

# Holiday Crafting With Books

How to update your old books into clever holiday decorations.

**D**o you have a stack of old books that are too old for the shelves and need a second life? Try using them in your holiday crafting programs for a solution that de-clutters your space and adds the element of upcycling.

## Book Ribbon Ornaments



### What You Need:

*Clear fillable ornaments, old books, scissors, a paper shredder, ribbon and glitter (optional)*

### Directions:

1. Tear pages out of your old books and cut off the empty margins.
2. Curl the book pages with scissors, much like you curl wrapping ribbon.
3. Stuff your book curls into the clear ornament at top. You can also add a little bit of glitter in the ornament if you'd like.
4. Replace the ornament's top and tie with ribbon.



## Printed Pinecones



### What You Need:

*Old books, scissors, cardstock, spray adhesive, 1" craft punches, Styrofoam balls, craft glue, ribbon or jute, brown paint and a small cup*

### Directions:

1. Tear the pages from an old book. Cut off the blank margins.
2. Spray two sheets of cardstock with adhesive.
3. Punch circles from book page covered cardstock with 1" Craft Punch. You will need quite a few to cover each styrofoam.
4. Cover the cardstock with your book pages, pressing down as you apply. Cut off any overhang.
5. Starting at the pointed end of the Styrofoam® ball, put a spot of glue on the tip. Place a curled circle here. (This is the bottom of the ornament.)
6. Glue and layer circles around the first curled circle. (Curl the circles).
7. Continue layering circles one row at a time. Overlap them as you continue around the ball. As you go up, curl the circles less.
8. When the ornament is almost covered, make a loop from the jute. Center and glue the loop to the top of the ball. This is your hanging loop.
9. Finish covering the ornament with the circles.
10. Antique the ornament by brushing on and wiping off very diluted brown paint. Let dry.

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11. Glue and wrap as you go the very top 2"-3" of the ornament with jute.
12. Finish by tying a bow using the red jute ribbon at the bottom of the hanging loop.

### TIP:

Coat Styrofoam® ball with gesso and let dry before hot gluing elements.



## Desktop Book Tree



### What You Need:

*Old books, Exacto knife, dry adhesive, glitter and craft glue*

### Directions:



1. Grab some old books and remove their covers.



2. Count out 30 pages of your book. It may help for you to use the page numbers.



3. Use your knife to slice down the spine where you've partitioned off your 30 pages.



4. Repeat steps two and three. Now, you should have two sets of 30 pages each.



5. Take one of your sets and lie it flat on the table so that the spine is facing left. Grab the top right corner and fold it down so that the edge of the corner is touching the spine. Just like folding a paper airplane, make sure the edges are flush with the book's remaining spine.



6. Continue to do this until all pages are folded.



7. Take the other set of 30 pages and flip it so that the spine is on the right. Repeat the folding steps.



8. Hold the book and brush glue on the edges with the folds.



9. Dip in glitter and shake off the excess. Gently separate the pages so the glue doesn't adhere the pages together.



10. Lay the pages down and liberally apply dry adhesive to the front and the last page.



11. Press the two edges of each set together lining up the edges. Open the pages and curl around until you can do the same to both sides.



12. Sit up and let it dry. 🍷

## Want More Holiday Upcycling Ideas?

- Old jars and tiny toys can easily be turned into winter wonderland snow globes with Martha Stewart's snow globe tutorial on [www.marthastewart.com](http://www.marthastewart.com).



- Felt, pinecones and even old fabric swatches can be combined to create one of a kind wreaths. [www.countryliving.com](http://www.countryliving.com)



- Find new ways to display all of your holiday cards with ideas from [www.bhg.com/christmas/crafts/christmas-card-projects/](http://www.bhg.com/christmas/crafts/christmas-card-projects/)

