
Halloween Party DÃ©cor with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- Decorating your house for Halloween is easier than you might think. I'm going to show you six projects that you can use for everyday decor for the month of October, for a kids party, or even for a spooky adult dinner. (playful music)

Chapter 2 - Party Decor Projects

Rag wreath

- Adding a wreath to a door or a wall is a nice way to welcome a new season. And for fall you can make this rag wreath on your own, or with kids, this is a great project for kids. To make your rag wreath you'll need a 14 inch embroidery hoop but you could use any size smaller or larger. You'll need a pair of sharp scissors. I'm using a mix of black and white fabrics. You can compose this with scraps of fabric you have lying around, these are a cotton quilting weight which work really nicely. Totally you'll need about a yard and a half of fabric. So these are mostly quarter and half yards, just of a variety of black and white fabrics. You could also do this in a bright and fun color. I've got orange and black here, if you wanted to do that. The first thing that we'll need to do is tear our fabric into strips. So just start with any one of your fabrics. And you can do this short ways, you can do this long ways, it doesn't matter. And you'll find that this is really satisfying and fun to do, kids love doing this. We're gonna tear these into one inch strips. First you'll need to snip along one edge, in those one inch increments. And this will start your tear, you literally just pull from the left and right. (fabric tearing) And your first tear won't equal one inch all the way down, because not everything is cut on grain. And that's fine. You don't have to worry about that. (fabric tearing) This is my favorite part. You could also do this with bedsheets. Or really any sort of lightweight cotton will work. As long as you can tear it. One more. (fabric tearing) Get rid of those threads. And I usually tear and cut all of my strips at once, so that when I'm ready to start making the wreath I've just got little piles of strips ready to go. Once I've torn the long strips I need to cut these into five inch sections, or about five inches. You could go longer, you don't wanna go too much shorter because it'll be hard to tie around the wreath, and that's just gonna frustrate you. So I have those fairly lined up. And just snip these in roughly five inch sections. Can always trim down your wreath if these seem too long. But you can't add it, and if they're too short, you won't be able to tie it around the embroidery hoop. Already it's so cute we could make this into a package topper just like that, which I love. You wanna go ahead and cut and tear, and cut down into five inch strips all of your fabric that you're gonna use on your wreath. It's easier to do that now than it is to have to stop as you're composing the wreath. And I've already got a few piles in black and white, ready to go. You could do darks, you could do lights, you could add grays. Just grab my pile here. I wanna leave this ring here for the embroidery hoop. This is a good place to hang my wreath once it's finished. And we'll just start there at the top where the hardware is. And you're gonna take each strip and tie it directly onto the embroidery hoop, going over both pieces. Embroidery hoop has an outer and an inner ring, and we wanna keep those together. One, it'll strengthen our wreath form, but also it will allow us to hang a nail in here, if we have both rings in. There's no wrong way to really do this. You're, I'm only tying this once. That's why the five inches is important so that I can get it around both and tie it on there securely. I don't need to double knot it. These could be more spread out, if

you had a really thicker fabric. Although I would recommend just using a cotton, doesn't even matter if I'm holding the right or the wrong side this is kind of a messy looking thing. That's what adds to its charm. So you just start tying on. And I tend to do all my fabrics in chunks. So I might do all my polka dots there, then move onto the sort of damask swirly print, and then move onto a darker, you could go from lighter to darker as you work your way around the wreath, tying all the while. So I've got one that's almost done. I started with my polka dots. Had a black and white damask print here, a darker print that had some light line work, and then I added some gray here also. We'll just finish this up with our polka dots. And you can slide these around as you're working to make them more dense or more spread out. You also don't have to do it in sections, you could do this totally at random, which would be really fun with kids, to have this huge pile of torn scraps that they can tie on. Do one more here. My hanging hardware will go at the top. And if you need to trim away any weird little bits, or anything that's too long you can do that. Give it a little fluff, and you've got a wreath. You can hang this on the door, or in the hallway. You could add an orange ribbon. You could put something in the center. I've made a smaller version in one fabric, that has both orange and black in it, and added this cute little owl. You could have a child make something, you could put some artwork in the center. And then hang this guy for some festive decor.

