

Sheila Landry Designs

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Irish Ornament or Pendant Sample



An Original Pattern With Complete Instructions

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Introduction

This ornament is once again part of a set of twelve embellished ornaments that I created for those who may be new to scrolling, and seasoned scroll sawyers alike. I tried to keep the cutting simple, but by adding the small embellishments, it makes the ornament look detailed and sophisticated.

For my sample here, I chose 6mm crystal beads, available anywhere that you can find craft or jewelry making supplies. But you can choose any small embellishment you like. If you don't want to add beads or jewels to them, you can just drill small holes instead for some added interest, or even leave them 'as is.' It's entirely up to you. They would even look nice painted.

I also scaled down the pattern and make the small pendant. This time I used various hard woods and 4mm crystal beads. A smaller drill bit was used to drill the depressions (it is best to try a test on a scrap of wood to see which size fits best). While the smaller versions were a bit more difficult to cut, I feel that the results were excellent.

I hope you all enjoy these samples. They are from a set of 12 shamrock ornaments and pendants that come in a single pattern (SLD 380) which is available on my site at www.sheilalandrydesigns.com. All patterns are available to be sent to you in PDF format instantly, which saves you both time and shipping costs.

Materials and Supplies

-Wood for the ornaments – A small piece of maple was used in the sample, but any wood will do, planed to approximately 3/16" thick

-Scroll saw blades – I highly recommend Olson Size 2/0 regular reverse. I find they give the best control

-Temporary adhesive spray glue

-Blue painter's tape (2")

-Drill press and various sized bits for drilling the depressions for the beads and also the small entry holes

-Hand-held orbital sander and various grits (120-400) of sandpaper

-Paper Towels

-Q-tip cotton swabs

-Mineral Oil

-Small nylon bristle paint brush for brushing oil (approx. 3/4") and flat brush if you are staining

-If staining, DecoArt Staining and Antiquing Medium (can be found at www.decoart.com or a craft supplier of your choice)

-If staining, DecoArt Americana Acrylic Paints in the green of your choice

-Spray shellac or finish of your choice

-6mm crystal bead (4mm beads for pendant)

-Decorative cord or ribbon for hanging

-Clear-drying wood glue

Procedure

-Make photocopies of the original patterns and keep them for future reference. Patterns may be reproduced for the purpose of making the project – not for resale purposes. Finished items that are made by hand may be sold for profit, but not mechanically manufactured. Credit to the designer is encouraged.

-Plane your boards to 3/16" if not already done so. Slight difference in the thickness of wood used will not affect the outcome of the design. You can make the ornament from wood as thin as 1/8" or as thick as 1/4" and it will look nice. This is a great chance to use up the small scraps of wood you have laying around.

-Sand both sides of your wood with your hand-held orbital sander to remove the planer marks and smooth out the wood.

-Use the soft brush attachment and vacuum all the dust from your pieces of wood.

-Place a layer of blue painter's tape over the entire surface of the wood.

-Cut out the pattern pieces and spray the backs with the spray adhesive. Allow the adhesive to tack up for approximately 15-20 seconds and apply to the wood over the blue painter's tape.

-If you feel that you are cutting a wood that is particularly hard or dense, you may place a layer of clear packaging tape over the entire surface of the design to help prevent burning. This step is optional and not always necessary with all types of wood, as the blue painter's tape is usually enough for most types of wood and cutting.

-Use a scrap piece of wood and set the depth of your drill press so that you drill a hole about 1/8" deep. You don't want the drill bit to go all the way to the table of the press.

-Test drill first on a scrap of wood and then try to set a bead into the hole. On my samples, the beads are sitting about half way in the hole and protruding slightly above the surface of the ornament. This will of course vary with the thickness of your wood. If you are using 1/8" wood, it will be shallower.

-When you are satisfied with your depth, drill all the depressions for the holes first. Be careful not to go all the way through, so your beads won't fall through.

-Switch drill bits to the smaller bit and drill out all of the rest of the entry holes of the design.

-After drilling the entry holes, turn over the piece and sand the back of it so that it is perfectly flat. This will make certain that it the piece sits flat on your scroll saw table and doesn't rock back and forth while you are trying to cut out the piece.

Cutting

-Use the #2/0 reverse-tooth scroll saw blade and cut the inside waste areas of your ornament.

-When all the inside cuts are finished, continue to cut the outside perimeter of the

-Carefully remove the patterns. You may want to lay the pieces on a flat surface and use a small paring knife to gently lift the blue tape (and pattern) off of the piece, while supporting it on the table.

-Finish sand the ornaments, keeping them on a flat surface so they are fully supported. Use a fine grit sand paper so that they are completely smooth.

-Once again, vacuum the ornaments or use a compressor to blow out any dust.

