
Make Celebration Garlands with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Make Celebration Garlands

Overview

- Make every day feel like a celebration with garlands. What I love most about garlands is you can basically make them out of almost anything, and they instantly add color, levity, and festivity to any space. I'm Twinkie Chan from the Creative Bug team, and I'm gonna show you how to make three different styles of garlands. A cheerful pompom garland that's a great craft for kids. A beautiful crepe paper leaf garland that is a fun introduction to floral design and basic paper flower construction. And for my fellow crocheters, a crocheted popcorn garland that you can use year after year. These projects require a range of time commitments from putting together one really quickly, half an hour before your party, to a little bit longer than that. So gather up your materials, pool together supplies with your friends, and throw a crafting party to make your celebration garlands together. Ooh, what a good girl. (light upbeat music) Baby.

Pompom garland

- Pompoms always remind me of gigantic cupcake sprinkles, so making a pompom garland is an opportunity to adorn your entire home in happy sprinkles. Let's go over the materials you'll need to make one garland. A bunch of pompoms in various sizes. You can pick your favorite color scheme. You can go more neutral, but I like rainbow colors, and I also love mixing in sparkly pompoms. I wouldn't go much smaller than this. This looks to be maybe about 3/4 of an inch, and this is maybe like two inches. You don't want super big or super, super tiny, but you want some, a little bit of variation. You'll also need paper straws. If you have 10 of them, that's a really good start for one garland. Again, whatever colors you choose are fine. You'll also need a needle. This needle needs to have a pointy tip. So if you're a fiber artist, and you have a lot of blunt-tipped needles for your yarn, you're going to need to get one that's pointy because it needs to be able to pierce the pompom, and you need to make sure that the eye is large enough to accommodate for whatever string that you're using. I really like bakery twine. You're ultimately not going to be able to see this, so it doesn't matter what it looks like, but I really like the weight of this. It's thin enough to pass through a pompom, but thick enough to make your garland sturdy. I would probably avoid sewing thread because that will snap very easily. You'll also need a pair of scissors, and I recommend you cutting out a cardboard panel. This is for storing your garland later because they do tangle very easily, plus a little bit of tape. And finally, if you want, you can have a couple extra bowls to put all of your supplies in. We're gonna ultimately cut up our straws, and I like to wrangle them in here. Let's start with cutting up those straws. These are a fun way to kind of create your own little colorful beads, and whatever length you cut is totally up to you. You can have super long pieces or super short pieces. What I end up liking is about an inch long piece. So I try to chop this up into six approximately. So I'll cut this in half, and I usually do two at a time. You can do one or three, or whatever you feel comfortable with. Chop it in half, and then chop this into thirds. You can measure out if you want, but if these aren't exactly the same length, it's totally no big deal. So keep doing this with all of your straws, and again, 10 straws is a pretty good place to start. (straws clinking) After you've chopped up all your straws, we can prep our string. I like to cut a length of string rather than just putting pompoms on here, and then cutting later. So again, the length of this is totally up to you. I generally like to do about three arm lengths of string. (string rustling) Cut. And with one

end, make a loop. This is just to hang your garland later, and then tie a knot to keep that loop, and how big this loop is totally doesn't matter. Usually you'd probably be hanging this on a thumbtack or something small, but it's good to have it a little bit big, so it's easy to see and easy to get your fingers into. And then with the other end, you can thread your needle, and now is where the really fun part starts. You're going to alternate pompoms with your paper straw beads, and I like to start with a pompom. Because of that knot that we made on the other end, the pompom won't slide off that knot, whereas the straw will, so you can see how that locks right in there. Then, we'll use a paper straw, and the paper straws not only look really fun, but it allows you to use fewer pompoms, so it can be a little bit less expensive to make, and you can do two pompoms and then one straw, or you can do two straws and three pompoms. You can mix it up however you like. I just kinda like to do one pompom and one straw. You just keep going down the line here until you have about eight to 10 inches of string left on this end. You can see this is super easy. It goes pretty quickly, and that's why this can be a fun project for kids as well, who are old enough to hold a sharp needle. The only thing I would have you keep an eye out for is don't push down the pompoms too tightly together. What can happen is if you do that, you'll start you making the straws crinkle up and go askew. So you want to push everything down to get them lined up, but don't be too overzealous about squishing them tightly. They can be kind of a little bit loose. Here at the end, I have a little bit of string left. You wanna give yourself enough string, so that you can tie another loop, and you definitely, again, want to end with a pompom the way that you started with a pompom. Take your needle off, make another loop, and tie a knot. You can trim that tail if you want. Your garland is finished and ready to hang, and just even holding it right now, I feel like my own birthday cake. If you're not going to hang this right away, do not toss this in a box. These tangle very easily, and I know that from experience. So this is where your cardboard panel comes in. Take one end and find your string loop. We're gonna secure that with some tape. Would probably not use washi tape. This is like mini gaffe tape, which is a little stickier than washi. Washi will probably peel right off this cardboard. So you can use Scotch tape or masking tape, whatever you have around the house, and then just wind your garland around this panel. It's not difficult or complicated, but it really helps in taming the garland, and then you can throw this panel in a box for storage. (garland rustling) I'll just tape down the other side, and these will be ready for you, nice and organized, for your next celebration.

