# **How to Make a Pom Pom** with Maggie Pace

**Chapter 1 - Make a Pom-Pom**

Three ways to make a pom-pom

- Hi, my name is Maggie Pace and I'm a knitwear designer. I have a company called Pick Up Sticks and a lot of my designs revolve around kids so as you can imagine there are lots of times when I need to make pompoms. There are lots of ways to make pompoms and I'm gonna show you three. The first way is with a pompom maker that you can buy at the store. This came in a little pack of three so you can make three different sizes. I'll show you how using the largest size. I'm just gonna do a single color to start with. The way this works is that the tail sits at the front and you should have a fairly short tail or else it will get in the way when you're wrapping. Bring it through the back and then back through the front so bring the yarn coming from the ball across the back and then over the front and then notch it here so it needs to be notched here and on this side and then the yarn wraps around the back and I hold on to it there with my finger and then do my first wrap with it like that so I'll show you what that looks like at the back. That's how your yarn should be set up. And then I just start wrapping. I start from the center and then I work my way to the right and I don't have to get it super thick on this first pass because I'm gonna come back around. Move all the way down to the right and the more wraps I do the bigger the pompoms get but I really wanna be careful to keep it pretty even as I'm wrapping it so I'm gonna aim to have this same thickness over on this side when I get there. There we go. I'm working my way back here, the same thing. Laying down my first layer of wraps but I'm remembering that I'm gonna come back so it doesn't have to be as thick. I'm building on it. And I'm gonna really go for a big, thick pompom. I think the thicker they are the better they look. I'll start getting a clue from the pompom maker when it's about the right size because it won't hold any more yarn down here. Okay, see how I'm running out of space down there to do a tie? I'm just about done. Gonna check that the thickness is pretty good all around. I could use a few more strands over here. This is gonna look like a puff of cotton candy when it's done. Okay, cut the yarn from the ball and now I'm gonna turn the work, cut at the back, and then I'm gonna release this yarn from its notch and this yarn from its notch and I'm gonna use those two ends to tie off the pompom. It's really important to tie it as tightly as you can and I've found with this particular pompom maker it's kind of tough to get it as tight as I want it so I actually do a double knot after I remove it so I'll start with this. Okay, so it's my first way to secure it but there will be a second one later and now I'm gonna go ahead and cut it. The scissors will go into this groove here and I suggest using a really sharp pair of scissors. That's a lot of layers to be cutting through and if they're dull it really makes it a less fun process but these are super sharp so that's easy. There's the beginning of my pompom. I'm gonna keep it separated in half while I remove it from the little pompom machine and I'm gonna pull a tail here, snip it, it's about 20 inches, and I'm gonna tie it off again. It gets more circular after you fluff it up if that center pull is nice and snug. See how tightly I'm pulling it. I've even broken the yarn before as I'm doing that. Now, depends on how you like your pompoms. These floppy ones remind me of the Muppets. I like it but it would depend on how you're using it. I like a dense pompom too, like this. I think that would make a really cute end to a jacket or something like that so if I wanted to get that look I would make the pompom in exactly the same way using that same little machine but instead I would trim the ends really short. I would give the pompom a haircut. You can really dramatically change the look of a pompom just by trimming it. So I shake it out to get everything all pretty even and then I just start trimming and I

© Maggie Pace and Creativebug Inc., 2024

trim and trim and trim until I get the length that I want and I make them all pretty even. Like that one, they're all pretty much the same length. Thinking about how short you want all of the ends and the more you fluff it, too, that's another thing, the more those plies come unraveled the more fluffier the pompom will get. So I tend to take my pompoms quite a bit and roll them in my hands like really loosely almost like I would cookie dough and that really makes them fluffy and uniform. I just keep on going and I'm trying to make it as even as I possibly can as I work into a nice little circle. I'm gonna fluff it as I go to see how I'm doing. The more you trim it the more it can look like a Dandelion, too, and I think that's a really neat look. There we go. I should spend a little bit more time getting that really even. You can kind of get lost in this and spend a lot of time trimming these little ones. There, I like the way it's looking now. It's one of those things in life that the more you handle it the cuter they get. There we go. That's our first pompom but it's really two totally different looks from the one that I made that originally came off the little pompom maker. You don't need to buy a pompom maker at the store in order to make a pompom. In fact, I think that you can get a really high quality pompom by making your own. It's really simple, all you need is two pieces of cardboard and a glass to trace a circle and a quarter or any circle shape this size that you can trace. I recycled this cardboard from a gift box. You can use a cereal box. Really, a lot of things in your recycling will work. Nothing fancy required here to do this. I'm gonna trace the same exact shape on to both of these and them I'm gonna make it like a doughnut here with my quarter and this is really imprecise. You do not have to be careful about this at all. The length from here to here is what is determining how big their pompoms gonna be and also how fluffy it will be is determined by how many wraps I do. Put a slit in these in order to get the yarn through so you can just cut right through that in order to cut these out and that's gonna make the circles much easier to cut out. There is the outside of that done. Now to get to the center. Come along like this. Just cut that little hole out that I traced earlier and by using this pretty strong cardboard it definitely is gonna make my pompom maker more durable. You can use this a bunch of times in a row. Then I'm gonna hold it up to my other one and now I'm ready to wrap my yarn. For this one, I'm gonna make a multicolored pompom that looks like this here. The way I get this design in the middle is that I take three pulls of yarn at once and I suggest if you're using a ball of yarn that has a center pull, you use the center pull. It is much easier. Otherwise your yarn will be flipping all around and tangling. That's pretty important. Whatever you want to land in the middle is what you lay down first on your pompom maker. I've got my three lengths of yarn and I'm just gonna start wrapping. I'm holding the two pieces of cardboard together as I do this and I'm making sure those slits are lined up and then I'm wrapping and it is kind of awkward to get going at first but once you get moving with it you get a nice flow. You figure out how best to hold it in your hands and see how this doesn't look that nice? That's fine. It will look really good when it's a pompom. I found that it's kind of helpful to push this thing out of the way and then you can really start wrapping. Don't worry about what's happening with these little ends. All of that is gonna get straightened out when the pompom is done. The more you wrap the better. Wrap as many times as you can. That will just be a really fluffy pompom. I'm gonna cover this entire length. If you're using three strands of yarn at once it actually goes quite a bit faster. I think that's enough. I really want that center to be thick though. I might send it back one time. There we go. I'm gonna cut two of these ends and the colors that I don't want anymore and I'm keeping my cream because I'm gonna add another thick layer and that next layer, the cream, will be the outside of the pompom right here. This takes a little while longer because it's only one strand of yarn. See how you get the rhythm after it gets going. This is gonna be a really super fat pompom. Okay, I want all of the three colors to be completely covered so I'm being careful to completely

