

Instructions for Making Gnomes

How to make a basic pinecone gnome:

Choose the pinecone that best expresses the personality of your gnome. You will need to add, at minimum, a hat, a nose, and a way to hang it.

THE HAT - COMMENTS

- Hats can be quite varied, but the fabric you select can set the tone and personality of your gnome:
- Felt is easy to work with, but thinner material is more easily manipulated into interesting shapes.
- If you envision a Gnome of Wealth, velvet is appropriate!
- Fleece reflects the frigid Scandinavian climate they inhabit.
- An old sweater or jammy sleeve for a gnome of more robust proportions is pre-hemmed, almost ready-made headgear.
- And a sock top can fit average-sized gnomes.

THE HAT - DIRECTIONS

1. Find a great piece of fabric, making sure it's large enough to go around the head.
2. For a simple hat, roll flat material into a cone shape, with the large end able to fit over the top of the pinecone and down as far as you want it.
3. Secure just the fabric overlap with hot glue, fabric glue, needle and thread, or fusible bonding tape.
4. If you want a fold-up at the brim (large end), make that now.
5. Place the hat intentionally, with the seam up the back, side, or front of the head, depending on your plans for further enhancement. You can even try a decorative side seam if you're good with fancy stitching - or if you have an impressive gnome-sized feather in mind!
6. Trim the excess at the overlap and at the brim.

7. Or, if you used a sleeve, make a large hem at the raw end (the top of the hat). Gather with long hidden or decorative stitching at your chosen place on the hem, pulling it tight and securing it - perhaps with a little bow or flower at the front, side, or back. The top of the hat will then have a ruffled flounce.
8. If you want your nose to be a bit under the hat, glue that first. But if not, and you're not adding any hair, beard, or other decorations, glue the hat to the pinecone. We used hot glue.

THE NOSE

1. Select an appropriate nose. Puffy Pom balls, beads, wooden half-spheres, bells, and buttons are all full of personality.
2. Or visit your small local hardware store and see what interesting little odds and ends you find. Bring your pinecone to make sure your discovery will work on the uneven surface of the scales!
3. Glue that special nose in place, usually after your hat is finished. It can be placed below the hat; or higher, slightly under it.

HAIR AND / OR BEARD

1. Hair can be designed for gnome men, women, & all ages. Make it straight or curly, loose and flowing, with bangs, or braided. Cut it to size, try it on, and fasten just under the hat with hot glue.
2. For his beard, crazy or smooth, soft and fluffy, wild and fuzzy - whatever material looks cool to you is good. Cut it to size, try on, and fasten it just under the nose with hot glue.

HANGING RING

Sew a large jewelry ring on top to easily hang your gnome with an ornament hook.

ENHANCEMENTS

Put decorations on top, middle, or bottom of hat; as well as earrings, jewelry, and scarves; plus anything you want to dangle underneath the body. Your imagination is the key factor here!