

Make a Christmas tree decoration

This Christmas tree decoration is very simple to make and only needs basic craft materials you will probably have around the house.



You will need: a paper plate (dinner plate size); green paint/paintbrush or a broad nib green felt tip pen; 1 yellow pipe cleaner and 4 other pipe cleaners in the colour(s) of your choice; glue stick; scissors; glitter; sticky tape. **Optional:** 30-50cm length of thin elastic, ribbon or string; stapler; glue dots.

Instructions:

1. Fold the paper plate in half. Cut with the scissors so you have two semi-circles.
2. Colour or paint green one of the semi-circles. If using paint, leave to dry.
3. Make a cone shape out of the semi-circle and secure in place with glue dots, sticky tape, and/or staples (using a stapler).
4. There should be a small gap at the top of the cone – cut a length of thin elastic, ribbon or string and loop the elastic/ribbon/string and put the loose ends inside the cone. Secure in place (inside) with sticky tape. You can opt to skip this step if you plan to use as a table decoration or similar – it should stand up without assistance.
5. Create the tinsel on the tree by making two or three thin lines (around the cone) using the glue stick and then immediately dust with glitter. Leave to dry.
6. With the four pipe cleaners, cut each one in half so you have eight pieces. With each piece, coil into a tight circle to make a bauble. You might need to tuck in the end of each piece of pipe cleaner to keep the coil/circle in place. Repeat this process until all eight pieces of pipe cleaner have been made into eight baubles.
7. With the yellow pipe cleaner, bend into a four pointed star. This will use about half the pipe cleaner. Use the remaining pipe cleaner as a stem. Insert the stem into the small gap at the top of the cone and then secure in place (inside) using sticky tape.
8. Attach the baubles to the tree using glue – we used glue dots.
9. Your decoration is now ready to hang on a Christmas tree or in a window – or place on a table (if you did not to attach a loop of thin elastic/ribbon/string). If you wish, repeat steps 2-8 with the remaining half of the plate to make another decoration.

Fun fact: The Christmas tree first became popular in this country in 1841 when Prince Albert brought one over from Germany, to display in Windsor Castle. Prince Albert and Queen Victoria appeared in a newspaper standing around the decorated tree with their family. And so the tradition began...