Paper rosettes

- Making paper fan rosettes is a fun and easy way to create instant decor for Halloween. You probably learned how to make a paper fan when you were about five, but with a few other little tips and techniques we can create paper fan rosettes for some instant Halloween decor. To make your paper fan rosettes you will need construction paper, you can get this usually in an assorted color pack, I just pulled out the Halloween colors, and these are around 12 by 17 in size. You'll want your spooky faces template if you want to add any expressions to your paper fan decor, but you can also free-hand that. You'll also need a few pipe cleaners, again I'm using Halloween colors. To assemble our paper fans into rosettes we'll need some tape, I prefer using masking tape, washi tape for this doesn't really hold in the long term, so this is 1/2 inch black masking tape and 1/4 inch regular masking tape. This isn't fancy artist tape that's really expensive, this is at the art supply store but it's inexpensive, a couple dollars a roll. You'll need a good pair of scissors, and then to put your faces on you can either use a hot glue gun if you're okay doing that with kids, you can also use tacky glue or even glue dots if you have them. I'm gonna show you how to make a paper fan just for review in case you don't remember. Starting with a large sheet of construction paper, and this can be in any of your colors. We're gonna fold this guy in half hamburger way, do you remember that? Hamburger, and this way of folding is gonna give you the most accurate fan, all your pleats will be the same size, you don't want to fold from one end to one end. Once it's in a hamburger, you're gonna open up this side and fold those edges back to your middle fold. Do that on the other side. And now this open edge will fold back to this fold. You're always folding in half, this is how bookmakers fold things for accurate folds without having to measure. Now I'll take this whole section and fold it back to our middle fold. Do the same thing here. And then you usually have to refold that center fold to create a fan. You can make a rosette with these really wide pleats like this but it tends to be a little trickier to put together, so we're gonna fold this again. We've got this, we'll just take our open edge and fold back. Then take that whole little pleat there, fold back. Have to reverse that fold. Fold back. Fold that down, fold back. That fold is getting reversed. Fold back. You're always using your lines as a guide, always folding in half. If this starts to get bulky, we can now just rotate it to this side. And then we have just that last pleat to make. Lining them up if we

can. To create a fan fold. You can cinch this in the middle, and the best way to do that is a pipe cleaner. I could use a black one if I wanted to coordinate, I could use an orange one for a little peek of orange in the center, you could even use a metallic one. This outer edge that's unfolded will be on the back, this is where we're going to hinge this piece to this piece, so our pipe cleaner needs to be coming from the front. Turn it over and just very tautly, twist that guy. This has two functions, it'll hold this in place, but this also allows you to hang your rosettes onto a wall, over a curtain, you can also pin these so this has two functions, holding this together and then using it to hang. Just leave it there for now. And then we want to attach these two sections to make our paper fan rosette. I've seen it where people have glued these together, but then you lose a pleat and you have a seam on the front which I don't prefer. Instead, we're gonna hinge it on the back and that way you don't lose any of your pleats, so flip this guy over. And just want these edges to line up, if you need to adjust this a little you can, I wanted to make sure this is as close to being half as we can, so those edges line up. Fold that edge, that looks good. And we're going to hinge these together with black masking tape. Just tear off a few little strips. I usually start at the outer edge. And place a piece of tape, and then I'll come into the innermost part and place a piece of tape. And then, you could run a long strip along here, or you could do these little small strips too. So making sure your edges meet. Can always go back and add more, I might add another one, most of the tension is going to be on this outer edge. That on there, so the same thing to my other side. So you'll see when I come to bring these together, it is very tight and it doesn't wanna stay closed. You can do two things, you can add a second panel, remember this is just one piece that we're taping together, or you can do this little trick which gives you a variation that I really like. So flip your fan back over, and in every valley fold, those are the points that go down, you're gonna make a little snip with your scissors. And this will open up your paper fan rosette a little more. We're gonna snip right through that tape that we placed earlier. Now if you flip this, and you can see when I go to put these two together they open really nicely and it gives you this really cool little variation where you've got these edges. I could also cut these into a pointed shape to give it a different effect before I assembled my rosette. Again I'll tape here at the edge, I don't need to tape right at the edge because we wanna have that separation there, we'll come down about 1/2 inch. Come down to the base here next to the pipe cleaner. And then you've got a sweet little fan, I wanna clean that up, that's where we snipped into out tapeage. Let's clean that up. And now you have a little paper rosette. We can add some features to this guy, hang him as-is, or let me show you how to make a larger version, that way you have some variety in size. I have three fan folds in orange, and this time I folded them along the length of the paper, so in the same way but instead of starting with my hamburger fold I started with the hotdog fold. I've got those three ready to go. And we're gonna make sure that all of the open edges are facing down before I pipe cleaner them together in the center. Make sure your edges match up. And then pick out a pipe cleaner that either coordinates or contrasts, so black on the orange will contrast. And we're gonna find the center again. You could just eyeball it but you could also fold this in half to make sure you're kind of in the center. And pipe cleaner those together. And now we're gonna flip this over, and because we know we put all of these going the same direction, now our open ends are facing upwards 'cause this is the back. And we're going to attach these together, this time using the white masking tape. At this point I could clip these ends if I wanted in a little V shape to give a variation, and we're going to hinge this larger one together. So line up the edges and go down to the base, line that up. And then go in between. Tape together. Continue attaching each section of your fan to create your rosette. You can start by adding a few pieces of tape and then going back and fill in if you have any spots that are pulling open, but you'll

