Cricut Crafts: Phases of the Moon Wall Hanging with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Phases of the Moon Wall Hanging

Overview

(gentle electronic music) - Hi, I'm Courtney. I'm an author and artist here at Creativebug, and I really like taking inspiration from nature. The moon provides a lot of inspiration. It can be very mysterious and also very graphic. I love that it's something that you can see mostly at night and sometimes in the middle of the day, and we're gonna use that as inspiration for our Phases of the Moon wall hanging. This is something that's gonna be great cut on the Cricut machine because it's gonna give you some accuracy for these cuts. We'll be working with a faux leather, some embroidery floss that has a bit of metallic sparkle to it. I'll show you a marbling technique that's really easy to do with nail polish. This comes together quickly. This project is easily customizable with color choices so that you can make it for any room in your house.

Materials

- We're gonna be creating this project on the Cricut Maker but you could also use the Cricut Explore. You can make this project out of almost any kind of material but I really like the look of the faux leather so we will be working with pebbled faux leather made by Cricut. I have champagne and caramel colors here. I also like the silver. It often comes on a roll like this but I've cut these sheets down to 12 x 12. We'll be assembling everything with glue. I like to use tacky glue. I have a small dish and two glue brushes. I also have wax paper to keep my table clean. Because we're gonna be marbling you're gonna need a really large bowl. This needs to be dedicated for crafting, so not something that you're gonna cook or eat out of later. And you're gonna want to fill it with water. You'll also need a pair of scissors. We'll be stringing together our phases of the moon with embroidery floss. I like this because they have a bit of sparkle and I think it lends itself to the project nicely but you can work with any embroidery floss you have. We'll be doing our actual marbling with two different colors of nail polish. You can use any brand and actually any color that you like. Do something with a little bit of contrast to your faux leather. So I've got a black and metallic blue. We also need some paper towels for blotting your project dry. And of course, to access design space you'll need your preferred device.

Cut faux leather

- We're gonna begin by cutting all of our components. Because I designed this project, it already shows up in my projects on Design Space. For you, you're gonna follow the link in the materials section. When it opens, you'll have two options. Customize it or make it. Let's click on customize it just so I can walk you through what it looks like on the canvas. So here are all of our components. You can see the full moon here, as well as all of our various phases of the room. Everything is just one single cut, one single color because we're gonna do a front side and a back side, we're actually gonna cut this twice, but I didn't want to make two separate mats. We're just gonna use the same mat and I'll show you how to change out the color of your leather between cuts. So this is what it looks like. We're just gonna go ahead and click make it. When you open the project, you'll go straight to the make it button. You can see that the Cricut organizes all the cuts for the most efficient cut. We're only gonna use only slightly over half of our 12 by 12. If you were working with a smaller scrap of leather, you could absolutely do that. Just make sure that wherever the Cricut says

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it's going to cut it, you have at least coverage for that space. This looks good, so we'll click continue. It's gonna connect to my machine. I'm using a Maker, but you could, of course, use an Explore for this project. Now we have the opportunity to set our material. You can see that the most popular materials are already preloaded. If you wanted to look for more materials, you could browse all materials. We're just gonna use the faux leather setting. And you can see that it says make sure that mirror is turned on and faux leather material is face or shiny side down on the mat. I actually have cut this both ways and not used the mirror setting, so you can do whatever is preferable. If you want to put on the mirror setting, you can click edit here, toggle this mirror button, and hit done. Because all of this is symmetrical, and we have phases of the moon that go to the left of the full moon and to the right of the full moon, making it mirrored is just exactly the same, but it's a good habit to set up if you're new to the machine, so why don't we go ahead and cut it as it suggests. It also tells us what tools to use. It says to load the fine-point blade, and we've got that already in the machine. I'm gonna be working on the fabric grip mat as well because I find that that works well for holding the faux leather down. All right, from here, our machine is gonna tell us to load the mat by this flashing arrow button. Let's do as the Cricut Design Space recommends and place our faux leather face down or shiny side down on the fabric grip map. Just line it up here. You can see, I'm working with a well-used mat so I'm just being extra cautious about pressing it down. Feed your mat under these little guides and then go ahead and press the flashing arrow. Now our machine will tell us it's time to cut with a flashing C button, so we'll go ahead and press that. Once the machine is done cutting, you'll see the flashing arrow button up here again and you can unload the mat by pressing it. Now we'll peel away our faux leather, which is so satisfying. You can save this for another project. I'm gonna remove all these pieces because we're gonna cut this again in a different color of faux leather. You can see that they're a little bit curved because this leather was originally on a roll. That's fine, it's gonna flatten out once we glue it all together. If you look at Design Space, it's gonna say that you've finished this project and you can click on finish, but because we're gonna do this one more time so that we can have a front and back to our mobile, we're just gonna cut it again. So take your new color of faux leather, I'm working with a champagne in this case, place it face down on your Cricut mat and we're just gonna go through the steps again to cut a second set of phases. Place your mat under the guides and press the load and unload button. And then you don't actually have to do anything in Design Space, it will catch up. You can just go to the machine and press the flashing C button. Press the flashing arrow button to unload your mat. And just like we did before, we'll peel away our leather. Can see how clean those cuts are. You could, of course, cut this in card stock or play with other materials. Once you have all of your components cut, we'll move onto assembly.

