

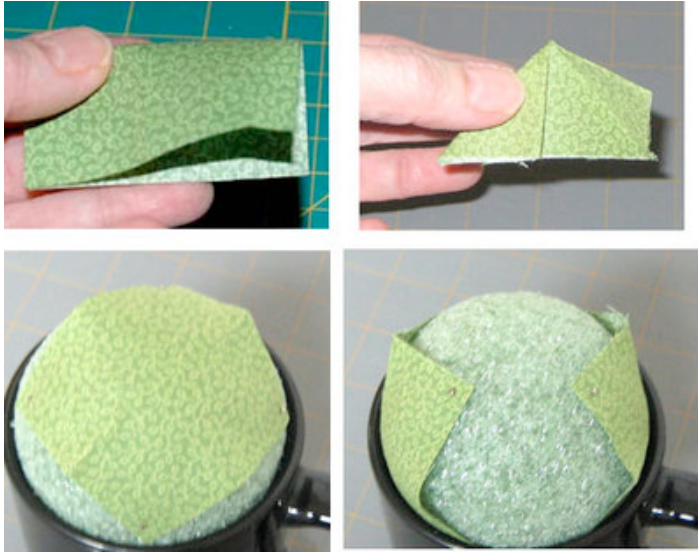
Folded Fabric Star Ornaments

You've probably seen these folded fabric stars, because they've been used in many ways throughout the years -- to make potholders and trivets, for pillow covers, for wallhangings and more. We'll use them to construct ornaments from Styrofoam balls. Make folded fabric stars for Christmas or assemble them to suit another theme or season.

Treat the instructions as only a starting point, because you can make many star variations using the same basic techniques (see page 5). The ornaments require no sewing whatsoever, but you will need a few supplies.

- Styrofoam balls (I used 3" balls)
- Lots of plain, metal-headed dressmaker's pins
- Three fabrics (for the starter ornament); choose a light, a medium and a dark (tone-on-tones and closely spaced patterns work best, cut sixteen 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" squares of the light and dark, and ten 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" squares of the medium) *After making the starter ornament, you'll discover that fabric choices can vary -- you might use only two fabrics or you could opt for more than three.*
- About 10" of 1/2" to 3/4" wide ribbon (or folded fabric) to cover raw edges where front and back stars meet
- Additional ribbon(s) or fabric(s) to make a bow for the top of the ornament (optional)
- Floral pins (shaped like a U) are handy, but not required
- Glue (Elmer's, fabric glue, Styrofoam glue, craft dots) is also handy, but not required.

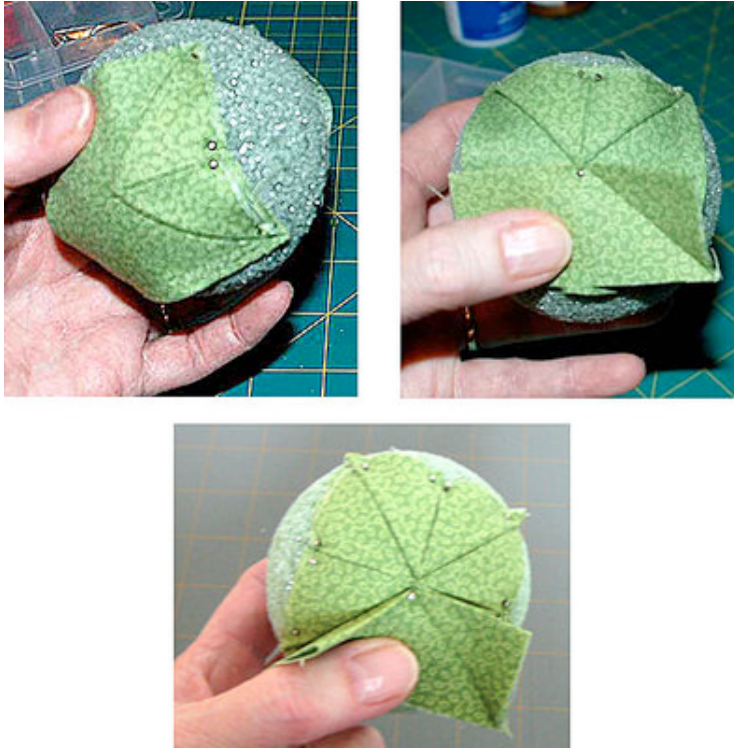
Fold the 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" Fabric Squares



Set aside (2) of the medium squares.

