

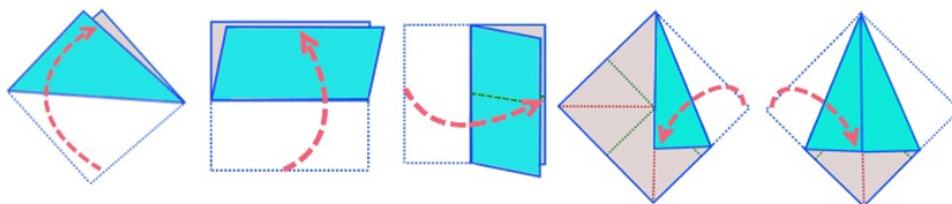
Double German Bell Ornament

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My sister Gwen has been making beautiful German bell ornaments for some years now, and she came up with this ingenious variation of her own. Gwen's version is made from two squares of card, each folded like a German bell, and then the two are neatly combined into a single ornament.

As you may recall from my September 8 post, the basic bell shape is made from a single square of card, using a series of simple folds. (That post gives detailed instructions if you'd like to check it out).



Gwen's double bell version, made up of two of these folded units glued together, is most effective when the units are made of two different cardstocks.

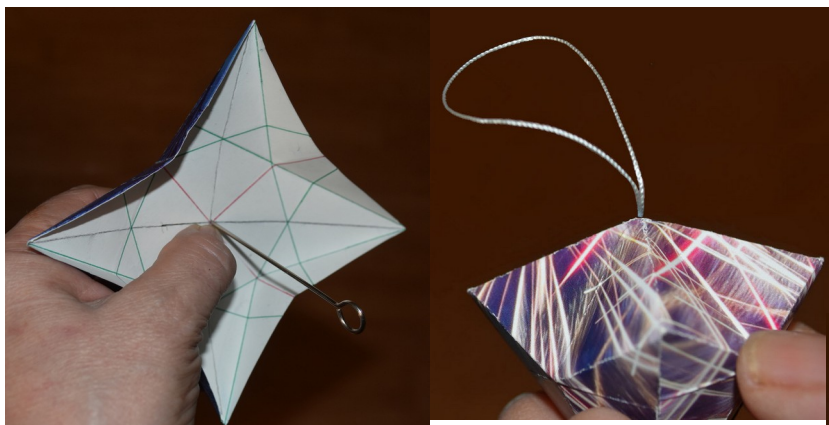
For my sample ornament, I'm using a piece of stiff holographic paper cut from a gift bag and a print of fireworks from a heavyweight calendar.

The double bell is best made with smaller squares than you'd use for the single bell; I've cut mine to 3" size.



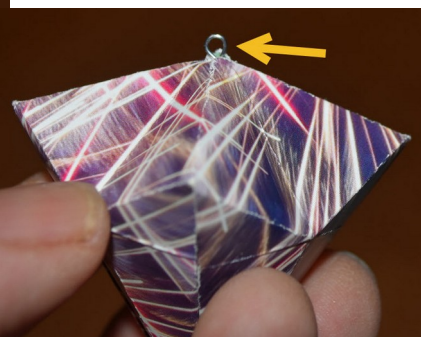
The two parts of the double German bell ornament are folded in exactly the same way as for the single version. Make two of the folded squares, stopping at the point where you'd normally start gluing the bell shape together.

Before applying any glue, use a stylus or needle to make a tiny hole in the centre of the folded square. The easiest way to hang the ornament is to thread a loop of thin cord through the hole.



Add a drop of glue on the knot to keep the cord secure. As an alternative, you can use a small wire loop (below) instead of a string, which will allow

you to add beaded embellishments and dangles. I generally add these tiny loops to both top and bottom, but if you prefer, you can add the loop to the top unit only.

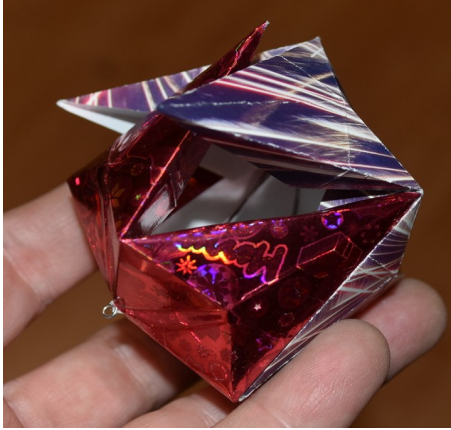


Once the loops are in place, complete the ornament by nesting the two folded pieces together, so that the points of each one fit neatly into the inner corners of the other, forming a zigzag effect.



