MINDFUL MAKES Issue 7

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mindful makes

Craft a magical Christmas

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FUN FOR KIDS
6 EASY PROJECTS

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CUTE CROCHET BAUBLES

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Jo

JO CHECKLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Craft for joy!

For me, some of the loveliest Christmas moments happen around the table: sharing something delicious, admiring the decorations and catching up with the people we love. It's the little touches that make it feel special, and in this issue you'll find plenty of ideas to add to your own.



There are pretty candle decorations, place-setting ideas and cute robin napkins made with scraps of cotton. Little ones will love helping with some of the projects – I think the giant Christmas piñata is guaranteed to be a party pleaser. For those who like to stitch and sew, there are plenty of patterns to try. I've got the Ho Ho Ho bunting from page 56 hanging from the mantelpiece in my home; it always adds a very jolly feel to the room.

And what would Christmas be without foodie treats? These simple recipes are great to make and give as gifts, or just to enjoy yourself. When the Christmas bustle gets a bit much, Johanna Basford's beautiful colouring pages offer a peaceful moment to yourself. Even better, once coloured in, you can use the pages as pretty wrapping paper and give your gifts a truly handmade feel.

I hope you find a project that appeals to you. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas full of crafting joy.

Jo

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Gift wrapping

Why settle for generic shop-bought wrap when you can add your own artistic finishes?



Pompoms, please

Make a small box look extraordinary. Wrap it in white paper, tie with gold cord and stick on tiny furry pompoms in a riot of colours.
For a similar effect, wrap in pastel paper, tie with ribbon and then fix on one large woolly pompom where the ribbons cross.



Round in circles

Choose wrapping paper in a bold plain colour (such as hot pink) to wrap the gift, then use a glue stick to cover one end. Press all sides of the glued area into a pile of tissue paper confetti in a contrasting or co-ordinating shade.

The right type

Wrap a parcel or bottle in newspaper or use wrapping paper with a map print. Fix a greeting – using gold letter stickers on a strip of black paper – around the present and tie with gold ribbon. Or write on a chalkboard sticker with a chalk pen.





Cutting edge

Using a scalpel and cutting board, cut out the name of the recipient or your chosen words from a band of plain brown or beige paper. Secure it around the wrapped parcel, so that the main wrapping paper shows through, and edge with ribbon.



Check mate

Plain brown paper makes the perfect canvas for artistic flourishes. Wrap the present, then ink stamp – or even use an old-fashioned potato print – on a graphic pattern. Thread a simple tag onto white string and tie it across the middle. Twist fresh rosemary into a wreath and fix with a dab of glue.

Low-cost luxe

Sparkly gold ribbon lifts plain white gift wrap. Use a mini peg to attach a tag, or write on a flat wooden bead and thread onto the gift with gold twine. Add a sprig of fresh green foliage for an elegant touch.





All wrapped up

Add interest to simple brown paper packages with lengths of pretty fabric, torn to expose a raw edge, sprigs of greenery and vintage trinkets. Wide burlap ribbon and seed heads will give a more rustic effect.

WORDS **SARAH KAYE** STYLING **ALAINA BINKS, CHARLOTTE DAVIES, ELEEN CRAIG, SARAH TOMCZAK** PHOTOS **POLLY WREFORD, NEAL GRUNDY**

Finishing touches

Elevate your gift-wrapping game with these nifty makes



12

Make mini wreath decorations for your gifts

14



Add a fan-shaped flourish with these elegant toppers



18

Transform simple boxes with a découpage finish

Wrapped in style

A mini wreath adds a magical finishing touch to fabric-covered presents

You will need

- Paper-covered wire
- Scissors
- Florist or masking tape
- A selection of dried and fresh foliage – eg, pampas grass, bunny tails and billy buttons
- Eucalyptus leaves and hypericum berries
- Twine
- Fabric
- Ribbons

To create

1 Create a 10cm diameter circle with some paper-covered wire, wrap it around a few times, then cut the end.
2 Secure the ends using florist tape or a piece of masking tape.
3 Gather your foliage. Start by grouping three or four different grasses together, varying the height, to make a little posy.
4 Add a short stem of eucalyptus (pulling off the bottom leaves) and some hypericum berries.
5 Holding the posy in one hand, take a piece of twine and wrap it around all of the stems a couple of times. Tie a knot tightly.
6 Place the posy over the tape on the wreath and continue wrapping the twine around the posy and the wire to attach it. Tie a tight knot and snip off any excess twine.
7 Wrap the gift in fabric (see below). Take two lengths of twine, ribbon or gold macramé cord and loop them either side of the wreath to hold it in place on the gift. Turn the present over, tie the two lengths together and snip off the excess.

HOW TO WRAP A GIFT WITH FABRIC

- Place a large piece of fabric face down on the table – bigger is better here.
- Position your gift towards one of the corners, then roll up the gift in the fabric. Your gift will be in the middle of the fabric with two long ends.
- Take hold of the two long ends, pull them up and tie them in a knot on the top of the gift.
- You can then tuck foliage, a mini posy or a gift tag under the knot as a finishing flourish.

WORDS, STYLING AND PHOTO **EMILY DAWE**



Folded to perfection

Make a simple concertina from leftover strips of wrapping paper to create a stunning topper

You will need

- Wrapping paper
- Twine
- Glue or double-sided tap
- Scissors

To create

1 Take a strip of wrapping paper – a 10x30cm piece works well. Fold over one short end by about 1cm, then turn over and fold again. Concertina along the whole strip of paper.

2 With the entire strip concertinaed, fold in half to find the centre. Tie a piece of twine to the centre with a double knot.

3 Apply some glue (or a strip of double-sided tape) along one side. Fold the entire strip in half so the two sides are glued together. Hold for a few seconds to adhere. This will create half of your fan.

4 Splay out the fan with your fingers. Then, making sure the lengths of twine are at the back, do the same on the opposite side, gluing the two edges together. This will complete your fan.

5 You can then use the twine to secure your fan to the top of a present. If the twine is too short, simply use a bit of glue or folded-over tape.

Once you've folded the concertina, round off the two ends of the strip by cutting off the corners to give a scalloped shape to the whole fan.

WORDS, STYLING AND PHOTO **EMILY DAWE**



Stitched with love

For an extra-special touch, embroider felt gift tags for your loved ones

You will need

- Felt
- Water-erasable pen
- Embroidery hoop
- Needle
- Thread
- Scissors
- Pins
- Stuffing

To create

1 Draw the outline of a star on to the felt fabric. Write a name across the star.
2 Set the felt into an embroidery hoop and sew over the name using a needle and thread.
3 Remove the felt from the hoop and place a second piece of felt underneath. Cut out two stars at the same time. Pin them together, then sew around the outside edge, leaving a gap.
4 Add the stuffing and stitch up the gap. Add a loop of ribbon on to the back so the star can be attached to a gift or hung from the tree.

WORDS **EMMA MORTON-TURNER** PHOTO **SIMON SCARBORO**


Julia

Beautifully boxed

Decorate larger boxes to hold gifts of homemade bakes or chocolates.

Give plain boxes a charming, handmade flourish with scraps of patterned paper

You will need

- Small papier-mâché boxes
- Découpage papers
- PVA glue
- Old saucer
- Scissors
- Brush
- Tissue, for packing
- Twine and tags

To create

1 Remove the lid from the box. If the lid is lipped, as ours are, you may have to pop out the central part to make it easier to cover.

2 Snip the découpage papers into small pieces in different, angular shapes. Pour the glue into a saucer and use the brush to paint glue on to a small area of the box. Press a piece of paper on top and smooth it out to remove wrinkles or bubbles.

3 Repeat until the whole box is completely covered. Leave to dry and reassemble your box if necessary.

4 Add your gift, placing it on a bed of tissue paper for extra protection. Then tie up with twine or ribbon and add a gift tag.

WORDS **SUE McNEILL** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL**



Deck the halls

From starry candle holders to mistletoe garlands, our festive makes will help you to create a cosy Christmas at home



24

Wintry decor is made simple with this mistletoe garland

26



Sew the ultimate yuletide banner to bring peace and joy



32

This festive piñata is bursting with Christmas cheer



Get glowing

Old jam jars make wonderful Christmas lanterns

You will need

- Jam jars
- Star stickers
- Brass or gold spray paint (we used one from plasti-kote.co.uk)
- Tealights
- Newspaper

To create

1 Soak the jars in hot soapy water to remove labels and all traces of glue. Dry thoroughly.
2 Apply star stickers to the outside of each jar and spray with metallic paint. Do this outdoors on a still day if you can, protecting your work surface with newspaper.
3 Once dry, carefully peel off the stickers and place a tealight inside.

WORDS **ALAINA BINKS** PHOTO **RACHEL WHITING** *NEVER LEAVE LIT CANDLES UNATTENDED



Under the mistletoe

You can make this garland as long or short as you like, depending on how much felt you have

You will need

- A4 white felt
- Fabric stiffener
- Pencil
- Scrap card
- Scissors
- String or twine
- Wooden beads
- Hot glue gun

To create

1 Apply some fabric stiffener to a sheet of white felt. While this is drying, draw four or five different mistletoe shapes on to some card and cut them out.
2 When the felt is completely dry, use the templates to draw around on to the felt. Then, cut them out, aiming to cut away any of the pencil marks.
3 Take a long piece of string, tie a knot at one end and thread on a wooden bead. If your bead moves around, tie another knot below.
4 Start gluing on groups of mistletoe, varying how many leaves each time. Leave a gap, then add another wooden bead, then more mistletoe.
5 Keep adding mistletoe and beads until the length of your garland is full.

WORDS, STYLING AND PHOTO **EMILY DAWE**


PEACE
&
JOY

All the trimmings

Bring warmth to hearts and homes with a festive tasselled banner

You will need

- White felt, 1mm thick
- Upholstery fringing, 55cm
- Velvet upholstery fabric in rust
- Fabric glue
- White sewing thread
- Bakers' twine, 70cm
- Wooden dowel, 50cm, 1cm diameter

To create

1 Lay out the fabric wrong side (WS) up, then measure and mark out a 50x65cm rectangle. Cut out the rectangle along the marked lines.

2 Fold the two long edges to the WS by 2cm and pin in place, then sew both sides 0.5cm in from the edge.

3 Fold the top short edge of the banner to the WS by 4cm and pin in place. Sew 3cm in from the edge, backstitching at the beginning and end to secure the seam. This creates the channel for the dowel rod for hanging.

4 Turn the banner WS up, then measure and mark the halfway point along the bottom raw edge. Measure and mark 15cm up from the bottom left-hand corner along the long edge, then draw a line from this point to the centre of the bottom edge. Repeat along the right-hand long edge to create a pennant shape.

5 Fold both bottom corners to the WS using the marked lines as a guide, then pin. Sew along the pinned edges, 0.5cm in, then trim away the excess fabric roughly 1.5cm from the seam.

6 Using the template on page 118, draw out each of the letters onto the white felt. The easiest way to do this is to place each letter WS up onto the felt and mark around it. That way, any pen marks will be on the reverse of the felt once they're turned right side (RS) up.

7 Cut out each of the letters using a sharp pair of fabric scissors to get a crisp cut, sticking to the lines where possible.

8 Lay the banner RS up on a flat surface, smoothing out the fabric. Place the letters in position referring to the main image as a guide, and using a ruler to check the border around the letters is equal. Next, lay the ruler or a long flat stick horizontally across the banner to ensure the letters in each row are in a straight line.

9 Use pencils to mark the spacing between the letters, then carefully lift it off the fabric, making sure not to knock anything out of place. Glue the reverse with a thin layer of fabric glue, then stick it back down before moving on to the next letter. Once all the letters have been stuck down, leave them to dry thoroughly.

10 Pin the fringing along the bottom of the banner, leaving a small amount of overhang at either side. Sew in place, then sew the overhang to the WS of the banner for a neat finish – this may need to be hand-stitched depending on the thickness of the fringing.

11 Using white sewing thread, neatly blanket stitch around the edge of each felt letter to finish. This is optional as the glue will keep the letters in place, but it does add a handmade feel to the finished piece.

