



# My Blue Jean Christmas Tree

*Fabric Ornament Sewing Pattern*

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**Please read entire pattern carefully all the way through at least once before you cut or sew.**

## REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Denim for body of tree (clean, recycled denim from old jeans is perfect)
- Quilting cotton scraps to make yo-yo star
- One ¾" (.75") Jingle Bell
- Sturdy thread (cotton or polyester). I prefer [OMNI Thread](#) or similar
- Polyester or cotton stuffing (recycled/left over batting pieces may be fluffed and used for stuffing).
- Thin cord or ribbon for the hanging loop.

**REQUIRED TOOLS:** Sewing machine, machine washer & drier, pen or pencil for marking denim--you don't need the marks to disappear, but you don't want to use a sharply contrasting color either so just keep the marks light, scissors for making small snips through denim, hand sewing needle to stitch on jingle bell and yo-yos (and any desired decorations).

**OPTIONAL TOOLS & MATERIALS:** [Clover Extra-Small Yo-Yo Maker](#), [Elisa's Sew Easy Tweezers](#), small wire brush (found at the hardware store in the welding section, it should be @ \$3.00 +/- depending on your area). Items to decorate your tree as desired (such as ribbon, hot set crystals, sequins beads, charms, buttons, etc.)

## DIRECTIONS:

1. **Cut 2 Tree pieces** from denim
2. **Cut 2 yo-yo** pieces from quilting cotton fabric.
3. **Make Yo-Yos** using the Clover Extra Small Yo-Yo Maker, following instructions on the package. Or, if using the yo-yo pattern piece provided, fold raw edge approximately .125 - .25 inches toward circle center on WRONG side of fabric. While you do this, beginning from the folded (wrong) side, insert needle & thread through the folded layers and begin making approximately ¼" long, running stitches all the way around to the beginning point, then overlap by one stitch coming back through to the wrong/folded side to finish. **DO NOT put any knots in the thread yet, you WANT tails at each end.** Pull tails to gather and form the yo-yo with the wrong side of the fabric and folded edge to the INSIDE. Tie the tails firmly together into a knot, secure and bury thread, clip tails. Repeat for 2<sup>nd</sup> yo-yo. Set yo-yos aside for now.
4. **Place denim tree (triangle pieces)** wrong sides together, right sides out.
5. **Find center of base** (fold in half by bringing base corners together and crease), make a mark approximately .5 inches in each direction of the crease. **Leave this marked 1 inch area open** when you make your first stitched seam allowance/outline of the tree.
6. **Bring stacked denim fabric** (wrong sides together) to your sewing machine. Begin at one mark, sew outward toward the closest corner using a .25 inch seam allowance. Drop machine needle .25 inches from the corner, pivot and sew up the long side. When you near the top of the tree, drop the machine needle .25 inches from the corner, pivot and sew down the other long side. When you near the bottom, drop the machine needle .25 from the corner, pivot and sew to the other mark (leaving the 1" opening at the bottom center of the tree).
7. **Stuff tree** with polyester or cotton stuffing...recommend light to moderate amount of stuffing (don't make it too full). *Helpful hint:* Use [Sew Easy Tweezers](#) to help push stuffing into corners.
8. **Once the tree is stuffed**, use your fingers to push stuffing up away from the bottom (open area). Return to the sewing machine and stitch the bottom closed. Backstitch over this area a couple times, then stitch a 2<sup>nd</sup> outline around the entire triangle right over the initial stitching line (this is not difficult to do on the machine as long as you do NOT stuff your tree too full).
9. **Being careful not to cut into the stitching line**, use scissors to make small snips all the way around the outside .25 inch seam allowance (sort of like making a fringe edge).
10. **Use wire brush, lightly brush** the fringed outside edges to remove denim thread snippets. *Helpful hint:* Do this over a trash can.
11. **Once you have removed** as much of the denim thread snippets and shreds as possible, toss your tree(s) into the washer (yes, you can wash with a load of denim jeans). **WARNING: PLEASE DO NOT WASH TREE WITHOUT BRUSHING OUT THE LOOSE THREAD SNIPPETS FIRST** as this can cause a clog in your washing machine and sewer pipes.
12. **Put tree(s) in the dryer**...this is where the magic happens and the cotton of the denim really fluffs up.
13. **Remove from dryer**, check for and remove any remaining loose thread snippets.

14. **Hand stitch jingle bell** to bottom center of tree using a sturdy thread.
15. **Use an awl to poke a hole** through the tree top below the outside stitching line. Insert cording or ribbon.
16. **Adjust loop as necessary.**
17. **Sandwich the yo-yos over the tree top**, being careful to pull the ribbon loop up straight between center of the yo-yos at the top.
18. **Stitch yo-yos together AND to the tree** by hand stitching through the center of the yo-yos and through the denim. Make several stitches through both yo-yos and the denim tree to be sure it is very secure. Run a row of blind stitches around edges of the yo-yos to make the edges stay together all the way around. Knot, secure, bury thread and clip tails.
19. **Decorate your tree as desired (or not).** Decorating Ideas: Bling your tree with sequins or crystals or beads. Stitch on tiny charms or buttons. Hand embroidery: make French knots or other fancy stitches with thread or silk ribbon. Other ideas: monogram or machine embroider one or both pieces of denim (BEFORE) stitching the triangles together.

These trees are SEW FUN and inexpensive to make, awesome to give to friends or hang on your own tree...or use to decorate the package of a larger gift.

**SHOW ME your trees!** Send me picture in an email to [tracy@sewthankful.com](mailto:tracy@sewthankful.com). **Please make sure to put MY BLUE CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT in the subject line.**