Paper leaf garland

- These crepe paper leaf garlands are really elegant. And if you enjoy botanicals, you'll be so delighted by seeing these around your home. Plus, you're gonna get tons of practice working with floral tape. You'll need crepe paper. One pack is usually enough for one garland. That's about 10 square feet of crepe paper, whatever color that you like. You'll also need floral stem wire. I suggest you get wire that's at least 16 inches long. You'll usually find 16 to 18 inches. Don't go any shorter than that. If you're wondering about gauge, this at the big box craft store was just this skinnier gauge of green floral stem wire, but it's probably about 20 to 22 gauge. Wire cutters are a good idea. You want some floral tape, a pair of scissors. I recommend using a glue pen. I'm showing you two different kinds here. You only need one. I prefer this Scotch one, which is clear. It comes outta the tube really easily, but it can be difficult to see your line of glue. So if you're worried about that, you can use this Tacky Glue pen. It's a little bit harder to squeeze the glue out, but you can definitely see your glue line. And these are both meant for paper crafts. A ruler is a good idea. You'll also want parchment paper or a silicone mat to protect your work surface. And also your project

won't stick to the parchment or silicone. Optionally, if you want to throw some florals or decorations into your garland, you can collect a bunch of faux flowers or even make paper flowers. Or for the holidays, you can use small ornaments. The first step is cutting out our paper leaf shapes. So grab your scissors and your crepe paper. And this metallic gold has a right side and a wrong side. If you grabbed a less metallic color like green, both sides will probably look the same. And you can cut this any way you like. If you have a cutting machine like a Silhouette or a Cricut, you can certainly use that. I think it's fun to cut them by hand. And I don't mind if they're all slightly different shapes or sizes. And I'm gonna do a really basic leaf shape, but if you wanna do something more mapley, or I don't know, you know, a little more abstract, you can do that too. And what we'll do is make a couple folds in the paper. This kind of has like a default fold from being in its packaging, so it's kind of resisting my fold. But you wanna determine about how wide you want your leaves. If you wanted to measure it, you could. I usually just eyeball it. This is about two inches. And you can make as many folds as you feel comfortable cutting through these layers. So if you only wanna cut one layer at a time, don't make any folds. But I tend to cut maybe four layers at a time. That's what I'm comfortable with. So just trim off your crepe paper. And I'll usually determine where I wanna have my cut and just let that unfurl. It doesn't wanna stay folded. It's a little fussy in that way, but we'll refold it again in a second. I'll trim this off. And if you want, you can even refold it sort of in half and then in half again, which ends up a little bit wider than original, but that's fine. And then you can just go in there and start cutting your leaf shapes. If you want to draw with a pencil first, you can do that. But I just dig right in with my scissors and kind of imagine a basic leaf shape. So I'll start from the center down here at the bottom, curve out, curve back in, and then do the same thing on the other side. Super simple. And if you need to trim these up later, you can always do that. These already look really fun. You just keep doing that down in a strip. If you're curious how many leaves it takes to make one garland, that's a tough question to answer because it depends on the look you're going for. You might want a really dense and bushy garland. You'll need way more leaves. You might wanna maybe more sparsely-packed garland. I usually end up using about 60 to 80 leaves in my garlands. And again, if there's a little variation here, there are so many leaves in general, no one's gonna know if they're slightly different. And you can either cut really tiny leaves out of this end piece here, or you can just save it for something else. I might cut a tiny leaf, maybe we'll use that. So this is not enough for one garland. So you wanna keep folding your crepe paper and cutting more out. Now let's prep our stem wire. So you only need your wire cutters. Pick up one stem. Let's use our leaf to measure out how much wire we want. You want your wire to run from the tip to the end of your leaf. And then we'll measure out maybe about four inches of wire after that, so grab your ruler. This can be approximate, so it's about here. And then you can trim your wire there. And I'm looking at my wire and that's, you know, a little less than half. But if I trim all my wires in half, that's a pretty good length. So now that you've measured out what you need, I'm just gonna eyeball cutting all the rest of my wire in half. I get really antsy if I do one part of a craft at a time for a long time. So I'll usually do a couple of these and then move on to the next step and then kind of start the cycle over. But if you wanna cut an entire packet or entire two packets of wire right now, you can do that as well. I'm gonna stop there. I'm going to wrap all of my trimmed wires in floral tape because I want my stems to match my gold leaves. If you're fine with the color of your stem wire, you can skip this wrapping step. But also, if you happen to buy stem wire that's not wrapped in anything and is just plain metal, you'll definitely wanna wrap that because any wrapping on the wire will help it adhere to the leaf more easily. So put your stem in your non-dominant hand. For me, that's my left hand. And hold the floral tape in your right hand. And if you've never used floral tape

