
Daily Ornament Challenge: 25 Crafts to Trim Your Tree with Creativebug

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1

Overview

(holiday music) - Every year, as December rolled around my mom would bring down this giant box of ornaments from the attic, and I mean, that was really officially the opening season of Christmas. - I think my favorite childhood ornament is from probably like an infant thing, like a footprint or a hand print or a baby photo. - I love when you get to take an ornament out of it's tissue paper and you see it, tidily wrapped, delicately in the tissue paper. - There's something about ornaments that there's so much tradition laden in them and once they're out, you know it's Christmas time. - Hi, I'm Faith. - I'm Liana. - And I'm Courtney, and I love to make things for the holidays. - [Liana] For this class, we've teamed up to produce a whole collection of ornament projects that we think you're going to love. - [Courtney] We'll be playing with materials like sequins, embroidery floss, Model Magic, a little bit of acrylic paint. - [Faith] And tons and tons of bakers twine. - [Courtney] So this is a perfect stash busting season for making holiday ornaments. - Grab your cup of hot cocoa, queue up your favorite holiday playlist, and let's get started. (holiday music)

Day 1 - Pipe Cleaner Snowflakes

- Hey everyone, I'm super excited to kick off this 25-day challenge of ornament making for the holiday season. I know Liana, Faith, and I are really excited to share some of our favorite ornaments that you can make either as package toppers, you can use them for any kind of holiday decor and of course, you can hang them on your holiday tree. I thought I would start off really nice and easy and we'll do something simple like snowflakes with pipe cleaners. I absolutely love pipe cleaners. I'm always looking for more excuses to use them and bring them into my life. So I thought I'd share a few easy and quick pipe cleaner snowflakes that you can make. Pipe cleaners come in many sizes and styles. I love these kind of vintage ones that have these wider, it's kind of like when you paint with a paintbrush and you press down on your brush and you get a thick stroke and then a thin stroke when you lift up. That's what these remind me of. So you can find these, sometimes, in craft stores in multi packs. And these are now called chenille stems because a true pipe cleaner is actually this. This is 100% cotton pipe cleaner and you can order these online. Those are fun though because they have a nice wintry texture. I love these iridescent ones. And then pipe cleaners also, or chenille stems, also come in three different sizes. This is a three millimeter, which is probably the finest you'll see, a six millimeter, and then this is a nice, juicy nine millimeter one. The techniques I'm gonna show you can work on any of these and you can play with the different styles. Let's just do our traditional six millimeter. I'm gonna start by just trimming this in half. I'm gonna make an X and then I'm just gonna twist. Do two twists so it stays nice. Just take another pipe cleaner and cut it in half. You can just eye ball it. Put it in the center and then we'll just take a portion. You can take half or just two. Just make sure you somehow incorporate that new one and you can rearrange all your little spokes. That's the beginning of a snowflake, but there are a couple of options for creating a little bit more decoration. I like to, if I take this and cut another piece in half again, you can wrap this around once and then kind of style it. I'm gonna leave them long and then we can trim them down if we want. I'm just kind of finding the center, wrapping it around once and then forking it out like that. Again, cut in half, cut in half again. That's what we're working with are these quarter pieces. And we're just gonna repeat this all the way around our snowflake. So wrap and adjust, wrap and adjust. The one thing

about these chenille stems is if you have a pet or your hair sheds, it definitely sticks. Keep an eye out for that. All right, and then you can kind of flatten it because you've been bending it. So that's really cute. You could start that way. You could add more of these little Vs. You can also trim these down if you want something that's a little bit smaller on the edges. So we could do like every other one here. Keep that one long, do this one short, and that's the variation. Then to hang it, I actually just like something really thin to create a string to hang my ornaments. This is a six-strand embroidery floss that I've just taken apart and it's metallic. So I'm using one strand, but you can also use thread if you wanted. And we're gonna take, kind of eye ball it in half, take the two ends, do an overhand knot around our finger. This is what you'll see most of us use throughout the month is this as our hanger. You can just attach it anywhere. So you're just sort of looping the end through the loop here, if you can see that. Then this is super fine. This is really pretty. Here is the one that uses the chenille stems that have the fat and thin, which I really like, because you don't actually have to add any little Vs to it. It's ready to go because of the way it tapers on its own. Here's one where I used the iridescence. And to make this motif in the center, I think I cut it in half, folded it in half, and then this just gets kind of played with so you can do your twist and then play with these ends and see how you want to kind of manipulate them to make different snowflake patterns. That's where these little guys came in. And then these are mixed with the actual pipe cleaners. Here's one with the full pipe cleaner, but this has the double pointed ends. Here is one, I really like the effect on this. This is just a really large V just like we just did together, but pushed down half way. And when they kind of touch each other, they make a second star in between. They're not actually connected though. So that makes that really easy. Here's one like we did just now together. But this is the three millimeter and this is the six millimeter. These, of course, can be made in advance. You can hang them in a window. They would make really pretty decor for a kitchen window, a living room window, maybe a mantle piece. Like I mentioned before, you can use them as a package topper to add a little bit of sparkle. Of course, you can hang them on your holiday tree. I think they're just really sweet and simple to make and they have a little bit of glitter, which is always fun during the holidays.

Day 2 - Quilted Craft Paper

- Hi, I'm Faith, and this ornament is inspired by one that has been on my family tree for at least 25 years. My little sister made it in elementary school. You can use cookie cutters as a template, but we're going to freehand a mitten. You'll need a brown paper bag, preferably one from like a lunch bag size, or a deli bag versus a larger grocery store bag. And you'll want two pieces that are exactly the same size. If you were tracing, say a snowman, you'd want it to be 1/4 of an inch in from the edge because we're cutting it 1/4 of an inch out. But because we're freehanding it, I'm just keeping that measurement in mind. Have our mitten thumb. And I'm cutting both of these at once and I'm going to cut 1/4 of an inch to the edge. Then I'm going to put this one underneath so we don't even have to worry about erasing the pencil lines. And I'm gluing around the edge, but I'm leaving one side open 'cause we're going to stuff this edge. - [Woman] Tell us what you're using. - [Faith] I'm using a tacky glue. You can use Elmer's Glue. I wouldn't recommend using hot glue 'cause it's gonna make it too thick to cut. And I'm tracing the line we drew, or if you're using the cookie cutter, you'd trace the line you traced around the cookie cutter. If you have any thick globs, just kind of smooth them out. I'm gluing this on top. Press firmly to ensure a nice seal. And then we're going to use our pinking shears to cut around the edges. And this, you might wanna let the glue dry a minute or so, just so that it's not wet when we're cutting it. And we're cutting off just the edge so that everything

stays nice and lined up. And we're gonna go ahead and cut this even though it's not glued. And before we stuff it, I'm going to embellish it with my white pen and make little stitch marks. Of course, you're welcome to do whatever kind of embellishments you want, but I like this gingerbread look. I'm using a white Gelly Roll pen. And you're gonna repeat on the other side if you'd like. And then we stuff. And you can use stuffing or batting, but sometimes I find the fibers to be a little excessive and they get stuck in the glue once you try to glue it back up. So if you just tear thin pieces of tissue paper, that can be a suitable replacement. Use your pencil to open it up. I'll use my pencil to make sure it gets down into that thumb. And we don't wanna overstuff it, just enough to give it some dimension. I think that looks adorable. And I'm gonna use my baker's twine to make a loop. And then I'm going to glue along this edge and sandwich our loop right in that top seam. Easy as that. This is a super family friendly ornament. You can make it rustic and gingerbread by keeping with just the white and the brown, or you can get out your markers and decorate them to your heart's content.

Day 3 - Embroidered Squirrel

- Hi, everyone, I'm Liana, and here we are pretty early on in the holiday season. It's the perfect time to get out some felt and some needle and thread and do some hand stitching, don't you think? I actually am super inspired by ornaments that my grandmother used to make for me which I will show you in a little bit. And this is my super simple but very, very satisfying version, my homage to my Grandma Geri, if you will. And I'm gonna show you how to do this. It's pretty quick and easy. In your PDF handout, you're going to find a few adorable little squirrel templates. You can choose whichever one you want, or you can even go rogue on your own. And if you have a preferred creature that you would like to be stitching, go for it. I think a bear would be really cute, maybe a reindeer. And I'm gonna be working with this squirrel shape here. So whichever one you choose, you want to print out your template and then cut it out, which I have already done here with this little squirrel guy. Once you have that piece, you're going to put it onto a piece of felt. And I have a few different felt colors here that I think would be really cute squirrels, but I'm gonna go ahead and go with this orangy golden one because I think it makes a really great contrast for the stitches. So you're gonna double your fabric and then put just a couple pins in it, hold it in place. Maybe one through the tail. You don't want things to shift around too much. And you can see there's a lot of intricate shapes here. Don't get too worried about it, because what we're going for is that general shape, that big swoop of the tail and then the curve here, little ears and the shape of the nose. It's all gonna turn out great, so if you don't get every single little perfect edge, don't sweat it, it's gonna be fine. So I'm going in with my fabric shears now. Just gonna go into that little divot on the toe and work around some of these broader edges first. I find it's helpful to cut away the bigger pieces of fabric. Makes it a little bit easier to manage. And I also find it is really helpful to keep your scissors steady and move your hand that is holding the fabric instead. So I get to the tip of this tail. I'm just gonna slice that whole thing right off. We don't need all that extra bulk. And keep carrying on in whichever way feels comfortable to you. I tend to like to cut out the big swooping shapes first and then deal with the fussy stuff. When I get to tight corners like that, I use the tips of my scissors. It's really, really helpful to use sharp scissors. And in fact, I'm gonna come in this way down the back end so I can do the exact same thing on the other side. And snip. One last little trim there. And remove my pins and my template. Looking pretty squirrelly. To get started with sewing, you're going to need some white embroidery floss. And embroidery floss comes with six plies in it. So if you kind of spread it apart a little bit, you'll see it separates pretty easily into a whole bunch of

