

Family Tree Project

As seen in the June 2009 issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*

Materials:

- Tree and ornament templates
- One (1) 24-inch high cardboard box
- Corrugated cardboard sheets
- Thin shirting or packing cardboard sheets
- Pencil
- Craft knife and several blades (buy blades suitable for precision work)
- Quick-setting gel glue
- Acrylic craft paints in metallic or shimmer finish
- Small paintbrush
- 1/16-inch circle and 1/8-inch circle hole punches (optional)
- Fine-tipped scissors
- Ornament string or metallic embroidery thread
- 2x3-inch copies of family photos
- Double-sided scrapbook paper

Directions for Tree:

- Enlarge the tree template as needed and cut out.
- Trace around the template onto the cardboard box and cut the panel out using the craft knife. Repeat two more times, to make three tree panels in total.
- Trace around each cardboard tree panel (front and back of each panel) onto the smooth side of the corrugated cardboard and cut out with the craft knife.
- Glue the corrugated cardboard to the front and back of each cardboard tree panel. Set aside to dry. When panels are fully dry (10-15 minutes), glue the edges of the panels together to create a tripod effect, so that the tree stands on its own.
- Hold together with your hands for a few minutes until the glue begins to set. Let the tree dry while standing.

Directions for Ornaments:

- Print out the ornament templates and cut out.
- Trace around templates onto the shirting cardboard and cut out with craft knife.
- Use hole punches to make decorative dots, if desired.
- Paint the individual templates with acrylic paints and set aside to dry for about 10-15 minutes.
- Trim photos as needed for each frame and adhere the photo to the second layer of each ornament.
- Glue the top layer of the ornament onto the second layer.
- Cut lengths of ornament string or embroidery thread, fold over to make a loop, and adhere to the back of each ornament with a little dab of glue. Set aside to fully dry before hanging.
- Hang ornaments on branches as desired
- Lastly, cut leaf shapes of varying sizes out of patterned paper (fold paper in half and cut out half-circle shapes) and glue to the tree branches.

Resources: Corrugated cardboard available at some art supply stores or box stores; Most other supplies available at craft stores: X-acto knives and blades; Beacon 3-in-1 Advanced Craft Glue; Folk Art acrylic paint by Plaid (Metallic Pearl White, Metallic Antique Gold, Metallic Peridot – paints can be combined for custom shades); Making Memories scrapbook paper