12 To display the banner, thread the dowel through the channel at the top, then tie a length of bakers' twine or ribbon to either end of the dowel for hanging.

MAKE **ALICE GABB FOR MOLLIE MAKES, 2020** STYLING **SARAH MALONE** PHOTO **PHILIP SOWELS**



Woodland Christmas

You can make a birch Christmas tree hanger using graduated lengths of wood, PVA glue, white glitter and lengths of jute string.

Choose a rustic decorative theme and add this folk-art hanger to your home

You will need

- Hessian ribbon (we used two types)
- Needle and thread
- Gingham fabric
- Red felt
- Paper-backed adhesive web (eg, Bondaweb)
- String for hanging loops
- Birch hanger (see note)
- Glue gun
- Scissors

To create

1 Cut a length of hessian ribbon. Fold the ends of the ribbon to the back and iron flat. You can do this horizontally or vertically depending on the width of the ribbon. Stitch the ends together by hand.

2 Iron the paper-backed adhesive web to the back of the gingham fabric and felt. Draw rectangles for the windows and doors, and triangles for the roof shapes on the paper backing. Cut out neatly. Peel the backing off the doors and windows and iron in place on the hessian houses.

3 Peel the backing paper off the roof shapes and place them on to the reverse of a piece of matching fabric, iron to bond them, and cut out. Use a glue gun to stick the roof shapes to the top of the house.

4 Cut a 15cm length of string for the hanging loop. Tie the ends in a knot and glue to the back of the roof apex. Hang the houses on the birch decoration.

WORDS CATHERINE WORAM PHOTO SUSSIE BELL


3

Home sweet home

Repurpose your cardboard recycling into these cute little gingerbread-style houses

You will need

- Scrap card
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Cardboard
- Craft knife
- Ruler
- Scrap paper
- Chalk pen
- Glue gun

To create

1 Draw out some simple house shapes onto scrap card and cut them out to make your templates.
2 Draw around your templates on the cardboard.
3 Cut the shapes out – if you are using corrugated card, using a cutting knife and ruler will give a neater finish than using scissors.
4 Practise drawing out some house designs on scrap paper first. Then shake the chalk pen, pressing the nib down until the ink starts to flow. Start drawing windows, a door and little decorative designs, such as scallops, hearts, dots and swirls.
5 To help the houses stand up, cut a right-angled triangle from the cardboard and glue to the back of each house, aligning the bottom edge of the triangle with the bottom edge of the house.

WORDS, STYLING AND PHOTO **EMILY DAWE**



Smashing success

Take Christmas crackers to the next level with this supersized piñata

You will need

- Cardboard
- Craft knife
- Ruler
- Cutting mat
- Paper tape
- Glue stick
- Tissue paper in different colours
- Metallic crepe paper
- String
- 50cm dowel, 2cm wide
- Your choice of filling
- Sandpaper

To create

1 Using the templates on pages 120 and 121, cut two octagons and eight strips with notches from the cardboard with the craft knife, cutting mat and ruler. Make sure to score the cardboard along the dotted lines for ease of folding.
2 Lay out the strips side by side and tape together at the top, centre and bottom, leaving the notches uncovered. Don't worry if there are any gaps or it's a little untidy, as this will all be covered with the fringed paper.
3 Measure and mark the centre point of the top strip and make two holes approximately 2cm either side of this point. Reinforce with a small square of card. Cut a 20cm length of string and thread it through the holes, tying the ends securely inside the piñata. This will be the hanging loop.
4 Roll the cardboard up to create a tube, taping the first and last strip together along the length of the tube. Tape an octagon to one end of the tube, matching the edges.
5 Gently push the ends together so the scored parts of the cardboard fold inwards, creating the cracker shape. Tape to secure.
6 Next, add your choice of filling through the open end. Close with the second octagon once finished.
7 Cut the tissue paper into 3cm wide strips. Make small, regular snips 1.5cm in along one long edge to create fringing.
8 Starting at one end of the cracker, cover a small section with glue and add the strips of paper fringe. Start from the bottom and work towards the middle, overlapping the fringed area. Trim any excess and move on to the next section, until all the sides are covered with fringing. Once you reach the middle, turn the piñata around and start adding fringe from the other end.
9 Cut 1cm wide strips of metallic crepe paper, then glue to the indented areas of the cracker and around the middle. Trim to fit.
10 Using the template on page 120, cut a circle from metallic paper, then cut the tree from the centre. Glue to the middle of the cracker.
11 Take the 50cm length of dowel, making sure the ends are smooth – sand them down if not. Cover in glue and, as with the cracker, wrap the dowel with fringed tissue, starting at one end, and making sure to overlap the fringing. Leave to dry, then use to break the finished piñata open.

WORDS KATE JENKINS FOR MOLLIE MAKES, 2019 STYLING SARAH MALONE PHOTO PHILIP SOWELS



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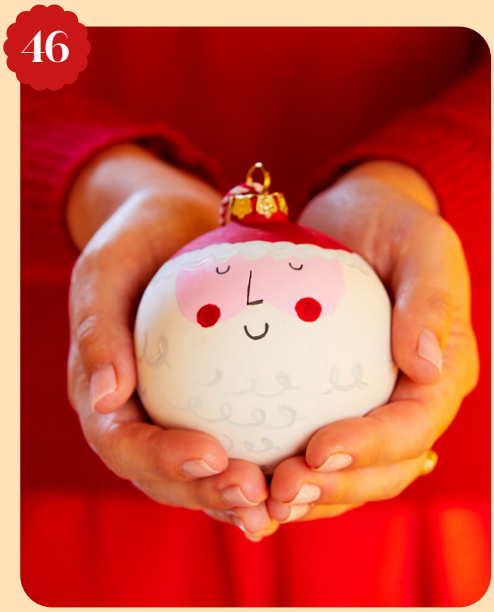
Kids' makes

Keep little ones entertained in the run-up to the big day with these easy Christmas crafts



42

An easy-to-make festive snow globe scene



46

Turn a plain bauble into a snazzy Santa with a lick of paint



48

Adorn your tree with seven swans a-swimming

Deer friends

Children will love making these fun reindeer gift bags to fill with presents

You will need

- Brown paper gift bags
- Brown card
- Silver metallic card
- Red pompoms
- Black felt-tip pen
- PVA glue and brush
- Scissors

To create

1 Place the bag on the brown card and draw around it. Draw ears on each side of the shape and cut out.
2 Using the template on page 119 cut out two antlers per bag from silver metallic card.
3 Glue the antlers to the front of the bag, then glue the card shape on to the front, covering the bottom of the antlers.
4 Glue the red pompom nose in place and leave to dry. Draw black spots for the eyes using the pen.

WORDS **SELINA LAKE, CATHERINE WORAM** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL**



Time to party!

Have fun turning plain card into glittering party hats

You will need

- Coloured card
- Super-sticky double-sided tape
- PVA glue
- Glitter
- Tissue paper in assorted colours
- Stapler
- Hole punch
- Ribbon

To create

1 Using the template (see page 119) cut out hat shapes from the coloured card. Roll each card to create the cone shape and leave a small hole at the top. Fix with super-sticky double-sided tape.

2 Paste glue on to the areas to which you are going to apply glitter, then pour over the glitter. Do this over a large piece of paper so you can collect and reuse the excess glitter.

3 Cut coloured tissue paper into tiny rectangles. Use the same method in step two to glue them onto the hats.

4 Fold a piece of tissue paper in concertina folds to create a strip 5cm x 3cm. Holding the tissue paper at the bottom end, cut down about 3.5cm at intervals to create a fringe. Twist the bottom to secure it and then poke this down the hole at the top of the cone. Use a dab of glue to secure it in place.

5 If you want to make the blue fringing, take a large piece of tissue paper and cut it so that the long side measures the same as the circumference of the hat's base. Make wide concertina folds to create a wide strip, then staple in the centre at intervals to secure the folds. Snip in from the edges on both sides to create a ruffled fringe. Stick it to the hat.

6 Punch holes near the base of the hat for ribbon ties. Cut two lengths of ribbon for each hat and tie a knot at one end of each one. Thread it through the hole from inside the hat.

WORDS AND STYLING **CHARLOTTE DAVIES** PHOTO **NEAL GRUNDY**



Let it snow

This snow globe is a perfect Christmas craft for older kids, who may need a bit of help with the glue

You will need

- Empty jar
- Spray paint
- A selection of miniature trees and/or animals
- Air-dry clay
- Silicone glue
- Glitter or fake snow
- Distilled water
- A few drops of glycerin

To create

1 Clean the jar. Remove any labels and residue from the inside and the outside of the jar. Paint the lid with spray paint and let it dry.

2 Arrange a scene. On the inside of the jar, add bottle-brush trees, animal figurines and more. Form snowdrifts with air-dry clay and let dry. In a well-ventilated area, glue down all elements with silicone glue.

3 Spoon 1-2tsp of glitter and/or fake snow into the jar. Fill the jar with distilled water almost to the top. Add a few drops of glycerin and stir.

4 Over a sink or tray, add more silicone glue around the top edge of the jar and put on the lid. Close the jar tightly and wipe away any excess water and glue. Let dry completely.

WORDS **LIS ENGELHART** STYLING **ALEX MATA** PHOTO **DANIELLE OCCHIOGROSSO DALY**



Sweet snowmen

Make fun faces with marshmallows, then watch them melt in your hot chocolate and enjoy

You will need

- Marshmallows
- Food dye gel tubes in black and orange

To create

1 Pick out the white marshmallows – you can eat the pink ones!

2 Using the black food dye gel, dot on eyes and a mouth for each snowman, then use the orange gel to draw a carrot as a nose on each. Serve the marshmallows in mugs of hot chocolate and watch them melt.

WORDS AND STYLING **SELINA LAKE** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL**



Jolly good

This creation uses the white of the bauble for Santa's beard. Present in a box as a gift or hang on the tree

You will need

- Plain ceramic bauble
- Acrylic paint in red, pink, black and white
- Small paintbrush
- Black pen
- Twine

To create

1 Using a small paintbrush, paint a pink face shape onto the bauble.
2 When the paint has dried, use red paint to add two rosy cheeks and a hat.
3 Use some white paint along the edge of the hat for fur.
4 Using black and white, mix up some pale grey paint and add some loops and swirls to the beard.
5 Draw on a face using a black pen (or black paint and a very fine brush). Tie on a length of twine for hanging.

Rest the bauble on a small roll of tape while working on it, to stop it rolling around.

WORDS **EMILY DAWE** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL**



Swans a-swimming

Grab white felt, pipe cleaners, gold craft paper and mini pine cones to make these fun ornaments

You will need

- Small pine cones
- Acrylic paint in white
- White pipe cleaner
- Hot glue gun
- Gold craft paper
- White felt
- Piece of string or ribbon for hanging

To create

1 For each swan, paint a pine cone white, then let it dry completely.
2 Roll the end of a white pipe cleaner around itself to make a little head for the swan. Cut the pipe cleaner about 2.5cm below the head you made and attach it to one end of the pinecone with a dot of hot glue to create a swan's neck and head.
3 Cut a small triangle out of gold craft paper and attach it to the side of the head to make a beak.
4 Cut out two small wing shapes out of felt and hot-glue them to the sides of the pine cone to make wings.
5 Add a looped piece of string to the swan to hang your ornament.