different plies. And you don't wanna sew with the whole embroidery floss thread at once. Instead, what you wanna do is cut off a piece. I like to work with about an arm length folded in half, so about that much. And go ahead and cut it. And then you're gonna wanna peel off two strands to work with at a time. So it should come apart pretty easily. If it starts to tangle up on you at all, just grab underneath with your other fingers and just keep tugging. â™ª Do do do do â™ª Okay, we're coming up at the end here. So set aside your four strands over here. You're gonna use them later, so don't set them far away. And just use these two strands here. I like to give it a few little runs through my finger here. It just helps to relax the threads. Natalie Chanin is a big proponent of doing this. She calls it loving your thread. Once your thread has been loved, then you are ready to thread it onto a needle. And you're going to double it up and tie a knot in the end. So I already have one right here that I already have on my needle. You can see now that it is doubled up, knotted at one end, on the needle here. It's actually four strands now. And now you're ready to start stitching. While you're stitching, you might find these pieces shift around, so go ahead and just stick a pin in here. Can't hurt. Maybe one in the tail too. And I like to start kinda down here by the foot, 'cause I find that this is the easiest area to stuff your squirrel when you're done, so we're gonna keep that part open. To get started, you'll put your needle through in between the layers, about anywhere from 1/8 of an inch to 1/4 of an inch in from the edge. And you want that knot to get locked on the inside. So you can see there it is buried inside. And I'm gonna go ahead and just use my finger and tuck it inside where we will not see it again. And then I'm just gonna bring my needle down around to the underside, come right back up next to that original entry point. And before I pull it all the way through, I'm gonna just stick my needle through that loop, and it's totally secured. Now, we're gonna do blanket stitch all around the edge which gives it this really cool toothy appearance, and it makes it feel really rustic and consistent. So in order to do this, we're gonna come up through the backside about 1/4 inch away from where we first came in and the same distance from the edge. So we're gonna bring the needle up and through. And before we're all the way through, put that needle through the loop again and pull it. You'll see here the thread is right along the edge and I get that cool little tooth mark stitch there. I'm gonna go in another 1/4 inch away. I'm going through both layers of felt all the way around. At no point am I going through single layers of felt. Going through that loop, pulling it nice and taut. And it gets a little squirrely. I had to make that joke. When you get to the corners here and these little fiddly bits, just go slow and you should be fine. So I'm gonna go right into the edge here, 'cause I don't wanna miss any detail. And then another one here. And we're gonna keep working like this all the way around. It might seem a little bit wiggly at first, but as you get used to this motion, you're gonna get really used to it. Continue stitching until your thread runs out, and then I'll show you what to do. When you have about five inches left of your thread, you're ready to tie a knot and start a new strand. In order to do that, just go inside. Make a discreet little knot with your thread. â™ª Do do do do â™ª And then you can just bury it on the inside. And by bury it, I mean you can just go in just about 1/2 an inch away. Pull your needle through, and then trim it right where it comes out. And then you won't even see it. Starting and ending your thread is the same anywhere you are on the perimeter of the animal, so you're probably gonna need about three different strands of thread as you work your way around, maybe four. And you'll continue working. And I actually have another one right here that I have continued working all the way to the end of the tail here. So I'll show you how to get started with a new strand. It's gonna begin a lot like you started in the very beginning. You're gonna put your needle through that middle layer. Bring it right up three where your last stitch was. And hide that double knot tail inside. Bring your needle around and go through both layers from beneath. And you're basically making a double stitch here,

but nobody will know. And again, pull it through that loop. And you're ready to just keep going onto your next stitch. Now, before I go onto my next stitch, though, I'm going to show you how to stuff your squirrel. I have some roving here. You could also use some stuffing. And you wanna make sure that you just pull off a little tiny bit and that you leave about an inch, inch and 1/2 of space here to stuff the squirrel, otherwise it's gonna be a little tricky to get it in there. So here's just a little tiny piece. I'm tucking it up into the body of the squirrel. And you might find it helpful to have a pencil or some sort of jabbing tool nearby to get it up into that squirrel's chubby cheeks. And same thing with the tail. And keep this in mind too, no matter what animal shape you make if you're going a different route than the squirrel, you just wanna make sure you leave enough room to stuff all the areas. â™ª Do do do do â™ª There we go. A pencil will fit. All right, maybe just a little tiny bit more. We're gonna give him a nice chubby little body. All right, once your squirrel is stuffed, you're ready to finish up the stitching. Just keep going till the end and knot it off like you would anywhere else as you were working your way around. Going up through the bottom, both layers, pulling through that loop. - [Woman] It's looking good, he's super cute. - He's super cute. There's so many squirrels here now. All right, we're at the end. Woo-hoo! And I'm just gonna tie off one last little knot. And again, I'm gonna bury my tail on the inside of the squirrel and bring him up through the middle. Cut that thread. And he's done, he's so cute! You could add a little French knot eyeball if you want. You could also embroider a little name on him if you want to. There's so many different things you can do with this little guy, but this is the basis. And if you feel good about this, then you can go ahead and just cut some. Put some twine on a tapestry needle. Loop it through his top knot and tie a little knot on top and he's all ready to hang on the tree. For a little bit more advanced inspiration, I have to show you these ornaments that my grandmother made for me. How spectacular are these? They're a mixture of embroidery and crewelwork. She was so, so talented. And she even wrote my name and who it was from and the date on the back. These are definitely heirloom-worthy. And no matter what you make or how much you put into it, I know yours are going to be too. If you wanna get some more advanced lessons like this on Creativebug, I really encourage you to check out Rebecca Ringquist's embroidery class. And also be sure to check out all of our classes taught by Kata Golda, because she is the queen of blanket stitch and cuteness. So I think both of those will give you lots of inspiration.

Day 4 - Pom Pom Poodle

- This is one of my family's absolute favorite ornaments to put on the tree. It is a pom-pom poodle and I have two sisters and none of us cop up to having made it, but one of us did. We just don't (laughing) remember. For this you'll need some felt. Print out the template available in the materials PDF. And you'll also need eight large pom-poms and two smaller pom-poms. You can use a styrofoam ball or you can use an ornament and you'll need googly eyes, a nose, a little bit of red felt for the tongue, and I like to use tacky glue, but you can also use hot glue or alternatively, Glue Dots. These are a lot easier to work with, especially for small children. A tiny bit of ribbon for the bow and a pen to trace your template. If you're using an ornament, you wanna take off the top, and we're gonna make a space for that. Gonna actually fold it in half and we'll trace around half of it. Gonna kinda of eyeball it. If it's too small, you can always make it larger. If it's too big, we'll be hiding any mistakes we make with more pom-poms. Check and see that it fits. It sure does. Now we're going to add our large pom-poms to the end. We want two per ear. Make sure you press down pretty hard. While this is drying, we can work on the face. As you can see from our model poodle, the nose is right in the center, the muzzle is just below, and the tongue is under that. So let's go ahead and cut

out our tongue. I'm gonna do the nose right there. Gonna glue down the tongue first. I'm gonna use a Glue Dot. To keep this from rolling around, I'm gonna put it in this little bowl here. There we go. And I'll attach the muzzle with these Glue Dots so we don't have to worry about drying time. (laughing) So cute. I'm using the Glue Dots for the eyeballs too because they're just about the right size. Then we attach the ears. (laughing) It's too much. And we can use our Glue Dots just to provide some stability next to this opening. And a poodle wouldn't be anything without its hairdo, so we're going to glue four or five poofs right around here. And finally to top it all off and to hide this join here, we're going to make a little bow. (laughing) And finally reinsert the top of your ornament. And ta da (laughing) we've got the cutest little poodle. Of course you'll need to attach a hook to the top of the ornament, and if you're working with a styrofoam ball, go ahead and make a loop out of a piece of twine and attach it to the top with a pin. These ornaments would be an absolutely perfect gift for the dog lover in your life. I know they always make me smile.

Day 5 - Cardboard Tube Owls

- Something I start collecting in the beginning of the holiday season are empty toilet paper tubes or paper towel tubes 'cause they're really fun to craft with. I wanna show you this sweet little owl that you can make. And later in the month, Faith is gonna show you how to upcycle your tubes as well into an ornament. So this is actually part of a paper towel tube that I cut with an X-ACTO or utility blade. Just be careful. You can paint it with any color craft paint you want your owl to be. My absolute favorite paint of all time, one of them, is this Champagne Metallic Paint by DecoArt. It normally comes in a small little regular craft-size tube. But I use it so much, I like to but it in this pot. And I have just a standard one-inch craft brush. You can use whatever brush that you have on hand. And in this case, it's actually pretty similar to the color of the craft paper, but it's so pretty that I just love to use it. But you could go, like I said, any color. If you're making a lot of these owls and you're gonna put them on one tree, you may want to coordinate a color theme. You can just easily stick your fingers in here and spread them apart to hold this so you don't get paint on yourself. And these are fun for kids to decorate, you could do all the painting and cutting and then kids can draw on them with markers. All right. You're gonna set that aside to dry. And I have one that's already dried. This one is an actual toilet paper tube. You can see how pretty that finish is. And then we're just gonna doodle on it, draw our owl, and I'm using the Uni POSCA pens. These are paint pens that are really opaque and easy to use. They also come in different tip sizes. There's a bullet tip, but there's also the little fine tips, which I also like, so just pick out your favorite colors. And I'm gonna start just by drawing my owl in black and then I can go back on top with other colors. So let's start with like a nose or beak. These'll be fun for Halloween too if you did a spookier owl. My owls, I think, tend to look like girls 'cause I like to put eyelashes on them. Owls have really big eyes. We'll add some white in there too, but let's just do our black for now. Then I like to just make a stomach portion, kind of almost like a penguin. You think about that oval. You can do like, more than one. You can make it feathery, depending on the texture that you want, and then I like to do a little scallops or long feathers, so you can do long feathers like that or you can do little scallops like this. You can do a variation. You can play with your feather design. You can see I'm definitely not being precious about this. Maybe get a little more textured. And then I like to do cheeks, I'm not gonna do that in the black, but let's make eyebrows coming up like that. Yeah, I feel like that looks pretty much like an owl. And we're gonna cut out some wings and then we can decorate those too. I'm gonna do, I have an ivory color here. This is the really broad-tipped one. We can come in here and add some highlights, and you can see how opaque that color is. So you can go back and forth, like this white

will go right over the black. If I wanna come back in and add more black shadow I can. This makes it very forgiving and easy to play with your drawing. Do those big cheeks. It's a very chic owl. And maybe I wanna add some highlights in here. While that's drying, let us cut out our wings. Do be careful. I would just sink in your X-ACTO or utility knife. Don't cut your fingers. And actually once you've done that, if you feel more comfortable with scissors, you can come back in and pop this out and use scissors the rest of the way. So just make like this little shape and we can pop these out like so. We'll repeat on the other side for our wing. It's even easier if you have a sharper blade. You can use your scissors to do the rest. And you can choose to do this before you start your drawing or after. We're gonna pop the top of this down, and that's what's really gonna make this look like an owl. So it gives us those little wizardy ear pieces. And you could play with the shape of this just by using your fingers, but I don't mind that it's a little bit wonky. I think it's really sweet. You can stand it up just to make sure it looks good. Go in if you need to just to smooth out anything. And let's add a few more details to her. I'll do some cheeks. I like off register color, so I tend to leave a little bit of glimmer, what was below. I think that's fun. We'll go back in with our black and just tidy up some of these lines. I guess that I think owls have really big eyes, that's kind of what they're known for. It's fun to make them have sleepy eyes. And there you go. (chuckles) This cute little owl that you made out of a toilet paper tube. And then, of course, she needs some friends. Here's one that I used Color Shift as the base, which is another paint that I really love. This one's called Black Flash by Plaid or FolkArt. So now we've got our little trio of owls, and you can use them like that as table decor. You can stand them on a mantle. You can also just nestle them into them into the tree. If you want them to sit on a branch, you can also just take your scissors and do a little snip on front and back, maybe even a little triangle, depending on how thick your branch is. And then this will allow your owl to nestle right onto the branch if that's how you want to display him or her. The key to using any kid's material or kid's craft is to really elevate the look and feel of it, so think about your paint colors, how you draw your owls, the tools and materials that you use. Of course you could do this project with kids and it would be super fun but just 'cause you're all grown up doesn't mean you can't still make a toilet paper tube owl. You're also not limited to owls. You could also do little foxes or any other woodland creature would be really cute in this same technique.

