

SWEATER WEATHER

Gather your old holiday sweaters and get crafting with these festive projects as seen in the December 2014 issue of Better Homes and Gardens® magazine.



PRODUCED BY PAUL LOWE | PHOTOS ALEXANDRA GRABLEWSKI
CRAFTS BY PAUL VITALE AND PAUL LOWE | TAGS AND RIBBONS DESIGNED BY JOLINE RIVERA



The creative genius behind *Sweet Paul* magazine, “Sweet Paul” Lowe lives by his grandmother’s motto: **“Perfection is boring.”** His quarterly magazine focuses on “easy yet elegant recipes, stylish crafts, entertaining ideas, shopping tips, recurring features, and more.” sweetpaulmag.com

SWEATER PILLOW



Supplies

Pillow insert
Wool sweater
Sewing machine
Scissors
Pins
Yarn
Needle

How-to

1. Buy a pillow insert that fits snugly within the bottom opening of your sweater.
2. Turn your sweater inside-out and measure the appropriate length of your pillow up into the torso of the sweater.
3. Stitch a straight seam across the width of the sweater. (We used a zigzag stitch.)
4. Cut off the top part of the sweater just above your stitched seam and turn the sweater right side out.
5. Insert your pillow and pin the opening closed.
6. Using yarn and needle, whip-stitch your pillow closed.

STARS



Supplies

Wool sweater
Cardboard or metal stars
Scissors
Hot-glue gun
Embroidery floss (optional)

How-to

1. Place your sweater over the star and cut it out to size, leaving 1 inch excess all around.
2. Starting at the center and working out, hot-glue to secure.
3. Glue edges under the form.
4. If you are hanging the stars as ornaments, simply use embroidery floss to make a loop and hot-glue to the back of the star.

SWEATER TREES



Supplies

Wool sweater
Scissors
Pins
Sewing machine
Polyfill
¼" wooden dowel
Hot-glue gun
Clippers
Drill
¼" drill bit
Coin of natural wood

How-to

1. Turn your sweater inside-out and cut two matching triangles, leaving ¼-inch seam allowance.
2. Pin the two sides together and sew almost all the way around the triangle. Leave a gap about 1½ inches wide at the base of the triangle.
3. Turn the tree right side out via the hole. Stuff the tree with polyfill.
4. Insert the wooden dowel into the gap. Use a dab of hot glue on either side of the dowel to secure the tree.
5. Cut dowel to size.
6. Drill a hole in the center of natural wood coin and insert dowel.

FELTED WOOL STAR GARLAND



Supplies

Wool sweater
Laundry detergent
Washing machine
Star pattern (*page 9*)
Scissors
Iron
Heavy fusible interfacing
Hot-glue gun
Large sequins
Wool yarn

How-to

1. Wash your sweater on hot with detergent in a washing machine. Let dry.
2. Using the star pattern, cut star shapes out of sweater.
3. Iron the heavy fusible interfacing to the backs of the stars and cut out so you just see the wool star from the front.
4. Hot-glue a large sequin in the center of each star.
5. Hot-glue the stars to wool yarn and hang.

LEG WARMERS



Supplies

Wooden stool
Wool sweater
Scissors
Sewing machine

How-to

1. Measure the legs of your stool to determine size of "leg warmers." Measure desired length on arms of sweater. Cut to size.
2. Cut the arms in half lengthwise and sew a seam in each to create the legs.
3. Turn inside-out and fold down 1 inch on each end of the arms. Sew it down to create a finished edge.
4. Turn right side out and thread the arms on the stool legs.

VASES & VOTIVES



Supplies

Wool sweaters
Glass vases or glass votives
Scissors
Hot-glue gun
Metal jingle bells

How-to

1. Fit the arms of your sweater(s) on the vases/votives and cut off the ends about 2 inches longer than the vase/votive.
2. Fold up the end and hot-glue for a uniform base.
3. Pull the sweater arms on the vases/votives.
4. Hot-glue jingle bells to sweater.