WORDS **LIS ENGELHART** STYLING **ALEX MATA** PHOTO **DANIELLE OCCHIOGROSSO DALY**
*ALWAY SUPERVISE CHILDREN WHEN USING A HOT GLUE GUN



Knits & crochet

Cosy up with your yarn and make something special for Christmas



52

Knit a Scandi-inspired Christmas cushion



58

Crochet a trio of adorable tree ornaments



Nordic knit

Add festive cheer with this colourful Scandi-style cushion

Materials

- **Bernat Softee Chunky, 100% acrylic, 100g/99m per ball, 6 balls in Natural (28008) (Yarn A), 1 ball each of Ultra Blue (28742) (Yarn B), Glowing Gold (28607) (Yarn C), Emerald (28200) (Yarn D), Hot Pink (28416) (Yarn E) and Berry Red (28705) (Yarn F)**
- **8mm circular knitting needle, 60cm long**
- **7mm circular knitting needle, 60cm long**
- **Yarn needle**
- **60cm square cushion pad**
- **Stitch marker**

Abbreviations

st(s) stitch(es) **k** knit **p** purl **st st** stocking stitch (knitting back and forth: knit one row, purl one row, repeated) **RS** right side **WS** wrong side

Tension

11 sts and 14 rows to 10cm square over st st using 8mm needle

Finished size

60cm square

Note

When working duplicate stitches, make sure to use a yarn that's either the same thickness or thicker than the yarn used to make the project, to ensure the stitches are fully covered. It's much easier to work duplicate stitches while the fabric is taut, so stuff the cushion with the cushion pad before adding the duplicate stitch embroidery – just be careful not to work the stitches through the pad accidentally.

FRONT (MAKE ONE)

Using Yarn A and 8mm circular needle, cast on 63 sts
Rows 1-81 Starting on the WS with a p row, work 81 rows of st st.
Cast off.

BACK (MAKE TWO)

Using Yarn A and 7mm circular needle, cast on 63 sts
Row 1 (RS) k1, (p1, k1) to end
Row 2 p1, (k1, p1) to end
Repeat last 2 rows 6 times more (8 rows in total) to form the ribbing
Rows 9-56 change to 8mm needle, starting with a k row, work 48 rows of st st, ending on a p row.
Cast off.

Blocking

Using a towel or blocking mat, pin the front piece to 60cm square and both back pieces to 60 x 40cm. Cover with a damp cloth, then leave until the cloth is dry. The cushion is knitted flat, working back and forth on circular needles to accommodate the width. It's made in three pieces – one front piece and two back pieces – then sewn together. Use the images over the page as a guide to joining the seams, noting that the red yarn is used for clarity purposes only. The pattern is added using duplicate stitch embroidery after the cushion has been seamed.

To make up

Place the front piece WS up, then place the back pieces on top, RS up and aligning the edges. The ribbed sections should overlap at the centre of the cushion, creating the opening for the pad. Sew all four sides together using invisible seaming, as follows:

For the vertical seams, use an invisible mattress stitch. Thread a strand of Yarn A onto the yarn needle. With the side edges aligned, thread the needle under the horizontal bar between the first and second stitches on the front. Next, stitch under the corresponding bar on the back. Continue weaving under the horizontal bars, alternating from front to back to seam the vertical edges.

When sewing through all three layers on the overlapping section, weave through the top outer section of the back, and catch the inner section of the back before weaving on the front.









For the horizontal seams, use invisible horizontal stitch. Using a strand of Yarn A and the yarn needle, with the cast on and cast off edges aligned, thread the needle up through the centre of the stitch on the front, and under the corresponding stitch on the back.

Next, thread the needle down through the centre of the same stitch on the front, and up through the next stitch on the front. Continue weaving under the stitches, alternating from front to back to seam the horizontal edges.

Weave in any loose ends, then insert the cushion pad.

Duplicate stitch embroidery

Duplicate stitches, also known as Swiss darning, are worked with a contrasting yarn and sewn over the 'V' stitches of the stocking stitch.

Before starting, find and mark the centre stitch on the front of the cushion with a stitch marker. This stitch represents the centre stitch on the chart (labelled with a C) and will help you centre the design. Each square on the chart represents one stitch.

Following the chart opposite, work duplicate stitch as follows. Cut a length of yarn approximately 61cm long and thread it onto the yarn needle. Keep the lengths short, as this will prevent the yarn from getting fuzzy when it's pulled back and forth through the fabric.

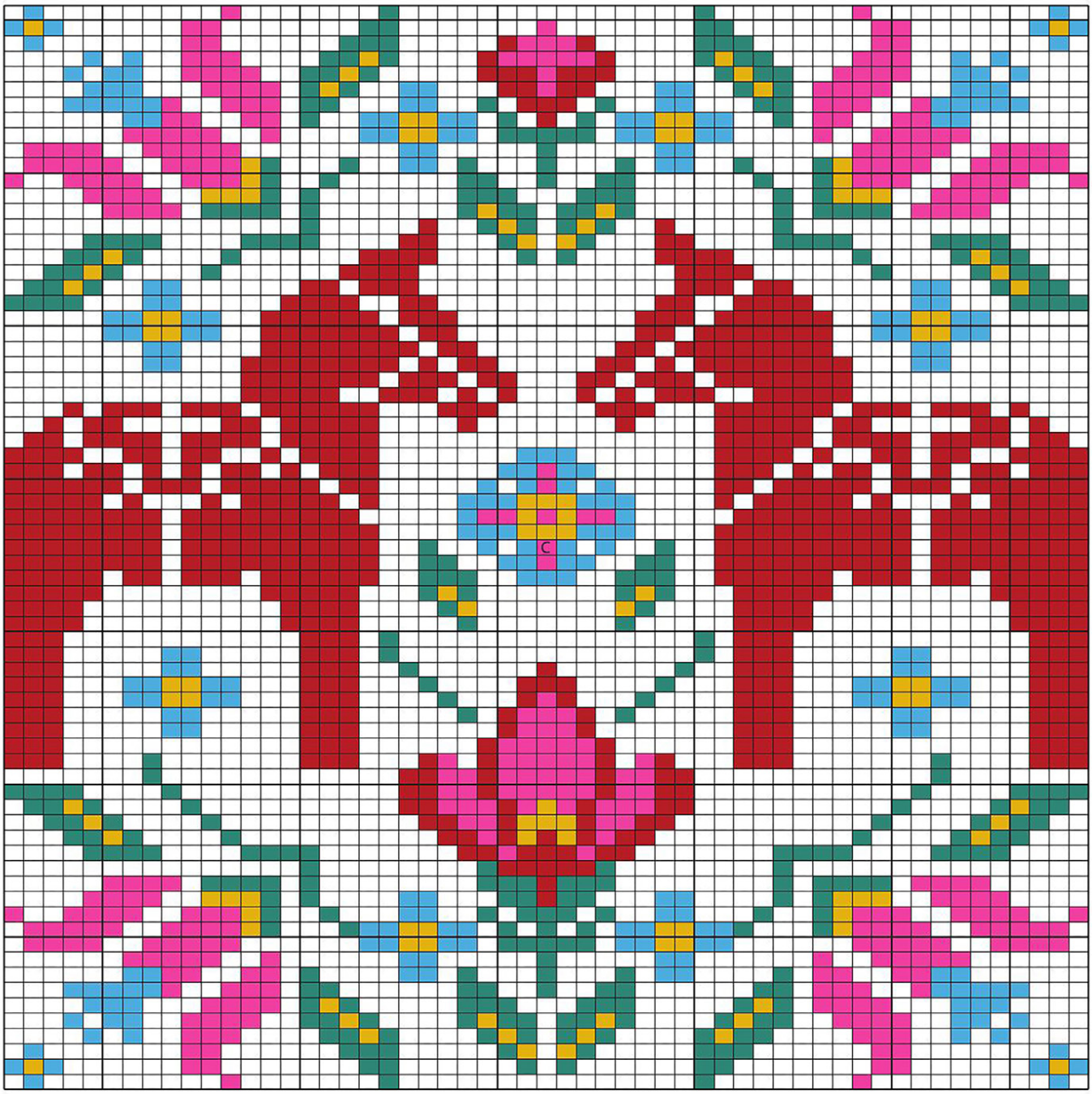
To duplicate the first stitch, bring the needle up through the bottom point of a 'V', leaving a 15cm tail to be woven in later. Thread the needle under the stitch above the one you're working.

To finish the stitch, thread the needle back into the bottom point of the 'V' where you began. At the same time, begin duplicating the next stitch by threading the needle up through the bottom point of the next 'V'. Repeat this process to duplicate each stitch in the relevant yarn colour, as per the chart.

Finishing

Remove the cushion pad, then thread the loose ends at the front to the WS of the work. Weave in to secure, trim, then turn the cushion cover RS out and put the pad back.

PATTERN **ERIN BLACK FOR MOLLIE MAKES, 2019** STYLING **SARAH MALONE** PHOTO **DAVE CAUDERY**



Key

- Yarn B
- Yarn C
- Yarn D
- Yarn E
- Yarn F

C - Centre of chart

Note

1 square in chart equals one stitch



We made 3 sets of the letters, but you could make more. There will be plenty of leftover yarn as each letter only uses 5-6g of yarn.

Bring on the bunting

Deck your halls with this bright but simple crochet

Measurements

Each finished letter is approximately 11cm tall and 9cm wide (including edging).

Materials

- **Debbie Bliss Rialto DK 50g, 1 ball (or oddments, see note) each of Scarlet 12 (Yarn A) and White 100 (Yarn B)**
- **3.5mm crochet hook**
- **30cm square of heavy weight interfacing**
- **30cm square of felt and matching sewing thread**
- **Pinking shears (optional)**
- **1 metre length of ribbon**

Templates

You can find the templates for this pattern on page 121.

Tension

Tension is not essential for this pattern.

Abbreviations

ch chain; **cm** centimetres; **dc** double crochet; **patt** pattern; **rep** repeat; **st(s)** stitch(es)

Letter H

LOWER LEFT-HAND SIDE

With 3.5mm crochet hook, make 6 ch in Yarn A.
Foundation row 1dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 4ch, turn. 5dc.
Patt row 1ch, 1dc in each dc, turn, 5dc. Rep this row 8 times more.** Fasten off.

LOWER RIGHT-HAND SIDE

Work as left-hand side to **, do not fasten off.

CENTRE

Next row 1ch, 1dc in each dc, 10ch, 1dc in each dc across lower left hand side, turn.
Next row 1ch, 1dc in each dc, 1dc in each of next 10ch, 1dc in each dc, turn. 20dc.
Patt row 1ch, 1dc in each dc, turn. 20dc. Rep the last row 3 times more.

UPPER RIGHT-HAND SIDE

Next row 1ch, 1dc in each of next 5dc, turn. 5dc.
Rep the last row 7 times more.
Fasten off.

UPPER LEFT-HAND SIDE

Next row Miss next 10dc, join on yarn to next dc, 1ch, 1dc in same place as join, 1dc in each of next 4dc, turn. 5dc.
Patt row 1ch, 1dc in each dc, turn, 5dc. Rep the last row 6 times more.
Fasten off. Neaten all yarn ends.

Letter O

With 3.5mm crochet hook, make 6 ch in Yarn B. Foundation row 1dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1dc in each of next 4ch, turn. 5dc.
Patt row 1ch, 1dc in each dc, turn. 5dc. Rep this row approximately 54 times.
Fasten off.
Join in a ring. Run a thread around the inside edge of O and gather slightly to help the O to lay flat.
Neaten all yarn ends.

To finish

Block and press the crochet pieces, easing out the outer edge of each O so the shape will lie as flat as possible. Using the templates, draw and cut 3 x H and 3 x O from interfacing. Stitch each crochet piece to its equivalent interfacing shape.

Lay the letters on to felt and cut around the shape leaving approximately 0.5cm around the edge, stitch the felt in place to each letter, then using the pinking shears, if you have them, trim the edges. Lay the letters on to the ribbon putting pairs of H and O together to read 'HO HO HO, making sure the centre HO is in the centre of the ribbon. Pin or tack the letters in position, then stitch.

Fold the ribbon to form a loop at each end for hanging.

PATTERN **ROSY TUCKER** PHOTO **LIZ MCAULAY** STYLING **HELEN JOHNSON**



Hooked on Christmas

Crochet these adorable kawaii (Japanese for cute or lovable) ornaments for your tree

Materials

- **Rico Creative Cotton Aran, 100% cotton, 50g/85m per ball, 1 ball each of White (80) (Yarn A), Light Green (40) (Yarn B) and Red (05) (Yarn C)**
- **Twilley's Goldfingering, 80% viscose/20% polyester, 25g/100m per ball, 1 ball in Gold (002) (Yarn D)**
- **Small amount of DK yarn in grey (Yarn E)**
- **Black embroidery thread**
- **Soft toy stuffing**
- **3mm and 4mm crochet hooks**
- **Tapestry needle**
- **Six black safety eyes, 1cm wide**
- **Stitch marker**

Tension

Tension is not important for this project, but stitches do need to be tight so no stuffing shows through. To avoid this, use a smaller hook than recommended for the yarn.