Applying Mineral Oil

-Finish or stain is applied now, before adding the embellishments. If staining the pieces, skip this step and go to the next section.

-In the samples, I used mineral oil to bring out the natural color and finish of the wood. It is easy, odorless and relatively inexpensive and gives them a beautiful, warm finish.

-Pour about 1/4" of mineral oil in a small shallow dish.

-Dip each of the ornaments into the oil, and gently brush the excess oil from them with a flat paint brush.

-Place them on some paper towels for a few minutes and allow the oil to absorb.

-Take a clean paper towel and gently wipe the surface of each ornament. You don't have to be fussy with this step – the oil will absorb into the edges. You just don't want them 'drippy'.

-Place them on a wire rack (I use a rack used for cooling cookies) and allow them to sit for several hours or overnight.

-When the oil has absorbed and the pieces feel dry to the touch, you can spray them with several coats of spray shellac or your choice of finish. I like using spray shellac because it has a nice, warm look to it. Before applying finish, I also use a dry Q-tip swab and wipe each depression and make sure that the oil has not pooled there. This will help assure that you will have a good bond when you glue in the beads. Make sure that each depression is completely dry before spraying with finish. Allow each coat to dry thoroughly before spraying the next.

-Allow everything to dry completely before proceeding with embellishing or staining.

Optional Staining

-Place a puddle of paint in the desired color on your palette.

-Add an equal amount of DecoArt Staining and Antiquing medium and use the brush to mix the color and the medium thoroughly. Blot the excess paint from the brush on a clean paper towel.

-Apply the color to the top of the shamrock very sparingly using thin coats. If you wish to have more color, you can either add more paint to the medium mixture, or apply two or more coats, allowing them to dry completely between applications. If you do not allow the paint to dry completely, it will begin to lift off and the color will look uneven.

-It is best to apply the stain working from the inside area to the outer edge. You don't want too much paint on the brush. You just want to brush over this area and color the top of the piece. You can also lightly 'pat' the paint over the area so that you don't apply too much paint. A little practice and you will get the hang of this very quickly.

-Place the pieces on a cookie cooling rack to dry completely.

-Spray with a coat of shellac or the finish of your choice, as described above.

-When everything was dry, you are now ready to finish the ornaments.

Embellishing

-Place the beads in a small dish for easy access. This way they won't roll around and you won't lose any.

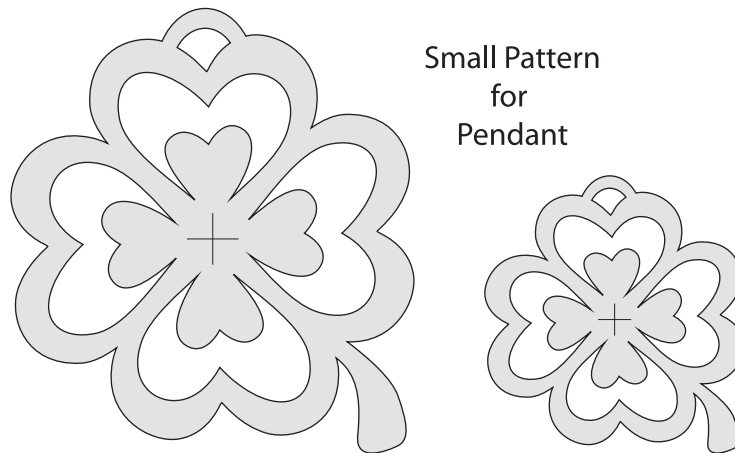
-Squeeze a small drop of clear drying glue into each of the small depressions.

-Use a straight pin or tweezers and place the beads into place.

-Gently push down on each bead to make sure it is seated well in the hole. This may cause a little glue to ooze out, which is fine.

-Use a damp Q-tip and swab any excess glue from around the beads. You don't have to be too fussy because the glue will dry clear.

-Allow your ornaments to dry completely so you don't lose any of the beads while attaching the hangers.



Small Pattern
for
Pendant

Some Hints for Cutting Small Pieces:

- Use a 'zero clearance' overlay on your scroll saw table. This gives extra support and helps prevent small pieces from falling through the hole in your table.
- Cut all inside cuts first. Keep multiple pieces on a larger piece of material and cut the parimeter of the pieces last, keeping the outside 'frame' in tact. This gives you more material to hold on to.
- Slow down the saw a bit and use very little pressure to push the material through the blade. Allow the blade to do the work and go very slowly to prevent 'over cutting.'

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact us at 902-482-7174 or by email at sheilalandrydesigns@gmail.com. Visit our website at www.sheilalandrydesigns.com to browse our selection of patterns. Pattern catalog also available by mail or free digital download. You can also join our mailing list to receive our newsletter (about once a month.) It is filled with updates, previews of new patterns, and some special offers and discounts available for subscribers only.