

Ginwashi Holiday Ornaments

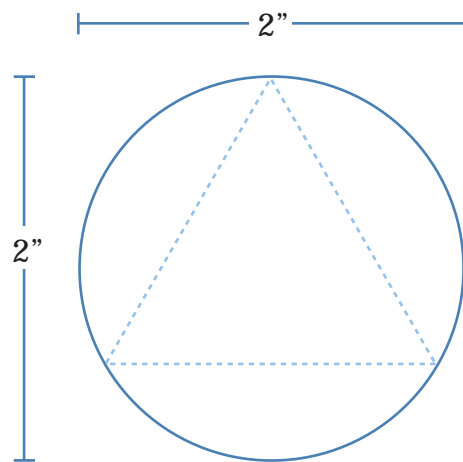


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DIY programs on television can be fantastic inspiration for unusual projects. One program in particular caught my attention—they were showing how to make a round inexpensive shade for a ceiling light using decorative papers. It was a great shape, but before I tackled the large shade, I knew it would be a good idea to make a miniature version. Once made, I kept looking at the miniature thinking this is a great little ornament. It just needed just a little “more” of something. In my stash of super marked down purchases from last year’s holiday clearance sale, I found what I’ve called bead picks. They are beads attached to paper covered wire, kind of like stamens for flower making, made to go on wreaths. With a little adaptation, they worked perfectly. To form a hanger, I used a sequin and a jewelry making head pin, but there are a number of ways and materials to make hangers.

Materials Needed:

- Ginwashi Paper
- Gel Medium (matte)
- PVA Glue
- ¼” Brush
- 2” Bristle Brush
- Scissors
- Wax Paper
- Circle Template (with a 2” diameter circle)
- Bone Folder
- Paper Clips or Small Binder Clips
- Pencil
- Holiday Bead Picks
- Fine Gold or Silver Cord



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Cut the Ginwashi paper into approximately 10" x 12" sheets. Lay the sheets on a piece of wax paper and brush on a thin, even layer of the Gel Medium. When they are completely dry, carefully peel from the wax paper. Flip the sheets over and coat the backsides. Let them dry overnight before peeling from the wax paper.

Using a marker and a scrap piece of poster board (or heavy weight paper) draw out a circle using the 2" guide on the circle template, or glass with a 2" diameter. Draw an equilateral triangle in the center with all three points touching the edge of the circle. This will be the guide for folding.

With a light pencil, draw 20 circles on the backside of the Ginwashi sheet with a light pencil. Cut the circles out with scissors, and mark the edges with pencil dots to show the triangle on each circle. Carefully matching the dots, crisply fold the three edges up on each circle with the bone folder to form flaps.

Put a small amount of glue on one flap edge of a circle and attach the flap of another circle to it, using paper clips or small binder clips to hold the edges together while it dries. Make six of these, using a total of 12 circles. With points in the same direction, glue two of these shapes together. When these are dry, add the last triangle by gluing it to the two edges. You should end up with a total of three separate rounded shapes with definite stars in the middle of each that have been formed by the five-glued edges. Glue two of these rounded shapes together at one edge, then glue one of the remaining folded circles on two edges. This will connect the two shapes together. Join the third shape in the same way, gluing the tabs into place until it forms a ball. Leave the top piece empty.

To make a hanger for the ornament, tie a knot into a doubled-over length of the fine cord. Put the knot far enough down inside the ball so that it does not interfere with the gluing the final tabs. Secure the knot with a dab of glue but leave the loop on the outside. Glue the tabs into place. (Jewelry findings or wire can also be used to form hangers.) For the final decorative effect, bead picks can be inserted into the star points with small dabs of glue.

The assembly on the first ornament will be the hardest, but once you get the hang of it they're easy to make.