

Forest Fairy Crafts

Sew Sweet Ornaments

by Lenka Vodicka ©2011 ForestFairyCrafts.com

Supplies:

Felt

Sequins

Beads

Needle and Thread (we use Crochet Thread)

for advice on supplies, visit

<http://www.forestfairycrafts.com/help>



Crafting with Children

These ornaments are created for very young sewers- perfect for a first sewing project. They can be embellished and made fancier, of course.

My goal when I craft an ornament with children is to catch their age. I do not want a perfect ornament. I can sew that. I want them to look back and see themselves at 4, or 6, or 8.

The tree above was decorated by my 3 year old son. He loves orange. Can you tell?



A fun part of this project is to really step back and see what children will bring to the idea. For more tips and tricks for sewing with children, visit <http://www.forestfairycrafts.com/help>. Enjoy the crafting!

Preparation

Thread the needle. For young children, always double the thread and tie a knot with both ends so the needle cannot be pulled loose. Child can select beads, sequins, buttons, any decorations that they like. Ask child to pick two colors (any

colors) as well as a heart or a tree. An adult should cut the felt shapes. For the tree, tuck the trunk between the felt triangles. Pin the felt together with a safety pin.

Sewing

You may want to hold the felt at first while children focus on the needle. The beauty of this ornament is that they sew decorations on both sides of the ornament. Don't

worry about long stitches or even a few around-and-around stitches. Children show their personality with their stitching. Some children will need modeling to thread the sequin on, push it down to the felt, then have the needle go back through the felt.

As they gain confidence, children will take the ornament from you and decorate to their heart's content.

Most children will want a break at this point, so put the ornament down for a little while.



Finishing

You have a few choices for the last step in the ornament.

Sewing around the edges is an added charming touch.

You can

- Finish the ornament

yourself. With these examples, I sewed a blanket stitch around the edges because I only see these students once a week and I knew they had already invested a lot into the ornament. If you haven't added the trunk yet, cut two pieces of brown longer than you need and tuck them into place. For some, I had doubled thread: and others had single-strand thread:



- Draw little dots around the edge of the ornament. If you still need a trunk, cut two pieces of brown longer than you need and tuck into place.

Pin with a safety pin. Children can sew around the edges with a whip stitch or running stitch. Tie a loop at the top and hang on the tree!

- Older children can sew around the edges on their own without dots. Let them be creative with their stitching.

* I recommend adding a little paper or ribbon tag on the hook with the year you made the ornament. It's so easy to forget! If you would like directions on the blanket stitch, email me at lenka@forestfairycrafts.com



We hope that you have fun sewing ornaments! You can always cut an additional little heart to tuck inside the ornament with a wish for your family or the world. You can make many other shapes by tracing cookie cutters. Just be aware with stars: young children will sew from point-to-point, stretching the thread. Stars are wonderful for older (7+) children or if you feel like giving a lot of guidance.

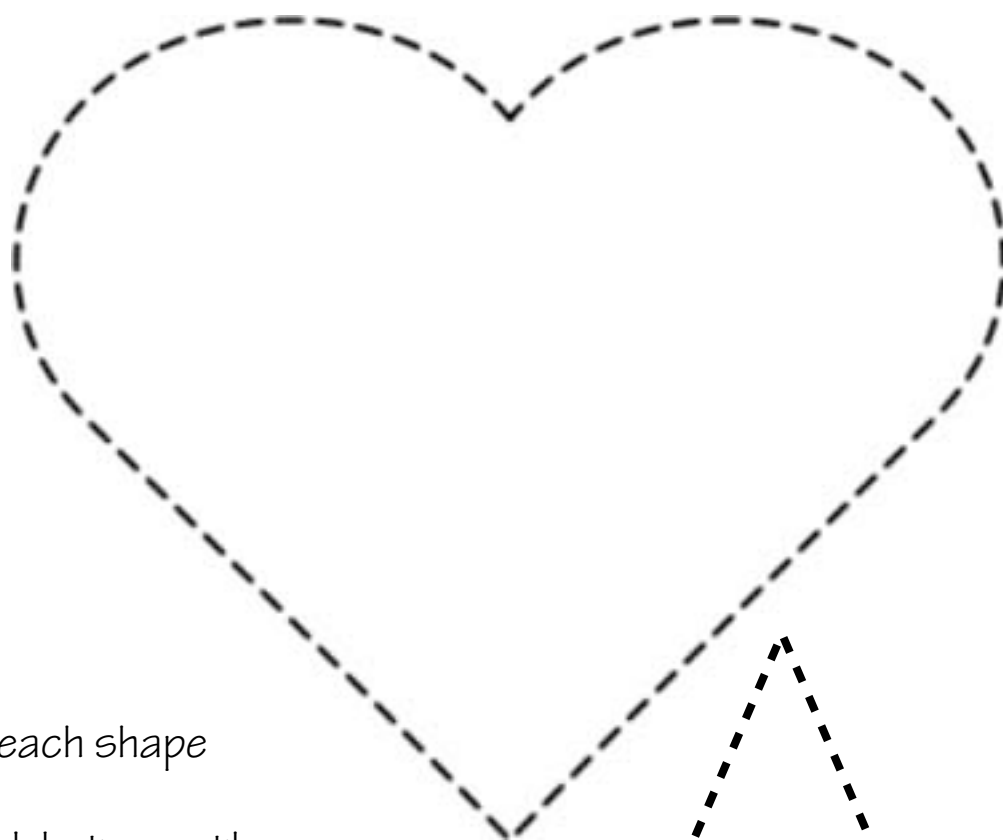
Thank you for visiting the forest! Enjoy!

You can email questions or ideas to lenka@forestfairycrafts.com

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Cut two of each shape

Pin the trunk between the two pieces of felt with a safety pin.

You could also have children draw their own heart or triangle on paper for you to cut out of felt. This will personalize the ornament even more.

Have a lovely day!

