



Reuse Ideas for a Traditional Tree

The Story of the Reuse Christmas Tree



The idea for this Reuse Tree as an entry in the Festival of Trees came from a group of Master Composter/Recycler volunteers who were committed to promoting reuse in the community.

Under the direction of Bonnie Nicholas and with the help of Eleanor Saito and Franki Luke, 60 volunteers spent almost 600 hours handcrafting over 500 ornaments, the garland, the stars, the bows to decorate this tree.

Although initially almost rejected entry to the festival, the tree proved without a doubt that reuse could be beautiful. Over the 4 days of this event, the tree won the gold "People's Choice" award every day, and the overall Gold People's Choice Award for the event. All through the weekend, families gathered around the tree to point out the ornaments, and to comment on which ones they recognized from their school crafting experiences.

It also won a silver decorator's award for the large tree category. It sold to an anonymous buyer for a good profit for the Stollery Hospital and ever since the Festival committee has wanted another Reuse Tree entered in the contest.

This booklet of reuse ornament ideas is the summary of the ornaments made for the tree. Examples of these ornaments can be seen on the Waste Services Xmas tree in the office foyer at 2nd Floor Century Place, and also on the little tree that sits beside the Reuse Tree displayed in City hall during December.

The materials for these ornaments can be found at minimal cost at the Reuse Centre located in front of the CN Tower building on 104 Avenue and 100 Street.

Thanks to Bonnie Nicholas, Master Composter/Recycler Volunteer, and her family for creating this booklet.



Master Composter/Recycler Volunteer Program

The Master Composter program trains community volunteers in all aspects of waste reduction so that they can share their knowledge in the community. So far 20 classes of volunteers have been recruited, and have undergone 35 - 40 hours of training over a three-week period. The course gives an overview of the waste management process in Edmonton, with specific emphasis on the areas of home composting and recycling, through lectures, videos, facility tours, demonstrations, and discussion groups. Graduates then go out into their own communities to help educate and inform the public about the 4 R's: reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover.

For more information about this program contact the Environmental Programs Coordinator at (780) 496-5991 or visit our website at: www.edmonton.ca/waste

“Oh Waste-Free Tree, Oh Reuse Tree”

How to make Christmas decorations for your tree

This booklet was created to support your efforts to create decorations at home with your family from reusable materials. All our decorations are easy to make, with no sewing or special skills needed. For the most part, these are general instructions only; we have not told you how much or how big or what colour. We hope that our ideas will help to get you started to think creatively about reuse at Christmas and throughout the year!

By using only readily available reused or found materials, we spent less than \$50 purchasing supplies for decorating this tree!

Do you have questions about any of our instructions? Do you have a suggestion for another tree decoration that could be made from reused, easily-found materials? E-mail us at mcrp@edmonton.ca

Tools needed:

- * **glue** (we used hot glue, white glue, or tacky white glue specially designed for crafts). Generally, white craft glue can be used for any of our projects. (We used a small paintbrush to apply glue to many of our projects.) We recommend clamping these projects overnight to allow the glue time to dry. If a project works best with hot glue, we have tried to indicate this in the instructions. **HOT GLUE GUNS ARE HOT AND SHOULD NOT BE USED BY CHILDREN WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION.**

- * **scissors**
- * **strong thread, string or ribbon, large blunt needle.** We used upholstery thread to hang many of our decorations. Quilting thread or crochet cotton would work just as well. We also used wire, ribbon, notebook coils and fishing line. We used broken paper clips to make hangers where needed. Some decorations work best if you add a hanger at the beginning of the project. Many can have a ribbon or thread loop added when completed.
- * **paints and paint brushes.** There is a free paint exchange at the Eco Stations, or, use leftover bits of household paints if you do not have craft paints. Share paints with a friend!
- * **wire cutters, awl, pliers and tin snips.** Please remember that these are tools, not toys, and should not be used by children without adult supervision.
- * **Mod Podge or Podgy, glitter**

Supplies needed:

Almost everything we used on our tree is reused! We also used some “found” materials such as driftwood and seashells. We bought some paint, Mod Podge, glitter, ribbon, a few pom-poms and some pipe cleaners. Everything else was collected at the city-sponsored Reuse Roundups, or brought in by our volunteers from their basements. Here is a list of the reused materials found on our tree:

acorns	driftwood	mirrored compacts
beads	electrical tape	notebook coils
bracelets	egg cartons	odd stockings
broken Christmas ornaments	fabric scraps	onion bags
burlap	feathers	pantyhose
buttons	felt scraps	paper clips
cancelled stamps	flower pots	perfume bottles
cardboard tubes	foam flat trays	pine cones
chandelier crystals	foil coffee bags	pipe cleaners
Christmas cards	fur scraps	plastic balls
Christmas lights	greenery	pom-poms
clothes pins	jewellery boxes	popsicle sticks
coffee stir sticks	jingle bells	puzzle pieces
cookie cutters	juice discs	ribbon
corks	lace	round bracelets
cotton balls	leather scraps	salt shakers
denim pockets	light bulbs	seashells
doilies	milk jug lids	sewing snaps
	mini-Christmas lights	shoulder pads

single gloves
single socks
small figurines
small juice cans
soap scoops
sock hangars
stickpins
tennis ball

tin can lids
tiny baskets
tiny candy boxes
tissue paper
tongue depressors
toothpicks
twigs
walnut shells

watch straps
white baby socks
white beaded necklaces
wire
wooden blocks
ice-cream spoons
wooden spools
yarn

Button Garland

Make a “popcorn” garland by stringing buttons into a garland for your tree. Use a strong thread (such as upholstery or quilting thread), and be sure the end is knotted securely. Weave the thread through the buttons by bringing your thread up through one hole and down through another hole on each button.

Christmas Card Garland

We have reused old Christmas cards for our paper garland. Because we wanted lots of gold on our tree, we hot glued matching strips of coffee bag liners on the inside, before making the ring.

Foil Coffee Bag Chain Garland

We have adapted the classic gum-wrapper chain for our tree by using gold foil coffee bag liners. We cut strips 1.2 cm wide by 6.8 cm long, so our chain will be the same size as a gum wrapper chain.




Take one strip and fold in half lengthways. Now, fold in half crosswise. Open this fold, and fold each of the ends into the middle.

Repeat with another piece of foil. Push the ends of the one piece through the loops of the other piece. Continue adding to your chain.

TIP: Always keep the folded edge down and to the left when adding to your chain.

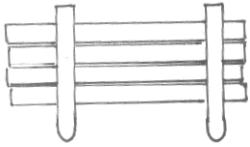
Angels, Angels, Angels

Angels are easy to create from reused materials! Here is a chart of mix and match materials to get you started:

Halo	Hair	Head	Body	Wings	Feet
gold pipe cleaner	bits of wool	wooden bead	tiny upside-down flower pot	white/gold ribbon tied in a bow	jingle bells hung from ribbon
gold rings	cotton puffs	clear marble	seashell	white feathers	buttons hung from ribbons
metal washers	small piece of burlap, crinkled	seashells	pool	white onion bags	or no feet at all—angels don't do much walking!
white pipe cleaner		bead	white shoulder pads	seashells	
			chandelier light bulb	heart-shaped white felt	
			cone	lace felt	
			spin	pantyhose stretched over wire wings	

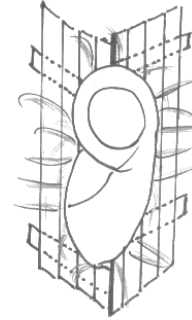
TIP When making halos out of gold pipe cleaners, leave a short stem at the back of your halo. Put a drop of hot glue into the hole of the bead you are using as your head, and push the stem of the halo into the hole. This will secure the halo, and give the appearance that it is floating over the angel's head.

Baby Jesus in the Manger



Save the wooden stir sticks from your favourite coffee shop for this craft. Use wire cutters to snip the sticks into eight 3" (8 cm) pieces. Cut 4 pieces 2" (5 cm) long. Using white glue, assemble two pieces as shown.

Put the manger together with a bead of hot glue along the seam. Use wool, tiny strips of torn fabric, or ribbon for straw. Put a loop of string under the baby so the manger will hang on your tree. Wrap a wooden bead in a small circle of white felt; glue along the seam. Hot glue the baby into the manger.



TIP We used buttons, markers, felt scraps, and paint to make eyes on our figures. A Q-tip or the blunt end of a skewer works well for dabbing on bits of paint to make eyes. We left many of our figures without faces, as the Amish do.