Abbreviations

st(s) stitch(es) **ch** chain **ss** slip stitch **dc** double crochet inc increase by working 2 dc into the same stitch dec decrease by working 2 dc together.

MAGIC RING

Make a magic ring by holding yarn in your hand and wrap working yarn around forefinger twice to create ring, slip ring off your finger and insert hook to pick up first st, ch1, then work the necessary sts for Round 1 and close the ring tightly by pulling the loose end.

Finished size

The decorations measure 8-10cm high.

Instructions

Most of the decorations are crocheted in continuous rounds, amigurumi style, so use a stitch marker to indicate the end of each one. For the present and the polar bear's scarf, however, work in rows, changing to a 4mm crochet hook for the ribbon on the present. Take your time when stuffing to get a plump, neat shape, and always leave long yarn tails at the end of each piece for sewing together.

Christmas tree

TREE TOP

Round 1 Using Yarn B, 3dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [3 sts]
Round 2 inc 3 times [6 sts]
Round 3 (2dc, inc) 2 times [8 sts]
Round 4 (3dc, inc) 2 times [10 sts]
Round 5 (4dc, inc) 2 times [12 sts]
Round 6 (5dc, inc) 2 times [14 sts]
Round 7 (6dc, inc) 2 times [16 sts]
Round 8 (7dc, inc) 2 times [18 sts]
Round 9 (8dc, inc) 2 times [20 sts]
Round 10 (9dc, inc) 2 times [22 sts]
Round 11 (10dc, inc) 2 times [24 sts]
Round 12 (11dc, inc) 2 times [26 sts]
Round 13 (12dc, inc) 2 times [28 sts]
Round 14 (13dc, inc) 2 times [30 sts]
Round 15 (14dc, inc) 2 times [32 sts]
Round 16 (15dc, inc) 2 times [34 sts]
Round 17 (16dc, inc) 2 times [36 sts]
Round 18 Crochet in the front loops only, 1dc in each st [36 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off.
Attach two eyes between Rounds 11 and 12. Start stuffing, adding small amounts of stuffing at a time to maintain the cone shape.

TREE BASE

Round 1 Using Yarn B, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
Round 2 inc 6 times [12 sts]
Round 3 (1dc, inc) 6 times [18 sts]
Round 4 (2dc, inc) 6 times [24 sts]
Round 5 (3dc, inc) 6 times [30 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Sew the base to the bottom of the tree, sewing into the back loops from Round 17. Continue stuffing as you sew.

Finishing

Using Yarns A and C, add stitches randomly onto the tree. Secure a length of Yarn D at the top and wind it down and around the tree to represent tinsel. Use small stitches in matching yarn to secure it in place.

Make a mini pompom from Yarn D and attach to the top of the tree. Leave a long tail and use it to create a loop for hanging. Use black thread to embroider the mouth between the eyes, using the image as a guide.








Polar bear

BODY

Round 1 Using Yarn A, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
Round 2 inc 6 times [12 sts]
Round 3 (1dc, inc) 6 times [18 sts]
Round 4 (2dc, inc) 6 times [24 sts]
Rounds 5–9 1dc in each st [24 sts]
Attach two eyes between Rounds 6 and 7
Round 10 (3dc, inc) 6 times [30 sts]
Round 11 (4dc, inc) 6 times [36 sts]
Rounds 12–17 1dc in each st [36 sts]
Start stuffing, and continue stuffing as you go
Round 18 (4dc, dec) 6 times [30 sts]
Round 19 (3dc, dec) 6 times [24 sts]
Round 20 (2dc, dec) 6 times [18 sts]
Round 21 (1dc, dec) 6 times [12 sts]
Round 22 dec 6 times [6 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Sew the remaining stitches closed and weave in ends.

SNOUT

Round 1 Using Yarn E, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
Round 2 inc 6 times [12 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Embroider a nose and mouth using black thread.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Round 1 Using Yarn A, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
Round 2–3 1dc in each st [6 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Round 1 Using Yarn A, 4dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [4 sts]
Round 2 inc 4 times [8 sts]
Round 3 1dc in each st [8 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

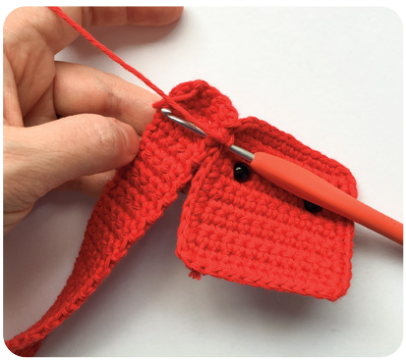
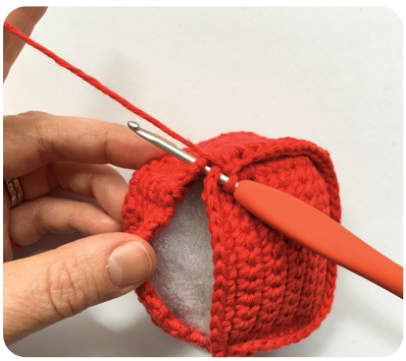
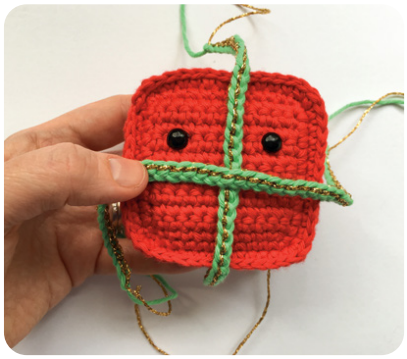
Round 1 Using Yarn A, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
Round 2 inc 6 times [12 sts]
Round 3–4 1dc in each st [12 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Stuff.

SCARF

Foundation row Using Yarn C, ch51
Row 1 1dc in 2nd chain from the hook then in each ch across [50 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off. Use Yarn D to weave stitches through the scarf for embellishment. Use Yarn B to add tassels to each end of the scarf.

PATTERN **CHARLOTTE GRAY FOR MOLLIE MAKES, 2019** STYLING **KIT CHEUNG, MATILDA SMITH** PHOTO **PHILIP SOWELS**



FINISHING

Sew on the snout, between and slightly below the eyes. Using the image as a guide, sew on the ears, arms and legs. Wrap the scarf around the neck of the bear and secure in place with a few stitches. Attach a loop of Yarn A to the top of the bear's head.

Christmas present

FRONT AND BACK PANELS (MAKE 2)

Foundation row Using Yarn C, ch13
Row 1 1dc in 2nd chain from the hook then in each ch across, turn [12 sts]
Rows 2-10 ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across, turn [12 sts]
Row 11 ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across Starting from the end of Row 11, work dc evenly around the panel (placing 2dc in each corner) to create a clean border. Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leave an extra-long tail for sewing. Attach two eyes between the fourth and fifth row of the front panel.

SIDE PIECE

Foundation row Using Yarn C, ch6
Row 1 1dc in 2nd chain from the hook then in each ch across, turn [5 sts]
Row 2 ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across, turn [5 sts]
Repeat Row 2 until the piece measures 25cm in length. Don't fasten off the yarn in case you need to add or decrease rows on the middle panel.

RIBBON (MAKE TWO)

Foundation row Using Yarn B and a 4mm hook, ch43. Change to Yarn D
Row 1 ss back across your chain. Fasten off. Leave a tail for sewing.

BOW

Foundation row Using Yarn B, ch11
Row 1 1dc in 2nd chain from the hook and 1dc in each ch across, turn [10 sts]
Row 2 and 3 ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across, turn [10 sts]
Row 4 ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across. Fasten off and leave a long yarn tail measuring 50cm. Using the yarn needle, bring the tail to the centre of the bow. Wrap the tail around the middle several times to create a bow shape, leaving enough yarn to attach the bow to the present.

FINISHING

Hold together the front and side panel of the present and, starting at the long yarn tail, 1dc through both pieces in each stitch around, making sure to work 2dc in each corner. Repeat with the back panel, stuffing as you work round.

Whip stitch the side panel closed, then fasten off and weave in any loose ends. Wrap the ribbons horizontally and vertically around the present and stitch them both in place.

Attach the bow to the top of the present and create a loop for hanging, then embroider the mouth in black thread at the point where the green ribbons cross.

The art of tablescaping

Set the scene for your Christmas feast with napkins, centrepieces and more



64 Make your mark with a stencilled table runner



70 Achieve plate perfection with this decorative dinnerware



84 Spruce up your table with an evergreen candle holder

Set the scene

Smarten up your festive table with this stencilled table runner

You will need

- 1m x 160cm natural linen (find pre-made runners at thecleverbaggers.co.uk)
- Fabric scissors
- Matching thread
- Sewing machine
- Tracing paper
- Pencil
- Freezer paper
- Metal ruler
- Paper clips or bulldog clips
- Scalpel and cutting mat
- Iron and ironing board
- Plain paper
- Newspaper and masking tape
- Acrylic textile medium
- Red acrylic paint
- Old plate for mixing paint
- Sponge roller

To create

1 Cut the linen in half lengthwise to make two runners. Hem the short ends by 1cm; hem the long sides by 1cm and then fold over again by 2.5cm. Sew in place.
2 Print out festive templates (you can find a selection on Etsy) or draw your own and trace onto tracing paper with a pencil.
3 Draw three large and four small stars onto the paper side of two 30cm lengths of freezer paper folded into four. Cut out the stars to create stencils.
4 Cut a length of freezer paper 2cm shorter than the length of the runner. Fold this in half and in half again, so the paper side is facing you.
5 Use the ruler and scalpel to cut the folded freezer paper in half lengthwise.
6 Position three paperclips or bulldog clips along the top edge of the fold of one piece to hold together.
7 Place the tracing paper with your design (we used a tree and reindeer) 2.5cm from the bottom of the folded freezer paper and 1cm from the sides. Transfer the design to the right-hand side of the paper, then repeat the process on the left-hand side. The overall design should have a gap of 3cm between the middle trees. Using a craft knife and cutting mat, cut out the shapes from the folded freezer paper. Do the same with the second piece so you have two identical stencils. Remove the clips and unfold the stencil.
8 Iron runner then lay it on a large surface; lay one stencil on the lower edge, fitting it evenly. Put the runner on the ironing board with the right-hand end of the freezer paper stencil, plastic side down, on top. Line the lower edge of the freezer paper with the linen's bottom edge, 1cm away from the end. Place plain paper on top, over the first stencil section and iron on medium heat to stick stencil in place. Work your way along.
9 Place runner on a paper-covered table, checking the edge isn't exposed around the stencil. If it is, place the masking tape over it so the ink can't print through.
10 Mix one-part textile medium with one-part red acrylic paint to make a printing ink. Cover the roller evenly, and roll over the stencil in one direction several times. Work your way down the runner, charging the roller with ink when necessary. Allow to dry, or dry with a hairdryer.
11 Pull back the stencil and repeat the process for the other side of the design. Leave paint to dry.
12 Start with a large star in the middle of the runner, then alternate the large and small stars between the two trees in the design. Iron the stencils in place, with plastic side of paper facing the linen as before, and print in the same way.
13 Follow fixing instructions for the textile medium when the ink is dry.

WORDS **ELIZABETH HARBOUR** STYLING **BEN KENDRICK, ALAINA BANKS** PHOTO **RACHEL WHITING**



Plate up

Bespoke festive-themed plates to adorn your Christmas table*

You will need

- Plates
- Posca pens in red, pink, blue, gold and white
- Scrap paper

Create a personalised side plate for each of your guests as a keepsake.

