

Two Sisters Snowflake Ornament

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It's a couple of years since I bought two of these laser-cut wooden snowflakes, thinking that I could use them in ornament-making, and I've been waiting for the right project to come along.



The blank centre of these snowflakes just cries out for a round motif, like, say, a flat-backed button (!), but I hadn't yet found the right project.



I had only the two snowflakes, so I couldn't use them to make a set of ornaments for everyone in the family. I set them aside to wait for inspiration to strike.

A couple of years went by, and then – boom! One day, while going through my old photos looking for a particular image for one of my other projects, I happened across two vintage photos that were just what I needed to finish up the snowflake ornaments: Two sisters, two different ages. Perfect.



To prepare the two photos, I did some editing and removed backgrounds. I don't have photoshop or equivalent, so isolating the sisters' images by hand took a bit of time.

Then I added in a pretty blue/white snowflake print behind the black and white figures to bring some colour and a Christmassy feeling.



The snowflakes were already painted white, but I thought they needed an extra bit of sparkle, so I added a light coating of iridescent glitter glue around the scalloped edges.

Once the designs were ready and the glitter glue had dried on the snowflakes, I made up the two buttons as usual, omitting the pinbacks.



I used GOOP to attach each button to the centre of the snowflake, where it slightly overlapped the inner-most round of cuts, leaving a lacy edge all around.



The ornament looks pretty so far, but I still felt that it could use some additional trim. I tried out several different options from my stash, and finally selected this pale blue/silver twisted cord.

twisted cord. I cut a length to just fit around the the button, then secured it in place using tacky glue.



The trim perfectly complements the colours of the ornament and completes the cameo effect. Beautiful.





I completed my ornament with a cluster of bells and baubles, which lend a festive air. In among the cluster I included a spinner (the kind used on fishing lures) so the ornament can rotate freely when it's hanging on the tree. I think it's gorgeous.



I made two of these special memory ornaments, one for my sister and one for myself. We'll treasure them not only for those glimpses of our young selves, but also for the presence they capture but don't actually show: my dad, who took both of these photos.



I know Dad would have loved this ornament, as he loved all things Christmas. He's been gone now for a long time, but in our memories, he remains as close as when he snapped the shutter all those years ago, preserving these moments into a future that would eventually take him from us.

Back then, time moved at a more leisurely pace, and the interval between Christmases seemed long and luxurious. But now, as I finish up this year's preparations, I marvel at how rapidly each one succeeds the last.

Tempis fugit, a friend wrote in my high school yearbook. Time flies. I didn't realize back then just how true it would turn out to be, or how precious the memories of such simple moments would become.