

Painted Coffee Filter Leaves

Crafter Level: Easy

Time Needed: 15 minutes plus drying time

What you'll need

- Printout of leaves template
- Coffee filters
- Iron and ironing board
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Watercolor paints and water
- Paintbrushes
- Toothbrush for speckling (optional)
- Covered area for painting
- Paper towels for drying
- Ribbon and small, hole punch for garland (optional)



How to make it

1. Print out leaves template and cut out each leaf.
Tip: If you're working with little ones, you can cut out the leaves from the template while keeping the outside of the paper intact. Then the kids can draw inside the leaf shapes instead of around the leaf shapes.
2. Iron the coffee filters flat, using steam if needed. Iron as many filters as you want leaves.
3. Trace the leaf shapes onto the filters with a pencil, but don't cut them out yet.
4. Paint the filters using the watercolor paints. Don't worry about going outside your pencil lines, but be sure to cover the entire leaf shape with color. Using more water and less paint will create more muted shades. Experiment with several colors for each leaf—even colors you wouldn't expect to see, such as fuchsia and teal.
5. Use a damp toothbrush dipped in watercolor paint and flick the bristles with your thumb to create speckles on the painted filters (optional).
6. Set filters on layers of paper towels to dry. Or dry them with a hair dryer on low if you can't wait.
7. When dry, cut out the leaf shapes from the filters.
8. Spread them out on the table, or string them on a long piece of ribbon if you want to display them as a garland.











