

How to make a quilted “Snow Globe” Ornament



A tutorial by *Staci Ann Lowry*
www.theornamentgirl.com

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If you do know someone else who would like to learn to make these ornaments, I would appreciate very much if you would direct them to [this page](#) on my blog, rather than share this tutorial.

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Quilted ball ornaments have been around in some shape or form for a very long time. I originally learned the basic technique from my mother, about 18 years ago.

Though my methods of creating these ornaments is based on the old fashioned technique I learned so long ago, over the years I've developed my own streamlined and updated process...this process uses less material, less pins, and I have found it to be an overall simpler and more effective way to make these ornaments.

Most importantly, the end result is stunning.

This tutorial will teach you my method for making a version of quilted ornaments that feature an image in the center of each side, which I like to call "Snow Globe Ornaments."

materials you will need...

- A [3 inch Styrofoam ball](#)
- About 150 [straight pins](#)
- 2 squares of fabric containing an image, for the center of each side of the ornament. (In this tutorial, I am using a square with an image that is just about 2 ¾ inches tall. The square itself is about 3 ½ inches.)
- 32 rectangles, about 3" by 2" each, of 2 accent fabrics, 16 rectangles of each color. (I'm using plain red and white fabric.)
- About 10 ½ inches or so of trim or fabric, which will wrap around the ornament once the front and back are finished. In this case, I am going to use white fabric, about 2 ½ inches wide.
- Scissors
- Tape measure



a few helpful hints...

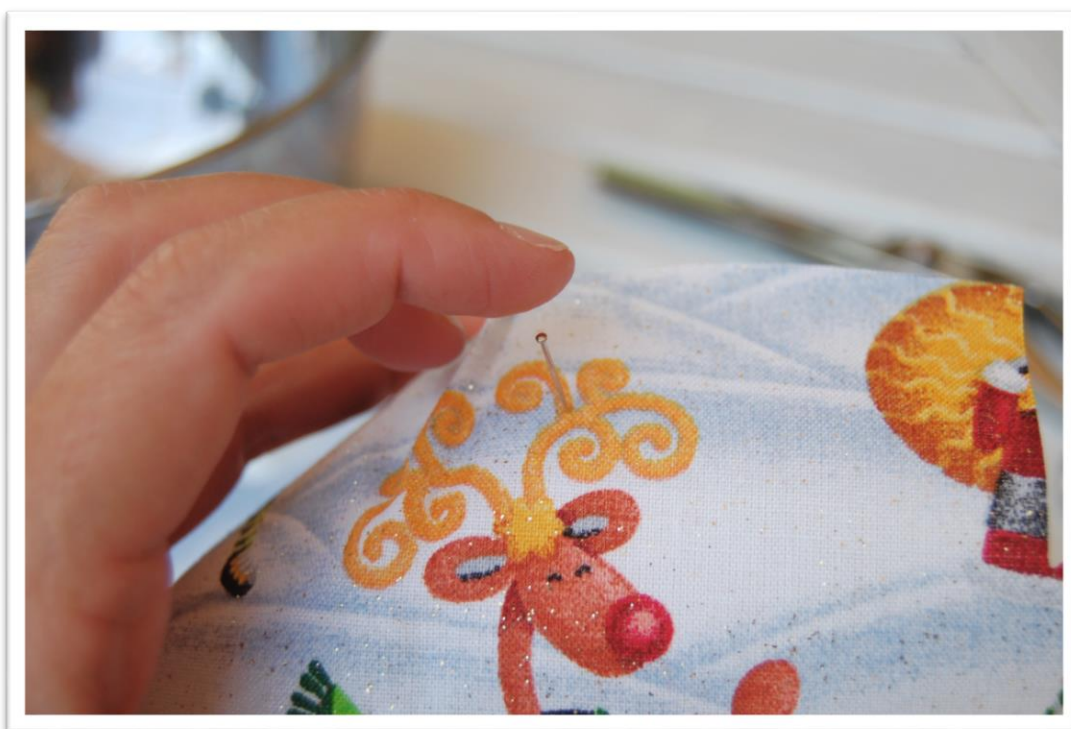
- I HIGHLY recommend that you, if you haven't already, begin with my basic quilted ornament tutorial, which can be found [HERE](#), before making this Snow Globe version, as this type of ornament is a bit more advanced, and requires a lot more "eyeballing" rather than using exact measurements.
- The smaller the image that you want in the center of the ornament, the easier the ornament will be to make. However, images up to the size of your foam ball will still work; just keep in mind that they will be cropped down a little bit (this will be shown in this tutorial). If you would like to use a larger image, you can also always use a larger foam ball...just make your rectangles of accent fabric are longer as well.
- You will be pushing a lot of pins through fabric into Styrofoam...a thimble can really help to save your fingers.
- While learning this technique, lightweight cotton quilting fabrics will be easiest to work with.
- Thick fabrics can sometimes work, but they will be more difficult to push pins through as you build layers onto the ball, and they will also result in a larger ornament.
- Sheer fabrics generally do not work well for this type of ornament, because the pins from underlying layers will show through. (However, the more practiced you get with this technique, you will find that you can sometimes combine sheer fabrics with other types of fabric, to achieve desirable results.)
- Silky and satin fabrics can look beautiful on these ornaments, but are a little bit more difficult to work with...however, not impossible. I would encourage you to try these types of fabrics once you have become familiar and comfortable with the techniques I will show you!

