





## THE ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

One of the most pleasurable experiences for the family at Christmas is selecting and decorating the tree. Its aroma, color, texture and forest freshness all add to the pleasure of the holiday.

Christmas trees have become almost essential for decorative purposes at this holiday season -- in homes, churches, and business houses, in parks and on the streets.

The custom of having a decorated evergreen tree in the home at Christmas seems to have originated in western Germany several hundred years ago. Historians have traced the tree back to about 1500 where at Christmas, fir trees were set up in rooms and hung with roses, apples, wafers, spangled-gold and sugar.

The first use of such trees in the United States may have been during the American Revolution by Hessian mercenary soldiers. An early account tells of a Christmas tree set up by American soldiers at Fort Dearborn, Ill., the site of Chicago, in 1804.

By 1850 the Christmas tree had become fashionable in the eastern States, following wide publicity given to the introduction of the custom in England by Prince Albert, the German consort of Queen Victoria.

## EARLY TRIMMINGS IN AMERICA

In America, early trimmings were fruit, ribbons, colored paper, red haws, cranberries, polished nuts, tufts of cotton, and strings of popcorn. The cotton and popcorn may have represented snow. Fruits such as apples were easy to attach to Christmas trees and provided desirable color, as did strings of cranberries. Pictures or replicas of foodstuffs such as hams and bacon were once used as substitutes for the real items too heavy for slender branches.

Straw and cornhusks were used to fashion clever angels and dolls, and scraps of wood were carved into attractive figurines. And then, of course, there were pine cones and - frighteningly - lighted candles. Such trimmings, made in the home or by local craftsmen, have long since been replaced by factory-made highly colored ornaments, baubles, tinsel, strings of vari-colored electric lights, and other novelties.

The idea of decorating trees may have been an outgrowth of a practice adopted by early dwellers of the forest. Certain foodstuffs were hung in trees to get them out of reach of prowling animals. On the other hand, trees were worshipped by many people and gifts of food were often hung in the branches as offerings or sacrifices to the deities. Giving to others was a Christian trait, hence the gifts were hung in "Christian trees" - or Christmas trees.

Although the decorations have changed over the years, the tree endures as the symbol of Christmas - a tradition which is older than Christianity and is not exclusive to any one religion.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### TREE SELECTION AND CARE OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The ideal Christmas tree has good needleholding ability, attractive color, a full or bushy appearance, a conical symmetrical shape, a pleasing fragrance, branches sturdy enough to hold ornaments and gifts, and reasonable fire resistance.

When shopping for your tree, be concerned with quality, shape and price. But, before you look, be prepared with certain kinds of information. For example, will your tree be in a corner, against a wall, or where it will be viewed from all sides? How high is the ceiling? Is the room large or small?

In a corner, half of a tree is hidden; against a wall, three of its four faces are visible; in front of a window it is usually seen from all sides. There is little advantage in paying a premium price for a perfect tree if it is to be viewed from only two sides.

Depending on the dimensions of your room, you may want a tall, narrow tree or a short, wide one.

Keep in mind that the tree on the lot or plantation has to be decorated. A tree that is tightly sheared will be difficult to trim with hanging ornaments, whereas one with lots of spaces among its branches will be easier to trim.

Select a fresh tree with good green color. The needles should be somewhat limber to the touch and not dried out and dull in color. The branches should be strong yet pliable, but not coarse and brittle.

To apply a freshness test to the tree, rub a finger across the butt. Stickiness is a sign of freshness. Bounce the tree stump on the ground. If large numbers of needles come down, the tree has begun to dry out. Next tug at the needles. If they pull off easily, freshness has passed. A fragrant odor is a good sign of freshness.

After you have selected and purchased your tree, observe a few simple rules:

- Until the tree is taken into the house, keep it in a cool, shady place.
- After cutting an inch or so off the butt, place the tree in a pail of water.
- Inside, use a stand that allows the butt to rest in a container of water. Check and refill often. A tree may use a pint or more of water each day.
- Keep the tree away from passageways or room exits, fireplaces, TVs or other sources of heat.

Christmas trees that are used indoors and then planted outdoors after Christmas are referred to as "living Christmas trees." "Living Christmas trees" are purchased with their roots in a ball of earth.

The indoor care of this kind of tree is very important if it is to survive out-of-doors. The root ball must remain moist throughout its stay indoors and it must be planted in a previously prepared site once the holiday season is over.

For a small Christmas tree, suitable for an apartment or table, try the Norfolk Island pine. Care should be taken in decorating it because the needles and branches may be damaged by high temperatures from high wattage Christmas lights. After Christmas is over, the Norfolk Island pine is a choice house plant for any home.

Although most Americans think of the natural tree as being the true symbol of Christmas, its artificial competitor has made striking inroads. The latest natural tree industry survey shows that about a third of all U.S. households have a natural tree each Christmas, another third have an artificial tree, and the remaining third have no tree at all.

However, natural trees have always held a slight edge over their plastic and aluminum rivals, and, especially in the past few years, the popularity of real Christmas trees has been increasing.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FIREPROOF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

A good solution to use in fireproofing your tree follows:

- 14 ounces of Borax
- 6 ounces boric acid
- 1 gallon water
- ½ teaspoon low-sudsing detergent



Mix thoroughly, saturate trees and/or green completely with the solution. You can spray the tree with the solution to help cover it evenly.

You should select a fresh tree and use a water-containing stand (a bucket with rocks around the trunk of the tree filled with water is sufficient). Remember to keep the container filled with water during the entire time it is up. If you get a tree early it is best to leave it outside or in a cold place as long as you can.

Do not put the tree near a fireplace, radiator, or other heat source that might dehydrate or ignite it. Be sure the tree lights do not have worn insulation or broken wiring.

## A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR BIRDS



After the holidays, the tree can still be useful. A tree, decorated for the birds, will provide your feathered friends with a worthwhile Christmas gift. You may use your own discarded Christmas tree or a suitable evergreen shrub in the yard. Put everyone to work making the colorful food decorations.

Sunflower head with seeds for chickadees, nuthatches, blue jays and cardinals.

For color, try half a pomegranate.

Indian corn, strings of cranberries and popcorn.

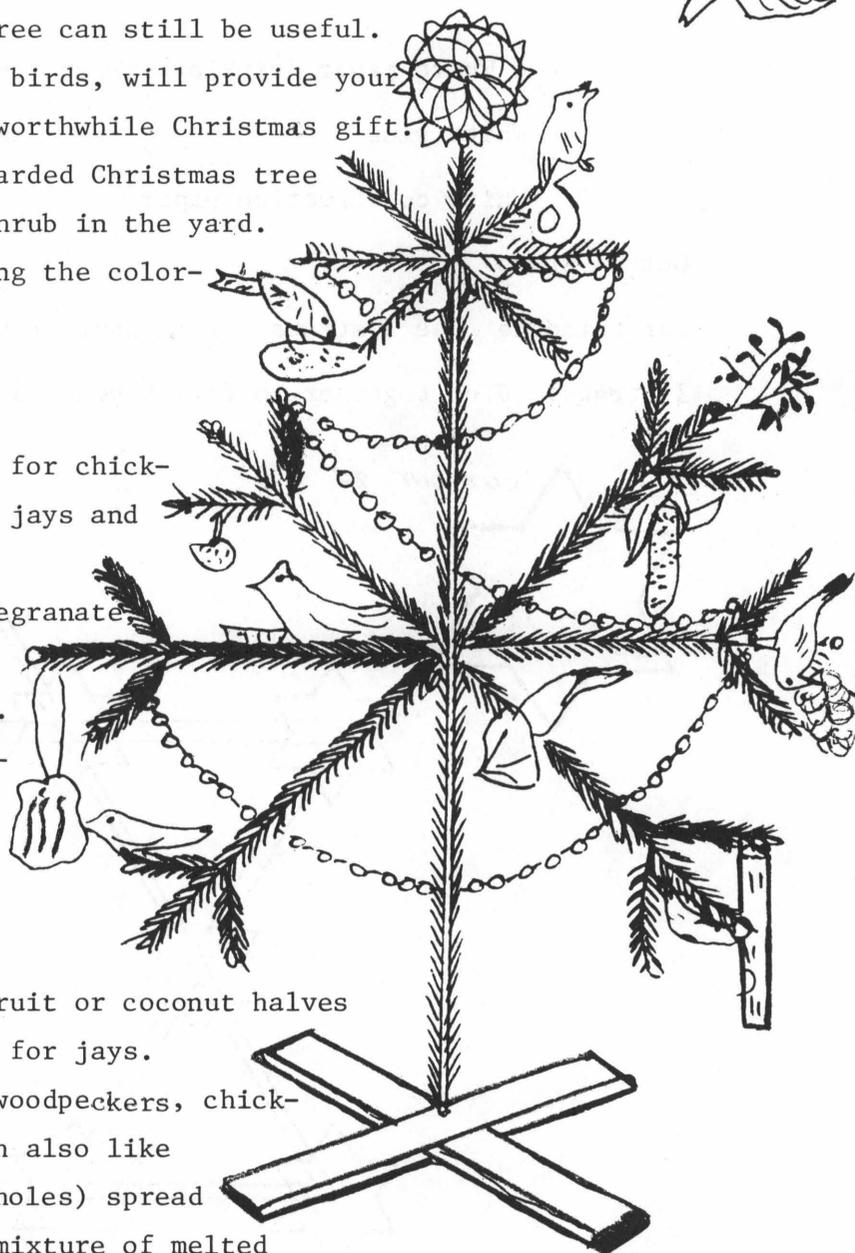
Stale doughnuts for chickadees, bluejays or nuthatches.

Sprigs of multiflora rose (grouse, pheasants)

Fill empty orange, grapefruit or coconut halves with bird seed, raisins for jays.

Large chunks of suet for woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, which also like

Pine cones or logs (with holes) spread with peanut butter, or mixture of melted suet and bird seed or popcorn.



Since the tree is biodegradable, its branches can be removed and used as mulch in the garden; the trunk can be used for firewood or chopped for mulch. Never burn a bundle of green branches in the fireplace, however, as this could be a fire hazard.

# TREE TRIMMERS

## LARGE PAPER STAR ORNAMENTS

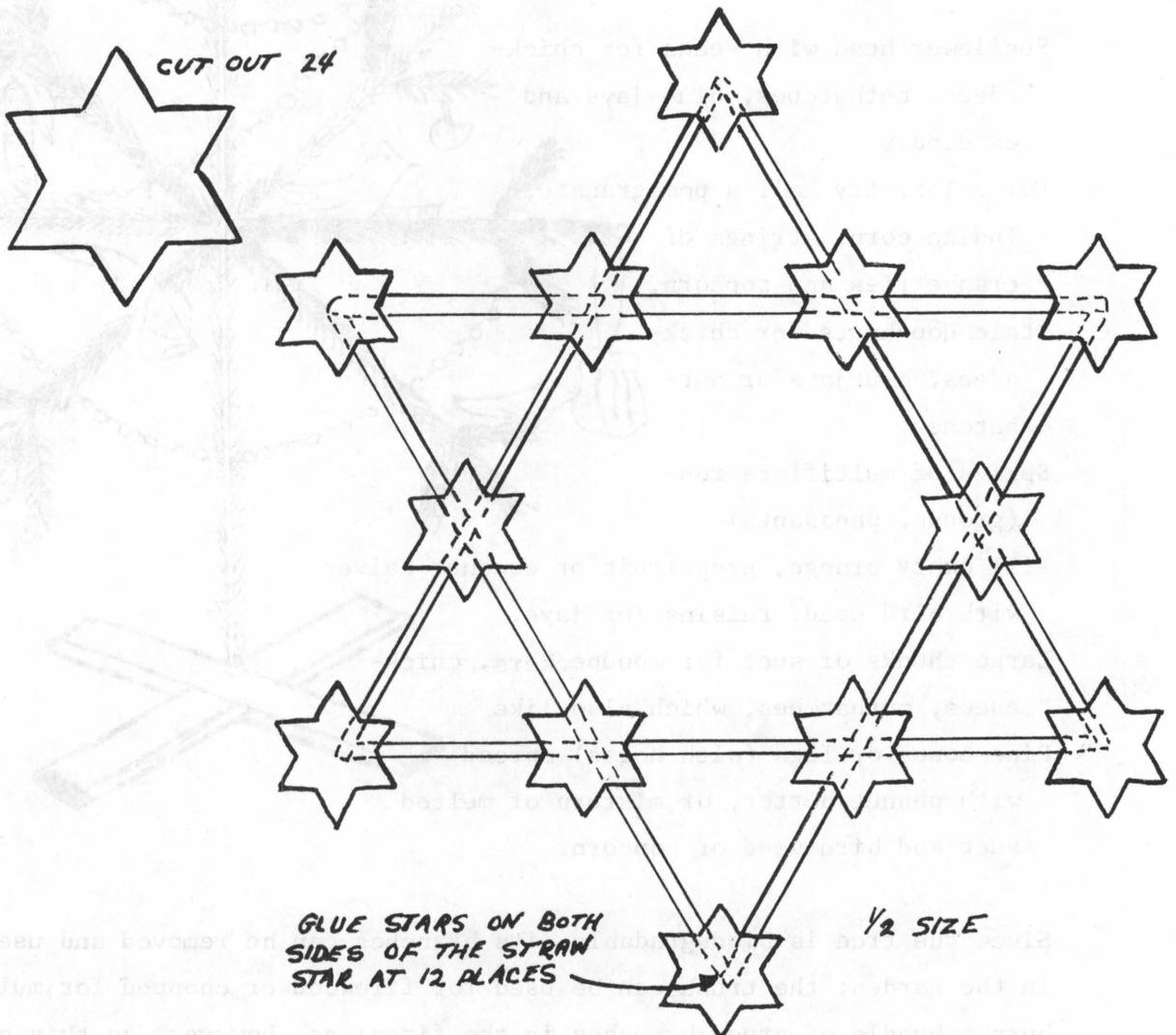
6 White paper drinking straws (cut in half to make

White glue smaller ornament)

White construction paper

Cut 24 stars

For triangle use 3 straws. Form another triangle with remaining 3 straws. Glue together to form 6 pointed star.



Cover each intersection of straws with 12 white paper stars. Turn over and glue remaining 12 white stars on back intersections. Make hanger loop with thread.

