
Cricut Crafts: Feather Home Décor with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- Hi, I'm Courtney with Creativebug, and I love to make things. I make everything from little tiny detailed elements to really large installations. I used to do windows and display for anthropology, and I often made custom art installations for weddings. And something that I learned is that you can take a single motif, in our case, it's gonna be a feather, and you can create a myriad of projects and create them in a way that is cohesive and impactful. Using the Cricut Explore, I'm gonna show you how to make three projects. We're gonna start with a really beautiful multi-tiered feather chandelier out of paper. We'll work in an ombre, and that'll look adorable hanging over a reading nook or over a crib or even a rear dining room table. We'll move on to making a feathered stencil pillow. And then I'll finally show you how to spice up a cocktail tray by creating a spray painted stencil in the same feather motif. All of these projects are gonna allow you to really explore the feather motif and add that pop of color that you need.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- We're going to use a wide variety of materials because we're working on a lot of different types of projects. Some of these things you might already have, and of course the color palettes you can totally adapt so they fit your home. Let's start with our templates. We're using a feather motif and these are available on the Cricut website, and they're actually vector files that I created based on my drawings of feathers, and we're going to use them in a variety of scales, which is great because the Cricut allows you to change the sizes. It's nice to have a printed template as well. That way you can kind of eyeball things before you actually go to create your stencil, so I always like to just have them just printed out for myself. You're also going to need an embroidery hoop. I'm using a 14 inch one, but you can make your chandelier in any size that you like. I have a variety of text weight papers in the color that I'm going to make my chandelier, so I have this lovely ombre effect of blues and greens. We're also going to work with white paper and I'm going to show you how to create a soft blue pattern on it. Whatever pattern you choose, you want to make sure that it has color on both sides. Sometimes you can buy scrapbook papers and things that are patterned but then the back is white. You're going to see both sides of your feathers for your chandelier so just pick something that's appropriate. We're going to use some fabric paint and craft paint to paint our pillow also just in our color palette with a nice pop of gold. You'll need a couple of brushes for that. I'm using a stencil brush, a foam brush and a detail brush just to fix any mistakes. Going to use some crochet or embroidery thread. You can use either. This is a size eight pearl cotton in an aqua blue. You could also use thread, but I like the weight of this so I prefer to work with the embroidery floss. Some twine. You'll need a really tiny hole punch. This is a 1/16th inch or micro hole punch. Gives us a really tiny, clean little hole. You'll need a pair of scissors. Wax paper, a roll of scrap paper because you're going to be painting. You'll definitely need some contact paper or sticky back vinyl for making your stencils. We're going to use gold spray paint and an aqua blue spray paint. I really like this Valspar brand but you can pick up whatever you have either at home or in a hardware store. You might want a pair of gloves just because you're working with spray paint. A couple of ink pads in your color choice. We're going to use this to pattern our paper for our feather chandelier. If

you're going to make a pillow you'll need some kind of store bought pillow, or a pillow that you made that just needs some spicing up. You can also just have a pillow cover for something that already fits a pillow you have at home. You need your cocktail tray. This is actually supposed to be a cutting board but I think it has a really beautiful, warm presentation, especially for glassware, so I'm going to use this to make our cocktail tray. You'll need a dowel, and this isn't a material that you're going to use in the project, but it's going to help us when we're working on our feather chandelier. So you'll need this or someplace to hang your chandelier. I'm going to show you a little trick with the dowel. And finally, you'll need your Cricut Explore which is going to help you cut all of your components. This is just an electronic cutting machine. It interfaces with your computer or laptop, so you're going to need that to create your designs. And you'll need a Cricut cutting mat. They come in 12x12's or 12x24 and you can use either for this project.

