

# Autumn Leaves

Every autumn I marvel at the variety of colours and shapes of the falling leaves. This design uses just a few leaf patterns, but these can be created in a number of autumnal colours to make an interesting design.

The leaves would look good glued to a plain wooden box, or alternatively you could use a card box that has been covered in brown parcel paper first, similar to the one shown here. The acorn and oak leaf gift tag continues the theme.

This design is worked entirely in 2mm-wide paper strips in a range of browns, reds and yellows.

## Oak leaf



1 Make six small petal shapes, and glue two together at the pointed end so they curve outwards. Make a small teardrop and glue it between them to form the top of the leaf.



2 Attach two more pairs of petal shapes. For the base, make an oval, then put a dent in one side and wrap it round the end of the leaf.



The completed oak leaf.

## You will need

### Box

#### Oak leaf

Eight strips, 56mm (2¼in) long

#### Sycamore, horse chestnut and maple leaves

For each larger leaf:

Three strips, 150mm (6in) long

Two strips, 112mm (4½in) long

Two strips, 56mm (2¼in) long

Small double-thickness strip for stem

For each smaller leaf:

One strip, 112mm (4½in) long

Four strips, 75mm (3in) long

Small double-thickness strip for stem

#### Ivy leaf

One strip, 150mm (6in) long

#### Ash, elder and rowan leaves

For each larger leaf:

Seven strips, 75mm (3in) long

Small double-thickness strip for stem

For each smaller leaf:

Five strips, 75mm (3in) or 56mm (2¼in) long

Small double-thickness strip for stem

### Other materials

Circular blank box, 115mm (4½in) diameter

### Tag

#### Leaves

Five brown strips, 150mm (6in) long

#### Acorns nuts

Three pale green strips, 150mm (6in) long

#### Acorn cups

Three brown strips, 180mm (7in) long

#### Stems

Double-thickness brown strip  
70mm (2¾in) long (trim to size)

### Other materials

Pale brown chalk pastel

Soft tissue paper

Circular white card, 60mm (2¼in) diameter,  
with a hole punched through at the top

One red 2mm strip, 450mm (18in) long

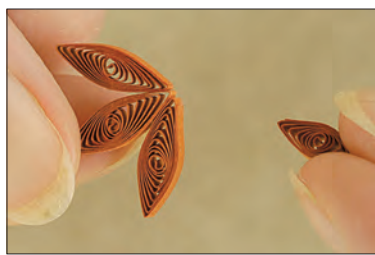




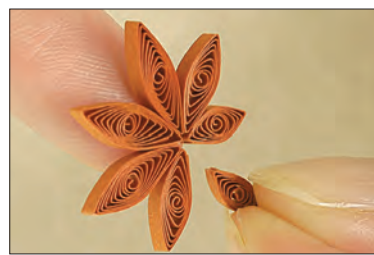
## Sycamore, horse chestnut and maple leaves



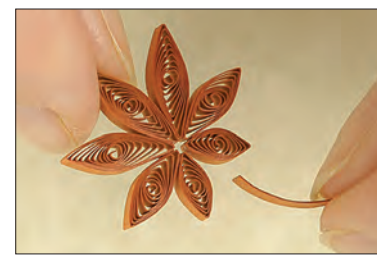
The range of leaves I have created in this group are shown opposite. They consist of seven or five eye or leaf shapes arranged in a circle, with a stem made from a short, double thickness paper strip at the base. The shapes can either all be the same size or vary, with the largest at the top of the leaf, and the smallest at its base. The instructions below are for the larger leaf shown top left, but can easily be adapted to suit which ever leaf type you choose to make.



1 Glue three large eye shapes together to form the top of the leaf, then glue two medium-sized eye shapes below these.

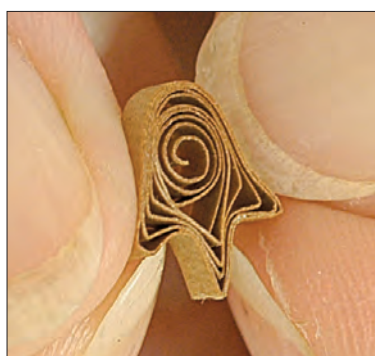


2 Attach the two small eye shapes at the bottom to complete the leaf.



3 Apply glue to the inside edges of the lower two leaves and insert the stem.

## Ivy leaf



1 Start with an oval, and pinch the top to make three points.



2 Pinch the other end in the same way to form a total of five points.



3 Alternatively, form the other end into a single, curved point, as you would for a petal shape.

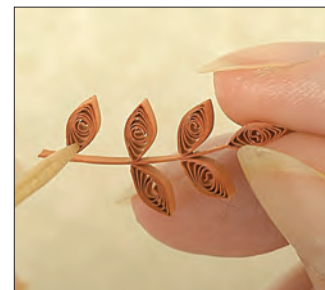


## Ash, elder and rowan leaves



These leaves, shown opposite, consist of two or three pairs of eye or leaf shapes arranged down a stem, with a single shape at the top. As before, the stems are made from a short, double-thickness strip. The instructions below are for a larger leaf, like the one shown top left, but can easily be adapted to suit which ever leaf type you choose to make.

Apply glue to the stem, and position the shapes using a cocktail stick. Allow each shape or pair of shapes to dry before moving on to the next.



## Decorating the box



Make a selection of leaf shapes in a variety of sizes and colours, and arrange them in an S-shaped pattern on the box lid. Make some single leaf and eye shapes as well to fill in any gaps in your design. Position the shapes first, then glue them all down when you are happy with your arrangement.



## The tag



1 For each of the five leaves, start with an oval and pinch it at both ends to form six points.



2 Make the acorns from two solid, domed coils. Make the cup slightly wider using a longer paper strip so that the nut fits inside it comfortably. Glue the nut inside the cup.



3 Colour the centre of the tag using pale brown chalk pastel applied with a piece of crumpled soft tissue paper.



4 Make two stems, 25mm (1 in) long, from double thickness strips and glue them to the card along their thin edge.



5 Glue on the acorns and leaves. Complete the tag by threading a spiral made from a 1 mm red paper strip (cut from a 2mm strip; see page 107) through the hole.



The completed box and tag.





The leaf sections on the napkin rings have been edged individually with gold- or copper-edged quilling strips. The leaves have been made following the same methods as in the project, before being arranged and glued to the rings.

The napkin rings have been made from sections of card tube – the type found in the centre of a kitchen roll. They have been covered with a decorative paper and trimmed with paper strips in brown and gold.

In the picture below, a selection of different-coloured leaves have been used to decorate stationery. The leaves on the greetings card have been carefully arranged around the aperture before being glued down. The background has been first coloured using chalk pastels (see page 120). This card could also be used as a photograph frame.