© Maggie Pace and Creativebug Inc., 2024

cover all of those colors and I'm not pulling the yarn too tight. If it gets too tight it gets a little bit harder to cut at the end. This is a super fun project to do with kids. I was just doing this with a bunch of kids this weekend and oh my gosh, they loved it. It's really, really easy and really satisfying. I think that looks pretty good. Take your sharp scissors. Insert them in between the two pieces of cardboard and start snipping at that yarn. In this case I think it really helps to have a tiny pair of scissors. It's kind of hard to get bigger scissors in there. There we go, you can see the pompom peeking out. Now I'm being careful to keep the pompom from slipping out the bottom because I have to tie it off. I don't want it to slip out of the cardboard so as I do this I'm aware of that. If that pompom were to fall out of the cardboard before it was tied off we'd have a little bit of a mess on our hands. There we go, I think it's all cut. I'm gonna set this down. I'm gonna grab a length of yarn here, snip it, and then I'm gonna send that yarn between the cardboard like this. All the way around and then I'm gonna tie it off really, really tightly. I'm tying it as tight as I can. The tighter I get it the more the pompom will puff out from the center and also the more secure it will be. It won't fall apart. Okay, so that's tight enough and I can remove the cardboard. There we go. Fluff it up and there we have that little pompom. So I can see that it's not perfectly circular and that is no big deal because I can come here and I can trim up the edges and make it into a circle. This side turned out just a tiny bit longer. I can just give a little haircut like that. It's looking pretty good. Now I'm gonna leave these tails long so I can attach it to something, like that. That's a pretty pompom, I love those colors together and see how the first group of colors that we lay down ended up in the center of that and then that white ended up at the edges. The last pompom we're gonna make is using a fork. Sometimes you just can't get your pompom small enough and that's where the fork comes in handy. I'm gonna use four tines to make my pompom, all four tines. I could use less if I want to if I want a smaller pompom but it has to be even so just two because I always need a middle. I'm gonna wrap the whole fork around. That's about 10 wraps, I think I'm gonna double that to 20 and then I'm gonna cut my yarn from the ball and I've already threaded a yarn needle with an extra length of the same color yarn and I'm gonna send this needle up through the center of the tines and then I'm gonna send it back down on the other side to get a wrap like that. Turn the fork around and then tie it off and again it's really important to tie it super tight. The tighter you get it the more it will puff out at the sides and also importantly, the more secure it will be and it won't fall apart. I'm gonna double knot this just for extra security. And I take my teeny tiny scissors and I trim all of those loops to separate them into strands. I'm gonna keep the end that I use to tie it off though so I can secure it, the pompom, to something else. And just like all pompoms the little tiny ones look better with a haircut so I'm gonna go ahead and fluff it up, roll it up like a piece of dough like that. The fluffier the better and I'm gonna trim it up into a nice sphere shape. That is a really cute little pompom. No joke, that's adorable. Now that you know how to make pompoms in all different shapes and sizes and different colors here's the really fun part. You can start putting them on things. You can make them in all different colors, shapes, and sizes. You can use them as package toppers. If you have a lot of pompoms you can make a garland and because I'm a knitwear designer you know I love to put a pompom on a hat. You're gonna use the ends to attach the pompom to the hat. Thread one of the ends with a yarn needle and then send it through on a side of that hole in the middle and then pull it. Thread the other end and send that through on the opposite side. Pull it tight, turn the hat inside out, and then I like to knot it really securely and pretty snugly. There, and then I'm gonna thread the ends again and weave in. Weave in the second end. There we go. Trim the ends right at the surface. Now that pompom is nice and secure on the top of that hat. Pompoms are so fun and easy to make and they're a great use of your scrap yarn.

© Maggie Pace and Creativebug Inc., 2024