Day 6 - Clothespin Fairies

- Every year for Christmas, I used to get a sugar plum fairy ornament to hang on the tree. I still have them all in a box, they don't all go on the tree now but I love every single one of them. And one of my favorite classics on Creativebug is the Clothespin Dolls class by Amy Karol. So that I would combine these two loves and make little sugar plum fairy ornaments using the clothespin doll technique. This is a great project to bring all those little bits and bobs you have tucked away together because you just need tiny bits of paper, fabric, ribbon, tulle, anything you want to use to decorate your sugar plum fairy. The base of this is a wooden clothespin and they come in a couple of styles. You can do the pig style with a round head, and this one I've already painted, or you can do the flat style, and they both look really cute and it's fun to do a combination of the two. You'll start by just painting your clothespin. I've got some craft acrylic paint here in skin toney colors. And you don't have to stick to traditional colors, I like to make little pink and purple ones too, blue ones. Fairies can be any color. And I like to paint all the way down here. If you wanna give your fairy like leggings or something, then you can paint this a different color. So we'll paint that part pink. So set that there, wipe away or rinse out your brush. I'm just using a half inch craft brush, this is considered a size 10 in this brand. You can use whatever brush feels good to you. You can also just leave the

bottom part of the clothespin the natural wood color if you prefer. And if you are painting the bottom, try to get the inside so it looks finished. At least on this little bottom part. You're not worried about where these meet because we're gonna be putting little clothes and things on them. And you can kinda set that aside to dry. We'll move on to one of the ones I've already painted. And the easiest thing for these tiny faces is using a Micron pen. I like to paint everything first and then use my Micron because I find that then the ink doesn't feather or bleed in the wood as much. I also like to use the tiniest POSCA pens. This is the .7 millimeter for any little details if I want some color. So look at where the legs are because this could be either the front or the back. So whichever side feels easier for you to draw on. And do a little line for the nose. The eyes are about halfway down the head. You can do a little touch up painting too if you need to. Your sugar plum fairies can be boys or girls, I think I usually just make girls because I think they're more fun to accessorize but you may have something different in mind. Give them little eyebrows. And then you can use paint or you can use your pink pen for doing other little details. I'm actually gonna do her lips in the pink. Make berry cheeks here. I'm gonna use a little bit of my white POSCA pen to add a highlight and I can go back in 'cause this tip is very large, once that dries and add more black. More lips. I'll fix the eyes once this dries but let's give it, let's give our little fairy some hair and some clothes. So we'll start with the clothes. You can do like a strip of felt or a strip of fabric. You can also use washi tape. We'll do a combination of things so that you can see all the techniques. Start with some washi tape, I love this 'cause you don't need any glue, you can just lay it right on. This is gonna be kinda like the top of the outfit. And then, let's see, do I wanna make a skirt? I also like to use tulle for that. The other thing that you can do is if you wanna make like a dress, you can kinda lay just like this and then glue this on and cut out a shape. So that's what I did here. Just took two pieces of fabric, laid it into a square and glued it using Tacky glue and then cut out this kind of shape and made some little felt hands, you can do something like that too. You can just do a scarf if you want, it doesn't have to be super fancy. Let's just take a strip of this and see what we wanna do with it. I like to tear it so it has more texture. Maybe we'll make it more like a scarf even though we have that washi tape on there, we're gonna cover that up now. So this is what's fun about it, 'cause you're not doing any sewing. You're just taking little scraps of things and giving them some character. Alright, and then for a skirt, I love using tulle, can fold this over, you can kinda gather it, see what you like. You could glue this in place like she could have a tutu. I think that would be super cute. You can also just tie it. Let's see if we need to cut it down. It's just all about the flair. Maybe we'll do that, cut it down. If you like she could benefit for some colored legs, we can also use some of this, I found this really fine washi tape, it's like super, super thin. So we could add some elements with this really skinny washi tape. Maybe she has sort of like a belt. And do something on her legs, we can draw a pattern. I think her eyes are dry for me to touch up. Looking a little better. She'll look a lot better when she has some hair on her. Okay, I like her crazy looking puffy skirt, I like her puffy little scarf. I wanna add some hair. So you can use a giant pompom as hair, I love this. You can also use a bit of yarn, so little scraps are really good for this project. You can kinda swirl it, can give her braids, you can kind of audition what you want her hair to look like. I also like using roving, this is what yarn is made out of or you can use it for felting. So this can be really fun, let's see what this looks like. Yeah ya. I like that. Okay, I'm gonna tie this in a knot to give her like a little top knot look. That's cute. And then we're gonna attach this with Tacky glue. If you wanted to glue any other fabric down or anything, Tacky glue is what I would recommend. It takes a little bit to hold up or set up but it's really strong and nice and viscous so it's pretty easy to use. You don't have to worry about using hot glue where you can burn your fingers because everything is so little. And it does dry clear. So even though it's white right now, it

won't be white when we're done. So I'm just gonna bring that roving around. Yeah, her hair is amazing. It's gonna be long in the back. You can also braid this or sometimes using yarn, it already looks braided because it's like looped like that. So that's fun. I wanna give her a little memoir there. Keep her scarf, see, do I wanna add more tulle? This is definitely a more is more project. I like the weight. Maybe we tie this in the opposite direction and I'm just auditioning it and if I don't like it, I can take it off. So I might put that through her legs. It's a little much, I might take it off. I think we'll just stick with the neon coral tutu. She need anything else? You could add sequins if you wanted. Oh, I have these little bows that are also really fun. You could put a little bow. I think her top knot is really cool, I don't wanna take away from that so in this case, a bow is not gonna work. I think she's pretty close to done. You can fix her little eyes if you wanna just add any detail there. Alright, let's look at some of her little friends. So this one, I use pipe cleaners to add some arms. She also has the crazy tulle skirt situation. I painted her legs so she has tights on. And she has just a single piece of yarn for her hair. This one just has the painted legs and like a little scrap of fabric as a big scarf and she has like a big fun top knot here. This is the one, this has a different kind of yarn, also tied into a knot. I'm obviously loving the top knot, the bigger the hair the better. And this is when I took two pieces of fabric and just laid it flat like two squares, glued it with the Tacky glue and then cut away and added these little mittens. You can use feathers for wings. So she has a felt top, feathers for wings, and just a fabric scrap skirt that I didn't even glue, I just tied on with yarn, and also, she has roving hair in a ponytail. And this one has two pompoms as her hair which I love. Just a washi tape kind of dress, painted legs, and then a bit of fuzzy yarn as her scarf. These are not your traditional holiday colors but I think that's really fun. These could be used as just dolls to play with but because you're gonna stick them on the tree, then make them ornaments and I always think of them as fairies because of my sugar plum fairies. If you wanna give them little wings like the feathers, you can, you can also play with paper to give them wings. I don't need to put a hook on them because of the opening in their legs, you can just slide them right onto a branch but if you wanna add a hanger, you would just do a loop like we've been doing for other ornaments to attach them.

Day 7 - Pomander and Baked Orange Slices

- When I was younger, I loved *Little House on the Prairie*, and I was always so amazed in the Christmas books when they would get an orange in their stocking. And so, working with oranges over the holidays makes me think of those books. One traditional thing to make as decoration is a pomander that uses an orange and cloves. These are decorative. You can put them in bowls around the house, but if you wanna hang them on the tree, you'll use a much smaller clementine. You can also make slices. I'll show you that in a bit. For this you'll need clementines, Cuties, mandarin oranges; whatever you call these. You'll need some cloves and you'll need quite a lot of them so I suggest getting them at your bulk store, some ribbon, and some pins. Select a fruit that's not too ripe. You want it to be firm enough that you can puncture it with the cloves and we're going to peel off the star at the bottom, cut yourself a generous two feet of ribbon. Find the center point and we'll pin it to the bottom. We'll wrap it around cross it at the top. I'm gonna put another pin in there right at the intersection. Just to make it easier, I'm gonna take out this pin, and insert it through all three layers. If you're working with a larger orange, you're going to need a larger pin. These are dressmaker pins. You might need a hat pin if it's a full size naval orange. And now we're going to make loop so this can be hung on the tree. If you wanna leave it in a bowl, you can cut this much sorter. And then we'll begin adding our cloves. There's a lot of different designs you can do with this but I like right along the edge of the ribbon. And you can actually use the shape of the clove to kind

of tamp down the ribbon, get it close to the side. Have you ever seen anything so cute? If you wanna make the slices, you'll cut about a half an inch, bake in the oven at 200 degrees for four hours, flipping every hour. And then you can just run the same color ribbon through it, by cutting about a foot, folding it in half. These are very easy to poke a hole through. Couldn't be more simple. You can add a little splash of color, depending on the ribbon you choose, and both these ornaments are perfect for your rustic tree.

Day 8 - God's Eye

- Just like I've mentioned earlier in the month, if you make something super tiny, it makes it super cute. So we're gonna do a very miniature version of a God's Eye using toothpicks and pearl cotton. I prefer to use this pearl cotton embroidery floss to a traditional stranded embroidery floss, because it's twisted and the strands won't come apart like you would for a traditional one. And it makes it really easy to work with, it's like tiny bits of yarn. Take a pair of toothpicks, and you're gonna start by just wrapping around once, and we're gonna tie this in a double knot. So this is just to hold everything together. And it is a little fiddly 'cause it's so tiny. But once you kinda get it going, you'll be good. So this is gonna keep it all together. Gonna trim that. And a sharp small pair of scissors. And then you're just gonna make this into an x. Hold it however it feels most comfortable. The way you make a God's Eye is you wrap and then go to the next stick or twig or arm. So wrap and then the next one. Wrap and then the next one. And until you set up your pattern, these are gonna kinda wanna flop together. You wanna keep the tension fairly taut. And you're gonna wind with one color, kinda started with about a foot of the embroidery floss in this melon color. Then we'll switch to a new color. And a few more wraps and then we'll tie this off. And you can see it's starting to make this pattern and that's what looks like an eye, and it's why it's a God's Eye. So, we're just gonna loop this around the side of the toothpick that we're at. And we'll do this twice, we'll do a knot twice. And if you can, just kinda put the knot to the back and trim it. And then switch to another color. You can find the pearl cotton in these hanks like this or on these balls. Always wanna do a lot longer than I need, I probably don't need quite that much, you really only need probably a foot. Sometimes it's easier to start with your knot like this and then you can just tamp it down unto the toothpick. I'm starting on the next one. So I tied off there, I'm gonna start on this one just so I don't have a lot of knots stacked up. Double it. And trim it away. You can kinda push things down, and then we'll go to the next one and wrap. The next one and wrap, the next one and wrap. You could play with different weights, if you wanna use a really fine yarn mixed in with this, you totally could. And of course if you wanna go to the opposite scale and go really big, you could use dowels and chunky yarn, you can use coffee stirrers and medium weight yarn. You can play with your materials and the sizes of your sticks. I like using the toothpicks because probably everyone's got a box of toothpicks laying around in the back of their cupboard. I think that would be hard to tie a knot so, we're out of floss. Do our double knot. Then we'll switch to our last color for the final round. Do this purple. And I'll show you how to make a tassel. I like to create my loop first. Do the second knot. Trim it away. And kinda make sure it's on the backside. These are so cute. They would make like, fun earrings for a holiday or a costume or something too. 'Cause they're so little. And you can keep this going for as big as you wanna make your God's Eye. Say I wanna end there, 'cause I'm gonna show you how to add a tassel. Tie a knot on the back. And for this last one you could put a little bit of tacky glue if you think it's gonna come undone. But usually it's pretty fine. So there's our little God's Eye, you can adjust it if you need to. The toothpicks and stuff will still slide. And then let's do a tassel in the melon color. So I'll start my tassel just by cutting off like a yard or something. And just gonna fold it in half.

