

## Cricut Crafts: Winter Trees Decor with Jennifer Sbranti

### Chapter 1 - Cricut Crafts: Winter Trees Decor

#### Overview

- Hi, I'm Jenn from Hostess with the Mostess, and in this class I'm going to show you how to make a modern holiday centerpiece featuring geometric paper trees. I'm also gonna show you a really easy trick to get some extra space between those tree layers, which gives them a really fun and 3D look. This is a great way to bring the holiday tree to life in a new colorful and creative way. (bright music)

#### Materials

- For this project, you'll need 12 by 12 inch cardstock in the pattern of your choice. I'm using my Maude and Mary line for Cricut. You're also going to need solid vinyl in three colors, Cricut transfer tape, you'll need your Cricut light grip mat, some tissue paper, just a small amount, scissors, a hot glue gun. You'll need three dowel rods, and I've pre-painted these in gold, you can use whatever color you'd like. Some vase filler, I'm using sparkly white sand. You'll need a container. This one is around 12 inches and about five inches high, and you want to pre-fill it with your floral foam so it's ready to go. You'll also want some rhinestones or whatever you like to decorate with. A computer or another device to access Design Space, you'll need your Cricut, I'm using the Cricut Explore Air 2. And then we will need Cricut scoring stylus, which comes separately from the Cricut, a weeding tool, and a scraper.

#### Cut components

- So the first thing we're going to do is cut all of the paper and vinyl using Design Space. So I have the file already loaded on my computer, and you can get to the file by clicking on the link in your Materials tab. All three colors are ready to go, and all you need to do is click on the green Make It button. (button clicking) And now Design Space has already separated all of the cuts by color. So I'm gonna start with the blue. And gonna click Continue. We wanna make sure that the machine is set to Vinyl. So I'm gonna click that over. And then that will reflect on the computer. Gotta make sure that everything is open and ready to go. Design Space is telling me the blue mat is going to cut first. So I'm gonna load this up on my mat. So I've already cut my vinyl down to size, just a little bit bigger than what I need. And I'm going to load it right into the Cricut. And press the load button. Soon as that's loaded up, I'm ready to press go. And the machine will take care of everything from there. (machine rumbling) (machine beeping) Now we're ready to unload the mat and everything looks good. I'm ready to remove it from the mat. At this point I like to cut it down to size so it's easier to work with. And probably trim it up a bit this way too. And then we're ready to grab the weeding tool. Let's start by grabbing it this way actually. 'Cause sometimes it could be hard to grab the edge. And then I'm starting to pull this back and you can see the letters are really small. So I have a little trick that can help with that. If you take a straight edge ruler or something similar, and you kinda hold it flat. And kind of push against the ruler while you pull it. It helps to keep those little tiny pieces from picking up. Sometimes they actually get stuck on the part that you're pulling off. This last guy wants to be difficult. Alright. So this can happen once in a while, especially with smaller pieces. And usually you're weeding tool can help you to grab it. Sometimes your fingers and something like this, you can really just reposition. You can kind of see where you want it to go.

Again, all you use is the tool to kind help bully it down, flatten it into place. And we're still good. Okay now we need to grab the insides of the letters that didn't get pulled. You wanna be careful that they don't fall back down on top of your letters. Kinda get 'em out of the way. And here, one more little one. This guy's really small. But this weeding tool helps a lot. So this one is all weeded and it's ready to go. And then you would just do the exact same thing with the other two colors. And I've actually already done that so you'll end up with all of your vinyl pieces cut and ready to go. And then now, we are ready to move on to paper. I'm back in Design Space and have the Mod Trees Trio canvas loaded. So you can see that there are different colors for each of the cones. There's four different sizes. There's extra small, small, medium and large. And as you can see, there's eight different colors and that's because I want to use eight different pattern papers but of course, you don't have to do that. If you wanna change to say just use two or three colors. Or even one, you can just click on any of the cones. And then open it. And you wanna click on the Fill. So if I wanted to change this color to red, for example, now these were both cut on the same mat. But since I want them all to be different, I wanna go back to my original color that I had; so I'm just gonna do an undo which is a command Z on a Mac and then right now, we'll have eight different canvases. Everything's ready to go, so I'm just gonna click on the green Make It button. And then Design Space will sort everything into separate mats, by the different colors. So I can see that this first one is the extra small size. So I know that I want my extra small size to be in this paper. So I'm gonna set up this one and load on the mat. And then we'll need to load the scoring tool. I'll just open clamp A and insert the stylus in until it clicks, close it and it's ready to go. I'm going to click Continue in Design Space. And then I can see that the material is still set to Vinyl from our earlier cut so I'm just gonna go over to the machine and switch it to Cardstock. And there's different Cardstock options but I found that the regular Cardstock works best for pattern paper. Now we'll load the mat into the machine. Click the load button, and then as soon as this starts flashing. It's ready to go. (machine buzzing) I'm ready to unload the mat and remove the paper from the mat. So I like to flip the mat over and pull the paper away from the mat, instead of the opposite. It helps the paper to not curl. And it protects it from tearing. That's done, so now we have the extra paper which we can save and use again for sure. So it's a good thing that I saved that sheet and that you can use the extra material on your paper because I actually realize after I cut this that I needed to switch the orientation of my template in Design Space because I have a sheet that has a top and a bottom to it. And when I cut the material, it actually cut the trees upside down. So I don't want that to happen. We want Christmas trees that are facing up not down. If you're using a pattern that's more like this, that's snowy or abstract. That's not a problem at all. But I'm gonna show you how to fix it if this happens to you. So I'm gonna back into design space. And I'm going to click this little edit button and this allows you to change where on the canvas your project cuts. So I don't want it to be upside down. I'm gonna grab this little rotate icon and turn it. So this way, I know my trees will be facing upwards. And it will actually move it for you to make sure it stays on the canvas. One more thing, as I don't want it to cut here, because that's where my first cut happens. So I wanna move that all the way over to the other side as far as I can and then, I'm gonna click continue. While that loads up, we can reload the paper. Put it back on the mat. Load it up. Click the load button (machine buzzing) and take two. (machine buzzing) I'm ready to peel the paper off the mat. I'm gonna turn it. And my little tree piece. So now I've got the trees pointing the right direction and the first cut is done, and we're ready to keep following Design Space to cut the rest of the mats.