Chapter 3 - Feather Chandelier

Create pattern on paper

- For our paper feather chandelier, I'm gonna use a variety of papers. They're all text weight. The color is what's gonna change. So I've got this lovely ombre effect of aquas and blues. But I wanted a really pale color and I couldn't find a paper that I liked and I wanted to add a little bit of texture so I'm gonna show you how to pattern your own paper and you want to do this before you cut any of your feathers. I have a white piece of text weight paper here and a couple of stamp pads. You can get these at the craft store and they're in my color palette. You could also use a paintbrush for this technique and just do like a real quick dry brush but I like this because they're quick drying and they come in a variety of colors and are pretty inexpensive. They might even be something you already have from one of your other craft projects. You do wanna remember that you're gonna see both sides of your feathers so we're gonna do this to both sides. I just started with one color but let's add just another for some variation. You may not like the look of this as an entire sheet but don't worry about that. You're gonna cut it up in the unexpected texture is gonna come up when you cut your feathers and it's gonna be really beautiful. You could do this in lighter shades, in darker shades. You could even do this technique over your colored paper if you just wanted to add a little more depth and dimension. I'm just swiping lightly these colors across the surface of the page. Make sure you go right off the edge. I'm working on wax paper here so that I protect my table. You're gonna wanna go ahead and create your pattern for all of the lighter color sheets of paper that you're gonna use. So for me, I have a ten pack, I'm gonna do all ten sheets that way when I'm ready to cut, everything is ready to go.

Cut out feathers

- To cut out our feather shapes for the chandelier, we enlisted the help of an electronic cutting machine called the Cricut. If you haven't used a Cricut before, it's really easy. The interface that you design your projects on is similar to Photoshop. If you haven't used Photoshop, that's okay. It's a really intuitive process and I'm gonna walk you through the steps of it. You're gonna work in the Cricut design space to create all of your projects and we'll start by creating a new project. So I click on Create New Project. And you have a workspace that you're gonna create all your designs in. And it allows you to insert images from the Cricut design library or it also allows you to upload your own image. Line work and drawings work really well. This feather design started as a drawing, and I created a JPG, just a black-and-white JPG of it and then uploaded it myself. So I'm gonna show you how to do that. I click on Upload Image. And just like you might upload an image to Pinterest or to a

website, you're gonna search your desktop or your files for your image. So click Upload Image. It walks me through the process about what kind of image is best. I'm gonna go ahead and continue to step one, so I can select my image. Select Browse. And I know that my file's called FINALFEATHERS. We're gonna open this. Shows my image here in the little preview box. And I'm gonna select Best Results. It's gonna interpret my image to create the file that it needs to cut from. And then go ahead and click Continue to Step 2. My image is brought up into a little box that allows me to further design. And if I go to select and delete, this little magic wand which is similar to what Photoshop might have to erase the background, you can see that the background of my image has turned gray. And when I saved that file originally as a JPG, it was a white background. I just want to remove that, because that's not gonna be part of my cutting options. I just want to cut out the feathers. So when I click on that gray background, it disappears. And you see just the blue and white checks, which essentially means that it's invisible. It doesn't exist. It's not part of the image we're cutting. So now we're just left with our feathers, which is what we want. We'll continue to step three. If you can see this, there's this really faint little pink halo around all of those feathers. That means Cricut is selecting that as my cut line, which is right. I also can change my image name file here, or add some tags. Let's say I want to tag this for chandelier project. Or I might scale it differently so I can tag it from my pillow project. You're able to make those little notations here in that box. We'll go ahead and save the image. And it saves here to the bottom. You can see I have lots of images in my library. And I'm gonna go and select the one that we just worked on. It has a green checkmark, that means it's selected. And I'm gonna go ahead and press Insert Images. And then you'll see it show up on your design space. Now it's really small. What we want to do is make it bigger. Your mat is 12 by 12 inches, or you could be using a 12 by 24 inch mat. That's fine, as well. And right now our image is really small. But we have the capacity to blow it up really large. So much like Photoshop, these little dots on the edge allow us to scale. I know that I'm working with 8 1/2 by 11 paper, so I'm gonna open this up just to be shy of eight, and just below the 11 mark. And I know that this image has been saved so I can scale in a way that I like it. I'm gonna go ahead and press Go. That means my design is ready and I'm ready to cut. So if I click on the Go button, which also is the little Cricut logo, it's gonna bring up my cutting screen. On our cutting screen, you have a preview of your project. It shows your little cut icon here. It's got an image of what your cut preview is gonna be like. I have an opportunity to change my mat size. I know I'm working with a 12 by 12 mat. That's already selected. And I can go ahead and press the Go button. And now both my computer interface is gonna tell me what to do, but my Cricut machine is also going to walk me through the process of actually cutting these feathers out. So you're gonna start by just adding your paper to your cutting mat. Your Cricut mat is sticky. It's a little tacky. And this is what's gonna hold the paper in place while we cut. Go ahead and line up your paper along the grid on the top and the left side. And just smooth it down. We're working on a blue mat, which is a light grip. There's also a green mat, which is a little heavier grip. Because we're working with text weight paper, we don't need something that is the high grip. The light tack will work just well enough for us. And then we're gonna take it over to our machine. These little feed tabs allow us to place the mat just under. And we're gonna press the mat up against the roller bar until it can't go anymore. This little button here is my in and out button. When it's flashing like that, it means I either need to load the mat or eject the mat. This button does both. So I'm gonna go ahead and press it to load my mat. You want to make sure before you cut that you select on your dial here what material you're using. We're working with paper. It's a heavier weight paper. And this paper has three settings. If you go here, you can feel there are three little clicks within the paper category. I'm gonna select the highest one