And in half. And in half, and in half. Like that. And we're gonna take another piece that's also very long, maybe a foot to 16 inches. And we're gonna actually just loop it, we're gonna kinda do this in two parts. So this really long piece, this is gonna be later something that we wrap along the God's Eye and actually make our tie off with too, that's why it's so long. But right now it's just making the top of the tassel. So we need to just tie a double knot here. So that's gonna happen there. And then I'm gonna take another piece, maybe about four or five inches, I'm gonna put all these strands together. I still haven't cut anything to make the tassely bit. I'm gonna do like a wrap or two around the top, this is like the head of our tassel. I'll tie a double knot. It's all very tiny. And I like having these long 'cause I'll just cut them with the rest of the tassel. And then trim all that off. This gives you your tassel. And you can make it even smaller if you think that's too long. You can make this head a little bit smaller and make your tassel a little bit shorter. And you can also make this in a different color, that's maybe not even in your God's Eye, whatever you want. And then I like to just start by tying this on. Just once, if you make your loop first that's fine. It's gonna hang kind of on the back like that. And then I like to wrap this, and then I'm just gonna bring it, carry it up the back. Wrap a few more times, tie a knot and then wrap one more time, tie the knot and then we'll tie it at the top to make the holder. Again, a little fiddly, 'cause nothing's actually being held in place. So it's kind of all looped on there. Double knot here. And again, you may have to adjust it so it looks a little bit cleaner. And then just do your overhang knot at the top, and this is gonna be your hanger for the ornament. And done. And another little twin here. Look like little kites, too. They're super cute. I'm not a huge fan of making large God's Eyes, but I love this miniature scale. If there's a craft that you really like to make all the time or you're really good at, or you have a lot of fun making, think about shrinking it down to fit on your tree. It might be a really interesting take on something that you love to do already.

Day 9 - Easy Photo Portrait

- What would Christmas truly be without the people in our lives, meaning our loved ones, our friends, our family. And I think one of the greatest ideas for ornaments is to take their images and their faces and put them onto ornaments. I think they are so funny for years to come. This is one that's been kicking around in our family ornament basket for a while. This is me as a kindergartner and it's just a school photo that's been cut out and 1982 in kindergarten here, and pasted onto a piece of paper with some glitter and some yarn. And every time we look at it, it makes us laugh, and I think it's so great. I wish I had one for every single year but of course I only have this one. But that doesn't mean that you can't memorialize special things that happen in your life and special people. And I have a great idea for how to do that. The best thing to do is just to start with printouts, just on regular pieces of paper of your family or whoever it is that you want to give a special moment on the Christmas tree. Here I have a photo of my sister and this was taken while we were in Italy this last year. And I'm never gonna forget this moment with her so I thought, this is totally Christmas tree worthy. And for this one, I'm actually just gonna rough cut this picture out here. Nothing fancy about this, just getting rid of that excess paper. Now of course, printer paper is just like really thin. You're not gonna put a hole punch through that and put it on a tree so we do need a backing for it. I love to use scrapbook paper. It's just a really nice weight. It's not too heavy, it's not too light. And this one here has all these cool postcard images on it. So, I'm gonna put this on the background and I think I'm going to just stick it on here and see where it lands. I'm just gonna glue the inside of this so it kinda stays in place. I'm avoiding the very edges. And then I'm gonna cut right around the edges of this photo. And every time I think about being precious, I just remember that ornament

from when I was a kindergartner and I remember this doesn't have to be perfect. It's the holidays, we don't have time for perfection. It's more important to make a memory, right? So, here I have Erin all cut out. She's got a cool backing and then before I go any further, I'm going to memorialize this by writing Erin, Italy 2018. Now, I'm gonna show you my favorite thing to do which is quick and dirty lamination. So, rather than getting out the laminator, and you know we have a laminator here at Creativebug headquarters. And by the way, you could totally get out a laminator if you want to. So, I'm pulling off a piece that's bigger than I need, and I'm gonna go right off the edge with it. Love it, and then I'm gonna do that exposed edge right over there. Right up against where I cut off before. And then, we're gonna press it really good and turn it over and we're gonna do the same thing on the backside. Okay, one more piece. And then just go ahead and trim off the edges of this, maybe just a smidge around the outside so that it seals. I am using these amazing scissors from Scotch®, Brand that are non-stick titanium so you can cut right through tape and it doesn't make your scissors all sticky. How awesome is that? Now that I've got this all done, I'm gonna grab a hole punch and just go right through the top here. And you're all ready to put a little ribbon through it or a piece of twine. About 10 to 12 inches should do it. I like to double it in half, put the folded end through the hole, and then pull both strands through the top. And you can tie a little knot in the top and you're done. And here are two others that I made. These are my parents. This was taken in Giverny in the garden in France. It was so beautiful. And in this one, I actually left a little bit of edge around the photo and then I used a double-sided scrapbooking paper so that another print shows up on this side too and used the edges there. So, I did a little bit of layering but not a whole lot more. And then here, this is one of me and my dog, Camper, where we just happen to be making the same face at the same time. So, clearly, that was Christmas tree ornament worthy. And on this one, I just did a really simple background but I actually did a little bit of sketching and just doodled around the edges on the front side and cut around it once I had done the tape. So, that's just another variation on it if you wanna do a shaped ornament. Christmas is a great time to go through your phone, look at the thousands of photos that you probably took over the last year, and force yourself to pick the top three, four, or five photos that you're gonna give the special treatment. And you can whip a few up in no time at all. Make them as gifts to give out to family or just hang them on your own tree because you love them so much.

Day 10 - Cinnamon Hearts

- I love this project because it's super simple and only requires a few ingredients to put together, and it will also instantly put you in the holiday spirit. We'll be working with cinnamon and making cinnamon hearts. The ingredients you'll need are half a cup of applesauce and a half a cup of cinnamon, and we'll also use one tablespoon of school glue. I like to mix the applesauce and the glue together first because they're both pretty liquidy. And once that is blended together, we'll add our cinnamon. And we'll mix this until a dough forms. So, it seems unlikely at this point. We'll just give it a few more seconds. You'll see. At this point, you might wanna get your hands involved. This smells absolutely amazing. So, once it comes together, we're going to lay out some plastic wrap or parchment. We'll turn out our dough on the center. We're gonna cover it with another layer of plastic wrap. We're going roll it out until it is about a quarter of an inch thick, definitely no thinner. At this point, you can peel off the top layer. And we're going to use our cookie cutters to cut out our hearts. If you wanna use larger shapes, just make sure that the dough is a little bit thicker. And you can achieve the same look with a bunch of different kinds of dough, but what I love about this dough is it smells amazing. Now, the dough is a little bit fragile, so be delicate, and also if something

does break, we're gonna re-roll out the dough. Feel free to reshape them if they get a little scraggly. Also, after they've dried, you can use sandpaper, and then once you've taken them all out, you'll use your straw or a skewer to poke a hole. So, I actually like a straw because it takes away the dough. You can pick it out. At this point, you can let your dough dry in two ways. The first is you can put it in an oven at the lowest temperature, so about 150 degrees, for up to two hours flipping every hour, or you can let it set up for a week. This is great for school classes, so they have time away from the ornaments to let them set up, and then they should be perfectly dry, and you can attach a ribbon or a hook, or I really love this, twine, and it's a little pop of color. To do that, you'll make a loop and tie a knot. And there you have it, a teeny-tiny ornament that smells amazing.

Day 11 - Cardboard Tube Pointsettia

- When I think about the crafts I made in elementary school so many of my favorite ones begin with a toilet paper roll. I remember teachers always collecting them, and bringing them in. Sometimes, you can find them ready to use at a craft store, but these can be a little bit rigid, so I would recommend using the ones in your own home. You'll also need some teeny tiny little pompoms, some paint, some wire, and hot glue for older children, or Tacky Glue for younger children. You'll begin by painting your tube. You can just use an acrylic paint, and you want to paint it on the inside and the outside. Set aside and let it dry. Once it is dried you'll cut 1/2 inch slices, and we will be folding them in half anyway, so it might make it easier if you just fold it in half now, and you'll crease it at the top and the bottom. You can pre-mark the slices if you want to, or you could eyeball them. Now take six of your loops, and fold them with crease to crease, so they should have four creases, and repeat with all of your loops. Next, you'll glue these portions together, so it will be 1/4 of your loop to 1/4 of the next loop. When you've done that to all six loops glue the final one to the original one. You can add another drop of glue at the very center to get them to stick better if necessary. At this point you can take your paint, and paint over the edges if you think you need it. While this is drying we'll make our center star or flower, and this we can also squash these in the opposite direction. We'll take a piece of floral wire. Stack these three together, and wrap the wire around the center. Twist it off like a twist tie, and then shape each of these into a petal. Add a tiny drop of glue between each one. We'll paint the front edge of this too. Using this excess wire we're going to loop it around, and secure it in place. You can go ahead and twist it before we reshape these. There's still a chance to do that. You can trim off these ends. I think this is such a lovely finishing touch adding these micro pompoms to the center. I'm adding a little dab of glue to the center, and I think that should be enough for all three of our pompoms. You could just stick these directly onto a branch, but for hanging purposes let's add some twine. I love how these are kind of Nordic looking. They're really simple all made out of a toilet paper tube.

