and elongated, but you should still be able to remove the pencil with ease. Therefore, use the glue sparingly.
- 3. After all the 14 circles are completed in the above manner, you are ready to put them together: make two stacks of circles by placing them in such a way that the cones do not lie on top of each

other but between the cones of the circle beneath. Place the stacks back to back together. Have a long needle and strong thread ready: push the needle through the whole thickness of circles slightly off center, leaving a long end of the thread loose, and back again. Remove the needle and very carefully tie the thread ends into a tight double knot and the loose ends into a loop for hanging. Now you have an attractive, multi-pointed ball or porcupine.





EGGSHIELL ORNAMENTS

EGGSHELL PITCHER #1



empty eggshells — use elongated eggs construction paper or other pliable paper felt pens or magic markers

- 1. Punch a whole in both ends of the egg with a pin. Blow the egg into a cup. Wash out hte eggshell and allow to dry thoroughly.
- 2. Shells can be dyed, decorated with a design suitable for pottery or left plain white.
- 3. Depending on Step 2, choose a coordinating color in paper. For each pitcher cut out one rectangle 4 inches by 2³/₄ inches. Cut out from the longer side a small rectangle, 1¹/₂ by 1 inch. Then cut a ¹/₆ inch fringe.
- 4. Make a design on the uncut part of the rectangle. Glue the opposite ends of the rectangle together to make a spout, then glue fringe down on the eggshell.
- 5. Cut a strip of paper 5 by ¹/₄ inch for the spout handle. Glue it to the top of the spout and to the eggshell. Cut a very narrow strip of paper, about 2 to 2¹/₂ inches by ¹/₆ inch, glue it into a circle and attach with glue to the bottom of the eggshell to form a base.

EGGSHELL PITCHER #2

- 1. Step 1 as in the preceeding instructions. Use more rounded eggs.
- 2. From green or brown construction paper cut three strips: for the base of the pitcher (a long strip about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide), for the handle, and a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. strip for the spout. The length of the strips depends on the size of the eggshell.
- 3. With small scissors cut a floral design from red, yellow and green construction paper. Glue to the eggshell. Attach a narrow base. Cut a ½ inch strip for the spout by rounding the edges to make a curved spout. Glue handle on the inside of the spout and onto the eggshell. Attach a thread to the handle for hanging.



EGGSHELL CLOWNS

large white eggshells white and colored tissue paper glue staples thread

- 1. Use large eggs. Blow out the inside of the egg, wash out the shells and allow to dry thoroughly. These eggshells will be the clown's heads.
- 2. Start with the clown's hat: from a double thickness of colored tissue paper cut a 6 inch circle; cut the circle in half and form a cone-shaped hat to fit around the smaller end of the egg. Glue the seam and then glue the hat to the eggshell.
- 3. For the clown's collar: cut 3³/₄ circles from white and colored tissue paper, the same you used for the hat. Cut 7 circles of each. Stack the circles by alternating the colors. Staple in the middle. With sharp scissors cut a 1¹/₂ inch fringe all around the circle, shaking out to make the fringe look fluffy. The collar looks most attractive when the fringe is cut as closely as possible. now put some glue in the middle of the collar and fasten it to the bottom of the eggshell. Let dry and meanwhile prepare the tassel.



4. Cut several white and colored strips of tissue paper, 4 in. long and ½ in. wide. Stack together and fold in half across. Make a fringe by cutting to within a ½ inch. From the long side roll up the uncut end tightly. Snip off the tip of the hat and insert into the opening the rolled up end of the tassel. Secure with a thread and tie a long loop for hanging.

EGGSHELL BIRD

large white egg white of yellow tissue paper scissors glue piece of gold paper — for beak piece of black paper — for eyes

- 1. Blow out the inside of the egg, rinse and allow to dry thoroughly.
- 2. From a sheet of tissue paper folded in two, cut out 3 double rectangles, 2¹/₂ in. long and 3 in. wide.
- 3. Fold each tightly into a 21/2 in. long accordion.
- 4. Keeping one end tightly folded, fan out the other end.
- 5. Carefully insert one fan into the hole at the large end of the egg. (If necessary, enlarge the hole slightly with a sharp knife). Glue into place. This is the bird's tail.
- 6. Flatten one end of each of the other two accordions. Glue one onto each side of the egg. When the glue has dried thoroughly, fan out the other ends these are the wings.
- From the gold paper, folded in two, cut out a strip ¼ in. wide and ¾ in. long. Fold in two, then unfold, and glue onto the small end of the egg. Cut out black eyes and glue into place.