between paper and vinyl, because I'm using a heavier weight paper. I'm not using a cardstock, though. There are settings for cardstock on this side. You can even cut fabric with this machine. So I selected that paper, just between paper and vinyl. And now that that's selected, I can feel confident in pressing my little cut button, which is this flashing Cricut button. Now that your machine is done cutting, you can check out its lovely handiwork. We're gonna go ahead and press our eject button. And you get to peel away your negative paper and see all of those lovely feathers below. It's okay if you have a bit of tearing. These feathers are really close together. So if the negative space, you have to tear a little bit, that's totally fine. I've got just that one spot right here to peel away. We're gonna go ahead and peel off all of these feathers. And we're gonna use them in our chandelier. You want to go ahead and cut all of your feather shapes now, so that when we are ready to punch the holes and assemble them, we've got everything ready to go. I would say you need probably somewhere between five and six sheets of each color. That way you have some extra feathers to play with. And if you wanna to add a second layer, you have enough to do so.

Assemble chandelier

- We're gonna create our paper feather chandelier using an embroidery hoop as the base. I like to use these because they're inexpensive, you can paint them whatever color you like and because it comes in two parts we're gonna use that to our advantage. The inner piece that has no hardware on it, it's just a continuous circle, I spray painted that an aqua blue color to match the thread that we're using. The outer ring that has the hardware on it, where the split is, I spray painted gold. Think it's a little more sophisticated in color and it's a nice compliment to our aqua palette. Once those guys are dry, before you can start stringing your feathers, which I've arranged in the order I want them to hang on the chandelier, just in a very simple ombre effect, we need to punch holes in all of the feathers. I wanted to add the holes by hand, just because it gives me a little more control. And this is a really fine hole punch, it's 1/16 of an inch. You can usually find this at the craft store. And I turn it upside down so that the punch is on the top and the little hole where the punch is received is on the bottom when I'm holding it. And I'm actually gonna slide in the stem of the feather. This little tongue that keeps everything in place is gonna go above, and that's gonna hold it. And then I'm just gonna punch in the center of that stem. You can do a couple at a time if you feel comfortable, but it's a narrow margin, so I like to just punch a few. I just like to punch one at a time just so I can make sure. Now if you make a mistake and you punch off the edge like that, where you have just a sliver of hair and it's probably gonna tear, don't worry. You can just snip this off and create a new punch. You can even punch further down into the feather if you like. You do wanna punch all of the holes on all of your feathers so you can go ahead and get ready on your assembly. Once you have all the holes punched in your feathers and you've got them arranged in the piles in the order that you wanna put them on your chandelier, you're ready to start attaching your strings to begin. I'm using a size eight pearl cotton. And this is actually an embroidery floss. You could use a crochet thread. I like it because it's a little thicker than a sewing thread, it's also slightly slipperier and that allows these to hang really nicely. You could get away with a really fine yarn, if you have it, or even you can use a twine if you like the look of that. I like this for the color, comes in lots of colors, and I also like it for just the slickness. For this chandelier it's gonna go in a spiral effect, which is gonna be really pretty. But I'm not gonna hand cut each string to start in different lengths. Instead, I'm gonna make all of my string around three feet long, 'cause I know that's the longest that I want the chandelier to hang. And then we'll create that spiral all at once a little bit later. So to do this quickly just eyeball about three feet, place my finger to hold this thread and I'm kind of going back and forth. I'm gonna keep

