Woven Paper Bird/Heart Ornaments

This craft is based on a traditional Scandinavian holiday craft.

Materials
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Bird/Heart Template
- Pencil
- Glue

Bird/Heart Template
Instructions

Select 2 colors of construction paper or other colored paper. Fold the papers in half lengthwise (hotdog style).

Copy the bird’s head template onto one color of paper, with the folded edge of the paper at the bottom. Copy the bird wing template onto the other color of paper, with the folded edge of the paper at the bottom.

Cut the shapes out, keeping the two sides of the folded paper together so they have the same shape and stay connected. Cut along the lines to form four stripes of paper, leaving the head and wings whole.

Erase any pencil lines remaining on the paper, or fold the strips so the side with the markings on it is on the inside.

Place the head and wing pieces at right angles to each other with the beak and wing facing out.

Weave the strips together by starting with the strips opposite from the beak and wings. Take the first strip from the bird’s head piece and put it around the first strip from the bird’s wing piece. Then pass the first strip from the bird’s head through the second stripe from the bird’s wing. Next put the first strip from the bird’s head around the third stripe from the bird’s wing. Finally, pass the first strip from the bird’s head through the fourth strip from the bird’s wing.
Continue weaving with the second strip from the bird’s head, but start by passing it through the first strip from the bird’s wing, then put it around the second strip from the wing, pass it through the third strip and put it around the fourth strip.

Continue weaving with the third and fourth strips to form a checkerboard pattern on the bird’s body.

If you want, use scrap paper or yarn to make a handle for your woven bird to turn it into an ornament. Glue the handle to the inside of the bird, making sure it can still open.

Fill your bird with candies or a nice note. Hanging it around your house or give it to a friend or loved one.

You can experiment with changing the size and shape of the beak and wing to create different types of birds. You can also try using different numbers and varying thicknesses of strips to create different patterns on the bird’s body.