Day 12 - Ice Cream Cone

- And on the 12th day of Christmas, my true love brought to me a super nontraditional ice cream cone ornament. (laughs) Okay, there is a story behind this, I must say. When I sat down with Courtney and Faith to talk about what ornaments from our childhood we wanted to do in this daily challenge I said "Well, we have to do an ice cream cone ornament" and they said what are you talking about? And I actually brought in this relic from my youth. It's like completely falling apart. This ice cream cone ornament was a complete fixation of my childhood. I think every year, my sister and I, this was our favorite ornament, we fought over who would get to put this on the tree. We probably licked it at some point, who knows? But it lives on pretty much only in our memories

because it is a crumbling piece of old heirloom ornament history now. So I decided to do a fresh version for you guys and, who am I kidding, for myself and for my sister. And this time though, we're gonna be doing it with some updated materials. I believe this original was made with meringue on a sugar cone and we are gonna be using an amazing material called Model Magic that is by Crayola. And if you guys have ever worked with this, it is so, so, so fun. It's air dry. I'm pulling out a good handful of white and then I'm going to mix in a good handful of neon pink and that is how we're going to make a really cute strawberry flavor. Now Model Magic comes in all sorts of colors and you can even mix your own primary colors to make a new color if you want to. The key here is that you can pick any two colors you want or a single color and mix them together to make the custom ice cream flavor of your loved ones. To do this, I just kind of put these two wads together and start mixing together with my hands. And I'm going for kind of a nice stripey marbled effect. You don't want to mix it too much or it will just be pink and that wouldn't be any fun at all. At a certain point, you might say that doesn't seem like a generous enough scoop of ice cream and grab some more. Which I'm going to do right now. Want a nice big squishy scoop of ice cream. Looking pretty good here. This stuff is so fun and weird to work with. Alright. I'm feeling pretty good about how that has mixed together. We get some nice little stripes in there. And actually, I think that shape looks pretty cool. It looks very organic. But to add that true ice cream look, I actually like to use a real ice cream scooper and just kind of lay it into one side because that kind of gives it that look like it just came right out of the freezer. And then you're of course going to need an ice cream cone. Now this cone I sprayed ahead of time with a matte finish and this matte finish is what's going to make it last for a really long time. This is an edible item, it's perishable, it could definitely disintegrate over time. But with a nice thick coat of matte finish on it, it's actually gonna preserve it. And I spray it inside and out and I let it dry, so make sure you do that. And then I like to set my ice cream cone in here and make sure it's the right fit. I'm actually gonna pull that little edge together. I want to make sure it has a nice seal. Looks pretty good. And if that looks good to you, the next step is actually to put the twine through it because you want the twine to set into it before it dries in the air. Once you cut your strand of twine about 10 to 12 inches long, you're gonna fold it in half and put both strands through your tapestry needle. So you need a pretty wide eyed needle here. Then you're gonna take this and go in through the top of your ice cream scoop. Go all the way down through the bottom. And you want to leave a few inches of loop up here at the top, take this off the needle at the bottom, and just tie a double knot. Now that your twine is in place, just set it aside, let it dry overnight, and the next day it will look very much the same. The way I like to add my sprinkles is just adding a little dab of Tacky Glue. Tacky Glue is so wonderful. And then picking up the sequins and just popping it on. And it will stick forever. Once you're happy with how this looks, you're gonna grab your cone, make sure it still fits. Looks pretty good to me. Nestle it in there. And then you're gonna take your hot glue and go around the edges and this is going to hold your scoop of ice cream to your cone, hopefully for all of eternity. Alright. On there. And here we go. Nestling it in. Looks pretty happy. And it's okay if your Model Magic is squishy for a couple more days. It will definitely be harder than it was the day before but it might still have a little bit of give. And that's actually really helpful in case you have any gaps, you can kind of press it into place. And just like that, your cone is ready for hanging on the tree. This is the perfect little ornament for the ice cream lover in your life, so whip up a few scoops and I promise you this is going to be the treasured ornament for many years to come.

Day 13 - Painted Pen Ornaments

- This project is fun because you use an existing ornament, maybe one that you already have, or a pack that's lying around that didn't make it onto the tree, and then you can dress it up and make it your own using some paint pens. You'll need any kind of ornament. They could be clear glass. I have some frosted baubles here. I've got a roll of washi tape just holding my ornament in place and then I'm using the Posca paint pens that we used earlier in the month. This one I'm gonna do a feather design and I'm starting with the biggest Posca tip they have, which is an eight-millimeter, and this happens to be in gold. I'm gonna start by using the fine part of it. I'm doing these quick little strokes, kind of is like what you would use for painting. I'm using the thick and thin part of the pen and I think feathers are a good place to start if you are not used to drawing, because they're so freeform and easy. You could also make leaves. You could watch any of the Lisa Congdon doodling videos and do geometric patterns. We're gonna do some layering, so we want this first part to dry. You can tell that it's no longer wet, one, if you touch it, and two, it goes from kind of wet and glossy to more matte, satiny finish, and I love how it looks already on the ornament. It creates this layer and depth without really even doing anything, it's just a product of painting on the surface, or drawing on the surface. Gonna do gray next. I'm not doing any particular type of feather, I'm just making it my own. You can definitely look at photos of feathers and make up a design that way. And this is a thinner-width Posca. Let's get moving around. It's like scribbling, it's so easy and freeform, but it's really pretty. It makes a really elegant motif. It's a little bit thicker, this is an ivory color, bullet tip. It's very vanilla. You can just layer right on top. I wanna leave this one pretty monochromatic, I'm just gonna go back in with my gray now that my ivory layer is dry, and just clean up any part, do my last pass on the feather. These kinds of personalized ornaments also make really good package toppers, which is what I love about the holiday season is wrapping gifts. You know, 'course you could use this technique throughout the year. Who says you can't get a custom little ornament on your birthday that then you save for the holidays? All right. And it dries in like a minute and it's ready to hang on the tree. Here are a few others. This one I did a Charlie, it's kind of a retro-y, fun feel with little stars. You can see how the contrast really changes the look of the feather, so this is on a darker surface, on a red bauble, and I used the gold and the ivory, and then I added some of the teal. It's really pretty, too. Like I said, you can take any of the drawing classes on Creativebug and use those motifs. This is a little bit more graphic in style, I just did a simple vine. Here's one with little tiny holly berries. Of course I could've left the red, but I thought it was fun to add the neon pink, too, and this one I did a little bit of lettering, says happy holidays. This technique is great for customizing any ornament. It would be good for baby's first Christmas or any other special event.

Day 14 - Pins and Sequins Balls

- This ornament takes a little bit of time, but the results are totally worth it. It's a vintage inspired pin and sequin ball. It ends up looking totally like a disco ball or a peacock's tail. You'll need a smooth styrofoam ball, not the rigid ones, those don't stick as well and also sequined pins. If you're using a ball much bigger than this, you'll want dressmaker pins, but these are just short enough that are perfect for these tiny ones. This ball is 35 millimeters, it's almost an inch and a half and this ring of Washi tape just helps us put it there. You'll need some tiny sequins, as well as larger ones and we have to use the smaller sequins because the eye is the right size for the head of this pin. If we tried to put the pin through just the larger one, it can fall right off. So we could cover this tiny ball with these tiny sequins, but if we have the larger ones as well, it gives us a bit more surface area, so thread a tiny sequin onto your tiny pin, add your larger sequin and you just push it right in. And I like to work outwards in concentric rings, but really as long as each one is touching the next one, that'll

get you the appropriate amount of coverage. Small sequin. Big sequin. And for this one we're just doing a mishmash of colors, so they're overlapping just a tiny bit. Make sure you have the concave side against the ball. If you were to flip it around the other way, it'd be a little bit prickly and they wouldn't lie as flat. And we're going to make sure that that is the case for both the sequins. So on the convex sides, stab it through gently, gently stabbing and the same with the larger one. Now I'm gonna start filling in these spaces. And I really like how meditative this craft is for the busy holiday seasons. Just sit down and zone out and poke all these pins through all these sequins so I have said concentric circles, this is more of an oblong circle, so how long concentric footballs. And once you have finished almost your entire ball, and you have a teeny bit of space left, we'll make our loop. You can do this with fishing twine, if you want it to be nearly invisible, though I like this decorative thread. You don't want something too bulky because we are going to try to hide it underneath the sequin, we're going to make a simple overhand knot. And I'm gonna trim off the ends, I'm gonna use another pin. And push the pin through the knot. Stab that into the top of our ball. I'm gonna do one last little sequin big sequin stack to cover that up. And you can put a tiny dot of glue there if you feel like it's not going to lay flat. And trim any remaining thread. And there we have it.

Day 15 - Popcorn and Pom Pom Garland

- I love decorating Christmas trees with garlands, and one of my favorite things to do is just to sit down on the couch with a Hallmark movie on TV and a big old bowl of popcorn and string some garlands. But a lot of people do this typically with popcorn and cranberries, which is awesome, I mean classic, beautiful, of course. Who wouldn't love that? But I thought, wouldn't it be kind of fun if we just made this a little bit more modern and playful and combine popcorn with pom poms. So that's what we're doing here. I've cut about five feet of my cotton twine and I'm gonna tie a knot in the end. You can go longer or shorter if you want. I would hesitate before I go longer, 'cause it starts to get a little bit unruly. Remember you have to slide all of these items down your cotton twine. So think about that. And you can always connect these together at the end if you wanna make several strands. So I've just tied a little double knot at the end and I am going to start with a pom pom. Because why not? These are just pre-made pom poms from the craft store and they have a nice, dense center so you can stick your needle right through the middle of it and pull it all the way down to the end. And then, the trick. Because at first I thought I would do one pom pom and one popcorn, but that would look kind of crazy. So instead, I have just used five pieces of popcorn in a row. And a note about the popcorn I am using. This is the most plain popcorn you can get. It's really best if you can get an air pop popcorn, little to no oil, little to no salt, and definitely no cheddar flavors or anything. No kettle corn here, you're gonna get a very sticky needle. And it will make a difference over time as you are making these. That salt can definitely irritate your skin if you are using very salty popcorn. Plus, you might eat all of it! If you're using flavorless popcorn, you're gonna tempted to not eat it. So there's that. Okay, I've got my five on here. And then I'm gonna pick, let's do some hot pink. So what's really fun about these big packs of pom poms is you can go just randomly, as I am doing here, picking whatever color is calling to you next. Or, you could even separate them out and do a chromatic pom pom. Maybe you start with all the reds and pinks and purples and move towards the blues and the greens and then go in order of the rainbow. Up to you. Wouldn't that be stunning? Now I wanna stop and just do it that way I can make garlands all night long. So keep threading your needle just like this and you'll be done in no time. And once you keep repeating this, you're going to wind up with a big, beautiful strand of colorful pom pom garland. Oo I love this! This is so fun. This took me probably 10, 15 minutes to do and best of all, you can just tie a knot in the

end and then if you wanna keep attaching it to another one, you can just bring in the other strand and tie another knot. So, so easy. And then if you love this so much and you can't bear throwing it out when Christmas is over, you can always put this in a Ziploc bag and keep it again for next year. The popcorn should stay. You're definitely not gonna wanna eat it, but it would probably stay in fine shape. But of course, that depends on your personal rodent situation, or if you have any fears about pests and things like that. If you do wanna just ditch anything that is edible, you can always, though it might break your heart a little bit, cut it right in the middle, zip everything off, sort out popcorn from pom pom, and keep your pom poms again for next year. Up to you. I hope you enjoy this!