let's begin...

Start by laying one of the squares containing an image over the foam ball. As I mentioned above, the smaller the image, the easier it will be to work with, but as you can see in the photo below, you can also use an image that is larger. Mine is almost 3 inches tall, but it will end up cropped down with my accent fabrics.



Decide where you would like the top center and bottom center of the image to be, and, making sure the fabric is laying smooth, place a pin in each of these two places. Where you decide the top and bottom will be is totally your own preference, and will vary depending upon the image you are using. (Keep in mind too, that where you place your pin will be covered by your first layer of accent fabric...so don't pin on top of what you want to show.) For example, my reindeer image is large, so I chose to crop out a little bit of the antlers at the top, pinning here:



And then I did the same at the bottom, pinning over a tiny bit of his legs:



Now do the same on each side, making sure that your fabric is lying smoothly on the ball. Again, you are just eyeballing this part, and perfection is not necessary. You can always move these pins later as you begin adding layers of accent fabric.





Your image will be smooth, but the 4 corners will be left hanging loose, like this:



Now we will begin adding a layer of accent fabric, starting at your bottom center pin. Take one of your rectangles and fold over the top edge just a bit, like this:



Place the rectangle on the ball so that the center of the folded edge just covers that bottom center pin:



And pin it there, placing the pin just a hair below your fold:



Fold down one side to meet the bottom edge of the rectangle, to create half of a triangle:



And then fold down the opposite side the same way, forming a triangle. Attempt to keep the point that has been created aiming towards the pin you previously placed at the *top* center of the image...this will help to keep things symmetrical as you go.



Overlap the first side with the second side just the teeniest bit, just enough that you can stick a pin through both edges of fabric, right in the center. Don't overlap too much, or it will start getting difficult to keep things symmetrical the further you get into the ornament. The traditional technique uses 2 pins here, one on each side of the center, but I started doing it this way for 2 reasons...to save on pins (which in turn also saves my fingers...a little), and also, to avoid a gap, which will inevitably happen down the center if you pin the sides separately.

When you have your point where you want it, pin the two edges down together with one pin:



Do NOT pin the outer corners down yet, as you would with a traditional quilted ornament.

Now we will do the same thing, but opposite the piece we just finished, at the top of the image, placing the center of the fabric rectangle where the pin is...



...and making sure to keep the point created by the triangle aiming towards the point of the first triangle. The goal is to make sure that the lines down the center of each triangle would make a straight line if their points were actually connected together.

