Pom & Tassel Maker Demo with Marly Bird with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Pom & Tassel Maker

Pom & Tassel Maker

(upbeat music) - Hi, everybody, it's Faith from Creative Bug coming at you live like we do every Thursday at four PST. I'm here with a special guest, friend of the family. - Marly Bird, hello. Who are you, what are you doing? (Marly laughs) - I am the national spokesperson for Red Heart Yarns, and I'm here today to tell you all about this really cool new tool we have called the pom & tassel maker. - Yes. I'm really excited. - That's me. Who are you? - That's you. I'm Faith. (laughs) - And you are? - I just came back from the desert, so I do feel a little spacey. (Marly laughs) I don't know, who am I? - Well, you look fantastic. - Thank you so much. - Yes. - I went deep inside of myself and got a little bit of a sunburn, but I'm happy to be back. And also if we have time, which, we'll make the time, you have some brand new books out. - [Marly] Yes, they came out Tuesday, so. - [Faith] Oh they're like hot off the presses. - Like, yeah, like I opened the box from Leisure Arts on my way to the airport this morning. So I was like, I'm gonna bring those to Faith. - So you've seen it first, or you will once we open it and page through it. Soon enough. So pompom tassel maker. - Yes, so for those of you who don't know, I come on here to Creativebug once every other month and I get a chance to talk to you guys about what's new with Red Heart, and this month we're gonna talk about the new pom and tassel maker. Now I know there's a lot of different pompom makers, or there are some tassel makers. The cool thing about the pom and tassel maker is you can make multiple pompoms at the same time, and you can make two tassels at the same time, or one gigantic tassel. - [Faith] It's good for batch making. - [Marly] Yeah, so I don't know if they're looking down here at this cam or not, but you can see, the little pompoms, in general, are really hot right now. So these are just pompoms glued around a lampshade. - [Faith] That's amazing! - [Marly] Or decorate different things, but pompoms can take quite a bit of time, so if you have a way to make them quickly, this is the way to do it. - [Faith] Now there have been points in my life where I have identified myself as a professional pompom maker, I've tried it all, and I'm really excited to see a new way of doing it. - Okay, well we're gonna, it's the same-old, same-old, but it's just we're gonna do it on mass scale. Do you wanna do it with me? - Yep. - Yeah? Okay, so there's nothin' special about the color other than it's just a different color. - [Faith] Oh you're kidding? - [Marly] So they're all the same. - [Faith] Can I have this one, 'cause it's my favorite color? - [Marly] Which ever you want. - [Faith] And then what are we gonna do with these other two Marly? - We're gonna give them away! Hey, hey! (both laugh) You get a tassel maker and pompom maker. Yeah, so we're gonna give those away. How are they gonna get them? - Turn to the giveaway. (both laugh) I've missed you Marly! - Yeah, right? - It's like this all the time, not just when the cameras are rolling. So to enter to win, like, share, and subscribe, or follow. Wrong internet platform. Like this post, share this post, comment below, and you'll be entered to win one of two pompom/tassel makers. - Yes, they are cool, and I know these are available right now at Red Heart and Jo-Ann's, people will ask about that. I'm gonna give you one of these. - [Faith] Am I gonna interrupt-- - [Marly] No. - [Faith] Your color scheme, 'cause you need all those three? - [Marly] We've got this, we're good. - [Faith] I can get some more if you want. - [Marly] I'm golden, we're good. So when you open it up, I should've started off at the beginning. You can save this packaging, it's okay, you can save the packaging to re-store it. But that's okay, you cut it off, but it doesn't have to be, it's actually really easy to pop open, you just pop it open just like this. (laughs) - [Faith] Oh my god! - You just kept on going, it's okay though. So you don't have