Bead Icicles



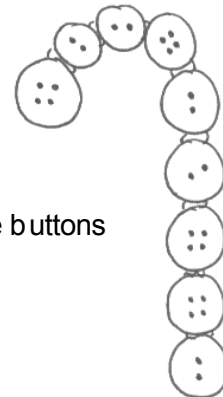
Reuse beads from old "pearl" necklaces by stringing them into icicles. Use strong thread, and hang about 6" of beads from largest to smallest. Or, cut 5 – 6" pieces of broken white or gold necklaces to make icicles.

TIP Add a drop of white glue to the end of your icicle to prevent the knot from becoming frayed.

Button Candy Canes

Twist red and white pipe cleaners together and shape into a candy cane.

Or, fold a pipe cleaner in half, twist lightly and shape into a candy cane. Glue on alternating red and white buttons for a folksy candy cane. We used some green buttons, too!



Button Snowman

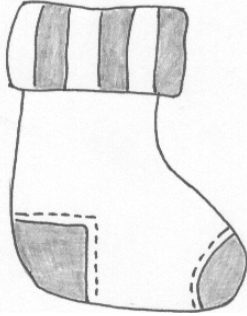


Choose 3 fairly large white buttons and arrange them from smallest to largest. These will form the body of your snowman. Arrange the holes of the buttons so they appear as "buttons" on the body and "eyes" on the head. Glue these on a piece of white felt.

Add a top hat, a nose, a mouth and a scarf from felt scraps.

TIP Glue the buttons and felt hat on a slightly larger piece of white felt all at once. Trim around the shapes carefully after the glue has dried.

Christmas Baby Stockings



Here's another way to turn baby socks into Christmas memories: In a small plastic container, mix white glue with water until the glue is the consistency of thick cream. Immerse a baby sock and press with your fingers until the sock is infused with glue. Squeeze out extra glue, shape, and lay flat between sheets of waxed paper overnight. Add some heavy books to keep them flat. Then lay flat on a plastic bag until completely dry.

When dry, the entire sock can be painted a different colour. Allow to dry completely, and then decorate with paint. Write your child's name on the back with a thin felt pen if you wish.

Christmas Balls

Paint burned-out household light bulbs or large Christmas lights with paints and designs of your choice. Try gold coils on a blue background, or red dots on green.

Try making mosaic balls by painting a burned-out light bulb, then gluing small pieces of Christmas cards on the bulb.

You can also decorate burnt-out Christmas light with glitter and paint. Tie a ribbon and bow around the base of the bulb and hang on your tree.



TIP

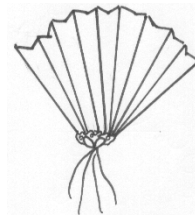
We used narrow ribbon to make bows and to hang many of our decorations. We used a brush to apply a small drop of diluted white glue to the cut ends of all our ribbons, to prevent them from fraying.

Christmas-bulb Reindeer

Burned-out Christmas bulbs can be turned into reindeer heads by adding pipe-cleaner antlers to the base and a painted or glued-on face. Embellish with sequins, beads, pom-poms, greenery, felt scarves or bow ties.

Christmas Cards: Fans

Cut a small rectangle from a Christmas card. Accordion-fold into tiny pleats. Use white glue to glue the sections together at the base. Clamp with a clothespin until dry.



Decorate with some lace along the top of the fan, and a bow and ribbon at the base.

Christmas Cards: Pyramids



Cut out four equilateral triangles with flaps from an old Christmas card. Fold flaps to the inside. Tuck the flaps inside & glue.

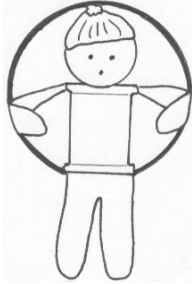
Hang on your tree either from a point or from the middle of a base.

Christmas Cards: Victorian umbrellas

Cut out a quarter circle from an old Christmas card. Add lace to the circular side of the inside part of the card. Bring the straight edges together and glue. Add a handle cut from a sock hanger. For a longer handle, glue some cotton inside the umbrella.



Christmas Elf in a Bracelet Swing



Make a Christmas elf by cutting a narrow, 6" (15 cm) rounded strip of felt for arms. Centre this and glue on a spool, block, or larger bead. Glue a smaller bead on top of this for the head. Cut rounded strips of felt about 3" (7cm) long for legs, and glue to the bottom of the body. (Keep the legs attached at the seat, as shown.)