MINI WINTER SWEATERS & HATS



Supplies

Wool sweater with ribbed sleeve or waist
Scissors
Pins
Heavy fusible interfacing
Hot-glue gun
String or yarn
Pom-poms (for mini hats)

How-to

1. Cut out a rectangle for the sweater torso. Note: Cut your rectangle so that the bottom of the rectangle slightly overlaps the sweater's ribbing to give your mini sweater its own mini ribbed waist.
2. Cut out two skinny rectangles for sleeves. Make the sleeves at least 1 inch longer than needed so that you can fasten them to the torso in the back.
3. Trim the top two corners of your torso rectangle at a slight angle to create the slope of the sweater's shoulders.

4. Position your sleeves' overlap on the back of the sweater along the slope of the shoulder and leave a proportional length of sleeve on the front. Pin sleeves in place from the front of the sweater.

5. Cut a square of heavy fusible interfacing bigger than your entire sweater and place it on the back of the sweater. Follow interfacing instructions to iron it to the back of the sweater until it is bonded. Remove pins.

6. Flip the piece over and trim around the sweater to remove the excess interfacing. You should now have a little stiff mini sweater.

7. Cut a mini collar from your master sweater's ribbing. Hot-glue it in place in the appropriate position at the top of your mini sweater.

8. Cut a loop of string or yarn and hot-glue to the back of your mini sweater to hang.

Hats To create mini hats, simply cut hat shapes from your sweater and use the fusing process noted above. Hot-glue a pom-pom and ribbed brim to finish.



EMBROIDERY HOOP ORNAMENTS



Supplies

Wool sweaters
Small embroidery hoops (we used 3")
Scissors
Embroidery floss

How-to

1. Find interesting designs on the sweaters and place the hoops on top.
2. Cut out around the hoops, making sure to cut a little extra.
3. Fasten the sweaters on the hoops and cut off any excess on the backs.
4. Finish with a loop of embroidery floss to hang.



MITTENS



Supplies

Piece of paper
Pencil
Scissors
Wool sweater
Sewing machine

How-to

1. Close your fingers as if you were wearing a mitten and trace a shape around your hand on a piece of paper to use as a pattern. Note: Trace about 1 inch away from your hand to allow for a seam.
2. Turn one sleeve of your sweater inside-out, flatten it, and pin your pattern to it. Keep the ribbed part of the sleeve at the bottom of your mitten. You can retain the sides of the sleeves in place of side seams on your mitten. Cut out. Repeat with other sleeve so you have two mittens.
3. Stitch around the thumb and fingers of your mitten to close off the top. Repeat with the second mitten.
4. Trim off any excess wool outside your seams and turn both mittens right side out.



WOOL BASKETS



Supplies

Wool sweater (cable-knits look really nice for this project)
Scissors
Yarn
Large needle
Sewing machine (optional)
Pins

How-to

1. Cut a long rectangular strip of your sweater along the ribbed waistline, 24"-32".
2. Cut a rectangle for the bottom of your basket. The perimeter of the bottom of the basket should equal the length of the strip.
3. Using a simple whip stitch or a sewing machine, sew together the short ends of your first rectangle strip to form a cylinder.
4. Turn the cylinder inside-out. Pin the edge of the cylinder to the bottom piece that you cut out.
5. Using a simple whip stitch or a sewing machine, sew around the bottom of the basket.
6. Turn the basket right side out.



FIVE-MINUTE WREATH



Supplies

Floral pins
Long wool scarf
Foam or straw wreath
Ribbon
Fresh spruce sprigs (optional)

How-to

1. Start by pinning the scarf to one point on the wreath.
2. Wrap it around the wreath, fastening in place as you go. Pin in place to finish.
3. Hang from a ribbon. If you want to make it more festive, stick some spruce sprigs into the wreath behind the ribbon.



STUFFED HEARTS & STARS



Supplies

Star and heart patterns (*pages 9 and 10*)
Old wool sweaters
Scissors
Pins
Heavy thread
Needle
Polyfill

How-to

1. Position your patterns over a nice part of the sweater and cut out, making sure to cut through both sides of the sweater.
2. Pin the two sides together, right side out (there's no turning inside-out with this project).
3. Using heavy thread and needle, sew your two pieces of sweater together using a simple whip stitch. Don't worry about perfection here; irregular stitching adds to the charm of these ornaments.

