

Auriel's Light Festivals May Day

May 2023

Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

May 2023

May Pole Creation

May Day is such a fun festival! The beauty we have during this celebration comes in the form of flowers and pretty colors on the May Pole and on the May Day crowns. We'll start with the May Pole. For many years, most of my children's childhood, I (Melisa) had some sort of gathering with our homeschool group for May Day. Of course it is so much fun if you can dance the May Pole as a group. But how to make one can feel like a giant task! Here I am sharing a few different ideas we used in the groups I was in. This will take a bit of planning, so keep that in mind as you are preparing. For all the ribbons, I highly recommend grosgrain ribbon for your pole as it tends to hold up well over time and is fairly easy to clean. You'll also want to make sure you take good care of the ribbons as they are not cheap!



Supply list, before shopping, read all the directions and choose the supplies for your pole.

- Grosgrain ribbon in all the colors you want for your May Pole. At least 16 feet in length.
- Either the cylinder roof vent (universal vent cap 5 inches) or supplies to make the ratchet topper (see pictures)
- Pole to fit your cylinder roof vent, we used a railroad tie/fencing pole that was about 12 ft long. Don't forget, someone will have to store this later so keep that in mind!
- 9 ft irrigation pipe, bucket and Quickcrete.

Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

May 2023

First decide which one will fit your needs. The vent topper kind is great if you have a semi permanent location each year. You'll dig a hole for the post, attach the topper and then sink the post in the hole. When you are done you can simply fill the hold back in. If you need a May Pole that can move every year, then you might consider the ratchet topper as it can be attached to any kind of pole or tree that is already standing. In the previous picture we were on the beach and used a volley ball net pole.

For both toppers you will need at least 16 feet of ribbon per color. This gives plenty of space for short and tall children alike and you have plenty of room to dance. You may want to go with another 6 inches or so to account for sewing the ribbon into the topper. If your pole is super tall, take that into account. With the vent topper, you'll want to evenly space your ribbons, you do NOT need one for each part of the vent. Hand sew them in place with strong thread!



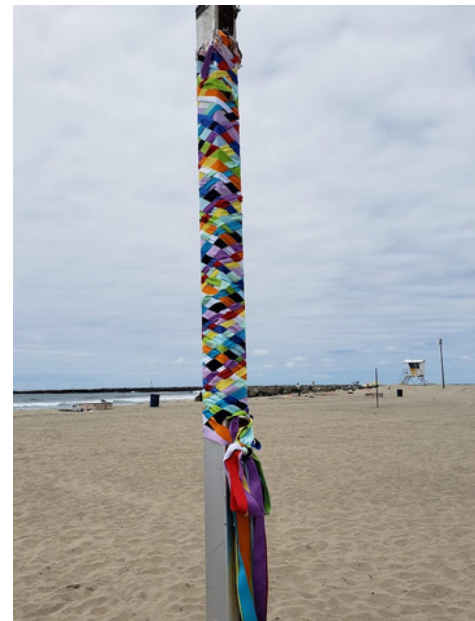
Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

May 2023

The ratchet topper is different. You'll want to use a utility ratchet that is open at one end so you can easily put this on a tree or really tall pole. The end of the ribbons are sewn evenly spaced and sandwiched in between fabric. You'll need to ensure you are using strong thread on your sewing machine. This ratchet is about 1 inch and the ribbons on this topper are about the same.



Assign some children to help you roll the ribbons back up after your celebration so this is around for years to come! We always secured them with twisty ties.



Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

May 2023

This last one is perfect if you have less time to put something together. You'll want a long irrigation pipe, the kind with holes in it. A 5 gallon bucket and a bag of Quickcrete concrete. You'll mix the Quickcrete into the bucket and then add your pipe. Pick a good spot in your yard to dig a hole for the bucket. Once your celebration is over, you can put the dirt and grass back, save your bucket in your garage for the next year. Because your pipe has holes, you can adorn it with flowers and make it pretty. You could do cheaper ribbons for this one and just replace them as needed. They can be tied to the holes at the top of the pipe.



Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

May 2023

May Pole Dance

Dancing the May Pole will take some practice! I found this fun diagram on the internet. Have fun and get silly!



Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

May 2023

May Day Crowns

These are fun and beautiful! We have made crowns from raffia and branches alike. You may want floral tape to help you, especially if you are using branches. If you are braiding raffia, you can usually get stems to fit into the braid.

