Pumpkin Centerpieces


These pumpkins can be used for both Halloween and Thanksgiving and are great for children to make. You likely already have the supplies on hand as well! Use as a centerpiece or string on a garland.

**Supplies:** orange, green, brown cardstock (or patterns or any other color you desire), scissors, glue

1. Cut cardstock into 2.5 x 0.5 strips. Reserve portion of cardstock to cut out approximately 1 inch circles.

2. Glue the small strips of paper to the circle, overlapping them slightly. Glue them all the way around the circle. Depending on how much you overlap them, it will take 7 to 10 strips per pumpkin.

3. Take a second 1 inch circle and glue the strips underneath. It works best to pull the strips up individually, place a dot of glue on them, and then press them to the underside of the circle, keeping the circles lined up and the pumpkin from being lopsided. The last strip is slightly tricky to press down because your fingers won’t fit in the small gaps between the strips. Try using a pen to press the last strip into place.
4. Using your green or brown paper or cardstock, cut a 0.25 inch x 0.75 inch strip for the stem. Bend over a small section so that you can glue the stem to the pumpkin. You can also make a little curl for your pumpkin by cutting a very thin piece of paper and roll it tightly. Then glue the end behind the stem.
Autumn Leaf Garland

Materials

String
Ruler
Scissors
Leaf templates
Scrapbook paper, 3-4 sheets
Pencil
Hot glue
Mini clothespins, optional

Tip: These supplies are enough to make an approximately 5’ garland. Keep in mind that each leaf is about 4” wide—use more or less to achieve your desired garland length.

Instructions

1. Measure and cut a 7’ piece of string. Cut out the templates on the next 3 pages.
2. Lay scrapbook paper pattern-side down on a flat, clean work surface. Use a pencil to trace the templates onto the paper, then cut out. Repeat until you have 12 leaves, mixing or matching the shapes as desired.

3. Hot glue the string to the back of the leaves, leaving as little or as much space in between them as you’d like. Let dry completely.
4. As an added touch, clip a mini clothespin to the top of each leaf.

Tip: Create a natural effect by using twine or raffia instead of string. Or try brown paper bags instead of scrapbook paper for your leaves.
Thanksgiving Napkin Rings


Napkin rings are wonderful Thanksgiving crafts for children to make. Several can be put together very quickly.

**Supplies:** empty toilet paper/paper towel roll tubes or construction paper, tissue paper, ruler, marker, scissors, paint, feathers, glue

1. Cut empty rolls or construction paper into 1.5 inch sections. If using paper, decorate the strip of paper while it is still flat.

![Image of cut paper](image1)

2. Decorate the rings/straps any way you choose. Consider using tempera paints, wrapping paper, tissue paper stickers, foam shapes, feathers and anything else you can find. You may want to decorate each napkin ring with a person’s name and use them as seat holders for your table. Glue craft feathers or other decorative items onto the napkin ring to add a nice touch. Tissue paper can be cut into small squares, twisted around the end of an eraser and glued onto the strips/roll.

![Image of decorated napkin rings](image2)

3. Roll up a napkin and thread it through the ring.

![Image of rolled napkin](image3)
Pie Plate Ornaments

After the Thanksgiving pies have been eaten, turn those aluminum tins into shiny tree trimmings.

Be sure to check out our other eco-friendly ideas for a Happy Green Holiday.

Materials
- Aluminum pie plate
- Cookie cutters
- Scissors
- Chopstick or wooden spoon
- Ribbon
- Acrylic jewels
- Sequins
- Glue dots
- Tape
- Monofilament

Total Time Needed: 1 Hour

Instructions

1. For each ornament, trace a cookie cutter onto an aluminum pie plate (or download our templates for the ornaments shown here).

2. Cut out the ornament, then use a chopstick or the end of a wooden spoon to emboss a swirl pattern onto the aluminum. Add decorations, such as ribbon, acrylic jewels, and sequins adhered with glue dots.

3. Finally, tape a loop of monofilament to the back as a hanger.
Reused Wrapping Paper Wreath

(Originally obtained from http://www.instructables.com/id/Reused-Wrapping-Paper-Wreath/)

Don't throw out that wrapping paper! Here's a neat way to reuse wrapping paper and turn it into a holiday decoration. This is a nice activity to do after the present opening frenzy while you wait for dinner. Sure, making Christmas decorations on Christmas Day may seems a little late, but you can keep it up as long as you want, and save it for next year.

**Supplies:** wrapping and/or tissue paper, bows, scissors, wire coat hanger (bent into a circle)

1. Smooth out the wrapping paper a bit, and get it into a piece about 9” wide. Roll the paper up, and cut into strips, about 1” wide. Make many of these strips.

2. Take a strip of paper; put it around the coat hanger, and twist, like a twist tie. Repeat this process many times and slide the strips together to make the wreath full, until the hanger is no longer visible.

3. Once the wreath is full trim any long pieces and add a bow.
New Year’s Noisemakers

(Originally obtained from http://crafts.kaboose.com/water-bottle-noise-maker.html)

Save that water bottle or aluminum can from the landfill by creating this fun noise maker for New Year’s Eve!

**Supplies:** empty plastic water bottle or aluminum can; beans, coins, or other items to place inside; tissue paper; crepe paper, glue, water, scissors

1. Place a handful of beads or coins inside the clean, dry water bottle. Run some glue around the mouth of the bottle and replace the cap.
   a. If using aluminum can, place a handful of dried bean or pebbles in the can and close the opening using heavy-duty tape. Then cover the can completely with aluminum foil and decorate with stickers, glitter, and other decorations.
2. Make a mixture of ½ glue and ½ water that will be enough to cover the bottle a few times over.
3. Tear tissue paper into large chunks, approximately 4 inches x 2 inches.
4. Paint a small section of the outside of the water bottle with glue mixture. Place a torn piece of tissue paper onto the glue mixture and paint over it with the glue mixture. Repeat this process, covering the entire bottle with 2-3 coats of tissue paper.
5. Apply small colorful squares of tissue paper randomly over the base tissue paper to resemble confetti.
6. Cut strips of crepe paper streamer in half. Carefully tie one of the pieces around the neck of the bottle. Repeat with other lengths of crepe paper. Use scissors to cut each length to about 4 inches hanging length, and then cut upwards into thin strips. Use a couple pieces of the excess crepe paper you just cut off to twist around the neck of the bottle and glue in place. Allow to dry for several hours.