

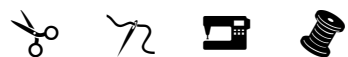
# Meadowside Designs



## Christmas Bells

*Quick and easy tree decorations*

Size: 4 - 6 inches



This pattern was given to me many years ago by Dianne Clarke to use with the Young Quilters (the junior branch or the Quilters Guild of the British Isles).

## Requirements

Scraps of Christmas themed/colour fabric – no smaller than 6 inches square

Narrow ribbon

Small bell (or beads)

Silver or gold thread

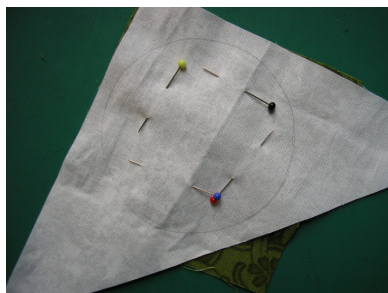
Card or plastic for template – or find something small and round such as a cup or mug.

## To Make

For each bell you need to draw two circles using your template. Use a circle no larger than 6 inches across – a small mug is ideal.



Draw around the template on the wrong side of two fabric scraps, or draw round the mug directly onto the wrong side of the fabrics.



Pin the fabrics, right sides together, and stitch almost all the way round – leave a small gap to turn through – on the drawn line.



Cut out the circle leaving a seam allowance of a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and turn right sides out.





Press the circle, tucking in the seam allowance at the gap and making sure you have rolled the seam right to the edge – a blunt pencil helps to push the seam out.

Top stitch close to the edge all the way around – this closes the gap and makes the circle look neater.

Decide which fabric is the inside of the bell and which the outside.

Take a length of ribbon and fold it in half – the length depends on how much you want the bell to 'dangle'.

Tack the raw edges of the ribbon to the edge of the inside of the bell.



Thread the beads or the bell onto a length of silver or gold thread – again the length depends on how far you want these to 'dangle' below the fabric. Stitch the end of the thread to the edge with the ribbon. You could use the thread instead of the ribbon and use just one long length.

Fold the circle in half with the inside fabric 'inside' and the ribbon loop at the top.

Stitch the two edges of the fold together with a whip or ladder stitch (as for English Paper Piecing). Stitch about a quarter to a third of the way down and fasten off the thread.

Hold the bell by its ribbon and open out the bottom part – give it a bit of a finger press (not too much) so it stays open and bell-shaped.



You can decorate the bell further with braid or sequins. Or try making it with shiny fabrics (you may need to use a stabilizer to prevent fraying).