

Revenge of the Crafty Corpse

CRAFT PROJECTS

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Fabric Yo-yos

Did you have visions of a colorful rounded plastic spool, a piece of twisted string, and tricks like *Around the World* and *Walk the Dog* when Anastasia mentioned Lyndella's yo-yo cardigan sweater? Rest assured, Lyndella wasn't wearing dozens of toys hot glued to her sweater. Instead, her cardigan was embellished with fabric yo-yos.

These yo-yos are circles of fabric gathered into rosettes. They're an ideal way to use up scraps of fabric left over from other projects. The fabric yo-yo is incredibly versatile and can be used as both a decorative embellishment or sewn together to create both wearables and home décor accents. Anastasia will share a variety of yo-yo projects throughout the pages of this book. For now, here's how to make a basic yo-yo.

Basic Yo-yo

Materials:

5" x 5" piece of cardboard, compass with pencil attached, scissors, fabric marker, quilting thread, sewing needle, 5" x 5" piece of lightweight cotton or cotton blend fabric, button (optional), invisible thread (optional)

Using the compass, draw a 4" circle on the cardboard. Cut out the circle. Use the circle as a template to trace a circle onto the wrong side of the fabric. Cut out the fabric circle.

Hold the fabric circle with the wrong side facing you. Fold 1/4" of the raw edge toward the wrong side of the fabric and using the quilting thread, hem with a running stitch. When you reach your starting point, and the circle is completely hemmed, pull the thread tight to gather the fabric. Smooth and flatten the yo-yo so the hole is in the center. This is the right side of your yo-yo. Knot the thread and snip excess.

Depending on the end use, you may want to sew a button over the center hole of some or all of the yo-yos. Use the invisible thread for projects where the yo-yos are whip stitched together.

Yo-yo Stitching Tips

~Always use quilting thread. Regular sewing thread is not strong enough and will break when gathering the yo-yo.

~Begin the first gathering stitch underneath the fold of the hem to hide the knot.

~Use a minimal amount of stitches when sewing yo-yos together to keep the yo-yos from being pulled out of shape.

~Always hand wash yo-yo projects.

~Make smaller or larger yo-yos by increasing or decreasing the size of the circle template. A 4" circle template will make a 1-3/4" yo-yo, a 5" circle template will make a 2-1/4" yo-yo, and a 6" circle template will make a 2-3/4" yo-yo.

Lyndella's Yo-yo Embellished Cardigan

What's old is new. Give retro life to an old cardigan by adding a decorative yoke of coordinating yo-yos.

Materials:

cardigan sweater, basic yo-yo supplies to sew approximately 20-30 coordinating yo-yos made from 5" circle template, equal number of coordinating or contrasting 7/8" buttons, straight pins, invisible thread or fabric glue

The number of yo-yos needed will depend on the size of the sweater. Make the yo-yos following the Basic Yo-yo Directions. Stitch a button over the center hole of each yo-yo.

Lay the sweater flat, front side up. Place the yo-yos along the neckline of the front of the sweater, overlapping the yo-yos slightly. Pin in place. Turn the sweater over. Continue placing and pinning yo-yos along the back neckline.

Using invisible thread, slipstitch the yo-yos onto the sweater or attach with a small amount of fabric glue at the middle back of each yo-yo. Note: if using glue, slide a piece of waxed paper inside the sweater so you don't accidentally glue the front to the back.

Yo-yo Doll

Note: Yo-yo dolls contain small components that are choking hazards. Never give a yo-yo doll to a baby or toddler. Use only as a decorative item in a nursery or as a toy for older children who don't put things in their mouths.

Materials:

basic yo-yo supplies to sew 61 yo-yos made from a 5" circle template, buttonhole thread, quilting thread, four embroidery needles, four 3/4" jingle bells, 8" x 8" muslin, compass or 8" diameter plate, small amount of fiberfill, sewing needle, black and red embroidery thread, three 2-hole buttons, 1/2-yd. 2" wide gathered lace, 4-ply yarn for hair (your choice of color), fabric glue or glue gun

Thread two yards of buttonhole thread through an embroidery needle. Knot ends together. Thread the needle through the top of a bell, then insert the needle through the doubled thread and pull to secure the bell.

String 14 yo-yos onto the thread by inserting the needle into the bottom (ungathered side) of the center of each yo-yo, pushing the yo-yos down toward the bell.

Leave the thread and needle attached for the first leg. Construct a second leg in the same manner.

Repeat this process for the two arms, using 10 yo-yos for each arm.

Using a compass or a plate as a template, trace an 8" circle on the muslin for the doll's head. Cut out the circle. Using the quilting thread, sew a running stitch 1/4" from cut edge. Place fiberfill in the center of the circle. Gather the muslin around the fiberfill, adding more fiberfill if needed to make a firm head. Gather the opening closed and knot the thread.