Now you have something like this:



The two opposing sides will be done much the same way. At this point, you may look at the two pins you originally placed on the sides of the image, and want to adjust them according to what looks good to you. Again, this is completely your preference, and will definitely take a little eyeballing, and possibly a couple of attempts, until you get things where you want them and looking as symmetrical as possible.

With that being said, I do find it helpful sometimes to measure the distance between the top and bottom points, and then place the side piece centered between them, like this:



However, I usually prefer to just eyeball it. It really does get much easier to do after you make a couple of these.



As you can see in the photo below, one of my side pins turned out to be way off:



If this happens, you can just remove the pin completely, as it is no longer needed anyway:



Now it's time to finish the corners of all of the triangles. Starting at one of the loose edges of the *image fabric*, pull the fabric out, away from the center of the image, so that it is taut. Make sure not to pull it so tightly though that it distorts the image.



Pin it down to hold it in place:



Notice in the photos above and below, that the fabric will have creased into the corners of the two neighboring rectangles:



This makes it easy to neatly fold the corner of the triangle right over the excess image fabric...



...smooth the corner down...



...and pin in place:



Do the same with the neighboring corner:



And now you have a neatly finished corner:



If you find that even after pulling the image fabric edge taut, you are still having some difficulty getting it to lay neatly on the ball, there are a couple of other things you can do:

- Try using your finger to physically tuck the fabric under the corner before you pin it down... sometimes this may be just enough to get the image fabric to lay smooth:



- Or, try snipping off a little bit of the image fabric, so that there is less excess fabric to tuck under the rectangle corners. Just be very careful not to cut off too much, or there may not be enough left to cover the foam ball.



- Finally, if you are still not able to get the fabric to lie flat, try to position whatever crease you have left so that it is right in the middle of the two rectangle corners, as shown in the photo below. This way, even though there is some creasing left, it can be covered by the next four triangles (which will be done in the next step).



Here is another photo showing this...there is quite a bit of bunching here, but I gathered it all in the middle of the two triangle corners, as close to the edge as possible; this will make it easily coverable by the next layer of fabric:



Now we can fill in the spaces between the first four triangles with another four. Add these using the same method, pinning each one right between two of the previous triangles...



...and fold to create the triangle. This time, you will also pin the corners down.



Remember that you will want each triangle, and the one that directly opposes it, to look like they would form a straight line with each other if their points were touching. If it starts getting difficult keeping them in line, try using the edge of a tape measure as a guide:



Continue until you have 8 triangles surrounding the image:



Now, to add a little depth and interest, we'll do a second layer in a different color. The amount of space you leave between this new layer and the first will vary depending on how big your center image was; however, I generally like to leave about 1 to 1 ½ cm between layers:



Create these triangles exactly as you did the last four of the first layer, adding the top, bottom, and sides first...



...and then the four opposing triangles:



And now the first half of the ornament is complete!

Beginning the second half of the ornament can be the trickiest part, but it becomes MUCH easier with a little practice.

Lay your second fabric square over the second side of the ball, making sure that the image is facing the same direction as it is on the first side. Center it as much as possible by eyeballing it... you may even find it helpful to put a few pins in place to hold the fabric down while you adjust. Once you think it is close to centered, use the lines from the centers of the triangles on the first side, to help you line up the center of your image a little more exactly. Again, a little bit of moving and adjusting will be necessary here. I have found that using my tape measure as a guide, by following the lines around from the first side to the second side, can be very helpful.



Once you think you have the fabric square where you want it, place one pin at each the top, bottom, and two sides, and remove any others that you may have used to hold the fabric in place while you were adjusting and centering.



