Stash-Busting Ornaments with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Stash-Busting Ornaments
- Hey everybody, it's Courtney from Creative Bug coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays and if you are a Creative Bug fan or a Joann Craft Stores fan, you may have gotten a beautiful email today that talked about our holiday classes and inspiration and I thought I'd show you two ornament ideas that are great stash busters for the holidays, I always have a lot of bits and bobs sort of hanging out around the house. Yarn is one of the things I have a lot of even though I'm not a knitter or crocheter. And I always have a lot of felt scraps so I'm gonna show you two different ornament ideas that make use of those little scraps. And they're pretty easy and they're fun to do. And you're gonna make some really cute little ornaments. Remember because we're live, you can write in and ask us questions, I wanted to start with this little guy that I think looks like tiny little yarn balls and we're gonna make that into a wreath ornament. And what I have for that are the tiniest styrofoam balls I could find, I tried this with wooden beads as well and I found that this yielded a better result. And I like to make an ornament with six of these but you could go with bigger styrofoam balls and make a bigger wreath. You could take this same concept and make a wreath for your front door, you could do a medium sized wreath and have it be at the base of a candle. Really you can adapt this craft to any size. And we're gonna start by taking one of our styrofoam balls and a little bit of yarn. Here I have these Bon Bons which are these little tiny balls of yarn, they come in packages of eight like this. And they're color coordinated, they have a great one for the holidays, they're by Lion Brand. And they're so super cute, I think this is the perfect craft to use them. But you can of course use scrap yarn too if you have that lying around. There's our start. Probably use about a yard or so. I'm just gonna start by wrapping the yarn around the styrofoam, I tried this on the wooden bead like I mentioned earlier with a little bit of hot glue and it worked pretty well but I think the styrofoam works even better, makes it kind of grab the yarn. You could do this with any gauge or thickness of yarn. I'm just wrapping it until I can't see the white of the styrofoam ball any longer so I'm switching directions and kind of wrapping in all directions. The idea is that this is going to look like a yarn ball from your knitting stash as the end. For like one of those quintessential yarn balls that a cat in a cartoon plays with. You know the ones I'm talking about. Alright, I think that looks pretty good. We'll snip this and then I'm just gonna put the smallest dab of hot glue right where the yarn is gonna get connected. You can use a little bit of a toothpick to press that down if you have a lot of hot glue there. And you're gonna do that until you have six. I like to do six yarn balls. And then we're gonna range them in a little circle. This one has seven since I made an extra one so let's go ahead and make a slightly bigger one so you can see what it looks like. I've got a length of yarn threaded onto a tapestry needle here which also makes this really easy. You're just gonna pierce, you're gonna try to stay through the center of the ball so that all of the little balls are kind of hanging at the same place. And you can do them at random or you could do this in an hombre form, you could do a rainbow. You can see this one's all blues. Oh, yarn came out. If you've watched any of our classes, I've got a class with Natalie Chanin, also known as Alabama Chanin and she says you needle your thread. You don't thread your needle so you wanna bring your needle to your thread and this is no exception. Although I just put lotion on so this is being a little tricky, let's do that one more time, there we go. Just pull that through, simply threading on all my little yarn balls, you can see how this is a great use for scrap yarn or specialty yarn. It's coming together really

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quickly. You can make the balls in advance and then string them all together into your wreath after. I've left enough of a tail here so that I can tie a knot at the top so to close up my loop, I'll just do a quick little double knot. And then here, I'll just do an overhand knot to close that up and this is what I can hang my ornament with. You can of course, trim this if you want it to be a little cleaner, kind of arrange it so your balls fall evenly and then I wanted to add a little bow at the top. Here I've done kind of one in pinks and oranges. I added two little toothpicks, this is so easy. To make these look like knitting needles, you just pop this right through your styrofoam. Again that's the great ease of using the styrofoam balls for this project and here I put a felt bow and just hot glued it on but you could easily do some yarn too so I thought we could do some contrasting yarn in hot pink, could do a bit of ribbon. And I'm gonna take two lengths here. And just tie this. Before I tie it all the way tight, I'm gonna kind of shimmy it down to get in between those two yarn balls and then tie a little bow. And you can trim that up if you want to but I like it kind of like loose and messy. I think this has like a very vintage feel with the monochrome blues and aquas with that little pop of hot pink, of course, if you did something like hot orange, it would look even more vintage. So those are super cute and easy little gifts or ornaments for knitters or people who love to knit. You can even do crocheters, be