4. Once you get about 2 inches from completely sewing around your shape, remove your pins and stuff your shape with a bit of polyfill.
5. Once the ornament is stuffed, sew shut. Sew a loop at the end to hang the ornament.



SWEATER STOCKINGS



Supplies

Wool sweater
Pins
Stocking pattern (*page 11*)
Scissors
Sewing machine
Yarn
Hot-glue gun

How-to

1. Turn your sweater inside-out and pin your pattern over the sweater.
2. Cut out your sweater, making sure to cut through both sides.
3. Sew around the stocking shape using a zigzag stitch, making sure to leave the top open.
4. Trim off excess wool around the seams. Turn stocking right side out.
5. Form a loop of yarn and sew it into place on the heel side of the stocking opening.
6. Make a cuff for your stocking using the ribbing at the collar or waistline of your sweater. Hot-glue into place around the opening.

SWEATER GIFT TAGS

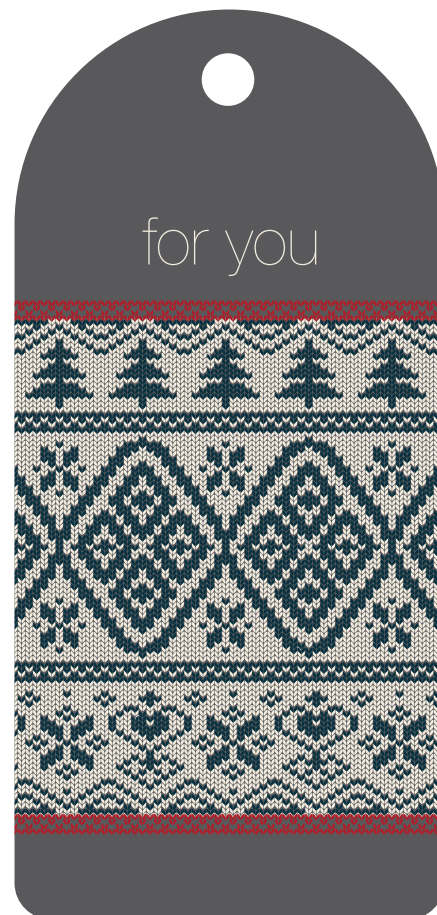
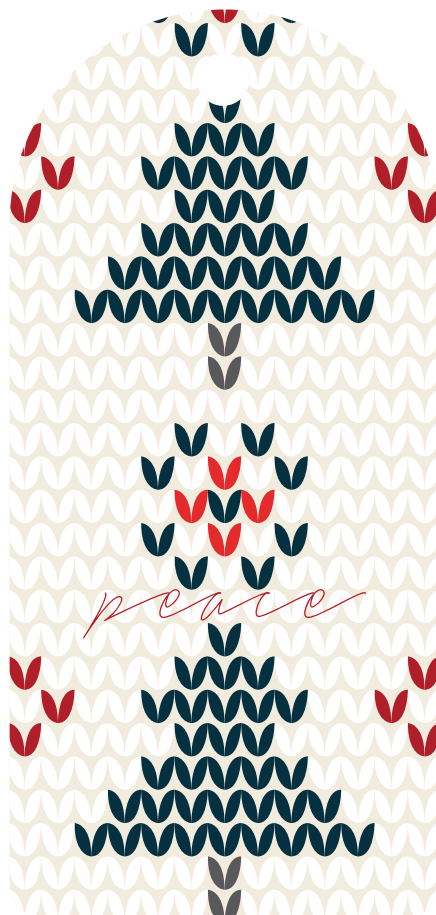