To create

1 Clean your plates, then dry them completely.
2 Take your Posca pens, shake them well and press down the nib on to some scrap paper until the ink starts to flow.
BIRD PLATE Trace the bird template (on page 121), then position the template on to the centre of the plate and draw around it using a red Posca pen. Use our photograph as a guide to add the bird's decoration, a border to the outside edge of the plate and little gold stars. A steady hand is needed here!
LEAVES PLATE Draw a circle on the plate with gold pen – don't worry if your circle isn't perfect as this works with the design. Add little leaves all the way around, leaving gaps so the design is random. Add a small pattern round the edge of the plate.
JOY PLATE Position letters cut out of paper on to a plate and draw around them with a red Posca pen. Fill in the letters and wait for them to dry. Draw some leaves, then add some berries, lines and dots to the letters with a white pen. Add some leaves and dots around the edge of the plate.
3 To fix the design, put your plates in the oven at 160°/ 140° fan/gas mark 3, for no more than 45 minutes.**

WORDS, STYLING AND PHOTOGRAPHY **EMILY DAWE**
*PLATES ARE NOT FOOD-SAFE, EVEN AFTER SEALING THEM IN THE OVEN. **REFER TO POSCA.COM FOR GUIDANCE


JOY

Make it snappy

Stencil your own patterned papers and turn them into crackers to fill with little gifts and treats

You will need

- A3 white card
- Acrylic paint
- Smooth ivory paper
- Toilet roll tubes
- Old plate
- Small sponge roller
- Pencil
- Metal ruler
- Craft knife
- Cutting mat
- Newspaper
- 12mm double-sided tape
- Cracker fillings (snaps, sweets, charms, jokes and hats)
- Coloured twine or ribbon

To create

TO PRINT THE PAPER

1 Divide the A3 sheet of card into three long strips horizontally (landscape), with a ruler and pencil.
2 In the first section, starting at the bottom, draw and cut out a repeating Christmas design to make a stencil. Do this neatly and you can use both parts as a positive and negative (see the Christmas tree-stencilled cracker, opposite). Repeat to make two more stencils.
3 Squeeze a blob of paint on to the plate and push the roller through it until it is evenly covered in paint and makes a wispy sound.
4 Place a sheet of ivory paper on newspaper, position the stencil on the edge, hold it firmly and roll over the design gently with the roller. (If you are using A4 sheets, align the stencil along the short edge). Move the stencil and repeat until the paper is covered. Experiment with this process, working out the best spacing between patterns and the pressure on the roller. Stencil as many papers as you need and leave to dry.

TO MAKE CRACKERS

1 Trim a sheet of stencilled paper to about 30x18cm, with the pattern parallel with the short edge. On the wrong side, place a loo roll tube (10-12cm) in the centre, parallel to the long edge, and draw a line across the paper at each end. Mark another line 4cm outside these lines at each end.
2 Mark and cut lines or very narrow diamonds within the 4cm gap between the two sets of outer lines. These cuts will make it easier to scrunch and tie the ends.
3 Feed a snap though the cardboard tube, and stick with tape inside each end of the roll.
4 With the cracker paper face down, stick a 10cm piece of double-sided tape on one long edge. Peel off the backing and lay the toilet roll down on top, sticking it to the tape. Cut a piece of double-sided tape and stick along the centre of the remaining long edge and remove the backing. Roll up the cracker and secure with the strip of tape. Make sure the snap is still sticking out at both ends.
5 Cut two 30cm pieces of twine or ribbon. Tie one tightly around one end of in a bow. Fill the cracker with the gifts and tie the other end of the cracker.

WORDS **ELIZABETH HARBOUR** STYLING **ALAINA BANKS** PHOTO **RACHEL WHITING**



In the frame

Adding a personalised touch to your table settings will impress your guests

You will need

- Small glass frame
- Ruler
- White card
- Cutting knife and mat
- Pen and ink
- Glue or white tack
- Napkin
- Twine
- Foliage (try using fresh* or find dried foliage on Etsy or Amazon)

When finished, guests can hang their frames on the tree.

To create

1 Measure the inside of your small glass frame, then cut a piece of card down to size using a ruler, cutting knife and mat – you can use scissors if you prefer.
2 With a steady hand, write your guest's name neatly. We used a calligraphy pen and ink, but you can use any sort of pen or even alphabet rubber stamps.
3 Once dry, add a dot of glue or a small piece of white tack in the frame, then place the card on top to prevent it from moving around.
4 Fold up a napkin, then wrap a long piece of twine around it a few times. Tie a knot, then thread through the hole in the frame. Tie a bow to secure in place.
5 Tuck in some fresh foliage and berries* – rosemary will look and smell gorgeous.

WORDS AND STYLING **EMILY DAWES** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL** *ONLY USE NON-TOXIC FOLIAGE AND BERRIES


mum
Maisie

Festive foliage

A pretty place setting that guests can take away with them

You will need

- Small glass jars (reuse spice jars or buy new from Hobbycraft)
- Evergreen foliage
- Candles*
- Scissors
- White lightweight card
- Single hole punch
- Pen
- Red and white twine

To create

1 Fill glass jars with evergreen foliage to securely anchor a candle in place. Leave a substantial amount of candle above the foliage so it won't catch alight, or use a flameless LED candle.

2 Cut out star shapes from your piece of white card and punch a hole near one of the points.

3 Write your guest's name in the centre of the card and finish by threading twine through the hole in the card and around the neck of the jar.

WORDS **SIAN WILLIAMS** PHOTO **NASSIMA ROTHACKER** *NEVER LEAVE LIT CANDLES UNATTENDED


Will
Roger

Sew sweet

Trim these Christmas napkins using different fabrics for each robin so everyone knows which one is theirs

You will need

- Bondaweb
- Scraps of printed cotton fabric
- Scrap of red felt
- White napkins
- Black sewing thread
- Assorted ribbons

To create

1 Enlarge template on page 121 to desired size. Trace robins and breasts separately onto Bondaweb and cut out, leaving a margin all around. Iron robins on to reverse of printed fabric and cut out. Iron breasts onto felt and cut out.

2 Peel away Bondaweb backing and position robins in corners of napkins, leaving space for the legs. Iron in place. Position red breasts on robins and iron in place. Following machine embroidery instructions (below), stitch around outline of robins, adding legs, beaks and tail feathers. Don't worry if the stitching isn't perfect – slight irregularities add to the charm.

3 Press, fold and tie with ribbons.

HOW TO DO FREE MACHINE EMBROIDERY

Practise on spare fabric first. Lower the feed dogs or place a metal plate over them to allow you to move the fabric freely (see your machine instruction book for details). Set stitch length and width to 0. Place the work under the needle and lower the presser foot. Start stitching with the machine running slowly, moving the fabric around under the needle. The further you move the fabric, the larger the stitches. As this design is placed in the corner of the napkins, you won't be able to use an embroidery hoop, so use your hands to keep the fabric flat and taut.

WORDS **KIRSTY ROBERTSON** DESIGN **TERRY EVANS** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL**



Fancy napkins

If you're looking to take your hosting skills one step further, try these techniques with large fabric napkins

Starry-eyed

- Fold napkin in half and iron to create a line. Fold in both sides to meet the line.
- Fold in half the other way and iron. Fold in both sides to meet the crease line to form a square. Iron to crease.
- Unfold the previous 2 folds. Accordion fold into 8 sections. Iron to crease.
- Starting with the left side, pinch in and crease each accordion fold. Repeat on the right side. You will now have a trapezoid shape. Iron to crease.
- Fold in half and press. Unfold last fold, joining the right and left sides together. This will open the star shape.





Knotted and nice

- Rotate napkin diagonally, so it's in the shape of a diamond. Place a box or small rectangular gift in the centre.
- Fold the top and bottom corners snugly around the gift.
- Gather the excess fabric on the right and left sides together and tie in a simple knot. Tie a second knot.

(Optional: tuck in a sprig of greenery, candy cane or card.)

A cut above

Fold a napkin in half lengthways and then in half again to form a square. Roll napkin and secure with a cookie cutter. To identify who a place setting is for, tie a name tag or ribbon with the guest's name on to one of these cookie-cutter napkin holders.





Spruce it up

- Fold the napkin in half lengthways and then in half again to form a square. Rotate the napkin diagonally with the folded corner at the top.
- Fold the top layer of fabric up with the corner or the fabric about 2.5cm below the top fold. Repeat with each layer of fabric, folding each 2.5cm lower than the previous. Press with an iron to crease.
- Flip the napkin over, keeping the flat folded end on the bottom. Fold the right side in to meet the left. Press with iron. Then fold the left side in to meet the right. Press.
- Flip the napkin over. Tuck under each flap of fabric. Press with iron.

PHOTOS **MIKE GARTEN**

Clear winner

Using bell jars is an easy but striking way to decorate a table

You will need

- Glass bell jars or domes
- Desiccated coconut
- Decorations

To create

1 Desiccated coconut makes great faux snow. Gather handfuls of it and pile it up where you want to place you glass domes.

2 Arrange your decorations on the 'snow'. We used a gingerbread house biscuit, vintage baubles and a reindeer-like plastic toy. Once you are happy, pop the domes over the decorations to finish your display.

WORDS AND STYLING **SELINA LAKE** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL**



Light fantastic

Use natural materials to create this rustic table centrepiece

You will need

- Short split log
- Drill with 24mm flat wood bit
- Clamps
- Candles*
- Moss and cones, to decorate

To create

1 Clamp the log to a work bench. Using the 24mm wood bit, drill three or four holes in a row along the top of the log, roughly 5cm deep.

2 Push the candles into the holes and decorate the log with moss and pine cones.

WORDS AND STYLING **SELINA LAKE** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL**. *NEVER LEAVE LIT CANDLES UNATTENDED



Stunning centrepiece

This wreath-inspired set-up will light up a festive buffet table

You will need

- Hurricane-style lantern
- Heatproof mat
- Candle*
- Foliage and flowers
- Scissors

To create

1 Cut short sprigs from the foliage and flowers. We used white wax flower sprigs and pine.

2 Place the lantern in position on the table or sideboard. Use a heatproof mat to make sure that the lantern does not damage the surface, or put it on a tray or platter if you want to be able to move it. Arrange the larger sprigs around the lantern, then add the more delicate flowers and foliage.

WORDS AND STYLING **SELINA LAKE** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL**. *NEVER LEAVE LIT CANDLES UNATTENDED



Tabletop glow-up

Fill empty glass bottles with greenery and a few cranberries, add candles and enjoy the glow

You will need

- Empty glass bottles
- Evergreen foliage
- Cranberries, for decoration
- Tapered candles*
- Tap water

To create

1 Clean glass bottles and remove labels. Place evergreen foliage inside and fill with water. For an extra pop of colour, add a few fresh cranberries.
2 Rub sticky candle wax on the bottoms of tapered candles and place in bottle openings. (If a candle doesn't fit into the opening, carefully carve away excess wax until it fits securely.)
3 Replace the water every few days to keep greens looking fresh.

PHOTO **MIKE GARTEN** *NEVER LEAVE LIT CANDLES UNATTENDED



Made to match

Decorate matchboxes with your favourite photos, ready to light your Christmas candles

You will need

- Digital photos
- Matchboxes*
- Gold and silver glitter
- White printer paper
- Printer
- PVA glue
- Glue brush
- Fine artist's brush
- Scissors

To create

1 Print out photos from your phone or computer, sizing them slightly larger than the top of the matchboxes.
2 Cut out the images and trim them to the exact size of a matchbox. Glue them to the front and back of the boxes.
3 Using a fine brush, brush glue around all four edges and sprinkle glitter over the top. Leave to dry and shake off the excess glitter.

Use matchboxes to package small gifts, then add ribbon to secure.

WORDS AND STYLING **SELINA LAKE** PHOTO **SUSSIE BELL** *KEEP MATCHES OUT OF SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN



Cakes & bakes

Enjoy indulgent Christmas bakes as an afternoon treat or bake ahead and give them as a delicious gift



90

Beautifully piped melt-in-the-mouth vanilla biscuits



92

Irresistible oat biscuits with a sweet and salty twist



98

An indulgent, traditional panforte loaded with honey and citrus

Vanilla wreaths

You can't beat a melt-in-the mouth vanilla biscuit. We decorated ours with holly and berry sprinkles

Prep time: 20min, plus chilling
Cooking time: about 20min
Makes about 15

For the biscuits

- 250g unsalted butter, softened
- 50g icing sugar, sifted
- 1tsp vanilla bean paste
- 200g plain flour
- 50g cornflour

To decorate

- 150g icing sugar, sifted
- Holly and berry sugar sprinkles

You will also need

- Piping bag
- 1cm star/fluted nozzle

1 Line 2 large baking trays with baking parchment. For the biscuits, in a medium bowl using a handheld electric whisk, beat the butter, icing sugar and vanilla until pale and fluffy. Add flour and cornflour and beat until just combined.

