



18 cm
8 cm

Fabric Pinecone Ornament Tutorial

Step by Step Sewing Guide with Measurements (CM)

Finished Size:
Height: 18 cm
Width: 8 cm

Materials

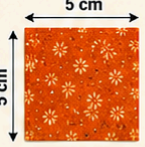
- Fabrics (cotton quilting) 6-8 coordinating prints
- Ribbon (2.5 cm wide)
- Small pinecone (optional)
- Decorative berries, leaves and evergreen sprigs (optional)
- Foam egg or cone (18 cm height)
- Fabric glue or hot glue
- Sewing needle and matching thread
- Scissors, pins, ruler





Fabric Cut Sizes

Cut squares in different colors/prints:



5 cm

You will need about 50-60 squares (5 cm x 5 cm)

Foam Base



18 cm
8 cm

Use a foam egg or cone (18 cm height x 8 cm width).

Main Techniques (Key)


Running Stitch (temporary hold)


Hand Sewing

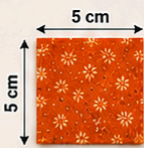

Fold and Press


Pinning


Glue (optional)


Bow Making

1 Cut the Fabric Squares



5 cm
5 cm

Cut 50-60 squares measuring 5 cm x 5 cm in coordinating fabrics.

2 Fold the Squares



Fold each square diagonally to form a triangle and press with your fingers or an iron.

3 Prepare the Base



Add a hanging ribbon (about 12 cm) to the top of the foam base using glue or a pin.

4 First Row



Pin or glue the first row of triangles around the bottom of the base, with the folded edge up and the point down.

5 Continue Adding Rows



Add the next rows, overlapping the triangles. Each new row covers the top of the previous row. Use different fabrics to create a beautiful pattern.

6 Complete the Pinecone



Continue row by row until you reach the top of the base. Secure each triangle with pins, hand stitches or glue.

7 Add the Top Decorations



Make a bow with ribbon (about 25 cm). Glue the bow, pinecone, berries, leaves and evergreen sprigs to the top.

8 Back View



Secure all elements well on the back.