doing this until I have about 70 threads. You could also anchor one point like on a door knob or have a friend hold it. But actually if you're working alone this goes pretty quickly. Takes just a few minutes. You also wanna make sure that little things are out of your way while you're doing this process, these feathers can easily get snagged on the threads as you're moving them back and forth. Once you have a good amount you can snip this off, the ball of embroidery floss. And then I'm not gonna worry about all those ends, what I'm gonna do is just come in about an inch and snip that off for a nice clean edge. Do the same thing here. Can get rid of that. So now I've got a little pile of threads I'm gonna work with. Before I begin tying on the strings that are gonna hold our feathers, I'm also gonna tie on the thread that is gonna hang our chandelier from the top. And I like to use a twine for this. It's a little bit sturdier in weight because it's gonna have the entire weight of the chandelier holding it. And I also just like the more rustic and neutral quality of this, it's gonna match the outside gold hoop a lot better as well. So we're gonna need one length to start that's a little beyond the edge of our embroidery hoop. This is a 14 inch embroidery hoop. We're gonna do like a cross shape. And then we're gonna come in. And this is also going to section off our hoop so that we can consistently tie threads in each little section. So that's good. You're just gonna eyeball. This is a circle, so you just wanna make sure you're sort of splitting in half. You don't wanna tie something horizontally where you have three quarters and one quarter. You're trying to just look for the half point. You're just gonna tie this on. I always double knot everything. And if you can, it's nice to have your knot fall on the outer edge or the inner edge. So not on the tiny edge, but on this fatter edge. Because we're gonna slide the larger, the other part of the hoop over this and it's gonna hide our knots. So just go ahead and eyeball the center. This doesn't have to be too tight. You don't wanna create pressure pressure on your hoop that's gonna cause it to bend in. This is actually where you're gonna be hanging your chandelier from. So if you wanted these to be looser so that you get a nice point at the top when it hangs, you can do that. This is fairly taught. Either way is fine. We can trim that off. We'll do this one to bisect again in the center. Double knot it. Make sure it's fairly centered. And whatever taughtness we tied this one we wanna try to keep these guys pretty consistent now. So make them match. Because I'm using the twine it may stick a little. Just make that as tight as you can. That looks good. If it helps you to just reorient so you're always looking sort of at half and in half again you can do that. We're gonna go ahead and continue tying all of your strings. You've got four of them and that's gonna divide your hoop into eight sections. And it doesn't matter what size hoop you're working with, you still only need eight strings. And then from there we're gonna add our strings for our feathers. You can go ahead and just trim off any little ends to about a 1/4 inch or so, close to your hoop. And we wanna make sure that these guys come together in the center, 'cause this is where we're gonna hang our chandelier once it's all finished. What's nice about doing this process now is that it segments our hoop into even sections, which is gonna help us when we're adding all of our feather strands. If we do around eight strands in one segment, we know each segment should have between eight and nine strands also. 'cause it's gonna help us for a more even cohesive look. You're gonna start adding your strands. Your embroidery strands. These also get a double knot. And when you're tying you wanna be fairly consistent. If you leave a one inch tail when you tie then just make sure you do that on every one. And these don't need to be really close together 'cause remember, your feathers are gonna be on the end and you wanna give those a little bit go breathing room. So they can hang and move a little bit and they don't get too tangled. When you're tying your knots for all of your threads, you want the knot to either fall on this outer edge or on the inner edge, this wide part. Not the top or the bottom. If you can help it, it's not big deal, but it's gonna give you a cleaner final look at the end because we're