OLD FASHIONED QUILT PATTERN STAR ORNAMENTS

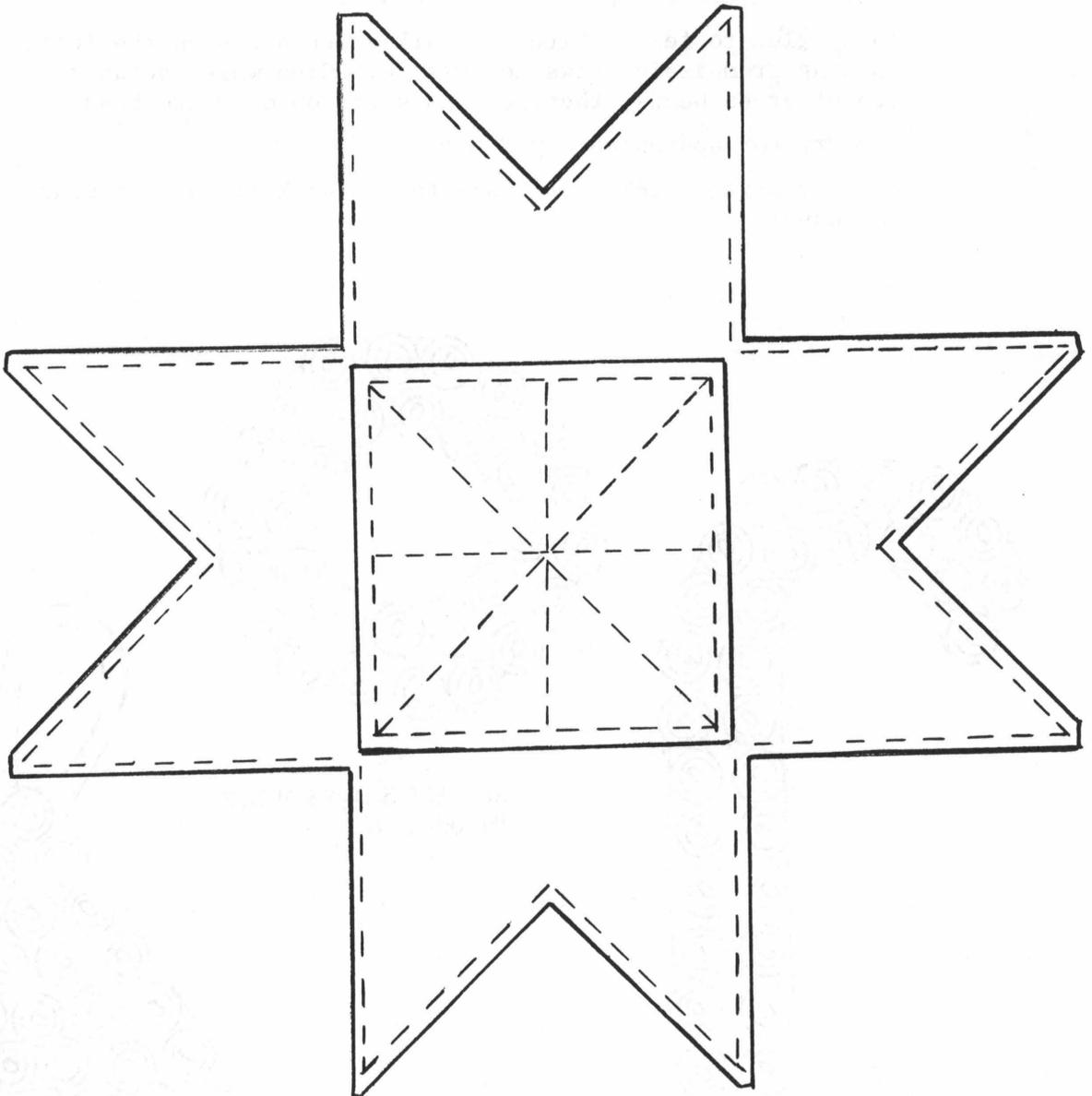
Colored felt or calico fabric (2 pieces 8" x 9")

Pinking Shears

Colored embroidery thread

Cotton or polyester batting

Cut 1 star and 1 square from each color fabric with pinking shears. Sew stars together stuffing lightly. Sew contrasting color square on top of star, using embroidery thread. Stitch star pattern in square.



## WOODEN BEAD ORNAMENTS

### Materials:

- 1 pkg. 8 mm dark green wooden bead discs
- 1 pkg. 5 mm white wooden bead discs
- 1 pkg. 3 mm red round wooden beads
- small piece of green felt to fit ornament pattern
- small tube of glue
- hanging cord or ornament
- 1 pair scissors
- 1 sheet tracing or tissue paper

### Instructions:

Trace outside shape of beading pattern onto tracing or tissue paper.

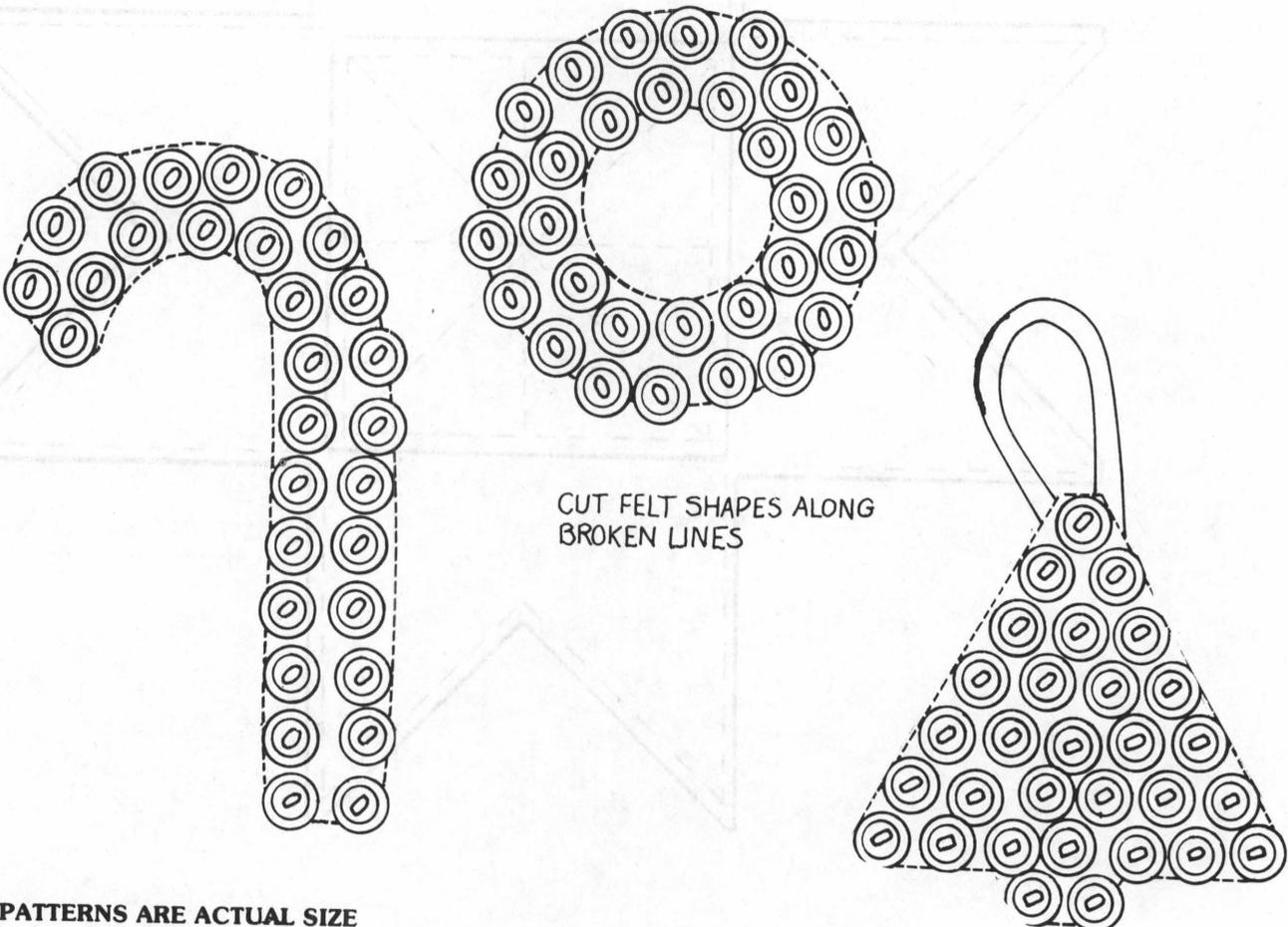
Trace shape onto felt, cut out.

Follow pattern for placement of beads.

Apply glue to felt. Glue the dark green beads on the felt, working from inside rows to outside. Glue white beads on top of green beads, then red beads on top of white beads.

Let dry for approximately 2 hours.

Glue or stitch ribbon or braid to the back of the ornament for hanging.



**PATTERNS ARE ACTUAL SIZE**

## CALICO AND GINGHAM ORNAMENTS

### (Bows)

#### Materials:

½ yard calico or gingham fabric  
Pinking shears  
Ornament hanger



#### Instructions:

Cut fabric into strips 20" long x 1" wide.  
Tie each strip into a bow and attach ornament hanger.

### (Spice Bags)

#### Materials:

½ yard of calico or gingham fabric  
Pinking shears  
Box of whole cloves  
Ribbon or yarn



#### Instructions:

Cut 6" circles from fabric with the pinking shears.  
Place 1 teaspoon of cloves in the center of each circle. Gather fabric to form a sack around the cloves.  
Tie with the ribbon or yarn. Add an ornament hanger.

### (Yo Yo Ornament)

#### Materials:

Calico or gingham fabric  
Fiberfill  
Pinking shears  
Sewing thread buttonhole twist (optional)  
Small beads (optional)



#### Instructions:

For each ornament, cut three 4 inch circles from fabric. To form yo yo, run a gathering stitch around the outer edge of circle and draw thread up in the center. Put a small amount of fiberfill in each yo yo. Form the ornament by stringing 3 yo yos together using buttonhole twist. A small bead may be inserted between each yo yo.

## NEEDLEPOINT SHEEP

### Materials:

6" x 8" piece of 10 or 12 mesh needlepoint canvas  
Scissors  
Masking Tape  
Black marking pen  
3 yards black tapasstry yarn  
5 -10 yrd. skeins white tapasstry yarn  
Needle  
Black felt scraps  
Stuffing

### Instructions:

Tape raw edges of canvas.

Trace both sides of the sheep onto the canvas.

Using black yard work the face in black tent stitch.

Work the ear in white tent stitch.

To work body, begin turkey work in lower left area of the sheep and work row across. At end of row, cut thread leaving a piece 1/2" long.

Work the loops in the second row starting one space to the left. Clip each row.

Continue in this fashion, working from left to right within the outline.

When both sides are complete, cut around the sheep 1/4 inch from the worked area.

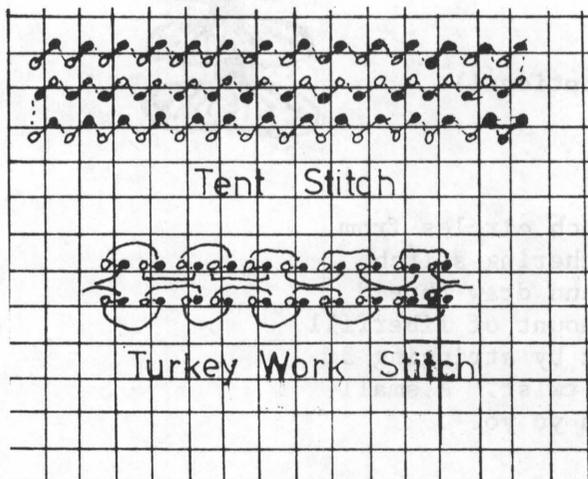
Cut two (2) feet out of the black felt.

Sew the two triangles on the lower inside of the sheep so that they extend beyond the fuzzy body.

Fold sheep in half and overcast edges in black or white, leaving an opening for the stuffing.

Stuff lightly and close opening.

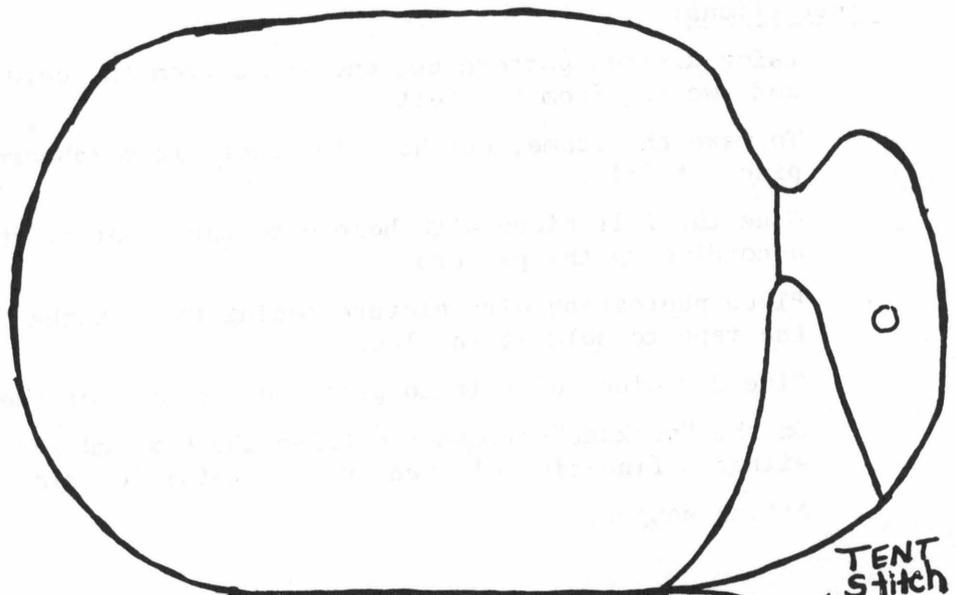
Add a yarn hanger.



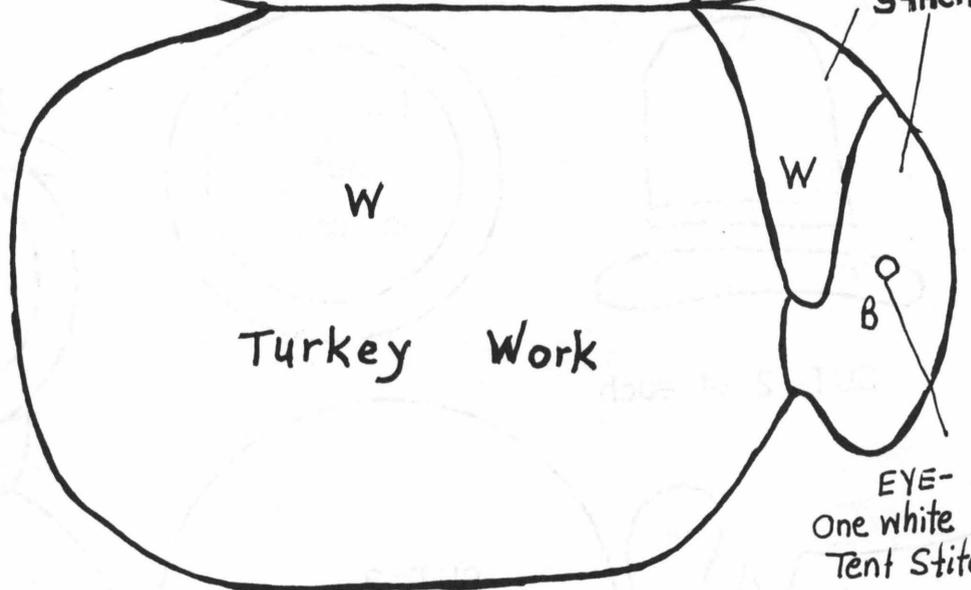
- Up through canvas
- Down through canvas
- On top of canvas
- Behind canvas

W = White

B Black



TENT  
Stitch



W

Turkey Work

W

B

EYE-  
One white  
Tent Stitch



FEET  
CUT 2

PHOTO CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Materials:

Thin cardboard  
Felt  
Ribbon  
White glue  
Photograph  
Razor blade or X-acto knife  
Masking tape

Instructions:

Using desired pattern cut one shape from the cardboard and two (2) from the felt.

To make the frame, cut hole for photo in cardboard and **one** piece of felt.