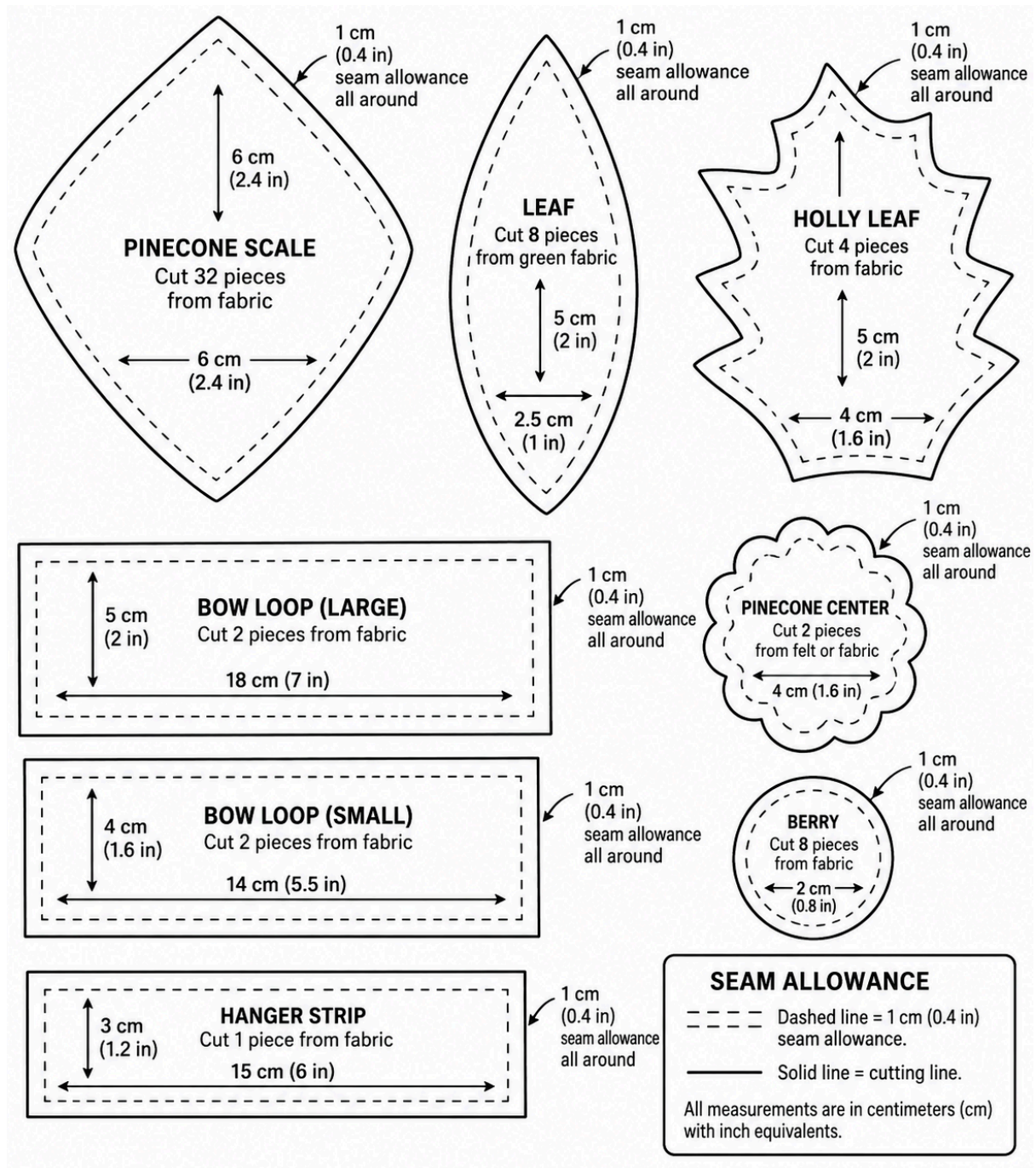
9 Finished Ornament



Your fabric pinecone ornament is ready!

Tips

- ✓ Use cotton quilting fabric for best results.
- ✓ Mix patterns and colors for a beautiful effect.
- ✓ You can hand sew or use hot glue.
- ✓ Adjust the size of the squares for a larger or smaller ornament.
- ✓ Add natural or artificial decorations to personalize your design.
- ✓ This ornament is perfect for Christmas décor, wreaths, or as a handmade gift.



Fabric Pinecone Ornament Tutorial – Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Guide

Creating a Fabric Pinecone Ornament is a wonderful way to transform small pieces of cotton fabric into a beautiful handmade decoration. With its overlapping fabric triangles,

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warm autumn colors, elegant ribbon bow, and natural embellishments, this ornament resembles a real pinecone while adding a charming patchwork touch to your seasonal décor.

This Fabric Pinecone Ornament Tutorial follows the illustrated sewing guide, using 5 cm fabric squares, an 18 cm foam base, and simple folding, pinning, and optional hand-sewing techniques. The project is suitable for beginners and experienced crafters who enjoy quilting cotton, fabric ornaments, and handmade holiday decorations.

The finished ornament measures approximately 18 cm tall and 8 cm wide, depending on the foam shape and decorations. You can use it as a Christmas tree ornament, autumn decoration, wreath accent, or handmade gift.

Step 1: Gather Your Materials and Prepare the Fabric

Before beginning your DIY Fabric Pinecone Ornament, organize your supplies on a clean, flat work surface. Having everything ready makes folding, arranging, and attaching the fabric pieces much easier.

Materials Needed

- Cotton quilting fabric: 6–8 coordinating colors or prints.
- Fabric squares: Approximately 50–60 squares, each measuring 5 cm × 5 cm.
- Foam egg or cone: Approximately 18 cm tall and 8 cm wide.
- Ribbon for hanging: Approximately 12 cm long.
- Decorative ribbon for the bow: Approximately 25 cm long and 2.5 cm wide.
- Small decorative pinecone: One piece for the top, optional.

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- **Artificial berries:** Orange, red, or other coordinating colors.
- **Decorative leaves and evergreen sprigs:** Natural-looking or artificial.
- **Fabric glue or hot glue:** For attaching fabric and decorations.
- **Straight pins:** Preferably with small heads for securing fabric to the foam.
- **Hand-sewing needle and matching thread:** For optional stitching and securing the bow.
- **Fabric scissors or rotary cutter.**
- **Ruler or quilting ruler.**
- **Iron:** Optional, for pressing the folded fabric.

Choosing the Fabric Colors

The illustrated ornament features a beautiful autumn-inspired combination of orange, brown, cream, and gingham fabrics.

