

Recycled Wreath Christmas Craft

Follow the illustrated instructions below to make your very own recycled Christmas wreath, inspired by a 1960's punch card wreath found at Glencairn Museum!



This is the homemade Christmas wreath that was found a while ago in Glencairn's basement storage! It is a 1960s or '70s punch card wreath. Throughout the 1960s and '70s, 3" x 7" cards were "punched" with information and then input into a computer. Magazines published instructions for making Christmas wreaths, often spray painted gold, from these discarded "punch cards," which were cheap and plentiful. The punch card era ended with the invention of modern computers.

Materials

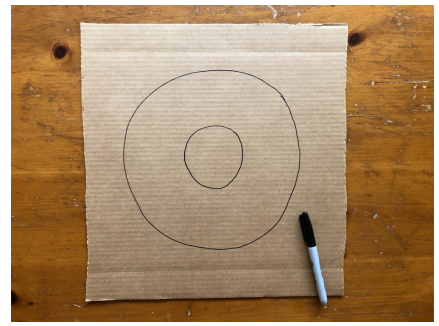
This craft can be made with many reused and recycled materials! Take a minute to look around at home to see what you already have that you can repurpose.



- A piece of cardboard about 12in x 12in
- Old Christmas wrapping paper, old Christmas cards, magazines, newspapers, even cereal boxes and packaging! (this is a great chance to get creative and use any colorful materials that you would normally throw away)
- Scissors
- Stapler (could also use hot glue)
- Marker
- Ribbon (could also use string)
- A grownup to help as needed

Step 1

Using your marker, draw a large circle with a smaller circle inside of it. You could trace around circular things that you might already have at home like a plate or cup, or draw the circles freehand!



Step 2

Using your scissors, cut out around the larger circle and cut out the middle circle. Ask a grownup for help if you need it!



Step 3

Look through your wrapping paper, cards, collected magazines, newspapers, etc. Find pieces about the size of a sheet of paper that you would like to use on your wreath. You could decide on a particular color or pattern to look for! We went with a festive green and red theme, but you could do anything you like!



Step 4 To create the triangles for the outer layer of your wreath, fold each page as follows:



1. Choose the side you'd like to use as the "front".

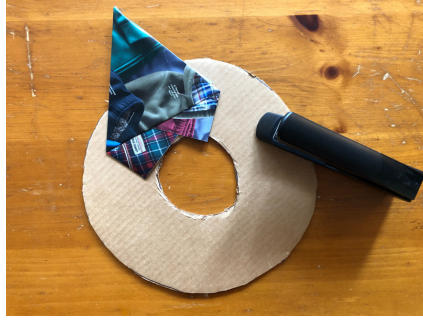


2. Flip the page over to the "back". Fold about 1/3 of the page up from the bottom to make a rectangle.



3. To make a triangular point, diagonally fold over each end of the rectangle to the center, overlapping the ends.

Step 5 Using your stapler (or hot glue), secure the folded triangle to your cardboard circle. Continue until you have completed one layer, overlapping your triangles slightly as you go.



Step 6 Using your scissors, trim the edges of the paper triangles that stick out past the edge of the inner circle. Ask a grownup for help with this if you need it!



Step 7 To create the triangles for the inner layer of your wreath, fold each page as follows:



1. Choose the side you'd like to use as the "front". Flip the page over to the "back", and fold up about 1/4 from the bottom.

2. Fold again to make a narrow rectangle. This will be more narrow than the one made for the outer layer of the wreath.

3. As before, diagonally fold over each end of the narrow rectangle to the center, overlapping the ends.



4. Once your triangle is made, flip it over to its "front".



5. Tuck under and fold the excess paper from the bottom of the triangle to create a neat, folded edge.

Step 7

Using your stapler (or hot glue), secure the folded triangle to your cardboard circle, laying it on top of the outer layer of triangles. Continue until you have completed the inner layer, overlapping your triangles slightly as you go.



When you are done, the front and back should look something like this!



Cut a length of ribbon or string, thread it through the center of the wreath and tie to create a way to hang your wreath.

Step 8

Cut another length and tie a bow. Attach to your wreath using your stapler (or hot glue gun).



Step 9 Hang your wreath and enjoy its festive holiday spirit!

