

Country Christmas Wreath

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This wreath can be made with a grapevine wreath or straw wreath and simple felt shapes. The kids can have fun helping, too. Use your imagination when decorating the little puffed cotton circles. You can find pictures from magazines and catalogs to use to help you create your own patterns.

You will need:

a 12" to 14" grapevine wreath

5 silk leaves

7 small wooden stars

small gold bells

assorted scraps of plaid cotton fabrics in shades of red and green

gold, white, red, dark green, pink, and dark blue

felt pieces enough quilt batting to cut six 3-1/4" circles

thin ribbons; tiny buttons in heart, circle, snowflake, and star shapes; any other assorted embellishments that you like

moveable "eyes" for the Santa and snowman

4 cinnamon stick pieces

a 1-1/2"-wide strip of plaid cotton and 18"-long strands of raffia for the bow

hot glue gun and glue

scissors

needle and red thread

pencil and paper

wire for hanging



Basic directions:

Make a 3-1/2" paper circle pattern and cut 12 circles using scraps of plaid cotton fabrics. Also cut 6 circles from quilt batting. Place a batting circle between two fabric circles and stitch all around using a blanket stitch. Cut shapes from felt and glue on embellishments according to the photo here (mittens, Santa face, heart, tree, stocking, and snowman), or make up your own designs, keeping the felt shapes simple. Glue on buttons, tiny bows, circles of batting for Santa's beard, then glue the finished ornaments around the wreath. Fill in the gaps by gluing on silk leaves (I used ivy leaves), a wooden star, and a gold bell. Glue two cinnamon stick pieces above both sides of the top ornaments, then glue on wooden stars and bells. Tie bows with fabric and raffia and glue onto the top center of the wreath. Add a loop of wire to the back for hanging.

Tip: if you don't have fabric scraps that are suitable, check the remnants and quilt squares at your favorite fabric store.