For a similar appearance, choose the following fabric styles:

1. **Bright orange cotton with small floral prints.**
2. **Dark brown cotton with golden flowers.**
3. **Cream fabric with delicate autumn motifs.**
4. **Orange-and-white gingham fabric.**
5. **Rust-colored fabric with tiny printed designs.**
6. **Warm brown fabric with subtle patterns.**

Mixing different patterns creates the layered patchwork appearance that makes this fabric pinecone decoration so attractive.

Choose fabrics with similar weights. Lightweight quilting cotton is ideal because it folds neatly without creating excessive bulk.

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Helpful tip: Pre-press the fabric before cutting. Smooth fabric produces cleaner triangles and a more professional finished ornament.

Step 2: Cut and Fold the Fabric Squares

The most important technique in this project is creating the folded fabric triangles that form the pinecone scales.

The illustrated tutorial uses 5 cm × 5 cm fabric squares, folded diagonally to create pointed triangular pieces.

Cutting the Fabric

Place your selected fabrics on a cutting mat or flat surface.

Using a quilting ruler and rotary cutter, cut approximately 50–60 squares, each measuring exactly 5 cm × 5 cm.

For a balanced color distribution, you can prepare approximately:

- **10 orange floral squares.**
- **10 dark brown squares.**
- **10 cream printed squares.**
- **10 orange gingham squares.**
- **10 rust-colored squares.**
- **10 additional coordinating squares.**

The number of squares is approximate. The actual quantity depends on the foam shape, spacing, and amount of overlap.

Keep the squares organized by color so you can easily alternate prints while assembling the ornament.

Folding the Triangles

Follow these instructions for each fabric square:

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1. Place one fabric square on the table with its right side facing down.
2. Bring one corner diagonally toward the opposite corner.
3. Align the edges carefully to form a triangle.
4. Press the folded edge with your fingers or a warm iron.
5. Keep the triangle folded, with the printed side facing outward.
6. Repeat until all the fabric squares have been folded.

Each folded triangle should have a clean diagonal edge and a pointed tip.

For best results, press all the triangles before attaching them to the foam base.

Understanding the Folding Technique

This technique creates overlapping fabric scales without requiring complicated patchwork piecing.

Each triangle is placed over the previous row, hiding the attachment points and creating the textured appearance of a pinecone.

Because the fabric pieces are folded rather than stitched together, the project can be completed using pins and glue.

However, you can also use a few hand stitches to secure decorative elements.

Important: Do not unfold the triangles after pressing. Maintaining the folded shape is essential for creating the layered design.

Step 3: Prepare the Foam Base and Attach the First Fabric Rows

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The foam base provides the structure of the ornament. Its rounded shape allows the fabric triangles to overlap naturally, creating the characteristic pinecone silhouette.

Preparing the Foam Base

Choose a foam egg or cone measuring approximately:

- Height: 18 cm.
- Width: 8 cm.

The illustrated ornament has a wider upper section and a narrower lower section, producing a tapered pinecone shape.

Before attaching the fabric, inspect the foam to ensure it is clean, dry, and free from loose pieces.

Adding the Hanging Ribbon

Cut approximately 12 cm of ribbon.

Fold the ribbon in half to create a hanging loop.

Position both ribbon ends together at the top center of the foam base.

Secure the ends using a strong pin or a small amount of foam-safe adhesive.

For additional strength, you can reinforce the attachment with a small fabric tab.

Make sure the loop is positioned vertically so the finished ornament hangs straight.

Safety note: If using hot glue, choose a low-temperature setting suitable for foam. High heat can damage or melt certain foam materials.

Attaching the First Row of Triangles

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The illustrated tutorial begins attaching the folded triangles around the lower portion of the foam base.

Follow these steps:

1. Place the foam base upright with its narrow end pointing downward.
2. Select one folded fabric triangle.
3. Position the triangle near the lower section of the foam, with its pointed tip facing downward.
4. Secure the upper portion of the triangle using straight pins or a small amount of glue.
5. Place a second triangle beside the first, allowing their edges to overlap slightly.
6. Continue attaching triangles around the circumference until the first row is complete.

The pointed ends should extend downward, resembling the scales of a natural pinecone.

Keep the triangles at approximately the same height so the first row appears even.

Depending on the circumference of your foam base, you may need several triangles to complete the first row.

Creating a Secure Foundation

The first row is especially important because it establishes the spacing and direction of the remaining fabric pieces.

Make sure the upper edges are firmly attached.

