



Artist: Siobhán Jordan

# Winter Crown

Dress up with a handmade winter crown. Make some for a party, the pattern is easily adjusted to any theme. I've chosen to make holly for my winter crown as it's one of my favourite plants in the garden and just reminds me of Christmas and winter walks.

1. Make the crown: Cut card into a long strip. The piece I've used is 70cm x 8cm. Connect strips of cereal boxes together using masking tape to make the length. 2. Mark the centre (35cm) and mark out 4 lines at either sides, 2cm apart. Use these as a guide to draw out four spikes for your crown. (You don't have to be super accurate for this to still look like a crown. 3. Cut out. 4. Measure child's head (use the crown you've just made) and connect ends using either tape or a staple. 5. Make the decorations: Layer two layers of fabric on top of each other. On top layer draw out your pattern. I did holly leaves. 6. Stitch around using the up and down 'running' stitch. Leave a gap to fill with stuffing. 7. Fill with stuffing. Gently use the back of a paintbrush or knitting needle to push stuffing into corners being careful not to push through your stitch work! 8. Mark out 3 circles for the berries. Make these larger than you think they need to be. 9. Stitch around your line using the up / down stitch (running stitch) When you are all the way around the circle pull tightly - this will gather the fabric together into a puff ball. Do one circle at a time. Secure with a knot at the end and cut out (make sure you leave some fabric to use for stapling onto crown) 10. Paint your holly and berries. Allow to dry

**Ideas for other crowns:** Christmas tree, Snow flakes, Deer / antlers, Night sky; moon and stars, Robins singing.  
\*Add a ribbon to the top and turn your stitched holly into a beautiful handmade Christmas Tree decoration or wall hanging to enjoy all year round.

**Materials**

- Card - cereal boxes will work really well.
- Fabric - old pillow cases or bed sheets or even an old shirt will be perfect for this
- Needle
- Thread
- Scissors
- Pins
- Stuffing (you can use stuffing from an old cushion or pillow. You could also cut up old pieces of fabric into small stripes and use them to stuff your decorations)
- Paint - I've used green, red and gold glitter paint.
- Stapler and staples - Instead of stapes you can use double sided tape or even stitch your holly onto your crown if you wanted to.

**Important Information:**

Cutting with a scissors is a learned skill, supervision may be needed. Threading a needle can be a little tricky for younger children, they may need help. Staplers can be safe when children know to use them, keep fingers well away from the end of the stapler when pushing down!

**Questions to ask?**

What other things could you make to decorate your crown?  
What's your favourite thing about winter? Could you use this as inspiration to decorate your crown?

