

Personalized Game Pawns

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Posted 2022 June 24

As kids, we used to love game nights, when the whole family got together to play our favourite board games. My sister and I liked to substitute gumball machine prizes in place of the plain game pawns. . . somehow it just seemed to make the game more fun.



I don't play board games so much anymore, but I remain intrigued by the games themselves, and especially the game pieces. And when we do play, I still like to substitute small figurines and toys in place of the ordinary pawns: the more unique and unusual, the better.



That's why, while casting around for fresh DIY stocking stuffer ideas a few years back, I thought it might be neat to make personalized game pieces for everyone on my list.

I started with these tiny wooden thread spools, about 5/8" in diameter – about the



same as regular board game pawns – and approximately 3/4" high. All that remained was to find a decorative topper that would suit the intended recipient, and to paint the spool a coordinating colour.

Any flat-backed embellishment or novelty button will work as a topper, and they come in a great variety of styles and themes. (I pulled these ones from my bead/button stash). The bauble can be fixed to the top of the spool with a strong adhesive such as Goop or E-6000.



I didn't end up using the novelty buttons . . . yet. Instead, I opted for badge/buttons made on my 7/8" Tecre machine – not only are they an exact fit for the tops of the spools, but I can personalize with any motif or image – or even with each person's name, as I did on several of the ones I made for gifts.

The markers were a hit in everyone's stocking. My sister liked the idea so well that she ended up making several for the people on her own gift list. I'd call that a success!