If using pins, insert them through the folded fabric into the foam. Keep the pin heads positioned where the next row will cover them.

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If using glue, apply only a small amount near the upper portion of each triangle.

Avoid gluing the pointed ends flat against the foam. Leaving them slightly raised creates a more realistic pinecone texture.

Beginner tip: Arrange the first row with pins before applying permanent glue. This allows you to adjust the spacing until the design looks balanced.

Step 4: Build the Overlapping Pinecone Layers

This step creates the decorative patchwork texture that gives the Fabric Pinecone Ornament its distinctive appearance.

The goal is to cover the entire foam base with overlapping triangles while alternating colors and patterns.

Adding the Second Row

Choose another group of folded fabric triangles.

Position the second row slightly above the first row, allowing the new triangles to overlap the upper attachment areas of the previous row.

For the most attractive result, stagger the triangles so the points fall between the points of the row below.

This arrangement produces a woven, scale-like effect.

Follow these instructions:

- 1. Select a triangle in a contrasting fabric.**
- 2. Position it above the first row.**
- 3. Allow its pointed end to extend over the fabric below.**
- 4. Secure the upper folded portion with a pin or glue.**
- 5. Add more triangles around the foam.**
- 6. Continue until the second row is complete.**

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Try to keep the exposed portions of the triangles similar in length.

Continuing the Remaining Rows

Continue working upward toward the top of the foam base.

Each new row should overlap the previous row enough to hide the attachment points.

As you move upward, the circumference of the foam may change.

Adjust the number of triangles in each row to maintain even coverage.

Do not force too many pieces into a narrow section. Excessive fabric can create bulky areas.

The finished ornament should have a consistent layered texture from the bottom toward the top.

Alternating Colors and Prints

To reproduce the warm patchwork appearance shown in the illustrated guide, alternate fabric colors throughout the ornament.

For example, place an orange floral triangle beside a cream printed triangle, followed by a dark brown triangle.

In the next row, change the sequence.

This prevents identical fabrics from forming large uninterrupted sections.

A balanced combination of light, medium, and dark fabrics creates depth and makes each fabric scale stand out.

Adjusting the Overlap

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The amount of overlap determines how full the pinecone appears.

A generous overlap creates a dense ornament with shorter visible scales.

A smaller overlap exposes more of each triangle and creates a longer, more open appearance.

For this project, use enough overlap to conceal the foam and the attachment points without flattening the fabric.

Check the ornament from all sides as you work.

Securing Each Layer

The illustrated guide allows three attachment methods:

Pinning: Insert pins through the upper section of each folded triangle and into the foam.

Gluing: Apply a small amount of foam-safe fabric or craft adhesive beneath the upper edge of each triangle.

Hand sewing: Use small stitches to secure fabric folds to adjacent fabric pieces where helpful. Since the base is foam, sewing alone will not attach the fabric directly to it.

You may combine these methods for additional stability.

For a decoration intended to be handled frequently, use a combination of secure pinning and suitable adhesive.

Keep sharp pins fully embedded and avoid leaving exposed points.

Completing the Upper Section

Continue adding rows until you reach the top of the foam base.

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Position the final triangles carefully around the hanging ribbon.

Make sure the last row conceals any remaining exposed foam.

The upper fabric edges do not need to be completely invisible at this stage because the ribbon bow and decorative embellishments will cover them.

Inspect the entire ornament and adjust any uneven triangles.

At this point, the fabric-covered base should resemble a colorful pinecone with overlapping patchwork scales.

Step 5: Make the Decorative Bow and Add Natural Embellishments

The illustrated ornament features a large brown ribbon bow, a miniature pinecone, berries, autumn leaves, and evergreen sprigs.

These embellishments transform the simple fabric-covered base into a beautiful seasonal decoration.

Making the Ribbon Bow

Cut approximately 25 cm of brown ribbon, preferably 2.5 cm wide.

A satin, grosgrain, or wired ribbon works well for this design.

To create the bow:

1. Lay the ribbon horizontally on your work surface.
2. Form one loop on the left side.
3. Form a matching loop on the right side.
4. Bring the loops together at the center.
5. Wrap matching thread around the center several times.
6. Pull the thread tightly and tie a secure knot.

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Adjust the loops until the bow looks full and symmetrical.

For a larger decorative effect, gently spread the ribbon loops outward.

If using wired ribbon, shape the loops with your fingers.

