

Christmas Tree Lanturn

Supplies: large empty thread spool, gold or silver wrapping paper, red or green ribbon, red cellophane, glue, scissors

Cut a 3-inch (8-cm) circle from gold or silver wrapping paper. Slit circle from outer edge to center. Overlap slit edges and glue to form a cone.

Cover spool cylinder with cellophane. Cut four gold or silver strips to form upright bars and one to go around middle of spool. Glue strips to spool to look like windows.

Pull a 10-inch (25-cm) red or green ribbon through spool from bottom. Cut off a small piece of the cone's tip and pull ribbon through cone, making a loop. Pull ribbon down through bottom of spool. Tie so knot will just fit into spool shaft, and apply a small amount of glue to keep it in place. Cut a circle out of gold or silver paper, and glue to spool bottom as a covering.

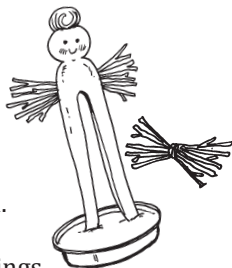


Clothespin Angels

Supplies: wooden clothespins, small jar lids, clay, paints, paintbrushes, toothpick, blush, curly hair, fine gold wire, small twigs, wire, glue (or hot glue gun and glue), thread, newspaper

Cover work area with newspaper. Paint the head of the clothespin. Paint the remainder of the clothespin (the dress of angel). Paint the lid the same color as the dress. Use a toothpick to dot the eyes black. Blush the cheeks.

Shape a small piece of curly hair in a ball and glue to top of the head. For the halo, cut a 2-inch (5-cm) piece of gold wire and bend it into a circle. Twist ends together and glue to the back of the head. For wings, cut four 3-inch twigs and wire together in the center. Glue wings to back of the angel. Glue a small thread bow to the dress under chin. Fill the lid with clay, and stick the bottom of the clothespin into it.



Cork Nativity Scene

Supplies: old nylons, cotton balls, large corks, silver and pastel-colored paper cupcake liners, heavy thread, needle, black thread or felt, white tissue paper, skin-color markers (or crayons), glue, scissors, cardboard, straw (or strips of paper)

Head and body: Cut a piece of nylon at least 5 inches (13 cm) square. Cut off a small piece of cotton ball, and roll it into ball to form nose. Place in middle of stocking piece, and tie thread around it (figure 1). Roll two cotton balls together. Place them behind nose, and gather stocking to make a head. Tie with thread at neck (figure 2). Spread glue on small end and partway down sides of cork. Center head on cork and stretch



Figure 1

stocking around it. Hold in place while glue dries. Cut off any stocking that hangs more than halfway down cork (figure 3). Using black thread, sew two dots for eyes (or glue on bits of black felt).

Robe: For Mary, Joseph, wise men and shepherds, use pastel-colored cupcake liners. For angels, use silver liners. Cut cupcake liner down one side, and cut a hole out of the bottom (figure 4). Turn upside down, wrap around cork, and glue together at back.

Arms: Make arms from same color liner as robe. For Joseph, wise men and shepherds, cut arms using pattern in figure 5. For Mary, cut arms using pattern in figure 6. After cutting arms, color hands skin-color and glue to sides of robe.

For angels, make wings by cutting a silver liner in half. Fold each piece in half, and trace wing pattern on each folded piece (figure 7). Cut out wings. Glue on angels' backs.

Headpieces: For Joseph, Mary and shepherds, use a third of a pastel liner. Then cut the bottom only of liner in half, and bend sides of liner so they fit around head (figure 8). While liner is bent, glue bottom flaps on top of each other. Round off top of headpiece on head of figure.

For wise men, make crowns by cutting a silver liner as if making a robe. Turn upside down, form into a small cone, and glue on head.

For angels, make halos by cutting a long strip from a silver liner. Fold strip in half lengthwise, and make a loop with half of it. With the other half, make a stem to support the halo, and glue to back of neck.

Baby Jesus: Use half a cotton ball to form head, and cover it with stocking. Tie thread underneath head. Make eyes from thread (or glue on felt eyes). Wrap tissue paper around stocking to form body in swaddling clothes.

Manger: Trace patterns for manger and legs onto cardboard (figures 9 and 10). Cut out one manger and two sets of legs. Fold manger in half, and fold legs accordion-style. Glue legs to bottom of manger. Fill with bits of straw (or tiny strips of paper).

