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MINI DANISH HEART GARLAND

When I was growing up, we had a much-loved craft book full of simple, old-fashioned paper crafts like birthday crowns, paper bag masks, and red-and-white woven heart baskets. These little heart baskets are called *julehjerter*, or Christmas hearts in Danish, and are a popular holiday craft, especially for kids—you might have even made them when you were in elementary school! The red and white colors are reminiscent of the Danish flag and typical of Scandinavian Christmas decorations. This sweet garland made of tiny *julehjerter* in soft, candy colors is easy to make and would look as darling on your mantel at Valentine's Day as it does at Christmas.

MATERIALS & TOOLS:

Mini Danish Heart Garland template (page

Plain white paper Pencil

Scissors

12-by-12-inch card stock in red, white, pink, and turquoise (1 sheet per color)

Ruler or measuring tape

Craft glue

Baker's twine or string

1. Use a pencil to trace the heart garland template onto a piece of plain white paper, then cut it out using the scissors.
2. Cut each piece of card stock in half lengthwise, then cut each piece in half lengthwise again so that you have four long, skinny pieces of card stock in each color.
3. With the flat edge of the template against the long side of a piece of card stock, trace the template as many times as it will fit. Cut out each traced shape.

4. On each cut-out piece, draw two 1 5/8-inch-long lines from the flat edge toward the curved edge. Draw each one 1/2 inch from the side so that they divide the paper into equal thirds. Cut on the lines you just drew.
5. Take one white piece and one red piece and weave them together following the pattern in the pictures. Start by placing the two pieces of card stock with their flat edges near each other at a 45-degree angle, with the red piece of card stock on the left and with the white piece on the right.
6. Take the top strip of white and thread it over the first red strip, under the middle red strip, and over the last red strip.
7. Next take the middle strip of white and thread it under the first red strip, over the middle red strip, and under the last red strip.
8. Finally, take the bottom strip of white and weave it just like you did the first white strip. Lightly glue any loose ends.
9. Repeat with red and white card stock, red and pink card stock, and red and turquoise card stock.
10. When all the hearts are woven together, lay them out on a flat work surface with about 1/2 inch between each heart, alternating red/white, red/pink, and red/turquoise hearts. If there are any pencil marks visible on the woven hearts, make sure they are face up; this will end up being the back of the garland. Lay out a piece of the twine or string that extends past the hearts about 12 inches on each side.
11. Put a thin line of glue across each heart about 1/4 inch down from top edge. Lay the twine across the glue, and press firmly. Allow the glue to dry, then hang your garland!