Attaching the Bow

Position the bow at the top of the ornament, directly below the hanging loop.

Secure it with matching thread, a decorative pin, or a small amount of suitable glue.

Arrange the bow so its loops extend outward from the upper portion of the pinecone.

Make sure the hanging ribbon remains visible and unobstructed.

Adding the Miniature Pinecone

Choose a small natural or artificial pinecone.

Place it in the center of the ribbon bow.

Attach it using a suitable craft adhesive.

Hold it in position until the adhesive sets.

The miniature pinecone creates a natural focal point and complements the fabric scales below.

Decorating With Berries and Leaves

Select several small artificial berries in orange or red.

Arrange them beneath the miniature pinecone.

Add decorative autumn leaves around the bow.

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For a design similar to the illustrated ornament, use warm orange leaves and dark green evergreen sprigs.

Position the evergreen sprigs so they extend outward from both sides of the bow.

This creates a balanced decorative arrangement.

Attach the embellishments individually, checking the overall appearance after each addition.

Avoid using too many decorations, as they may hide the beautiful folded fabric design.

Creating a Natural-Looking Arrangement

The most attractive arrangement combines different shapes and textures.

The smooth ribbon contrasts with the textured pinecone, while the berries add small touches of bright color.

The evergreen sprigs provide structure and help frame the top of the ornament.

For a Christmas version, you can replace the autumn leaves with holly leaves and use red berries.

For an autumn version, orange leaves and warm brown ribbon create a seasonal appearance.

Step 6: Finish the Back and Secure the Ornament

Once the decorative elements are attached, inspect the ornament from every angle.

The back should look as neat as the front, with overlapping fabric triangles covering the foam base.

Checking the Back

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Turn the ornament carefully.

Look for loose fabric corners, exposed foam, visible pin heads, or uneven rows.

Secure any loose triangles using pins or a small amount of adhesive.

Check that the decorative ribbon is firmly attached.

The ornament should maintain its shape when gently handled.

Reinforcing the Hanging Loop

Hold the ornament by the hanging ribbon for a few moments over a soft surface.

Check that the ribbon remains firmly attached and that the ornament hangs vertically.

If the ornament tilts to one side, adjust the top decorations or the position of the hanging loop.

For additional reinforcement, secure the ribbon ends with a small fabric tab and suitable adhesive.

Allow all glue to cure completely according to the manufacturer's instructions before hanging the ornament.

Final Shaping

Gently lift any fabric points that have become flattened during assembly.

Adjust the bow loops and reposition the decorative greenery.

Check the lower tip of the ornament to ensure the fabric scales form a neat, tapered shape.

Remove any visible loose threads or dried glue.

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Your handmade fabric pinecone ornament is now complete!

Step 7: Sewing Techniques and Crafting Tips

Although this project does not require a sewing machine, several traditional sewing and quilting techniques are useful.

Main Sewing Techniques

Technique	How It Is Used
Running stitch	Temporarily holds fabric or secures small decorative elements.
Hand sewing	Reinforces the ribbon bow and selected fabric details.
Fold and press	Creates neat triangular fabric scales.
Pinning	Holds folded triangles securely against the foam base.
Fabric gluing	Provides an optional method for attaching fabric and decorations.
Bow making	Creates the decorative ribbon arrangement at the top.

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Helpful Tips for Better Results

Use quilting cotton. Cotton quilting fabric is easy to fold, press, and manipulate, making it ideal for this project.

Choose coordinating prints. Mixing floral fabrics, gingham, and small geometric patterns creates a rich patchwork appearance.

Maintain consistent square sizes. Cutting all the fabric squares to 5 cm × 5 cm helps produce evenly sized triangles.

Avoid excessive glue. Too much adhesive can stiffen the fabric or create visible marks.

Work slowly around the foam. Completing one row at a time helps maintain a balanced arrangement.

Keep the fabric points facing downward. This creates the natural pinecone appearance shown in the tutorial.

Check the ornament frequently. Rotate the foam while attaching fabric to prevent gaps or uneven spacing.

Use decorations that are lightweight. Heavy embellishments may cause the ornament to tilt or strain the hanging ribbon.

Handle pins carefully. This is a decorative craft, not a toy. Keep pins and small embellishments away from children and pets.

Step 8: Customize Your Fabric Pinecone Ornament

One of the best features of this DIY fabric ornament pattern is its versatility.