Supplies

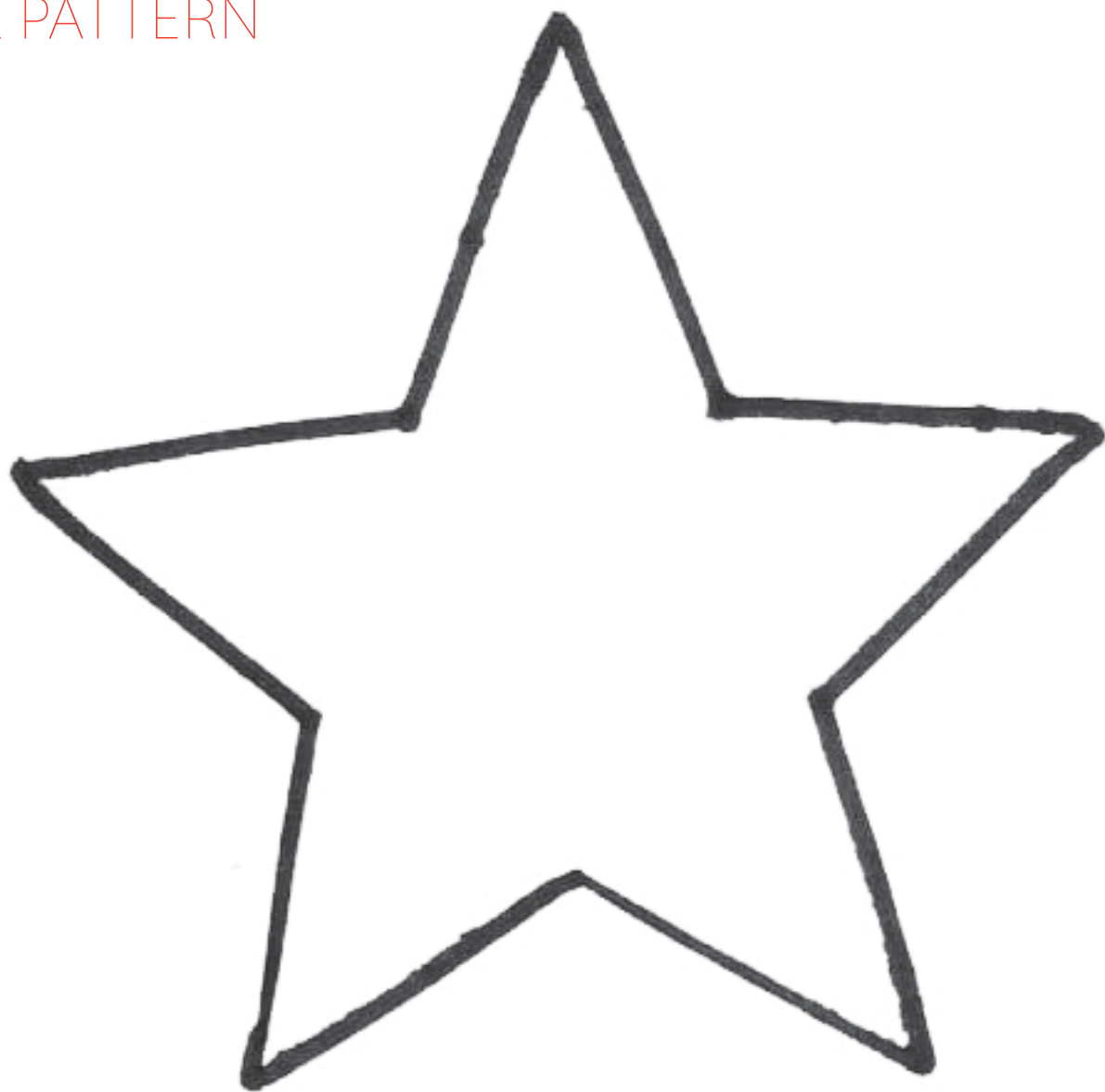
Printed gift tags (*page 8*)
Scissors
Hole punch
Twine