Add a hat made from the finger of an old glove. Glue the elf's bottom to the inside bottom of the bracelet; wrap his arms around the sides of the bracelet and glue in place. Hang by a ribbon from your tree and watch your elf swing in the breeze!

Clothespin Reindeer

Glue 2 clothespins, smooth sides together. This will make the body and 4 legs of your reindeer. For the head and antlers, glue a third clothespin pointing upwards.

Paint with a brown paint wash (brown paint diluted with water). Dry brush a deeper tone of paint for texture if desired. Use a black pen or a toothpick and black paint to make black dots for eyes. Add a painted or pom-pom nose and tail.

Clothespin Shepherd

Glue a $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2 cm) wooden bead to the pin-end of a wooden clothespin.

TIP Hot glue a 1" (2.5 cm) piece of pipe cleaner partly inside the head bead. Hot glue the remaining end inside the pin part of the clothespin. This really helps to secure the head. We did this with all our heads wherever possible.



Arms: Cut about 6" (15 cm) of brown pipe cleaner. Bend back the ends of the pipe cleaner to make hands. Cut a piece of scrap felt about 4" by 1" (10cm by 3 cm). Lay the pipe cleaner along the felt, fold over and glue. You now have arms in a sleeve.

Cut another piece of the same colour felt about 3" by 3" (8cm by 8 cm). Wrap this around the clothespin, with the opening at the front. Glue in place at the top only. Now glue the arms to the body, at the back and sides only.

Cut a third piece of felt about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (7 cm by 7 cm). Trim one end into a semi-circle. Apply glue to the top of the shepherd's head, and squish the head covering onto the head, with the rounded part falling on his forehead.

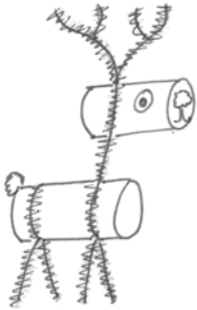
Cut a sock hanger into a shepherd's crook, and insert into one of his hands. Hot glue in place. Glue a cotton ball under his other arm or at his feet, for a sheep.

Cookie Cutter Decorations

Use ribbon and small bits of greenery to decorate your old cookie cutters. Hung with a ribbon and bow, these will add a whimsical touch to your tree.

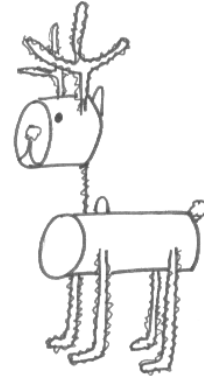


Cork Reindeer



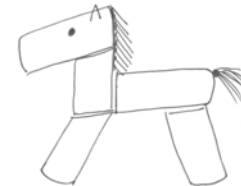
Many people have Reindeer made from birch logs and branches in their yards at Christmas. Try making a scaled-down version from wine corks for your Christmas tree.

Use $\frac{1}{2}$ cork for the head, and a whole cork for the body. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ pipe cleaner for each antler (fold as for Pipe-cleaner Snowflakes), $\frac{1}{3}$ pipe cleaner folded in half for each leg, and $\frac{1}{4}$ pipe cleaner folded in half for the neck. We used an awl to make holes in the corks to insert our pipe cleaner antlers, neck and legs, but you could use larger pieces and simply wrap them around the body.



Draw eyes and a mouth with felt pen. Add tiny felt ears, a white (or red) nose and a white tail from a tiny piece of wool or felt.

Insert $\frac{1}{2}$ paperclip behind the neck to hang. Decorate with ribbons, bells or felt blankets.



Or, trim 5 corks to make a horse.

Crystal Decoration

We found some tiny perfume bottles and some crystals from a broken chandelier. We've turned these into decorations by adding a ribbon and bow, along with some embellishments. These add a bit of sparkle to our tree!

Driftwood Santa Claus

If you have a summer holiday near water, gather a few pieces of small, smooth driftwood. Turn your summer memories into a Christmas keepsake by painting a Santa Claus face on your driftwood. Push a broken paperclip into the top, hang from your tree and remember your summer!

Try making angels, Mrs. Claus or other figures. Add wool hair, beads, etc. A fine black marker can add definition to the natural lines of the wood.