Day 16 - Mini Sweaters

- I'm an avid knitter, and while I would love to knit something for everyone on my list, I often don't have time to make a full-size garment so I love to knit these tiny sweaters. Now if you're not a knitter, we're also going to do a version making felt. This is super fun if you want to go all out with gaudy colors and crazy patterns and make some ugly sweaters, or you can be very classy and use some lovely colors and make just adorable sweaters! You should have a long tail at the beginning and end, it should be in this shape, and we're going to fold it in half and seam up each side. If you are a knitter, go ahead and follow the pattern and we'll seam it together and if you've never knit before we're going to do the felt one, hang tight, we'll get to you in a second. You can go ahead and do some embellishment now if you'd like, but I actually like to seam it first and then do the embellishment after the fact. And we'll use a yarn needle threaded onto our tail and we'll seam up going through the center of the edge stitches. So I'll take a loop from this side, a loop from this side. And once we've taken a couple stitches, we can cinch it up like that. It makes almost an invisible seam and we'll continue all the way up into the teeny tiny armpit. Now we've reached the arm portion. So you're going to go behind a stitch, pick up the two loops and you'll do the same on the bottom of the sleeve. And do that across. When we cinch tight, you'll see how that makes almost an invisible seam. And we can tie off and thread in our yarn tail. I see a little bit of a hole here, so I'm gonna just do a quick stitch to close that up before we weave in our end. Turn it back, right sides out, and we'll repeat the same exact process on the other side. Here is our teeny tiny knitted sweater. Now we're going to make our felt version. Trace and cut out your PDF template and then we'll trace it onto the felt. Cut just inside the line. To make it easier to cut out the center, I'm folding it in half. And in case there's any lines left over, I'm just going to turn it to the other side. And if you're doing this with small kids, or have no hand-sewing experience, you can go ahead and glue around these two edges. But we're going to do some stitching, also because this is a lot less stretchy than our knitted sweater, we're going to do some embellishments right now. You can use puffy paint if you'd like or any kind of fabric paint. Maybe some rhinestones or sequins would be really fun. I'm going to use some embroidery floss, and if you want some more ideas we have an amazing embroidery class from Rebecca Ringquist that would make some really nice, ooh you could do, like, stripes this way and it'd look like a fair isle of all the different stitches. It's a really great blank template to make something really fun. I have an arm's length of embroidery thread and I'm going to do like a rustic snowflake. I did five stitches into the center, and now I'm going to give them a little flair at the end. - [Woman] So that'll help the seam. Sorry. - Now that I've finished my motif, I'm going to tie it off and reattach at one of the armhole edges. Now we could do a blanket stitch or a chain stitch, but I'm going to do a running stitch. Start on the inside. Just gonna go up and down, all the way across and down. When you get to the end, you can fasten it off or I'm going to go ahead and make a row of stitches across the bottom, just for fun, and only the front edge.

Because you're only going through one layer, you can rock the needle back and forth. And once you've gotten all the way to the other end, we're going to go back up the armhole just the way we did down. Go back inside to tie your knot. And just because I think it would make it look so cute, I'm going to do stitches around the neckline but I'm not closing up the neck 'cause we still have to insert a teeny tiny glittery hanger! Now tie a knot around your first stitch and trim it short. Oh my gosh, it's precious, and we're nearly through! For both of our sweaters, we'll need a length of pipe cleaner, and so that it's strong enough to hang on the tree, I'm going to double it up. We'll be folding it essentially in thirds with the bent end acting as our hook and the straight end twisting around, just wrapping around. And if it separates a little bit, that's fine, it's going inside the sweater, bending into a hook. Oh my gosh, it's so cute! I love it so much. (laughing) Here is a knit one that has the embroidered detail and our little hanger, and I used some clippings from that to make a little bit of a topper on that tree. How cute are these? And they're so much easier to finish than a full-size sweater.

Day 17 - Paper Cranes

- I love doing origami, and it's really perfect for around the holidays because you don't need any special materials, you just need paper. And if you want to hang it, you need some twine, or you can just tuck it into the branches. One year my family was visiting my little sister abroad in Morocco over Christmas and the family happened to have set up a tree for us, but we didn't have any ornaments. All we had was some magazines that we had for the airplane ride, so we ripped up the magazines and made these paper cranes. And so, they remain really special to me and I think of that really magical time every time I make a paper crane to decorate my Christmas tree. You'll need some origami paper or decorative paper, or an airplane magazine. These are eight inches, that'll make a crane that's about this large, but if you wanna cut it down to six inches, you'll get a crane that's this size. And you'll begin by folding it edge to edge, pattern out, making a sharp crease. You open this up and fold it edge to edge again. Open it back up, and then we fold point to point. Keeping it closed, we'll fold point to point again, and here, we will open it up and flatten it. And we'll flip it over and repeat it. Alright, and flatten it. So, those first two folds we did just pre-creased them for us. Now we're going to open it up this way. This will fold into here, this side will fold into here. And the top, this will fold into this edge, but I like doing both bottom pieces first before moving on to the top. And now we can open it all the way up. Flip it over, and at this point, I like to crease it right where it meets. And you repeat that process, but on the second side, it's a little bit less cumbersome. This folds up, these edges go into the center. Repeat on this side. So, this is solid and these split apart. We're going to tuck this folded edge and fold it up to this open edge. So, this should make a little point. Repeat on this side. Flip the whole thing over and repeat. We are almost done. So, here are, there's our leg and our head and our wings. We're going to bend this up at a 45-degree angle, and reverse the fold. We're going to repeat that with the other side. And then, this opens up, this reverses. Look at that. Okay, so we're gonna repeat that. Open it up, reverse this fold, and pick one side to be the head. I usually find one side goes to less of a nice point, so I pick that side to be a head. And you crease it down and pop that inside out. It's our little head. Then we fold down our wings like that, and you can leave it soaring or you can tuck them down and pull it open so that flattens out. You can tuck this in your tree branch, or if you want to hang it, pre-poke the hold in the top with a pointed tapestry needle, you'll get a length of thread, and I like to cut it a little bit larger than I need it so that making the knot isn't too difficult. Put both ends through the needle, leaving the loop out at the other end, and pull this through and it'll come out this bottom hole here.

And making sure we're leaving the loop and not pulling it all the way through, we're going to make a knot. One single knot, that should be fine. Trim it between a 1/4 and 1/2 an inch, and there you have it. As long as you start with a square piece of paper, you can make these in almost any size.

Day 18 - Tiny Wrapped Packages

- Everything is even cuter if you make it really tiny, so when I was thinking about how to make the tiniest packages to hang on your tree, I was thinking what would be the best thing for something so small and we're going to use Model Magic. You may have seen Lanny use this in her ice cream cone ornament, it's miracle stuff we'll use it again later in the month and it's an air dried kind of foamy clay if you will. It's for kids so kids can definitely help you make these. I've just torn off a little bit in white and I actually think these are cuter if you wrap them actually wrap them which I'm going to show you how to do. If not you could paint it or you could play with colored Model Magic but because we're wrapping it I'm just using white. The first thing I like to do is roll it into a ball, so I've just pinched off a small amount, roll it into a ball and then I just use my thumb and forefinger on both hands kind of rotate to get a square or rectangle box. You're making like little cubes and play with different sizes, you could have a long box that little tiny shoes would go in or a square box that a holiday cake might fit in. You're going to make a bunch of these, a dozen, a couple dozen however many that you want to make ornaments for. And you want to let them dry for a day or two. And when they set up they will look like this they almost feel like little erasers. So you can see that some of them are a little bit more rounded on the edge, some of them are a little bit square you can tap them on the table before they dry to change the shape or the edges. And then now these are the little packages that we're going to wrap. You can use a text weight paper but I find tissue paper is really the easiest to wrap them with. I love getting patterned tissue paper, it's nice if you find something that has a small pattern because your package is so small. If you can't find a tissue paper that has a really tiny pattern you can stamp your own using rubber stamps and ink. So this is just like wrapping a real package. Because tape is usually so thick we're instead going to use a Tombow mono adhesive for this. And I'm going to do the shiny side out and I like to start with a little bit of tape on the edge, so I can kind of roll it into place. And these edges are going to be actually too wide so let's trim them down. All of your package wrapping rules still apply even if your package is less than one inch wide and tall. So I'm just going to roll it up, going to trim it using these scissors that Scotch makes that are okay to use with tape and sticky because all of this will peel off and it won't leave my scissors sticky. Use our mono adhesive again. Just try to keep it as taut as possible. Push down our sides. I'm going to put this on the table and then try to get some glue right on that edge. You might want to have scratch paper under you. Fold it down. It's not a bad corner considering our package is so tiny. Do the same thing here. So so tiny. And then I like to use twine or embroidery floss or even really tiny ribbon to do the tie and we're going to take off about a foot. You'll wrap all your packages exactly the same way and then you can play with your ribbon choices, so determine what the top of your package is, I think that'll be the top so I'll put that face down. You want this to be pretty taut so this all stays together without any glue. This would be really cute for a dollhouse too, so even if you don't hang them on your tree maybe you could use them for other purposes. Going to do a double knot here. And then I'm just going to use this to make my loop that goes onto the tree, so trim that just because one side is so long and do my overhand knot, just so cute. Doing a little trim. Then you have this tiny little package to hang on your tree, got a few others, here's a square little package that I did some very slight stamping on just on the top. This was origami paper that paper's very thin so it's really easy to wrap with and you can see that the

edges are much stiffer so it doesn't lay as flat but it's still super cute I love that it looks, I mean it is an actually wrapped gift that's why it's so cute. Also origami paper those work really nicely. And there's our little collection of holiday packages ready for your tree.

Day 19 - Painted Toadstools

- I used to do windows and display at a store called Anthropologie. And when you work there, you have to make dozens, if not hundreds, of the same item. And one Christmas, I made hundreds of toadstools. And when you have to make that many, you figure out really quickly the best way to do it. So this is a miniature, shrunken-down version that makes an ornament. We're gonna make all of our toadstools using our Model Magic. You know we love it. Make the cap of the mushroom, start by doing a ball. And of course, you can make these in any size. And then I like to just stick my thumb and kind of sculpt around it, rotating it, pinching it. This is how you make the cap of the mushroom. And you set it aside to dry. You can make many, many of those. For the stock or stem of the mushroom, just like to roll out an oblong shape to create the stem, and then you can kinda sculpt it. They're gonna get hot-glued together, so it's nice if one side is maybe a little bit tapered and skinnier than the other. But honestly, it doesn't matter that much. So you can kinda have fun with it. Make a bunch of caps and then make a bunch of mushroom stems or stalks. You can play with like how fluted this looks. How tall it might be, how pointy. You don't have to allow them to dry on like anything special, you can just put them on the table. But they will need a day or two to kind of set up so they're not that squishy. They'll still be soft but they won't be super squishy. So once they're dry, you're gonna hot glue them together. Here's some that are dry. So they're soft but still pliable, but not super squishy. I'm just gonna kinda figure out which ones, like actually I think this goes with that. You can kinda play with the size. Then, you're gonna use some high-heat hot glue. Like to just put a little bit in to the cap. And then, press in your stem. Give it a minute to set up so it doesn't look like you have a drunken toadstool and they're all sideways leaning. Yup. And the next one. If you're doing one of those fancy monochromatic trees, that's all like white and gold, then you can just leave your toadstools as is. But I'll also show you how to add in some color and put a little eye hook in the top so you can hang it. It's really cute for if you're making little dioramas, or any kinda little table decor. We'll do one little one too. Whoop, little too much glue in that one, that's okay. No one's really gonna see the underneath side of your mushroom. All right. So now we have three cute little mushrooms or toadstools. Aren't those sweet? And then, just using any craft brush and some acrylic paint, you can paint these. Let's see. Maybe let's make this one a rusty color. You can play with like how smooth the paint is, or if you want it to be a little more brush stroke-y, little more weathered looking. You can combine some paint colors, just mixing like this blue in it for the edges. Changes the tone a little. I don't paint the underneath side, you can if you want to, like if these were gonna be on a high shelf or something you could. And if you want, you can do something on the bottom but sometimes they look a little dirty if you do too much on the bottom, so you can kind of play with it. I actually just like to leave it white. Let's try a peach color and see if we like that better. Maybe even just the blue watered down could be okay. You can also try dry brushing. You don't wanna get things too wet on this. Mushrooms are gray, so on the stem kind of a tan gray so you can do a little bit of that if you want. Let's paint our next one this neon coral color, you know I love neon. I'm not at this point thinking of realistic mushrooms, I'm just following a color palette I like. You could work with metallics, that would be cool. Let's do a little blue one. This reminds me of a little tiny smurf. Could come back with a thinner brush if you wanted to do polka dots or stripes. Do little polka dots. This kinda classic toadstool that is red with white dots, that is called Amanita muscaria is the name