before, it's gonna feel a little bit tacky. It's a little bit waxy so that it sticks to itself. And how you activate that wax is by gently stretching the tape. And you're gonna feel that get a little bit stickier. And also the warmth from your hands will help make that wax a little bit tackier as well. So as you're wrapping, you're also gonna wanna think about slightly stretching this out as sort of two things that you have to do at the same time. So it can be a little tricky in the beginning, but again, you're gonna be wrapping so many of these wires. You're gonna get a lot of practice. And you can either hold this tape in your hand or leave it on the table. And I usually like to leave it on the table 'cause this feels a bit big to me. So what you wanna do is hold the floral tape at an angle, a 45-degree angle toward the direction of the stem going down this way. If you wrap perpendicularly, you're just gonna wrap the tape around in the same spot. And we wanna travel down the stem. And starting it can be a little tricky, so just use the warmth from your hands to sort of warm that up and start rolling. And then remember, keep the tape at an angle and kind of pull on it a little bit to activate that wax and twist and pull. I'm twisting with my left hand and pulling with my right hand. And when you get good at this, you can wrap these really quickly. But if you're just starting out, you can go slowly as well. So just go all the way down here, kinda smoothing this out with the warmth of your fingers. And you do want one of these ends to look a little bit nice. Like this end, I kind of have some green sticking out. That's okay, one of these ends is gonna be hidden in the garland, but one of the ends will also be visible at the back of the leaf. So I kind of take a look and see, I have a little bit of paper sticking out beyond my wire, which I like. And I'm gonna snip the tape here, kind of fold this down like you're making a little tag there. And then use your fingers to roll this all up. And with this particular tape, there is a right side and the wrong side, and I try to avoid having that white backing show. But if this is any other non-metallic tape, it'll be the same color on both sides and it'll be a lot less finicky. Go ahead and wrap all your wires in tape. The next step is gluing all of our wrap stems to our leaves. So make sure you put down your parchment paper or your silicone mat to protect your surface. And take a look, if you need to trim anything, this would be a good time to do that. And since my metallic paper has a right side and a wrong side, I'm gonna make sure the wrong side is facing me 'cause that's where we're gonna glue the stem. Grab your stem. And there's some eyeballing we're about to do here. So put the stem at the tip of your leaf, and you can put your fingers where the end of the leaf is 'cause this is how much we're gonna have to glue. So I'll just kind of eyeball that. This is the area we're gonna glue. Grab your glue pen. If there are any dried bits of glue, I always make sure to pick those off. And then put a thin line of glue down this length that we just measured. And again, if this is tough for you to see, you might wanna switch to a tacky glue, which is white. And the way that I am able to keep my eyes on where the glue is, is I kind of rotate the stem around. And I can see at a certain angle the thickness of the glue, which I think is easier than just looking at it straight on. So with the glue side down, I'm gonna adhere the stem to the leaf. And this gets tacky pretty quickly, but I like to make sure that my wire is making good contact with the paper. So kind of squish that on there for a couple seconds, really only like 10 seconds or so. And then you can put this aside to dry. I would give that a good half hour to dry because we're going to be manipulating it quite a bit. So just start making rows and rows of your glued stems and leaves. I have some already glued. And one thing I'll show you is you might be concerned that there might be some folding as the moisture of the glue hit the paper. But since we wired these, I think it's really cool if you just kind of flatten the wire out and the leaf with your finger. You can work out any folds in the leaf in that way. And there are no more folds here. So prep a bunch of these. And then we'll connect them all together into our garland. Grab your floral tape. For this part, I like to cut off a section of tape, and you'll see why. I will grab my first leaf. I'm gonna squish it out a little bit, and

