

# Three Little Pigs Ornament

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Last year my sisters put these teeny piggies into my Christmas cracker. Since then, I've been intending to incorporate them into an ornament, but I didn't get around to making it until this past week.



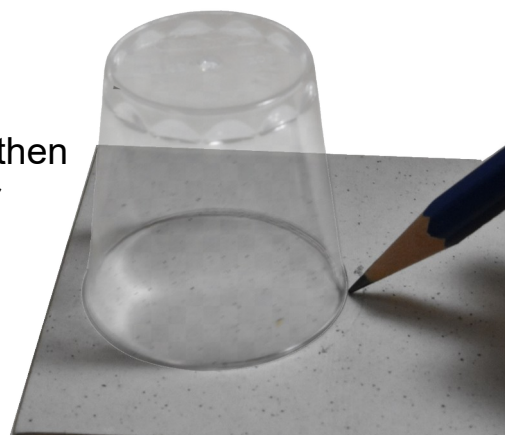
I already had these plastic shot glasses in my stash, and they are just the right size to contain the piggies. (As you can see, the pack cost \$1.25, but I've had these a while, so I imagine the price has gone up in the interval.)

In addition to the piggies and the shot glass, I will need something to form a base for the ornament, and a means of attaching a hanging loop to the top.

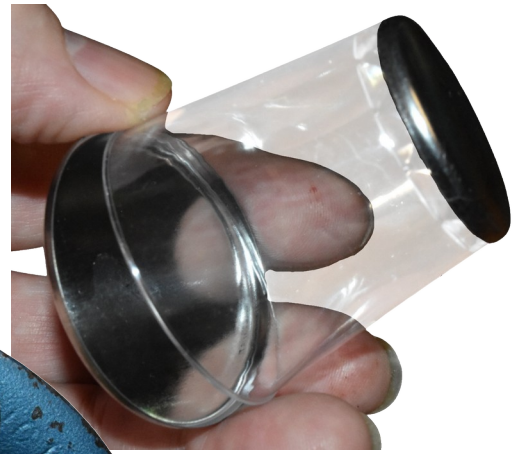


I planned to make a base for the ornament by tracing around the open top of the shot glass onto card stock, then cutting out the circle. Two layers of card glued together will make a sturdy base, which can be painted or covered with decorative paper.

To create a hanging loop, I could use a fine tipped heat tool or a tiny drill bit to make a hole in the centre of the shot glass bottom (which will be the top of my ornament), then run through a loop of wire or cord. But I thought it might be nicer to add a cap of some kind to the top of the ornament: it would be decorative, but also serve to anchor the hanging loop. At first I considered gluing on a large clothing button, but then I had a bit of inspiration.



On a hunch, looking at the diameter of my shot glass, I decided to try it for size against some of my button shells. It turns out that the bottom of the glass exactly fits into a 1.25" shell, while the open top fits perfectly inside a 1.5" shell. Presto: a base and top cap for my ornament.



I used my metal punch to make a hole in the centre of the 1.25" button shell, to allow for insertion of a wire loop for hanging the ornament.



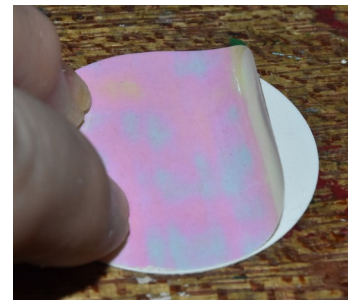
I formed the hanging loop from a short length of 20-gauge wire.



Then I spray painted the caps pink to match the piggies, and inserted the hanging loop through the punched hole.



Next, I cut a circle of card stock a little smaller than the inside diameter of the shot glass, to serve as a base for the piggies, and covered it with a circle of iridescent pink paper



The fit inside the little shot glass is pretty snug, so the piggies have to be placed just right on the base. Once I was sure they were in position, I glued them down with Fabri-tac.



Next, I centred and glued the base into the larger of the two button shells.



Using a toothpick, I ran a thin bead of glue around the inside edge of the 1.5" button shell and set the shot glass over the piggies. I pressed it firmly onto the button shell base, holding it down til the glue caught. I used Fabri-tac, but in this case tacky glue would have worked as well.



Finally, with the wire loop held firmly in place, I spread glue all over the inside of the smaller button shell, then snugged it in place on the top of the ornament, sandwiching the hanging loop between. I held the top in place until the glue grabbed.



With the top firmly stuck down, I added a small beaded component.

Ta-da: Done!

Or is it?



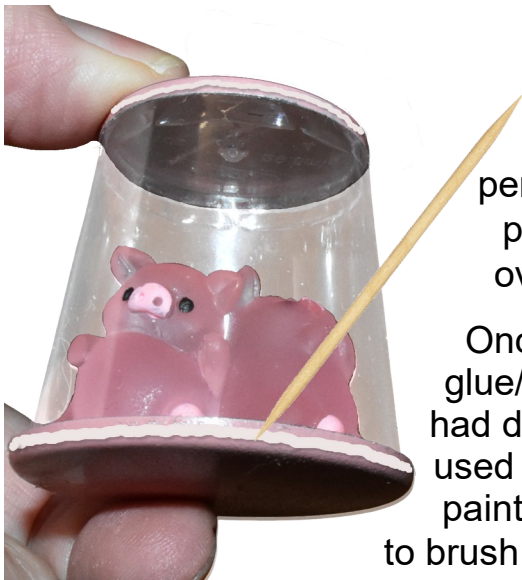
The ornament is adorable, but I felt that it needed something more: a trim of some kind around the base and the top cap: maybe some pretty braid or ribbon. In the end, I decided to go with a line of pink glitter.

Ideally, I should have applied the glitter to the cap rims before completing the ornament. But because I hadn't been planning to add the trim, I didn't think to do that, and I was stuck adding it afterward.

I would have preferred to use glitter glue for this, but I didn't have pink, so so I ended up using loose glitter attached with tacky glue.



Again with a toothpick, I spread a small bead of tacky glue around the perimeters of the top cap and the base. With a sheet of paper underneath to catch the excess, I poured glitter over the wet glue and set the ornament aside to dry.



Once the glue/glitter had dried, I used a soft paintbrush to brush away loose glitter, catching it on my paper so it could be returned to the container.



Finally, to help prevent the glitter from shedding, I covered it with a thin coat of glossy Mod Podge, which will help to hold it in place.

I must say that I like the way the glitter finishes off this ornament: it's just the right colour, too. I only wish that I had thought of adding it to the perimeter of the top and base before I put them in place.

This ornament is so cute that I may just have make a few more with other little figurines from my stash. Time to get busy using up some of those little shot glasses.