

# Diamond in the Rough

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Posted 2020 Sept 25

Some months back, I decided to try my hand at these diamond-shaped origami ornaments. I made a few from my stock of Christmas cards, and though I really liked the look of them, I couldn't quite decide how I was going to finish them off.



My favorite of the three is the one on the right; I like the way the wreath motif from the original card shows up on the diamond shape. These have been hanging in the craft room for months now while I waited for inspiration to strike, and had more or less slipped from my mind until a week or so ago.



Meantime, now that it's fall, I've been out gathering cones for my Christmas decor, including some of these tiny alder cones. Alder trees are deciduous, but the variety that grows locally produces miniature cones (approx. 3/4" to 1" long).

Once modpogged and "frosted" with white paint, and combined with greenery and red beads, these teeny alder cones make perfect embellishments for packages, decorative tags, and -- yes! -- ornaments.



Strange as it sounds, although I'd used these little cones on other ornaments previously, I hadn't considered using them to finish the diamonds, but as soon as it occurred to me, it seemed the obvious and perfect solution, especially for the red/green ornament.



The greenery is made from dollar store craft stems; the red metallic beads are cut from a length of 5mm fused-bead trim. Everything is glued in place individually using a strong adhesive such as Goop or E6000. (Don't be tempted to use hot glue for this -- it just won't hold). To complete the ornament, I added a small beaded component to the top.

Given how much time has passed since I first folded the diamond, this ornament has been kind of a long time in the making. However, now that it's finished, I have to say the result has been worth the wait, and I'm really looking forward to adding this one to my tree. Now I just have to decide how I'll finish the other two!

