

Project: Fabric Holiday Ornaments

INSPIRED BY *PETAL PINCUSHION STACKS* FROM DESIGNER ROSEANN MEEHAN KERMES (ROSEBUDS-COTTAGE.COM)
PROJECT TESTER: LAURA BOEHNKE



Make simple holiday ornaments using holiday-theme fabric, metallic crochet thread, and yo-yos. Stuff the ornaments with more fiberfill and they can double as pincushions.

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Materials

- Scraps of assorted red, green, and cream prints
- Embroidery floss: red and gold
- Cotton or polyester fiberfill
- 6" gold cord (hanging loop)

Finished ornaments:

4" and 2½" in diameter

Cut Fabrics

These instructions are for making one large ornament. The measurements and patterns in parentheses are for the small ornament.

Patterns are on page 4. To make templates of patterns A and C (B and D), see Make and Use Templates on page 5.

From assorted red and green prints, cut:

- 2—5" squares (3" squares)
- 1 of Pattern C (D)

Assemble Ornament

1. On wrong side of a red or green print 5" square (3" square), trace around A (B) template with a pencil.
2. With right sides together, layer marked and unmarked red or green print 5" squares. With a small stitch length (1.5-2 millimeters), sew on marked line. Overlap stitches slightly where you begin and end.
3. Trim seam allowance a scant ¼" beyond stitching line. Clip corners and curves almost to stitching (**Diagram 1**).
4. Decide which print will be the front of the ornament; carefully cut a ¾"-long slit in the center of the front.
5. Turn right side out through slit. Fill with stuffing; use eraser end of a pencil to poke stuffing into curved edges.

Finish Ornament

1. Using six strands of matching or contrasting floss and a long, sharp needle, insert needle into center of ornament front, then exit center of ornament back (**Diagram 2**). Bring needle and floss up around an inside curve, then push needle down from front center to back center as before. Continue stitching in the same manner at each inside curve, pulling tightly to indent ornament. Knot securely.
2. Turn under ¼" around red or green print C (D) circle. Using a long running stitch, hand-stitch close to folded edge (**Diagram 3**); draw up stitches tightly and tie thread ends in a knot to make a yo-yo.
3. Hand-stitch yo-yo to center of ornament front with matching thread.
4. Slide one end of gold cord under an inside corner stitch. Knot cord ends to make a hanging loop.

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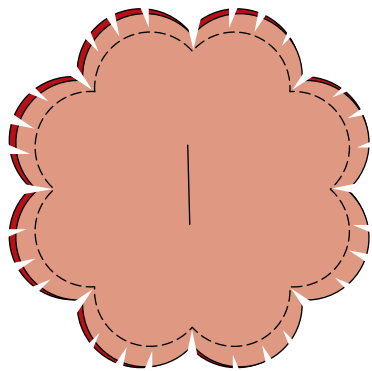


