

Decorated Wooden Frames

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Create beautiful frames using scrap fabrics, trims, and embellishments that you have on hand, or use scraps of old clothing that have special meaning. Mix and match prints and plaids that have a similar color palette, or create a patchwork effect with assorted colors. All are glued on in overlapping strips to 3-1/2-inch square wooden craft frames. These make fun gifts and are a great way to treasure those special memories.

For each frame you will need:

- 5 or 6 different print and plaid lightweight fabrics cut into strips of assorted widths**
- a variety of ribbons and trims**
- buttons, embellishments, ribbon roses, beads, etc. for final decoration**
- 1 3-1/2" wooden craft frame**
- white fabric glue**
- a hot glue gun and glue**
- scissors**
- sticky-back felt, if desired**

Basic directions:

Cut an assortment of strips about 12 inches long. Fold under and press the edges of any fabric that easily frays. Start anywhere on the frame by gluing on the strips. Glue one strip to one side, then put one on another side, then another, etc., overlaying the strips with one another. Bring each strip down over the side of the frame and glue on to the back, or trim off evenly with the back edge of the frame.

Cut some short pieces to fill gaps so that the front of the frame is covered completely. Then glue on strips of ribbon and trims in four or five places until you have the decorative effect that you like. Finish by embellishing with ribbon roses or beads or buttons or other fun and pretty appliques. There are lots of beautiful trims available, and many fabric stores carry pre-cut quilt squares and have an area fabric remnants for sale. Plan out your color scheme, then buy small pieces that carry those colors. If desired, once your frame is complete, cover the back with sticky-back felt, cutting a window for the photo opening.

If you don't cover with felt, apply a thin strip of clear-drying glue along the fabric edges to prevent fraying.

