

German Bell Ornament

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This style of ornament, known as a German bell, is quite simple to make: Start with a square of lightweight printed card stock, and with a few simple folds and some glue, you've got a beautiful ornament. You can make them in a variety of sizes, but I find that starting with a square of about 5" gives a pleasing finished size.

If you google "German bell" you'll find tons of detailed instructions on line. I created this design on the computer, especially for my friend, but any printed card – including recycled greeting cards -- will make a nice ornament.



You can trim them with a variety of embellishments – I've used ribbons, beads, tinsel, and glitter.

They're quite pretty on the tree and very lightweight, so they can hang at the tips of branches.

I like to add dangles to the bottom and a beaded segment to the top. I insert a little wire loop at the appropriate points before the gluing is complete, so I have somewhere to attach the dangles.



I also like to finish with a coat of Mod Podge and a light dusting of iridescent glitter, and I trim the seams with fused bead trim or ribbon.

Several of these samples were custom-printed, but others were made from Christmas cards or printed cardstock.



For a different look, you can hang the ornament pointed-end down, like the one at left. The trim is a tinsel stem.

This Ho Ho Ho Santa one is quite small. I started with a square of about 4" – it's fussier to fold but is extra cute.

