

How to use ancient crafts and modern techniques

In conjunction with *Miniature Time Traveller Magazine* and miniaturist Jill

Make a bejewelled Christmas Tree



The contents of these worksheets are collected from many life size sources, some valuable hints and ideas volunteered by older miniaturists and some of my own original ideas. Nothing is new under the sun, especially with dollhouse miniatures. There have been many magazines printed on the topic. There is the danger that I would be accused of plagiarism or copying others. The purpose of the sheets are as a research tool that is easy to file and access. They are numbered and colour coded. Each scale will be on a separate page. I am making a special effort to present each of these sheets with my own original take on it. If I have unknowingly trod in the footsteps of others I can only apologise. Where I have used the material of others I will always credit it.

Jill Fraser.

Use up all the beads in your stash with this amazingly beautiful Christmas Tree.

You will need two A4 sheets of 260 gsm card.

You will need a 4mm skewer, don't cut to length yet.

A base that is heavy enough to keep things upright. A heavy bolt, sprayed gold, is an excellent choice.

Lots and lots of beads and glitter.

White material

A good sewing needle and strong white cotton thread.

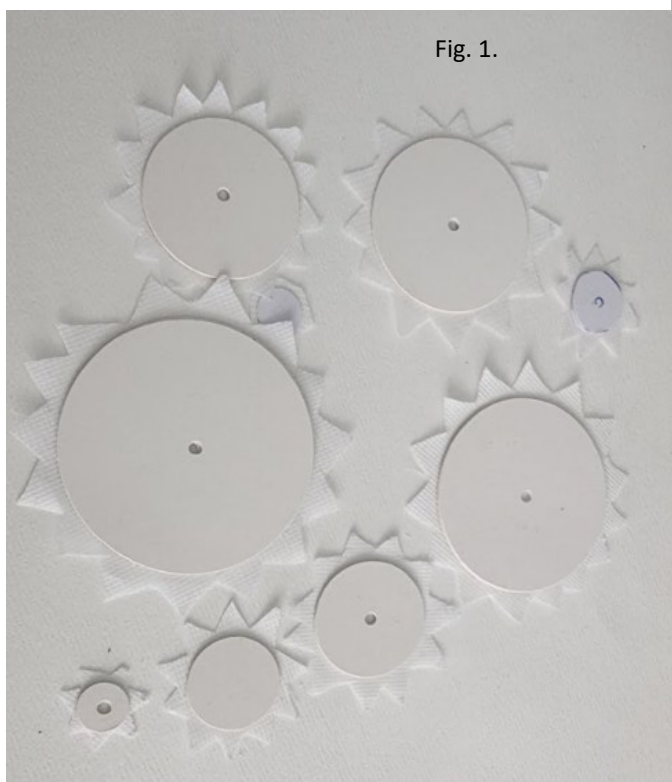
Tacky glue.

Lets get started.