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NOTE:

From the folded piece of gold paper, one may cut out the shape of the head. Then the eyes would be attached to the head of the bird.



STRAW ORNAMENTS

STRAW STAR #1

The straw for this ornament has to be flattened. If natural straw is unavailable it may be substituted with paper drinking straws in white, yellow or yellow-gold. For each star are needed:

4 straw pieces $-5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long 24 straw pieces $-1\frac{1}{2}$ in. long embroidery thread

- 1. Arrange the four $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. straws in a double cross and do the same with the four $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. pieces. Hold together with a straight pin for easier handling. Position the shorter star atop the longer one so that the short arms lie between the long ones.
- 2. With a contrasting color of thread weave twice around the center; tie ends securely and trim closely.
- 3. Form star with three of the 1½ in. pieces, position it about 2½ inches from center on a long arm, and weave again together.
- 4. Complete in this way the remaining seven arms.
- 5. With very sharp scissors cut out pointed wedges from all the star ends. Attach a thread and loop for hanging.

NOTE:

This star, in a larger version, may be used for the top of the tree. Then use the following lengths of straw pieces: 8 inch, 3 inch and $1\frac{34}{4}$ inch or adapt the size proportionately to your tree.

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STRAW STAR #2

paper drinking straws (white, gold-yellow, or orange) silver or gold thread tiny star sequins 1 inch paper stars of other shiny paper decorations

- 1. For each star: cut six 2½ inch straws pieces and six 1¼ inch straw pieces. With a needle and thread or very thin wire assemble the straw pieces into a star by threading ½ inch from the end long and short straw pieces alternately. Tie into a tight knot and spread the straws into a star shape.
- 2. To outline the star shape, thread a needle with a 22 inch long silver or gold thread, tie a knot at one end of the thread and guide the needle through the outer ends of the straw pieces, approximately ¼ inch from the points, connecting with the thread the long and short points. Make a loop for hanging from the remaining thread.
- 3. Now decorate the star points with tiny sequin stars: attach the sequins on both sides you will need 24 of those. Attach in the center, on both sides, a larger paper or sequin star or other suitable paper ornament.