Supply list:

- fresh flowers and greenery
- floral tape
- raffia or branches



Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

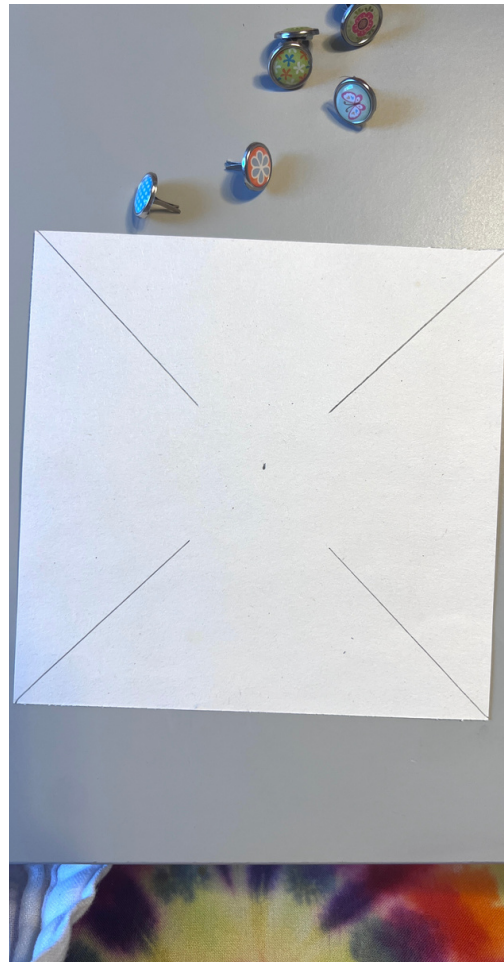
May 2023

Pinwheels

I love making these! They are easy to attach to a string to decorate your home with in the spring or you can use a short nail instead of a clip in the center and nail it into a dowel so it spins. This is a great way to use up old watercolor paintings or you can paint fresh ones just for this project.

Supply list:

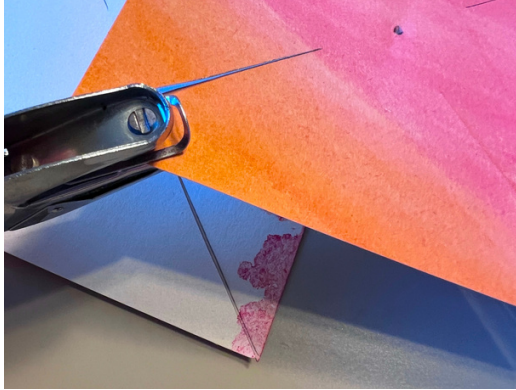
- painted paper or card stock
- brad fasteners



Cut your paper into 5 inch squares. From each corner draw a 2.5 inch line toward the center. Also mark the center. Cut along each line.

Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

May 2023



With a hole puncher, make a hole on each opposite corner. With a fastener, put each corner on the fastener and then go through the center. You can finger knit a string to put these on and decorate your space with these happy pinwheels!



Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

May 2023

May Day Baskets

Want a simple traditional craft for May Day? These baskets are a simple cone filled with flowers. They are a great way to bring a little joy to your neighbors and friends, just remember, it's a secret surprise so put them on the door knob, ring the bell and hide in the bushes!



Auriel's Light Festivals - May

May Day Cake & Frosting

1/4 cup coconut oil 1 1/2 cups flour 1 cup sugar
 1 tsp baking soda 1/2 tsp salt. 2 large eggs, lightly
 1 cup mashed bananas (about 3 medium).

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour two round 8" cake pans. Melt the coconut oil and set aside. Whisk together the dry ingredients. With a wooden spoon or spatula, add in the mashed bananas, mix well. Add the coconut oil. Split between the two cake pans. Bake for 25-30 min or until the center bounces back when lightly touched. Cool completely before frosting.

1/2 cup butter, room temp. 12 oz. cream cheese, room temp.
 5-6 cups confectioners' sugar 1-2 TBL cream

In a stand mixer or with a handheld mixer beat the butter and the cream cheese until smooth. Add the sugar one cup at a time. Add cream as needed for a perfect consistency.

Frost cake. With a dowel and 1/4 inch ribbon, create a little May Pole.



This recipe is actually just a banana bread recipe that I made into a cake! You can use it for cake, breads, muffins or cupcakes. You can alter the sugars a bit too just be careful to compensate if you are using more liquid like syrup, honey or applesauce.

Auriel's Light Festivals - May Day

May 2023

Resources

May Day Traditional Carol

I've been a-wandering all the night
And the best part of the day
Now I'm returning home again
I bring you a branch of May

A branch of May, my love, I say
Here at your door I stand
It's nothing but a sprout, but it's well budded out
By the work of the Lord's own hand

Take a bible in your hand
And read a chapter through
And when the day of judgment comes
The Lord will think of you

In my pocket I've got a purse
Tied up with a silver string
All that I do need is a bit of silver
To line it well within

My song is done and I must be gone
I can no longer stay
God bless you all both great and small
And send you a joyful May

Source

Fun May Pole dance video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nclAdeQGxoo>