With the black embroidery floss, French knots eyes. Straight stitch a mouth with the red embroidery floss.

To assemble the doll, pass one leg needle through one hole of a 2-hole button. Pass the other leg needle through the second hole. Tie the two lengths of thread together, knotting several times.

Passing both needles through each yo-yo, string twelve yo-yos for the body. Pass one needle through one hole of a second 2-hole button and the other needle through the other hole.

String the arms through the same button, one arm through each hole. Knot the arm threads to the body threads.

Pass all four needles through the remaining yo-yo for a neck. Pass two needles through one hole of the remaining button and the other two needles through the other hole. Knot the threads. Stitch the head to the neck over the button.

Using the quilting thread, sew a running stitch around the gathered edge of the lace. Place the lace around the bottom of the head and tie off at the back of the head to form a ruffled collar.

To make the doll's hair, cut yarn into 4" lengths. For each section of hair, knot three lengths together at the center of the yarn. Glue knots to head along hairline, then in horizontal rows across the back of the head.

Yo-yo Christmas Ornaments

Yo-yos can be used to make a variety of Christmas ornaments. Here are three quick and easy ones. For variety, make the basic tree, angel, and snowman ornaments but use your imagination and various craft supplies you have on hand to decorate them as you desire.

Note: Fabric glue or a glue gun can be used for all gluing except when attaching plastic beads and gemstones. Use the glue gun or jewelry glue to adhere those items.

Yo-yo Tree Ornament

Materials:

basic yo-yo supplies to sew 6 green print and 1 brown print yo-yo made from a 4" circle template and 1 gold print yo-yo made from a 3" circle template, 6 red 1/2" buttons, 25mm flat-back gold star acrylic gemstone, 8" length of red 1/4" wide satin or grosgrain ribbon, glue gun or fabric glue and jewelry glue

Make the yo-yos following the Basic Yo-yo Directions. Stitch a button over the center of each of the green print yo-yos.

Glue the star acrylic gemstone over the center hole of the gold yo-yo.

To assemble the tree, all yo-yos will slightly overlap each other in each step. Glue three green yo-yos in a horizontal row with middle yo-yo on top. This is the bottom of the tree. Glue two green yo-yos together for middle row. Glue bottom row centered over middle row. Glue middle row centered over remaining green yo-yo. Glue bottom row centered over brown yo-yo. Glue gold yo-yo centered over top green yo-yo.

Fold the ribbon in half. Glue cut ends to top back of tree for hanging loop.

Yo-yo Angel Ornament

Materials:

basic yo-yo supplies to sew 1 print (color of choice) and 1 white yo-yo made from 6" circle template, 1" two-hole wooden button, 2 black #8 glass beads, 1" flat-back heart acrylic gemstone in coordinating color, 8" length of 1/4" wide satin or grosgrain ribbon in coordinating color, glue gun or fabric glue and jewelry glue, peach acrylic paint and brush (optional)

If desired, paint the wooden button. Allow to dry.

Make the yo-yos following the Basic Yo-yo Directions. To form the wings, sew a running stitch from the top of the white yo-yo to the center hole. Pull to gather. Tie off thread.

Glue the heart acrylic gemstone over the center hole of the print yo-yo. This will be the body.

Glue the wings to the back of the body so that the gathered section extends above the top of the body. Keeping the buttonholes horizontal, glue the button to the top of the body. Apply a small amount of glue inside the buttonholes. Set a bead in each buttonhole for eyes.

Fold the ribbon in half. Glue cut ends to top back of angel for hanging loop.

Yo-yo Snowman Ornament

Materials:

basic yo-yo supplies to sew 1 white yo-yo each made from 4", 5", and 6" circle templates, 2 black pebble beads, 1 orange pony bead, 1 brown chenille stem, 3 15mm flat-back gold star acrylic gemstones, 8" length of 1/4" wide satin or grosgrain ribbon, glue gun or fabric glue and jewelry glue

Make the yo-yos following the Basic Yo-yo Directions.

Overlapping the yo-yos slightly, glue the 5" yo-yo to the top of the 6" yo-yo and the 4" yo-yo to the top of the 5" yo-yo.

Glue the orange pony bead over the center hole of the top yo-yo for a nose. Glue the two black pebble beads above the nose for the eyes. Glue a star over the center holes of the remaining yo-yos and another evenly spaced between the first two stars.

Cut a 5" length of chenille stem. Glue to back of center yo-yo so ends extend out on either side for arms. Cut two 1" pieces from remaining chenille stem section and twist onto each arm to form branches.

Fold the ribbon in half. Glue cut ends to the top half of snowman for hanging loop.