

## Create A Ferret-Themed Christmas Tree

**Craft these ferret-themed ornaments to create a fabulous tree!**

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I think that every Christmas tree needs at least a few ferrets on it. This year, why not have a tree with nothing but lights and ferrets? Lights are easy to find, but ferret ornaments are not so easy to find. Here are some ideas for making your own sculptured and painted ferret-themed ornaments. Each year, more ornaments can be added to your collection. These also make great gifts or items to donate for raffles.

To start, gather all the ferret collectibles you wish to use. I began making my tree using collections of ferrets, a bunch of crocheted ferrets, painted bulbs from last year's tree, etc. (See photos below; click to enlarge.)

### Sculptured Ferret Ornaments

Many types of clay are available for you to buy. Some are ready-made, some are even-colored. Light-colored clay can be painted after it has been shaped and dried. You can find lots of recipes for many types of homemade clays on the Internet. In the following photos, bread dough clay that has been pre-colored is used. It dries very hard.

A step-by-step pictorial below shows the shaping of the ferret. Elmer's glue is used to join the arms and legs to the body. While the ferret is still soft, carefully form it into the position you want it and let it dry before gluing into place.

To start, get your supplies ready. If you are using a prop, paint it and have it dry before using.

Roll out a small piece of clay into a cylinder shape and round off the ends. Pinch one end to form the start of a face and arch the cylinder to form the arch in a ferret's back.

Put the ferret in something to hold it while you create its face. Form two tiny white balls and glue these onto the face for the muzzle, and either use a pink bead or a pink ball for the nose. Roll two small white balls for the eyes and attach these to face. Next, take a black bead or two small balls of black clay and glue them on part of the white to create the eyes. (See photos below; click to enlarge.)

Make two small brown balls and flatten, then glue on each side of head for ears. Take the same brown and roll out two cylinders, tapering one end. Glue the larger end to shoulder and bend into an arm position. Form three slightly larger brown cylinders; two will become legs, and the other a tail. Attach legs and tail with glue. (See photos below; click to enlarge.)

To make an albino or dark-eyed white, follow the directions above but use white clay. Then arrange and carefully bend the ferret into the position for the prop you are using. To create a panda or silver ferret, attach a ball of white clay to the end of a larger ball of gray. Roll into a cylinder and use the white end for the face. Make the ferret's face and legs following the instructions above. (See photos below; click to enlarge.)

Create candy canes by taking two long, thin cylinders — one red, one white — and twisting them together. Bend one end to form candy canes. Make a package by forming a cube shape of clay. Roll out long, colored, flattened strips for the ribbon and create a bow on top. The next step is to glue the present and candy canes onto the sled with the ferret. Lastly, add some Christmas tree lights. (See photos below; click to enlarge.)