Now you will apply the first layer of triangles just as you did on the first side of the ornament; however, this time, you will line up the centers of your triangles with the lines from the first side of the ornament, as shown here:



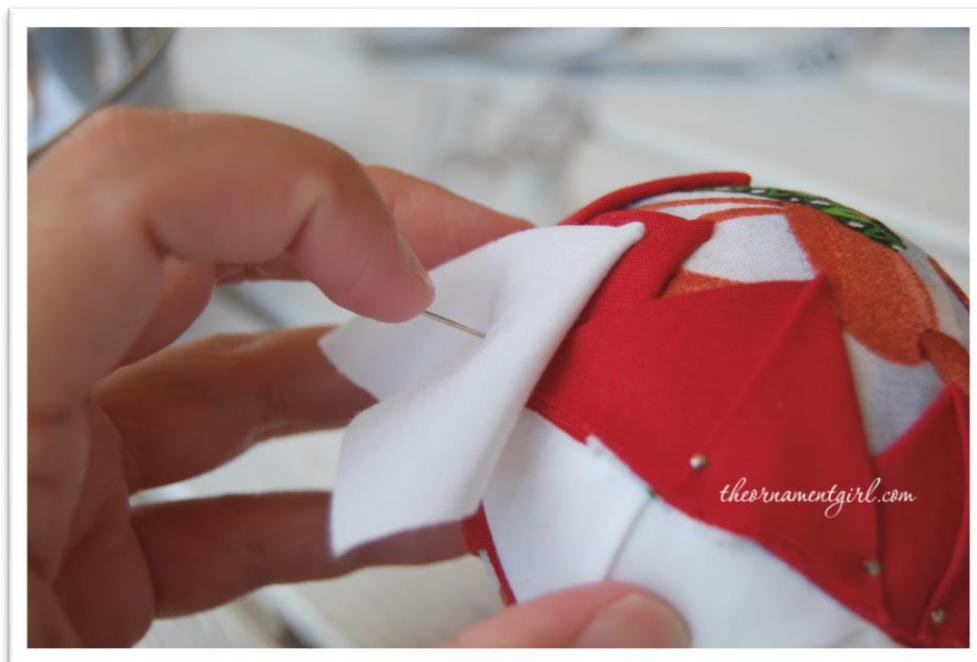
Also, you may have noticed in the previous photo, that the new layer of triangles begins to overlap the first side of the ornament. This is fine. Just be sure that you keep your pins from going too far into the first side of the ornament, by pinning a little higher up on your triangles than you've done up until this point. As you add the layer of triangles, try to keep all of the pins in a relatively straight line around the ornament, even if the edges of the excess fabric are not even. This way, after you have completed the layer, you can trim the excess fabric at the line of pins....



...and be left with a relatively neat edge that looks something like this:



Do the same with your last layer of triangles, and when you pin each triangle, *be sure to keep the 3 pins at the bottom of each triangle even with the edge that you just trimmed:*



It is easiest to apply four triangles, and then trim the excess before adding the last four:



After adding the last four triangles, trim them down so that you have one nice and neat raw edge going around the circumference of the ornament:



Depending on your fabric and taste, you can cover up this raw edge using a variety of decorative trims, ribbon, or fabric. I like to make my own trim using the same fabric as, or a fabric that coordinates with, the fabric that I've used in the ornament.

To do this, begin with a strip of fabric about 10 ½ inches in length, and 2 ½ inches wide. Fold one edge over lengthwise, so that the edge is just past the center of the strip. Then, fold the opposite edge over to meet the first, overlapping it a little bit. Your strip of fabric will now be about ¾ of an inch wide. (Shown in next two photos.)



Pin this along the raw edge, at the top of the ornament:



Wrap this carefully around the ornament, making sure to cover all pins and raw edges, as well as keeping the edges of the trim folded under. Wrap it snugly without pulling *too* tightly as you go.



When you have reached the top again, use several pins to secure in place. Trim the excess fabric.



Beautiful...you are finished!



Hooked? Here are more no-sew ornaments that you can make:



questions?

I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have after following this tutorial! Just go to this page of my blog:

<http://theornamentgirl.com/blog/being-crafty/quilted-ornament-pattern/>

...and leave your question(s) in the comments section below the post. I will get back to you as soon as I can, and answer your questions to the best of my ability.

