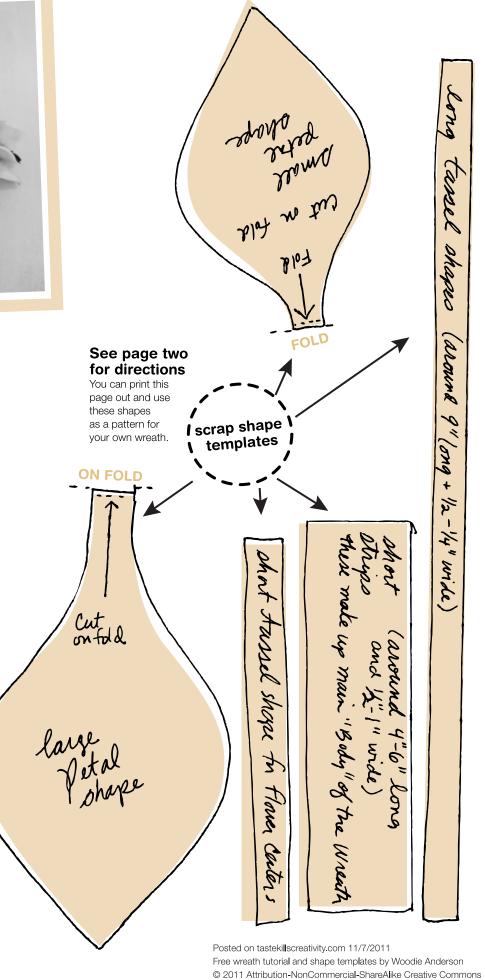


Make a festive wreath from fabric scraps

YOU NEED:

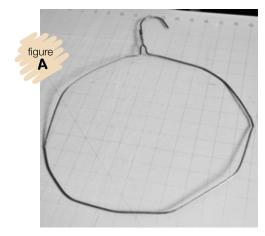
- * fabric scraps: Use thicker, non-fraying fabric for the flower shapes, like fleece or felt. I used a contrasting color for the long tassels and light/sheer fabric for the strips that make up the main body of the wreath because I liked the extra fraying and the gauzy effect. I've used skinny strips of patterned fabrics in the same color family for a neat effect, too. You could use ribbons, or almost anything. Play around with your scrap pile and see what works for you!
- * wire hanger: For the wreath form. You'll tie the fabric scraps to this shape. You could use thick, sturdy wire of any kind for this if you can't find a hanger.
- * thread, needle: Could used rubber bands or string. Anything you can use to pull the petals closer together and form the flowers.
- * **scissors:** For cutting shapes and strips out of your fabric scraps and for trimming off extra shaggy bits to shape your wreath as you go.





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See page one for shape templates and a list of materials



DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Make a wreath form: Bend a wire hanger into a circle shape (A).
- 2) Prepare fabric scraps: Cut petal shapes out of fabric using the pattern shapes on page one (B1). Be sure to cut on the fold so each shape has two petals. (I used white fleece I had left over from a quilting project.) Cut or tear rectangle shapes for the main body of wreath. (I used sheer curtain scraps because I liked the extra fraying and the gauzy effect.) Tearing the fabric gives you a nice frayed edge that looks neat. It's fast to tear long strips the width you want and then cut the long strips into the lengths you need. For the main body of the wreath, I used strips around four inches long and about an inch wide because I wanted thick, bow-like body when I knotted them to the wire. You can cut thinner strips, but you may need to use more strips to fill out your wreath and make it fluffy. Play with width and lengths some to see what works with the fabric scraps you're using. Tear thinner rectangular shapes for flower tassels. The short strips will be in the center of the flowers and randomly in the body of the wreath, too. The longer tassels will be on the outside of the flowers. (I used the same white fleece I used for petals for the shorter flower tassels and some bright orange and red flannel scraps for the longer tassels.)
- 2) Create flower feature shapes: Tie the flower petal shapes to the wire hanger using a simple knot (B2). Start with the smaller petal shapes. Add some of the short tassels by tying the fabric strips to the wire roughly at the center of each strip. Slide each knotted fabric strip down the wire into place, pushing them next to the petal shapes. Then add some larger petal shapes on either side. The fabric should start to look more like a flower (C). Once you have a flower shape you like, push all the knots tightly together on the wire so they bunch up. Using a needle and thread or rubber bands, wrap the knots together so that the flower will keep shape and stay together as you work. You can add more petals as you go. Now tie some long tassel strips onto the wire and push them behind your flower shape so they peak out. Make as many flowers as you want on your wreath and slide them around the wire circle so they are where you want them to be on your finished wreath. Once you start adding the body fabric strips, you won't be able to move them very much, so get them where you want them, now. You can trim the tassel shapes down some with scissors once the wreath is completely filled in.
- **3) Fill in the wreath:** Tie your body strips to the wire circle, pushing them tight against the feature flower shapes as you work (D). You can keep all the strips pointing in the same directions with the knots visible for a flatter, almost braided effect or you can turn them all different directions for a fluffy, rounder wreath, like I did. I also tied in some shorter flower tassel strips for a little variety. I left the hanger hook on my wreath for a handy way to display it (and so I could reference the top of the wreath as I worked), but you can bend the hook down to hide it or just snip it off. Once you've filled in the body of the wreath and the wire circle is no longer visible, you're done!