gonna lay the larger embroidery hoop over, it's gonna hide all of our knots. Go ahead and add all of your threads all the way around your hoop. I find that around eight threads per segments works really nicely, but you can add more or less. You wanna remember that they shouldn't be right next to each other because you need a little breathing room at the end, 'cause that's where your feather is gonna hang and you want it to be able to move a little bit. When you tie all of your strings around you can give the tops a little trim if you have extra thread. You don't wanna trim it right to the knot but you can just trim it down to about an 1/8 or a 1/4 of an inch there. Just give it a look. When you're tying threads you can also hang it off the edge of the table if that's helps you tie them. And then we're gonna take our outer hoop and just settle it over. This part with the hardware, you can loosen so that the outer hoop is nice and loose. And you're gonna settle it over the inner hoop and hide all your knots. If you need to loosen it a little more you can. And I'm just carefully doing this. Now it's gonna give you a nice finished edge on the outside. Once you've got your outer hoop on we're ready to start attaching our feathers.

Attach feathers

- When you start on your chandelier to place the feathers and cut your spiral, you're gonna need to elevate the chandelier up off the floor. And so I've come up with this tricky little system here where I'm using two stools and a dowel to suspend my chandelier, but if it's easier for you, you can figure out where you're going to place your chandelier and its final home, whether it be over a little table or over a chair for a reading nook, go ahead and put a hook in your ceiling and then you can do this there if that's better for you, but it's easy for me to just work with it on the table elevated on the two stools and a dowel. To add to our lovely ombre effect we're actually also going to cut a spiral which is going to give us a really soft gradation of color both in the form and in the color of the feathers. So you're just going to pick a starting point and determine what your shortest length is going to be. Leave about an extra inch or so for tying. So let's say this guy is my shortest thread. And think about like how your hairdresser cuts your hair, how they go down at an angle, so you're just gonna start cutting all the way down in a soft spiral. (snipping) You can always go back and trim but you can't ever add any so just keep that in mind. It's okay to leave a few at the maximum length here. See if I want to go back and trim. I might come back and just cut off just a little more at a steeper angle here. (snipping) And it looks like because I've taped it right here I have a little gap in my threads. It's okay, whenever I move the tape it will go back so I just want to make sure that this one is close to the one that I just cut so follow that spiral nicely. Yeah, it looks good. Perfect! There's my spiral. And then I want to go ahead and start tying feathers. You want to move away all your loose threads here that you've just trimmed off. It's pretty good. And I'm gonna work from lightest to darkest color. You can switch this up and play with the effect of the color of the feathers. You could do complementary colors or you could do it all in metallics, whatever you like. But I'm gonna start with my lightest feathers and just tie all the way down. And remember we did about eight per section and that was for eight sections. We have six kinds of feathers that means we're going to need more than eight, closer to like 10 or 12 to get all the way through our color gradation, but you can do it at random, you can kind of just look and eyeball what you like. Maybe you want to do something that's lighter and goes to dark at the very end or you can try to keep it to an even amount, whatever you prefer. I'm gonna start with my lightest color and my first shortest strand. Just pop that through the hole and tie a double knot. You're gonna tie all of your feathers exactly the same way. There are different styles of feather on your template and so I like to make sure that I include all the different styles. I'm not looking to make a pattern though, it's okay to have two right

next to each other that are the same style. That's actually more random and gives a more natural and textured look. But I do know that I did kind of two medium white ones so maybe I'll do this long skinny one next. Just popping it through the hole and tying a double knot. If you accidentally tear a feather you can just snip it and make a new hole. It's the nice thing about these feathers is they're very forgiving, they're just a lovely shape and they have so much variation in the little spines or the little mini feathers within it that you can really make alterations and it's not gonna look like a mistake. You're gonna continue tying on all your feathers in exactly the same way working through your color gradation and I'm gonna show you how to add on a second layer. We've only done a small section but I want to show you how you can add more feathers onto the existing strand for a more textured look. You can see how pretty this one with the stamped texture is, I love it in this light color. And I want to add more of the effect all the way down. So what you can do to add your second layer, or you could even do a third, is you're gonna make a small snip from the edge of your feather right into that little hole you punched. Just like a gift tag or something you're actually just gonna pop it on to your strand. Now the heavier paper, the more weight it's gonna bring and so they might travel slightly down the strand over time but it's just gonna give a more denser, fuller, textured look to your chandelier, and it leaves a little room for play, which I love. We need to have that first feather anchored on with a knot, but you can add layers by just tabbing these on. You're gonna want to go ahead and add feathers in all of your colors and add that second layer, even a third layer if you like the extra textured and layered look. And when you're finished, you're gonna wind up with something that looks like this. This project is perfect for adding a pop of color or a little bit of texture to any corner in your house. You can play with the colors, you can even gold tip some of these feathers or add in a bright pop of neon for a really beautiful statement piece.

