

## Cookie Cutter Ornaments

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You can make Holiday decorations using your cookie cutters! Hearts, stars, trees, snowmen, bells, bats, witches, pumpkins, bunnies, etc. You use them as forms and fill them with quills to make fun ornaments for Christmas trees, Easter egg trees, window ornaments, gift tags, refrigerator magnets, or hung just over the edge of a mirror.



There is more than one method to make the ornaments. One method is to measure the length of the strip to go around the cookie cutter, add 1/8" for overlap and make a ring. I then add more strips to the ring to strengthen it. Before the ring is dry slide it around the cookie cutter (CC) and force the ring to conform to the cutter with pins. If you don't want to measure your CC, the following way works well. This is the one I use most often. But first some general tips...

### Supplies:

- \*\*\*Make a work board out of cardboard. I use three layers, taped together. A thick board prevents table and knee from pin pokes. A 6 x 6" square is plenty large. Cover it with wax paper or plastic wrap.
- \*\*\*A Polar grid helps keep some shapes such as stars and trees symmetrical.
- \*\*\*Quilling strips, glue, needle tool or dowel or pencil, tweezers, cookie cutters, pins. For the pins, I use long pins with a large flat head. They are called "flat headed quilting/sewing pins". My box has about 100 in it. It was about \$5 through Amazon. Caution: I have pulled the heads off several. They hold the CC in place and flat to the work board. Any straight pin will work.

### General tips:

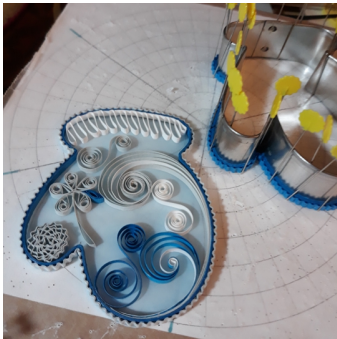
1. Straighten your CC if necessary. Mine are metal and I found I needed to tweak the star and one of my trees. Perfect is not necessary. Plastic ones should be fine.
2. Make heavier strips by gluing 2 normal strips together. I wrap my forms with 5 layers of the doubled strips (10 layers of normal weight quilling strips.) Probably 5 layers of On Edge strips will work. I have not tried this. I haven't specified a length as each CC will need a different length to go around it. If your strips are short (11 or 12"), glue 2 strips end to end for your first strip. (When you add the second layer to make a thick strip, stagger the overlap so you don't get a build up.)
3. Let the shape dry completely before removing it from your workboard and CC. Remove all the pins, holding down the CC close to where you are pulling pins. If the ring seems stuck to the board, slide your needle tool under the CC to break it free from the wax paper. Separate the ornament from the CC. Re-pin your shape to the work board, this time with a polar grid if your shape should be symmetrical. You should be able to alter it slightly with the pins.
4. Decorate with quills! Scrolls, loops, beehives, tight rolls, anything goes. Glue your quills securely to the shape and to each other. I glued my mitten shape to parchment paper as the quilling was too open for the ornament to be sturdy. Backing the shape with cardstock will also make it sturdy like the star above. Add a hanging loop.

### Make your cookie cutter shape:

- A. Position the CC onto the workboard with the sharp side down. Pin



in place, forcing it to the workboard surface if one side wants to pop up. This is where a little pre-straightening of the CC can help. Press the pin down until it touches the CC. I use several pins inside, several outside.



B. Wrap a double thickness or On Edge strip around the CC, pinning every inch or so. You may need to hold the start of the strip until you get around the form. Push the strip to the CC and pin it to the CC. Use a pin every inch or two. Pay attention to the concave places and get the strip in tight. A needle tool or closed tweezers or dowel can help push the ring into sharp indents, then slide in the pin. Pin, pin, pin. When you get back to the start, don't stop, but continue to the end of your strip, now adding glue to the previous layer of paper. **Keep the top edges even!** This is really important for a nice finished product.

C. Continue adding/gluing strips until you have built up 5 double or 5 On Edge strips. Make your joins neat by cutting the ends straight with scissors and butt the new strip tight to the end of the previous strip. **Keep the top edges even.** You can use a crimped strip as your outer layer. I glue 2 normal strips together and run it through a crimper. If your crimper can handle it, try 3 strips glued together. Crimp while the glue is wet. Start the crimped strip in a crevice. An easy method to get a perfectly glued crimped strip is to spread glue on the ring and pin the crimped strip about every half inch. Yes, a lot of pins! I use my fine tipped tweezers to press every indent of the crimped strip to the ornament. It doesn't take long and it makes sure the crimped strip has perfect adherence. I try to add the crimped strip before it is completely dry as it is more flexible. You can also use crimped strips inside the form. **Keep the top edges even.**

D. Let dry and go back to General tips, #3 and #4.



Where do you get cookie cutters if you don't have any in the cupboard? Hardware stores such as Ace may still carry them. Try kitchen and craft stores and thrift stores. Watch at garage/estate sales. Stores such as Walmart and Target normally carry holiday cutters shortly before Halloween, Christmas and Easter.

There are commercial plastic forms available which are made especially for quillers. Hanne Olesen is in Denmark.

Her forms (the Christmas tree pictured is made with her form) and the Karen Marie Klip forms are available from Silvia und Wolfram Jordan, **papier+ideen**. The direct link for the forms is <https://papierundideen.de/vare-kategorie/quilling-tools/quilling-module-tools-quilling-tools?lang=en> Look for her "Quilling Module Tools" if you go directly to her web page, <https://papierundideen.de/?lang=en> This is the English page. (It is easier to Google papier+ideen.) She ships to the USA.



The other source is Krista Hahn, a member of the North American Quilling Guild. Her forms can be found in her Etsy shop. <https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheQuillingNerd> Krista has a candy cane and a tree along with many basic shapes. Her candy cane and tree use positive and negative forms. She has

them sized just right for three inch circles. You put the circle over the inner form and press the outer form(s) into or around it and secure it until dry. I have used her pumpkin. It works well. Be sure to get the correct ring size to make it really easy.

Look here for photos of my other CC ornaments: <http://www.2kitters.com/quilling/cookiecutters.htm>

If you have questions, send me an email at [pushpuppet@2kitters.com](mailto:pushpuppet@2kitters.com).