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

to cut the packaging. (laughs) And when they come out-- (laughs) You're good, we're good. - [Allison] Faith's like okay you're kidding me? - I know! - Hubris. - When they come out you have three pieces, and they fit together like a puzzle piece. So they all three come together like so. You can put together all three, and they just click, you can see they just kind of click together, and then you have these two pegs here, which will give you, the width between the pegs is where you're gonna create your pompoms or your tassels. - [Faith] Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh. - [Marly] So if we did all three and had these at the furthest point, we could get several pompoms, or two big tassels, or you can move this in one, or you can eliminate the middle completely, you know what I mean? - [Faith] Maybe I'll do that. - Okay, so there's lots of options here, okay? Once you have these together, let's make some pompoms first, okay? Actually, you know what we're gonna do? We're gonna make one tassel and a couple pompoms. We're gonna do them-- - At once? - At once, yeah. - Holy smokes. - So we're just gonna do this. You have blue, or do you want one of these, which do you want? I don't care. - [Faith] Ooh, this might pop better on camera. - [Marly] Okay, so the first thing we're gonna do is let's get some, I don't know what the word to call it, some preparation string essentially. We wanna cut about 12 inches in length, you can cut it longer, I wouldn't go shorter, but what this is gonna do, these are the ties that will go between the pompoms, and then we're also gonna cut one, and we're gonna put it down here, and that's gonna be what comes up and connects not this part, this part, of the tassel right here, okay? - [Faith] The neck? - [Marly] The neck of the tassel. So I like to make that one a little bit longer so that way I can wrap it around a bit. Okay, so what's cool about the pom and tassel maker, it has these nice little grooves. You can see it kinda has a little, it doesn't grab at it, but it makes it so that the string shouldn't come out really easily. So we're just going to just pop 'em in, and these are moveable when it's all said and done, but you just pop them in where you want them to go, okay? So this is like the prep work, because now we're gonna take our yarn and we're gonna wrap it around these pegs, okay? And what I do, you can just tie it on, you can just get started, I usually will just make a slip knot, and then just pop my slip knot on, just to start. And then just start wrapping around. And this is where we can have some great conversation. - [Faith] More interludes. - [Marly] What are the people saying Allison? (laughs) - [Allison] How much they love you, how much they love the two of you together, Chris says "I've missed you, always have Marly back," and folks wanna make a pompom rug. - [Marly] Oh yeah, this would be great, 'cause you can make a lot of pompoms at once. I do wanna say, the number of wraps you do will determine the size of your pompom, what size thickness, also with your tassel as well. So the more wraps, obviously it'll be more thick. My yarn was caught, so I'm gonna keep going. - [Allison] First question comes from Amy, and Amy is wondering, "Marly, did you design "the pompom maker?" - I did not. Actually a woman by the name of Carrie Clement designed the pompom, pom and tassel maker. I know! And Carrie, for those of you who don't know, has been in the yarn industry for a long, long time and so she saw a need and filled a need essentially, and so she is the one that designed, developed, and has the patent pending on the pom and tassel maker. And so then she collaborated with Red Heart to put it out onto the market. My yarn is getting caught, so I'm not gonna wrap anymore, 'cause my yarn's getting caught up, and I hate that. You know what I mean? - Yeah. - I'm done with it. (laughs) So all my stuff moved 'cause everything got tangled, but that's alright. Once you get, keep wrappin' you're good, once you get wrapped to the point you want, just take the opposite end, and I again will usually do some sort of a slip knot, and then attach it just to the opposite, or not even just the opposite, just one of the pegs, just to hold it in place. - [Allison] So we're getting feedback on the pompom maker about how much people love tassels but they hate making them, how easy this looks. - Okay, so I will be completely honest, this tool, for me, when I

