

Woven Hearts

YOU NEED

two 5- by 11-inch pieces of glossy, colored paper (heavy wrapping paper works best)

pencil
ruler

pattern that is 3 inches wide and 5 inches long, with an arc at one end
scissors

one 1-inch-wide strip of colored paper, about 6 inches long
clear tape or glue
small items — such as nuts or chocolates — to fill the woven heart basket

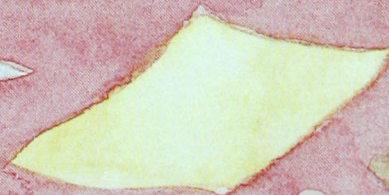
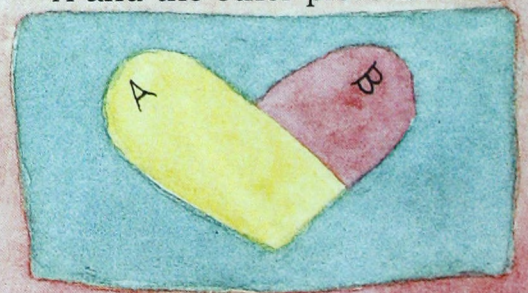
by the staff of the Nordic Heritage Museum
illustrated by Jennifer Mazzucco

In Scandinavian society, designs could be found on numerous everyday objects. A favorite theme was hearts. Today, the heart is used on many Christmas decorations.

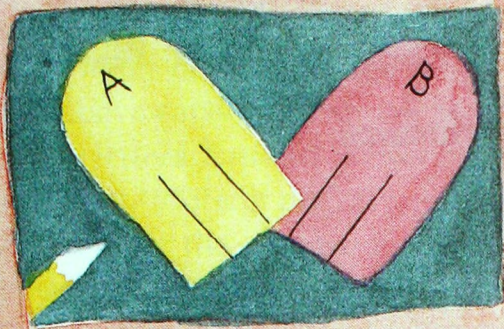
One Scandinavian tradition is an evening of Christmas craft-making with family and friends. The woven heart, or heart basket, is popular because it is both colorful and easy to make. Woven hearts can be hung as ornaments on trees or filled with small treats or presents and given as gifts. In Scandinavia, the hearts are made only during the Christmas season, but this craft is enjoyed at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, Washington, any time of the year!

1. Fold each piece of 5- by 11-inch paper in half widthwise, like a greeting card. Trace the pattern on both folded pieces, making the folded edge the straight, 3-inch wide edge. Cut out the patterns.

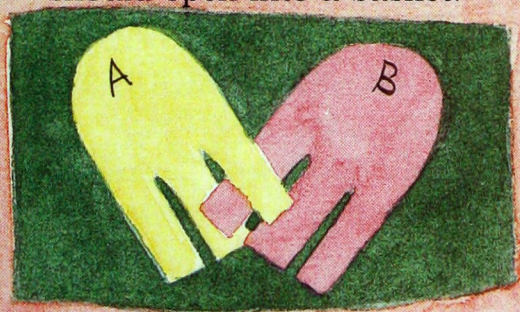
2. Place one cutout pattern on top of the other on an angle, with the top rounded parts facing out so that they form a heart shape. Label one piece A and the other piece B.



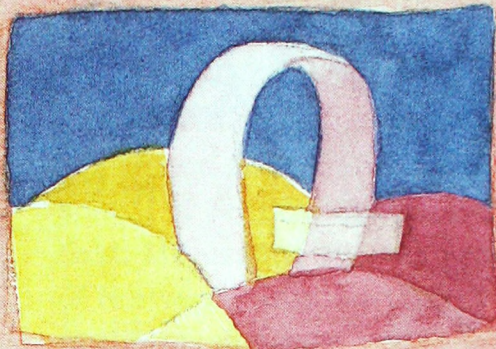
3. Draw on each the line where A overlaps B and B overlaps A. Cut 3 equal-size strips from the folded edge of each to your pencil line.



4. Hold the pieces so that A is on the left and B is on the right. Weave the heart by inserting the first strip on B inside the first strip on A. Insert the second strip on A into the first strip on B. Insert the first strip on B into the third strip on A. Continue this alternating process with the other strips. When finished, the woven heart should open into a basket.



5. Use the 1-inch strip for the handle. Glue or tape each end to each side of the interior of the basket.



6. Fill your heart with nuts or other small treats. Give it to a friend or hang it from a tree!



Once you are comfortable with the weaving process, try varying the number and width of the strips. Cutting more and thinner strips creates different effects. You also can try making hearts of different sizes (you will need to adjust the size of your pattern to do this).