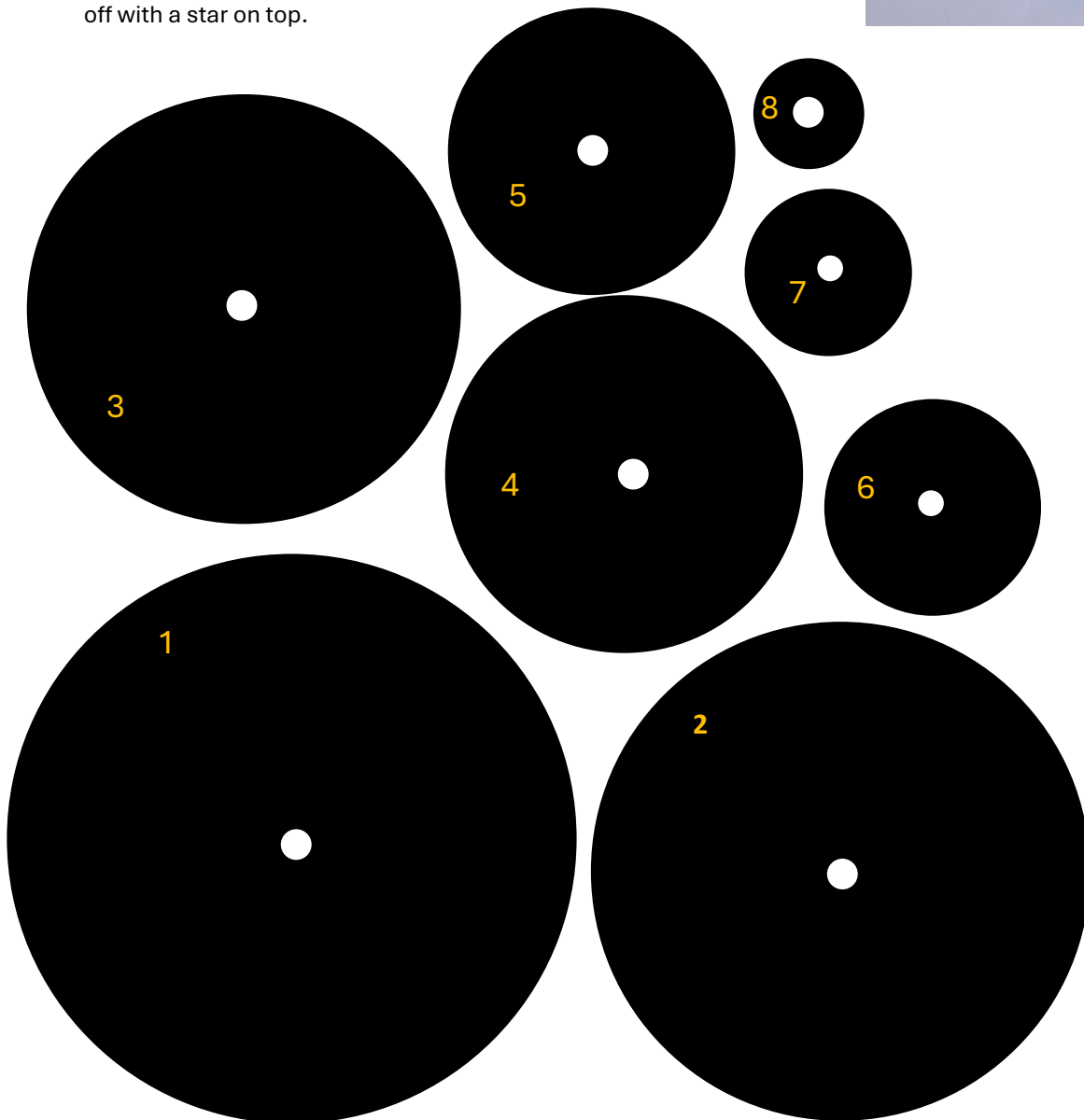
1. Cut out the set of circles twice, shown on next page. Laminate two circles together for strength. Do each circle like this.
2. You now need a another set of circles that will finish off underneath each circle. Cut another set of circles. Cut off 3mm evenly around each circle.
3. Lay first laminated set of circles on a piece of white cotton. Mark out a 15mm circle around them for folding back and gluing to the back of the circle. When you get to the smaller sizes adjust this allowance accordingly. See Fig. 1. Fold the excess material to the back of each circle, cut notches around edge, and glue to the back. Keep glue away from the outside edge as it will make sewing on the beads difficult otherwise. Do this on each circles.
4. Lay your next set of smaller circles onto the fabric and glue around the edge and a few dots towards the middle. These are for gluing to the bases of the previous set. You are going to trim the material close to the edge so make sure there is glue there. When the glue is dry, glue the covered circle onto the underneath or back of your previous ones in step 3.
5. Now you need to anchor your skewer into the base so it is firm and doesn't wobble. Glue in place.



Fig. 1.



6. It is easier to sew on your beads before you put the circles onto the skewer. First determine how high off the top of the base you want your first circle to sit. i.e. 2cm. It is helpful to cut a length of a straw this height and glue this in place around the skewer. When you have finished beading and you slide the circle onto the skewer this will stop it going further and will hold it level.
7. With the height in mind, do your threading of your beads to measure the 2cm. It is a matter of personal choice as to the colours you use. You could use red, gold and green for example.
8. First take the needle through the edge of the circle twice. Thread on your beads and when you reach the end, and it is a good look to end with a shiny bead, take the cotton around the end bead and then through all the other beads, back to the circle. Make two stitches to anchor this in place and take you to the next row of beads. Continue in this manner right around the circle.
9. Punch through the centre hole with the ends of your scissors so that the bottom circle fits over the skewer firmly.
10. Continue doing the rest of the circles the same way. Keep in mind the space and height between each circle. It is not an exact science. Your lengths of beads may determine it. They need to hang straight. Finish off with a star on top.



Photocopy these shapes on firm card and use in a Cricut machine or Brother cutting machine or cut out by hand.

In this sample two sets of circles were laminated together for strength and once the bottom lining circles are glued in place the circles are quite stiff.

I hope you enjoy this project. Let me know how it goes and send us a photo of your finished tree.

The inspiration for this tree came from a change sighting on the internet..

Jill