2 Scrape the mixture into a piping bag fitted with a 1cm star/fluted nozzle. Pipe a 6cm ring on to the lined sheet, then top with another ring the same size. Repeat to make 14 or so more double-height rings, spacing at least 2cm apart. Chill for 20min, to firm up.

3 Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas mark 4. Bake the biscuits for 20min, or until pale golden. Leave to cool on sheets for 5min, then carefully transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

4 For the decorations, in a small bowl, mix the icing sugar with just enough water to get a thick drizzling consistency. Drizzle over the biscuits and decorate with sugar sprinkles. Leave to set before serving.

PHOTO **KRIS KIRKHAM**



Salted toffee oaties

These moreish biscuits are the ideal balance of soft and chewy. One won't be enough...

Prep time:
20min, plus cooling
Cooking time:
about 20min
Makes 14

- 75g butter, chopped
- 175g light brown soft sugar
- 50g golden syrup
- 150g plain flour
- 200g rolled oats
- ½tsp baking powder
- 75g chewy toffees, cut into rough 8mm pieces, we used M&S Double Devon Toffees
- 1tsp flaked sea salt

1 Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas mark 4. Line 2 large baking trays with baking parchment. In a large saucepan, gently heat the butter, sugar and golden syrup until melted. Remove from heat and stir in the flour, oats and baking powder, followed by the toffees.
2 Dollop 14 mounds on to the lined sheets, spacing well apart. Using your hands, gently roll each portion into a ball, then flatten down slightly with the palm of your hand. Sprinkle over the flaked salt.
3 Bake for 15min, or until golden and the edges feel firm. Leave to cool on the sheets for 15min before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. Serve.

PHOTO KRIS KIRKHAM



Brown butter oaty digestives

A deliciously savoury biscuit best served with cheese and a spiced onion marmalade

Prep time: 20min, plus 10min cooling and 1hr chilling
Cooking time: about 30min
Makes 24

- 25g unsalted butter, chopped
- 175g wholemeal bread flour
- 100g medium oatmeal
- ¼tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 3tbsp caster sugar
- Pinch flaked sea salt, to sprinkle

1 Melt butter in a small pan over medium heat and cook until golden brown, about 5min. Set aside to cool slightly.
2 In a bowl, combine flour, oatmeal, bicarbonate of soda and sugar with ½tsp fine salt. Stir in browned butter with 2tbsp cold water and mix to a loose dough, adding a further 1tbsp water if needed to help it bind. Squeeze into a log about 20cm long and 5cm wide. Wrap tightly in clingfilm and chill for 1hr.
3 Preheat oven to 190°C/170°C fan/gas mark 5 and line a large baking tray with baking parchment. Unwrap dough and use a serrated knife to cut into 24 slices. If the dough starts to crumble, press it back together with your hands. Arrange on the prepared baking tray and sprinkle with a little flaked sea salt.
4 Bake for 25-30min, until biscuits are firm. Leave to cool completely before serving.

PHOTO **MIKE ENGLISH**



Spiced onion marmalade

A deep golden preserve that goes well with a festive cheeseboard and oaty biscuits

Prep time:
30min, plus cooling
Cooking time:
about 2hr
Makes
2 x 500g jars

- 2tbsp olive oil
- 1kg brown onions, finely sliced
- 500ml cider vinegar
- 50g granulated sugar
- 4 small bay leaves
- 4 whole dried bird's-eye chillies
- 2tsp black mustard seeds
- 1tbsp coriander seeds, crushed

1 Heat oil in a large, wide saucepan, add onions, 2tsp salt and cook gently, stirring occasionally, for 20-25min, until the onions are soft and very lightly golden.
2 Add remaining ingredients and stir until sugar dissolves. Bubble very gently for about 1½hr, stirring occasionally, until thick and reduced, and a wooden spoon scraped along the base of the pan leaves a brief trail (it will continue to thicken as it cools). Remove from heat and leave to cool and settle for 10min.
3 Divide marmalade between sterilised jars trying to ensure you get an even distribution of bay leaves and chillies (discard before eating).
4 Seal and leave to cool before serving or storing. The marmalade is ready to eat immediately but improves on storing.

PHOTO **MIKE ENGLISH**



Panforte

Better than shop-bought, this traditional Italian treat is delicious eaten with morning coffee

Prep time:
20min
Cooking time:
about 40min
Serves 20

- Butter, to grease
- 100g ready-to-eat dried apricots
- 100g mixed peel
- 100g walnuts
- 150g ready-to-eat dried figs, finely chopped
- 175g runny honey
- 200g light brown soft sugar
- Large pinch each ground cloves and nutmeg
- 1½tsp ground cinnamon
- 2½tbsp plain flour
- 100g whole hazelnuts
- 100g blanched almonds
- 175g ground almonds
- Icing sugar, to dust

1 Preheat the oven to 160°C/140°C fan/gas mark 3. Grease and line a 20.5cm round tin with baking paper.
2 Pulse apricots, mixed peel and walnuts in a food processor until finely chopped. Add the figs and briefly pulse again.
3 In a large pan, melt the honey and sugar until dissolved. Bring to the boil, then stir in the cloves, nutmeg, 1tsp of the cinnamon and 2tbsp of the flour. Take off the heat and stir in the hazelnuts, blanched and ground almonds and the chopped fruit mixture (the mixture will be stiff).
4 Press the mixture into the tin. In a small bowl, mix the remaining ½tsp cinnamon and remaining ½tbsp flour. Dust over the panforte mixture and bake for 30-35min until slightly risen

PHOTO GARETH MORGANS



Creamy vanilla fudge

This easy recipe needs no sugar thermometer and is great for trying with your own flavours

Prep time: 20min, plus cooling
Cooking time: about 20min
Makes about 64 squares

- 75g butter, plus extra to grease
- 375g white chocolate
- 300g light brown soft sugar
- 170g tin evaporated milk
- 225g white mini marshmallows
- 2tsp vanilla extract

1 Lightly grease a 20.5cm square cake tin and line with baking parchment.
2 Whizz white chocolate in a food processor until as finely chopped as possible (or chop by hand).
3 Put the butter, sugar, evaporated milk and a large pinch of salt into a large pan and heat gently, stirring occasionally, until the sugar dissolves. Stir in the marshmallows and turn up the heat to medium (don't let the mixture boil), stirring frequently until the marshmallows are completely melted and the mixture is smooth (about 8-10min).
4 Bring the mixture to the boil and bubble for 5min, stirring frequently, until the mixture darkens to a medium caramel colour. Take the pan off the heat and immediately beat in the vanilla extract and white chocolate (be careful, as the mixture will bubble and be extremely hot). Working as quickly as possible, pour the mixture into the prepared tin (if the mixture firms up as you're pouring, briefly put the pan back on a gentle heat to melt any remaining fudge), then leave to cool and set in the tin for 3hr, until firm (there's no need to chill).
5 Remove from the tin and cut into 2.5cm squares. We topped ours with chocolate malt balls, dried fruit, candied peel and nuts.

PHOTO **MYLES NEW**



Mindful colouring

with Johanna Basford

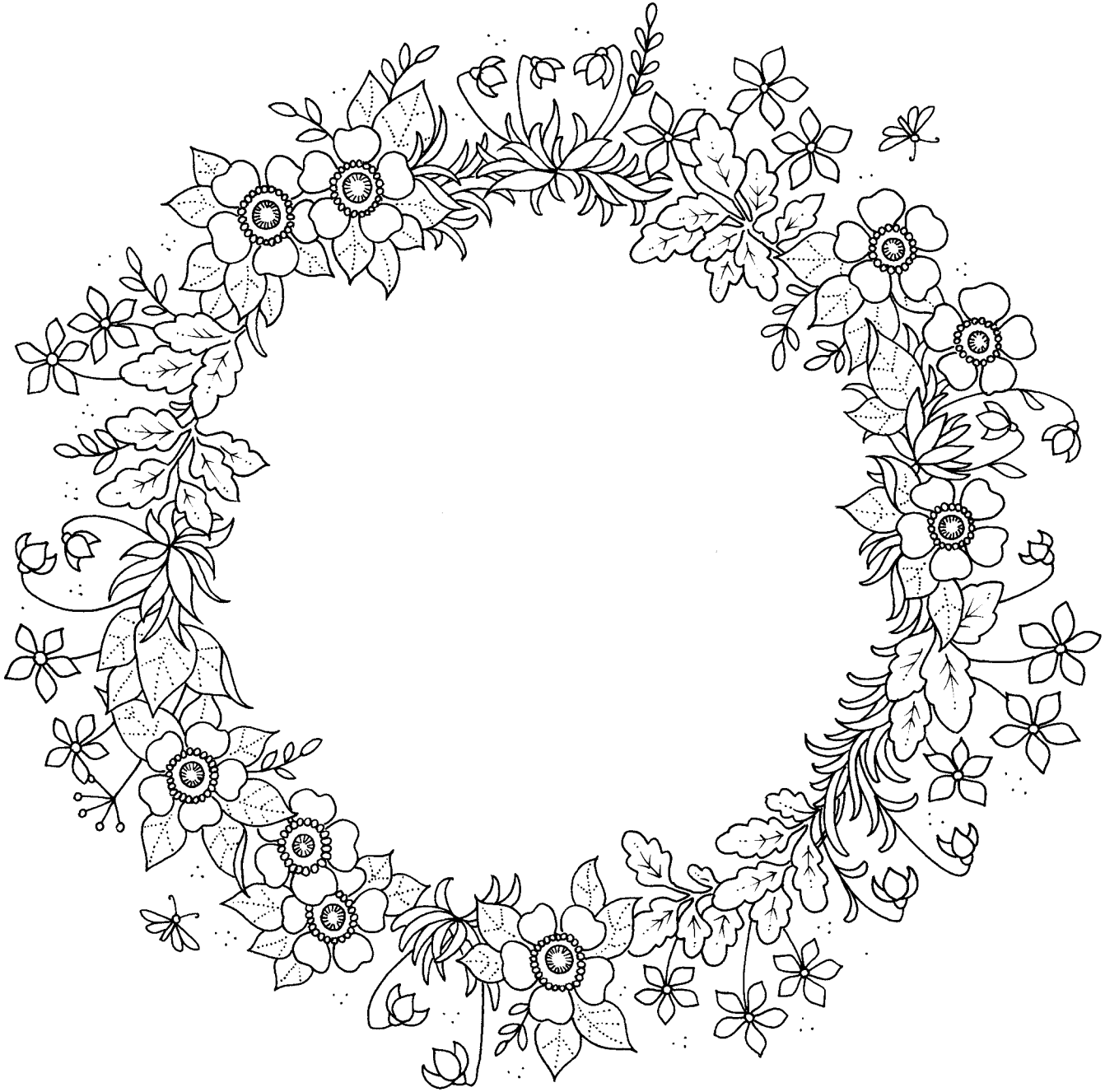


Johanna says: 'Colouring is a wonderful way to reset. It allows you to carve out a little time in your day to be calm, creative and to press pause on the chaos of life! I hope you enjoy bringing these nature-inspired illustrations to life with your beautiful colours.'