How-to

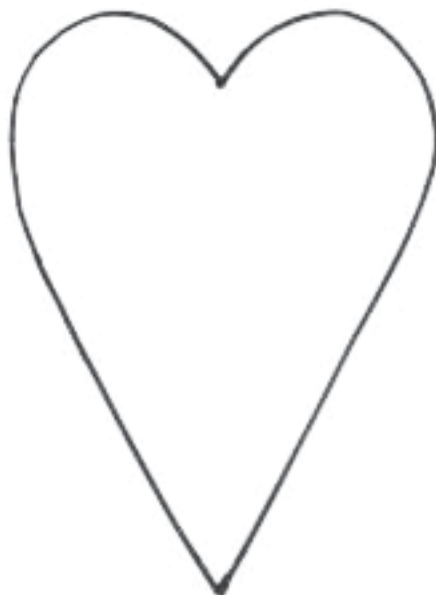
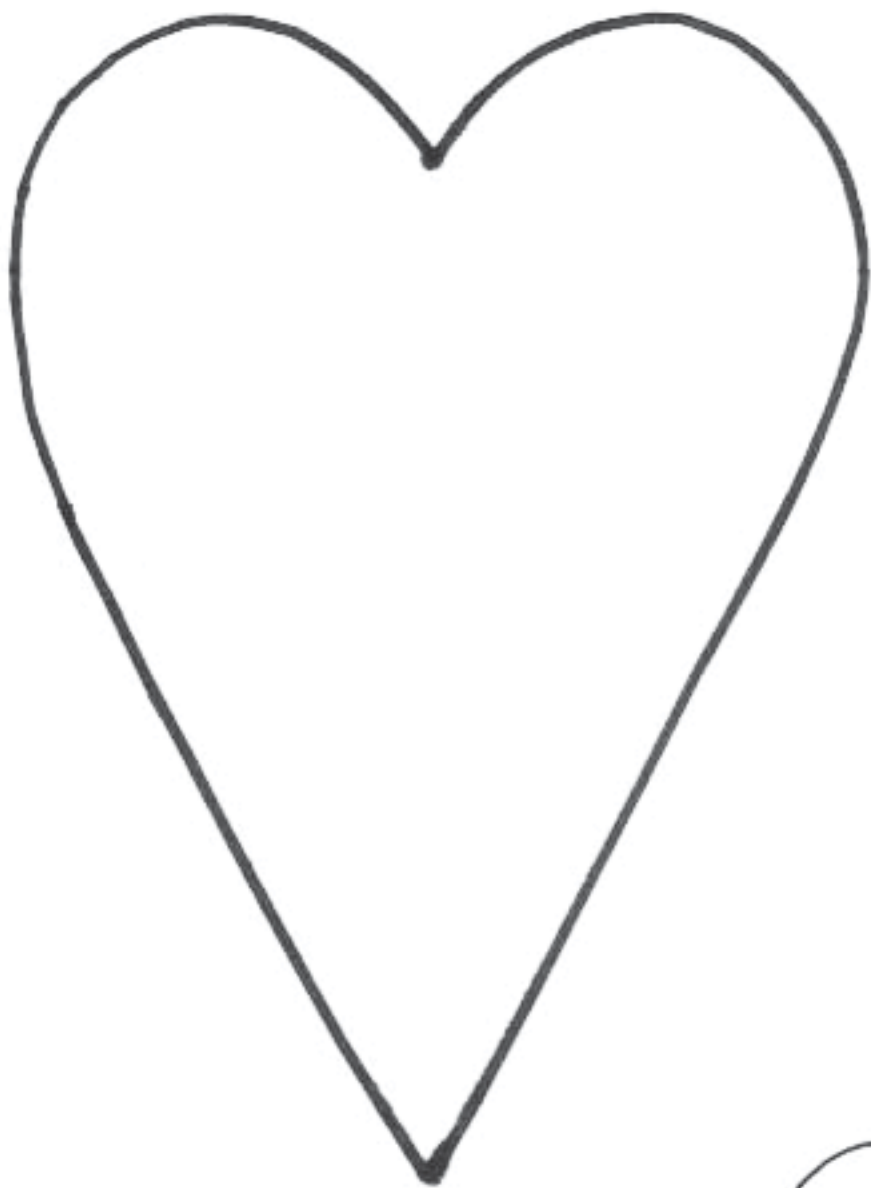
Print and cut out gift tags. Punch the tops of the tags and thread twine through. Write a sweet note on the back and tie to your gift.



STAR PATTERN



HEART PATTERN



STOCKING PATTERN

