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**Handmade Ornaments For The Christmas Tree**

**By Marianne Jackson**

Get ready for Christmas, it will be here before you know it. Decorating the Christmas tree can be

either an exciting, fun task or it can become expensive and can seem like more trouble than its worth. If you begin early enough you may just find that homemade ornaments are inexpensive and a lovely way to spend time with the family. The only limitation being your imagination and by doing a little bit of research, the internet has some great ideas, you can begin a new family tradition. Every holiday you can add to your new homemade ornaments collection.

You can cut costs amazingly by using last year's Christmas wrap. Everyone always has some of last year's rolls hidden away and you did buy them in the first place because you thought that they were very attractive. Make simple patterns on your rolls of paper and fold them into different shapes, such as stars, moons or fan shape. Next, glue on an attractive ribbon so that your ornaments can be attached to the Christmas tree. With a little bit of research, you may even want to try your hand at a bit of origami; it really isn't as hard as you may think. Also think about your old Christmas cards your family and friends sent, nice aren't they? You may want to consider cutting them into different shapes and use a hole punch to add some pretty ribbon to attach them to your tree, you can even use them to make frames. If you use your imagination you will be able to come up with all sorts of ideas.

Of course the edible kinds of decorations and ornaments are always a lot of fun for big and little children alike. There is the traditional popcorn stringing or you might want to consider using cranberries or nuts. Gingerbread cookies cut into different shapes are a fun idea as well. There are many recipes out there mixing flour, water, cinnamon and cornstarch that you can find to use with cookie cutters that make some very nice ornaments. Another kind of ornament can be made from tin. You can find supplies at a craft or hardware store. You will need tin snips, and a hole punch for metal to make the holes, and then you just need the tin sheets or rolls. Some caution should be used with this craft due to the sharp edges of the tin. You can find clear plastic or glass ornaments at a craft store that you can paint with any design that you wish on the outside. Some of them you may want to pour some paint inside of the ornament and swirl it around for a beautiful unique design. You can also fill them up with different objects using the old imagination, such as bright snippets of ribbon, or little tiny glittered pine cones.

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Beads and bead kits can be used to make some spectacular decorations or you can simply string them. You can also find many different ideas and kits at the craft store, spend an hour or so walking around and you will come up with some very great , original ideas. Whatever kind of homemade decorations you and your family can come up with will bring you together to make some lasting memories and quality, family time. And an awesome looking Christmas tree too.

Marianne Jackson is a staff writer at

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### **Christmas Tree Ornament Tips**

**By Rosie Fletcher**

When it comes to decorating, we are all perfectionists about our Christmas tree. After all, it happens only once a year and the decorations are a treasure to behold. The finishing touch, for any Christmas tree, is the ornaments. Perhaps you have memories of a personalized ornament given to you as a child or maybe it's the tradition of hanging them with your family – making sure that each is perfectly spaced from its neighbor for that added touch of beauty. The Christmas ornaments for Christmas trees, which we choose, should be a reflection of ourselves and our family.

There are all types of Christmas ornaments for Christmas trees. >From glass to unbreakable, there is something for everyone. Glass ornaments are among the most expensive, in part, because they require such intricate detail and add a touch of elegance to any Christmas tree. Glass ornaments pick up the reflection of lights and beam them across the room with, perhaps, even a twinkle or two. These ornaments are often hand-painted, which adds to their uniqueness.

There are a variety of unbreakable ornaments, also available, in a multitude of colors. If you have a child who loves to be near the Christmas tree, glass ornaments may not be the best option. Or, if you have a pet that enjoys the mystique of the tree a little too much, you may opt for something unbreakable. This is why there are plastic ornaments, which are much safer for your inquiring family members whether they be small or furry.

If you have children, there are plenty of ways to make beautiful Christmas ornaments for Christmas trees at home.

Using gold ribbon, tie a bow and place it on the tree. Repeat these steps until your tree is filled with

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golden memories of your child's imagination. You can also purchase plain white ceramic ornaments and, together with your children, paint them into beautiful Christmas ornaments for Christmas trees.

What's good enough to eat and also looks beautiful on a Christmas tree? Give up? It's a candy cane, of course. These pretty little symbols of Christmas are everywhere during the holiday season. If you can resist the temptation of eating them, candy canes make terrific Christmas ornaments for Christmas trees. Leave them as they are or tie little red bows around them for an added touch of Christmas.

If your child would like a personalized letter from Santa, contact one of Santa's helper services and inquire about Santa also sending your child a personalized ornament with his/her name engraved. This will truly be one of the most special ornaments on the tree and your child will treasure it forever.

Christmas ornaments for Christmas trees truly are the icing on the cake. Let them reflect you, your family, your home and your love for the holidays. The most precious ornaments are those we decorate with love. Not so surprisingly, these are also the most beautiful.

For more great Christmas ornament related resources check out

<http://ornaments.christmashub.com>



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