

ZINNIA PINECONE WREATH

Jacob Leaf turns tradition on its head and makes a summery Christmas wreath by transforming pine cones into heat-loving zinnias.



MATERIALS

You will need • Pine cones • Tin snips • Metal-wire wreath frame (available from Spotlight stores) • Resene Colorpak aerosol spray gun (available at Resene stores) • Small paintbrush • Zinnia colours: I used Resene Half Limerick, Cabaret, Buttercup, Chilean Fire and Turbo (stamen) • Blue wreath: Resene metallics Obelisk, Magnetic and Lucifer • Gold wreath: Resene metallics Gold Dust, Magma and Copper Fire • Hot glue gun and glue sticks • Bendy wire strong enough to hold the weight of a pine cone
Cost: \$34.50 excluding paint.

1 Create a zinnia flower shape by removing some of the scales from the pointy end of the pinecones with tin snips. Leave the very centre scales intact as these will form your zinnia stamen.

2 Apply paint to the pine cones using an aerosol spray gun or a paintbrush. Leave to dry, then apply a second coat, then a third for an even finish. If you want a more rustic look, do only one or two coats.

3 Paint the stamens yellow with a paintbrush.

4 Use a hot glue gun to attach your zinnia flowers to the wreath frame. Exposure to the elements will weaken the glue, so if you are going to hang your wreath outside, wire the bottom end of each pine cone flower to the wreath frame using strong, bendy wire.

5 If you want to create a more traditional Christmas-sy pine cone wreath, leave the pine cones intact and paint them with metallic paints. For added texture and visual interest, wire small bunches of fir, mānuka, tōtara or tussock around the frame, so that they splay out behind the pine cones. ❀

Watch our video on how to make this at: play.stuff.co.nz/details/_6207140550001