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

first got it I was like, I'll probably never use that, I don't usually make multiple pompoms. But then I found a need for tassels, And so, one day I was like oh I've gotta make tassels, and it was actually for these two pieces here, that's why I brought 'em. So I was like, I need to make tassels, and I'm like, oh I'll pull out the tassel maker. And so the fact that I can make two tassels at the same time is, it's such a time saver that I find I use this all the time for tassels. All the time. And pompoms though, I usually, if I need a pompom, I need one. Usually for the top of a hat, but that's just because I'm not makin' some of the other cute things that people are making. But so for tassels it's just so easy. So one thing to think about here is, if we were making two tassels, I wrapped this, I have one thing down here for the throat, I could put another one down here for the throat, and if I think about cutting it right in the center, then I would have two equal tassels, right? So I'm still gonna consider cutting this in the center, but then I'm gonna make, since I did mine shorter than yours, I'm gonna just make one pom over here. So I'm gonna have this side be the tassel, and this side just be a floppy pompom, 'cause I don't have a lot of wraps here, but you know what I mean? - [Faith] So I'm gonna do-- - [Marly] You could do two. - [Faith] One tassel, and two pompoms. - Yeah, you could totally do that. So, what I do at this point, once you get the wrapping all done, that's where you will take the string that you have in place, and you wanna bring it up and then tie it. And I don't know if you do this, but so I will tie it once, and then I will take the string that's behind, and I will bring it to this side, and then this string, I'll bring it to that side, and then I can tighten it even more without needing somebody's fingers there. And then I tie it again. It works really great with cotton thread because it makes it really strong, you know what I mean? - [Faith] Yeah, yeah, yeah. - [Marly] And then I'll do it usually one more time because one of the number one complaints people will make about their pompoms is that they fall apart, and this is the part that is so necessary to make sure your stuff doesn't fall apart. - [Faith] Your strong core. - [Marly] Yeah, on my last wrap that I do, I actually will tuck it through a couple times, I think it's called a surgeon's knot. Don't quote me on that, I don't know what it's called, but I just wrap it around a couple times, and then pull, and it just makes it really nice and snug. - [Faith] Oh that is nice and snug. - [Marly] Right? So that's gonna be my pompom section. Now I've gotta come over here and prepare the throat, is that what you called it, the throat? - [Faith] The neck. - [Marly] The neck. (laughs) Of my tassel. I'm just gonna do the same thing, I know this is long, I'm gonna ignore the fact that it's really super long. I made mine long because I like to wrap it around the neck a couple times and let it be decorative. Sometimes I'll use a different color for that same purpose. (plastic clatters) - [Faith] Oh sorry I'm making noise. - [Allison] Next question comes from Julie, and Julie wants to know, "could you use this "with embroidery thread?" - [Faith] Ooh. - Yes, yes you could. - Julie is asking if this can be made with embroidery thread. - Yeah, I've done it with embroidery thread before. With tassels with embroidery thread though, like if you're making tassels, usually I just use the embroidery thing-- - Me too. - The spool itself, already done. - [Allison] Yep. - I dunno, it's my little cheat way. (laughs) - [Allison] You could make really cute, small poms. - [Marly] Oh absolutely. - [Allison] With embroidery thread. - [Marly] Absolutely. Alright, so I'm gonna tie that into a knot. How you doin' so far? - [Faith] Good, I'm excited to have two pompoms. - [Marly] Alright, so we're not done yet for the tassel side, because when we do the tassel, this part up here, what would you call this part? This part here? - [Faith] Oh. - [Marly] So if this is the neck, this is the head, the head of the tassel? So we need to gather it together to hold it, right? - [Faith] Yes. - [Marly] So there's a hole in the peg, and it's to prepare so that if you take another string, so I've already got one cut 'cause I cut an extra one, but if you take a string and feed it down that hole, you know what my string's gonna get caught. - [Faith] That's brilliant. - [Marly] So I'm just gonna put it on a needle. You don't usually have to do this, but it

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

makes it easier sometimes. - [Faith] Oh and it goes all the way through. - [Marly] It goes all the way through. - [Faith] You know what I would do in the privacy of my own home is, you can suck it through, but then you get a mouthful of yarn. - [Marly] Suck it through? - [Faith] And the known-- - [Marly] Who wants to see Faith suck it through? (laughs) I mean, you volunteered. - [Faith] It's like a cat with a hairball. - [Marly] You're so funny! Alright so I stuck that through the hole, can you see how that's coming all the way through? - [Faith] Yes. - [Marly] I didn't have to use this, but I did, 'cause it just makes it easier. So what I do here, I don't cut before I take them off. I like to take them off and then cut, just a personal preference. So I'm gonna wait for you-- - [Faith] Thank you. - [Marly] Before I move forward. - [Faith] I am taking a minute, sorry. - [Marly] You're good, it's all good. - [Faith] But it's not difficult. - Well in the timeframe that we're gonna have this, we're gonna have how many poms and tassels? It's gonna be good. Now my pom is gonna be really weak unless I really condense it down and shape it, 'cause I don't have a lot of yarn there. But as I said, the more wraps you do, the more full your pompom's going to be. I have found that I do a lot more wraps for my pompoms than I do for my tassels. The tassels, because all of this is coming together on one side to make the one tassel, it's already relatively thick if it was even just like this. Do I have to move you? - [Director] No, you're good. - Am I good? But whereas a pompom, whatever's on either side of the center core bit, that's what's fluffy and is out there. - [Faith] Yeah. - [Marly] Okay, so what I like to do is I will take these now at this point, but when you take out the side with the tassel, make sure you don't let this come out, in the sense that, don't let it fall out. So I will take that one out first. - [Faith] Oops! - [Marly] And then just take this one. Just set it down so that, we don't need this bit anymore, so we set that aside. - [Faith] Oh my gosh! - [Marly] So now we have our piece here ready to go, now we're going to cut. - [Faith] Oh my gosh. - [Marly] So we wanna go in the center. Now I know you can keep it on here, get it all on the center and stuff, I just don't like to do that. So I'm just going to come here, and I'm gonna find the bit that I think is the center, and just cut it. Sharp scissors are really helpful with this, and I will tell you, it's really also helpful to take little snips at a time. Don't go all at once, because you will really have to shape your pompom a lot more if you do. If you take little snips at a time, it allows it to relax, and you get it to shape a little bit as you're cutting. It just takes off the work that you have to do. (scissors snip) Alright you got it? - [Faith] Yes! - [Marly] Okay, so right here I could have two tassels if I had moved this up tighter here, right? So I'm gonna set the pompom aside for a second. Let's tackle the tassel. Now what I wanna do is I want to hold the string that I pulled through, and pull the peg out. So I wanna make sure that the string stays through the actual tassel. See that? - [Faith] I love it. - [Marly] And so now you can tie this just so it doesn't go anywhere, you know what I mean? - [Faith] This is a mega tassel. - [Marly] Right. And I travel a lot, I use these on my handle of my luggage. (Faith gasps) And they don't come apart, they're fantastic-- - [Faith] That's genius! - [Marly] And you can see exactly where they are. So I'm just gonna tie that up there. So then it's just out of the way. These little ends and stuff, you can use your tapestry needle to weave that in, but your extra string that you had for your neck, this is where I will use it and wrap it around the neck, and when it gets to a point where I think it's good, that's when I will use my tapestry needle, and I will thread it through. - [Faith] Oh! - [Marly] You know what I mean? Just pop it down, it's real easy. - [Allison] Patricia says, "I'm loving this "and I have to get one now!" - [Marly] It's so convenient. - [Faith] I hope you've done all the things to enter the giveaway. If you're just joining us, we're giving away two of these beautiful things. Also don't cut off the top, because it's reusable. (Marly laughs) And you can store it in there. - [Marly] Yes, alright so this is kind of messy, but you can see I have a tassel. - [Faith] It's adorable! - [Marly] I'm ready to go. Right, so we've made one tassel, and now we can make a pompom. So this one we don't have