then grab your second leaf. You can kind of decide how closely you want these to be attached. I kind of go in one-inch increments, and you can play around with that. So I'm imagining not only are these being attached together, but also I want to kind of shift all the leaves as I add them kind of further and further down. And then start wrapping an inch away from the bottom of that second leaf. And you've had a lot of practice wrapping by now, but we do have to connect these with a slightly different technique. Because if you spin around the wire in your left hand, you're gonna end up spinning an entire garland, and that's gonna get really unwieldy. So for this part of the assembly, we're gonna wrap the tape around the wire. So remember to stretch it, place it at a 45-degree angle and start wrapping and pinching, stretching, wrapping, pinching. And again, I try to do this for maybe about an inch. Let's take a look. And as I go, I do arrange these as well, so I can see how I want to arrange my next one. So remember, this is paper, it is fragile. I'll usually use a finger here to protect that join as I pry this away and kind of see how this placement starts to look. You can see this space is not quite an inch. I might wrap a little bit more. But again, you can play with how much wrapping and how much distance you wanna put between your leaves. Definitely the closer they are, the more leaves you're gonna have to make. So that might come into your decision making as well. This is also looking a little foldy. Gonna squish this out. And imagining this one might be going on the other side here on the left. Remember to give your stem maybe about an inch to poke out above the beginning of the tape and start wrapping. We're stretching, wrapping at that 45-degree angle. Then I'm going to angle this out and take a look. You're just repeating this step all the way down your garland. I might have this one on top here, kind of slightly angled to the left. But all this arrangement is really up to your aesthetic and what you want your leaves to look like. You can go for a lot of symmetry or you can make it look a little bit more wild. It's all up to you. And also, as you're thinking about your garland design, if you want to add things like florals, you can wire them in. I won't actually wire mine in because I want my garland just to be all leaves. But let's say you wanted to throw a flower in here. I am gonna trim off. Nope, I think I can just pull this off. Yep, take off some of those leaves 'cause we're making our own fabulous leaves. And you can either wrap this wire in gold, or you can just start wrapping it right into your garlands like that. And it can be very beautiful. If you are creating a holiday garland, you can get these little one-inch non-shattering ornaments. And these are fun to play with as well. I would take off this hanging loop. And then slip this onto the wire of my leaf, and then add that in. That can be a fun hanging element. So make some design decisions, and then keep wrapping up your leaf garlands. And as you run outta tape, you can simply just keep wrapping it too, oops. Some of this tape you can tear. I always find that I have to cut it. But let's just say you ran outta tape. You can just use the warmth of your fingers to smush that end in and then add on a new piece of tape as you did before. Here's my leaf garland almost finished, and I'm gonna show you how to wrap up the end. At the end of mine, I actually don't have a lot of wires sticking out. It looks like you only have two ends left. Sometimes when you finish these, you might have four wires sticking out here. So how you finish this is really up to you. I could just keep wrapping this up and closing the short piece of wire. But if you want to trim the end, that's an option too. If you have, you know, four, five wires here. So you just need your wire cutter, really easy. And then just keep wrapping this. And at the end you might wanna stop your angle, kind of pinch up that little bottom portion, and then just do a perpendicular wrap to finish off the end. Remember, use your squishing and the warmth of your hands to really squish that tape in. And you're finished. These look especially beautiful on top of a table as a runner or over the top of your mantle piece. I'm gonna show you another colorway that I made. I have a green one here. And the color of the crepe paper, the stem wire, and the floral tape were all the same color. So I was able to