We've even provided some pretty backing papers so you can cut out the pages and display your artwork

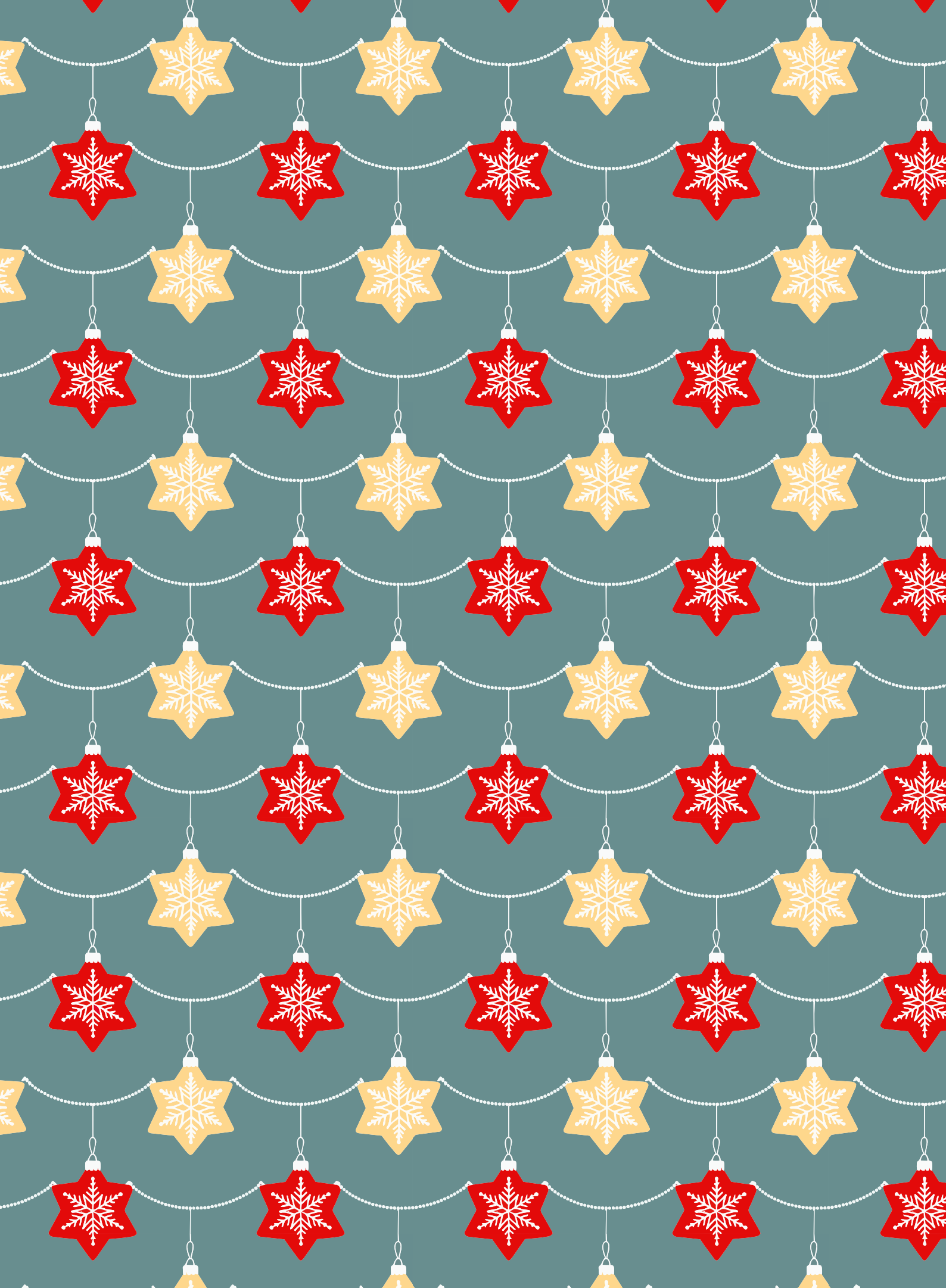


FROM *MAGICAL JUNGLE* BY JOHANNA BASFORD

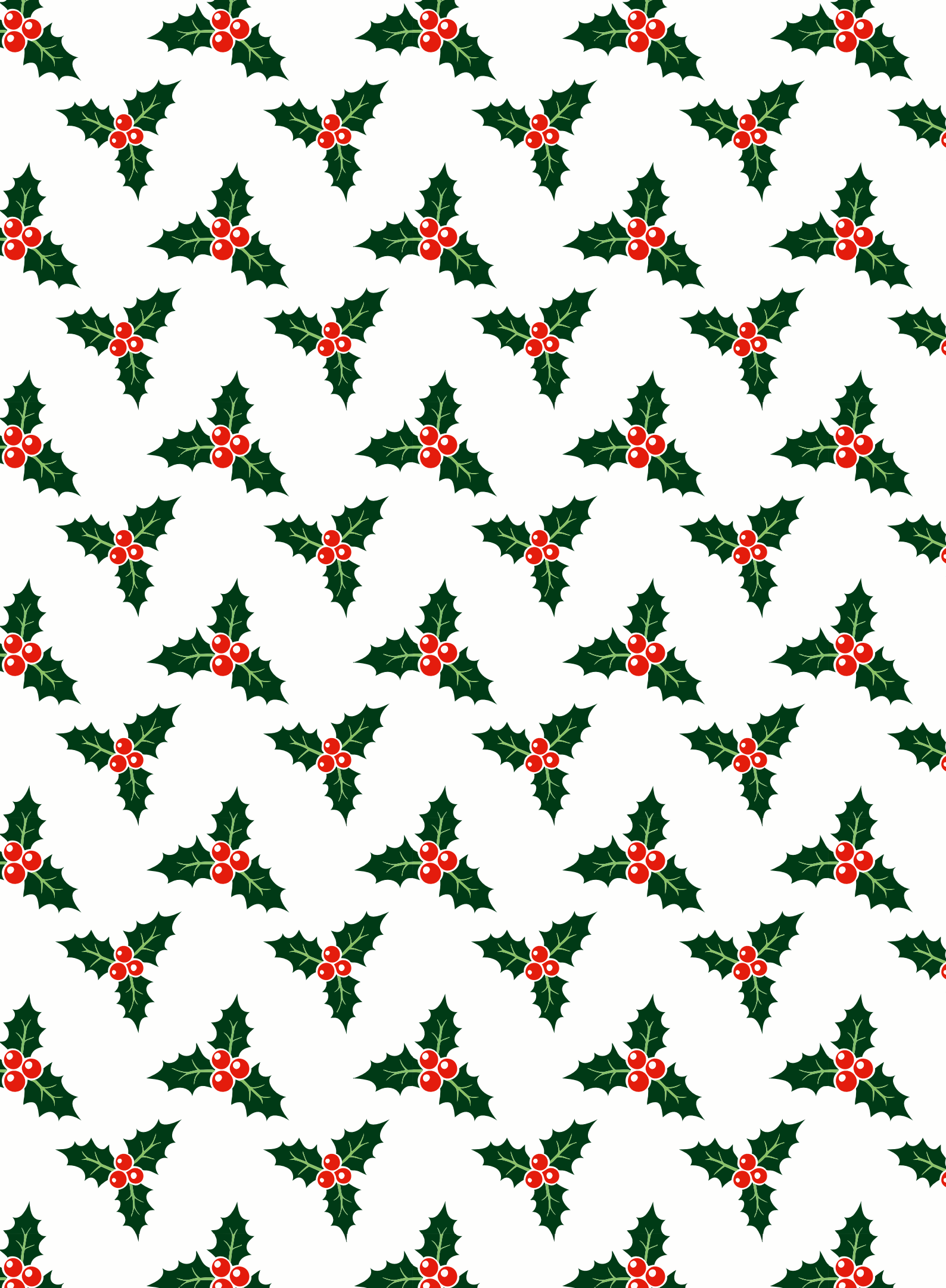


Get creative

These gorgeous paper designs will elevate colouring projects, or use them as wrapping paper for last-minute gifts

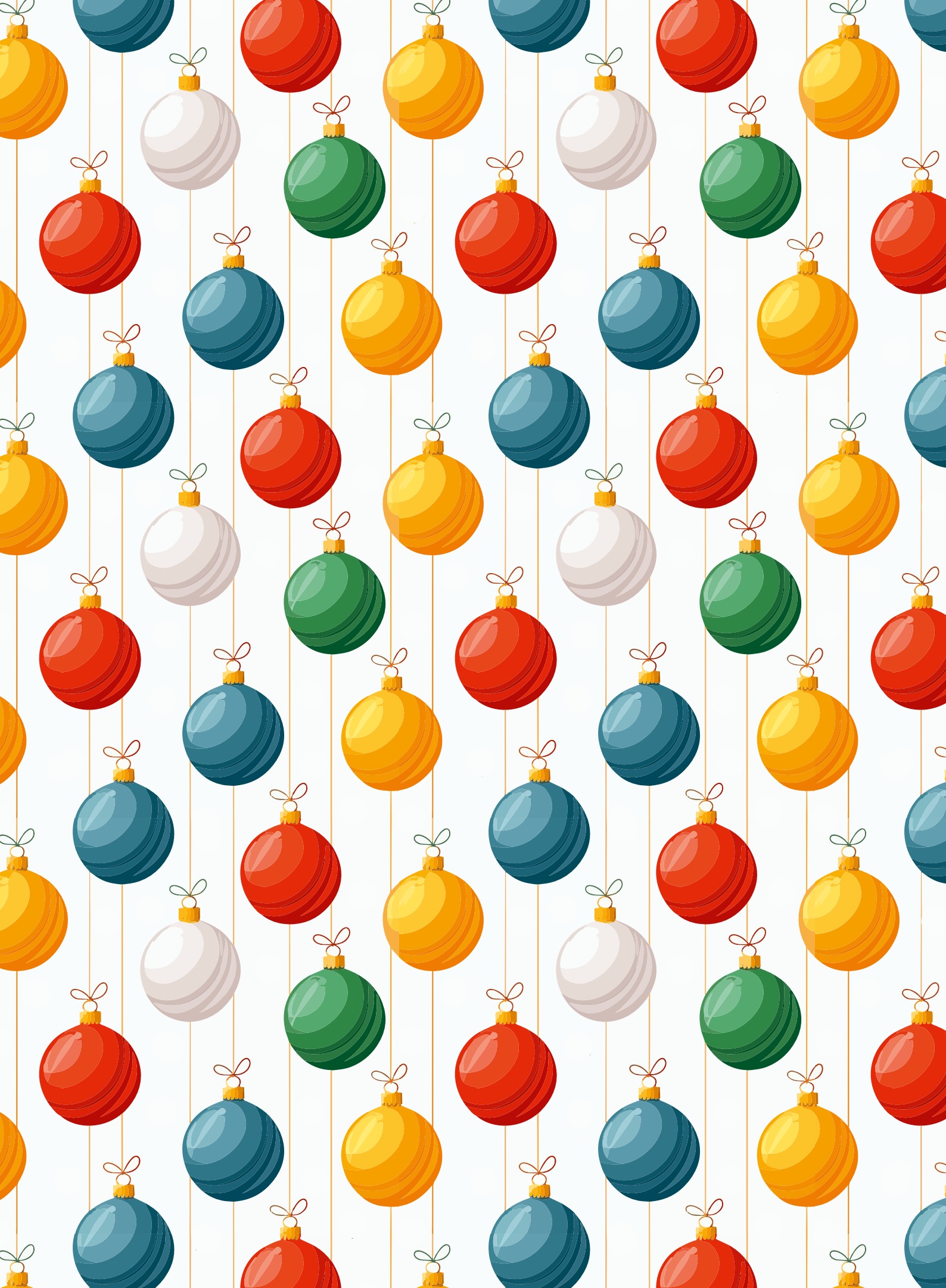


















Templates

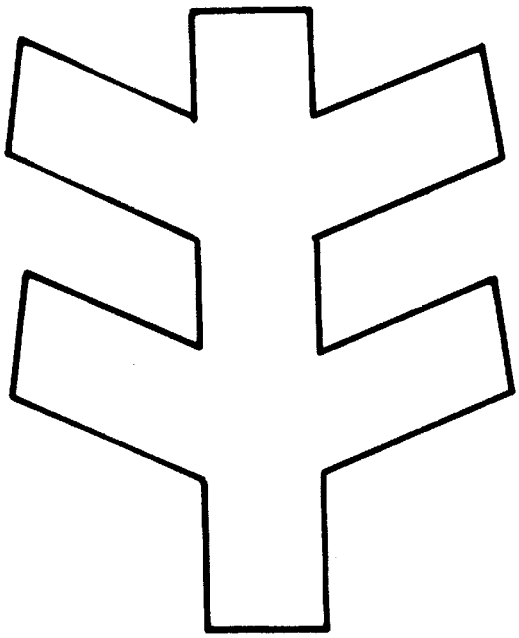
All the shapes you need for this issue's makes. These templates can be resized as required unless otherwise stated

