



CRAFT CORNER

Decorative straw wreaths

BY WENDIE R. BLANCHARD
Copley News Service

No, it's not too early to start thinking about Christmas, especially if you plan to make holiday decorations as gifts.

A ruffled ribbon wreath is a festive and attractive decoration suitable for any holiday decor. If you are looking for a quick indoor decoration for your own home or to give to a friend, this cut-and-pin project is just the ticket.

Ribbons with lace trims, metallics, pastels and velour will all make beautiful wreaths. Keep

in mind that a wreath is a nice accent for any time of the year and does not have to be saved for the Christmas season alone.

The following directions are very basic and allow for your individual variations. If you would like a more in-depth how-to instruction sheet, write to WFR Ribbon Corp., 115 West 18th St., New York, NY 10011. Be sure to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The cost is 15 cents.

To begin you will need a pair of scissors, 12-inch plastic foam ring, 275 straight pins, 13½-feet total of

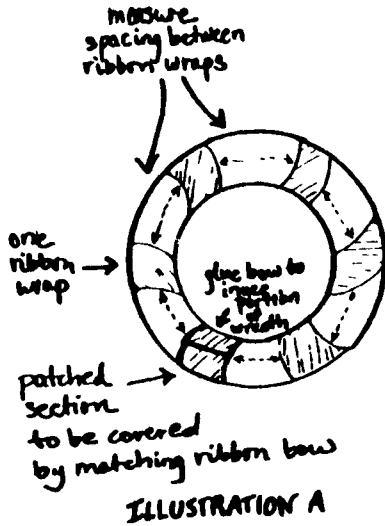
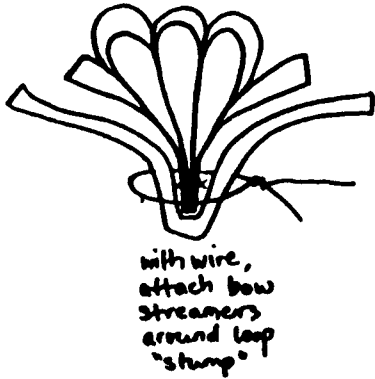


ILLUSTRATION B



ILLUSTRATION C



three different ribbons (4, 6½, and 3 yards respectively), and 12 chenille stems (6 red, 6 white) for candy canes.

Twist together one red and one white chenille stem to form a candy cane stripe. Fold the length in half and cut. Shape on end of each half by folding approximately 1 inch into a half circle. This will form your candy cane. Make 12 candy canes. (You may also substitute real candy canes.)

The basic technique for the wreath is pleating. Beginning on the outside of the wreath, pin the widest ribbon (6½-foot long) onto the outside of the wreath about a ½-inch from the edge. Measure a ½-inch piece and fold back a ¼-inch piece. Pin ribbon pleats to the foam wreath. Each pleat is made the same way. Continue making pleats all the way around until the entire ring is covered.

Pleat the inside of the wreath in

the same manner, but reverse the direction of the pleats to point inward instead of outward.

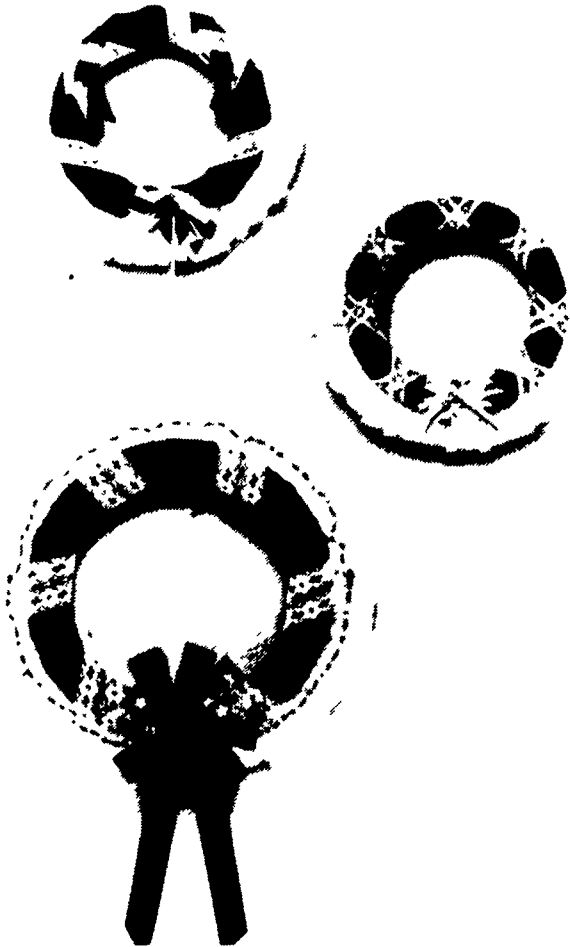
The center of the wreath is a "mock" braid made from only two 1½-foot lengths. Take the three-foot piece of ribbon and cut in half. Put the two pieces together, right side up, with one piece on top of the other. Pin the top of the ribbons to an area on the foam ring where white still shows through. Braid by overlapping back and forth at approximately 3-inch intervals.

Pin at each point where the ribbon intersects. Continue until the center of the wreath is covered.


Use the candy canes to cover any areas where the pins show. Cut 12 pieces, five inches long from the four-foot piece of ribbon. Make a loop by folding each of the five-inch pieces over itself, right sides showing. Cut the edges of the ribbon at an angle and pin to the middle of each candy cane. Make a bow from the leftover section of ribbon and pin at the base of the wreath.



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