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## Make Tissue Paper Pompoms with Courtney Cerruti

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### Chapter 1 - Introduction

#### Overview

Hi, I'm Courtney from creativebug, I'm an artist, an author, I used to do window displays for Anthropology and I also did installations for weddings and one of the things that is really popular in weddings and party decor, and something you'll definitely see out there on Pinterest and on the Internet are paper pompoms. They're super easy to make, they're a great way to add color, to any decor. It's a really fun activity to do alone or with a girlfriend. I'm going to show you how to work with the tissue paper. We can make a pompom out of a single color or you can do an ombre pompom and work with multiple colors of tissue. I'll show you how to do a decorative edging, either with a rounded edge, or a pointed edge to give you a different sort of look. Then we'll fluff it out and you'll have this really beautiful

### Chapter 2 - Materials

#### Materials

[creativebug] [female speaking] The materials that you need for this are pretty straightforward. You'll need to have tissue paper that you can get from your local craft store in a variety of colors. You can do a single color, or a multicolored pom pom. You'll need a pipe cleaner, a piece of floral wire, or a bit of string for the center. And you'll use this later to hang it with, and a sharp pair of scissors are necessary.

### Chapter 3 - Make Paper Pompoms

#### Fold and cut paper

[creativebug] [female speaking] I'm going to make a pom pom using the pink and orange color. And depending on how you buy your tissue, it may be folded in different ways or slightly different sizes. And that's fine. I think I'm going to use around 15 sheets. I have sort of a medium-weight tissue paper. Depending upon how thick your tissue paper is, if it's maybe wax, like you got at the floral shop or has a special coating on it because maybe it has a pattern on it. You may want to use less. Twenty is really about the maximum that you'd want to use. Because when we fluff it in the last stage, it gets kind of hard to pull all the layers apart when you have as much as 20 sheets. So I'm going to do 15. And that means I need 7 of one color and 8 of the other. Every tissue folds out a little different. And we're actually going to cut this out and it will give us two sets of 15 sheets. So, it's going to actually yield two pom poms. Just roughly, so you know what the proportions are I'm working with, Once we cut things in half, mine is going to be around 12 and a half or 13 inches wide by about 20 inches long. So depending on your tissue paper, you want to wind up with something about that size. And that's going to give us a really cute medium-size pom pom in the end. Even though this looks like it has a line right down the center to cut on, it's actually off-center. So, we're going to fold this in half. And this is pretty common. You're definitely going to half to refold your tissue. And we're going to cut on that line instead. [snipping noise] If you have sharp enough scissors, you can just cut this whole stack at once. It's okay if you got a little tear. I have really sharp-tipped edges. So it tore there. This will give us two pom poms. I'll just set one little stack of 15 aside and work with this stack. Just kind of line them up as best you can. It's okay if there's a little overlap when you're working with this many sheets. That's bound to happen. And now we need to

fold this in an accordion-fold or a fan-fold. So, similar to probably what you did in kindergarten or first grade where you made your first paper fan. We're not going to just fold over. We're going to fold back and forth so we get that accordion shape. I like to fold half at a time. So, I take the whole bundle. And just walk it up to that center fold line and make a crease. Then you come back with that entire little stack. And make a crease matching up here. And you just kind of keep working back and forth, always taking this open edge to the last fold. And then, once you're out of open edges, you can just take this whole little packet, bring it down and walk it up to that fold, and so forth. Some folds you may have to refold. So, this one actually we'll wind up folding backwards. Now we've got this here, here, and we'll fold that back. And we'll do the same thing to the other side. [rustling noise] You wind up with about an inch on these folds. If you have to flip it, you can. That may make it easier for you. [rustling] And you're going to gather up all these folds into a little fan. There we go. Just give them an extra little press. They don't have to be perfect. But you just want to make sure that they're actually an accordion going back and forth, that you haven't looped each segment over itself. Because then it won't open up. You want to find the middle, which luckily there is already a fold there. But you can kind of press this over just to make sure you're roughly in the middle. And we're going to take a piece of wire or a pipe cleaner or a piece of string even, and just tie it off here. I'm just going to do a little twist like a twist tie. So I have that short tail and this long tail because once this gets fluffed out, you'll only see a little bit of this and I use this for tying on to the ceiling, or on to a garland string. That looks good. We need to shape the ends. You can choose to do a pointed end, a round end. Sometimes these can look more like a petal for a flower, or they can be more textured. You can just do little snips in them. I think we're going to do something like a pointed end, which if you were thinking a flower, might look a little bit like a dahlia. Just working with a couple folds at a time, we'll go down a little over an inch. And just snip toward the middle. [snipping] You're going to do it on both sides here. So, you get a pointed tip. And you can just kind of correct anything that you miss because we are working with really thick paper at this point. All these folds. [snipping] Just go all the way down on this right side. And I'll come back and do the left side because I find that that's easier. Come in and correct it. [snipping] Oh. Looks like I missed one over here. So, it's no problem. [snipping] Don't be afraid to just really cut it and get that point nice. Because that's the edge that's going to be visible on the outside of your pom pom. Just re-trim that a little. It's good. We've got like a few little weird shapes. Actually, I don't mind those. They give some interesting texture. But if you don't like them, you can just snip them off. That's no problem. We're doing the same thing to the other side. Just working a fold at a time or a couple folds at a time, whatever is easier for you. I love the way the two colors look together. The pink and the orange. Be sure to get in there and get every single fold. [snipping] You can save all those little trimmings for something fun like inserts for a piñata, or maybe just as confetti on a table. And at this stage, we're about to get into the fun part, which is the fluffing. But if you'd like to make these in advance for, let's say, oh a party of some kind, you could do all this folding and tying, trimming the edges and then set them aside and do all the fluffing at once if you wanted to break it up into segments. If you're doing it for a wedding, the fluffing does take a bit, so you can actually fluff them in advance and store them like in trash bags or totes, and then transport them to the wedding for your install.