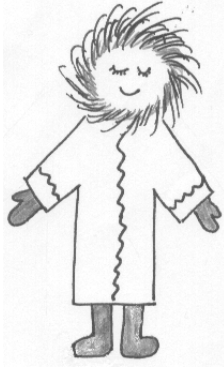
Egg-carton Bells

Cut out the eggcups from a cardboard or polystyrene egg carton. "Paint" with white glue, then cover with pieces of gold or coloured tissue paper, inside and out.

Add a jingle bell clapper if you wish. These can also be painted gold.



Felt Inuit Dolls

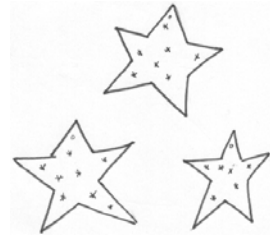


Cut paper doll shapes from felt: cut a coat with a hood for the back and one without for the front. (The hood should be a circle a bit wider than the coat.) Add trim to the front before assembly. Cut a face, a bit smaller than the hood, from peach / pink / beige felt. Cut mittens and boots from black or brown felt or small scraps of leather (make these extra long as they will need to be glued between the front and the back.)

Assemble the doll, drawing a face with black and red pens. Glue scraps of fur around the face to complete your doll. Add a bit of blush with your fingertip if you wish.

Foam Flat-tray Stars

Cut star shapes out of foam flat trays. These can be painted or coated with glue and covered with glitter. We used diluted gold paint on yellow foam trays.



Frozen Juice Discs

The metal discs from frozen juices can be used to make pretty little ornaments:

- cut out a scene from a Christmas card, add lace trim and a bow
- or add some glitter to snow scenes
- “frame” your picture with a string of beads from an old necklace
- fill the disc with circular rows of beads
- use a favourite photograph

Juice-can Carollers

Crush aluminium cans (we used the 156 ml or 5.5 oz size) by holding your thumbs under the top of the can, with the opening facing you (the opening will become the mouth). Squeeze hard! Fold the top of the can down towards the middle; then fold the bottom of the can up towards the middle on the back of the caroller.

Paint the inside of the mouth black. Paint the top of the can (the face) flesh tone. When dry, add painted eyes and hair. Paint the rest of the can (the coat) one colour (this may take several coats of paint). Top off with two coats of a sealer. Add details, such as felt mittens holding a tiny songbook.



Lacy Balls

Cover burned-out appliance or small round light bulbs with lace. “Paint” the bulb with glue or sealer and stretch small pieces of lace to cover completely. When dry, paint gold or glittery white. Add a golden ribbon, or decorate with broken necklaces. Try a dangling bead at the bottom (which is the former top, as these are hung up-side down on your tree!)

Light-bulb Penguins

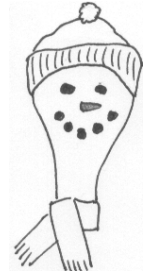


Use a burned-out 60-watt bulb or a 40-watt appliance bulb to make a penguin for your tree. Paint a broad white stripe down the front of your light bulb. Paint the rest of the light bulb black. Cut a heart shape from orange felt and glue to the bottom of your penguin for feet. Use buttons, paint or bits of felt for eyes and nose.

Dress up your penguin! Use the finger from an old glove to make a toque, or paint the screw-top of the light bulb a bright colour and make that your hat. Glue popsicle sticks under his feet for skis. Make flippers from scraps of black felt. Make a scarf from felt or fabric scraps

Light-bulb Snowman Head

Paint a burned-out light bulb white. Use the cuff of a child's sock to make a toque: cut off the cuff, turn inside-out, wrap an elastic tightly around the cut end, turn outside-out again. Add a pom-pom if you wish. Add a face made from paint, permanent markers, small buttons or bits of felt. Make a scarf from felt and wrap around the base of the light bulb.

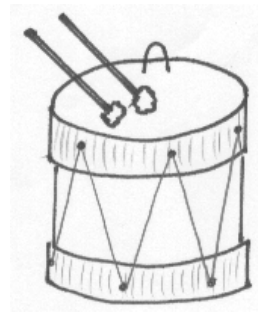


TIP

We coated all of our painted articles with 2 or 3 coats of a sealer such as Podgy or Mod Podge, before adding any embellishments. This helps to protect the painted surface. White glue, thinned with a small amount of water, may also be used as a sealant.

