

You will need:

Glue (try cat no. 701608 or 701309)

Spun Paper Balls, cat no 209312

Artificial Leaves, cat no. 811612

Pipcleaners, cat no. 204153

Raffia, cat no. 209643

A knitting needle or sharp pencil

Scissors

Paint

Hole punch

How to make your own Festive Festoon:

1. Take a bunch of raffia and pull out enough strands to make your decoration. We used approximately a quarter of one bunch. Try not to cut the raffia at this stage because the longer the strands are, the better the effect. Then, keeping the strands together, fold them over in half.
2. Next, take a few more strands of raffia from the bunch and tie the festoon near the folded end to create a loop. Tie a few knots for security. Trim off the excess raffia with scissors.
3. Use more strands of raffia to tie a decorative bow – this will provide an attractive finish and cover up the knots.
4. Use scissors to trim off any untidy bits of raffia. Fan out and arrange the loose ends.
5. Next, decorate the raffia with artificial leaves. The easiest way to do this is to punch a small hole into each leaf and use strands of raffia to tie the leaves to the decoration.
6. Paint spun paper balls to look like apples. When the paint is dry, use a knitting needle or sharp pencil to punch through the paper balls. If any paper is pushed out in this process, push it back inside the paper ball and touch up with more paint.
7. Thread the apples onto strands of raffia. The easiest way to do this is to thread the apples onto two strands and knot one of the strands under the apple. Finish by stuffing the knot inside the apple.
8. Cut small pieces of pipecleaner for the apple stalks. Put a dab of glue onto one end of each stalk and push them part-way into the holes on the tops of the apples.
9. Hang the festoon up by its loop.

Alternatives

This decoration can be customised to work for lots of festivals. Try adding berries and holly leaves at Christmas, or paper flowers on Mother's Day. It would also make a great Easter decoration threaded with decorated polystyrene eggs.