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

the string through it, so we don't have to worry about it, we just get rid of our peg right there, as it flies around, and then this is where you begin to shape your pompom. So we can cut apart the outside bit, you know how to do this. - [Faith] Well I jumped the gun already Marly. - [Marly] That's alright. (scissors snip) You can hold the string that you used to tie the cord together, give it a good shake. Obviously I told you mine was gonna be flimsy so this is where I would begin to shape mine and really form it up to create a better pom. - [Faith] This is my favorite part. - [Marly] But yours are gonna be great. So you can see here, this is what it looks like when you really wrap quite a bit, you get quite a great pom goin' on here. - [Faith] And I could've kept going, but I knew you needed some of this yarn to make a matching tassel. - [Marly] I could've got more, I'm good. - [Faith] You have yarn? - [Marly] I have more, yeah. - You have a stash. - Just a little one. (Faith laughs) Just a little one. You could ask my husband. - Yes. - It's very small. He's always tellin' me I should go buy more yarn. - My stash has moved to secret locations. (Marly laughs) But then sometimes it's secret from me, so I need more yarn! - I've had that, you know the trick to that is to find a very good friend and make her, or him, agree to not be judgemental so that way when they pull five, or six, or 15 bags of the same type of yarn in the same color out of various places, and they put it all in one section, they don't look at you and say, "you have a problem," they're just like, "we have to find some projects for this." They're very helpful. - That's true. - It's very nice. - It sounds to me like you're hiding yarn at other people's houses. - No, not at all, ever, I've never done that. (laughs) Back in the day I did, but yours are great. - [Faith] So this is like a semi-trimmed one, and this is a fresh-off-the thing. - [Marly] So in that time, look what you've made. How cool is that? - [Faith] I dig it. - [Marly] Right? - [Faith] I'm so into it! - Isn't it easy? And it's so simple, they just fit together really nicely, and again, you used the three together, I used the two together. There are instructions in the packaging, so when you open up the packaging you can find instructions in there also. I've also done YouTube videos on how to do this as well, so if there's something that you've missed. They're really great. - What if I stop co-hosting and just trim pompoms? (Marly laughs) - They're addictive! - For the rest of the week. - They're addictive. So yeah, I love the tassel aspect of it, that's my favorite. But yeah. - Would you care to show us some of your new designs? - Would you like to see? Would they like to see? - [Allison] Yay! - Are they okay with it? - Of course they would. - They wanna see? So I have been working with Leisure Arts for several years now actually, they published my very first book and last year they came to me and they said they would like to do a series of my first projects. So I've got My First Crochet, My First Knit, this is My First Crochet Cowls, My First Baby Afghans. - [Faith] I love it. - [Marly] And the idea is there are very simple patterns, and then ones that are simple, but a little bit more complex, and it takes you through the sequence of skills that you would need to make each one. Very fashionable, very fun. - [Faith] I think this one's my favorite. - [Marly] That gray, dreamy one? - [Faith] Yes, look at the texture! - [Marly] Right, and it's so simple. Those are just, they're working half-double crochets through the back loop only, or front loop only, or whatever it is, you get the texture and then the extra puff stitch. - [Faith] Oh, okay, so it's not a chunky yarn? - [Marly] It's a bulky yarn. - [Faith] It's a bulky yarn, and it is a puff stitch. - [Marly] It's a puff stitch. - [Faith] We're committing. - [Marly] Yes. And it's fun. So cowls, they're a great way, for beginners especially, to dabble in other stitches, use various scraps of yarn they might have lying around, and it's not a huge commitment. They're usually shorter than a scarf, faster than a scarf, and you can play around and have some fun. Look at this one, I love it 'cause it uses the ombre yarn. - [Faith] That's gorgeous! - [Marly] So it naturally transitions from a dark to a light. - [Faith] Oh I love that. - [Marly] Right, and very easy, classic chevrons, which are quintessential to crochet, just like a granny stitch is, and so yeah. - [Faith] Seems like it really highlights the yarns too. - [Marly] I hope

