

# Christmas Ball Ornament



Visit your local craft or hobby shop to find Styrofoam balls. Then, use leaf-shaped embroidery designs and fabric panels to decorate the ball. You'll have a fun and festive look for the holidays!

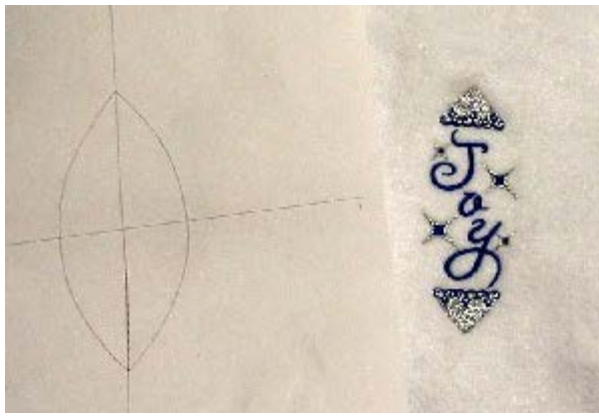
The large size of the leaf designs are sized for 3 inch Styrofoam balls; the smaller size works well with 2 inch Styrofoam balls. Read on for full project instructions!

## Supplies needed:

- 1/4 yard of two fabrics (we used solid quilter's cotton)
- Cutaway stabilizer (2.5 ounce)
- 18 white pearl-headed pins
- 2 Tidy pins
- Sequin pins
- 1 yard of 1/4" wide ribbon
- 3" head pins from the jewelry findings aisle
- Assorted beads for bottom tassel
- 4mm beads
- Styrofoam ball (can be found at craft and hobby stores)

The [large size leaf designs are here](#), and work well with a 3 inch ball  
The [small size leaf designs are here](#), and work well with a 2 inch ball

The design used in the demonstration below is [Joy Ornament design - large](#), with a 3 inch Styrofoam ball.



Hoop a piece of quilter's cotton with medium-weight (2.5 ounce) cutaway stabilizer. Hoop the fabric so that the design will be at a 45 degree angle to the grain of the fabric (in other words, on the bias).

Embroider three leaf-shaped designs. Trim the cutaway stabilizer away from the back side (this makes it easier to mold the fabric pieces around the ball).



Each leaf design has a "dieline" file. We'll use this as a template to cut the leaf shapes, and also to make the alternating "blank" panels.

Print the dieline file from embroidery software, then cut out the shape.

Position the leaf template over the embroidery. Mark the fabric; cut out the shape.

Use the template as a pattern piece and cut out three pieces on the bias of the second fabric.



Next I'll use the six fabric pieces (three embroidered, three blank) to cover the Styrofoam ball.

On each of the 6 ornament pieces, make five 1/4" cuts on the curved edges. The cuts should be about 1/2" apart.

The cuts will help the fabric to curve around the ball without puckering.



Pin one end of an unembroidered piece to the ball with a sequin pin, and stretch the piece slightly so that it reaches the opposite side of the ball. Pin the opposite end with another sequin pin.



Repeat with the remaining unembroidered pieces, so that the pieces are at equal intervals around the ball.



In the same manner as the unembroidered pieces, pin and stretch the embroidered pieces so that the ball is completely covered with fabric.

Use a sequin pin to secure one end of the ribbon at one end of the ball,



where the pieces meet.



Bring the ribbon around to the other end of the ball, laying the ribbon just to the inside of the outer edge of an embroidered piece.



While holding the ribbon in place with your fingers, slide the ribbon toward the edge of the embroidered piece until the ribbon just covers the raw edge. Pin the ribbon in place at the opposite end and repeat the process until you have all the raw edges covered with the ribbon.



To change direction, pin the ribbon into place, and fold the ribbon over to the angle needed for the next edge.



If you end at the top of the ornament, pin the ribbon into place and leave a 7" tail on the ribbon.

If you end at the bottom, pin the ribbon to secure it into place, then trim the ribbon close to the pins. Cut a 7" piece of ribbon to make the hanger for the ornament.



Make a circle with the 7" ribbon by overlapping the ends by about 1".

Secure the hanger into place by inserting a Tidy pin through both pieces of ribbon and into the top of the ball.

Use one pearl headed pin at the center of each ribbon to hold them in



place around the ball.



**Making the beaded dangles:**

Stack pretty beads onto 3 head pins. Fatter beads should be toward the bottom of the dangle.



Use a needle-nosed pliers to bend an eye in the pin at the top of each dangle.

Thread the dangles onto a tidy pin, using the eyes that you just made,



and insert the tidy pin into the bottom of the ball.



Put one 4mm bead on each of the remaining pearl headed pins, and insert around the top hanger and bottom dangles. Use 6 at the top and 6 at the bottom.

Now your ornament is ready to place on the Christmas tree, or to give as a beautiful, handmade gift.

Everyone is sure to love this unique ornament.



[Click here for a printable version of these project instructions.](#)

You'll need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. If you don't have it, you can download a free copy by clicking on the icon below.

