



## Winter Holidays Christmas Tree Ornaments



### Depression Tree Promise Notes

During the Depression Era (1920s and '30s), Christmas tree decorations included colored lights – if the homes had electricity – and glass balls bought in a store, as well as ornaments made by hand, including paper chains and other paper decorations. The children would save up aluminum foil chewing gum wrappers and, when they had enough, ball them up to hang on the tree. They also strung popcorn garlands and painted sycamore gumballs and nuts to hang on the tree. At this time – a time when money was scarce – one family chose to decorate their Christmas tree with handmade gifts made of tissue paper, called “promise notes.” In these notes, the giver would write a promise to do something to help the recipient – a chore, babysitting, etc. – something that didn’t cost money, but was a true gift from the heart. You, too, can make a promise note for someone you love and make that person very happy.

### Materials

Red, green and/or white tissue paper  
Red and green narrow yarn

Scissors  
Pen, pencil

### Instructions

- \* Cut tissue paper sheet in half.
- \* Lay sheet sideways and fold into thirds.
- \* Open sheet and write promise note in the middle third section using a pen or pencil.
- \* Refold sheet.
- \* Fold each end side inward to meet at the middle, forming a point at each end.
- \* Fold each pointed end toward the middle, overlapping slightly so that the paper looks like an envelope.
- \* Cut length of yarn long enough to fit both ways around envelope and tie into bow.
- \* Wrap and tie yarn.
- \* Address envelope to loved one (ex.: To: Momma From: Johnny or Julie).