DIAGRAM 1

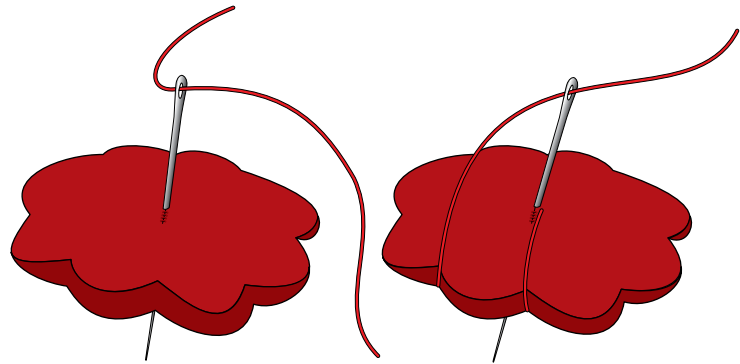


DIAGRAM 2

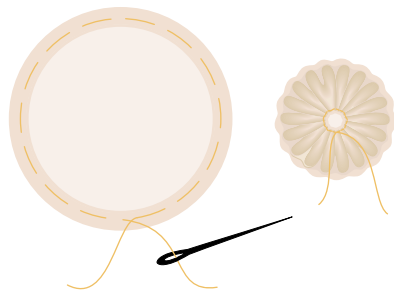
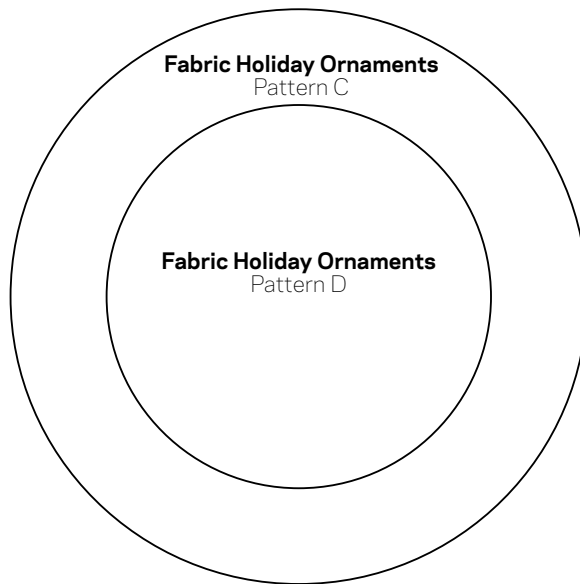
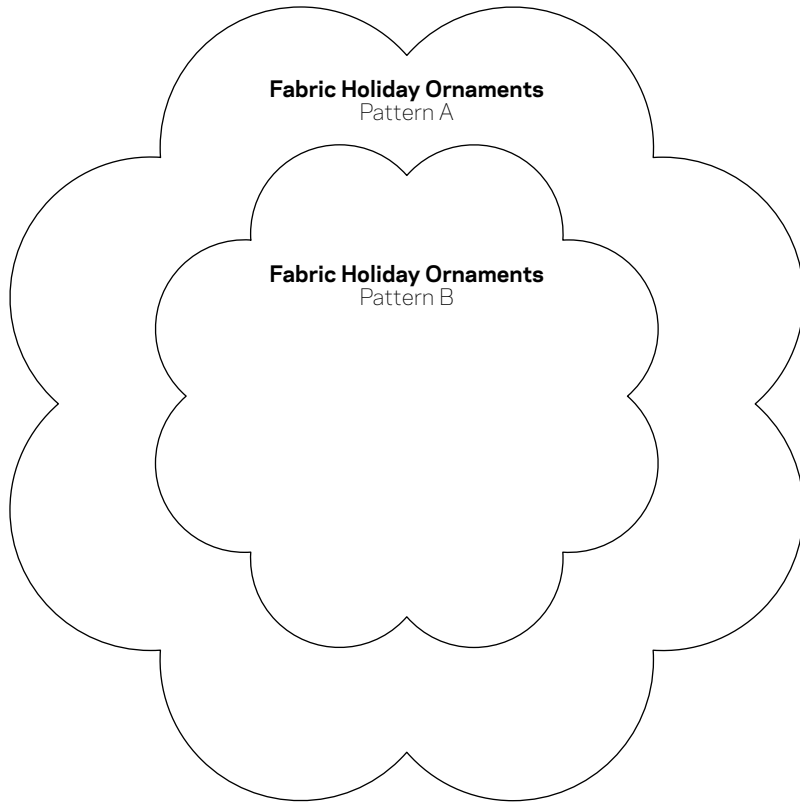


DIAGRAM 3

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This box should measure 1".



*** NOTE:**

When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

Make and Use Templates

Make Templates

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

Use Templates

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

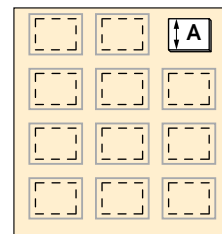


DIAGRAM 1

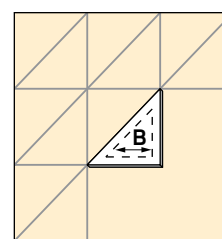


DIAGRAM 2