see that with these three large pieces they become like six sections, and you can get a really large rosette from this. Alrighty, there's your rosette. Using more pieces of paper will allow that rosette to open much wider and then you don't have to cut snips into it. You could stack these also and layer them for hanging them, but let me show you how to add some little faces if you want to do that. You can certainly draw your own, and most of these are just geometric shapes put together, and you can mix and match them, you could layer them in different colors, like I can do this in a yellow and this is a brown to give myself a different effect for an eye. This could be the backing for an eye, this could be a nose, a nose, this is another type of eye. You obviously want your features to be contrasting to your rosettes, so if we're gonna add features to our black rosette we might cut them out of yellow or orange, if we were gonna add features to our orange rosette we might cut them out of black or brown. I really like this little shape of eye, it has sort of a vintage look. And I'll trim this down. Could use any kind of paper, you could use glittery paper, you could use felt. This is just construction paper, you could use a packing paper and experiment with what that looks like. That's one eye. Let's do a second one. Oop, snipped right into that, that's okay, I'll just accommodate it. Go back in, I'll just clean up that shape there. The edge of my scissors. You can cut out multiple pattern pieces, that way you can check to see what kind of face you can create. I have some already cut out in orange and brown. And let's try it on our black rosette. Different faces, these eyes I could use, and depending on how close they are to the center versus how far away, that really already starts to change the look of the face, this is a scrunchy little face, this is a big open face. Let's try these eyes. Could do eyes looking that way, eyes looking down, eyes looking over at your orange rosette, you can really change the expression. Maybe this guy, little mouth. You could try turning it upside down, it gives you a different look. The little nose! I think he looks a bit like a kitty. Got a few other, let's do a small triangle for the nose. And we can add these shapes as ears. I could have them coming off the rosette, I can make them much larger, that would be easy actually, let's see what that looks like. I took a piece of black construction paper, just free-hand the two triangles. Could add my little orange center, bring these off the edge to create a kitty, I like that, he's cute. So you can use a hot glue gun to attach these, you can also use tacky glue, especially if you're working with kids, and you don't wanna glue over the whole shape because you can see it's only going to attach to the rosette wherever there's a mountain fold, wherever there's this peak, so instead I could just add a little glue right onto my mountain fold, position my eyeball where I like it, and just hold it down for a minute to tack it in place. Could make this kitty cross-eyed, make him looking in, I could make him looking that way, I like that way. We'll add some glue here. This tacky glue dries pretty quickly and it's thicker so it can hold that in place ... While it's drying so it doesn't fall off, let's add the little nose. Nose could go this way, it could go down. I think a kitty's nose normally goes down but I kinda like this up. I can just add the glue right onto the center, it's gonna go over the pipe cleaner. Let's hold it in place for a moment, and then this guy, I can make his mouth go higher, it can go lower, I like it right about there, so it's gonna fall in those two pleats, those two mountain folds. Oh those look like little fangs. Hold that in place, and then I can attach his ears, I'm gonna move the triangle a little higher because I'm going to save this part for gluing onto the back of my rosette, so add a little glue, tack that into place. Add a little glue, tack that into place. And then let's figure out where these ears are gonna go. It could go higher, maybe there and there. So add the glue here. And I can actually even fold this a little to make it fit that rosette. Do the same thing on the other side. Those obviously overlap here, if you want to snip that or trim it you could, I don't mind it, I'm fine with that. Oh my gosh, little Halloween kitty! He's so cute. He needs some buddies though, don't you think? So we'll grab our orange rosette that we made earlier. Let's try out some of the features that I cut out in brown.

We've got those cool eyes. Vintage looking eye. And you can also layer shapes, so I could put a yellow circle with this, that guy doesn't quite fit. I've got this teardrop shape that does not though. If you wanna layer these. It would also make a cute kitty ear, that shape. We've got a face, oh, kind of like a Jack-O-Lantern. We could do a big triangle nose, or maybe that flatter triangle nose, we could spread these features out for a different look. Don't put your eyes like that. I think wide eyes makes things look more child-like and cutesy. Maybe there-ish. And we could glue those down in the same way just using our tacky glue. Or you could use a hot glue gun. And this guy's gonna go ... We could put him straight or we can put 'em at a little bit of an angle, he'll go onto these peaks. Repeat for all the other features. It's gonna go, a little bit of an angle on those two. Glue down my nose. Could also do it this way. Maybe like this one this way. And our mouth will go onto these. Easy peasy. Lemon squeezy. And then you have another cut little face that you can pair with your kitty. You could also leave them blank, they don't have to have faces, but the faces are kind of fun to add, and you learn a lot about expressions the way you change the shape of the features. I've got a couple of other styles of rosettes, this one I made with poster board, it's a little bit thicker, I have the larger pleats and you definitely have to snip down to get this guy to go all the way around, but it gives a really full look which I love, and I lengthen the end of course. Just using a cork or a bottle cap, I painted this one in polka dots before I turned it into a fan, so when the sheet of paper was flat, you can do this with kids, you could use foam stamps, you could do hand prints, and then I made a little rosette out of it. Here's our black rosette without the snips in it made out of two pieces of card stock. I even made a rosette in yellow, this would be a great full moon, you could add features to it or add a little bat to it, making these paper rosette fans is a fun, easy thing to do with kids, and perfect for Halloween.