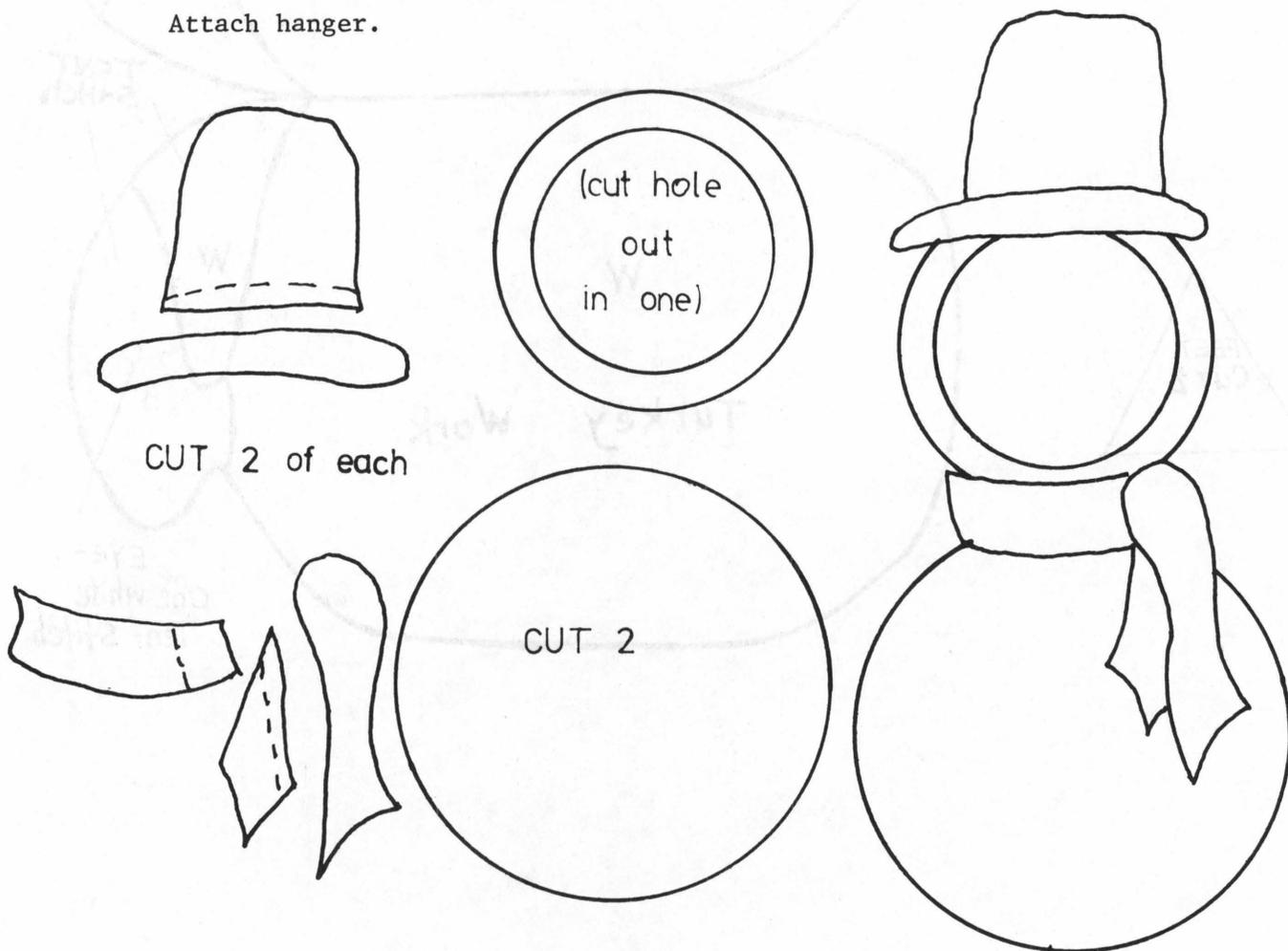
Glue the felt piece with hole onto the front of the cardboard according to the pattern.

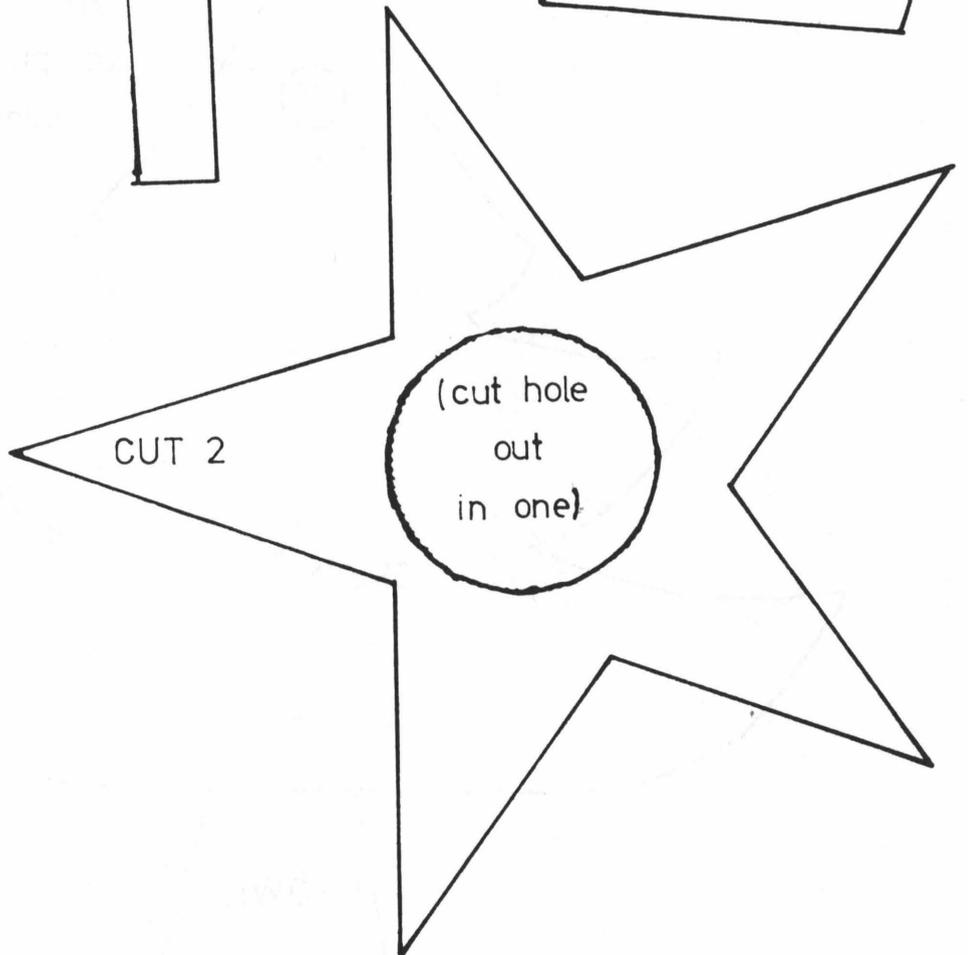
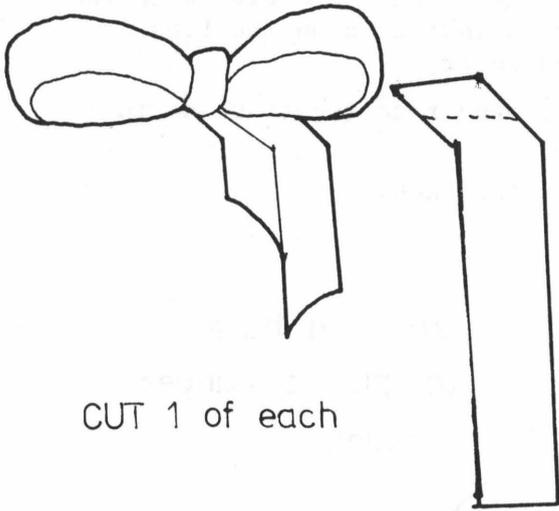
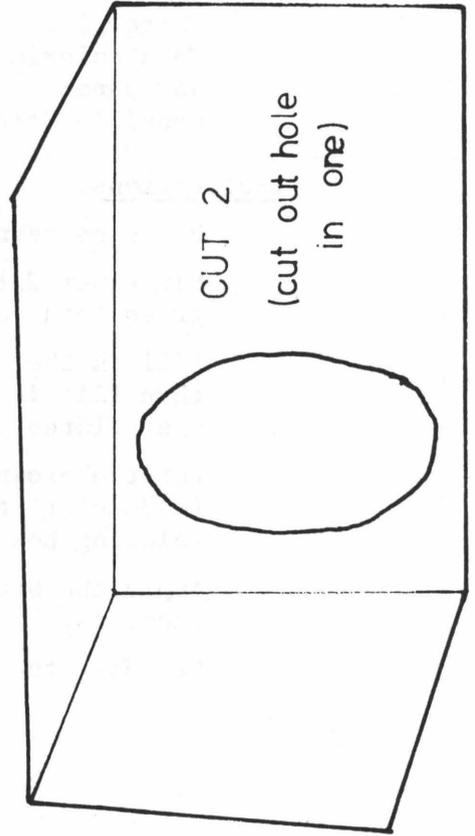
Place photograph with picture facing through the hole. Use the tape to hold it in place.

Glue 2nd piece of felt to piece on the back of the ornament.

On the "package" ornament outline the box and the bow with either a fine-tip felt pen or with metallic trim.

Attach hanger.





## TREE GLUE ORNAMENT

### Materials:

White glue  
Food coloring  
Wax paper  
Popsicle Stick

### Instructions:

Place pattern underneath a sheet of wax paper.

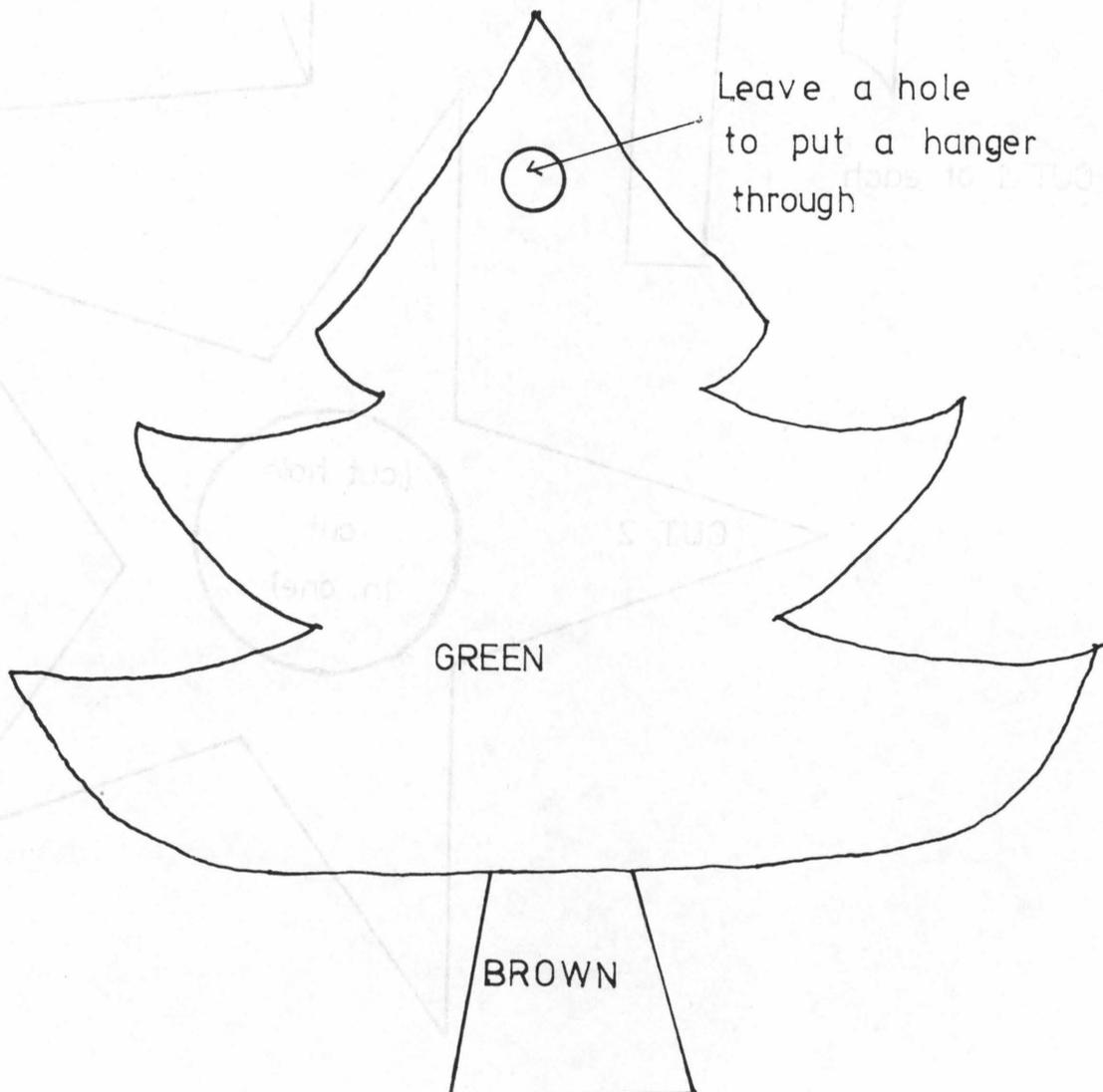
Mix about 2 tablespoons of the white glue with the green food coloring.

Fill in the green portion of tree. Follow the outline first then fill in the center. Use the popsicle stick to apply the colored glue. Let dry.

For the brown trunk, mix about 1 teaspoon white glue with the food coloring. Use the proportion indicated on the food coloring box to obtain the brown color.

Apply the brown glue in the same manner to the trunk as in step. #3.

Let dry, then peel wax paper off the back.



# PINE NEEDLE MAN

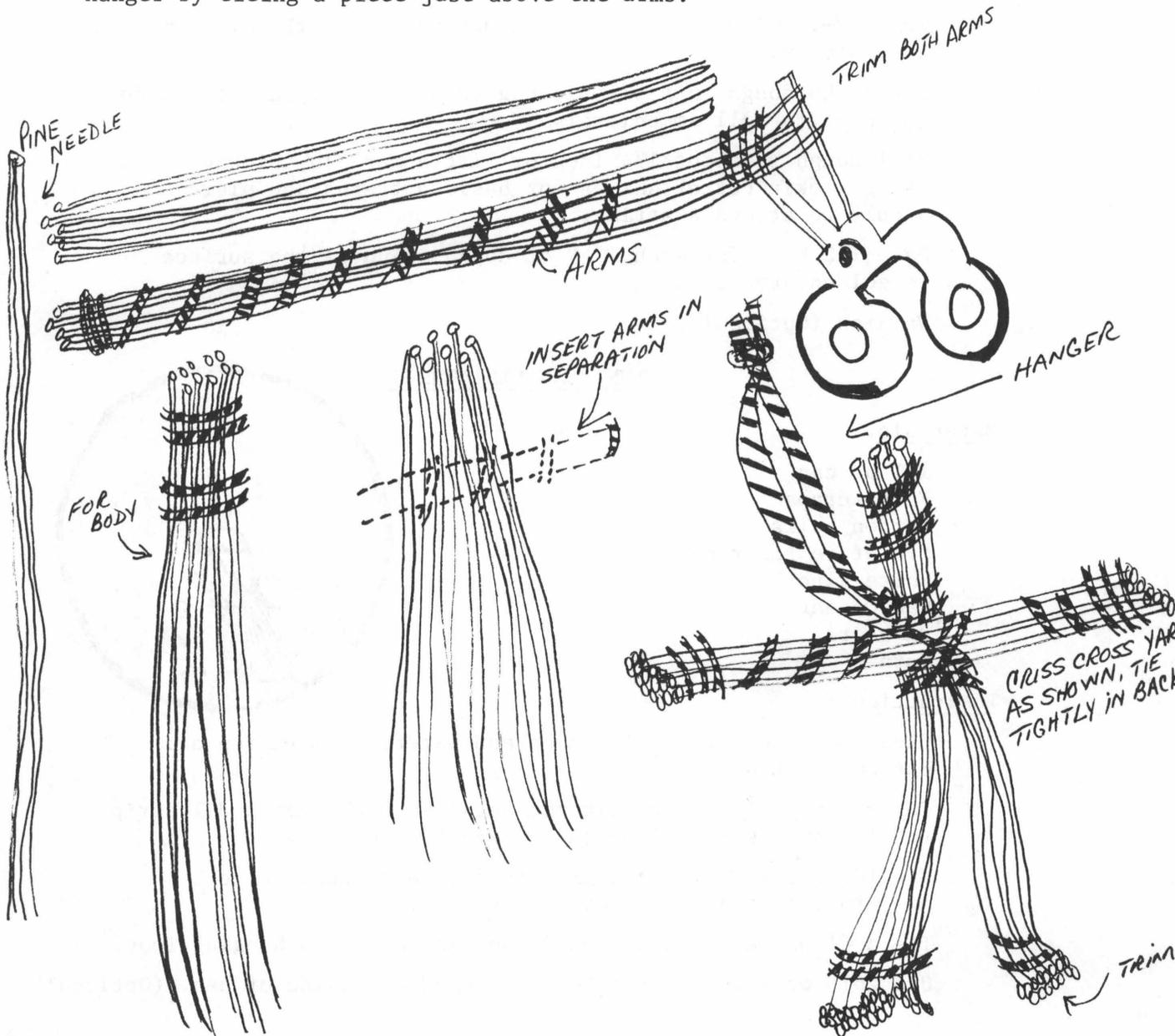
## MATERIALS:

60 long pine needles, dry  
yarn  
scissors

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Assemble 30 needles with the woody ends together at the top. Tie securely with yarn directly under the woody ends. Tie with another piece of yarn  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch below the 1st yarn tie. All knots are to be tied at back.