of that mushroom. And I've always wanted to see one and I've never seen one in real life so I just have to make my own. Someday I'll see one I hope. But I love mushrooms, they just feel magical, they feel holidays, they feel like fairy tales. There we go. So once your paint is dry, you can add the tiniest eye screw you ever saw, the tiniest one you can find. You can look in a hardware supply store, craft store, and also jewelry store sometimes will sell these. Now, we're gonna add it and we're gonna hot glue it in. If you were to pull it out, you could do that but it definitely will hold the weight of the ornament and then some. So this is the best approach for creating a little hanger at the top. Wanna make sure that your paint is dry and this is kind of two-part process. You are going to poke it into the top of your mushroom, it'll be soft, then we're gonna take it out and put a little bit of hot glue into that opening. Just a smidgen and that's really what's gonna hold this in. You can't really screw these into the mushroom because the mushroom is foamy so it wouldn't really hold. So you just press that into there. And that's how you get it. You wanna let it set up for a minute or two. You can see that you can make all kinds of these little ornaments. You can play with different shapes and sizes. Oh, do you think I maybe like hot pink? A lot of hot pink mushrooms here. Again, think about your color palette, what's gonna go together. You don't have to stick to the traditional colors. And then, for any of the little guys that you have left over you can also make little picks for wrapping presents, putting into little cakes. You can also use these on the Christmas tree by just wrapping this wire around the tree branch. These little toadstools make really sweet ornaments for your holiday tree. Again, you can use them as a package topper. If you wanna use them throughout the year, you can instead of putting an eye hook into them, make them a little bit bigger, create them into little fairy houses. These tiny toadstools are something that you can make all year round.

Day 20 - Mini Sewn Stocking

- Now that we're getting into the Christmas homestretch, a lot of people start thinking about stockings. And by people, I really mean the little people, like kids. But I'm an adult, and I love stockings too. So if you are hearing a lot around the house and maybe want to give some treats a few days ahead of time, I recommend these little, tiny stocking ornaments because they are so cute, and they're actually functional. You can actually fill them with fun things. So in order to make these, you are going to need a sewing machine. Though, of course, you could do this with needle and thread. It's just gonna take you a little bit longer. But otherwise, it's a real cinch to whip up. And if you like making things like doll clothes or tiny, little, fiddly things on a sewing machine, then you're gonna love doing this. Included in the PDF for this class is this little stocking template, which is gonna go on your colorful fabric, and this little squarish piece here, and that's gonna be for your white felt. This is a great way to use up precious little scraps of upholstery fabric. And here, I have a piece that is doubled. You could also turn this right sides together if you're more of a purist. But because these seams are gonna be hidden on the inside and nobody will ever see it, I'm gonna go ahead and chalk around my template on the right side of the fabric. So I'm not even pinning it in place, just holding it with my hand, going around the shape here. It's almost Christmas. We don't have time for following all of the rules. Right, guys? So your shape is traced, and let's go ahead and do this piece of white felt while we're at it. We need two of these. And I'm gonna go ahead and just use this corner here since it is available to me. Then I only have to chalk these two sides. And I love working with felt because you don't have to finish the edges. Go ahead and chalk this piece. I'm gonna go ahead and cut these out with my fabric shears. (fabric shears snipping) Two pieces there, and then going ahead and cutting this out right along the blue line. (fabric shears snipping) You can also do this with regular quilting cotton. It just won't be quite as sturdy, but it works just fine. (fabric

shears snipping) And once you've cut out your pieces, you're ready to sew. Before you start sewing, just line this up. Make sure that you have your white felt in the right spot so that it's matching up perfectly with the width of the stocking. Notice it's a little bit shorter if you go that way, so just keep that in mind. Go ahead and put some needles in there, so you don't forget. And now we're gonna turn these two right sides together, put a couple pins in to hold it in place, and we're ready to go to the sewing machine. So I'll go ahead and stitch this one up first. I'm gonna go ahead and sew this with a quarter-inch seam allowance. And for all of this, we're going to drop the needle down, and we're gonna backstitch first. (sewing machine whirring) And backstitch at the end. And then we're gonna do the same thing on the other side. Backstitch and go forward. (sewing machine whirring) And backstitch at the end. And your little stocking cuff is done. If your edges are a little bit uneven, don't worry about it. It can all be trimmed up later. But do make sure to remove your loose threads before moving on 'cause those can kinda get in the way. Okay, now set that one aside, and now you're gonna sew all the way around the edge of your stocking, again with a quarter-inch seam allowance and again backstitching at the beginning and end. (sewing machine whirring) Go nice and slow around this bend here. (sewing machine whirring) And then go really slow around the toe. Try to do it without pivoting for a nice, smooth curve. (sewing machine whirring) Now, when you get to this spot here, though, you do want to pivot. So stop right about here with your needle down, and then lift up your presser foot and turn. (sewing machine whirring) And then backstitch at the end. Okay. Your main sewing is done, just gonna trim these ends here. Fantastic. Remove your needle. And before you turn it right side out, trim a few little notches into the curved sections of the fabric, and this is just gonna make it lay much nicer, nice and curved when you open the stocking right side out. Maybe a couple here, right at this wonky little spot, and a couple more over here. Okay, we're ready to turn it right side out. It's a tiny, little stocking, so it's gonna take a minute. It's gonna feel crazy, but it'll happen. We're almost there! (whispering) Okay. You can kind of poke it out with your fingers. You might find it helpful to have a poking instrument on hand, like a pencil, can just get in there with the eraser and kinda jam out all the edges. Oh, it's looking so cute! Okay, now all it needs is a cuff. Attaching the cuff is actually the trickiest part, and I'm gonna go ahead and show you, on this finished one, how it comes together so that you can visualize this as you move forward. So this cuff actually is sewn with the cuff facing right side out. So I'm turning this cuff so that the seams are now on the inside, and then it is sewn to the top of the stocking, like this. So what you do is pop it onto here and pull your stocking all the way up to the top. And now you're just gonna kind of stretch it so that the seams line up right here at the top. So you have to feel your way a little bit, and a couple of pins might help you with your sanity. So just one there, let's put one more right on the other seam where they match up. And then to sew this, 'cause it's such a tiny, little hole, you can actually go in with a needle and thread, if this just seems like too crazy to do on a sewing machine. It would take you no time at all. But I'm gonna go ahead and show you how I do it on a sewing machine. All right, so if you are going to sew this on a sewing machine, go ahead and slide it in here, on the inside track. Now, your only job is just to pull this top part out of the way while you are sewing. So go ahead and put your needle down. Again, we're just sewing a quarter-inch from the edge. Do a little backstitch, and then slowly (sewing machine whirring) work your way around. It's gonna feel a little crazy, and that's okay. Make sure your pins don't get caught anywhere. (sewing machine whirring) As you get close to that one, take out your pin, one less pin to worry about. Make sure you don't sew through your finger too. That's important. (sewing machine whirring) And if you're doing this with kids, this might be a good moment for the adult to help out. (sewing machine whirring) Or again, hand-sewing is always fun. (sewing machine whirring) We are almost there!

(sewing machine whirring) We made it all the way around. Backstitch, whew, take a deep breath! The hard part is done! But now you may be wondering, how does this work? Well, first, I'm gonna trim my threads, and then I'm going to show you. All you need to do in order to hide this little seam is put your thumbs up under here and fold this down just a smidge, about a half an inch will do, and your seam is hidden inside of the stocking. Voila! Your stocking is complete. And, as you can see here, I've attached a little embroidery floss to the inside of the stocking, and this is so that you can hang it. So let's go ahead and attach a hanger, and then we're done. So just go right on the inside, wherever you can grab a nice little bit of fabric with your needle. Bring it through, and you're gonna tie a knot. This works great with embroidery floss or a pearl cotton, whatever you can find the needle and thread for. Don't overthink it, and just tie a little knot in the top. And you're ready to hang it on the tree. I love these little stockings. You can put 'em on the tree, fill them with little treats, like lipsticks or pencils or any little, skinny things you can think of, maybe a little wad of cash. They're a great little pre-Christmas treat.

Day 21 - Tiny Pretzels

- When I was shopping for chenille stems or pipe cleaners, I found these actual pipe cleaners that have bristles in them. They're a little bit sharp but they have these really cute little red flecks in them and I love the way they looked. And I'm often inspired by the materials and think about what I can make with them. So I'm gonna show you how to use a pipe cleaner to make a very tiny pretzel ornament. This is very simple and you can do it with any pipe cleaner. These are already about six inches long, which is half the width of a craft pipe cleaner. You're gonna loop them with a little bit of a cross, pull that down toward the U shape, and they're gonna use this to do one wrap around the bottom. And there's your pretzel. Try it again. Kinda loosely do it in half. Make these cross, have them come down toward the bottom. Do a single wrap with the tails on the bottom to make your pretzel. And I like how when you make a lot of them they're all a bit wonky. Look how cute these are. There's one with a regular glittery metallic pipe cleaner. Here's one with a regular cotton pipe cleaner. I just love the look with these little red flecks. They're so cute. You can also do this with Model Magic since we've been working with that all month. The process for that's a little different. You're gonna roll out a snake or a coil. Nice, if you can make it kind of even, so put it on the table to roll it out. This is about six inches. And this just kinda sticks to itself. Oop I feel like it needs to be a little bit longer there. It's okay, you can just roll it out. And there you go. You have a pretzel. You don't have to do anything. You just kinda press them together and let them dry. So after they dry, they look like this. And I actually just like them white, but you can do some paint. This is that metallic champagne paint I used earlier this month. There's a neon pink pretzel. And there's a little natural colored one using some ochre craft paint. And to attach them you can just use a bit of embroidery floss. For whatever reason, food items make really popular Christmas tree ornaments. There's already the tradition of hiding and finding a pickle on a Christmas tree. Why not use a pretzel instead? And this would be really cute combined with Liana's popcorn garland.