Mummy surprise ball

- Making a surprise ball is something you can do for a Halloween birthday party, for a kids classroom or to hand out on the night of Halloween and it's really easy to do. To make your surprise ball you'll need some little odds and ends, some little goodies. These just happen to be all orange because I thought why not? I've got candy in here, a little ball, and a little monster. You'll need a roll of streamer. I'm using black but you could really use any color, white, orange, whatever you have. You'll need a couple of googly eyes for each mummy surprise ball that you make. A pair, unless you want to make a cyclops then you only need one. You'll need something to make your surprise ball look like a mummy. This happens to be this netting that you can get at the party supply store during Halloween, but you could also use cheese cloth or anything that is similar in weight and feel to this. You'll need a pair of scissors and you can either use a hot glue gun or tacky glue to put your surprise ball together. To start your surprise ball, you're gonna work with your streamers right off the roll and pick one of the goodies to tuck in. I'll start with some of the larger ones. And you're gonna wrap loosely your first surprise. I'm just wrapping up the length of the streamer and then I'm just gonna twist to cover up the opening. As I go I'm not wrapping too tightly and I can smooch with my fingers. This, I don't want to keep these edges. And I'm ready to tuck in another little toy. Start with our next biggest object, this monster. (streamer rustling) Close up that opening. You can also wrap using the streamer if that's handier and easier for you to do. After that we kind of want to start thinking about our overall ball shape. We want to keep this as close to a sphere as we can and it's okay to crumple this paper that's not a problem. Tuck in my candy. (streamer rustling) And my coin. (streamer rustling) And this guy will be last. (streamer rustling) Once I tuck in my last goodie, I really wanna finalize the shape of this, and I'll start to wrap a little tighter. And the nice thing about

the streamer is that it's slightly stretchy so you can manipulate this in a way that allows you to get a nice clean wrap. I'm close, I think I'll cut off about a yard of my streamer just to finish this up. (streamer rustling) And I'll end this here. I can use my hot glue or I can use my tacky glue. If you were to use something like Elmer's glue, these streamers bleed when they get wet so you want to be careful not to use something too wet. We're gonna put a layer of mummy wrapping on here so this doesn't have to be locked down and crazily glued. If you were to add hot glue and you added too much it would be harder to open the surprise ball. It would make it hard. All right so we'll put our surprise ball there and we'll get our mummy strips ready. You could work with one long strip. You can cut multiple strips. Let's just cut a length of this. (scissors snipping) Cut a couple. And this stuff is stretchy, it moves around. It can come undone. It's very flexible. Maybe about four 12 inch strips, that seems like a good place to start. This also comes in black you could tea-stain this. And our mummy is gonna, we're gonna leave a space for the eyes so I wanna keep that in mind as I start to wrap. Leave a space for the eyes. It could also be a ninja if you're using black. We'll add some glue to start our strip and this will dry clear so we don't have to worry about that. And I'm gonna wrap it around in the same way I did with the streamer paper and glue as I go. I can also, if I didn't want to use glue I could also just tuck in the last end to where I start my new end. As long as you're always tucking something in you can do that. Come around the back part, the head here. Open that up a little for more frayed edge. Just go up here, glue that guy. I could use my hot glue too, I just happen to be using the tacky glue. That's my eye opening so we need to cover the rest of these black spots. We will do something here. You can go over this many times. You could have a more densely wrapped mummy or you could have a very lightly wrapped mummy, that's up to you. So this is something that kids could easily help with. Wanna use one more strip to cover the bottom. Just place that on top. I'll add a few spots of glue. I don't wanna over glue this because then it's harder to open this up for all your little surprises. Just a little bit of glue is fine. You can let these dry on a cookie sheet or a piece of wax paper if you're doing a whole series at once. Now we've got our little mummy face. You can add two googly eyes. You can also add a little strip down the center if you want to divide up the eyes. You don't have to. And these guys I will actually add with the hot glue just because they'll dry really quickly and they won't slide around the face. You could also use a glue dot, which is a very strong little dot and that's easier for kids to use 'cause there's no heat involved. If you're more comfortable with that. This is our blue eyed mummy. (laughs) Those googly eyes. Just make sure that stays down. Here's another mummy with a strip of mummy wrapping down the middle of his face. You could make this lower. You can make a dozen of these, give them out as favors or give them out on the night of Halloween. This streamer surprise ball, in this case was a mummy but you could use the same technique for other kinds of little characters. You could do pumpkins or jack-o-lanterns and make them your own.