Assemble the other 30 needles to form arms. Tie securely at one end and wrap yarn around them diagonally. Cut off excess needle ends. Separate in half the section of the body beneath and 2nd yarn tie. Slip the arms into the separation. Tie with yarn by criss-crossing the yarn strands to hold arms securely in place. Knot in back. This makes the vest. Divide the needles below the vest to form legs. Tie ends of each leg. Trim excess needles and add a yarn hanger by tying a piece just above the arms.



## DOUGH FLAKES

### Materials:

1 cup water  
1 cup salt  
2 cups flour (all purpose)  
1 cookie cutter  
1 large bowl  
1 spoon  
1 plastic bag

### Instructions:

Combine the flour and salt in a large bowl. Mix well with a spoon.

Add the water, a little at a time, mixing thoroughly to form a stiff dough. (Do not add too much water as the dough will become sticky)

Knead 7-10 minutes, until the dough has a smooth yet firm consistency.

Place the dough in a plastic bag to prevent drying if you do not plan to roll immediately.

Roll dough to about 1/4 inch or little more in thickness, using cookie cutter shapes for basic patterns and pierce a hole to attach a string.

Bake 1/2 hour for each 1/4" of dough or until the surface is golden brown. Cool.

Varnish (Optional).

## TUNA CAN MINIATURES

### Materials:

1 Tuna can  
Felt scraps  
Cotton balls  
Miniature figurine  
White glue  
Can Opener  
Scissors  
Yarn



### Instructions:

Clean can thoroughly with soap and water. Remove top and bottom of tuna can.

Cut 1 strip of felt to fit the outside of the can and 1 strip to fit the inside. Glue each piece to can. Dry.

Use 1-2 cotton balls and glue to inside of can. Glue miniature on top of the cotton balls(s).

Tie a 6' piece of yarn around the can to form a hanging loop.

Use gold or silver metallic trim to edge outside of can. (Optional)

PASTA ORNAMENT  
(Shell Wreath Ornament)

Materials:

sturdy scissors or X-acto knife  
cardboard 3"x3"x1/4" thick  
household glue  
1 box macaroni shells



Instructions:

Cut the cardboard into a circle 3 inches in diameter, then cut a circle 1 inch in diameter out of the center. Drill hole in the top of cardboard large enough for string. Glue pieces of shell to the cardboard on both sides. Let dry approximately 4 hours before hanging. Then hang to your tree.

Variation: Sea shell may be substituted for macaroni shells.

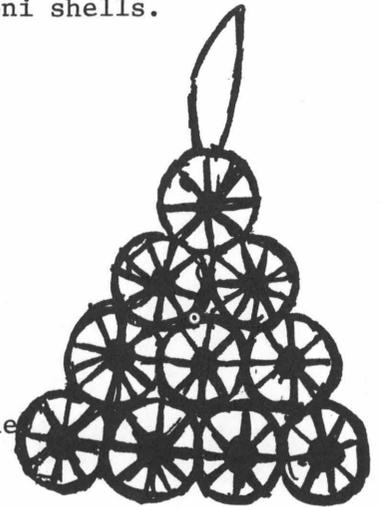
PASTA TREE

Materials:

10 Pasta wheels  
white glue  
spray paint (gold, silver, green or red)  
yarn

Instructions:

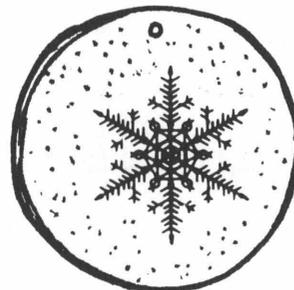
Glue the 10 pasta wheels together to form a triangle.  
Spray paint the dried tree on both sides.  
Make a yarn and loop to hang through the tree.



LACE SNOWFLAKE

Materials:

Clear plastic lid  
2 paper doilies or lace scraps  
White glue  
Hole punch  
Paper clip



Instructions:

Cut doilies or lace to fit lid.  
Clean lid, and coat one side with a thin layer of glue.  
Glue cut out in place. Finish other side in the same manner and allow glue to dry thoroughly. When dry, punch hole in lid and insert paper clip hanger.

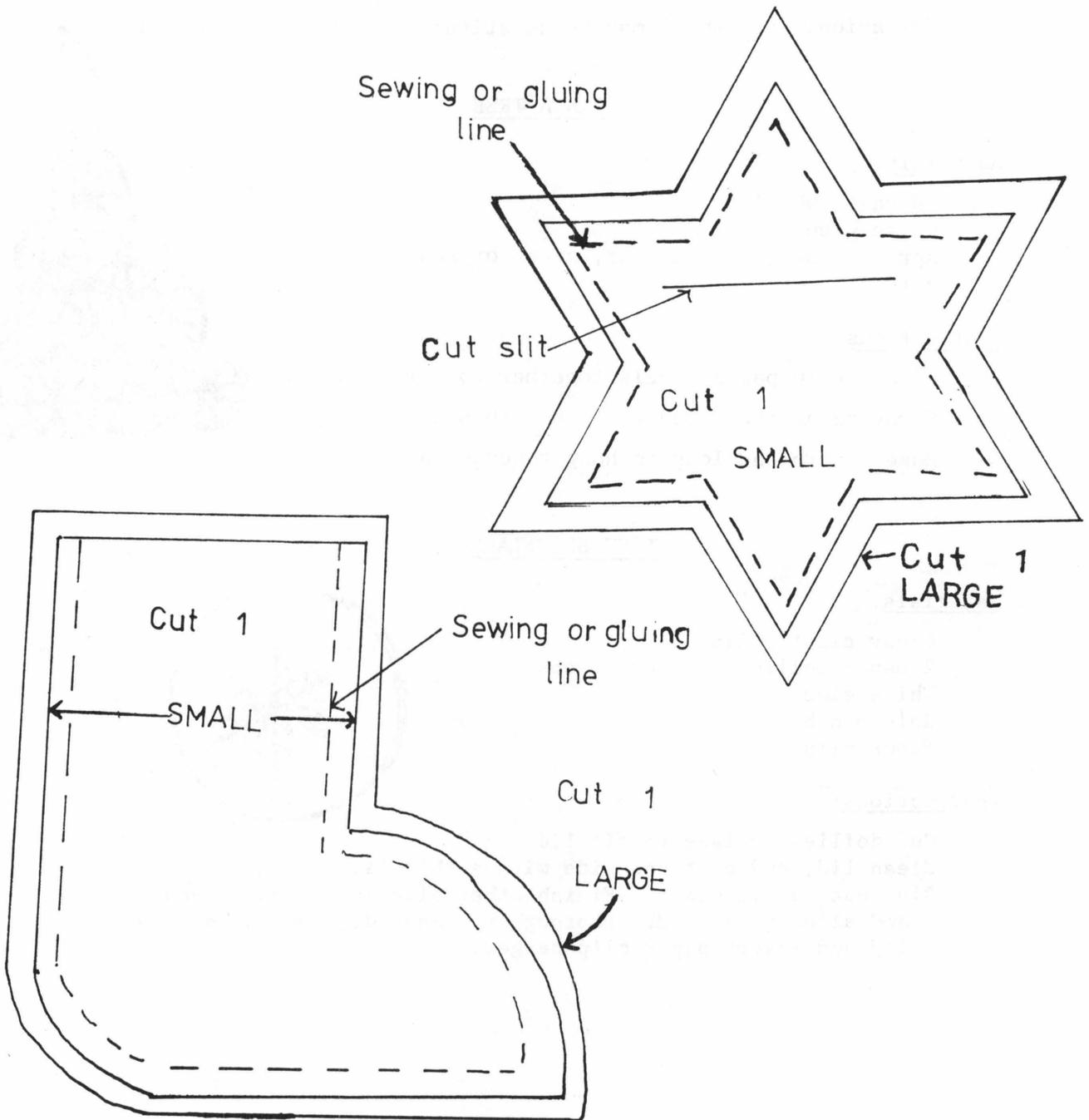
FELT ORNAMENTS  
(Candy filled stocking and stars)

Materials:

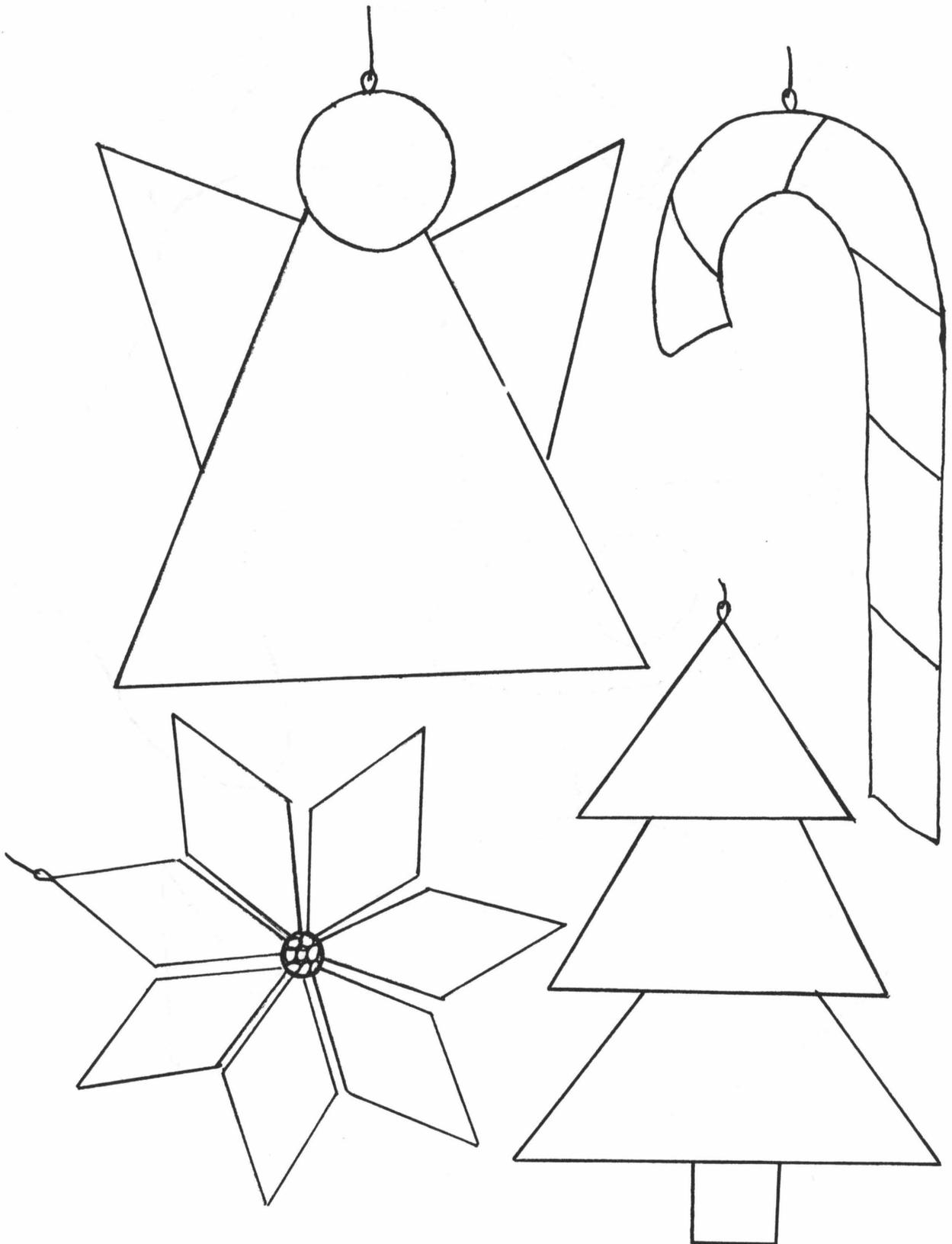
- felt scraps
- scissors
- white glue or thread
- piece of wrapped candy
- hole punch
- yarn

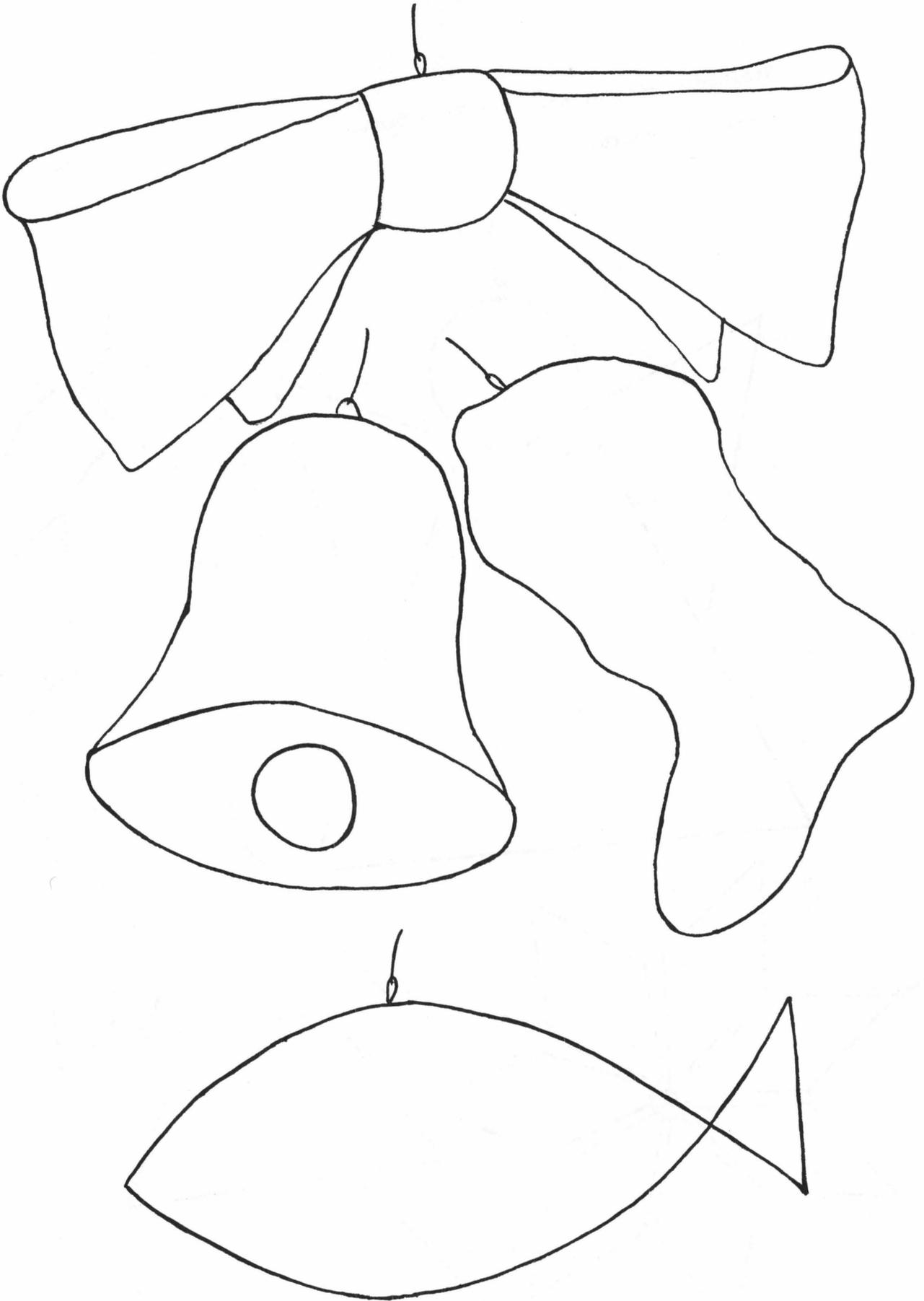
Instructions:

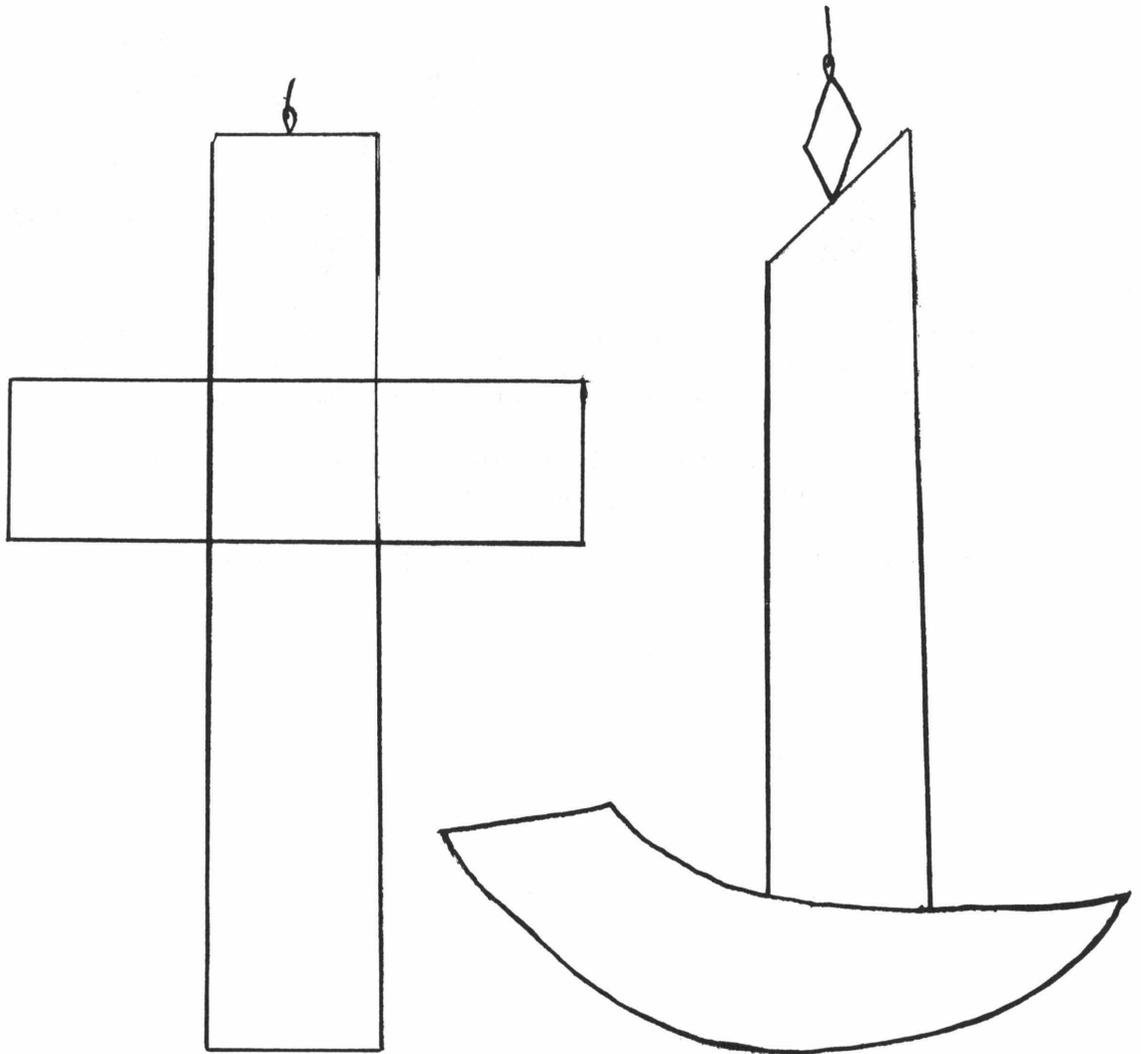
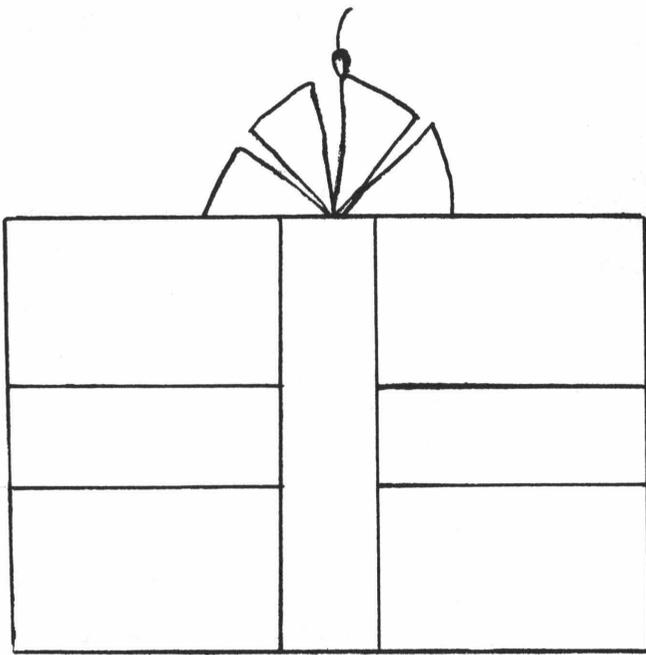
Use patterns to cut out star and stocking. Remember to cut the slit in the smaller piece of the star. Following the dotted line on the pattern, glue or sew the smaller pattern to the larger. Insert the piece of wrapped candy into the ornament. Punch a hole near the top of the ornament and add a yarn loop for hanging.



Stained Glass Patterns for Tree Ornaments. Can also be used for  
Fabric Ornaments.









## QUILLED PAPER TREE ORNAMENT

1 Sheet of Lined Paper or Graph Paper  
Waxed Paper

Quilling Paper - 18 4-inch pieces of green  
(Rolled Round)

9 2-inch pieces of yellow  
(Rolled Round & Pinched  
into Tear Shape)

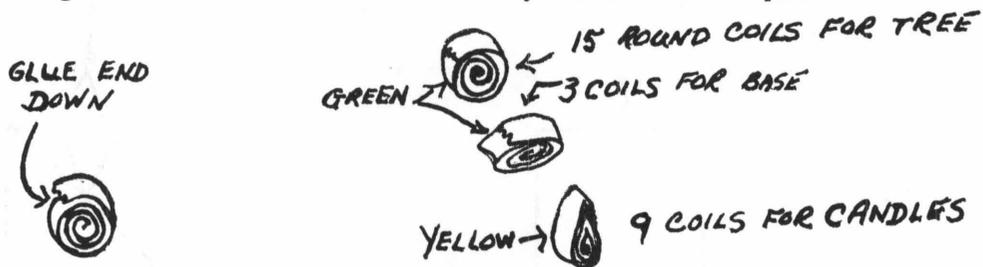
Corsage Pin or Quilling Tool

White Glue

Toothpick

Green Thread

Place waxed paper over lined or graph paper. Measure quilling paper and tear ends. Torn ends are less noticeable than cut ends. To make quilled coils, pinch end of one paper strip tightly around end of pin or quilling tool. Roll the rest of paper strip, but with less tension, glue the ends. Roll 15 green circles. Make 3 green tear shapes by pinching one end of circle. Make 9 yellow tear drops.



Assemble the 15 round green coils in pyramid shape and glue together on wax paper. Use graph paper to line up the coils. Use toothpick to push coils into position or to add white glue.

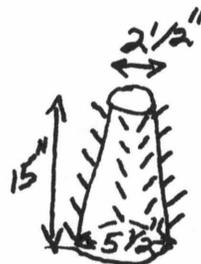
Glue the 9 teardrop coils to ends of rows. Use 3 green tear drops for tree base. Let dry and lift from wax paper.

To make hanger, thread a loop through the top coil.

Edible Trees

Hospitality Tree

Materials needed: Cone--Wood or styrofoam  
Nails (Without heads)



Directions: Arrange nails in cones.

1. Scent-Sational - Stick cloves in oranges. Push oranges on nails. Fill in gaps with whole cinnamon sticks. Use green pine clippings for accent at the base.
2. Apple Tree - Place apples on nails. Fill in spaces between the apples with twigs of greenery.  
Note: Lemons, oranges, pears may also be used.
3. Trees may also be covered with different colored gumdrops or candy kisses.

Hospitality Tree (Variation)

Materials needed: Styrofoam cone  
Aluminum foil  
Toothpicks

Directions: Cover cone with aluminum foil.

Shrimp Tree: Use cooked, shelled shrimp and endive lettuce. Cover cone with overlapping leaves of endive using toothpick halves. Attach shrimp to tree with toothpicks.

Provide cocktail sauce for dunking shrimp.

Cocktail Sauce: Combine  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups chili sauce or  $1\frac{1}{8}$  cup catsup, 3 tablespoons lemon juice, 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons grated onion, 4 dashes Tabasco, and 1 to 2 tablespoons horseradish. Chill. Makes  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups.

Sausage Tree With Trimmings:

Suggested food items--sausage, cheese, bologna, pepperoni, cocktail onions, pimento-stuffed olives, cocktail franks, salami, ham.

Place bite-size pieces of food on cone using toothpicks. Alternate rows for a pleasing color arrangement. Fill in spaces with fresh parsley. Serve with assorted dips.

Applesauce Horseradish Dip: Combine  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup applesauce,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon horseradish, and 2 teaspoons chopped parsley.

Cranberry Yogurt Dip: Combine 1 10-ounce package frozen cranberry orange relish (thawed) and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup plain yogurt.

Chili Con Creamy Dip: Beat 2 3-ounce packages cream cheese until fluffy. Add 1/2 cup dairy sour cream gradually, beating until smooth. Stir in 1½ tablespoons finely chopped green chile, 2 tablespoons finely chopped green onion and 1 tablespoon chopped pimiento.

### Chocolate Cookie Tree

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt 1 6-ounce package semisweet chocolate morsels in top of double boiler over hot, not boiling, water. Remove from heat and set aside. In small bowl, combine 1 3/4 cups unsifted flour, 2 teaspoons soda, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and 1/4 teaspoon salt; set aside.

In large bowl, combine 2/3 cup shortening, 1/2 cup sugar, and 1 egg; beat until creamy. Mix in 1/4 cup corn syrup and the melted chocolate. Gradually blend in flour mixture.

To make graduated cookie layers for the tree, measure out bottom 4 layers of tree using 7, 6, 5, and 4 tablespoons of dough. Roll into 4 balls; reserve remaining dough. Roll balls made with 7 and 5 tablespoons of dough in nonpareils. Place on 2 ungreased cookie sheets. With hand, press dough to 3/4" thickness. Bake for 20 minutes. Using remaining batter, measure out top 5 layers of tree using 3, 2, 1 1/2, 1 and 1/2 tablespoons of dough. Roll into 5 balls. Roll balls made with 3, 1 1/2 and 1/2 tablespoons of dough in nonpareils. Place on ungreased cookie sheet at least 3 inches apart. Bake for 15 minutes.

Use remaining dough to make star for top of tree and cookies to place around bottom of tree. Press small amount of dough flat. With small, star-shaped cutter, cut star. Using 1 teaspoon of batter, measure out cookies; roll into 1-inch balls. Place on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 10 minutes.

Cool cookies completely.

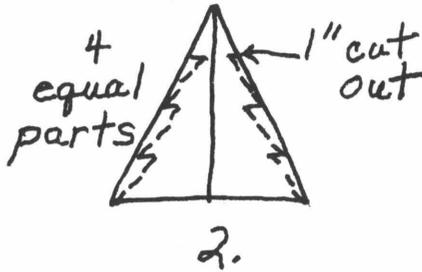
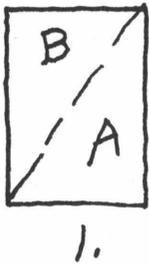
### To Assemble Tree

Cut a 7-inch circle of cardboard; place under largest cookie. Place one 1 cookie on top of the other, starting with largest cookie. Cut 10 medium marshmallows into thirds. To secure cookie layers, dip each side of marshmallow into glaze (made of 1 3/4 cups sifted confectioners' sugar and 2 tablespoons water) and place 4 pieces of marshmallow between first 3 three cookie layers and 3 pieces of marshmallows between remaining layers. Drizzle remaining glaze over tree to simulate tinsel; decorate with silver dragees. Top tree with star and secure with glaze. Cover a 5-ounce custard cup with foil or wrapping paper. Stand cardboard and cookie tree on custard cup.

## Cake Tree

Use one 13 x 9 inch cake, cooled and 6 cups cool whip or icing, and assorted candies. Cut and arrange cake as shown in diagram 1 and 2.

Mark sloping sides into 4 equal parts. At each mark cut in about 1 inch; cut out diagonally to meet second mark, forming branches of tree. Arrange cut-out pieces to form trunk of tree as shown in diagram 3. Spread a small amount of cool whip or icing between pieces to hold them together. Frost cake with remaining cool whip or icing. Decorate.



Note: You can also use Christmas cookie cutters to cut out small servings of cake and decorate.

## Christmas Tree Bread

4 cups all-purpose flour  
1 package active dry yeast  
1 cup milk  
1/2 cup shortening  
1/4 cup granulated sugar

1 teaspoon salt  
2 eggs  
2 cups sifted powdered sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Milk

In large mixing bowl combine  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups of the flour and the yeast. In saucepan heat 1 cup milk, shortening, granulated sugar, and salt just till warm ( $115^{\circ}$  to  $120^{\circ}$ ), stirring constantly. Add to dry mixture in mixing bowl; add eggs. Beat at low speed of electric mixer for 1/2 minute, scraping sides of bowl constantly. Beat 3 minutes at high speed. By hand, stir in enough of the remaining flour to make a moderately stiff dough. Place in greased bowl; turn once to grease surface. Cover; let rise till double (about 1 hour). Punch down; cover. Let rest 10 minutes. On floured surface roll to a 15x10 inch rectangle. Cut dough into fifteen 1-inch-wide strips.



To shape tree at left: Lay a 10-inch strip of dough on greased baking sheet for trunk. For bottom branch, piece strips of dough to form a 15-inch strip. Fold in half. Seal ends; twist. Place on trunk. Repeat using 12-, 9-, and 6-inch strips of dough.

To shape tree at center: Place a 10-inch strip of dough on greased baking sheet for trunk. Starting 1 1/2 inches from base of trunk, place strips of dough, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, and 3 inches long on edges over trunk to form branches.

To shape tree at right: Lay a 10-inch strip of dough flat on greased baking sheet for trunk. Roll remaining pieces of dough to round slightly. Loop a 12-inch strip of dough atop trunk to form bottom branch. Repeat with 9- and 7-inch strips of dough.

Let dough rise in warm place till double (about 1 1/4 hours). Bake at 400° for 12 to 15 minutes. Cool. Mix powdered sugar, vanilla, and enough milk to make of spreading consistency. Drizzle over trees. Garnish with candied cherries or gumdrops, if desired. Makes 3.

#### EVERGREEN PUNCH

2 pkgs. Lime gelatin  
2 cups boiling water  
1 cup sugar  
4 cups cold water

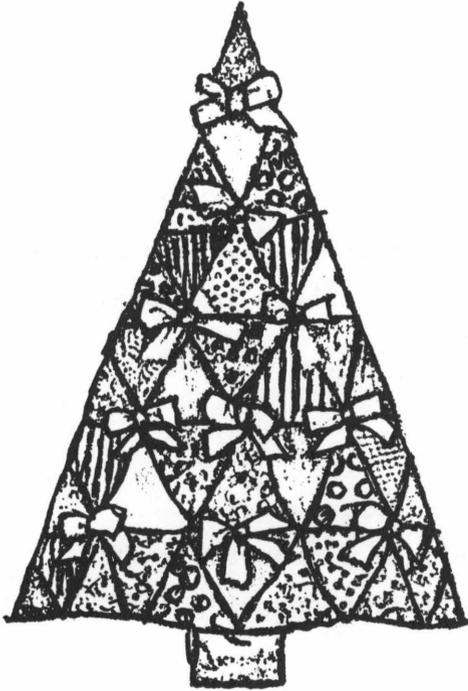
1 can (8 oz.) frozen lemon concentrate  
32 oz. pineapple juice  
1 qt. ginger ale

Combine gelatin and sugar and pour boiling water over and stir until dissolved. Add remaining ingredients except ginger ale which is added just before serving. Serves 25.