You can use the same folding and layering technique to create ornaments for different seasons and occasions.

Christmas Fabric Pinecone Ornament

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Choose red, green, cream, and gold fabrics.

Add a red satin bow, artificial holly berries, and evergreen sprigs.

The finished ornament will coordinate beautifully with traditional Christmas decorations.

Autumn Fabric Pinecone Ornament

Follow the original color palette using orange, brown, cream, and rust-colored fabrics.

Decorate the top with autumn leaves, orange berries, and a brown ribbon.

This version is ideal for fall wreaths, seasonal displays, and Thanksgiving decorations.

Rustic Farmhouse Pinecone Ornament

Use beige, cream, brown, and muted green fabrics.

Replace the satin ribbon with burlap or linen ribbon.

Add a miniature natural pinecone and simple greenery.

This creates a rustic decoration suitable for farmhouse-style interiors.

Smaller Fabric Pinecone Ornament

To create a smaller ornament, choose a smaller foam base and reduce the fabric square size proportionally.

For example, you could experiment with 4 cm × 4 cm squares on a smaller foam shape.

Test a few folded triangles before cutting the full quantity.

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Smaller ornaments may require fewer fabric squares, depending on the base dimensions and overlap.

Step 9: Display and Care for Your Finished Ornament

Your finished Fabric Pinecone Ornament can be displayed in several ways.

Hang it from a sturdy Christmas tree branch, attach it to a seasonal wreath, or use it as part of a decorative wall arrangement.

It also makes a lovely handmade gift for friends and family members who appreciate quilting, patchwork, and traditional crafts.

For storage, place the ornament in a protective box with enough space to prevent the fabric scales and bow from being crushed.

Keep it away from moisture, direct heat, and prolonged sunlight.

To remove dust, gently brush the surface with a soft, dry brush.

Avoid machine washing or immersing the ornament in water because the foam, glue, and decorative elements may be damaged.

Frequently Asked Questions About Fabric Pinecone Ornaments

1. Is this Fabric Pinecone Ornament suitable for beginners?

Yes. This project is beginner-friendly because it primarily involves cutting fabric squares, folding them into triangles,

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and attaching them to a foam base. No advanced sewing skills are necessary.

2. How many fabric squares are needed?

The illustrated tutorial recommends approximately 50–60 fabric squares measuring 5 cm × 5 cm. The exact number depends on the foam shape and how closely the triangles overlap.

3. What type of fabric works best?

Lightweight cotton quilting fabric is recommended. It holds folds well, comes in many coordinating prints, and does not create excessive bulk.

4. Can I make this ornament without sewing?

Yes. You can assemble the ornament using straight pins and foam-safe adhesive. Hand sewing is optional for reinforcing selected details.

5. Can I use hot glue instead of pins?

Yes, provided the adhesive and temperature are suitable for the foam base. Test the glue on a small hidden area before beginning.

6. What is the finished size?

The illustrated design is approximately 18 cm tall and 8 cm wide, excluding any additional height or width created by the hanging ribbon and decorative bow.

7. Can I use leftover quilting scraps?

Absolutely. This is an excellent project for using small leftover pieces of cotton fabric from quilting and patchwork projects.

8. How can I make the ornament look fuller?

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Increase the overlap between rows and gently lift the pointed ends of the fabric triangles. Avoid attaching the tips completely flat against the foam.

9. Can I make these ornaments for different holidays?

Yes. Simply change the fabric colors, ribbon, and decorative embellishments to match Christmas, autumn, or other seasonal themes.

10. Can I use this design for handmade gifts?

Yes. A fabric pinecone ornament makes a thoughtful handmade gift, especially when personalized with fabrics and colors chosen for the recipient.

Conclusion

The Fabric Pinecone Ornament Tutorial is a creative and approachable way to turn simple quilting cotton squares into a beautiful seasonal decoration. Using approximately 50–60 fabric squares, an 18 cm foam base, and a few decorative accessories, you can create a textured ornament inspired by the natural beauty of pinecones.

The secret to achieving the design shown in the illustrated guide is consistent folding, careful placement, overlapping rows, and a balanced combination of fabric prints. The brown ribbon bow, miniature pinecone, berries, and greenery complete the ornament with an elegant handcrafted finish.

Whether you create an autumn-inspired version in orange and brown or a festive Christmas version in red and green, this DIY fabric pinecone ornament is a lovely addition to your collection of handmade fabric decorations.