

FELT YULE/CHRISTMAS TREE



"Earlier this week while putting up the tree and decorations I unpacked this little felt tree that I made a few years ago and thought it might be something you would enjoy making. It's really easy and perfect for a couple of hours of relaxation for yourself or a fun project to keep the children busy (with some adjustments for suitability and ability of course)."

For the adult's and older children's version, you will need:

A few sheets of green crafting felt in as many assorted shades as you like, Buttons, Beads, Thread, Pins, Needles, one for stitching and another that is fine enough to pass through the beads, Glue (PVA, Fabric Glue or Superglue), Winter/Christmas and sparkle embellishments, Compass or selection of round objects to trace around, Small ball of cotton wool or toy stuffing.



1. Cut out 6 felt circles in various sizes, making sure that each circle is at least 2cm smaller in diameter than the one before it.

Note: The smaller the bottom circle the smaller the finished tree will be. I cut a circle measuring 23cm diameter for the bottom layer of my tree which is the size of a side plate.

- 2. Mark the centre of each circle.
- 3. Cut a straight line from the edge of the circle to the centre mark on each piece.
- 4. With this cut towards you, place the right side of the cut edge over the left and keep moving this top section around to form a cone and keep doing this so that when you look at the inside of the cone the cut edges have lined up the layers of the cone are now double. Pin to hold in place.
- 5. Stack them on top of each other from largest to smallest and pin together in position, taking care to line up the edges for the seam.
- 6. Using small tacking stitches, sew them together and then remove all the pins.
- 7. Sew on the buttons.
- 8. Glue on all the embellishments and sparkly pieces. This is the perfect time to raid your sewing box or card making stash for shiny plastic gems and charms.
- 9. Create the beaded garland by first attaching the end of the thread to the top most layer of the tree and then make small looped sections of beads which encircle the tree from the top to the bottom. The simplest way to do this is to thread enough beads to form one loop then secure it in position before threading the beads for the next loop. There is no need for the loops to be identical in size. You can add variety to this beaded garland by adding different sized beads along the way.
- 10. Push a small amount of cotton wool or the stuffing into the top layer of the tree so that it holds its shape. There is no need to stuff the entire tree as the stuffed top and doubled thickness of the felt layers will allow it to hold its shape when standing and it means that you are able to store it away flat which saves space.



For younger children:

Replace all the stitching with PVA/Fabric glue and leave off the beaded garland (although you could do this stage for them while keeping them involved by allowing them to choose the beads as you thread and attach them).

The tree works equally well with coloured card stock, stickers and ribbon as a child friendly alternative.



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www.weediflowercreations.com weediflowercreations@gmail.com

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