Chapter 4 - Feather Pillow

Make pillow

- For our feather stenciled pillow, instead of cutting paper, we're actually gonna switch to contact paper, or sticky-backed vinyl, we're gonna run it through our cricket using that same feather template. You can play with the sizes so that it fits your pillow, and we're gonna wind up using our negative space to create a stencil that we're gonna place on the pillow, and then paint through in to the negative shape to create these beautiful feather motifs on a pillow. I've left a lot of room around each feather so that I can use it to brush on my paint, and have some room that's not gonna go back on to the raw pillow. I've got a store-bought pillow in front of me. If you're using the kind that has a removable cover, you can take the cover off, and slip a bit of cardboard in between each layer and paint it flat on the table, but this doesn't have a removable cover. I'm gonna paint directly on to the pillow itself. I'm using fabric paint for my blue colors, and this works both on fabric and paper. It's a screen printing ink, but I'm also gonna use some craft paint. What's nice about a fabric paint is it creates a more soft and supple finished product, but because we're just doing some little feather accents and it's not a big motif in the center of the pillow, I can get away with using a little bit of craft paint, and that's where I'm gonna bring in my gold pop. Let's pick our first feather. I'm gonna cut this down just a little bit, but still leaving myself a good margin all the way around. We'll peel off the backing. Carefully, cause we got some little, small details, and place this guy. I think it's helpful to just pat it down going from one side to the other, because your pillow is a curved shape. Then, go back and just really make sure that that cut edge, here, is really making good contact with the pillow. Okay. Let's do this in our medium blue color. It's kind of aqua blue. I'm gonna use my stencil brush, and coming from the contact paper in toward the center of the feather, I'm gonna brush. You

can also do a more stippling effect. I just don't want to push from the center out because I'll pull up all of those tiny, little delicate pieces. If you're working with a really small feather, at some point you might want to switch from a larger brush to a more detailed brush. Just so that my stencil brush doesn't accidentally push up in to those tiny, delicate little spines, there. You want to give this a good second look because the paint is going to absorb in to the fabric, and you may have some little spots where you need just a little more paint. That looks good. Go ahead and carefully remove this, and set your stencil aside. You get a really lovely, clean feather. If you had any mistakes, or any spots where you missed, you could come in with your detail brush and just touch it up, but that one looks good. If I'm careful, I can go ahead and move on to using my next stencil and painting my next feather, but this paint is still wet, so you wanna be really wary of it, and not let it migrate to the nice, clean white surface of your pillow. If you feel more comfortable letting it dry completely before you paint the next one, that's fine, too. I'm gonna pair a smaller feather with this large feather we just painted. Again, trim down my stencil a bit, but I still have a nice, wide border, here. Remove your paper backing, and place this. Now, if I place this right here, this part of my stencil is gonna go in to my wet feather, so let's trim that down a little more. And I'm gonna use a smaller brush just because I have a smaller margin now. That's good though. This is nice, I like the coupling of the two feathers, and then I've got their stems pointing in opposite directions. I feel like that's a nice little pairing. Just make sure everything's down and your hands are fairly clean. We're gonna switch to our darker color. We're just gonna use our detail brush because we're working on the smaller scale. You can get a small stipple brush, too. That would work really nicely, but in pinch, just a paint brush will work. Always coming from the outside of the stencil, from the contact paper itself, toward the center so I don't pull up any of those tiny, delicate little bits of the feather. Just making sure I don't have any big, glaring blobs. You can go ahead and remove that as well. Lovely, and very carefully, we're gonna do our last feather. Cap that up so you don't get any blue paint anywhere on your nice, clean pillow, and then last, we'll do our gold feather. I've got some gold craft paint on my palette, here, which is just a kitchen plate. If you can see, I don't want this feather mimicking exactly that shape. I want to turn it on its side, and maybe have it falling down toward the center. Carefully remove the backing. Carefully pat it down. There's a lot of really small components of this one. With our small brush, we'll just paint it in exactly the same way we did our little navy feather. I'm just coming from the outside of the stencil, working toward the center just to avoid lifting up any of those tiny, delicate little bits of feathers. I see one part that just is popping up. I think the sticky has gone away from it, and that's fine. I'm not worried about that. I still have the articulation of the main part of that point. Just make sure you covered everything well, and remove this guy. Have a beautiful, delicate little, golden feather, as well. You want to go ahead and let this dry before you place it on your couch, or little reading chair, and you can really mask this out. This would be lovely with a myriad of feathers painted all over the surface. It's a nice way to liven up an old pillow or a handmade pillow, add a little modern touch or a pop of color, and all you need is some craft paint and a stencil.