Upcycled paper wreath

- I love books. I love to read them. I love to look at their pictures. I love to collect them. I love to make them. I especially love to tear them apart. I'm gonna show you how to make an upcycled wreath using book pages from a book that could have gone into the recycling bin or found at a library book sale for 50 cents. And we'll make a really sophisticated Halloween wreath out of it. To make your wreath you'll need a cardboard base. This is a 16 inch circle. I just use my embroidery hoop, trace this on a scrap piece of cardboard. I don't need the hoop anymore. You can also buy a cake round cardboard. They come in lots of different sizes, so you could make this smaller or larger, it doesn't really matter. You'll need that as your base. You'll need a paperback book. I like to get

these from, like I said, library book sales or thrift stores. They're inexpensive. They would have gone in the recycling bin anyway. And these used ones tend to have yellowed edges, which will add to our vintage Victorian sort of look. A pen, scissors and a stapler, you'll also need. Hot glue gun and tacky glue. We'll use both in different applications. And then this is optional, but you could use a piece of clipart and some glitter to make a focal point for the center of your wreath. You don't have to do that. We can use book pages for all of it, but if you wanna add a little motif in the center, you're more than welcome to do that. To get started you'll begin by making all of your little paper cones that will become the wreath. And you can tear sheets off individually or tear them as you go. The cone shape is simple. We're just rolling from one edge of the page to the other and stapling the cone closed. Doesn't matter that we're flattening out this bottom two inches, because these are going to get overlapped. The cones are gonna get overlapped on top of one another and you won't see that flattened edge. You wanna make anywhere from 60 to 100 cones, depending on the size of your wreath and how densely you're going to add your cones. I like to make all my cones at once. That way, when I'm ready to assemble my wreath, all the pieces are there. With your pile of cones next you, you can start assembling this wreath. And we're gonna work from the outside in, because it's easier to layer on top of one another than it is to try to slip a layer behind one that already exists and you'll see what I mean as I start to go. We're gonna use hot glue for this, because it's quick to adhere. If you wanted to you could use the tacky glue. You'll begin your first layer with the cones poking out from the base about four inches. We don't want them really close. We don't wanna see this space. We wanna have a nice overage of these cones. And we're placing all of the cones facing us, so that we can see this inner paper. I wouldn't wanna place them like this. That would give us a really different effect. This gives us more texture. You could apply the glue directly onto the cone if you wanted. This one's stapled funny. It's okay. But I think it's easier just to apply the glue directly to the cardboard. I have a few seconds to place these in a way that I like and I'll keep rotating my base as I go. These can overlap a little. I could start with larger cones on the outside and go smaller, to the inside. This is why having your cones ready is so much easier than doing this one at a time. Sneaking in a little. I need to push that back out. I also really love this white edge on this particular book. It adds the graphic design element, which I think is really nice. This has a really different look than the pages I've been using. I'm not gonna use that one. That might be nice for a second layer, but I want this layer to be fairly consistent. Just keep rotating this. Oh, I snuck one in. That's okay. I couldn't find a lot of old dictionaries and they can have images in them, old engravings that are really fun and those can peak out it these little cones. Definitely do that. Put one there and let's put one to cover that gap. Just overlapping a little. It's fine. And that's my first layer. You're gonna continue building your layers coming from the outside, working your way in, until we get to that center layer and I'll show you how to finish off the center with a little image. This is a good point on your second layer to change up the style of paper, if you wanted to. Let's go with these larger cones. And I need more glue. Got the outer layer of the smaller print with the second layer of the larger print. We're gonna go back to that smaller layer and, I think, finish off the center of this wreath. We'll see when we get there. You could stop there. You could do more rosettes in the center, going smaller and smaller or we can create a focal point with some kind of medallion or motif in the center. We're gonna use our clipart for that. I have two birdies here that I photocopied from a clipart source book. And I can kinda just test them out. This one's a sweeter little bird. This one looks a little more menacing. I think I'm gonna use him. I'm gonna roughly cut him out, because I don't know exactly what I'm gonna do with him in the center. Bring this guy back. Obviously he's on white paper. If I cut him out and just put him in the center I think he'll get a little lost. I think it'd be