Day 22 - Paper Garland

- Paper chains are a classic tree decoration. I remember when I was little, we would make it out of construction paper, and I was so excited they let me use the stapler. But we're going to elevate the look by using a curated color palette and double-sided tape. I have strips cut to seven inches long and one inch wide. And each sheet will give you 11 strips, which will be about two feet. So plan accordingly. And I'll go ahead and pre-tape a couple of strips. And you don't want it wider than the

strip. That's about a thumb's width. And then you will make a loop. Make sure all the tape is covered and press down. It's as easy as that. I'm using a text weight paper, and I like to go one color at a time and repeat it, but you can pick randomly or swap out a pattern paper or a metallic.

Day 23 - Ribbon Candy

- We're almost at the end of our 25-day challenge and we're nearing Christmas. But there's room on the tree for a couple of more ornaments, right? And especially ones that are super duper easy and where you probably have all of the supplies already on hand. And that's why I love the ribbon ornament. So this is a classic ornament design. In fact, it's so classic that I have had this one kicking around since the mid '70s we'll say. I think my mom got this one at a boutique craft fair, probably around 1975, and it's been spray starched to within an inch of its life and is stiff as a board, but it's still going strong. And it even has some hot glue on the top that hasn't even yellowed at all. So that is testament to the longevity of hot glue, my friends. The one that we're gonna make today is not gonna have any spray starch. It's not gonna actually have any hot glue. So what you're gonna need is a nice big wide ribbon. This one is one and a half inches and then pair with a, this one is 7/8 inch wide ribbon, in a contrasting color. It could be any color you want. It's best if they're not the same color. It'd be more interesting looking any way. And just try to think of candy colors like this one over here I love. It's gotta peach and red on it. And this one would be maybe more of a limey flavor, I'm not sure. So you're going to need 16 1/2 inches of these. And if you don't have one of these skinny ribbons on hand, but you do have another fat one, you could just use two of those. Don't overthink it. So I've got my ruler here. We're just gonna measure out 16 1/2 inches. And we're gonna do the same thing with our other ribbon. I love these long transparent rulers. They come in so handy for all kinds of crafting. They're not just for quilters. Okay, so I'm gonna go ahead and cut my ribbon right where I marked it. Both of them. And then you are going to layer them, one right on top of the other. And look how conveniently this fits right within the stripe. Magic, it's like they knew you were going to be making ribbon candy. And I'm just gonna use a few pins to hold it in place while I'm marking things. It can be a little wiggly. And if your edges aren't exactly even, don't worry about it. You're gonna give it a trim at the end. So we're gonna go ahead now and mark every one and a half inch. I'm gonna go ahead and just line up here, get it a little bit closer to the center. And again, just one and a half, one and a half, and go like this all the way down. You want to aim for right in the middle of that ribbon, but you're not gonna actually see any of these chalk marks. And they'll wear off over time. It's right in the middle of my pin. So I'll just move that for now. And when you get to the end, you're gonna do, flip it over to do the same thing on the other side. Another fun trick if you don't want to do that is you can just stick a pin right through where you marked it, and chalk right where your pin comes out. Whatever feels easiest for you. Just want to do a quick check and make sure that you actually marked it correctly. And there I see my needle is coming right through where I marked it on the side, so I know I'm in good shape. I did my measuring correctly. So in order to get started, you're gonna want to grab some pearl cotton. This is embroidery cotton. It's a little thinner than an embroidery floss. It's just single strand. It makes it really easy to thread onto a needle. So I have a needle here with a wide eye. And it's a little bit of a fat needle. I have put a double knot in the end, and this strand is about a foot long. And then I'm working with some beads, and these beads are just plastic kids' beads. So what you want to look for, they could really be any size. They could be pearls, up to you. You just want to look for one that has a hole in it that is the right size so that your needle can go right through it easily, including through that eye there. Alright you're going to need 11 beads. And once you've gathered all of your supplies here, you're ready to start

assembling your ribbon. So I'm going to start at this end right here. You can really start on either end. And I'm going to start on what's going to be the end side. So this narrower end, and I'm just gonna push my needle through. And so this is now the bottom. And I'm going to go ahead and slide a bead onto my needle and I'm just gonna come right back in very close to where my needle came out and secure that bead to the bottom. And this little end here is gonna be caught right inside of the ribbon so you'll never even see it. Now grab another bead. And put it on your needle. And now you're gonna go up through the next hole, the next mark here. Pull gently. And now you have two beads and a nice loop, your first loop. So you're gonna just keep grabbing beads between every single time you put your needle back in. So now I'm looking for a mark on this blue side. And pull it tight. It feels a little fiddly at first as you're getting going, but once you kind of get in the hang of this, it gets easier and easier, and then you're done. Put another bead on. Next marking. I think you're starting to get the hang of this. I could bend this over and do that last hole. It's gonna be a little bit close to the edge. Or you could leave it like this and just trim it. I think I'm actually gonna do that. And you also can put a bead on the top or not. So you can see here I have one with the bead on top and one without. The technique is the same either way. If you're gonna put a bead on it, go ahead and just slide it on and then loop it back around. If you're not gonna put a bead on it, all you're gonna do is go back right in through where you came. But before you pull it all the way through, you're actually just gonna leave a loop in the top. That loop can be as long as you want your hanger to be. So you're gonna kind of pull your fingers apart to really cinch it down. And then you're gonna go around the top of this bead that's right in between and tie a little knot. And now it is locked in place forever, for at least 40 years. And that's it. You can make this longer or shorter, wider, thinner. You could switch the order so that the green stripe is on the outside rather than the inside. These make great gifts and they're gonna be such a cute addition to your tree.

Day 24 - Pinecone Ornaments

- It's Christmas Eve, everybody. Your tree is probably pretty full of ornaments at this point, but we thought you might have room for a couple more. This is an especially great project if you are down to very little supplies or if you have guests in town and you're trying to think of something to do with them to keep them busy but that doesn't require too much hand-holding. These pine cone star ornaments are so great. Plus, if you live anywhere near a pine tree, you could even go outside and collect your own pine cones. These ones, we did not go out and collect on our own. We bought them at a craft store. You can buy a whole bunch of them in a bag, but they work just great. They are the real deal. And the first thing you wanna do is just grab five pine cones that are very similar in size and shape. And you're gonna do all of this with a hot glue gun, so it really doesn't get any easier than that. So I've got my hot glue gun already heated up. And the first step is just to pick a nice, flat side where your pine cones are gonna connect. If you're not quite sure, you can always just butt them up against each other like this to see where a good connection spot is. That one looks good to me. Nice, little dab of hot glue there. And press your pine cone piece to it. You want enough to really grab, but not enough that you make a big mess. And it dries in just a few seconds and you're ready to move on to your next pine cone. So again, you're looking for those pieces where you can make a nice connection and really press them together. Nice dab of glue. And press your next pine cone into place. We're making a five-pointed star, so we're not going in a perfect line here. We're working our way around. And then for your last one, you have to be extra quick because you're gonna be doing two sides at once. But I know that you can handle it. That seems like the perfect little spot for that one. And do one right here, one right here. And press it into place. Really, hold

'em all together with your fingers for a good few seconds here. And you have an adorable star. How cute is that? Now, you could just leave it like this, or if you wanna dress things up and you happen to have some adorable little beads hanging around, you can grab one and snug it right in there. I love that green. So I'm just gonna add a little glue here and here just to all the different places it might be touching. And just pop it right into place. So cute. And then to hang it, you're just gonna grab a piece of your handy-dandy twine. You've probably used a lot of this at this point. Cut off about 10 or 12 inches. And you can probably just snake it right through your pine cones right here. And in these ones, I created a little knot right here and then I even put in another little bead up top, if you wanna be extra festive. Just tie one little knot as close as you can to where the pine cones are. And you have instant ornament. How's that for a really fast Christmas Eve craft?

Day 25 - Paper Feather Tree Topper

- Hi everyone, Christmas is finally here, and in some family traditions, today is the day that you might put the tree topper on. It's the last thing to go on the tree after the whole tree is filled with ornaments. Hopefully you're surrounded by friends and family, there are presents under the tree, your bellies are full of delicious food, and maybe you have a mug of cocoa next to you. And I never top my tree with a traditional topper like a star or an angel. I always like to make something a little bit different. So I'm gonna take my love of making paper flowers and do a glammy holiday version that you can also make for your tree. You'll need a bit of paper. You can use scrapbook paper, text weight paper, any kind of paper that you have. I've curated it to my favorite little color collection, some metallics, a neon pink, a pale metallic gold, and this is vintage construction paper that's been lying around. You wanna cut your paper in about half and then you can fold this in half. And you're basically making leaves or feather shapes. Just freehand cut this. You can also use this technique for making a wreath. These guys are kinda fat, more like a leaf shape. I want it more of a feather shape, so gonna trim 'em down just a bit. That looks good. You're gonna wanna cut all of these to begin with, and if you wanna give some of them a little bit of metallic flair, then you'll need a scratch piece of paper, your favorite metallic paint. You have heard me say numerous times this month that this Metallic DecoArt Champagne is my favorite. And I'm just gonna do the tips of the feathers. I like to do the front and the back. I'm even too lazy to get a palette out because let's be real, it's Christmas day, and we're doing quick crafts at this point. You wanna set this aside to dry, and I have one that's already dry. And then if you're just using your regular metallics, those don't need to be painted. I don't know if this is because I'm right-handed, but I like to have the fold of the feather on my left side and the bottom, this'll be the bottom of the feather, at the top here. And you wanna cut in, leaving about 1/4 to 1/2 an inch. You don't wanna go all the way to that center. And you want to paint and cut all of your feathers so that when you're ready to assemble your tree topper, you're ready to go. Got those, we'll do one green one just so you can see it also. I didn't paint this guy, but you could. And you can see why you need to paint it before you cut it because it would be very tricky to paint this once it has all these little tiny bits of fringe. All right that's enough for me to show you how to put this together. I like to use floral wire for this. You can use pipe cleaners, but the floral wire is a little bit sturdier. You don't need these full lengths. I like to cut mine in about six-inch lengths. Can use wire cutters for this if you're working with a really thick wire. And I like to use hot glue so that this will really stand up. Use a little bit of hot glue. Sandwich that and then just kind of pinch this. It sets up really quickly. You could use tacky glue, but you will have to wait and you will have to keep pressing these bits together until the glue sets, which takes a little bit longer. Do this last one. Take your three feathers and I usually just twist one around the other two. And you're

gonna make little groupings of three or four feathers. And then you can attach them to a hardier single stem like this just by wrapping this whole little packet around a central stem. Or you can just keep continuing to add the bundles together until you flush out something that's as big and glammy as you feel fits your tree. You can cover this with floral tape. I've even seen metallic gold floral tape, but because it's gonna go into the tree, I actually like to leave it green. People often put a tree topper that lights up, and I think the metallic and the shimmery paint that we've added to this plus the featheriness and the quality of this tree topper gets the job done just fine. You're just gonna shimmy this into the top of your tree for a stellar topper. We've had so much fun crafting with you all year long and especially in this season. We hope that you've enjoyed crafting along with us and today that you're spending your time with friends and family.