

Tiffany's "Quilted" Ornaments

Supplies

- 3" styrofoam ball
- ~300 1" straight pins
- 2.5" fabric squares (there are several ways to arrange these, but for this example we need 16 for the first layer of triangles and 16 for the second layer, 8 and 8 for each side)
- 2 fussy cut 3.5" circle ornament centers (cut 3.5" square and then round with scissors, it doesn't have to be perfect)
- A 12 x 2" piece of fabric folded in thirds and ironed to make a "binding" strip
- Ribbon for hanging - one 2" piece and one 10" piece

Note: I usually order my foam balls and straight pins in bulk online because it's much cheaper. 1000 pins go fast when you're making these ornaments!

Directions

Step 1: Place your first center image on the foam ball



Chose placement for your image. Most styrofoam balls have a faint mold line around them, and I tend to use this as a halfway marker, placing the center image in the middle of the circle. Pin your fabric to the ball at top, bottom, and both sides of fabric, making sure to pull fabric snug but not too tight. Place 4 more pins between the 4 pins you just placed. (Make sure you go back and forth with pinning - like when you're changing a tire - so you don't pull the fabric too far to one side.) You should have 8 pins, evenly spaced. You'll need to do a final round of pins between those pins, to fold and tuck all the fabric as flat as possible to the ball, for a total of 16 pins.

Step 2: First layer of triangles



Chose which fabric/s you want to use for your inside layer of triangles. In my example, this layer outlines the center but is not the focal print on the finished ornament, so you can just use a color you like. Take one 2.5" square and finger press it in half in both directions to find the center. Push a pin through center from the wrong side of the fabric to the right side. Decide where you want your first triangle point to be in relation to your center fabric, and push the pin into that spot.



Fold fabric in half



Fold corners up to make triangle



Pin where the fabric meets in the middle



Pin again at outer edges of triangle



Start a new triangle piece, and pin it to the ball across the center from your first triangle in the same way you pinned the previous triangle. Make sure you're leaving enough room to see the fussy cut center print, but not so much that your triangles are wrapping more than halfway around the ball. On most of my examples, the center points are around 1.5-1.75" apart.



Continue in this manner, placing the top, bottom, left, and right triangles, and then going back and adding triangles in between for a total of 8 triangles, making a circular frame around your center print.

Step 3: Outer layer of triangles



Switch to your second layer fabric/s. These will be most visible. Make another layer of triangles. You can place these directly on top of your first layer, with points starting further back



Or you can offset your points on your second layer, which will show more of the first layer fabrics.

Make sure that your second layer of triangles is far enough back from the center that it's outer edges are covering this whole half of the ball (so potentially a little past the mold line if you have one.) The outer corners of the triangles can stick over the halfway point a little bit, which is better than if they're really far inside and not fully covering half the ball.

Step 4: The second side

Repeat the whole process on the other side of the ornament. If your center fabric is directional, make sure the second side is facing the same way so your ornament has an obvious top and bottom.

Step 5: The binding strip



Starting at the bottom of your ornament, wrap your binding strip (with raw edges facing the inside) around the place where both sides of your ornament meet to cover the pins, pinning along both sides of the binding as you go. If you find that the tips of your triangles are sticking out too far into the opposite side to effectively cover everything with the binding, you can trim them up a little with scissors.



When you reach the top of your ornament, slip the ends of your 2" ribbon piece beneath both sides of your binding strip to form a small loop and pin, doing your best to hide the pins under the ribbon.



Continue wrapping and pinning binding til you reach back around to the bottom again. Trim excess binding, fold end under, pin in place.

Step 6: The ribbon hanger



Slip your 10" ribbon through your 2" ribbon loop and tie the end, leaving room to hang it. It's important to do the smaller ribbon and then the larger one, so your ornament will hang correctly instead of with the side facing out.

Step 7: Make more ornaments to decorate your craft room Christmas tree!



Variations

- There are folks who start the triangles right in the center instead of using a fussy cut center.
- You can add as many layers of triangles as you like, and do any variation when combining them. Maybe a rainbow?



- Some people like to pin sequins or beads after they finish the triangles
- You can use anything you want for your “binding” and hanging including ribbon or giant ricrac
- There are examples online that use a bunch of ribbon to make a big puffy bow on top.
- You can also try other styrofoam shapes. I’ve seen folks do stars, or use styrofoam cones and the pinned triangle fabric shapes to make a whole quilted Christmas tree!

A Couple Other Good Tutorials

<https://suzyquilts.com/fabric-star-ornament-tutorial/>

www.polkadotchair.com/how-to-make-a-vintage-folded-fabric-star-ornament/