Assemble wall hanging

- I find it easier to assemble everything and then do marbling as our last step. You'll see that I have my phases of the moon set up with all one color in this top layer and all one color in this bottom layer. I've got wax paper laid down because I'm going to be gluing. I've got tacky glue poured in this little dish and a glue brush. Because you're working with glue you don't want a nice brush just whatever brush feels comfortable for applying glue. I'm going to start by flipping this whole layer over because this is where we're going to be applying the glue. Now I've set this up in a more artistic interpretation of the phases of the moon so that everything looks really clean, but it's still correct as far as the amounts of moon showing. I think I'll go with a pink and I want to determine my length of thread. I like this spacing but I also want to leave a little bit at each end for a tie to give me

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some options for hanging. So I probably want maybe a yard and a half to two yards of this. I'll just double up the last three or four inches and do an overhand knot over my finger. This is not a heavy project so it doesn't have to be super sturdy, that single knot will hold very nicely. And then if you find that this is too long you can always cut it and re-tie the ends. So once you've tied your ends, put those together and find the center because this is where we're going to be gluing the beginning of our moon so I like to just have this determined right away. I don't want to tie a knot or anything because that could potentially show when everything gets glued together, so I just know that that is my center. Now we'll start gluing. I'm working with the glue brush, remember don't use anything precious or fancy, I'm working on wax paper so that I can go right to the edge. The back of the faux felt is a little bit absorbent so if you feel like you need to add a little bit more glue you can. Also have a paper towel nearby for my fingers when they get too gluey. Try not to transfer any glue to the front of the project although we're going to be marbling it so it's fine if a little bit of glue gets on stuff. All right so this was my center, we're going to just eyeball the center of this and then I like to add a little bit of glue right on top of the embroidery floss. Good, and then I'll place this, line it up as best we can, they're exactly the same size. And then just press down evenly with your fingers use firm pressure. Good, continue gluing all of your components in exactly the same way. If you feel like things are popping up add a little bit more glue, once everything is attached and really make sure that those edges are attached because when we go to marble these we're going to be dipping them in water. Everything is glued up go ahead and remove your wax paper and you can lay a heavy book over this for even as little as five or ten minutes to make sure everything is nice and flat before we move on to marbling.

Marbling

- Let's see how our wall hanging is doing. Move this giant dictionary. Oh, yeah, it's looking flat. If it curves up a little bit, that's totally fine. You're gonna get it wet. It might do a little bit more curling and then once it dries, it'll be good. So, happy with that. It's gonna look like this. You can hang it vertically or horizontally. It's gonna look even more fabulous once we marble it. So, grab your big bowl of water. And I'm using just two colors of nail polish. You could add more if you want. You can play with different color combinations. You don't have to use these colors. This happens to be licorice and Aruba blue. Now, this process does go quickly. So, what I like to do is just take off the top and set that aside on my wax paper, because I'm gonna be dripping nail polish into the bowl of water, straight from the bottle. And this is a technique from my book Playing With Surface Design. And I do it on also faux leather shoes. You can also do it on wood and other types of surfaces. So, we're gonna drop in each of the colors. You'll see some marbling occur, and then we're gonna dip our whole Phases of the Moon hanging right into here. You could stir it with like a skewer or something, but I find that then it tends to stick to the wood. Once it dissipates like that, we're ready to go. So, straight into the water. You can kind of dance it around. Pull it out. I have a tangle, but that's fine. Put it on your wax paper. Re-cap your nail polish. Now, you can clear the bowl of any residue with just a bit of paper towel, or you could try marbling something else if you work quickly enough. Remember this is a bowl only for crafting. If you wanted to dump out all of the water and clean it up with nail polish remover, you could. All right. And now we're just gonna use paper towels to gently pat off the water. If you have any big thick pieces of nail polish, then you're gonna want to pat those flat and dry. And you might have some sticking to the wax paper, and that's fine, too. You want to do both sides. If, by chance, part of your mobile starts to separate, don't worry, just re-glue it. It's not a problem. So, I can see that this larger moon has come off my string. I probably just got it

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too wet. If we look in here, the glue has separated a bit. I'm gonna want this to dry just a little bit. Doesn't have to be fully dry, because the glue is wet. The rest of the mobile looks pretty good. I'm not worried about it. Everything is staying in place. So, we'll re-glue this. No worries, you didn't ruin anything or hurt anything. It's okay if your pieces are still a bit damp, you just don't want them to be sopping wet. The glue is wet, anyway. I can still feel that it's sticky, it's just really absorbed. And I may just not have applied enough glue on my first pass. So, perfectly centered in this line here. There you go. And we'll just re-apply. I love how the marble looks on the faux leather. The marbling part is the part you cannot control. And so you get some really interesting and really pretty effects. I'm just pressing down with a paper towel, because now I'm doing double duty of just cleaning up any glue, and also patting this dry. Let's take a look at both sides. I love how the marbling looks on the faux leather. It's the part that you can't control, and so it's really beautiful and surprising to see how it lays down. I designed this to have two different colors, so that if you are hanging this in like a doorway or a window, that you kind of get a different effect on each side, and then the marbling adds some extra texture. Now, if you had to re-glue any components, like I did for my center moon, you'll want to go ahead and put this under weights again for maybe another 10 or 15 minutes. Make sure everything is patted off and dry. You might see a little bit of nail polish come off just in that early phase where there is still water on the moon itself, but then after that, it will be permanent. I have another variation to show you. This is one entirely made out of cardstock on one side, and adhesive glitter vinyl on the other side. Those are both Cricket products that you can get from their website. And in this variation, I did the phases of the moon cut once instead of twice, and then I created a new canvas that just had the full moon, and I made seven of those. So, there's one on the back of each, and then you could write what the phase is, if you want something a little more educational, as opposed to decorative for your house. So, this is a fun way to learn the phases of the moon, I just wrote the phase on the back with a white Gelly Roll pen. And I thought this was pretty to use the glitter with just the black cardstock. So it gives you just a really different look, but we're still using the same templates. I love working with the faux leather and the marbling technique for a slightly more sophisticated piece of home decor, and then using something like the paper and the vinyl for something a bit more educational.

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