creative and think about what you could use for a mini crochet hook. I think that would be so adorable. This would also be really cute at the top of a stocking or maybe as a package topper. So that's great for any stash busting of little bits of yarn that are special to you or that you wanna play with. The other ornament I wanted to show you is making this really cute, little stacked felt tree. And this one I made in your kind of traditional greens. But you can also do pinks which is what we're gonna do. So I've got a whole pile of little squares of felt cut out here and I was gonna show you how I cut that. First I thought maybe a rotary cutter would be the best way to go but actually I think just using a sharp pair of scissors is the best and I have two layers of felt here. I start with my smallest square which is about a half an inch and I just cut one strip of two layers on top of one another, the next one is about a half an inch. And then I have a sticker I need to remove. Make sure to do that, there's no reason to cut through that paper, line those back up. I'm just eye balling this, it doesn't have to be precise. You're gonna stack these pieces and they're gonna kinda twist and move so you just want it to be roughly about the same size, this one's almost an inch. May be my last one, this is slightly over an inch. And then for here, I'm just gonna cut my squares. Again, this I eyeball, so you're trying to roughly make it look like a square as opposed to a rectangle. Can see where the sharp scissors come in handy. - We have a question. - Remember you guys can ask questions, it sounds like we have our first question. - [Woman] Marty wants to know have you made these with a pom pom maker, does the styrofoam just make it more rigid? - Marty's asking can you do pom poms instead of these little balls and I haven't tried it. But you could absolutely do a pom pom concept. The pom poms are gonna squish down a little bit so you may need to have more pom poms to do your wreath. I liked the styrofoam to make this really resemble a true yarn ball, like I said, like that iconic kind of yarn ball that a cat plays with in a 1930's cartoon. I tried it without any form underneath, without a wooden bead or without a styrofoam ball underneath and it was really squishy and it was hard to keep the ball size consistent and so the styrofoam balls create that consistency and structure, so I think that's the easiest and the least frustrating and the most successful way to go and use less yarn so you can make more of these but I think the pom poms a great idea too so try the pom poms. You could even, I know in the kid's aisle at Joann, they have these great packages of pom poms for kids and those would be super fun to string into a garland or into a little wreath, like I said you could even go with like large pom poms or the large styrofoam balls and take this same concept and do a wreath for your door, maybe a medium sized wreath to

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hang on a door knob. You could do another kind of plate sized wreath to do some kind of centerpiece with candles that sit into it. So really the concept can be used for a lot of things. And all of these materials, I got at my local Joann store. And if you guys are new to Creative Bug, we have tons of ideas and inspiration for the holidays. We've got a holiday bonanza that we've done before. We've got a 30 day gift card and tag challenge that we did last month, you can access all of that stuff on Creativebug.com, we have over 1,000 classes. We do these live shoots every Tuesday and Thursday on Facebook and if you haven't checked out Creative Bug before, now's a great time to do it because Allison is gonna post a link in the comments in just a moment. And you can get 30 free days of Creative Bug plus one class to keep forever and better yet, you also get 30% off your purchase at Joann's so you can buy all these fun supplies if you don't already have them at home. Alright, so I've got a pretty good set of felt squares. I've got some small, some medium and some large. I have some others that I cut in the same kind of medium pink and then a darker pink and then what I need to do is using that same needle I used for my wreath, I'm gonna start with some baker's twine. You could use yarn for this too, I just was gonna mix it up a little. And I wanted to create a bottom for my tree ornament. So if you look at this, there's a little ball here at the bottom that's gonna create the base of my ornament. So I'll start by threading my baker's twine onto my needle. And I've got two sets of wooden beads here. I've got a larger set, about, probably about a half inch in diameter and a little tiny small set. You don't have to use wooden beads. You could use any kind of craft bead you like. I'm gonna start with the smaller one. I'm gonna loop it through and leave a tail about three inches and I'm actually just gonna tie this, like just tie a knot around it. And then I'm gonna take that tail and kind of just bring it up toward the rest of the string and I'm gonna put on a larger bead and when I get down to where this other string is, I'm just gonna loop them both through this bead. This is why it's important to leave that tail. It's getting caught, sometimes the insides of the raw wooden beads are a little splintery so just try to put it on there if you can. You can shove it through if you need like a skewer, another needle you can do that, that seems to go through. And then I'm just gonna tie this in another knot. I took my needle off just because it makes it easier to tie. And we can do one more knot here. And then I'm gonna trim that tail and this string