

# Ornament Inspiration

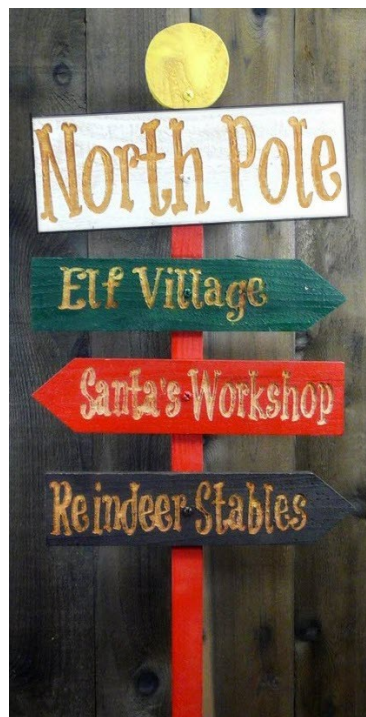
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If you follow my project posts, you'll already know how much I love making Christmas ornaments. They are so many and so varied that I'm often asked where the ideas come from; truth is, I take inspiration from everywhere, so there's no one answer. Here's a survey of just some of my recent creations and the images that inspired them.

A while back, I came across several versions of a North Pole sign like the one at right. This is a full-sized decor item, but I liked the idea and thought it would make a nifty ornament.

My finished ornament is about 6" tall; to make the pole, I glued a chopstick into a festive paper drinking straw. I printed the signs on my computer, then glued them to cardstock and stuck them to the pole using tacky glue. The base is also cardboard, covered with Snow-Tex. I finished off with a snowflake embellishment glued to the top of the pole.



The North Pole sign ornament can hang on the tree – there's a screw-eye at the top of the pole behind the snowflake -- or sit on a mantel. It looks good either way.

Many of my ornaments are Looney Tunes-themed, like this one of Witch Hazel. I didn't want to pay the hefty price for the commercial one at right, but I liked the idea of her decorating her broom. I figured I could come up with something on that same theme, using materials that I had on hand.



I chose a glee-Hazel, and pair of buttons, then glued resulting diamond bead dangles, then with a string of mini



ful image of put it on a square which I



back-to-back. I trimmed the shape with gold braid and decked out a tiny straw broom ornaments, and dangled it from the bottom of the diamond. Hilarious!

Who doesn't love Wiley's crazy ACME products?! Inspired in part by a small glass prescription bottle from my stash, and by this hilarious image, I couldn't resist making this "Earth-quake Pills" ornament (far right). I filled it with colourful plastic "pills", also from my stash.



My sister was so taken with this one that she requested a version for her best friend, a pharmacist. I had so much fun making this one that I'm already planning more ACME product ornaments.



Back in the 90s, Kurt Adler issued a series of these printed hardboard ornaments. Since I already had many of the same images in a book of iron-on transfers, I decided to make my own versions. I printed the images and cut them out, then traced them onto hardboard and cut out the shape on my scrollsaw. After painting the shapes white, I decoupage'd the fussy-cut images to each side. Easy-peasy, and so versatile!



Creating my own versions of these ornaments has allowed me to include some of the less prominent characters, who were under-represented on my tree. As well, I made my ornaments two-sided (the Adler ones are blank on the back), so I like to think they are an improvement on the commercial ones.

Using the same technique, I was able to make some non-Looney Tunes ornaments too, such as this one of Calvin & Hobbes. How adorable is this? I can envision some Peanuts ones, or some magical Harry Potter ornaments, or . . . the sky's the limit.



After I saw this ornament on St Francis Xavier University's website, I couldn't resist making a version for a friend who is an alumnus. The original is plastic; my version is made using two 2.25" button-badges. I added a blue prismatic back-



ground for added sparkle. I think my ornament is just as nice as the original, and my friend was tickled to receive it.

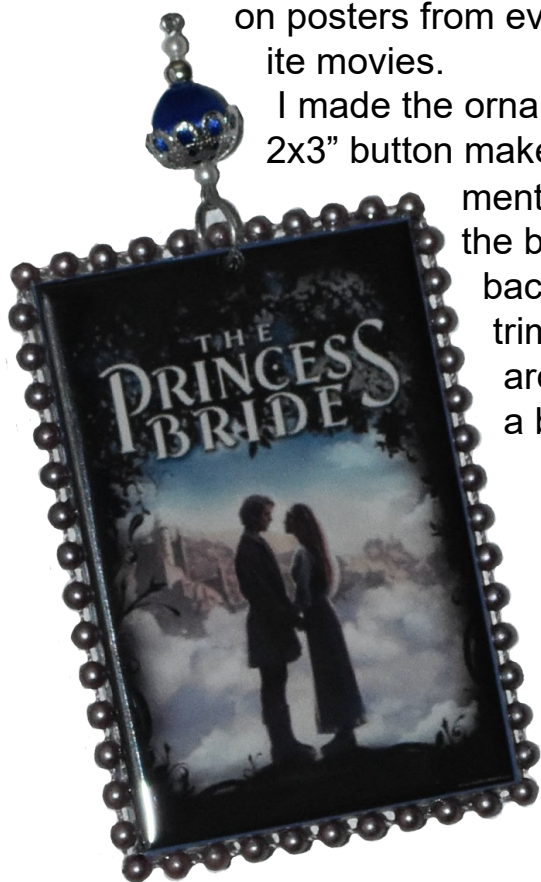


A conversation with my sister inspired several ornaments based

on posters from everyone's favourite movies.

I made the ornaments using my 2x3" button maker. Each ornament requires two of the buttons, glued

back-to-back and then trimmed out with braid or fused beads around the perimeter, and finished with a beaded component on top. They were a huge hit!



What I hope this shows is that inspiration for great ornaments can come from almost anywhere. It's lots of fun adapting themes and ideas, and using what you have on hand, to produce your own unique creations for the tree.