Chapter 5 - Feather Tray

Make tray and variations

- We're gonna use our same templates that we used for our pillow to create a stenciled motif on our cocktail tray. I'm working on an unfinished wooden board that's actually meant to be a cutting board but I think it would make a really lovely presentation for a little cocktail nook. You can do this on anything that you can get the spray paint to stick too. So you could do it on a metal tray or a

glass tray or some other kind of wooden surface if you like. I've saved my stencils on wax paper so that they're still sticky. I'm just gonna carefully peel them off so they don't tear. And then I can determine my placement. Now this paint on here is dried, it's not wet anymore. Now, we're using spray paint instead of craft paint this time which means you really need to protect your area and the rest of the board. You should do this outside in a well-ventilated area. I'm just gonna use wax paper to protect the rest of my cocktail tray here. And I can just peel up part of this outer edge and shimmy this under to keep it in place. You wanna do that everywhere. You can't over-protect with spray paint. Same thing here. Cut just the tiniest hint here but I also have the edge of the cutting board. So I wanna protect that as well. I'm making sure that that wax paper doesn't go up into my actual exposed area that I wanna paint. I'll just lay some more there. Center this guy. And then I would recommend putting on some gloves if you're using spray paint. I'd originally thought that I wanted to do gold and teal for my cutting board but I think I'd also like to add in a darker color like an indigo or a navy so we're gonna start with that feather accurately. Put my gloves on and shake up your paint. (spray can shaking) And spray. The stuff sets really quickly and I'm just gonna carefully remove my template. And you can just set that aside because the paint is probably still wet. We're gonna add another feather. Let's add a little one and this time we'll do it in gold. Now, if I were to overlap these feathers, which I think would look really nice, you need to make sure that this is completely dry first. Instead, let's just flip the board around and do something on the other side. Let's add a little gold one. This gold is gonna be really subtle on our cocktail board but I think that's actually gonna be really pretty and add a sophisticated touch. That looks good. We'll wanna protect our surface again. Angle that a little. Make sure that's really stuck down. So you get a nice, clean edge. Put your glove back on. And this time we're gonna use the gold. (spray can shaking) (paint spraying) We can remove that. We're gonna take another small feather template in another shape and let's create a little grouping up here. This gold is really tone-on-tone, which I like the subtlety of that. So I'm gonna add one that has a little bit of color. You need to make sure that this is completely dry first. Cluster these together. Yeah. Wait let me see how I like that. Let's do it this way. Pat it down to start and then just press with your finger just to make sure all those little guys are good. You're gonna protect your surface with your wax paper again. Not go under your template though. Alright. There we go. Put your gloves back on. Shake this guy up really well. (spray paint shaking) And spray. Carefully remove this and you have your third feather. You could add more feathers to your cocktail tray. You wanna make sure that you let this dry completely before you use it to actually serve cocktails on and I wouldn't recommend it for food use since we've just put paint on it. With just a single motif like this feather you can play with scale, you can use both the positive and negative shapes and you can work in a variety of mediums which allow you to take a single element like a feather and create an entire suite of projects for your home.