## INEDIBLE TREES

### Patchwork Stuffed Tree



Materials needed: Fabric scraps for triangles and tree stem.  
Ten 10-inch pieces of ribbon for bows.  
2/3 yard of fabric for backing  
Quilt batting  
Thread

#### Directions:

Cut 36 triangles using pattern piece A. Good fabric choices include calico, gingham, velvet, velveteen, corduroy or knit fabrics. Select ribbon for bows to coordinate with fabric selection. For example, yarn bows would be a good choice for calico and gingham while velvet and satin ribbons would be appropriate for velvets and velveteen.

Stitch triangular pieces together with a 1/4" seam according to the diagram. Cut two 4 1/2" square pieces for stem. Stitch together with a 1/4-inch seam, turn and stuff with quilt batting and the stem is complete. Cut the backing using the pieced tree as a pattern. Stitch the front and back together with a 1/4-inch seam leaving a 4-inch opening at the center of the base of the tree. Clip corners and turn tree. Stuff tree with two or more layers of quilt batting depending on desired effect.

Attach ribbon to tree by tacking center of ribbon in places indicated in diagram. Tack through all layers. Tie ribbon in bows.

Insert stem in opening at the base of the tree and slip stitch.

Attach a curtain ring to the back of tree for hanging the tree.

The finished tree is 25" high.

Diagram A

### Eyelet Lace Tree

Materials: Styrofoam cone, 9"  
1 yard 2 3/4" white eyelet  
Ribbon for 15 bows - approximately 3 yards  
15 small Christmas balls  
Thread  
Base - desired color

#### Directions:

Cut eyelet for tree as follows: Place eyelet around cone in layers and tack in place. Attach ribbon to tree by tacking center of ribbon in place. Attach balls to ribbon. Tie ribbon in bows.

NOTE: Materials will vary according to size of cone.

### Christmas Tree Pillow

Materials: 2/3 yard 45-inch fabric for tree applique and narrow ruffle  
1 yard 45-inch fabric for background fabric and wide ruffle  
15-inch square muslin  
15-inch square polyester quilt batting  
sewing thread  
quilting thread to match trees  
14-inch square pillow form or polyester stuffing  
tracing paper  
graphite paper  
pencil

Tools and equipment: Sewing machine, scissors, pins.

#### 1. To make trees:

Using pattern, trace tree applique onto the right side of fabric to make four trees.

Cut out trees; a 1/4-inch seam allowance has been added. Baste the seam allowance to wrong side all around the edge.

Clip into seam allowance where necessary to allow tree to lay flat.

#### 2. Cut two 15-inch squares from background fabric. Fold one of the squares as in diagram 1 and crease. Fold again as in diagram 2 and crease.

#### 3. Baste trees to background fabric matching crease lines to centers of trees. (The tree tops should almost touch in the center.) Applique trees to pillow top.

Sandwich quilt batting between wrong side of pillow top and muslin square.

## Christmas Tree Pillow (continued)

Baste the layers together starting at center and stitching outward.

Baste all around the outside of pillow top.

### 4. To quilt layers:

Use a small running stitch for your quilting taking a small back stitch at beginning and end. Quilt around the outside outlines of trees.

(See diagram 3.)

Trim batting and muslin to match top if necessary.

### 5. To make and attach ruffles:

Cut three strips of 5 x 45-inch fabric for narrow ruffle and 3 strips 7 x 45-inch fabric for wide ruffle.

Using 1/2-inch seam, sew 3 strips together to form one continuous piece.

Fold ruffles wrong sides together lengthwise. Press along fold.

Measure each ruffle into quarter divisions, and place a pin at each division.

On your sewing machine, run two gathering threads, one 1/4 inch from raw edge and one 5/8-inch from raw edge, between the quarter divisions.

Be sure to stop and start your gathering threads at each quarter division to make gathering easier.

Measure each side of pillow top in half division and place a pin at each half.

Match quarter divisions of narrow ruffle with quarter divisions on pillow top.

Gather ruffle by pulling gathering threads and adjust ruffle evenly around top of pillow.

Stitch the ruffle to pillow top using 1/2-inch seam.

Follow same steps to attach the wide ruffle on top of the narrow ruffle.

Stitch in place.

### 6. To finish:

Place the last 15-inch square of fabric on top of pillow with right sides together, making sure all the ruffles are tucked inside.

Stitch using 1/2-inch seam allowance leaving about a 4-inch opening along one side of pillow for stuffing.

Clip the corners of pillow and turn to right side.

Stuff pillow with polyester stuffing or use pillow form.

Sew opening closed by hand.

**PATTERN FOR CHRISTMAS TREE PILLOW**

Continued from "Christmas Tree Pillow"

EACH SQUARE EQUALS ONE INCH

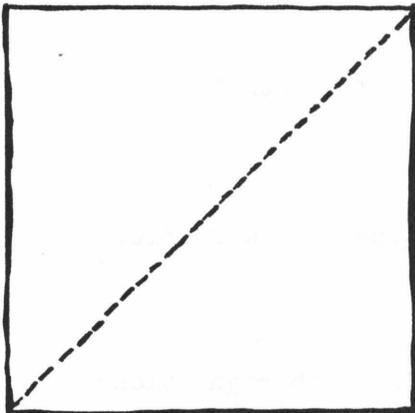
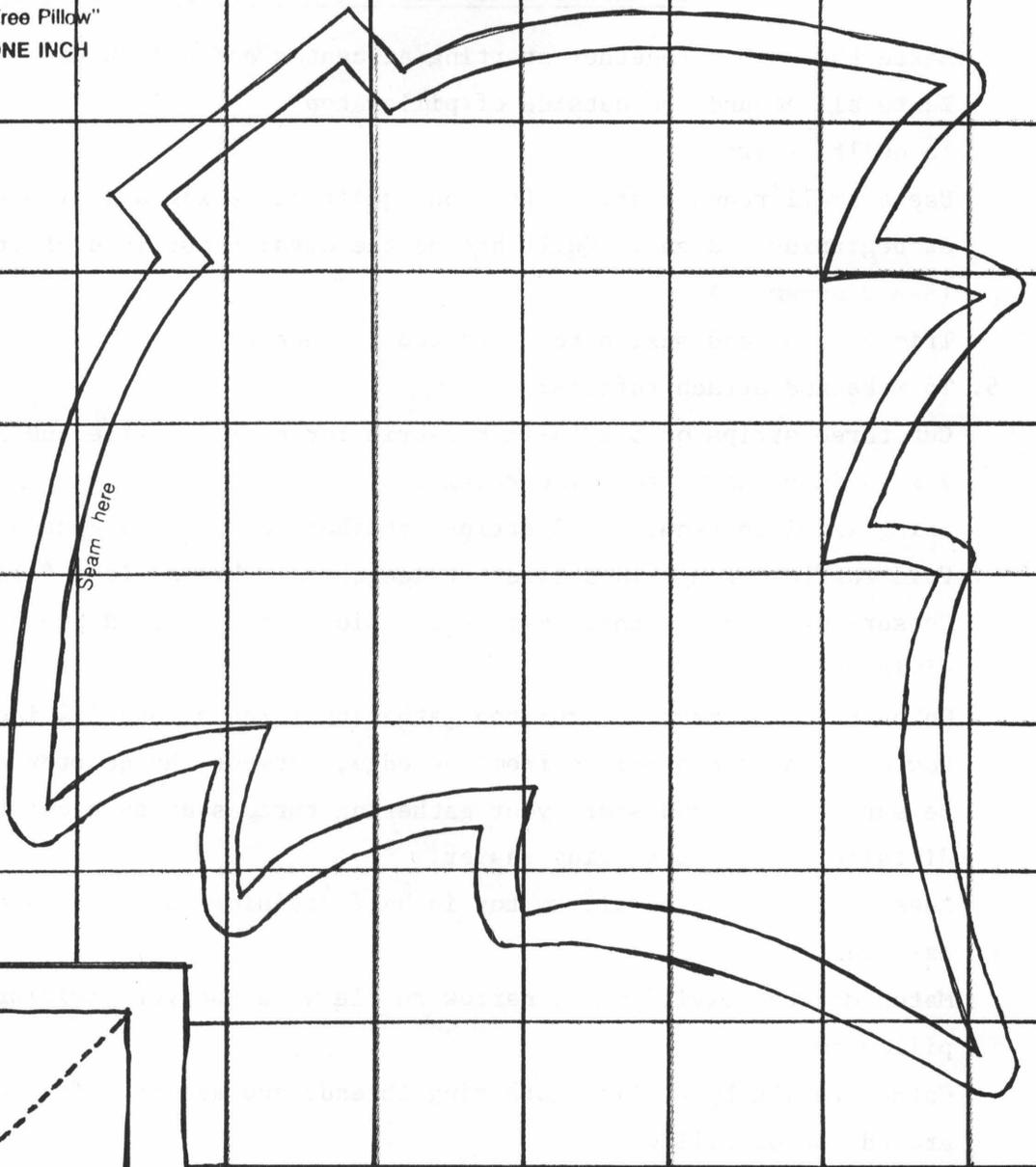


DIAGRAM 1

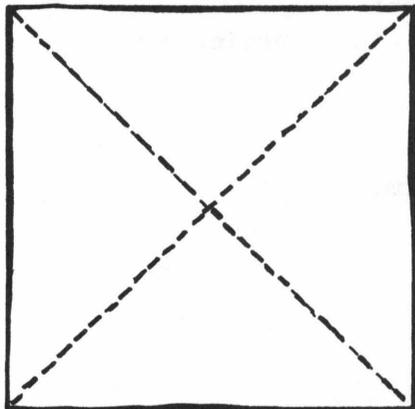


DIAGRAM 2

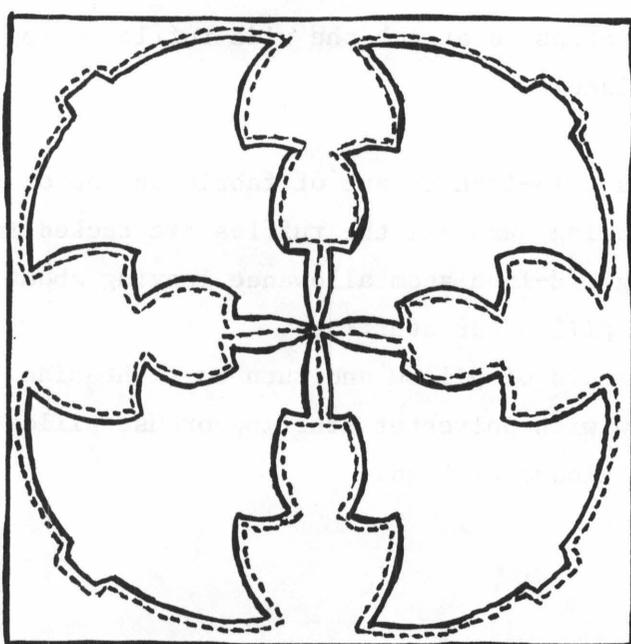


DIAGRAM 3

## Calico Christmas Tree



Yardage Needed: 1 3/4 yards - Christmas tree (1) (2)

Notions: 15 - jingle bells

2/3 yards white ball fringe

2 packages red medium ric rac

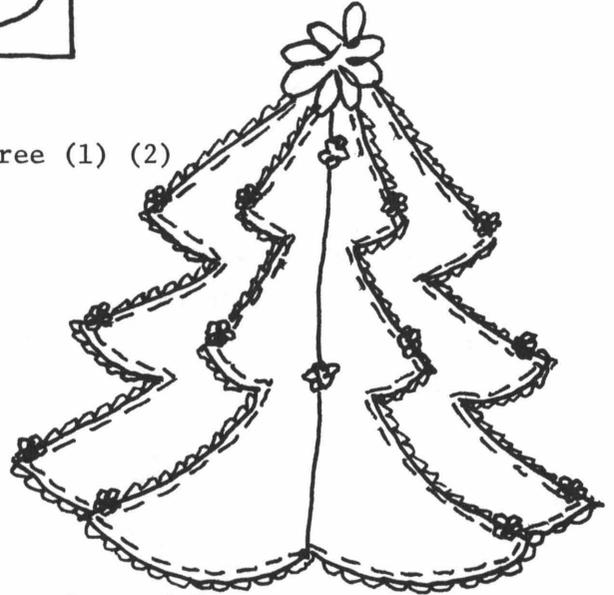
2 yards red 3/8" satin ribbon

2 yards green 3/8" satin ribbon

stitch witchery

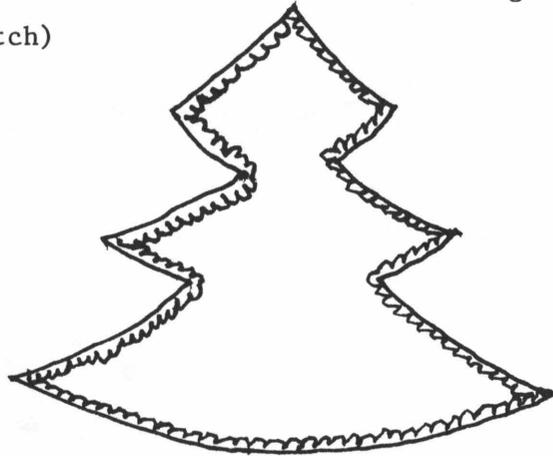
thread

poly fill stuffing



1. Cut 6 Christmas trees using pattern piece #1 - 1/2" seam allowance

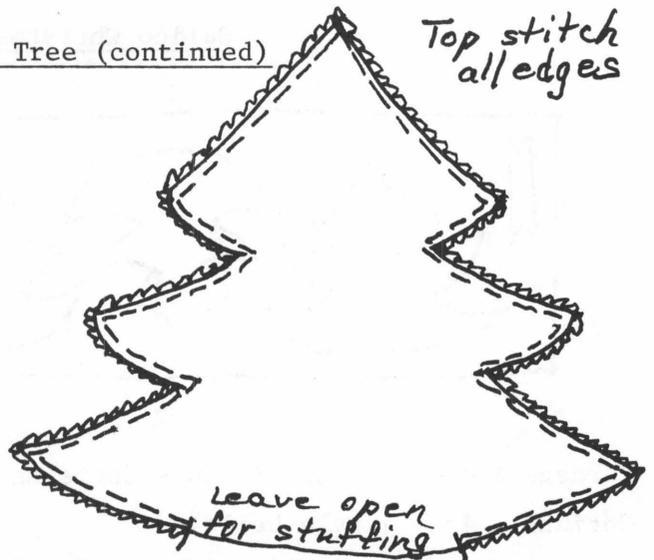
Take 3 Christmas tree pieces and stitch ric rac to outer edges on right sides along seam. (see sketch)



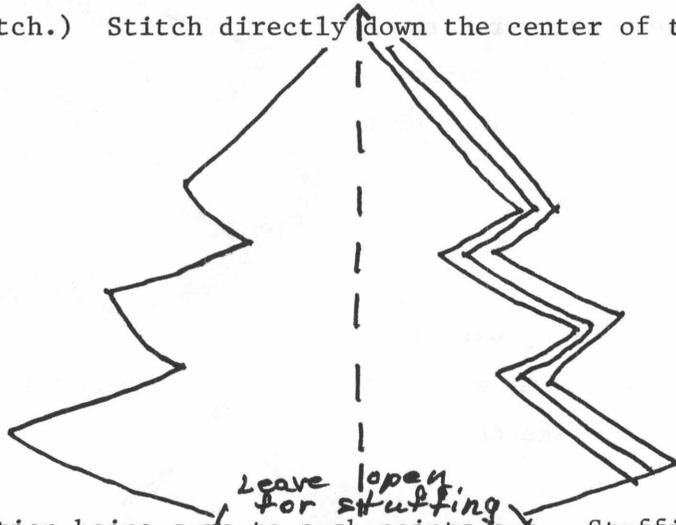
2. With right sides together, stitch 3 trees with ric rac to trees without ric rac along seam line. Be sure to leave opening at bottom for turning. Turn all sections right side out and press. Top stitch 1/4" from outer edges. (Use red or green thread.)

