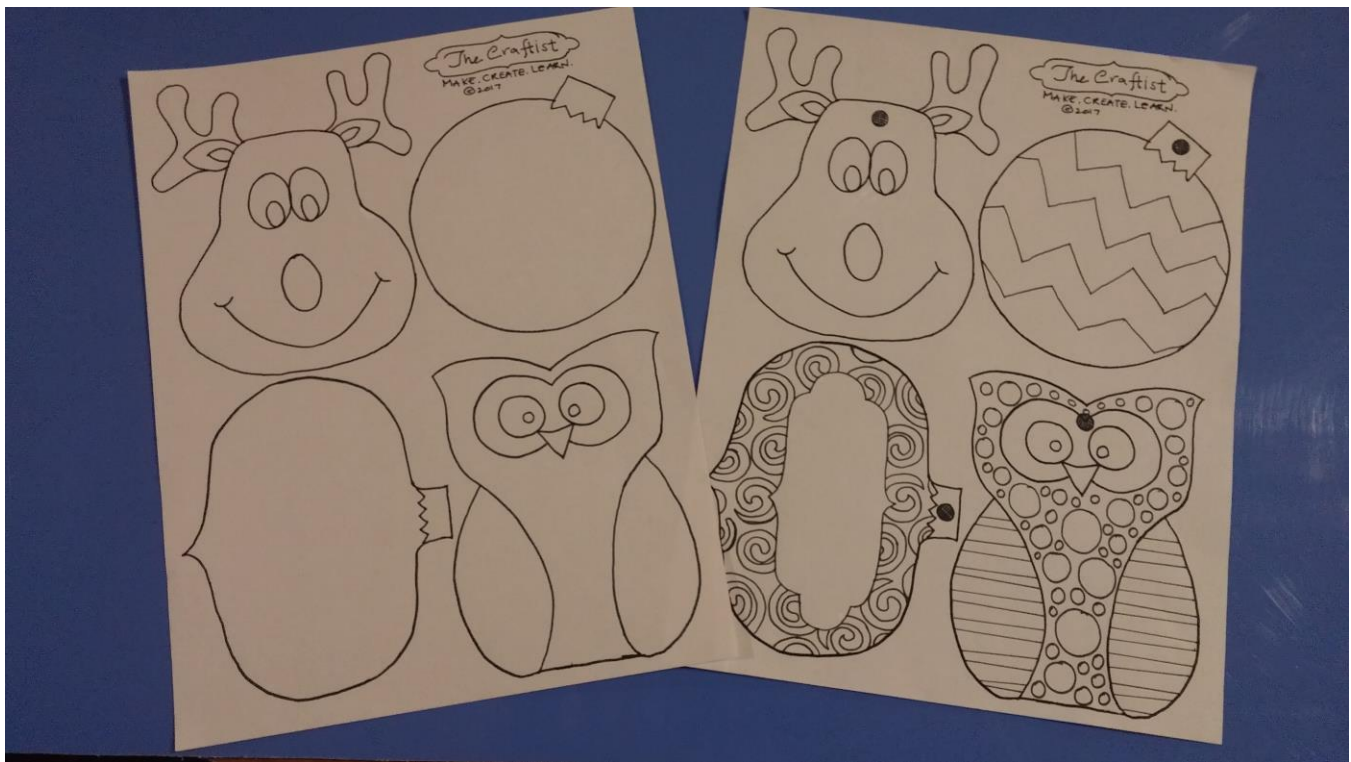




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Shrink Plastic Holiday Ornaments

Shrink plastic has always been one of my favorite craft supplies. It can be cut, punched out, stamped, and colored, and then it does that cool thing in the oven when you bake it. The plastic gets something like 9 times smaller and thicker in just about a minute. Kids (and adults like me) always say, "Woohoo! Look at that!" every time.



