

# Wonky Whimsical Christmas Tree Pin Cushions

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I love the whimsical, crooked, Dr. Seuss-ical-ness of this tree! (Can't you just imagine the Who's gathered around it??) It isn't perfect- and I love that. Use this as a pin cushion, or make a whole forest to decorate your home. I have used fun bright fabrics, you can also try primitive colors, wool or flannel. Use any embellishments you like- sequins, buttons, wooden cut-outs, antique ribbon and trims.

### Materials and supplies:

Fabric- 3 different cotton fabrics, scraps each 6" x 10".

Clay flower pot- 2 1/2"

1/2" wide Green ric rac-9" long piece (or use any other ribbon or trim you like-pom pom trim would be really cute!)

Small wooden star for top

Wooden dowel- 3/16" diameter x 12" long

Silver glitter

Embellishments such as sequins, snowflakes, buttons

Straight pins with round or flat heads

Acrylic craft paint- Green, Blue, Gray, White (or any colors that match your fabrics)

Optional- Matte interior varnish

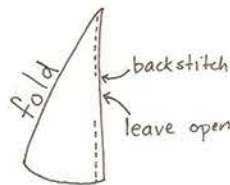
Polyfil, Small piece of Styrofoam, Craft glue such as Aleene's Tacky Glue, Paint brushes,

Toothpick

### Sewing Instructions:

Copy and cut out pattern pieces. Trace onto fabric (for mine, patterns A went on dark green fabric, patterns B went on teal fabric, patterns C went on light green fabric, pin cushion pattern went on light green fabric.) Cut out fabric on line.

Fold tree pieces in half with right sides in, sew along straight edges, leaving a 1" opening to turn and stuff the tree (backstitch at beginning and ending of stitching; 1/4" seam allowance).

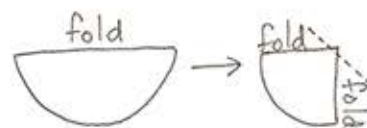


Snip off just the very top of the tree. You really only need to snip off 1 stitch- it is better for the hole to be a little small than too big. Your dowel will go through this hole- you want it to be snug, and the fabric will



stretch over the dowel, so the hole can be quite a bit smaller than the dowel's diameter.

Fold the tree bases (circles) in half, and then in half again. Snip just the tiniest amount from the center fold (again, it's better for the hole to be small than too big.)



Place the tree base (circle) right sides together with the bottom of the tree and pin. Stitch together using a 1/4" seam allowance. Repeat for remaining 2 trees. Turn trees right side out. Use a pointed object like a pencil to push the tree top open.

Stuff trees with polyfil (don't stuff too tightly- you need to fit the dowel through the middle of the tree.) Hand stitch opening closed.

For the pin cushion at the base of the tree- hand gather around edge of fabric circle, about 1/4" from edge of circle, using stitches that are about 1/4" long. Place a small amount of polyfil in the center. Pull thread to gather. Place pin cushion in top of flower pot, adjust thread so that pin cushion just fits inside the top of the flower pot. Tie off threads to secure.

#### Painting Instructions:

Glue a toothpick to the back of the wooden star and allow glue to dry.



Paint 1/3 of the dowel green. When dry, add stripes with blue.

Paint top and upper 1/4" of inside of flower pot white. Paint bottom green. (The white and green will probably require 2 or 3 coats of paint- allow to dry between coats). When dry, add polka dots with blue. (Either you can free-hand the dots with a small round paintbrush, or dip the eraser of a pencil into blue paint and dot onto flower pot. Your dots don't have to be perfect- remember the name of this project is *Wonky Whimsical Christmas Tree*!!)

Hint- to make the painting go faster- you can use a blow drier to make your paint dry lickety-split in between coats.

If desired, apply a coat or 2 of matte interior varnish. This is not a necessary step, but it will give a nice sheen to the project and will prevent build up of fingerprints on the flower pot.