Calico Christmas Tree (continued)

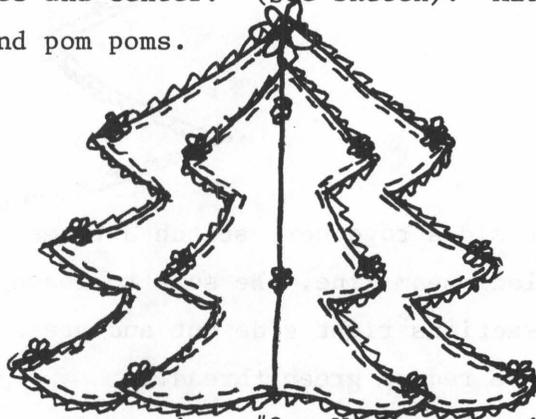
Top stitch  
all edges



3. Place 3 sections directly on top of each other. (Be sure they are pressed flat - see sketch.) Stitch directly down the center of the trees through 3 sections.

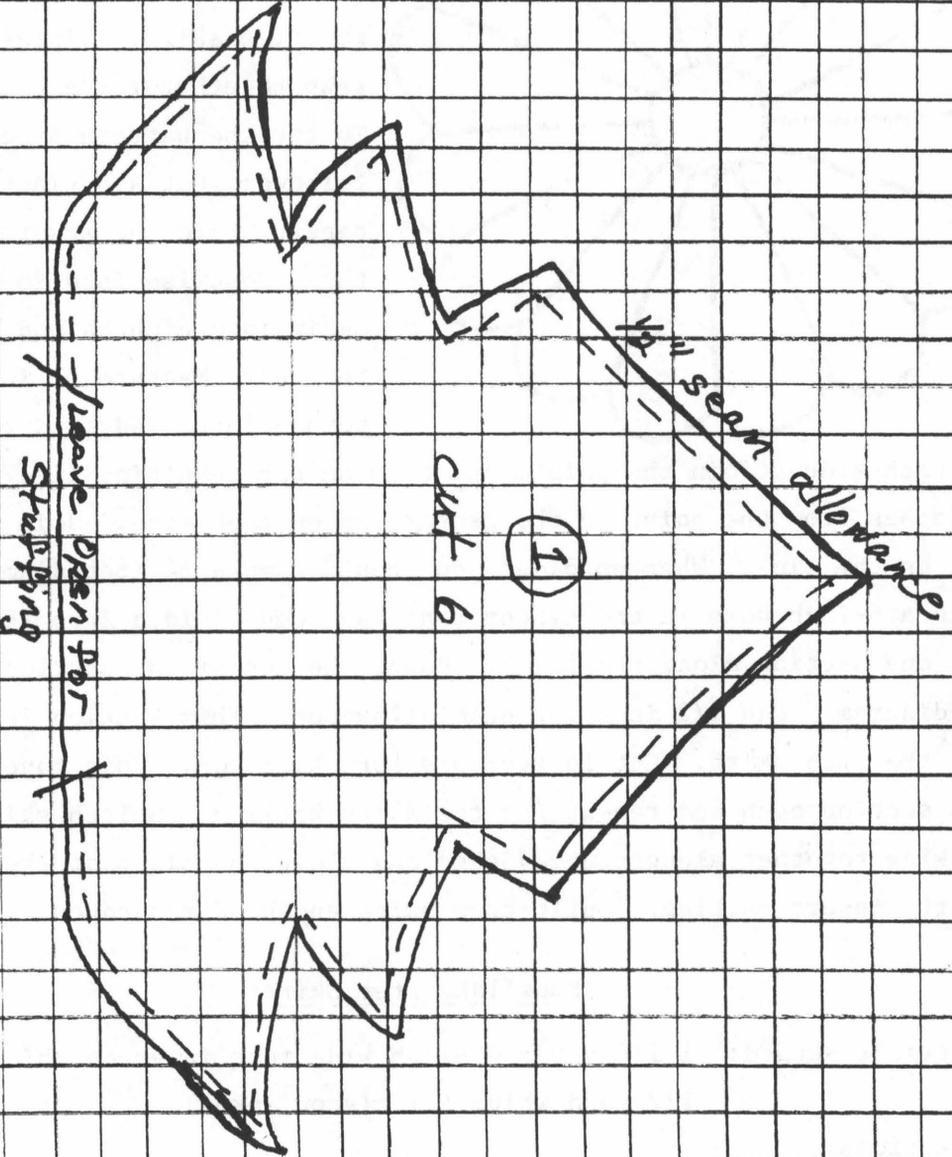


4. Stuff each section being sure to push points out. Stuffing should be packed tightly. Cut pom poms off of white ball fringe. Attach ribbons, bells and pom poms to tree points and center. (See sketch). Alternate red and green bows, and bells and pom poms.



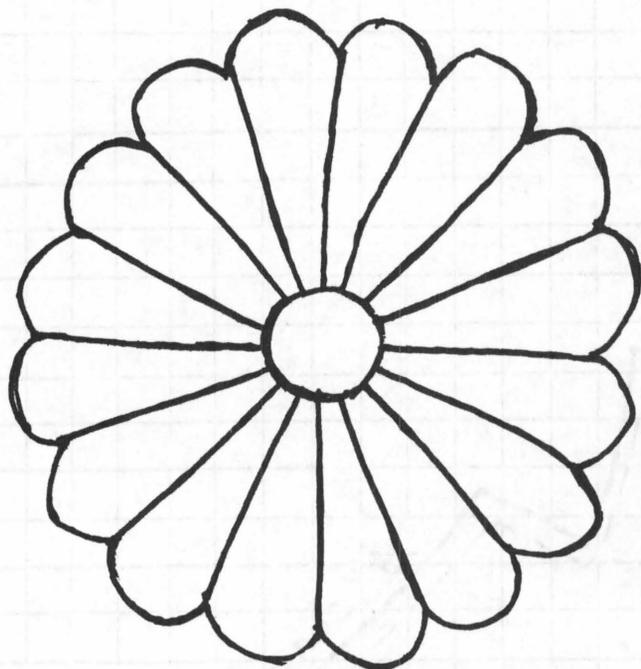
5. To make bow - cut 4 strips using pattern piece #2. With wrong sides together, fuse 2 strips together using stitch witchery. Make bow and attach to tree top.

1/4 inch = 2 inch



## UNDER THE TREE

### Dresden Plate Tree Skirt



Materials: Calico, fabric pieces, fabric for backing, quilt batting. A 54-inch skirt requires approximately 4 yards of 45-inch wide fabric.

Directions: The Dresden Plate quilt design is quite adaptable to a Christmas tree skirt. Sixteen pieces are sewn together for a complete plate. To cut the pattern piece proceed as follows: Cut a 54-inch square from paper. Fold the square lengthwise and then crosswise into fourths. Fold again into eighths and then into sixteenths. Measure 27 inches from the point of the wedge to the center and

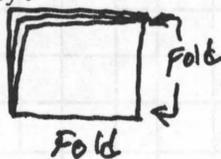
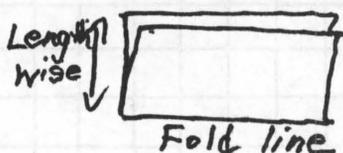
to each side. Join the points and trim on the resulting line. Mark points 3 inches from the point in the center and on each side. Join the points and cut on the line. When unfolded you should have a 54-inch diameter circle with a 6-inch hole in the center that has been divided into 16 equal sections. Cut one section along the folds. Round the top of the section as indicated in diagram. Add 1/2 inch for seam allowance. This section is your pattern for the tree skirt. Cut 16 sections for skirt top. Join together leaving one section open and repeat for the skirt backing. Stitch skirt top and backing together along rounded edge and along the sides of the opening. Turn skirt, insert batting. Quilt tree skirt and bind raw edges.

### Snowflake Tree Skirt

Materials Needed: 1 1/4 yards 45-inch wide felt in green, blue, or red (skirt)  
1/2 yard white felt (snowflakes)

Directions:

1. Press and straighten felt or skirt.
2. Fold felt for skirt in half lengthwise, and then in half crosswise. (See diagram.) The folded fabric should now measure 22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches.
3. Pin edges of fabric together securely.

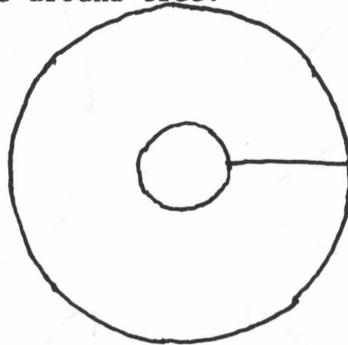


### Snowflake Tree Skirt (continued)

4. Make a compass by attaching a 22-inch string to a piece of chalk. Using the corner where the two fold lines meet as a pivot point, hold the end of the string to this corner and draw an arc with the chalk end. Darken the line if necessary.
5. Cut along the chalked line using pinking shears and cutting through all four thicknesses of fabric.
6. Shorten the string to 3 inches and using the same corner as a pivot, draw a 3-inch arc. Cut with pinking shears through all four layers along this line.



7. Open folded fabric. The result is a round skirt 44 inches in diameter with a 6-inch diameter hole in the center. Cut along one of the fold lines to make opening to fit skirt around tree.

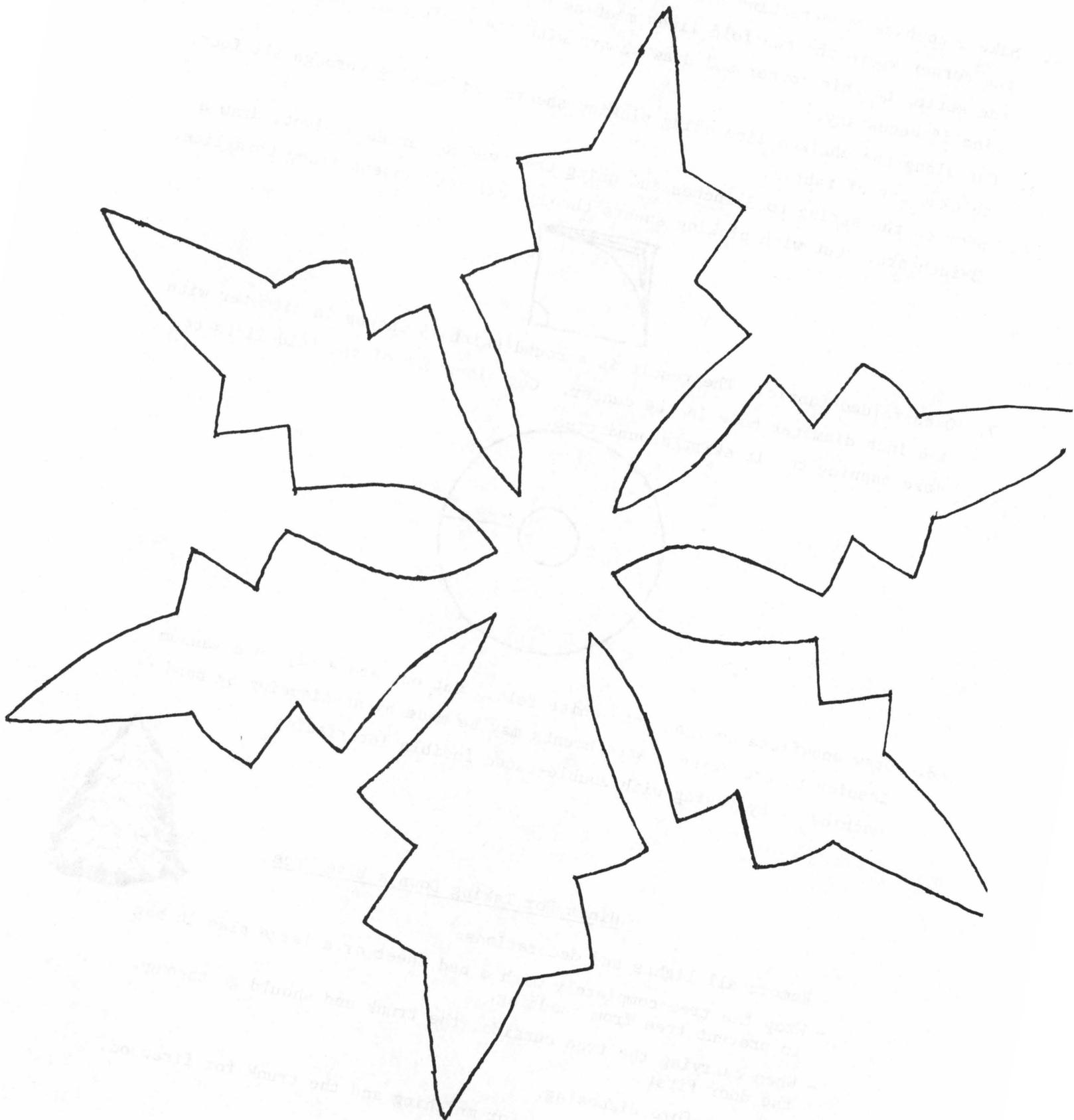


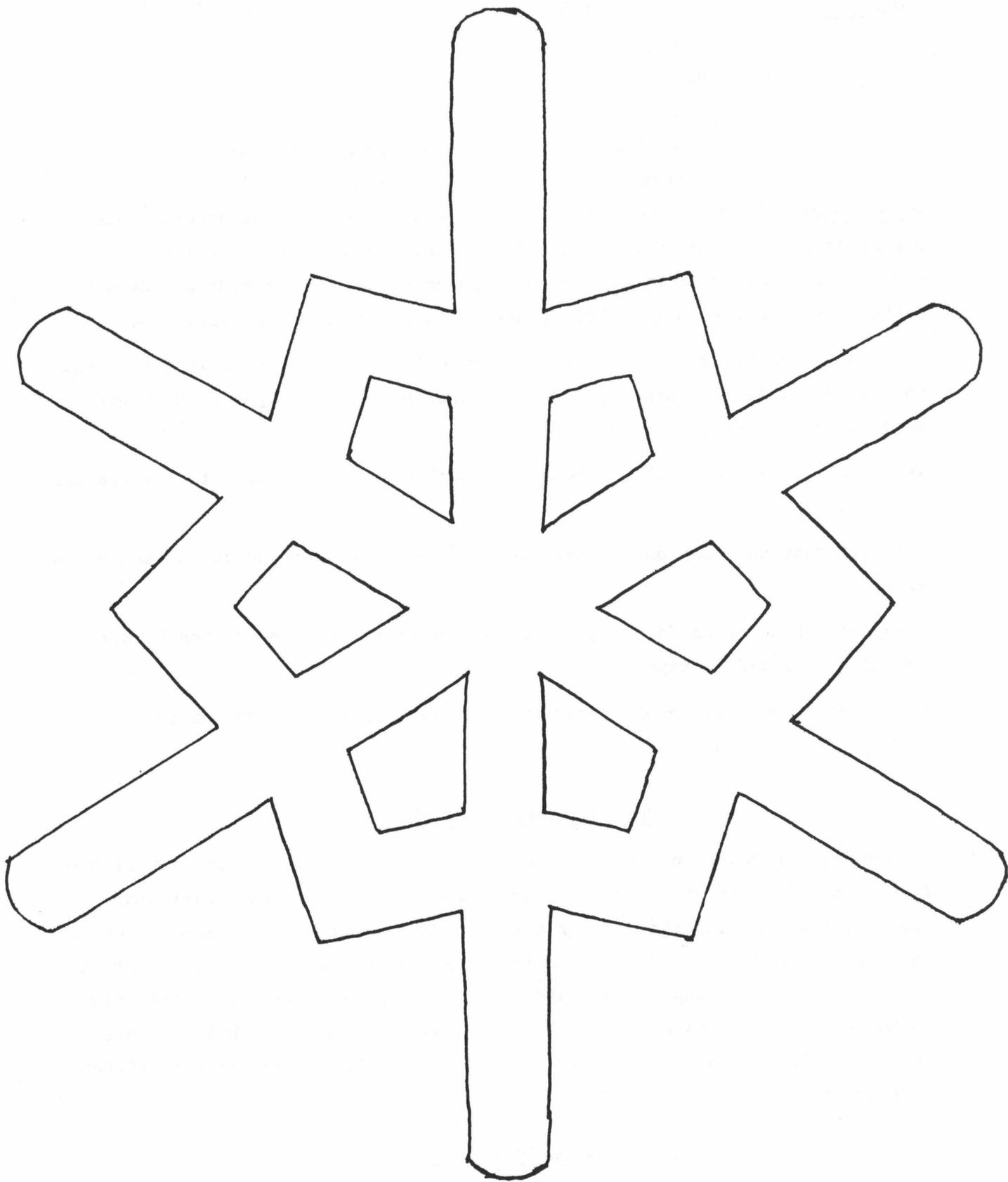
8. Draw snowflake designs onto white felt. Cut out and apply in a random fashion to the skirt. Attachments may be made by appliqueing by hand or machine or by fusing with double-faced fusible interfacing.

