Cricut Crafts: Fall Leaf Garland with Amber of Damask Love

Chapter 1 - Fall Leaf Garland

Overview

(upbeat music) - This is Amber from Damask Love and I'm really excited to share with you this project that's perfect ^for any holiday or seasonal table. ^We're making a felt table garland using the Cricut Maker and lots of felt which is perfect for this machine because it cuts it beautifully. In this class I'm gonna show you how to cut felt with a Cricut Maker, how to assemble your garland using cotton rope and floral wire and then I'm gonna show you a really cool way to add veins to your leaves using baker's twine. For my garland I've chosen some really bold saturated autumn colors but this project is totally up to you. Pick whatever colors you love to make this garland your own and use it on your table year round.

Materials

- For this project, you're going to need a sewing machine that will allow you to sew with twine. I'm using the We Are Memory Keepers Stitch Happy sewing machine. You'll also need a hot glue gun, cotton rope, about two yards, wire cutters, scissors, floral wire, felt glue. You'll also need felt. I'm using a light green and a dark green felt, two sheets of each that are 12 by 24 inches. For my accent leaves, I've selected four colors and I need four sheets of each color. Last, I'm gonna need two mats. I'm using a 12 by 24 inch fabric grip mat as well as the standard 12 by 12 inch mat for cutting my accent leaves.

Cutting the leaves on a Cricut Maker

- To make your table garland we're gonna start by opening Design Space. I've already previewed the project for you. You'll find the link in the materials PDF. I have all of my leaf shapes laid out on my canvas and now all I have to do is go and click Make It. Here I have all of my images on the mats, but the mats are 12 by 12 and I have materials that are all different sizes so I need to change each of the mats to match the size felt I have. Some of my felt is nine by 12, some of it is 12 by 12, and some of it is 12 by 24. I've got all of my shapes laid out on the proper size and now I'm ready to cut. I want to select my material. In this case we're using felt for all of the layers of our garland. And I also want to make sure that my Cricut maker is loaded with the proper blade. In this case we're using the rotary blade since we're cutting felt. My first piece of felt is 12 by 12 so I'll use the 12 by 12 mat and place it on and load it into my machine. (machine whirring) (techno music) I'm ready to unload my leaves and peel back the fabric, always the best part. Perfect felt leaves every time. Love it. Now I'm gonna repeat this with all of my felt. Just be sure to change your mat depending on the size of your felt. So for 12 by 24 inch felt you'll need the 12 by 24 inch mat.

Attaching wire

- To make the base layer of your garland, you're gonna start with some floral wire. Take about a six-inch length of floral wire, and cut it with wire cutters. Then, grab one of your leaves and a glue gun. On the bottom of the leaf, add just a dab of hot glue. You don't need much. Put your wire into the glue, and then pinch around the sides. This gives your leaf some dimension. It makes it really come to life when you put it together on your garland. Continue doing this with each of the green leaves on your garland, and then we're ready for assembly. Now that I've got all of my leaves done,

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I'm ready to add them onto a piece of cotton rope. Here's how it's done. I'm gonna take one of the leaves. Hold it with one thumb kind of onto the cotton rope, and then I'm just gonna twist. Twist it on there, and now it'll stay into place. Keep going, and keep adding leaves. The more you add, the more you'll hide that cotton rope beneath, and you won't even see that it's there. Don't worry too much about the order of the colors. Just have fun with it. It'll look really natural if you kind of have a random assortment of shades of green throughout. Continue going until you have a garland that looks like this. You will notice that on the bottom, there is a wrong side. You won't want to show this, but because your leaves are so full on top, you've hidden that cotton rope, and no one will know it's there. That's it. We've finished the base of our garland, and now we're ready to add some pops of color.

Accent leaves and assembly
- Now we're ready to move on to our accent leaves. I'm gonna take one and add a little bit of texture by sewing on leaf veins using baker's twine. I love this machine. It's the We are Memory Keeper's Stitch Happy and so it allows you to stitch with thicker twine than a typical sewing machine. Now, when you've stitched your vein, you wanna make sure to pull all of those threads to the back so they're all hidden. Snip away any excess. And then I'm gonna find a matching leaf that's the same shape as the one I just stitched and then add a little bit of felt glue. So that I can glue them together and hide those loose strings on the back. This also gives the accent leaves a little more thickness and dimension so that they stand out on our garland. With this done I wanna add piece of wire, just like I did with the green leaves, so that I can attach this to the cotton rope. I'm gonna add a dab of glue in between those leaf layers and then just stick the wire right in there and sandwich it between. So I've finished up all of my accent leaves. They have wires attached to them. For the larger leaves I added more veining. Just for a little more dimension and texture. So you can have fun with customizing each of your accent leaves however you want. Now I'm ready to add them to my garland base. I'm gonna take the wire, kind of insert that leaf wherever I want it to go and just like we did with the base leaves, I'm gonna wrap that wire around. You'll just wanna maneuver around the green leaves to make sure you don't get any of them, kind of pinched in between your wire. Continue adding all of your accent leaves until your garland is full of color just like this. You're going to love how this looks. You're gonna feel so proud of yourself and remember, you can customize this however your want. For whatever season or holiday that you wish. I like to use this on a table. Drape it around some candles, it makes a beautiful centerpiece. You could also put this on your mantle or in your doorway. Get creative. You're gonna love this. It's a piece that will last forever. So you can use it year round.

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