

FUNKY TREES

By Anne Glynis Davis

If you don't have Christmas in your heart,
You won't find it under the tree.

If you want to add a really funky touch to your decorations this Christmas, why not have a go at making your own cone and pyramid shaped trees. What's more they are really easy to do, will be a unique feature for your home and all the family can join in with the project, as well. All you need to get started is some card, paints and a few embellishments made from scrap materials. Happy tree making!

Getting Started:

- To make a cone shape out of card, firstly tie a piece of string or bias tape to a pen. Then pin the other end of the tape to the corner of a piece of card. Draw an arc from one side of the card to the other as shown in diagram 1. Cut out along the arc line. Bend the card into a cone shape and secure on the inside with sticky tape.

- To make a pyramid shape out of card, draw four identical equilateral triangles (all 60° angles), each with a small tab for gluing as shown in diagram 2. Fold the tabs. Glue the tab of one triangle to the tab free side of the next triangle. Repeat until all four triangles are attached. Let dry.

Diagram 1

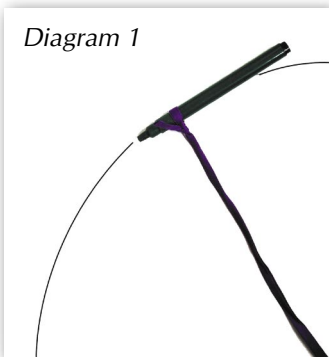
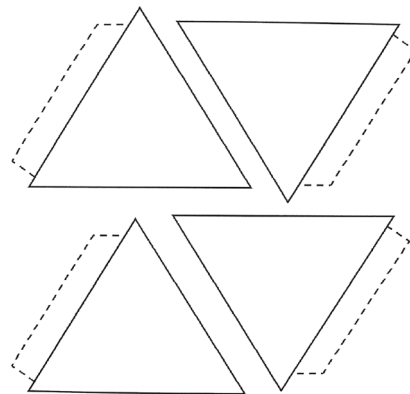


Diagram 2



You Will Need:

- Sheets of card
- A pen
- Scissors
- A length of string or bias tape
- A ruler
- A protractor
- Brushes
- PVA glue
- Sticky tape
- Acrylic paints
- Gel pens or glitter glue
- Embellishments - strips of funky foam, gift-wrap, fabric, fringing, sequin mesh etc.

Crafty Tips:

- You can make your cardboard cones and pyramids trees in a variety of different sizes. It's a good idea to make a paper template of a cone or triangle first before cutting into your card. You can then scale your template up or down, as required.
- Go one step further. Search the Internet for craft and maths sites for kids. You can often find projects that will show you how to make some really unusual 3-D shapes out of card.

How To Make Funky Trees:

1. Paint your cone or pyramid shape. Let dry. Apply a second coat to give a rich effect.
2. Cut some long strips of paper, fabric, funky foam etc. You could snip the lengths at intervals to make a fringe or alternatively, accordion fold the strip and cut out a decorative border of holly, trees, snowmen etc. Glue the strips at intervals to your shape, leaving some of the painted background to show through.
3. To finish, write the names of family members on your tree using gel pens or glitter glue to add a personal touch. Leave to dry thoroughly.
4. Arrange your trees to decorate a room. Small trees make an ideal centerpiece for a dining table during the festive season.