Supplies and equipment:

- Shrink plastic (several brands are out there, usually found in the kids' section at craft stores or online)
- Pencils
- Colored pencils and/or permanent markers

- Scissors and/or large paper punches
- Single hold punch

Instructions:

1. Print out the templates and trace designs onto shrink plastic. You can also draw freehand or use large ink stamps. Write and color on the rough side of the shrink plastic sheet (instead of the shiny side). Colored pencils or permanent markers work best.
2. Cut out the shape and punch a hole in the ornament to hang it from.
3. Preheat oven to 325°F. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil, and place your ornaments on the baking sheet, making sure the pieces don't touch.
4. Bake for 45 seconds to 1 minute. During baking, the ornament will curl up and bend, but when it's done, it will lay flat. Remove from oven and cool completely before handling. String and hang on the Christmas tree, in the window or from your car's rearview mirror.



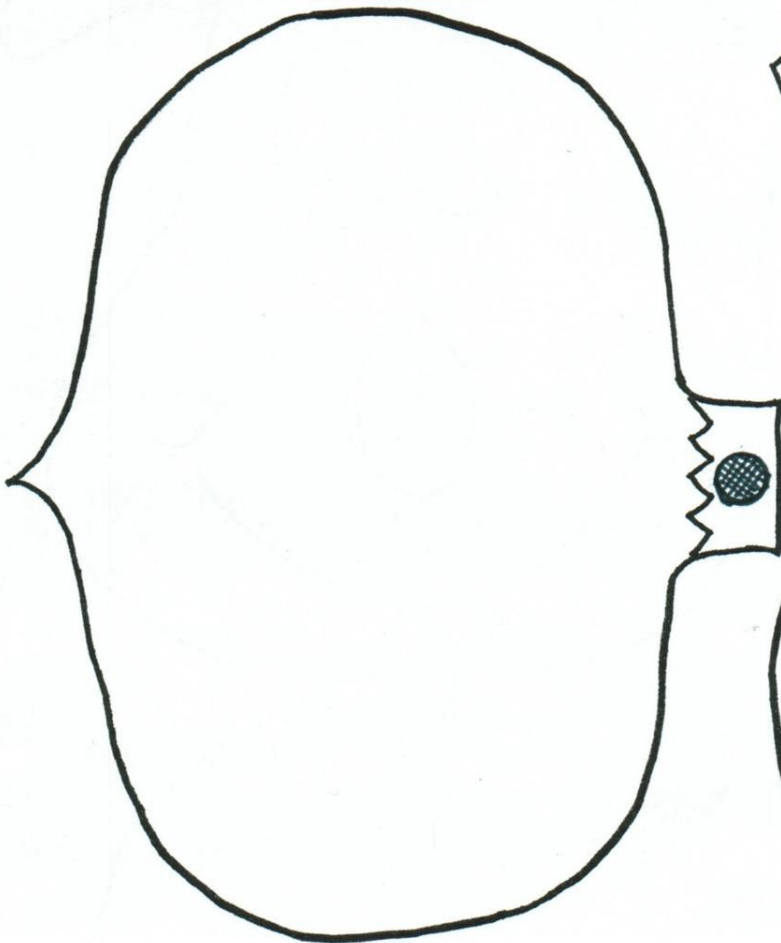
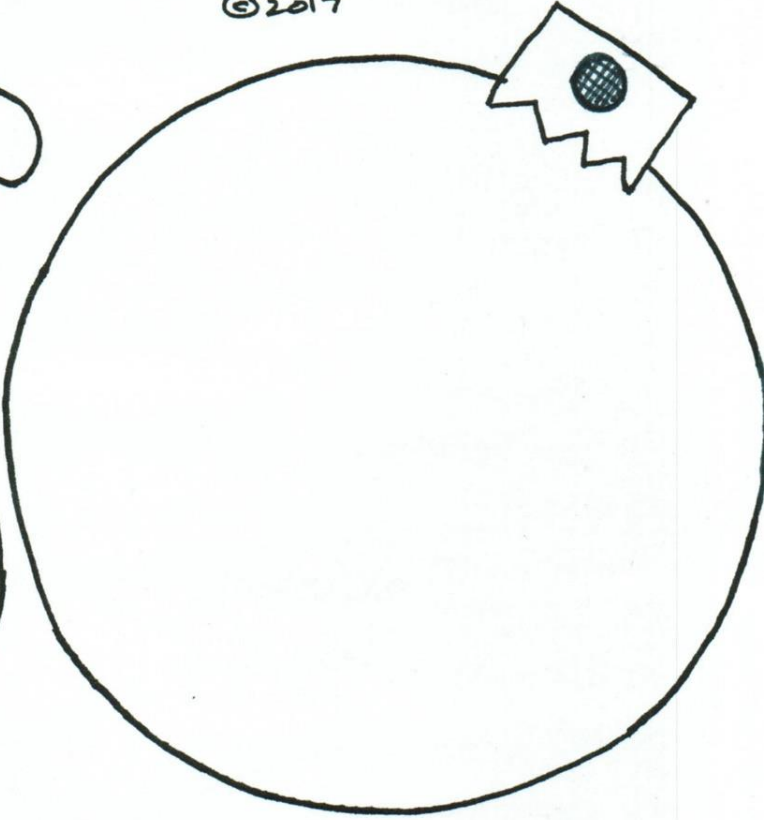
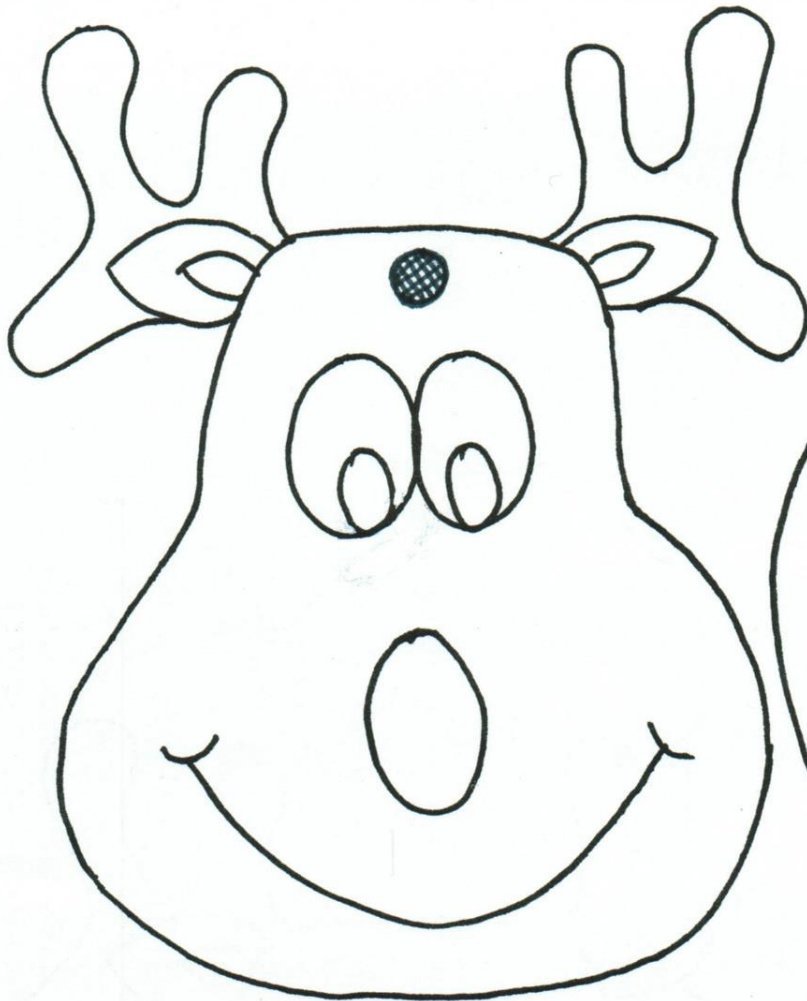
Tips

- Permanent markers more vibrant; colored pencils are less messy. If you use permanent markers, take care not to smear colors while the ink dries. You can also write over colors after the background marker ink has dried. This also applies to ink from stamps.
- Start with a basic shape that is about 4-inches by 6-inches or larger; a 4 x 6 inch shape ends up about 1.5 by 2.5 inches after baking.
- Shrink plastic is a little brittle, so practice cutting out shapes.
- Remember to punch holes for hangers BEFORE you bake the shrink plastic. You can also punch holes to hang other ornaments from the main ornament (like the three circles in the last picture)

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