Milk-jug Lid Drum

Cut a gift-wrap or paper towel tube into 1 ½" (4 cm) lengths. Paint or cover with tissue paper, gift-wrap, felt or fabric. Use pliers to push half a paper clip into one milk jug lid, to make a hanger. Pull through to the underside and secure with a drop of hot glue. Glue 2 matching milk-jug caps on each end of the drum.



Use pliers to insert 6 stickpins at even intervals into the rim of the top milk jug lid. Repeat on the bottom milk jug rim, but at alternate points. "String" the drum by tying a thread to the end of one pin, then looping the thread over each pin in turn, creating a triangle pattern. Secure with a knot and a tiny drop of white glue.

Hot glue two toothpicks for drum sticks on top of the drum. Add tiny pom-poms if you wish.

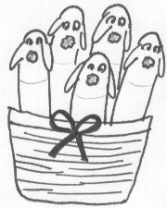
Mini Advent Wreath

Twist one piece of greenery from an old garland or Christmas tree into a small circle. Add 3 small purple and 1 pink bows. Add 4 burnt-out mini lights for candles.

Make mini-Christmas wreaths too!

Mini-glove Dog Family

What can you do with a single mismatched glove? Stuff the fingers of a single black or brown mini-glove with old pantyhose cut into small pieces or cotton saved from vitamin jars. Hot glue or sew the thumb in the middle of the palm. Tuck the open end of the glove inside itself and hot glue this end into a tiny box, basket, flower pot or denim pocket.



Now make a family of 5 puppies: Add eyes (use paint, bits of felt or small buttons), noses (pom-poms or buttons) and puppy ears, from felt scraps the same colour as your glove.

Add ribbons around their necks if you like. Make cats instead of dogs by adding cat ears.

Mirrored Compact Windows

Carefully separate an old compact into two parts. Wear gloves and eye protection and bends backwards to snap into two pieces.

Decorate the bottom of the compact (where the hinge used to be) with ribbon and small bits of greenery, bells, etc.

Hot glue a bow and ribbon to the top and watch as the little windows reflect your Christmas lights.



Pipe-cleaner Snowflake

Cut 3 white pipe cleaners in half. Bend each one in half, then bend each side so you have a Red Cross shape. Now bend the two "arms" upward into a cactus shape.



Cut two ½" (1 cm) circles from felt. One at a time, hot glue the cut ends of your 6 pieces onto one circle of felt. Hot glue the second piece of felt over top of the first piece to hide the ends.

Try brushing your snowflake with slightly thinned white glue and adding white glitter.

Pinecone Decorations

Paint the tips and bottoms of small pinecones with gold paint. Hot glue bows and ribbons to the tip of the bottom. These will look like small bells when hung on your tree. Try putting these together in groups of 2 or 3.

Use white paint and a bit of white glitter for a different effect.

Add a wooden bead and a small felt hat to make a Christmas elf.

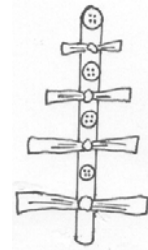
Use green paint on the tips. Hang pointy-side up for a mini Christmas tree. Hot glue tiny beads to the tips of the "branches".

TIP

Use a toothpick to transfer small amounts of hot glue when working with tiny objects. Work quickly, as hot glue sets very quickly.

Popsicle-stick Christmas Tree

Paint a popsicle stick or a tongue depressor green. Cut about 4 pieces of green ribbon in varying lengths from about 2" (5 cm) to 5" (12 cm). Tie a knot in the middle of each piece of ribbon. Glue these on your stick from largest to smallest. Glue colourful buttons on the stick between the ribbons. Glue a gold button or a paper star to the top of the tree.



We also used torn fabric strips and a green onion bag to make our trees.

Popsicle-stick Sleds and Toboggans

Cut 2 matching sock hangers to make sled runners. Hot glue popsicle sticks or coffee stir sticks to the runners to make miniature sleds for your Christmas tree.



Use wire cutters to cut 1" (2 cm) pieces of coffee stir sticks. Cut a pipe cleaner in half. Carefully hot glue the sticks crosswise onto the lengths of pipe cleaner. Roll up one end for a mini-toboggan.