is gonna go up into the tree as I make it. So you're left with a really clean little finishing there. And again, you can use whatever beads that you like. I'm gonna make a clean cut here and re thread my needle. This could be a little fiddly because baker twine likes to separate, there we go. Now I'm just gonna start with my largest square scraps and I'm gonna do this one at a time. Because it's much easier to get the needle through one at a time, start with my largest one and you could just stack this doing a few large, a few medium, a few tiny ones but I actually am gonna put a very tiny bead between each layer. I use less felt that way and I can make more more quickly and I like the way that it looks. It kind of mimics a trunk so you could play with using the green, I think I might do these navy ones because I like the way that looks with the pink. It's a little non-traditional but that's fine. Your holidays could be as traditional or as unconventional as you like. So again, I'm just doing a square of felt, a little tiny bead and continuing the process. I'll probably do three or four of these larger ones. And then move onto my medium, do not recommend putting lotion on right before you do this process. It makes it a little tricky. Remember we're live you guys, so if you have questions, feel free to write in, I know a lot of you have been following along with our holiday classes. I've been seeing all your great posts on our website and on Instagram too so thank you and thanks for always showing up and asking questions and participating in these live shoots, it's why we're here. Because we know you guys are watching. I'm moving onto my medium size. Again, just placing a bead in between each layer. These little trees can be as large, as tall or as squat as you like. And I'm using, I

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think 100% recycled acrylic felt but you could also use a wool blend. They have some fun decorative felts that have like glitter and things on them, just check the felt aisle. At my store it's an end cap but they're using floating around the kid's section. I'm alternating between my kind of dark magenta and my medium pink, I'm gonna move onto a slightly smaller size now and I forgot a bead, oh no, I didn't. It was just hidden, if you forget a bead, that's fine. Don't worry about it. Back into my light pink. - We have another question. Ladonna is just joining us and she wants to know if you can show what you're making. - Hi Ladonna, thanks for joining us. The question is what am I making, excellent question. I'm making a couple of ornaments using kind of scraps of felt and the ornament I made earlier was using scraps of yarn so these are two ornaments that are great for stash busting which I think we all need a little help with right around the holidays, especially in the New Year when we're trying to clean out things. We need more ideas for crafts that use up those little bits and bobs that you have lying around. So what I'm making right now is this stacked tree. It has little scraps of felt with a tiny wooden bead in between, there's a bigger wooden bead at the bottom and I'm gonna put a wooden bead at the top when I'm finished, here's another version that's just fully stacked with felt and you can see that I used about four times as more felt if I don't have the bead in between. Earlier, I made this really cute little yarn ball ornament, we added some toothpicks to make it look like knitting needles and that process was created with styrofoam, mini styrofoam balls and scrap yarn, two little toothpicks and you could use that as an ornament or a Christmas topper. You could use it as a gift topper or at the top of a stocking so good question. And I'm just stacking these felt. I'm almost to the top, I'm doing one layer of felt with one little bead in between, again you can use any kind of bead that you like. Maybe one more. This is my last piece of felt. And then my last bead. And for this, I'm just gonna loop my needle back through that bead to tighten that off. I'm gonna come around one more time to do two. And I'm gonna take my needle off and I'm actually just gonna tie this around the base. So I'll do an overhand knot with the two pieces. And just shimmy that right down to my bead. You can use your needle to help you do this. I'll just trim it here. So a really cute little Susian kind of tree, right. We did it in pink, which I think is super fun. You don't have to use your traditional Christmas colors. It's your holiday, you can do whatever you like. Here's another traditional green one. I like that these are kind of contemporary. They have an interesting color pallette. They're far more geometric, right than an actual tree but they're really fun and they're a great use for scrap fabric or scrap felt. Again, we made our little wreath ornaments as well that mimic a true little yarn ball. And again, a great use of scrap yarn. If you didn't get the email today either from Joann or from Creative Bug and you're new to Creative Bug, you can check out our website at creativebug.com. Allie's posting a link now. If you've never been on Creative Bug before, then you can get one full month for free. We have over 1,000 classes. If you're new to Creative Bug, then you can click on the link and we have over 1,000 classes. You'll get 30 days for free, one class to keep forever and you get a 30% off coupon to Joann so that you can buy all this fun stuff if you don't already have it lying around, remember we do these live shoots on Tuesdays and Thursdays, thank you for writing in and asking questions. And we'll see you on Thursday.

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