p26
All the trimmings

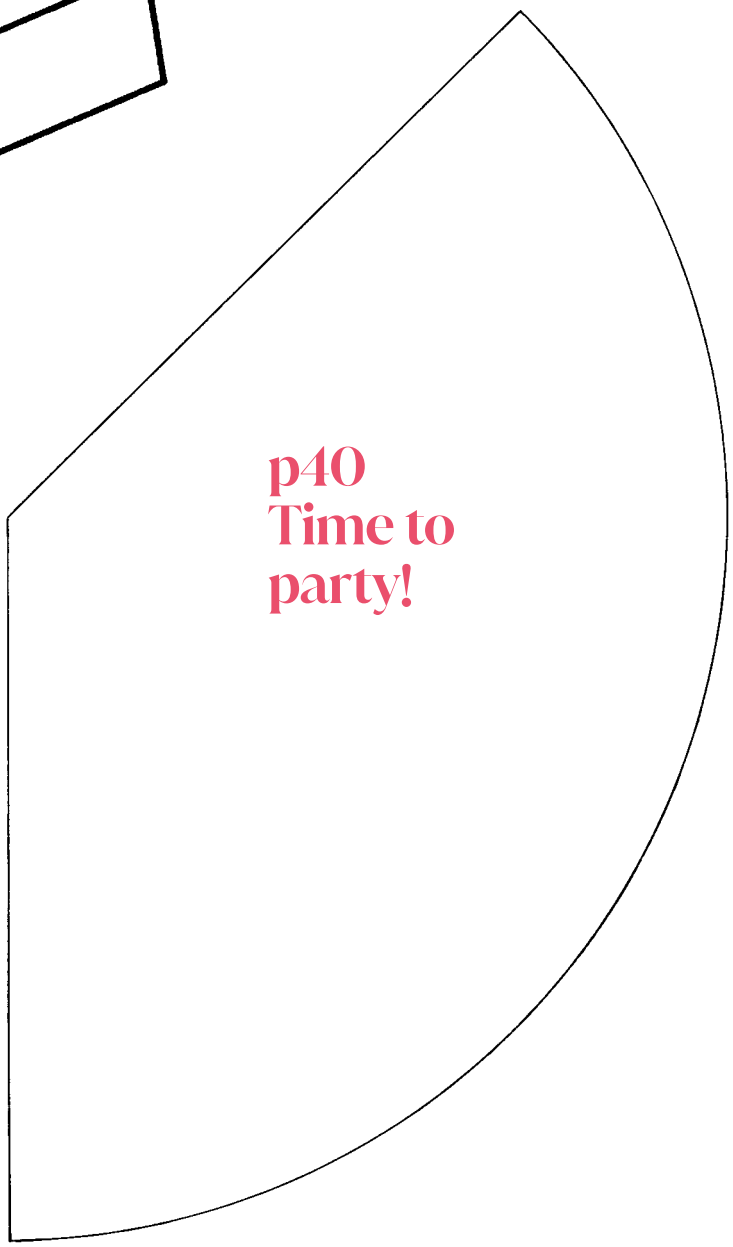


Photocopy at 200%

p38 Deer friends

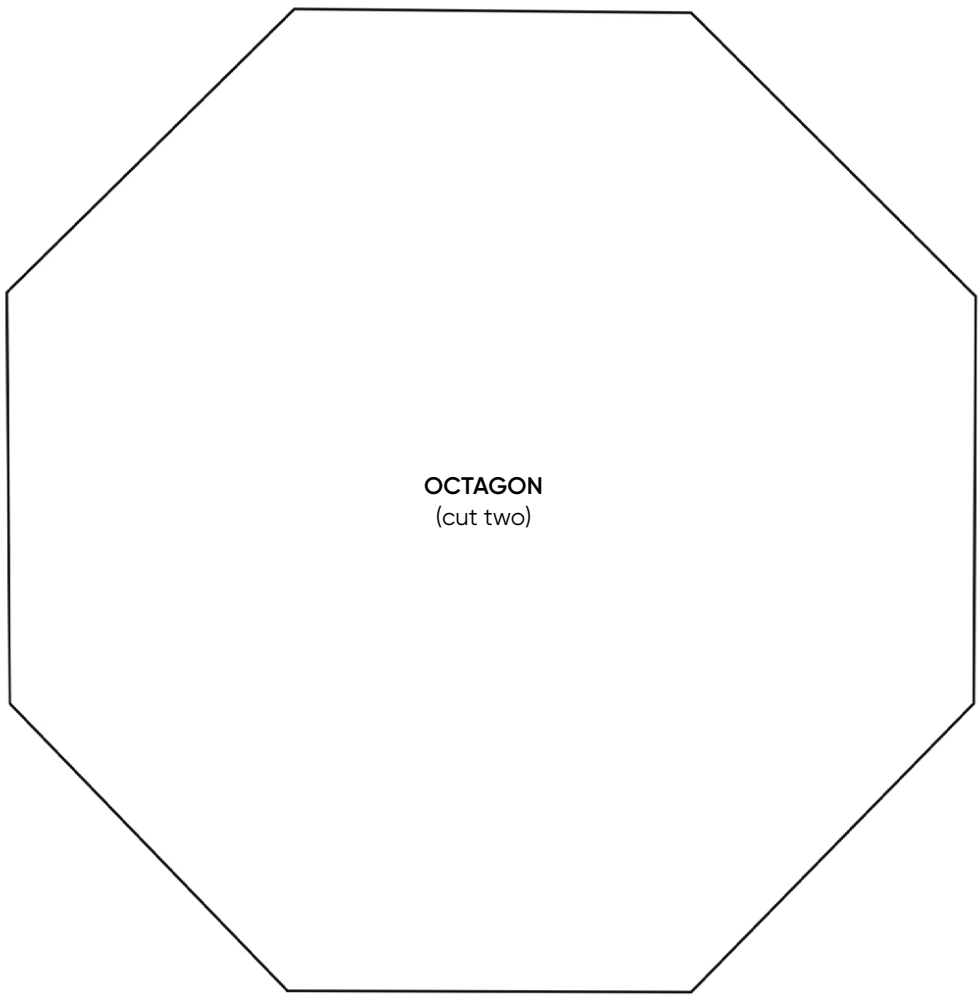


p40 Time to party!



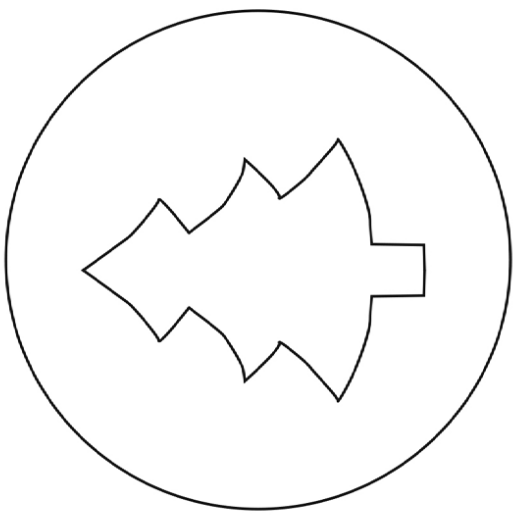
p32
Smashing success

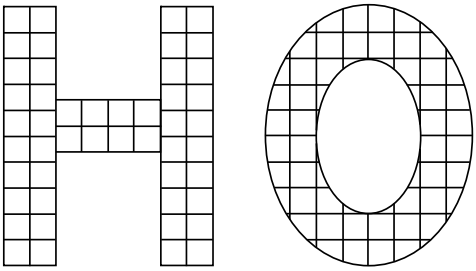
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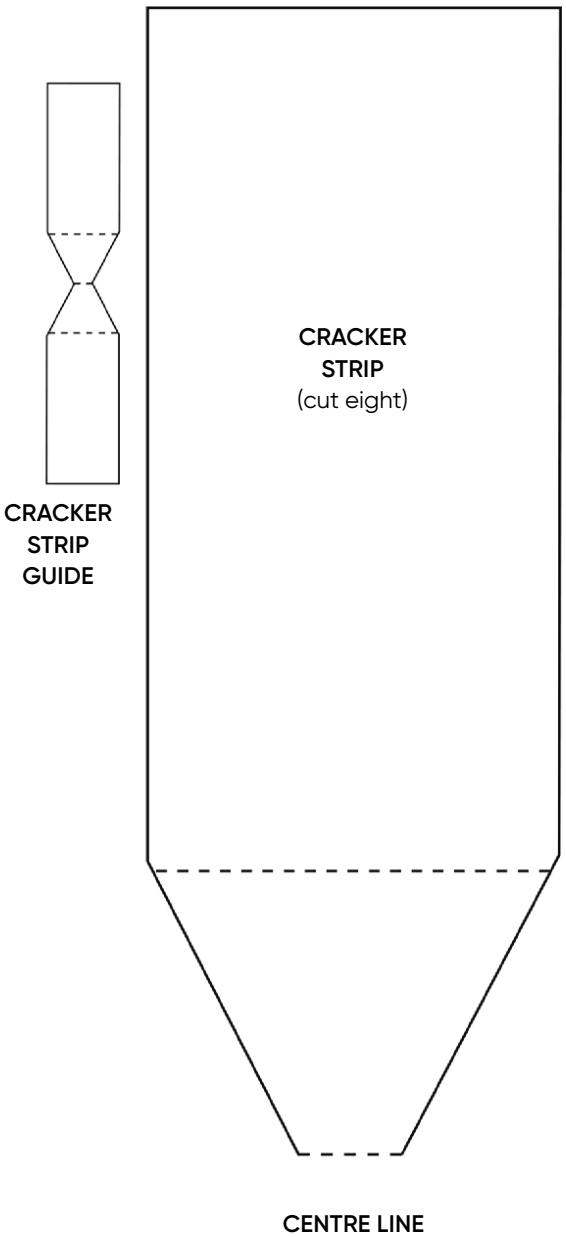


OCTAGON
(cut two)

CIRCLE
(cut one)



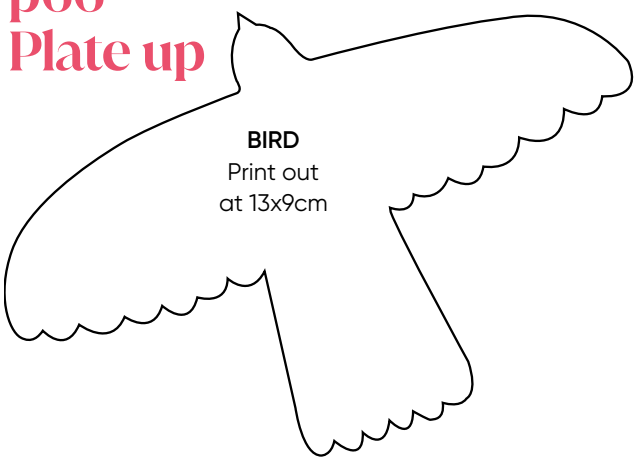


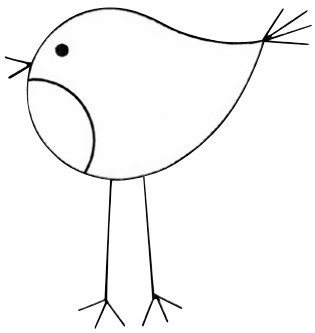


p56
Bring on the bunting

Each square on the templates represents 1x1cm. Enlarge the templates to the correct size, or redraw them onto graph paper.

p66
Plate up





p74
Sew sweet

Notes

Use this page to jot down any notes you want to remember about your projects

COMING SOON

Next issue out 15 December



prima

mindful makes