Popsicle-stick Stars

Glue 5 popsicle sticks into a 5-pointed star shape. Some sticks will have to go under and some over in order to make the star lie flat. Or, use 6 popsicle sticks to make a Star of David.

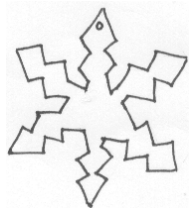


Use a gold paint wash and decorate.

Puzzle-piece Reindeer

Choose a larger puzzle piece that has two ends that look like antlers. Paint and decorate to look like a reindeer head.

Rusted-tin Snowflakes



If you like the look of rusty tin, you can make your own rusty tin snowflakes, if you start well before Christmas. Using tin snips, cut snowflakes from tin can lids. Make a hole with a nail for hanging, and hang outside until the snowflakes have that weathered look.

TIP

These have very sharp edges! We sealed ours with Mod Podge to soften the edges.

Salt-shaker Snowman

Wash an old glass salt shaker and lid. Loosely stuff with the cotton from a vitamin bottle. Paint a bead white and glue on for the head. Make a face with paint, markers, or felt scraps. Make a hat for your snowman by gluing the lid of the salt shaker on the head. Add a pom-pom to the hat and a scarf around the neck.



Sleeping Mouse in a Walnut Shell

Glue two felt mouse ears into one end of a walnut shell. Hot-glue an acorn or bead in front of the ears. This will be the mouse's head. Glue a piece of yarn or string at the other end of the shell for a tail. Stuff the shell with a cotton puff or pantyhose scraps. Carefully hot glue a small piece of felt or fabric along the edge of the walnut shell and under the mouse's chin to make a blanket.



TIP

A small heart-shaped piece of felt works great for the ears. Just glue the bottom part of the heart directly into your walnut shell.

Sock Snow Baby in a Pocket

When your babies outgrow their tiny white baby socks, do n't throw them away! Turn them into a Christmas keepsake instead.

Stuff about 2/3 of a white baby sock with used fibrefill or pantyhose cut into small pieces. Wrap an elastic around the "neck" of the snow baby to form a head. Fold the cuff of the sock to the inside.



Add eyes, a nose and a mouth with felt scraps or paint. Cover the elastic with a scarf made of felt scraps or a torn strip of Christmas fabric. If you like, add a hat made from the cuff part of an old baby sock.

Cut a pocket off an old pair of blue jeans (the little key pocket is just the right size). Add a hanger made of telephone wire, or use the coil binding off an old calendar or notebook. Stuff the snow baby into the denim pocket. Sew or glue a few colourful buttons to the bottom of the denim pocket.

Or, skip the pocket and tuck the neck of the sock under. Glue a couple of popsicle sticks on the bottom for skis.

TIP

Make your own wire coils by winding wire around a nail, skewer or pencil.

Snow Scoop Snow Scenes

Trace the bottom of the soap scoop over a winter picture. Glue this to the inside of the soap scoop. Spread out the cotton from a vitamin bottle, and glue as snow in front of your picture. Apply a thin coat of white glue to the insides of the scoop and sprinkle with white glitter. Glue a small Christmas figurine in the snow.



Punch a small hole in the handle of the scoop, add a ribbon, and your snow scene is ready to hang on your tree!

Tiny Presents

Gather some tiny boxes: jewellery boxes, Halloween candy boxes, paperclip boxes – or make your own box from cardboard. Cover these with coloured tissue paper, gift-wrap, or fabric. Add one or two coats of a sealer. When dry, tie on a ribbon and bow.

Try stacking 2 or 3 boxes.

Spool Snowman



Stack and glue 4 wooden spools. Paint the top spool black for a top hat, and the other three white for the body of your snowman.

Add a face and decorate as desired. Black permanent marker works great for the faces on these!

Variations: Add wire arms by coiling some telephone wire and gluing between the two middle spools of your snowman, before you glue the spools together. Fold back the tip of the wire and glue felt mittens on both sides of the “hand”.

Tiny Puzzle Wreaths

Arrange puzzle pieces from an incomplete puzzle into a small circle. Glue on a couple more layers on top. Add a ribbon and bow.

Use red and green pieces if you have them. Or, paint your wreath green and decorate with red buttons, beads, sparkles, or bows.

Frame a favourite snapshot with a puzzle-wreath frame and hang on your tree. Make other shapes as well: snowflakes, Christmas trees.