1. Fold all other squares in half once, wrong sides together to create a rectangle. Press. (upper left photo)
2. Beginning at the folded edge, bring half of the rectangle down to align exactly with the raw edges, creating a 45-degree angle along that side of the fabric. Repeat on the other side. Press. (upper right photo) Even though you press them, the angled edges will pop back up. That's fine -- the fold has been established, making it easier to work with the unit once it's on the ball.
3. Repeat with all squares except the (2) medium squares you set aside earlier.
4. Center one of the medium squares right side up on one side of a 3" ball. Pin to the ball at all four corners. Try not to stretch the edges of the square. (bottom left photo)
5. Pin the other medium square to the opposite side of the ball. The goal here is to space the squares evenly. Look at their corners. Are they adjacent to each other, with about the same space between them? (bottom right photo) The squares serve a couple of purposes. They cover the Styrofoam at the starting point, so act as camouflage for slight gaps between the first pieces pinned to the ball. They also help you position the first layer of star tips.

Pin the Medium Fabric Units to the Ball



1. Gather the medium folded units.
2. Place the first unit on the ball, aligning its bottom (straight) edge with one side of a medium square that's pinned to the ball (upper left photo).
3. Pin the unit to the ball at its pointed tip and at its outermost angled edges. Use two more pins along the straight edge, placing them through the "flaps" where the folded edges meet. Try not to stretch the fabrics. Pins along the unit's straight edges will be covered later. Pins at the pointed tip will not. You can usually hide the head of a tip pin by pushing it deeper into the ball.
4. Position a second unit on the ball, its point aimed directly at the point of the first (their seams should form a straight line). Pin to the ball at the same five spots. (upper right photo)
5. Now use two more folded units to fill in the gaps between the first two, pinning them to the ball in the same way. (lower left photo)
6. Repeat on the opposite side of the ball.

Pin the Dark Fabric Units to the Ball



1. Position a dark folded unit so that its center opening is aligned with the "line" created by the center opening on one of the pinned medium units. Position the new unit so that about 3/8" of the medium unit below it is visible. (upper left photo)
2. Repeat by pinning another dark unit directly across from the first, leaving the same width of medium fabric showing. (upper right photo)
3. Now move in either direction, midway between the two dark units and repeat, and then pin the fourth dark unit directly across from it.
4. It's time to add four more dark units to the ball. They will lie over the edges of the dark units you just pinned. Align and pin one of the units, the straight line of its opening aligned with a straight line created *between* two dark units. (overlapped unit shown at top of lower left photo)
5. Add a unit directly across from the unit you just pinned. Next, align and pin the remaining two units.
6. Repeat to add the remaining eight dark units to the other side of the ball.

Pin the Light Fabric Units to the Ball

1. The light fabric units are layered onto the ball in exactly the same way. Begin by aligning the folds of four new units with the folds of the dark units beneath them, taking care to pin units in opposite pairs as before. Leave more of the dark fabric showing than you left of the medium (1/2" - 5/8" or more -- your choice).
2. Add the remaining four light units, but align their folds with the lines created between dark units beneath them (as before).
3. Add light units to the opposite side of the ball.

Place a Ribbon Around the Center of the Ball

1. Wind a ribbon around the center of the ball to cover raw edges of the folded units. Pin the ribbon in place on both sides along its length.
2. If you prefer, fold under the edges of a fabric strip and press. Pin the fabric around the ball, right side up.
3. You could also use fabric glue to secure the ribbon (check for colorfastness) or fabric; use a few pins to help secure it.

Add a Bow on Top

If you like, add a bow on top of the ornament. You can insert a floral U hook into the ball along the center ribbon. Leaving a bit of open space between its top and the ball gives you a slot to feed the ribbon base through.

You can also pin the bow to the ball to secure it.

Folded Star Ornament Variations

1. You don't have to limit yourself to three fabrics and three color values. Ornaments made with just a couple of fabrics (repeated) can be beautiful.
2. More layers can be used -- just leave less space between them. You'll need extra squares.

Use a pictorial fabric for the starter squares (or personalize them with printed photos). Don't cover the pictorial center with your first layer of points. Simply begin positioning points farther outward, creating a "window" for the pictorial.