### Hints For Taking Down a Live Tree

- Remove all lights and decorations.
  - Wrap the tree completely with a bed sheet or a large plastic bag to prevent tree from shedding.
  - When carrying the tree outside, the trunk end should go through the door first.
  - Unwrap before disposing.
  - The branches can be used for mulching and the trunk for firewood.
- Never burn a dried out Christmas tree.







## Handmade Christmas Seal Package Decorations

Materials needed: Sharp craft knife  
Pencil  
Ruler  
Scissors  
Cookie cutters or cardboard to make patterns  
Rubber cement or spray adhesive

Directions: To make seals, place cookie cutter on wrapping paper, trace around it and cut out. Use ginger-bread men, stars, angels, Christmas trees, etc. For other symbols such as poinsettias and partridges, cut a pattern from cardboard (use hole punch to make centers of poinsettias).

Cut a piece of paper to serve as background for the seal and cement the seal to it. Use slightly larger pieces of different colored paper to make extra borders for the seal.

Wrap the gift in paper that matches the seal and glue the seal to the wrapped package.

Use different combinations of patterns and colors so that no two packages are alike.

Example: Green polka-dot gingerbread man on white background, red border, and green polka-dot wrapped gift.

These seals can also double their function as signature cards for your packages.

### Christmas Mouse Gift Box

To portray the mouse in the Christmas story, and to solve the problem of how to wrap small gifts effectively, wrap a small box in patterned gift wrap paper such as small polka dots or strips. Cut two big ear sections to match the size of your box from coordinating construction paper. Cover center of ears with gift wrap paper, and fold small flap on each ear. Glue this flap to box so that ear stands out. Glue on a small yarn or foam ball as nose and small glass beads for eyes and tip of nose. Glue a braided yarn ribbon to rear of package as tail.

### Picture Gallery Wrapping

Materials needed: Solid color gift wrap paper  
Picture panel gift wrap paper (or Christmas cards with

## Picture Gallery Wrapping (continued)

Materials needed (continued):

Christmasy scenes on them)

Strong white glue

Narrow gift wrapping cord

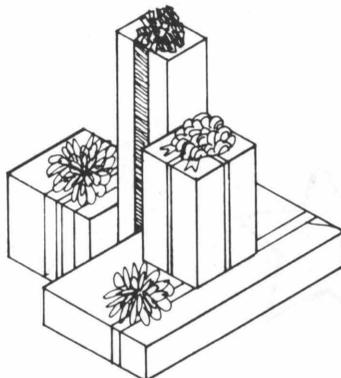
Directions:

1. Wrap box in solid color paper.
2. Select four compatible Christmas scenes that are in proportion to the box. Cut these in oval or square shapes and cement one to each side of box.
3. Edge each picture with gold cord to simulate a frame. If desired, glue on additional cord to simulate picture hangers.
4. Top box with bow made of gold cord.

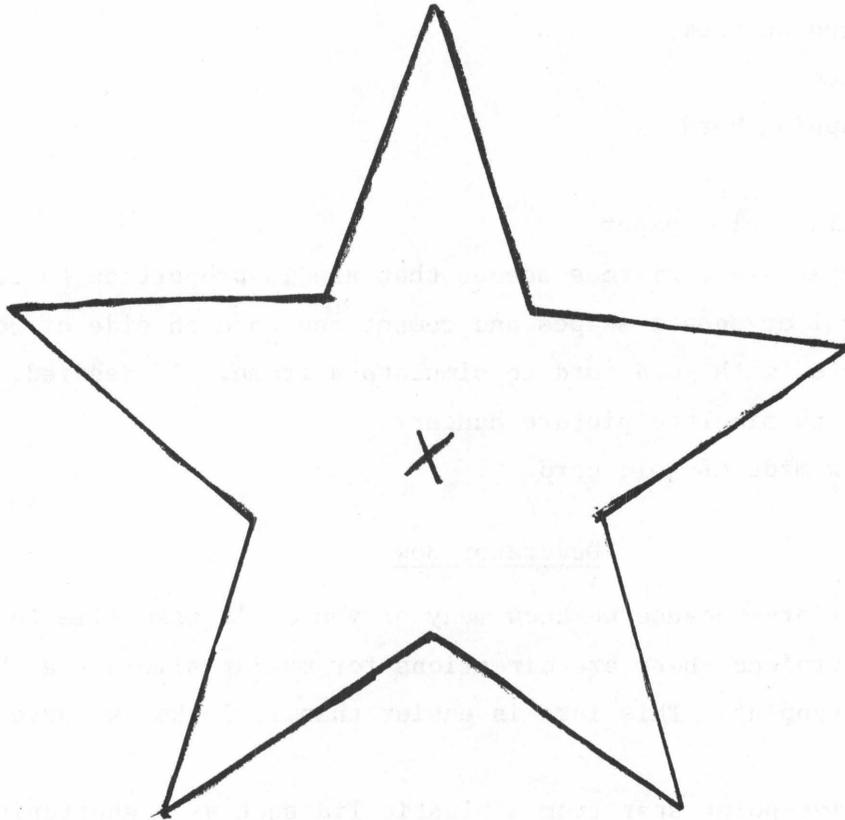
### Decorator Bow

To make your work easier--because we know many of you don't take time to make every package a masterpiece--here are directions for making simple star bows to adorn your gift wrapping. This idea is easier than it looks and saves you money.

Directions: Cut a five-point star from a plastic lid such as a shortening or coffee can resealable lid. The larger the star the larger the bow will be. Cut a 1/2-inch long X in the exact center of the star. Press a plastic bow pin through the X. Punch the pointed end of the pin through a piece of ribbon and loop the ribbon around one of the points of the star and then around an opposing point. Continue turning the star and looping the ribbon until there are 21 loops--4 points will have 4 loops and 1 will have 5 loops. The bow can be made fuller or not as full by increasing or decreasing the number of loops. Pull the flat end of the bow pin through the X in the star. Form a bow center by rotating the first loop on the bow pin to make a circular loop. Separate each of the loops to make a bow. Push the pointed end of the bow pin through a 1-inch square of cardboard to prevent loops from coming off the pin.



Decorator Bow (continued)

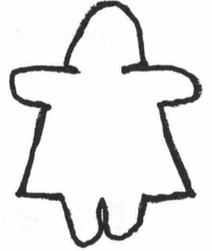


Handprinted Wrapping Paper

- Materials needed: Brown wrapping paper, tissue paper, or newspaper  
Red and green ink stamp pads, food coloring  
1/2-inch thick scraps of wood  
Sharp scissors  
White glue  
1/8-inch thick latex foam (such as adhesive foam  
foot cushions available in most drugstores)  
Erasers  
Potato  
Pencil erasers for printing dots  
Mat knife  
Ruler



## Handprinted Wrapping Paper (continued)



### Directions:

1. Cut foam pieces into shapes (boys, girls, trees, hearts, houses, etc.) and glue them to small blocks of wood to make stamps. Make sure that edges of each figure are cut cleanly. Use mat knife to trim small areas if necessary. For easier handling, blocks should be slightly larger than figure to be stamped.
2. Using ruler, draw a lightly penciled guideline on brown paper. Press a stamp firmly and evenly on the stamp pad, and print a row of figures along the penciled line, re-inking your stamp as necessary. Draw more lines and print other figures along the rows, alternating patterns as fancy dictates. (Note: print larger figures first, then fill in with pencil-eraser dots and other small shapes.) Work from top of sheet down, to avoid smudging preceding rows.
3. Straight lines between rows of figures are drawn with thick and thin strokes of marking pens.
4. For "ribbon", print rows of figures along a sheet of paper; cut rows into strips. Use double-faced tape to make bows.

### Fabric Gift Bags

Materials needed: Scraps of lightweight fabric such as cotton solids, calico prints, checks, or holiday designs (1 yard of 45-inch fabric will make 6 to 8 bags)

Pinking shears

Thread

Yarn gift tie or fabric ribbon to match fabrics

Pine cones or sprigs of Christmas greenery

Directions: Cut 2 pieces of fabric the same size, a few inches wider and taller than the gift the bag will hold. Use pinking shears for cutting. Pin the right sides of the 2 pieces together and sew by hand or machine on 3 sides. Turn and press. Insert the goodies, wrapped in cellophane or the gift and tie the tip of the bag together with yarn or ribbon.

## Fabric Gift Bags (continued)

With yarn or thread attach a card and a small pine cone or sprig of greenery.

### Non-crush Wrappings

Materials Needed: Glossy gift wrap in assorted colors; double-faced and standard clear tape; assorted gift-wrap ribbons plus decorations listed under specific directions. (Note: All references to tape are for double-faced; standard is called plain tape.)

Wrap boxes neatly with paper, sealing with plain tape. All ribbons are cut separately to fit around box, and each end is secured on bottom with plain tape. All details and decorations are placed with double-faced tape.

Feather Box: Wrap box with 2 crossing  $\frac{3}{4}$ " - wide ribbons. Cut off head and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of bare quill of 2 peacock feathers. Tape quills to ribbons at crossing. Following photograph, cut short pieces of ribbon to cover quill ends and tape on.

Doily Star: Cut 6 wedge shapes from an 8" -diam doily and tape in place in star arrangement, following photograph for placement.

Doily Corner: Fold one 10"-diam doily in quarters. Unfold and cut along 1 fold to center. Following photograph, tape doily at corner with folds at box edges. Cut away excess doily  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from side edge of box. Bring rest of doily up to that corner; tape over  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wrap so that last end overlaps it.

Graph-Paper Box: Wrap box with 10-per-inch graph paper (large sheet, 19" x 24"). Use  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide turquoise ribbon and matching rattail cord. Following photograph, split ribbon as required to narrow widths. Place on box and weave in pattern shown. Cut rattail 1" longer than required and weave in place as shown, attaching it at bottom of box by wrapping ends together in one piece of plain tape.

Ribbon Tree: Cut triangular snippets of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " - wide ribbon and place in tree shape on box, following photograph for shape. Cut a piece of clear self-adhesive plastic just a bit larger than box top. Cover tree, placing plastic carefully in one motion to avoid puckering; trim at edges.

Diagonal Ribbon: Works best on long, narrow boxes. We used  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " - wide checked rayon, 2 colors of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " - wide ribbon (single ribbon strip is split to narrower width) and  $\frac{3}{8}$ " - wide curling ribbon. Cut lengths slightly

## Non-crush Wrappings (continued)

longer than necessary to fit around box. Starting at center of box, establish desired angle and tape ribbons in place on bottom, following photograph for pattern.

Yarn Wrap: Cut  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " snippets of yarn (use scraps on hand). Slightly unspin ends of yarn and place on tape as shown. Wrap 3 times above snippets with lengths of yarn, separating wraps neatly on top of box. Wrap 1 length below; secure on bottom as for ribbons.

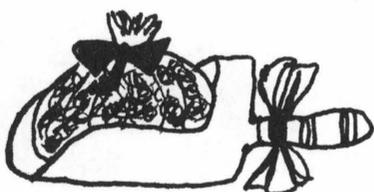
Christmas Balls: From contrasting gift wrap cut  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "-diam circles with tops like ornaments, as shown. Decorate with ribbon on tape. Wrap  $\frac{3}{4}$ " - wide ribbon around box for top band; tape on  $\frac{3}{8}$ " - wide ribbon, looping as shown. Tape balls to ends of ribbons.

## Clever Packaging For Food Gifts

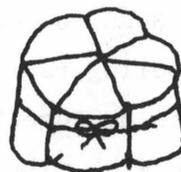
IS THERE A COOK ANYWHERE WHO can't use a really big sieve? Give it a holiday look by loading it with pecans or walnuts still in their shells.



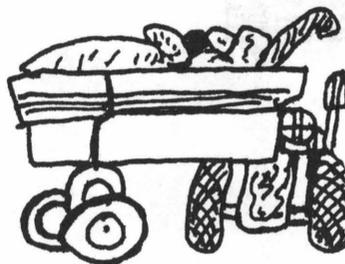
A GRAIN SCOOP or garden trowel will hold a good dipperful of cereal snacks or salted nuts (in plastic bag), and go on being useful for years.



REFRIGERATOR STORAGE DISHES are ideal wrappings for many food specialties, such as fruit spreads, ice cream toppings or relishes.



LOAD A TOY TRUCK with a bale of brownies or a bag of candy--you can't miss with either part of this gift for a small boy.



Clever Packaging For Food Gifts (continued)

FILL A QUART MEASURE with a plastic bagful of your own all-purpose biscuit mix. Attach recipe cards trimmed with Christmas tape. For a jaunty touch, add a wooden spoon or rubber spatula.



ROLL A SNACK BALL of blue cheese and cream cheese in chopped nuts; wrap it rightly in sparkly saran and present it proudly on a small wooden cheese board.



PUT CINNAMON BUNS to cool on a shiny wire cooling rack; then wrap them both up together in saran and tie with ribbon.



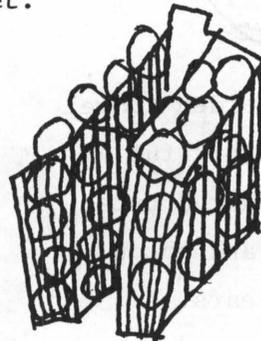
FIND A GOOD BIG MUG for Dad--one can warm his hands on when he comes in for coffee on winter mornings. Present it filled with mocha candies.



DRAWER DIVIDERS help any cook tidy up her kitchen. And what fun to get them packed with cookies, a different kind in each section of divider.



THE SWEETEST load he'll ever carry--popcorn balls packed in a bicycle basket.











Contact  
your Extension  
Office for other  
available resource  
materials.

Craig County  
New Castle, VA 24127  
Phone: 703-864-5812

Floyd County  
Floyd, VA 24091  
Phone: 703-745-4135

Giles County  
Pearisburg, VA 24134  
Phone: 703-921-3455

Montgomery County  
Christiansburg, VA 24073  
Phone: 703-382-4919

Pulaski County  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Phone: 703-980-8888

COMMITTEE

Maggie Amos  
Linda Beamer  
Phyllis Booth  
Joyce Martin  
Lelia Mayton  
Sarah Monroe  
Angela Neilan  
Debbie Snead  
Linda Tosti-Lane  
Wanda Vest

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service by law and purpose is  
dedicated to serve all people on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis.

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

An Educational Service of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,  
Virginia's Land-Grant University, with U. S. Department of Agriculture and Local  
Governments Cooperating.

