

FOR THE Dining Room

Amy Baker of *Paper Crane Wishes*
papercranewishes.com

Paper cranes are so much more than lovely origami. Just ask Amy Baker of *Paper Crane Wishes*, who says: "A paper crane is a symbol of peace, patience, prosperity, and wealth."

After becoming a stay-at-home mom, Baker began selling paper crane crafts on Etsy. The birds took off. "I've sold all over the world," she says. About three years ago, she started her blog, which highlights all sorts of the kinds

of crafts Baker loves to create—and that she's sold for reunions, weddings, and bridal showers. When friends of a Canadian child struck with severe brain cancer approached Baker, asking for tiny cranes in little bottles placed on necklaces, she helped them. It's these connections that drive this blogger. And: "You get one wish when you make 1,000 paper cranes." Baker says.



DIY: Flower Centerpiece

This project is quick, easy, and "super cool," Baker says. "This simpler version of making the flowers and gluing them on some decorative branches can really create an eye-catching centerpiece that will stay bright and colorful—unlike real flowers that wither."

SUPPLIES:

Five, 12-inch square pieces of cardstock
Hot glue gun
Glue sticks
Scissors
Small decorative branches
Mason jar (optional)

STEP 1:

Draw a large spiral across each 12-inch square piece of cardstock.

STEP 2:

Using scissors, cut along the line of the spiral you have drawn.

STEP 3:

Start rolling the paper beginning from the outer end. Keep spiraling the folds until you have formed a rose.

STEP 4:

Holding the rose in place, place some hot glue at the base of the spiral strand. Push and hold the rose in place until secure.

STEP 5:

Hot glue the flowers to the small decorative branches. For a more DIY look, put the branches in a mason jar. To give the look more of your style, add embellishments of your choice!