Decorate container

- So now we're ready to decorate the vase, and I have all the materials ready and we're going to start with the vinyl. I've precut my transfer tape to be about the same size as my design. So I'm just gonna start with the largest one first. And sometimes I need to use the weeding tool to grab the film off the paper backing. Just gonna peel this off, put that aside, and then lay it right down over the vinyl. And then grab my scraper (scraper clicking) and start kind of burnishing it down. And then I like to actually cut my transfer tape to be really close to the size of the actual shape so that when I lay it on the container or whatever I'm putting it on, I can see exactly about how much room I have. So now this is cut, gonna move these outta the way, and then we're ready to peel the backing off. So if it starts to come up, it's not quite firmly enough on the transfer tape, so you're gonna need to put some more pressure on it. And really the first few letters are the ones that you can tell the most with. Okay, so now it's starting to peel off. And I am gonna bring in a ruler. This is a trick that I use for weeding sometimes, and it works on this stuff also. You just kinda lay it flat and then you use that to apply pressure. It helps to keep the pieces on the tape. Just gonna wanna work it slowly. There's a little star up top we wanna grab. This is actually peeling off pretty nicely. And now it's totally ready to go. So I'm gonna take the container, flip it over. So I know that I have some design that needs to go above these letters, so I'm not gonna put them directly center. I'm gonna go slightly lower, right about here. And you can just kind of eyeball it. And then start applying it to the container. Again, you can use the scraper tool. (scraper clicking) Try to get it on there. You wanna always be careful at this step to not actually scratch your container. This one's pretty sturdy, it's metal. And then we'll see if we can get it to peel off right away. This one I like to go really slow. Again, we can use the ruler. And now our first layer is done, and we're ready to add the next two layers. You can just reuse the transfer tape sometimes. It does look big enough, so I might just reuse this instead of wasting another piece. (scraper clicking) (scissors scratching) Okay, now I'm ready to apply this piece, and I know that I want the diamonds on either side of the star. So I'm just gonna position it that way. Use the scraper. (scraper clicking) And this is peeling off really nicely. And we're almost done already. The only thing we have left is the and. The weeding tool saves my life when it comes to this part. (scraper clicking) The larger letters are much easier to peel the backing off of. And this is just gonna fit nicely between the two words, and you can always eyeball this. (scraper clicking) And we are done with the vinyl. This is looking super cute already. I love seeing it with all the vinyl applied. And now for a finishing touch, we're going to add some rhinestones. So you can use any sort of rhinestones that you want or any kind of little accent embellishment. I've got these fun gold studs. Just gonna peel them off. (upbeat music) And again, this is kind of a part where you can just have fun with it, be creative. Sometimes it's hard to get the adhesive off the back of these little guys. And just like that, you've got a super cute container that's all decorated and it's ready for some really cute holiday trees.

