Harvest²Cuisine

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Simple Seasonal Crafts for Home & Table

Make a paper table garland

Use this adaptable project for a harvest supper, Christmas table, or everyday shelf. Choose two paper colors and repeat one simple shape for a calm, coordinated result.

Materials

Scrap paper or lightweight cardstock, pencil, ruler, scissors, paper glue, and cord. Optional: a hole punch and a reusable cardboard template.

Make it

1. Draw a leaf, star, or circle about 3 inches across on cardboard and cut out a template. Trace 8–12 shapes onto your paper. Cut them out on a protected work surface.

2. Punch one hole near the top of each shape, leaving enough paper around the hole to resist tearing. Thread onto cord, or fold a small paper tab over the cord and glue the tab to the back of each shape.

3. Lay the garland flat and adjust the spacing before displaying it. Allow glue to dry according to its label. Use removable hooks suited to your surface.

Change the season

Try kraft-paper leaves in autumn, paper stars at Christmas, or circles cut from saved gift wrap. Write guests’ names on the shapes for a personal table display.

Practical care

Keep paper, fabric, and cord away from candles, heat, and cooking equipment. Hang out of reach of young children and pets. Supervise cutting; choose tools and materials appropriate to the maker’s age.

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Wrap a gift in reusable fabric

A clean tea towel or square scarf can become part of the gift. This is a simple decorative wrap, not protective packaging for shipping.

Materials

Clean square fabric, a boxed or sturdy gift, and an optional paper tag. Choose a fabric large enough for opposite corners to meet comfortably above the item.

Wrap it

1. Spread the fabric in a diamond shape with the reverse side up. Set the gift near the center. Bring the near corner over the gift and tuck it under; bring the opposite corner over the top.

2. Gather the left and right corners above the gift. Tie them once, adjust the fabric around the sides, and tie a second time to make a secure square knot. Avoid pulling hard on fragile contents.

3. Slip a tag under the knot. Lift from underneath to check the wrap before handing it over. Unwrap and choose a larger cloth if the corners barely meet.

A thoughtful finish

For Christmas, pair a cranberry towel with a cream paper tag. For a garden gift, use a plain cloth and a small paper leaf. Avoid attaching loose ornaments or small parts to gifts intended for young children.

Reuse and storage

Offer the recipient the cloth to use again. Launder according to its care label, dry fully, fold, and keep with your gift supplies. Use separate clean material for direct contact with food; decorative wrap is not food packaging.

Fabric or paper already on hand / next gift to wrap

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Fold simple place cards

A small folded card helps guests find a seat and can label a serving dish. A decorative food label does not replace accurate ingredient or allergen information.

Materials and steps

1. Cut cardstock rectangles about 4 × 3 inches. Lightly mark a fold halfway along the 4-inch side, so the finished tent is about 2 × 3 inches.

2. Fold each rectangle in half. Press the crease with a ruler edge. Trim a test card first to check that it stands on your table.

3. Write a name on the front. Add a small drawn leaf, star, or sprig in one corner. Use a high-contrast pen and leave room around the lettering.

4. Set cards away from serving spills and heat. For dish labels, verify the wording with the cook; do not guess about ingredients or suitability for a guest’s dietary needs.

Keep the project simple

Use a repeated border or one tiny motif rather than several embellishments. Save leftover pieces in an envelope labeled with their size. Reuse unmarked backs for shopping notes.

Plan a small craft session

☐ Choose one project and one clear work surface.

☐ Set out only the tools and supplies needed.

☐ Make one sample before cutting a whole batch.

☐ Leave time for drying, cleanup, and storage.

Further reading: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Art and Craft Safety Guide: https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Guides/hobbies/art-and-craft-safety-guide

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Seasonal craft project planner

Project / occasion / date

Material or tool	On hand	To obtain / substitute

Steps and order of work

Time, workspace, supervision, and drying needs

What worked / what to change next time

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