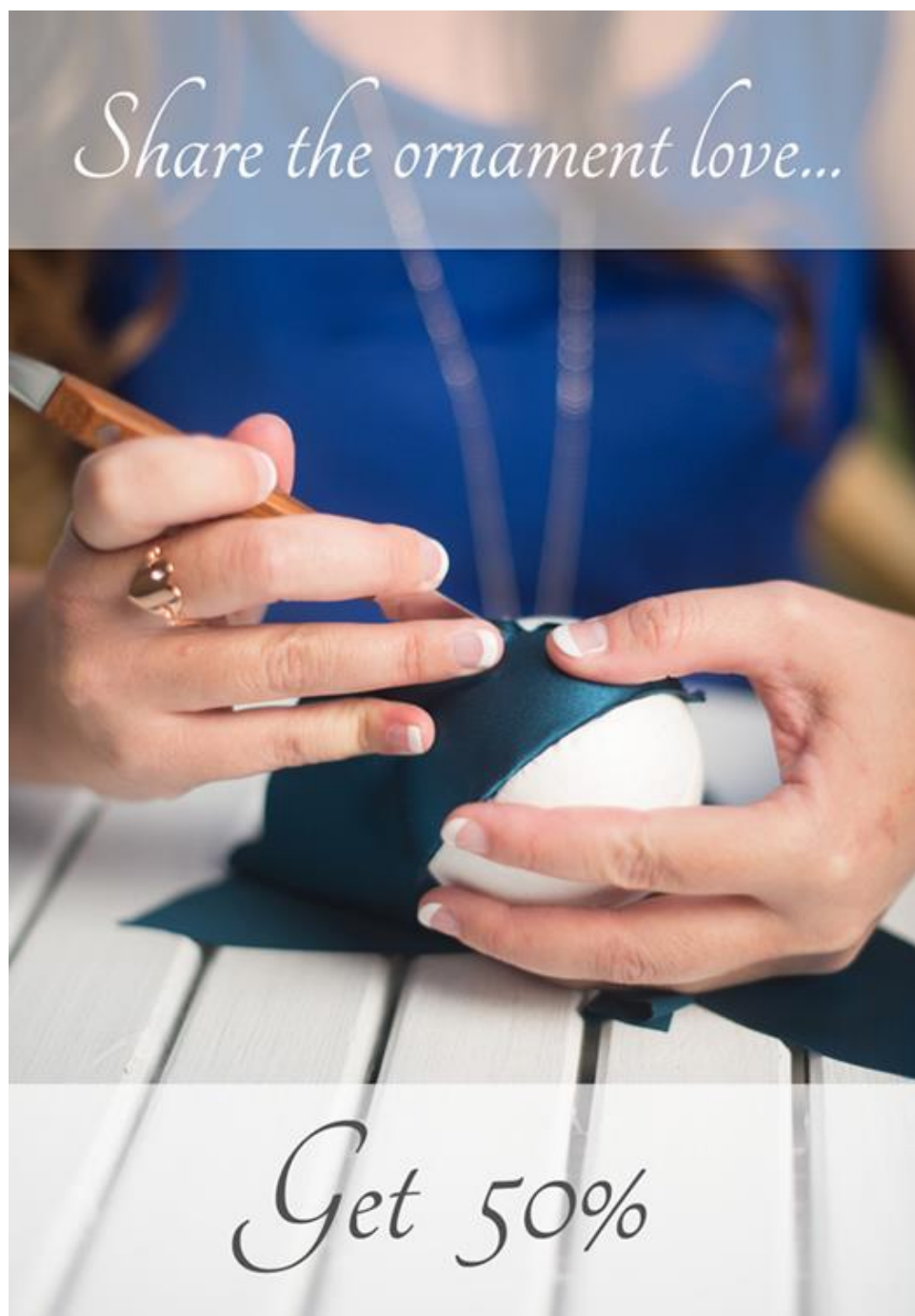
I appreciate your reading this tutorial and I hope you enjoy making these ornaments as much as I do!

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