### Assemble trees

- Now it's time to start assembling the trees. I'm gonna start with the center tree first. And this is actually the largest cut layer. So the first thing you wanna do is to look for the score lines. And they're pretty faint, but if you kinda move it in the light, you can catch them. So if you just gently crease the paper, the score lines should become more apparent. Just really lightly at first, and then you can really go in and firm it up. You just wanna continue that with the rest of the lines. There's really only four score lines. And the last one is kind of a narrow one. And this will actually be the flap that we glue to hold the tree closed. Now I can see my tree shape. Gonna grab it and make sure everything is lining up well. And then I'm gonna put some hot glue right on this edge. You really

don't need a lot of glue. It can be super light. And you wanna work pretty quickly. Just like that, we have our first tree, and we're ready for the next layers. Look for those score lines. Sometimes on the pattern paper, it's even harder to find them. But like I said, if you just gently fold the paper, they become a little more obvious, and then you can get to them better. So now I have all three trees, and I'm going to stack them temporarily. We're not gonna leave it this way yet 'cause I want to add some angles to make this even more geometric. So it's helpful to actually look and see which way you want your pattern to be cut and to make sure which one is the front. I wanna make sure the seam is in the back. So I think for this one, I want it to go something like this, so I'm gonna take it off knowing that this is the front. I'm gonna fold it. And then I wanted the angle to be this way, so I'm gonna cut it like this. And then just do the mirror effect on the other side. You don't have to mirror it. You can really go at any angle you want. But when I put it back on, you can see now that it has a nice geometric angle. I'm gonna do the same thing for this one. Find the seam, and I want that to be towards the back. And I think I want it to be this way so it's different. So I'm going to flatten it down. Cut it that way and mirror it. That looks kinda this shape, but when I open it up, it has a nice angle. And if you want more or less of a pattern to show, you can make this smaller, but I kinda like how that looks. So now this looks fun and geometric, but I wanna add some space between the layer so it's not quite so just flat. So this is a super easy thing. I'm gonna take these off and just add a tiny bit of tissue paper, a really, really small amount in here. And you can always start with just a little bit and then add more. But you can use whatever tool you have around to kinda tack it down there. I have the scissors, so I'm gonna do that. And then I'm gonna set it on again. And you can see it kinda has some swing to it, so it's not quite so flat. And that looks cute. I might add a tiny bit more. And you can use paper towels or really any sort of just filler that you have on hand. Just make sure that it doesn't peek through too much at the top. Okay, so I kinda like how that has some swing. So we're good with that one. And then I'm gonna do the same thing with this little guy. Just add a little bit. You wanna make sure that you find where your front is. Kinda tack it down in there. And that has some nice dimension to it as well. So now that the main part of the three is assembled, we are ready to add the trunk. So I'm gonna grab a dowel rod for that. And then I've cut a little piece of floral foam down to size. And this can be a little bit messy because the dowel rod's actually gonna go into the floral foam, and then all of this will go into the tree. So I'm gonna take a piece of scrap paper, just to not mess up my surface too much. And just literally poke it through like this, and then you will get little bits of foam that you can just wipe away. Okay, so now this is actually gonna help stabilize the tree. So I'm gonna pick up the base layer and kind of fit it in to where it feels a little bit tight. And then you just kinda wanna feel the height. This actually, the floral foam will help you decide how tall you want your tree to be because if you want it to be shorter, you can go deeper into the tree. But I am gonna kinda keep it right where it stopped, which was about here, because I want my tree to be tall enough to leave some space between the container and the bottom of the three. So now this tree is ready to go into the vase that we decorated earlier. And there is a front side to the vase and also to the tree. The seams were kind of in the back. So I know that this is where I want my front. So I'm just gonna bring the vase over and then just eyeball it right in the center. And floral foam, the great thing about it is it's very easy to work with. So you can just kinda decide how tall you want it to be. So now you would just repeat the exact same steps for the other two trees. (bright music) So all the trees are done now, and the next thing we need is some snow. So you can use whatever you like. You can use fake snow or some sort of favorite filler that you like. I'm gonna use this sparkly white sand. It's pure white, and it has a really fun festive sparkle to it. I'm gonna use a scoop so that I can kinda control where it's poured. And this is one of those things that

definitely doesn't need to be perfect. It's actually kinda nice when it's a little bit bumpy because that's how snow is when it's on the ground in real life. So this looks cute as is, but if you want to really get into the holiday spirit and decorate your trees with some rhinestones or ribbon, you're of course welcome to do that. I thought it would be fun to add just a little bit of sparkle, so I have these fun blue rhinestones, and I'm just going to add a few of them just to give it a little bit of extra holiday joy. And it's done. This is all ready for your holiday table or for your holiday party. And actually you don't need to just use it for the holidays. I think this would be really fun in kind of woodsy and foresty themed papers for a camping party or really any sort of theme where you wanna have some trees brought to life in a really cool and modern way.