Toothpick Ski Poles by a Fence

Make a small fence section by gluing 4 small twigs (or popsicle sticks) together, leaving the fence posts sticking up above the top rail of the fence. Use wood glue for this.

Hot glue a toque made from the finger of an old glove on one of the posts. Glue half of a small sewing snap to the end of a round toothpick (use the part of the snap that has a tiny hole in the centre, so the toothpick end will stick out of the hole, just like real ski poles. Make a second pole the same way. Glue the poles leaning against the fence.

Add a bit of tiny greenery and some white glitter.

TIP Use a small paint brush to brush on white glue wherever you would like some glitter. Sprinkle glitter on while glue is still wet.



Wooden Blocks



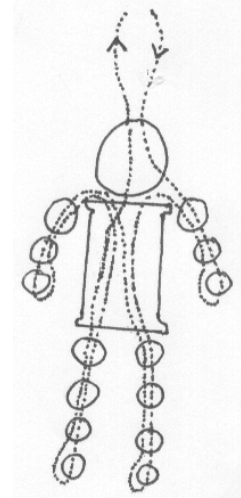
Here's another way to add family memories to your Christmas tree! When your children have outgrown their alphabet wooden blocks, glue cancelled Christmas stamps to the plain sides of the blocks. Or, use small pictures cut from Christmas cards, or even tiny photographs. Add a couple of coats of sealer. Glue a ribbon at a corner to hang, or drill two small holes and hang by a broken paper clip.

Wooden Spool People

On a flat surface, arrange a bead for a head, a spool for a body, and smaller beads or buttons for arms and legs. Using a large, blunt needle and strong thread, put your bead person together:

- thread down through the head, to the end of the right arm and back up again
- down through the body, down through the right leg and back up again
- down through the left arm and back up again
- down through the left leg and back up again, up through the body
- up through the head and tie off your thread.

These can be made into angels, elves, Santas, or people.



Wooden-stick Snow People

Paint popsicle sticks or tongue depressors white. Or glue two wooden ice cream spoons together in the middle and paint white.

Here are some ideas: Use felt, paper, paint or pens to make faces. Add felt, ribbon or fabric scarves. Trim with buttons. Add a toque made from the finger of a single mitten, or a top hat cut from felt. Brush with diluted white glue and sprinkle with white glitter.

Yarn and Stick Eye of God

Here's a classic camp craft for the tree: Glue 2 popsicle sticks in a Red Cross shape. Hot glue the end of a piece of yarn to the centre of the back of the cross. Holding the cross in your left hand, and working from the front, wind the yarn OVER the first two sticks, then UNDER the same second stick and rotate to the next stick on the left and repeat (left-handed people may find it easier to work the other way.) Take care to keep the tension even, and the yarn smooth.



Try changing colours partway through – just tie a knot, or hot glue the new and old yarn colours to the back of the sticks.

Yarn-wrapped Balls



Wrap used balls (such as ping-pong balls) or light bulbs with coloured yarn. Starting at the base of your ball, hot glue the end of your wool. Carefully, wind the yarn tightly around your object, making sure the rows of yarn are touching each other. Glue in place as you work. Leave a loop for hanging at the top.

Try changing colours for a striped ball.

Apply a wash of diluted white glue to the top half of the ball and sprinkle with white glitter.

How to Make a Christmas Card Ball Ornament

Instructions

- Using the bottom of a cup as a template, sketch eight circles on used Christmas cards and cut them out.
- Cut a circle the same size as the others on a piece of scrap cardboard. Using a protractor, draft an equilateral triangle with corners touching the edges of the circle; cut out as a template.
- Lightly mark the triangle on the wrong side on each circle and score the edges; turn the circles up in three sections along scored edges.
- Fold in scored flaps toward center on each circle. With a low temp glue gun or super glue, attach four circles together by gluing the backs of the flaps together on two sides. This will form half a sphere. Repeat so that you have two four-circle bowl shaped clusters.
- Glue the two four-circle clusters together at open flaps to create the finished sphere.
- Thread sheer ribbon through the ornament, adding beads, bells, or charms to the bottom if you like, and tie off to finish.
- To jazz up the project add embellishments, glitter, etc..

Note: For a challenge try making the sphere with twenty circles!!