Paint front, sides and back of star, and the top half of the attached toothpick with gray paint. When dry, use a paint brush to apply glue to the front, sides and back of star. Sprinkle with glitter and allow to dry.

Glue ric rac to top of flower pot.

#### Assemble the Tree:

Gently poke the top (unpainted) end of the wooden dowel into the bottom of the large tree and gently work it through the tree so that it comes out the top. Repeat with the medium tree, and then the small tree (the dowel should go about 2/3 of the way through the small tree and NOT poke out the top of the small tree).

Use small dots of glue to secure trees to dowel.

Attach star to top of tree by inserting toothpick into hole in top of tree and secure with a tiny drop of glue.

Place a small square of Styrofoam in flower pot (it should come almost to the top).

Place a thin line of glue around inner rim of flower pot, place pin cushion into pot.

Snip a tiny hole in the center of the pin cushion. Gently push dowel at bottom of tree through pin cushion into Styrofoam.

Decorate tree by securing embellishments with straight pins or glue.



#### No Bake Cookies (courtesy FoodNetwork.com)

8 whole-wheat graham crackers, finely ground

1/4 cup raisins

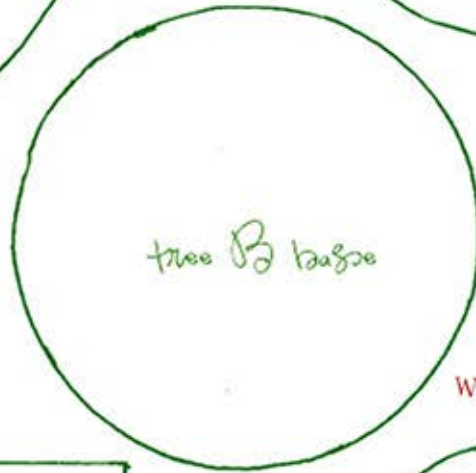
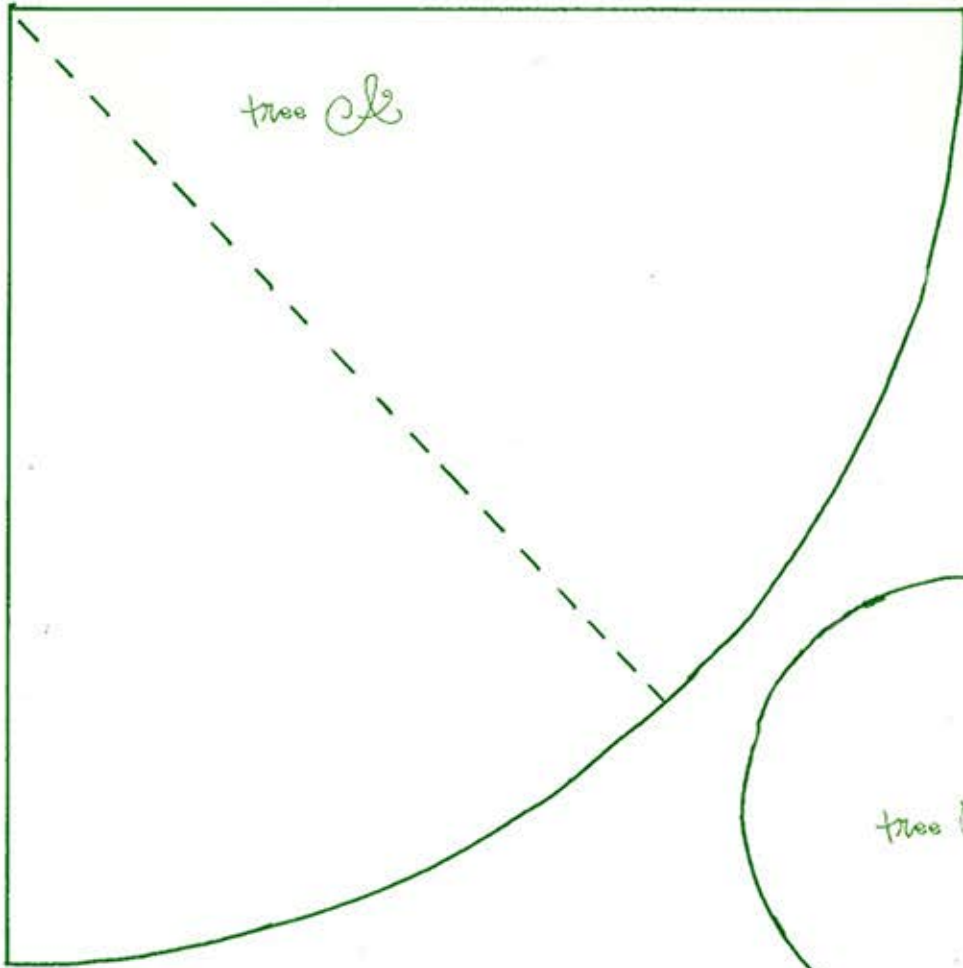
1/4 cup smooth natural peanut butter