nice to have a little bit of contrast against all of this creamy white here. I have a piece of black card stock that I cut into a circle just using a mug. I traced a mug and I know that that fits into the center of my wreath pretty nicely. It could be flat. It could flatten these out. I could also just kinda float it in the center. And I think I'd like my crow to go on that. And it looks like he'll just fit inside. If this was orange I could do an image transfer onto this or I can collage this instead and just cut this out with a little edge. So I'll go ahead and do that. I don't mind a little bit of an edge. That way he has some contrast. And if I cut carefully then it looks intentional. And in this case it is intentional. Let's see if it'll fit like that. Ooh yeah, that has a nice pop. And I think you could go right into the center there. I don't wanna use my hot glue for this, just my tacky glue. And I can just put down a few little dots. You can use a permanent glue stick, even, for this, if you have it. And attach him. Let's see how he looks. Very nice. I think maybe would could add a little bit of a glittery edge. So let's set the wreath aside again. Grab some scratch paper, if you're working with glitter. And using your tacky glue, you can just draw a line right inside that edge. You could do dots if you wanted to. You could highlight some part of the bird. I think I just want a line. I can even just go right off the edge. I'll do that here. If I am pushing glue out and I'm going off the edge of my bird onto the scrap paper, that'll make sure that my glue is going right to the edge. Right off the edge instead of just inside the line. I don't wanna glue this to this scratch paper, so I need to just pull this up. Place it down on a new piece of scratch paper and sprinkle my glitter. This is the German glass glitter. It's essentially polarized glass. It's very reflective. It tends to be chunkier and it also tends to oxidize over time, so sometimes it will get darker. It comes in lots of colors. I prefer the classic silver. Give it a really good dousing. We'll just take this guy and shake him off. Give him a little tap. Go back in here. That edge looks a little wonky. I'll just go back in. And sprinkle some glitter back on there. You can even just pat it in your excess glitter. Good. Let him dry and recycle your glitter back to your jar. We'll let our crow dry just a second. Set him aside and let's get the center of our wreath ready for the crow. When I place the black circle in the center, I didn't want to press it down right against the surface of the wreath. I wanted it to stand up a little bit, so I need to create some kind of base. You can build up a surface by folding pages, by crumpling pages and gluing them down. I'm gonna use the hot glue, so I can get something down there quickly. A couple of pages and sink them down in the center here, to build up this surface. You have to glue each layer, otherwise it'll come undone. I don't wanna take away too much of that volume. Let's add another page. You could really just even crumple this up. It doesn't matter, you're not gonna see it, because your crow's gonna be covering it. Let's glue that down also. Careful that edge on my crow is still wet. Close. Got some glue there. All right. Put a big dollop of glue right in the center. While it's wet add your crow. This is still drying, this glittery edge. That's fine. It can dry in the wreath. Just wanna hold that into place until the hot glue sets. And there you have a spooky and sophisticated Halloween wreath. Add a bright ribbon for a pop of color and you're ready to hang it on your door.

Cloches

- I love to collect things and it's always fun to show off your collections in little vignettes all over your house or in the center of a table for a dinner party and Halloween is a great time to show off some of those more spooky collections that you might have. The one thing about cloches, especially if they're glass, that I'm always afraid of is that if they get knocked over, if you have to store them, they're very, very fragile and breakable and that's not always doable, like I said, for a dinner party or even with kids. So I'm gonna show you how to take a water bottle or a soda bottle and make your own unbreakable little cloches so that you can show off your collections, as well. To start off this

project you'll need some kind of bottle. I actually really like these SmartWater bottles 'cause they give you the option to have a really tall cloche. But you can also use a two liter soda bottle of any kind. You wanna try to avoid anything that has a lot of printing directly on the plastic. You want something that has a removable label. We'll remove that label afterward. For your base you'll need these little round wooden plaques you can get at the craft store. They have a beveled edge. They come in multiple sizes. The small size is good for this size water bottle. This works well for a two liter. You'll need some kind of collection. This is why we're making a cloche, to show off your collection. You can have a little hand, some bird feet. You can also have natural collections like rocks or feathers. I'll show you how to transform a store bought item like this plastic Halloween skull. We're gonna add some glitter to that, so you'll need some glitter. I picked this amber-y colored super fine glitter. It's nice to always have some trims, fabrics, ribbons, and some extra bits and bobs in case you need some texture. We'll use these for finishing off the top of our cloche. As an alternative, you can also use tape. I've got a black masking tape and some washi tape. Cupcake liners. This one has a really cool, funky black and white pattern. We're gonna use that in conjunction with our skeleton. These wooden craft beads make the perfect topper for your cloche instead of using the soda bottle topper. I'll show you how to transform that. You'll need scissors, a hot glue gun, an X-ACTO blade or utility knife for cutting open your bottle, some craft paint, I have black and a metallic champagne, and a paint brush. We'll start by preparing our water bottle and turning it into a cloche. Clear away some space here. Again, this could be a two liter bottle, but I really like the option of this tall slender bottle. You'll need to remove the label. For this guy you can just peel it off. Get a corner started. (plastic rustling) They come off pretty easily. (plastic rustling) This surface is super sticky. You're gonna wanna remove this with some kind of degreaser. I use Goo Gone. You can also make your own Goo Gone using coconut oil and baking soda. It's a little bit abrasive. It's much easier to remove the stickiness when the bottle is full of water because then you have something that's giving you resistance as you try to scrub that away. If the bottle is empty of water then it tends to collapse in on itself. So remove the stickiness from the label. I've already got a bottle that is sticky free. I've removed the water and now I just wanna cut my shape. I can start by using an X-ACTO knife. Determine how long you want your cloche to be. You can just cut the bottom of this off. You could do sort of a half way, like a six inch cloche or you could make a little mini cloche. I think I'm gonna do about a 3/4 and I'll just poke in with my X-ACTO or my utility knife. Once I've got an opening, I can use this to cut all the way around, but I can also use my scissors to cut if cutting the X-ACTO knife scares you. Trim that off and we definitely need to clean up this edge. Just try to hold it as steady as possible. (scissors snipping) And rotate this around as I cut. You can put it on the table to make sure it's resting fairly flat. If it's not perfect, you don't really have to worry about it. Get all my water out of the inside of this. If this was a soda bottle, you'd definitely wanna rinse this out first because it would be sticky inside. But this is just water so we're just gonna remove the excess water. We can set that guy aside. I know that this size bottle fits on the small base and I wanna paint this before I attach them and start composing my collection inside. Using black craft paint. You could also use the metallic for the base. I'm gonna use the black. I'm just gonna paint this guy. You could use a different color for this. Any color would work. (paintbrush swooshing) This doesn't have to be perfect. If it has some brush strokes in it or it looks a little bit distressed it's just gonna add to the spooky vintage feel. So don't worry about it. If it must be perfect and solid you can let it dry and give it a second coat. Set that aside to dry. Remember those little Halloween skeletons? If you don't have a collection that seems obvious to put into your cloche, you can also create a new collection. These little plastic guys can be transformed pretty easily with

