

# Easy Advent Calendar Garland

Review Steps 2 and 4 before buying these materials. We've added options to make it more time- and budget-friendly!

**Crafter level:** Easy

**Time needed:** 1 to 1½ hours

## What you'll need

- Tree branch, about 4 to 5 ft. long
- White spray paint
- Large snowflake punch and 1 to 2 sheets of silver scrapbook paper or 25 die-cut snowflakes
- Numbered rubber stamps, 0 through 9
- Ink for rubber stamps (we used blue)
- 25 small sacks\* (we used mini white sacks about 3½ in. wide)
- About 10 yd. silver thread and small hole punch or double-stick tape
- Tape
- About 8 yd. thick silver cord
- 25 small items for filling bags

\* *Tip:* Get a few more than 25 just in case you mess up with your stamping.

## How to make it

1. Break off all the smaller branches from your long tree branch. Spray-paint the branch white all over. Use several coats, if necessary, letting dry between coats. Let branch dry overnight.
2. Punch out 25 snowflakes from the silver scrapbook paper with your snowflake punch. Skip this step if using die-cut snowflakes.
3. Using rubber stamps and ink, stamp a number on each bag, from 1 to 25, centered on the bottom front of the bags. Let bags dry.
4. Optional: Punch 2 small horizontal holes near the top front of each bag. Then punch a small hole through one of the branches on each snowflake. Thread the silver thread through the hole in the snowflake and then attach the snowflake to the front of the bag, threading the ends of the thread through the holes on the bag. Tie or tape ends inside the bag to secure. This will let the snowflake dangle from the bag. If you don't want to go to that much effort, simply attach a snowflake to the center front of each bag using double-stick tape.
5. Add treats to the bags, fold the tops of the bags over once or twice and secure with tape.
6. Hang branch on the wall in manner of your choice.\* Cut 5 equal lengths (each about 5 feet long) of the silver cord and knot one end of each piece to the branch; the distance between pieces should be about 5 to 6 inches. After you tie all the silver cord pieces, cut the hanging pieces so they're even.
7. Hang the top row of bags first, beginning with bag 1 on the left to bag 5 on the right—use tape to attach the back of the bags to the cord, below the fold of the bags. Then hang the next row, bags 6 through 10, and so on until all the rows have been hung.

\* We hung our branch by resting it atop 2 large nails hammered into the wall about 3 feet apart.