2 tablespoons + 2 teaspoons honey

4 teaspoons unsweetened coconut

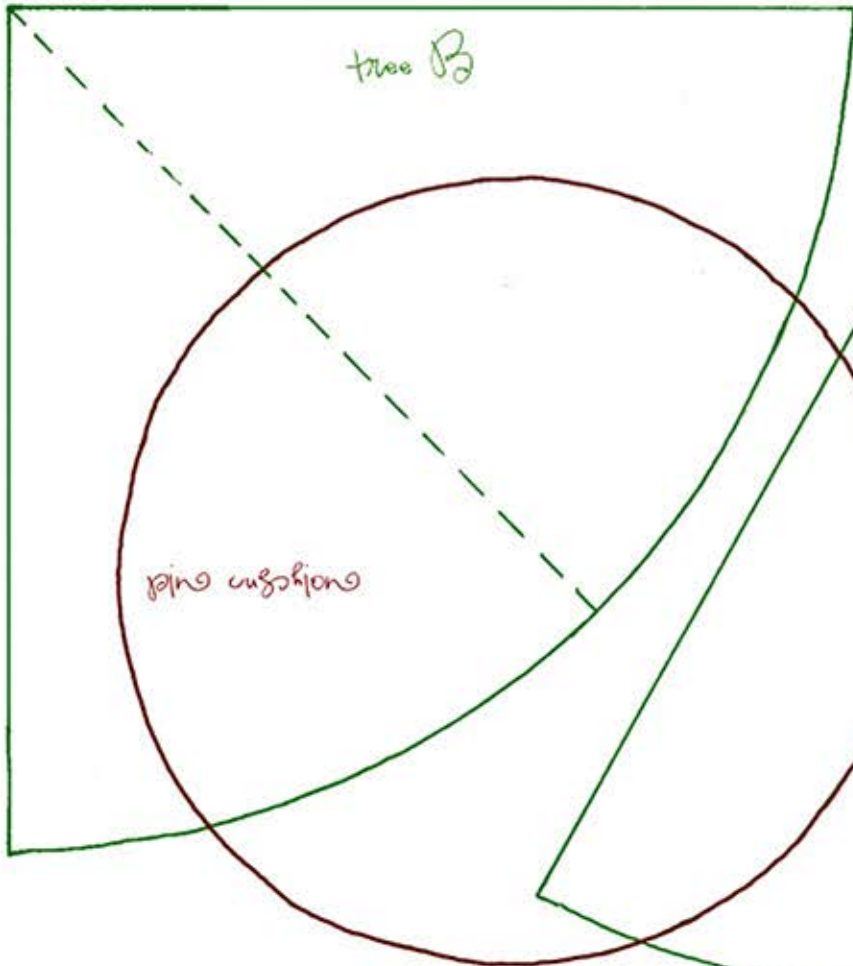
Combine ground graham crackers, raisins, peanut butter & honey in small bowl. Pat into 8 cookies and press lightly in coconut.





Wacky  
Whimsical  
Christmas Tree  
Pine Cushions  
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