a little bit of TLC. We're gonna glitter him using tacky glue. You could even probably use Elmer's glue. I like the tacky glue 'cause it's a little more quick drying, it has a little more body. We're gonna put glue all over this guy. Use a brush to spread the glue around evenly, adding glue as you need it. If you miss a spot the glitter won't stick, so try to be as thorough as you can with the glue. And add more glue. You don't have to worry about the bottom, but we wanna get the back of the skull. Of course, the face. Your fingers will get sticky. Just go with it. That guy is thoroughly glued. Wash your brush. And he's ready to be glittered. Switch papers. This is just a super fine sort of amber-y orange. Just gonna pour it all over your skeleton. Make sure you get all those little spots. Back of the head. This looks like a lot, but I'm gonna pour it back in the jar. That's what the scrap paper is for. I really want him covered. Give him a little shake and set him aside to dry. (paper shuffling) Recycle your glitter. That's where there was glue. We've got one that's already dry. Just get rid of my scrap paper here. I'm gonna create a base for my skeleton. I could use some of the spider webbing to kind of nest him in. I could put leaves or dried twigs around him, but I really like these cupcake liners. They kind of look like a ruff, like an old costume. I'm gonna cut the center out. So fold your cupcake holder in half and just cut the center away. This makes this a little more flexible to work with. We're not gonna see that so it doesn't matter if it's messy. This is going to be his collar. You could do two. You could do multiple colors of these to give a really layered effect. (paper shuffling) (scissors snipping) Could flip one this way so you get this kind of double pattern working. I like that. Also kinda looks like a little cupcake head. If your base isn't completely dry yet, it's close enough to at least work with. Let's see if all of this is gonna fit together. I wanna test it out before I glue it in place. This might be a tight squeeze but I can make it work once everything's glued in place. We'll glue our cupcake ruff into place by adding some hot glue to the back of our skeleton. This one first. Try not to burn yourself. I'm gonna flip him over and see. Might have to stretch it a bit. Ooh, yeah, I love that. Let's glue our second one. We'll add a little more glue here and here. Good. Then we'll really get this all into place once I add glue to the bottom of the base. Let's just add glue right in the center and then we can shove him into place. Try to make sure he's centered because this is a tight squeeze. The skeleton head, the skull, is gonna go right up to the edge. There we go. If there's any printing on the bottle, make sure it's toward the back. There's a little bit of light printing on this side. And I can see I've got a little bit of plastic I can trim there. (whimpering) We're gonna glue this guy in place so he doesn't move around. I'm not gonna remove the bottle entirely, I'm just gonna lift it up as I rotate around and add some hot glue to the bottom. Just go right up to that edge. It's okay if it comes over because we are going to hide it with a little ribbon. I'm just tilting this forward to get this back edge. Doing that all the way around, just picking it up and rocking it back and forth so that bead of glue is going underneath the cloche a little bit right to the outside edge to lock it in place. You'd also do another, if you're worried or you have something really heavy in there, you could do another line of hot glue all the way around the edge. Just get rid of any little strings. You can trim this out now while that glue is hot. You could use something like orange. I don't wanna do this bright orange with that amber color. I could do a silver trim. I like this black gauze-y stuff. I think I'll use a little bit of that. Oops. I won't start in the front unless I wanna do a bow or something. I'll just wrap this around. I've got the tail end coming around the back. Let's trim that off here. The glue is still warm enough. It's holding everything in place. What I like about this, too, is you can use it really wide or you can use it all scrunched up. That gives us a nice finished edge. I will add a little bit of hot glue right here at the back. Wait for it to set and then I'll trim right beyond that glue dot here. Just hold that until it sets. The bottom is done. Let's address the top. You could use this cap to create a base for something if you wanted to make a Fimo top or add an object. I usually just remove it. I

