

Patriotic Wreath

Contact Info: Township Main Phone (630) 483-5600

By Linda Kay—Visual Arts Instructor

Email: LKay@hanover-township.org



Supplies:

- 10" Wire Wreath Form
- 12" Wire for hanger
- An Assortment of Red, White and Blue Fabrics, about 4 yards total, Cottons, gingham, muslin, velvet, satin, light weight prints
- An Assortment of Red, White and Blue Ribbons, Patriotic and Metallics are good too
- An Assortment of Netting Fabric in Red, White and Blue
- Scissors, Fabric and Crafting
- Ruler
- Masking Tape
- Clothes Pins or Large Paper Binder Clips
- Optional: 4 Wooden Stars, Tacky Glue

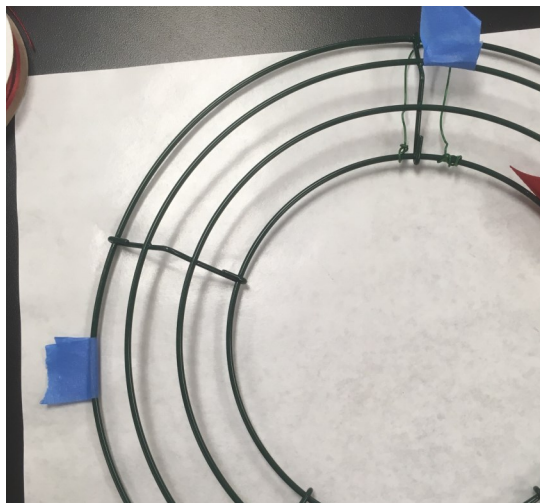
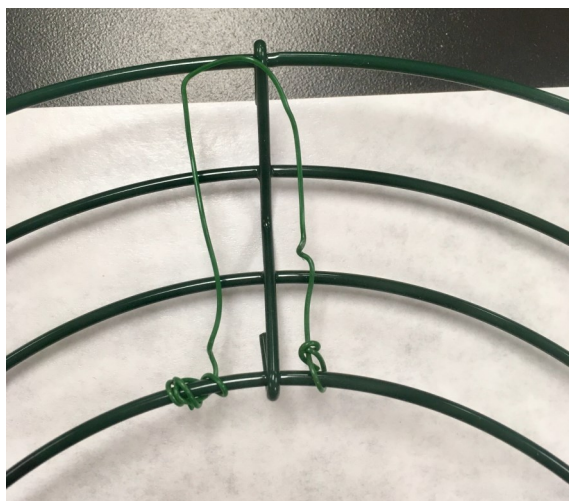
Preparing the Fabric and Ribbons

You will need to cut **a lot of fabric strips and ribbon** before you start so that you don't have to stop and cut each one while assembling the wreath. This will save you a lot of time. You will need at least 4 yards of fabrics and ribbons total to get a nice full and fluffy look to your wreath.

Cut your cotton and velvet fabrics into 8" X 1" strips and stack them into piles by colors. (Reds, Whites, Blues, Silvers, Golds, etc.)

Cut your ribbons into 8" long strips and stack them into piles by colors.

Cut the Veiling fabric into 8" X 6" strips and stack those also by colors.



Preparing the Wreath Form

Using a 12" piece of wire, create a Loop Hanger on the back side of the Wreath Form.

Turn the form over to the right side and place masking tape on the top left 1/4th of the wreath, (9 O'clock to 12 O'clock) . This will become the Blue Section. The remainder of the wreath will be the Red and White section of the wreath.



The Blue Section

Starting on the larger, outer ring of the wreath form between the taped off marks, begin to tie blue fabric strips onto the form. A simple overhand knot is all you will need to attach the fabric strips. Do not tighten too much as some fabric, especially the netting, will tear. Work in one direction that suits you best, either right to left, or left to right consistently throughout your wreath. Slide each knotted piece next to the previous ones so that they are comfortably gathered, but not too tightly. You will want a nice full wreath, not a crowded one. There are 4 rows to cover and you will have plenty of room for covering your wreath.

Arrange your fabric strips in a random order, mixing up fabrics, ribbons and netting. Try to avoid a set pattern. Randomness gives the best outcome.

Add in one of the metallic and/or patriotic fabrics or ribbons from time to time. These will add a nice splash of patriotic color to your finished wreath.



Red and White Section

On the rest of the outer ring of the wreath form, you will be adding striped sections to your wreath. I used 1" wide stripes for this wreath and it gave me a nice mixed blend of colors. If you wish to create more distinctive striping, you will want to use 2" - 3" wide stripes. It is purely up to you and how you wish your wreath to look.

Tie on a selection of white strips to your desired width, then tie on a section of red strips the same width. Slide them close together just as you did for the blue section. Once in a while, add one of your metallic and/or patriotic strips for interest, just as you did in the blue section. Continue around the outer ring until it is all covered with your stripes of white and red.





The Inner Rings

The inner rings of the wreath form get progressively smaller. Your Red and White strips will also get smaller as you work towards the smallest inner ring.

To make working on these inner rings easier, you will want to keep the previous rows of strips out of your way. Use your hand to brush them towards the outer ring with your hand and clip clothes pins or large paper binder clips on them so that they remain flat and out of the way. You may need to move the clips around the wreath as you work.

Continue to add strips in the patterns you established on the outer wreath ring, (blues in the blue section, red and white in the striped section) working in the same direction as before. Don't forget to scatter the metallic and/or patriotic strips occasionally.



Continue adding cut strips on your wreath form, moving the clothes pins to keep the previous strips out of your way and keep to the set pattern of colors. You will need fewer strips as you work on the inner rings. **This project does take some time, so be patient.**



Once you have completely filled your wreath, take some time to straighten up any pieces of fabric that has strayed out of place. Adjust the spacing of the strips if needed. It should be pretty consistent when viewed on the back side of the wreath.

Take a hold of the wreath and shake it out a bit. This will fluff out the fabrics nicely. Lay the wreath on the table front side up and look for any pieces that are too long and trim those a bit with your scissors. Straighten out any wire edged ribbons to show their best sides. Remove any stray threads that have come loose from your fabric strips.



Finally, if you desire, glue the stars into the blue section with tacky glue and let dry.