#### Fluff to create pompoms

[creativebug] [female speaking] Now is the fun part. We get to fluff it. I like to just open it a little. And you can see it's even pretty just like that. [rustling noise] What we're going to do, is pull each of

these sheets out, one at a time. [rustling] We're going to take each individual sheet and fluff it out. [rustling] And for these first ones, you want to make sure that they're really out as far as they can go. Otherwise, you won't be able to pull like the last few out as far. That will make sense as we're fluffing. [rustling] So that's one side. We're going to do the other side. It's tempting to do more than one sheet at a time. But you really have to do this one sheet at a time. [rustling] Just really pull it open. Then we'll flip to the other side and do the same thing. And we'll just keep pulling out the sheets one at a time until we've opened the entire pom pom. If your tissue paper tears a little, that's okay. [rustling] This is going to be so dense, you won't notice it. [rustling] Just switching from side to side. [rustling] [rustling] You can see as you get further out to the pom pom, this dimension is going to shorten and shorten and shorten because we've got all of this fullness here. That is normal. Just keep fluffing. [rustling] We're almost there. [rustling] The last one there. So, we're going to give this a little shake. [rustling] And rearrange our petals, or layers. Give them a little fluff. And you're left with a really beautiful, really colorful pom pom. And you can make it in any color scheme that you like. Remember I talked about the different tips that you can get? This one has has a pointed tip. It gives you a really beautiful, textured pom pom, sort of like a dahlia if you were thinking about it as a flower. And I was going to show you how to do a rounded tip as well. So, you remember the other packet that we had from our larger sheet of tissue. I fan-folded that guy. Just like we did the first one. And I was going to quickly show you how to do a rounded tip. For these guys, I actually like to make snips in the folds because it makes it easier [snipping noise] to cut the rounded shape. I find. [snipping] Just cutting them about an inch and a half down. [snipping] And just taking a little stack at a time, you're just going to cut a rounded edge. You could even cut them deeper and make them more like a daisy petal. So still rounding the edge, but making these snips a lot deeper. Like two, two and a half inches. [snipping] I just want to round out all those edges. [snipping] There you go. And that gives you a nice rounded shape. And you can do that on the other side and then you'll pull apart each of those sheets just as we did with our first pom pom. And the type of shape that it will make when it's all fanned out, I've got an example of it here. This gives you a more ruffled texture, unlike the spikier one that we did earlier. And these are pom poms. But if you were going to think of them like flowers, that spiky is sort of like a dahlia, and this ruffled one might be more like a peony, for example. And you can see this is a magenta and sort of a marigold color as opposed to an orange. Both a really pretty color combination. I have another pom pom here that has a really pretty sea green and aqua blue. Also with a more rounded petal shape. [rustling] And you can make these in advance and then give a little fluff if they've been sitting in a tote bag or in a garbage bag or whatever you're storing them in. You can scale these down and make a little tiny one. This is using a rounded petal shape but slightly deeper to give you more of a floral look. And this could be worn in your hair, or as a corsage or just made into little garlands, or a package topper even. This one's really similar to the one that we just made. It's got that spiky texture. I'm using two different kinds of purples in this one. And you can see from sitting a long time on the table, it kind of flattens out the side. But you can just fluff it up. That's no problem. [ruffling] Give it a little shake. And then last, instead of cutting my sheet in half as we did at the very beginning. Remember, we had that big packet of 15 sheets. And then we cut it in half. So, we had two little packets. You can use the whole sheet, turn it so that it's vertical and fan-fold it that way. And then I just made a really loose open pom pom. It's basically one-sided. This one's an ombre. So it goes from white to pale pink to dark magenta. And I added these construction paper leaves so it would really look like a flower. And you could use this for table decor, a giant package topper or it would be a really good prop for a photo booth at a party or at a wedding. These paper pom poms are a way to add a lot of texture and color

to any event. It could be something as simple as an afternoon tea or a birthday party or as extravagant as a wedding. Just by changing your color palette and the different edges, you can get really different textures. And they're fun and easy to make and require very little materials.