

3D Christmas Tree

*please note the amount of fabric required for this project will vary depending on how tight you gather the frills and how much you wrap around the cone, requirements are an approximate only.

Requirements

- *Deco Foam Cone small or large
- *40 to 50 cm (50 cm for large longest layer) of each fabric 2 or 3 combinations per tree work well, these can include stretchy sparkly meshes, tulle, satins as well as quilting cottons.
- *Decorative overlocking thread to co-ordinate (Designer Threads Candlelight, Cameo, Pearl – Wonderfil GlamoRe, Accent, Frutti, Spaghetti)
- *4 spools Polyester overlocking thread
- *beads, costume jewellery etc to embellish
- *hot glue gun & glue sticks
- *4 thread overlocker
- *scissors, rotary cutter, cutting mat etc.
- *if required acrylic paint and paint brush (to paint cone before embellishing)
- *beading foot and 4 metres of beads by the metre (only if adding beaded trim)
- *cording foot and fishing line if wishing to flute the rolled hem.



Preparation

The frills are done in 2 or 3 layers (or more if you wish). I started by cutting the underneath layer, the longest one each layer after that is ½" shorter.

Large cone - Cut 4 strips 4" x WOF underneath layer (mesh or tulle), middle layer 4 strips x 3 ½" x WOF, top layer 4 strips 3" x WOF

Small cone – Cut 3 strips 3" x WOF underneath layer (mesh or tulle), 3 strips 2 ½" x WOF

Method

Set your overlocker up for a three thread narrow overlock with polyester thread (using the right hand needle).

With right sides together join the matching fabrics to make two or three individual long strips of fabric.

Remove the polyester thread from the upper looper and replace with a decorative thread, set your overlocker for a three thread rolled hem, stitch length will depend on the thickness of thread – approximately 2. Stitch a sample on a scrap piece of fabric to ensure you are happy with the stitch. Finish the one long side of any frill pieces you wish to edge with the decorative rolled hem. Not all fabrics need to be rolled hemmed, mesh and tulle and can be left raw edged or finished if you prefer.



Once all edges are finished, remove the decorative thread, replace with polyester thread.

Insert needle into the left hand needle position and thread.

Set your overlocker up for gathering

Replace the stitch finger (back to standard or 4 thread)

Increase differential feed to 2 or above (if available on your model)

Increase stitch length 3-4

Cutting width 6mm (if available on your model)

Individually gather each piece, for best results guide the fabric do not hold it from the front as this will create flat spots. The gathering can be made tighter by finding the needle threads from the end where you have finished, gently draw them out of the stitch, hold them firmly and slide the work along to draw it up.

Return settings to standard four thread overlock – return differential feed to 1 or N.

Remove the upper looper thread and replace with the decorative thread, stitch length approx. 3.

Layer the frills with the longest at the bottom, and the shortest on top.

Overlock the top edge of the two or three layers together, you are able to pull up a little more to make the ruffle more gathered if required.

Heat up glue gun and have extra glue sticks on hand, start from the bottom of the cone, place a small amount of glue to hold the frill, fold the frill under and cut away excess frill if required. Wrap the frill around the cone on a slight angle tapering up the cone, covering the top of each layer and gluing as you go. Once you reach the top, cut away excess frill, fold under and glue in place.

Now it's the fun part, embellish your tree using rolled hem braid, beads, buttons, bells, costume jewellery.

These ruffles can be hot glued or stitched using a wide coverstitch or a zig zag stitch on a sewing machine to a flat surface for picture frames, wall hangings, stocking embellishments etc.

Have fun with this project, I would love to see what you create- if you feel like sharing send pics to my Facebook and Instagram or email to kate@sewintooverlocking.com