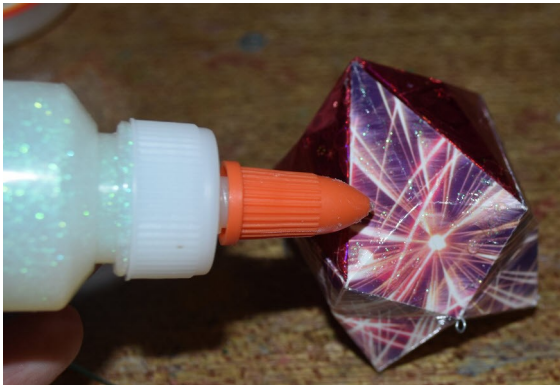
Apply glue to one point at a time, carefully matching up the edges. Hold until the glue grabs, then move to the next point. (See more photos on the next page).

Here you can see that I have glued the first red point into the inner corner of the fireworks print. I'm using Beacon Magna-Tac glue, which has a fast grab, so I'll be able to move on to the next point fairly quickly.



Left: I've glued two of the points; only two more to go.

With the gluing complete, I'll move on to embellishing my ornament and adding the beads.

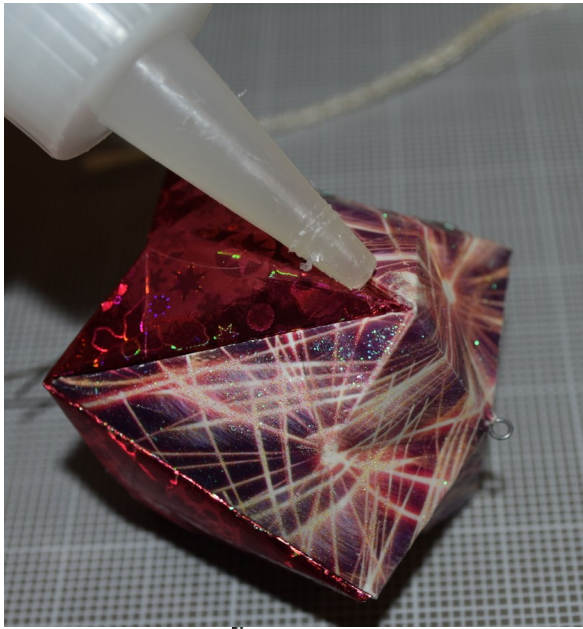


I coated the fireworks print with Mod Podge for strength and shine; once it dried, I added a light coating of iridescent glitter glue. Beautiful!

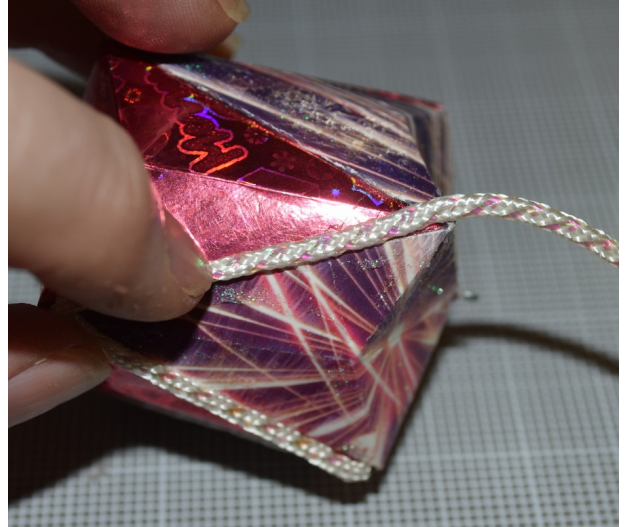


I like to add trim to the seams, so I'll apply this pearly white iridescent braid along the joins, then finish up with a couple of beaded dangles.





I'm adding a thin line of Magna-Tac along the seams before pressing the braid into place. I'll glue one section at a time, allowing the glue to grab before moving to the next segment.



The finished ornament! The pearl medallions were a bit of an afterthought: I felt the ornament needed a little something more, so I checked my stash and found this reel of dollar store wedding trim. I cut four of the rosettes and glued them in place with Magna-Tac. Ta-da!



This ornament – my sister's invention – is oh-so-pretty with its contrasting papers and festive trim.

So far I've made only a handful of these double bells, but I'm looking forward to making more of them. Brava, Gwen! These are lovely.