skip the step of wrapping the stem wire in floral tape. This is just the wire right out of the package. The other thing you can do is, if you don't have the time or the inclination to make an entire garland, you can make fun little gift choppers. And here's a green one with some ornaments. Here's gold with some fun florals. And if you like to watercolor or paint or play with markers, you can make your own papers and then cut leaves out of those. Whatever you decide to do, you'll definitely make a beautiful piece of home decor.

Crochet popcorn garland

- The crocheted popcorn garland brings me tons of nostalgic feelings, not because I have memories of making real popcorn garlands as a child, but when I got my very first Christmas tree as a grownup, I decided I wanted all my decorations to either be handmade or vintage. And I loved those plastic retro popcorn garlands from like the '60s and they were really expensive to buy on eBay at the time, so I decided to crochet them myself. You'll need some worsted weight yarn. I believe this is Karen one pound in Cream. I'll be using an eye hook or a 5.5 millimeter crochet hook, a tapestry needle, a pair of scissors, and optionally, you can use some clear, thin fishing line. To begin, give yourself a little bit of a yarn tail. This is a garland, which you'll probably hang, so you wanna leave some room to potentially make a hanging loop. But we'll deal with that after the garland is finished. And put a slip knot on your hook. Start with chain two, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through one. And round one of this little popcorn, you'll skip the first chain and then work six single crochets into that second chain. Insert your hook into that chain, yarn over and pull through one loop, then yarn over and pull through the second loop. That's one single crochet. There's number two. Three. Four. Five. And six. You don't need to join your round here, so you can continue round two by working your next stitch and the first stitch from round one. And we're going to work two single crochets in all six of these stitches. Here's my first single crochet, and in the same stitch, the second one. So there will be a total of 12 stitches for round two. Three and four. Five and six. Seven and eight. Nine and 10. 11 and 12. At the end of round two, here are my 12 single crochet stitches. And now, for round three, we're gonna start decreasing. So the increases created this flat circle and the decreases will start forming a ball. And in this round, we're gonna let the wrong side of our work start facing the outside of this ball. I find that in a small project, it's just easier for the wrong side to be on the outside. It just makes it easier to hold the project. So for the single crochet decrease, it's actually an invisible decrease. You're going to work in the back loop of the first stitch. So instead of working in two loops, you're just gonna stick your hook in the loop in the back and then stick your hook in that same back loop in the next stitch. Yarn over and pull through two loops, yarn over and pull through two loops. So you created one new single crochet from two single crochets in the previous stitch. That forms your decrease. So we'll do that five more times. Back loop only, back loop only, yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through two. Here's my third decrease. Fourth. Fifth. And sixth. It's a good idea to make sure that you have six stitches right now at the end of round three. So one, two, three, four, five, six. And then we're gonna join round three, which means we work a slip stitch into the next stitch. So insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over and pull through all the loops on your hook. But don't do this too tightly because we will need to work into that slip stitch later. I guess like for the popcorn, there's like a main body of the popcorn and then you have these sort of little offshoot nuggets on the other side. So we're gonna work on the nuggety part. This is done, it's actually also called a popcorn stitch. So we're making our popcorns with popcorn stitches, which is very logical. We're going to work a four half double crochet popcorn stitch. And it's actually a reverse one since the popcorn will be popping out

