

Vintage-Style Rosette Ornament

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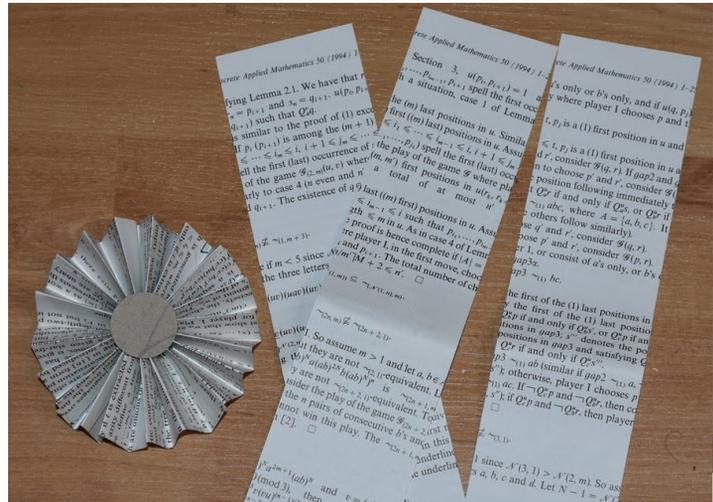
Back around the turn of the 20th century, Victorian crafters fashioned a variety of ornaments out of "scraps" -- die-cut images and bits of paper -- to make pretty embellishments for their Christmas trees.



I've long been intrigued with these rosette-style ornaments, made originally from book and magazine pages, and decided to try my hand at a few for my own tree and for my friend's November Ornament of the Month.

I started with this vintage Santa image on a simple rosette and embellished it with tinsel fragments and glitter. I quite like the effect.

I made my rosettes using off-prints of an academic paper, cut into 1 1/2" strips, then accordion-folded and glued into a rosette. (If you need more detail, there are tons of instructions available on line).



The journal paper I was using was quite thin, so I podgied my rosette to give it a bit of heft.

When it was dry, I rolled the edge of each rosette in glue and then in glitter. I added a glitter stem for hanging and glued vintage images into the center of the ornament.



I thought the ornaments needed a bit more sparkle, so I cut some iridescent garland into tiny fragments and tucked them into every second fold, just beneath the center image, and held them in place with some tacky glue.

Ta-da! Glitz!

Sylvester Junior is vintage enough to look good on one of these ornaments, and this one will look great on our Looney Tunes tree.



A couple of general comments: I used sepia-toned “antique” Mod Podge on this and the Santa ornament, but in future I think I’ll stay with regular Mod Podge. Also, the iridescent tinsel came out looking a bit yellowish in the photos, but in real life it’s got sparkle but little color.

Even with all the lovely ornaments that are available commercially today, these vintage-style paper ornaments are still pretty enough to hold their own on the tree, bringing a touch of nostalgia and tradition.

