
Yarn Birds with Nicole Blum

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat music) - This is my daughter, Ava. - Hi. - And we are going to be working on these adorable little bird ornaments today. I'm gonna show her how to make them, and show you at the same time. And you can hang them multiple different ways. You can put them in a mobile, or hang them on a Christmas tree, or put them lined up on a little wrapped twig like how we did here. They're really simple, and very cute, and they can be used in a million different little decorative ways. And I like making stuff with her, so we should have a lot of fun.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- The supplies you're gonna need to make these cute little birds are yarn, and you can choose any colors that you like, and pretty much any weight. If it's fuzzy, it kind of fills in and makes them you know, cuter cause fuzzy's cute, so I like to go for fuzzy; some styrofoam balls, you can use any size you want, I've also found that smaller is cuter, so I use the smallest and the next size up from that so you know, just in the graduating scale, just choose the next one up at the store; some toothpicks, and those are gonna be for attaching the parts; pair of scissors, some pipe cleaners for the feet; felt for the beak; these straight pins with balls on top are for the eyes; craft feathers for the wings, and then we have a twig here that we're gonna wrap to display them; and any kind of craft glue will do. Let's make some cute birds now.

Chapter 3 - Make Birds

Make birds

- The first step for making these little birds is to take your styrofoam balls, doesn't matter which one you start on, the big one or the little. So you pick a color Eva, and I'll take this one. We'll use this for the little branch, twig. You gotta find the end, okay. Just put it right on the center of the ball, and then begin to wrap. So you're wrapping and covering up that first little part that you had done, so it kinda locks it in place, but this styrofoam wants to grab the yarn. Start wrapping it up, trying to get full coverage. Check and see how the coverage is on the backside. If you have to go back to cover an area that didn't quite get covered, it's fine, just go back and do it. - Mine is looking off a little bit. - Well here, let me show you. So if you hold it so your fingers are on either side of the ball, you're gonna wrap it, and so it's touching your finger and thumb, you're gonna rotate it a little bit. Always gonna be going around that wide part like that. - [Eva] Okay. - [Nicole] Start making your way around, and just barely turning it like that. So see how it creates that little overlap right there? - [Eva] Yeah. - Here you try again. That's right. And give yourself a little slack. Okay, I think I'm done, so I'm gonna stop, snip, and I'm just gonna apply one drop of glue right at the very end of this string, this yarn. I mean the smallest little amount, it's just to anchor it down. Push it down with my finger. It'll dry and it'll be clear and you won't be able to see it anymore, so that one's done and now I can move on to the little one, the head. Okay, are you done too? - Yup. - Great. Almost there. Hand the glue? Thanks. Okay, alright, so now we have two balls, the body and the head, and we're gonna attach them by inserting a toothpick into each side, well one toothpick. So here you take one, and just push it right in. Okay, it's nice and firm. It's really in there. Looks like it's gonna be a little long.

Actually gonna just break off the tip, and probably you're gonna need to do the same, and then slide this on. Oh! There we go. How's yours? - It's good. - Good. - Yeah. - So if you find that they're not sticking together really well, actually that one isn't, you could put a little drop of glue right on your toothpick, and reinsert it back where you had done it before, and then it'll really hold later. There we go. It's not even a bird and it's cute. (both laugh) Alright, so the next thing we're gonna do is turn it into a bird. So we're gonna put in eyes. We each grab two pins. Now these pins are pretty long, so we're gonna need to come down at an angle, like from the top down, so decide where you want them to be, but then angle your pin down so it just goes into the styrofoam. Alright, so from here we can add the wings, so why don't you take a toothpick, we're gonna use these to poke holes, 'cause the feathers are sort of flimsy and we don't wanna mess up. So decide where you want your feathers to be, make a hole, done. And I'm gonna find that place, see it, and just put it in, have to be careful with these, 'cause they're delicate, but I'm gonna do the same. It's funny sometimes when I try to find feathers, it seems like I find two left hand wings or two right hand wings, 'cause you sort of want them pointing the same way. - [Eva] Yeah. There we go. - Cute! Alright, so you ready for the next step? We're gonna make a beak and we're gonna put in the legs. Just gonna move these out of the way now, 'cause we don't need them. So which color do you want, do you have a preference for a color? - [Eva] Sure, I'll take this one. - [Nicole] Okay, so just fold it in half and then cut the halfway point. - [Eva] Okay. - [Nicole] Alright, so just take one of your halves there to make the foot, just take the first centimeter, the end and fold it down. It doesn't matter which side. - [Eva] Okay. - [Nicole] Fold it back so you're creating a zigzag, back again, and then one more time, so it's four bends like that. - [Eva] Okay. - [Nicole] Okay? So it's like that, right, and then you're gonna take that long straight part, wrap it around and through the toes, so you have a little foot. Then you're going to repeat with the other side. - [Eva] There we go. - Perfect, so what you're gonna do is take that toothpick that you were using for the wings, do the same thing. Find where you wanna put your feet, alright, now you're gonna insert your leg, but I think my leg's too long, so I'm gonna cut it a little shorter. - [Eva] Okay. - [Nicole] I want it to be just, I don't know, sticking out about that much, so I'm gonna cut it right about here. Just completely up to you. Gonna make the other one match. Think you're gonna wanna do the same? - [Eva] Yeah. - [Nicole] There's one, just push it in. I hold my fingers really close there. There. - [Eva] Alright. - Alright, that's great, now we just need to add a little beak and it is a bird. So you're going to use this felt. I'm gonna cut off a little piece. It's up to you on how big you wanna make the beak, but you're gonna fold it in half, okay? This gives you a lot to work with, that would be a huge beak. - [Eva] Yeah. - [Nicole] So fold it in half, really press it, you're going to cut on an angle, and then, I want my beak to be really teeny, so I'm gonna do another angle right here, and we have a little beak. Okay? You're gonna just glue it on. Run a bead of glue along that fold, that's a lot so I'm gonna wipe a little off, and then just stick it right in place, and it'll dry. - [Both] Chirp. - [Eva] Cute. There you go. (both laugh) Yay. - [Nicole] Yay.

Add to branch

- Alright, so we wanna display these now. We could just hang them with a string, but I wanna wrap a twig. - Okay. - I'm gonna wrap this twig, and we can do it together, share the job, because I think-- you wanna put both of them on the same twig? - Yeah. - It would be nice. So this is very simple and it doesn't take long. Bring the yarn up to the top and start wrapping. I'm gonna do it very loose, kind of a wide wrap here, and then I'm gonna start coming back over that so it secures it, so it's just that, wrapping it until it's covered the amount that I want it to be covered, no more. You wanna try? - Yeah. - Alright. So there you go. Yeah, sometimes it gets stuck a little bit on the ends. - Yeah. - So,

just to go wide. Oh, started raining, that's perfect. It's a rainy day project now. That looks great. Yeah, just snip it off and glue it, just the way you did with the styrofoam ball. - Okay. - Just a little bit on there and rub it against it. Perch your birds onto a twig that you've wrapped. It's a very simple process. You're just going to put some glue on the feet and stick them on. You can either find a place to prop them while they dry, or you can just wrap their feet with some extra pipe cleaner just to hold them in place until they dry. Right. I have these twist ties on, I'm using them like clamps, just to hold the feet on the branch until the glue is dry. Takes about a half hour, you can test it after a half hour, take 'em off, see if the glue is dried and they're staying upright, otherwise just stick 'em back on again. And they'll be done and then you can rest it on a window sill, put it in your Christmas tree like I said, or stick it in a tree outside to greet your visitors. And you can make millions of them, they're so fast. - Yeah. - Yeah.