CIRCLE WITH POMPOMS ON STRAWS

```
thin cardboard
white tissue paper
scissors
straw
large beads
needle and nylon thread
gold or silver metallic paper
glue
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- 1. Cut out a cardboard circle, 3 inches in diameter.
- 2. Cover with metallic paper.
- 3. Puncture cardboard at 4 opposite ends and also at the center.
- 4. Cut out a number of circles, 1½ inches in diameter, and make fringe cuts around edges. Curl with a scissor blade.
- 5. Cut straw into 21/2 in. pieces.
- 6. Thread in the following order: 1 large bead, 8-10 small fringed circles arranged into the shape of a pompom, 3-5 large beads, 1 straw, 3-5 large beads.
- Run the needles through an edge hole in the circle. Continue threading the same string: 8-10 fringed circles, 3 large beads, 1 straw, 3 large beads, 1 large bead (of a different color).





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- 8. Make 4 more pompoms in the same way. The center one should, however, be slightly longer (add three extra beads). Run all 5 threads through the different colored large beads. All threads should be of the same length.
- 9. Tie all threads together in a knot and make a hanger.



FOUR-RAYED STAR

(from Maria Matkowska)

any color metallic paper scissors glue needle and thread large and small beads straw

- 1. Cut out two paper circles, 4 inch in diameter.
- 2. Glue together so that colored sides face out.
- 3. Make 4 crosswise cuts, 1½ inch long each, toward the center of the circle.
- 4. Sew together the outer ends of the cuts, forming 4 cones, joined at the center. The cones *must* be round, not flattened.
- 5. Each of the 4 cones is to be a ray of the star. Each ray has two ends: an outer one and an inner one, which points upward. All the outer points are joined together with beads and a straw: 1 small bead, 1 large, 1 small, a straw, 1 small bead, 1 large, 1 small, a straw, 1 small bead, 1 large, 1 small.





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- 6. The inner ends are joined together with beads and straws in the following order: attach a thread to an inner end and thread 3 small beads, 1 large, 3 small, a straw, 3 small beads, 1 large. All the 4 beaded threads are joined together by that same last large bead. Tie securely and hang.
- 7. To each outer peak, attach: 2 small beads, 1 large, 2 small, a straw, 5 small beads and 1 large bead at the end.







SIMPLE CHAIN

metallic paper scissors glue

- 1. Cut a number of multi-colored paper strips, of desired length and width.
- 2. Glue one strip into a loop.
- 3. Insert a second strip into the loop and glue ends by overlapping them.
- 4. Run a third strip through the second loop and glue ends together.
- 5. Continue until the desired length of chain is reached.

NOTES:

- Chain may be: a) of one color; b) of two colors; c) multicolored, in a repeating sequence: gold, blue, orange, red, green, gold, blue....; d) multicolored, with several loops of the same color joined together: 3-5 gold, 3-5 blue, 3-5 orange, 3-5 red, 3-5 green, 3-5 blue...
- 2. Strips of paper should be no longer than 4 inches, since large loops take away the main effect of the chain.
- 3. Chains of large loops may be used only as room decorations, for stages, halls...

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SINGLE CHAIN

metallic paper scissors thin cardboard for pattern

- 1. Fold paper in two.
- 2. Draw the pattern seen on the diagram onto the thin cardboard. Cut out along dotted line.
- 3. Use the cardboard pattern as a pattern for desired cuttings of metallic paper.
- 4. Cut out as many loops, of various colors or of a single color, as desired.
- 5. Attach together following the diagram.

NOTES:

- 1. 1 inch loops are very effective.
- 2. Connect loops in any sequence (see SIMPLE CHAIN NOTES).



DOUBLE CHAIN



metallic paper scissors thin cardboard for pattern

- 1. Fold paper in two (top to bottom) and then fold a second time from left to right.
- 2. Trace the pattern seen on the diagram onto the cardboard. Cut out.
- 3. Using the cardboard pattern, cut out the pattern using metallic paper.
- 4. Unfold and connect loops, as in SINGLE CHAIN.
- 5. Follow the color sequences described in SIMPLE CHAIN. Loops should be no larger than 11/2 inches.





STRAW CHAIN

white tissue paper thin straw beads needle and nylon thread

- 1. Cut straw into 1½ inch lengths (a large number of pieces will be needed).
- 2. Cut a large number of tissue paper circles, 11/4 inch in diameter.
- 3. Fringe cut edges of the circles.
- 4. Thread the needle (use a long thread) and begin the chain following this sequence: 1 small bead, 1 large bead, 1 small, a straw piece, 3 small beads, 1 large, 3 small, 6-8 fringed circles (forms a daisy. To form a pompom, use still more fringed circles). Then thread 3 small beads, 1 large, 3 small, a straw piece, 3 small beads, 1 large, 3 small, daisy or pompom.... This chain involves a lot of work, but its appearance of small snowballs, straw bits, and glittery baubles makes it worthwhile. It is better to make several shorter chains since one long chain tends to get tangled.



FLOWER CHAIN

tissue paper in desired colors or white straw construction paper in assorted colors glue needle and thread beads — optional

