



## The historic origins of the modern Christmas card

Christmas cards originated with an English nobleman who yearly wrote Christmas letters to friends and family.

One year—1843—he didn't have the time, and so commissioned an artist to design a card to which he could just add a note. By the 1860's Christmas cards had caught on in England, and shortly afterward crossed the ocean to America.

Today Americans exchange some 3 billion Christmas cards each year. What with the rising prices of cards and postage, it's a custom that can be costly. No wonder so many people are now making their own.

Here are a few ideas, which are easy and fun to make:

First, find envelopes, then cut colored paper or card stock to fit. For a design, cookie cutters are one quick and sure trick, especially for the novice designer.

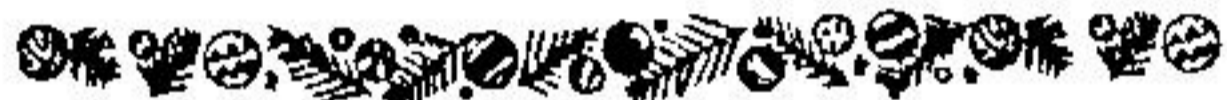
Trace a single tree or star, or

make a pattern of several. Fill in the outline with scraps of fabric, glitter, bits of pretty giftwrap, whatever. You could accent the outline by glueing on contrasting glitter or yarn.

Hint: to keep fabric from ravelling, glue tissue paper to the back and let dry before cutting.

Here is another idea: You can make shiny paint by mixing Elmer's Glue-All and food coloring. Mix in small applicator bottles of Elmer's—red in one, green in another, and so on. Then apply direct from the bottle in dots or lines. Or, mix in small paper cups and apply with toothpicks or paint brushes.

Once you've started card-making, you'll find yourself thinking of all sorts of ideas. You don't have to be an artist to make cut-and-glue Christmas cards—all you need is a sense of fun!



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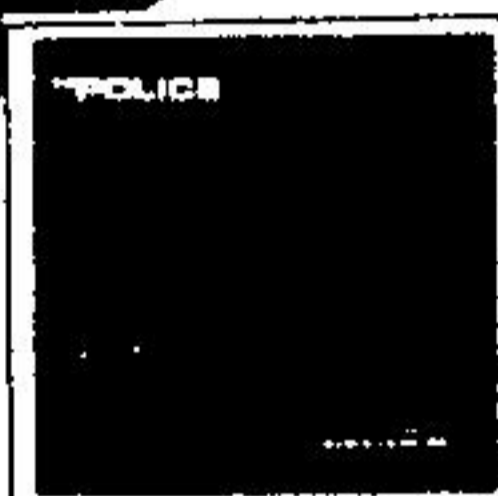
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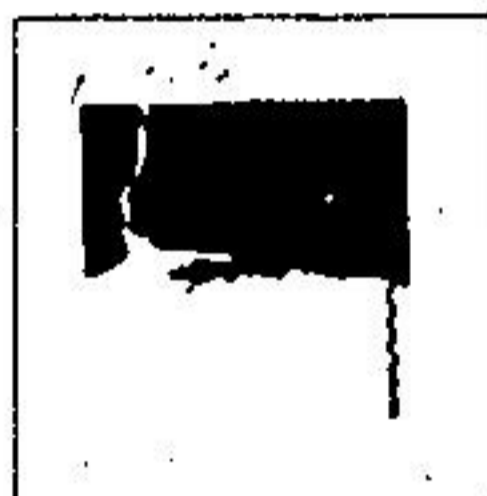
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