into the wrong side of our work. Work four half double crochets into this next stitch. So to do that, we'll yarn over, insert our hook into the next stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook, and work three more half double crochets into the same stitch. So yarn over, insert the hook into the same stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three. And work two more in that same stitch. Then you'll remove your hook from that loop of yarn. You can pull out the yarn a little bit. Just so you know, you're not going to undo any of your stitches. And then count back to the first half double crochet of that cluster. One, two, three, four. Insert your hook from back to front, put this loop back on your hook, and pull it through. And see how it creates a little bump on the back of your work. And then slip stitch to the next stitch. We're gonna make two more popcorns. So in the next stitch, work our four half double crochets, one, two, three, four, take the hook out, count back four, one, two, three, four, insert from back to front, put the loop back on the hook and pull it through. Slip stitch into the next stitch. One more time. Four half double crochets into the next stitch, three, four, remove the hook, insert it back to front, and pull that through. And then slip stitch to the next stitch. You've completed one very cute, squishy crocheted popcorn. To continue to the next popcorn, You can chain four. One, two, three, four. And you can play with how many chains you want in between each popcorn. This just creates some distance from one popcorn to the next. And you can have them really far apart or really close together. That's totally up to you. And you would start the next popcorn in the exact same way. Skip the first chain from your hook and then work six single crochets into that second chain. Five and then six. And this might be a little awkward if you're not used to the feeling. You kind of let the first popcorn drop behind the second one and then hold onto your current popcorn again to continue to round two. And round two is two single crochets in each stitch. That's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12. And then your single crochet decreases in the back loop only. There's one. And then two. Three. Four. Five. Six. I always like to count my stitches after the decreasing. One, two, three, four, five, six. Looks good. Slip stitch. And then it's your three sets of popcorn stitches again. The really cool thing about this pattern is once you figure out how to work one piece of the popcorn, you can make this as long or short as you want. So you can make this one foot long, six feet long, 20 feet long. It's entirely up to you. And if you're having trouble manipulating this crochet fabric or finding your stitches, you might want to loosen up your stitches or use a slightly larger crochet hook. I think the one thing that might make this project difficult for you is if you're crocheting very tightly. My last slip stitch and my second very cute little popcorn is complete. We just continue on with your chain four. One, two, three, four. And then make your third popcorn and your fourth and your fifth. You can see how this becomes a really meditative project that you can do while you're watching a favorite movie. And do this final popcorn stitch and my slip stitch on this guy. And you can see I've created quite a bit of length here. So I'm ready to finish my garland. I'm gonna end with the popcorn and not a chain four. I'm gonna break off enough yarn to form a hanging loop if I wanna use yarn as the hanging loop. To finish a project, yarn over and pull this yarn tail all the way through to make a little knot. If you wanna use yarn to make your loop, really easy. Just go ahead and do that. And try to make the knot as close to the popcorn as I can. That would be your hanging loop. And then you can either just snip this or what I would probably do is leave myself enough yarn tail to weave it into that last popcorn. And so everything's nice and tidy. There's no particular technique for weaving through this sort of weird, squishy, nubbly creature. Just kind of stick your needle through a couple stitches anywhere on this popcorn. And you don't wanna pull too tightly or you'll really change the shape of it. So you just wanna go through the inside of a couple of these stitches. And then hiding the tails are easy in a 3D object.

You just poke your needle through, bring it out through the other side anywhere. Don't pull this too tightly. And then you can snip this close and that tail will just disappear inside of the popcorn. And you have your very useful hanging loop. If you want an invisible loop, if you don't like the look of this yarn, you can use your fishing line to make a loop. So here's the beginning of my popcorn strand. I'm gonna weave this yarn end in instead of turning it into a loop. Again, you're just going to put the needle through the center of some of these stitches. And then I'll put my needle back in where the yarn came out from. Pop this out on the other side. And then trim. There's nothing really fancy you have to do with the fishing line. I'm gonna cut five or six inches of this. It just depends on how big you want your loop. And then there are lots of spaces to poke this line through. You don't even need to thread it on a needle. It's thick enough where you can just poke it through with your fingers. And then I would tie a knot at the end. Oops. Try to squish this knot farther out here and get that snug. If your fishing line is a little thick, it might be difficult to make this knot. You can also use your fingernails to scooch the knot together. I have really short nails, so this is not super easy for me, but you'll get there. And then you can actually hide this knot inside the popcorn and you can trim the ends. And now you have a more invisible way to hang your garland. Look how cute this is. And when you make yours and you can feel them, they're also really fun to squish. Again, I like to make these for my Christmas tree, but it would also be a really fun decoration for a movie party. Now that you've learned how to make three different garlands, which one are you going to make first?