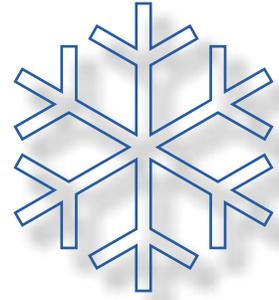


Winter Holidays Christmas Tree Ornaments



Post-War Tree Color Wheels

During the Post War Era (1950s and 60s), new technologies that were developed during World War II, such as nylon and plastics, came to everyday life in the United States. It was a time when families shifted from gathering around the radio to listen to their favorite programs to watching them on television. It was a time when space exploration was starting to take flight and take hold of the imagination. The future was something people speculated about with excitement and sometimes great fear. Change would come in the form of protest and examination of America and its practices that had been in place since the Civil War. Christmas was a joyful time to look to tradition, but make it more “modern.” The aluminum tree was one of those modern inventions. Sparsely decorated with bulbs, elves, and other ornaments to show off its branches, you could not use normal Christmas lights on the tree. You had to use a color wheel which rotated transparent colored glass or plastic in front of a light allowing colors to reflect off the metallic tree.

Materials

5 inch construction paper squares
Red, green, blue, yellow tissue paper

Scissors
Glue

Instructions

- Fold your square in half diagonally
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- Fold in half diagonally again
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- Use your scissors to round the points off the outer edges of the triangle, leaving the inner point alone.
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- Fold it in half again.
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- Starting on the folded side cut the center out leaving about an 1/8 of an inch on the other two sides.
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- Cut out small triangles of each color and glue them in place. One color is used for each hole.
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- Once the glue has dried, poke a hole in paper border of the wheel, string your thread through, and tie it into a loop.
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- Hang on your Christmas tree.

