# Top it off

Add a veneer of Christmas cool with these easy, modern DIY tree toppers. The kids will have one ready in a hot-glue-gun minute.

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Don't let tradition limit your treetop options. Hit the crafts or woodworking store for some stained wood veneer and put your elves to work on one of these simple but chic creations. It can be the start of a brand-new tree-topping tradition. *See full materials list on page 209.*

**POINSETTIA PRETTY**

**Additional supplies:**
**Buttons**

Download, print, and cut out template and trace onto the veneer. (You'll cut six petals of each size.) Carefully cut out with sharp scissors. (Tip: Cut slowly and steadily to avoid cracking the veneer.) Arrange the petals in layers to form the poinsettia bloom and hot-glue together, gluing buttons between layers to create a more three-dimensional look. Let dry. Add self-adhesive embellishments in the center. Adhere to craft cone or paper roll.

## MATERIALS:

**Start with the following supplies:**

**Templates, downloaded from *BHG.com/TreeTopper***

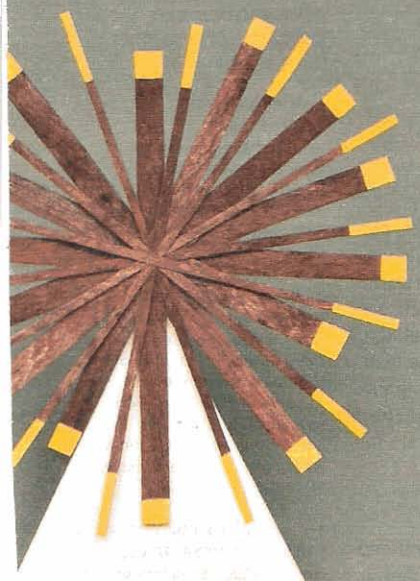
**Prestained wood veneer sheets** (from a home improvement or woodworking store; our sheets were 8¼×32 inches)

**Scissors**

**Hot-glue gun**

**Self-adhesive embellishments** (we used red Twinkle Goosebumps from Queen & Co., *queenandcompany.com*)

**Premade papier-mâché cone or empty paper towel/toilet paper roll**



## STARBURST SENSATION

**Additional supplies:**

**Yellow acrylic paint** (we used DecoArt Americana Bright Yellow)

**Wooden barbecue skewer**

Cut veneer into strips of varying lengths and widths (ours range from 9 to 12 inches long). Lay them out in a starburst pattern so you vary short and long. Hot-glue the strips together in the centers and let dry. Paint the tips of the strips yellow (you'll need two coats). Let dry, then glue to a skewer so you can stick it into the top branches of your tree, securing with a bit of wire as needed.

## PERFECT PERCH

**Additional supplies:**

**Gold spray paint** (we used Rust-Oleum Metallic Gold)

Download our template and trace the two bird pieces onto the veneer sheets. Cut out carefully with sharp scissors. Spray-paint the wing and beak pieces gold. Let dry. Hot-glue the wing to body. Let dry. Adhere desired embellishment for the bird's eye. Spray-paint the cone or paper roll gold. Hot-glue the bird onto the cone/roll. If your tree is viewable from all sides, make two birds in mirror image, and glue one to the front of the cone/roll, one to the back. ■

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