love these wooden craft beads because we can paint them and glue them on just to finish off like a real cloche, have this round little top. Let's address these threads. I usually remove this plastic part with an X-ACTO knife but you can also just cover it using that same mesh-y ribbon. This could be any of these ribbons, it doesn't have to be the mesh one. It could be a bit of fabric. I could also use this as an opportunity to tie a bow at the top. I can show you what that looks like. I'm gonna leave a little bit of a tail. Then I'll just wrap around these threads and create a bow. This could be a knot. You could include a feather in the bow. You can really do anything to cover these threads. Then I think that would be a nice finish. Let's paint this and then we'll hot glue him on. This time I'm using a champagne colored craft paint. Again, this could be black. It could really be any color. Just apply a coat of paint to the ball. You can set it down. You can even put it on your finger. (paintbrush swooshing) Give that a minute to dry so you can put it on your cloche easily without removing any paint or getting it on your fingers. Let me show you while that's drying one other way to place a top on your cloche. This is the top of a 7 Up bottle and I just cut it down. It has more of a triangular shape. You can place it on a base or you could just place it directly on the table on top of a little collection. We're gonna finish this top off with tape using some black tape. I'm just gonna wrap the threads. Doesn't have to be perfect. It can be kind of mushy. It's fine. Just use up all the tape I have here. Press it down. Then we'll add a little bit of this washi tape to finish off the top. I'll pat it down. Then this is a bouncy ball I found at the store. Just gonna add a little circle of glue and place it on the top to create a different effect. This guy is probably dry enough to pick it up. Just make sure. I'm just gonna add glue to the bottom of my ball. And then place that directly on top. Adjust your trim a little. If you need to cover anything you can also add more trim. That's your finished cloche. Let me show you some variations that you can do with other sized bottles and other collections. We've got our glitter skull. The alternative cloche that doesn't have a base, you can put any little collection underneath. If we had something like these little feet it could easily just sit on top of the table. I've also got this little hand. This one's a green cloche and it has one of those glass rhinestones you can get at the craft store as the top. This is a larger bottle with a spider inside. We've got another skull. This is a little paper witch. You could use one of these on top as well. Create these little cloches so that you can show off any of your collections. They're a great way to create instant Halloween decor. Put them down the center of a table for a dinner or in a hallway for an instant vignette.

Book centerpieces

- A book that is destined for the recycling bin, or even the trash, can be transformed into something really spectacular and a beautiful object, that you can use to create decor anywhere in your house. But also can be nestled with other objects, to create a really nice centerpiece for a dinner party, or even just on a table. I'm gonna show you how to take just an average paperback and transform it into any one of these objects. I like these used books, especially because the pages tend to be yellow and I think that gives a nice aged and worn look. We're creating a very graphic hard edge with these shapes and this gives it a little bit of softness. You can certainly do this with a new book as well. The book shape will change the size, depending on how you fold this. So I'm gonna show you two variations. Let's start with this thicker book. This guy is around 600 pages. And you could fold this page by page in half, that would take a while. It looks really cool, it looks like this. This is 800 pages folded every single page, one by one. But I'm gonna show you something that's gonna go much quicker and you can do this with kids. Take a section anywhere from five to 10 pages, and fold in toward the spine. Really try to get to the spine. If you start to creep out you won't get a nice circle, with this. This is one kind of fold that you can do. You could do these with dictionaries, old

paperback novels like what we're working with here. Doesn't hurt if you crack the spine a little bit, that's not gonna hurt it. Can see already, this is buildup a half circle, you could leave it like this, this always makes an interesting object to stick mail into, or photos. I have one like this at my house for that. But we're gonna make this a full circle. If you're working with a really thick book, when you get about halfway through it may feel really hard to pull aside the pages you've folded, to fold the remaining pages. If that's the case you can turn your book around, and start working from the other side. But this guy's still small and I'm happy just shoving those folded pages aside. We're almost there, probably two or three sections left. Just make sure that you're tucking that in to the spine as best you can. Otherwise you'll have wonky folds. The last section. And you could leave this right on the table as is, in a half circle. But if you stand this guy up, you could place these together, nestle little candles inside, put a pumpkin, or a skeleton on top of these. Because they're these hardy little objects they'll stand on their own and you can stack and coordinate them depending on what shapes you're making. Let me show you two variations, using this book. This variation which gives you this cool pyramid shape, this book only had 262 pages, so it really only gives you half of a circle. I would make two, you wanna start with the same size book, and then you can nestle them back to back for a full shape. Or you can display them just like this, that's fine too. This variation, taking a section at a time or a single page, you're just folding the top edge down to meet the spine. And that will give you that pyramid shape. Over and over. If your book is taller and just as narrow, this diagonal will be much smaller, and so the pyramid will be higher, and then you'll have a straight piece after. The shape of the book really dictates the way this object will end up once you've created all your folds. If you wanna create a fold like this guy, this is another novel I picked up at the book store, it had a red edge which I thought was really cool. And I created this little cutout in the center. This guy, you fold down. And then when you go to your next section, you fold from the bottom up. So you see how it creates that shape? This guy went down, this grouping of pages went up. And you just alternate, down from the top, up from the bottom, down from the top, up from the bottom, down from the top and up from the bottom. And you'll see that will create this cutaway in your shape. Like this one. These aren't tricky to make. They do take a little bit of time. they're the perfect activity to do while watching a movie. And it's a great way to repurpose or upcycle books that otherwise would've been thrown away. Look for interesting edges, gilt edges, red edges, different shapes of book, different textures of paper. You can create some really interesting objects to use anywhere in your house with these.