- From tissue paper in desired colors (or white which looks great with natural straw) cut a supply of 1¼ inch circles. Cut each circle into 4 sections and curl the sections into petals with a scissor's cutting edge: place each small circle between thumb and fingers and then move the scissor's edge from the inside outward over each edge of the petal — this will cause the cut segments to curl. Use the "family assembly line" for this project.
- 2. Use natural straw, which is empty inside. Cut straw into $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inch lengths again you will need a generous supply.
- 3. Thread a needle with a long strong thread. Assemble chain as follows: start stringing with a straw piece, then a "flower" (which is two petal circles back to back with a plain but sectioned circle in the middle), and again a straw piece....until you have the desired

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BALL



- thin white cardboard glue glitter or gold paint scissors thread for a hanger
 - 1. Cut out 5 cardboard circles, 31/4 inches in diameter.
- 2. Cut 4 of these circles in half. Now you have 8 semicircles.
- 3. On each semicircle, make a cut from the center of the straight edge to within 1/4 inch of the rounded side. Widen the slit so that a piece of thin cardboard could be inserted.
- 4. Mark the center of the fifth circle. Draw 4 crosswise lines dividing the circle into 8 even portions.

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- 5. Insert a semicircle onto each of the lines drawn.
- 6. Cover the entire ornament with gold paint or glitter.

METALLIC PAPER BALL

2 colors of metallic paper thin cardboard scissors needle and thread

- 1. Cut out a cardboard circle (or ball or ellipse, as one wishes).
- 2. Take a sheet of metallic paper of one color and glue it onto a sheet of a different color, so that the colored sides face outward. Let dry.
- 3. Using the cardboard pattern, cut out 6 circles (or bells or ellipses) from the 2-sided metallic paper.
- 4. Lay the 6 cut out forms evenly on top of one another. Fold in 2 lengthwise and sew together (from top to bottom).
- 5. Press down along sewn edge.
- 6. Unfold and open the ball. Attach a hanger. Since this ball is of two colors, it seems to change color and looks very nice.







VALNUT ORNAMENTS

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WALNUT SPIDER

2 walnut shell halves glue and glitter thin cardboard scissors thin wire small beads and one large bead

- 1. Cover the two shell halves with any color glitter (gold, green, silver, red...) Let dry.
- 2. Trace the outline of a half shell onto the cardboard. Leave a border and room for a head. Cut out outline.
- 3. Cut the wire into 2½ to 3 inch pieces, depending on the walnut size. Each spider requires 4 pieces of wire to form 8 legs, plus one wire for the antennae.
- 4. Thread small beads onto both ends of each wire.
- 5. Arrange wires on the cardboard outline and shape into spider legs.
- 6. Glue legs into place on the outline, then glue on a walnut half.
- 7. Run a thread through the cardboard head and make a hanger.
- 8. Thread small beads onto a one inch wire. Fold in half and thread on the large bead.

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- 9. Sew the large bead onto the cardboard as a head.
- 10. Glue the second walnut half onto the other side of the spider. The spider is ready to be hung on the tree.



WALNUT TURTLE

walnut for the body prune pit for the head 2 sequins for the eyes — preferably gold gold or silver metallic paper scissors glue needle and thread toothpick

- 1. Fold the metallic paper in two and glue.
- 2. Cut out 4 paws, neck and tail.
- 3. Glue the tail to the narrow end of the walnut.
- 4. Attach hind paws. Paws may be either glued on or inserted into the "seam" of the walnut, first slitting the seam at the appropriate places.
- 5. Attach front paws at the broad end of the walnut.
- 6. Insert one end of the neck into a slit in the prune pit and glue slit back together, if necessary. Insert the other end of the neck into a slit at the broad end of the walnut.
- 7. Glue eyes onto the head.
- 8. Insert the toothpick into a slit in the walnut, close to the neck. Attach a string to the toothpick and make a hanger.

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WALNUT PORCUPINE

walnut shells heavy foil covered paper glue thread for hanging

- 1. Collect well shaped walnut shell halves.
- 2. From heavy paper cut for each porcupine two shapes as shown in diagram;
- 3. With glue attach the walnut halves as shown. Let dry thoroughly. Make four tiny black circles for eyes and nose.
- 4. Cut a 6 inch long thread for hanging the porcupine. Fold it in half and fasten with glue to the back side of one of the porcupine halves.
- 5. Assemble the porcupine by glueing the two halves together.

NOTE:

Depending on the color of paper used, the walnut shells may be sprayed gold, silver or left natural.





GLITTER WALNUTS

walnuts glue and glitter thread toothpicks

- 1. Cover walnuts with glitter and let dry.
- 2. Insert toothpick into the seam at the broad end of the walnut. Attach a thread and make a hanger.

