

# Hometown Map Ornament

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My latest ornament design was actually inspired by two wooden laser-cut ornaments that I purchased last year, which feature maps of my friends' home towns.

The ornaments are rather large, measuring about 3 1/2" across. They are plain on the back, and slightly recessed on the front, and the map has the appearance of woodburning.

When I saw the two I'd ordered I immediately thought of a third friend who might like one of her own rural home town. But rather than order another, this time I decided to try my hand at making a version of my own.



Not surprisingly, my thoughts turned to my trusty button machine, but with a twist. In place of the slightly convex shaping on both sides, I wanted the map side to be slightly recessed, as it is on the purchased ornament. Here's my solution.



As it happens, one of the items you can make with the button machine is a pocket mirror. Instead of a solid metal back, a glass mirror piece is held in place with a collet.



Omitting the mirror glass and installing the collet alone produces a concave recess on the front of the ornament, into which I can insert the map image.



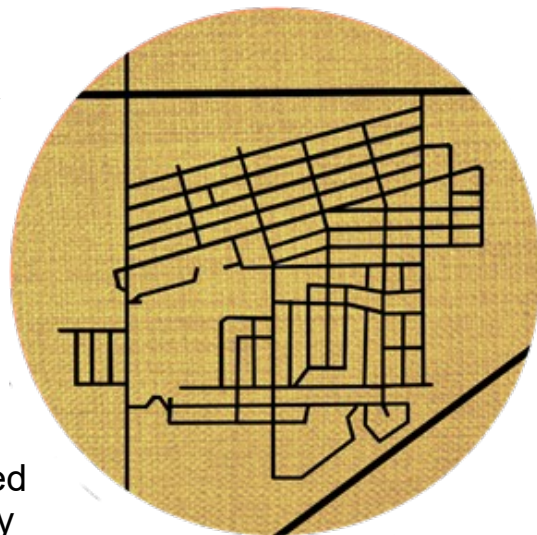
The purchased ornaments are plain on the reverse, but my button version will allow me to personalize the ornament further with a coordinating image. Perfect.

The first step is to create the images, starting with the map. For this first ornament, I located a simple town map on line, then re-drew it on a golden yellow burlap-textured background, to coordinate with the colours of the design I planned for the back.



My button size is 2.25", so I sized the map to fit inside the shell, then decoupage it in place.

When the decoupage image was thoroughly dry, I used my metal punch to make a hole in the upper edge of the button shell, to allow me to insert a jump ring after the button is assembled.



Before pressing the button, I spray-painted the collet black, to coordinate with the gold/black colour scheme of the ornament as a whole. It's going to look beautiful when it's finished!

For the reverse of the ornament, I selected one of my previously designed images. It's perfect for this homage to my friend's home town. Then I assembled the button as usual, inserting the collet in place of a solid metal back.

My ornament needs one more touch to make it complete.



I printed a banner with the town name on card stock, then fussy-cut and glued it to two more layers of card stock. I finished the banner with a couple of coats of glossy Mod Podge, then affixed it across the recessed front of the ornament, adding tacky glue at the points where the banner touches the collet.

I finished off the ornament with a beaded component at the top. I'm really pleased with the recessed effect, accentuated by the banner motif, and I know my friend will love this ornament of her home town.

After completing this first map ornament, I decided to make a couple of others, but this time I tweaked the design a bit.



The most noticeable change is to the banner styling. I decided to give it a downward curve, and move it toward the bottom of the ornament. The new positioning opens up the map more, so I can use more complex map images.

Next, I left the collet its original silver, and replaced the beads with a short length of chain. The chain lets the ornament rotate just enough to give a glimpse of both sides as it sways on the tree.

For the reverse side of this new ornament, I chose an image of the recipient's beloved former home.

This ornament is ever so slightly larger than the first one; I used a 2 3/8" Badge-a-Minit button instead of the standard 2 1/4" size. I'm not sure how much difference the extra 1/8" actually makes, but I fancy that it's enough to be significant.

I quite like these, and I'll be making more for other folks on my list. I'm thinking especially of the guys, for whom it's always a little harder to make things. I'm sure these map ornaments will be a hit.