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

so. - [Faith] Look at how cute you are! - [Marly] Isn't that a cute picture? My son took that picture of me. - [Faith] You're kidding. - [Marly] No, he made me laugh. - [Faith] Genuine love. - [Marly] It's a genuine laugh right there. And then the baby afghan book, I just wanted things that were bright, and cheerful, and not your typical baby pastel-y blankets. And so I chose a bunch of really bright shades of colors with just fun different techniques. - [Faith] Oh that's great! - [Marly] Simple garter stitch, the yarn does the work for you. That's hopscotch by Red Heart, that's ombre again, it's very easy, so a garter stitch sort of ribbing, the cartridge stitch, but you get a really great look because of the colors. - [Faith] Those are so cute together! - [Marly] Right, striking, the stockinette and the garter. - [Faith] I love it! - [Marly] And that could be great for a boy or a girl. So that was my goal, just to have it exciting, something that a knitter would want to pick up the yarn and make something fun. - [Faith] This one looks really neat too. - [Marly] You know what, these are garter stitch lengths, so you make garter stitch and then you change the color as you're doing lengths, and then you sew the lengths together to get sort of this quilt look. And it's chic cheap, so it's washable. I just love how bright and cheerful everything is, 'cause that's me, I'm just really bright. You wanna hear the true story of this one? - [Faith] Yes. - [Marly] Okay, this is super secret, can you guys keep this super secret? I had one blanket left to finish on this book and it was due two days from when I figured out that I had one blanket left. So I made this blanket in 12 hours, from start to finish. - [Faith] That's amazing! - 12 hours, I got done, and my hands were like this. (laughs) I was like oh my gosh, I forgot one blanket. So you could make this blanket in 12 hours. - [Faith] And in a weekend, space it out. (both laugh) Give yourself some time to rest. - But it is, it's a jumbo weight yarn and really simple cables, but it's fun, right? So yeah, it's exciting. But yeah, those are my two new books and they're available at leisurearts.com. - [Allison] Yay! - Yay! (laughs) - [Allison] You're just saying yay. (both laugh) - Well thank you so much for joining us in the studio and I'm gonna definitely spend more time with this pompom maker. - Thank you. - It's so exciting! - I love it! It's really amazing because the people that have seen it at the different shows we've been to-- - [Faith] Are like oh my goodness. - They're like, I don't need another pompom maker, and I'm like oh no, no, no, let me show you. - This pompom maker. - Yes, and so I usually show them where you can make the tassel, and then a couple pompoms, like what you did, and they're sold. Time is a commodity, right. So it's so precious, so the more we can make things that are fun and maximize our time doing it. - [Allison] True story, at Creativation, when Marly was, I went to go say hi to Marly, and she was in the Red Heart booth doing a pompom demo, and people, I couldn't actually get in to be like hi, people were just, they would not budge at all, they were so into the pompom making. - How were they like? - Right, you missed Ally's. (both laugh) - They were like, whoa. - They were transfixed. - [Allison] Trying to get in, and they were like, no, this is my space. - Awesome. - I just moved the mic, sorry. (Faith laughs) - I guess it's a good time to say goodbye. - Total newbie mistake, sorry. - Way to go, did you pull it out? - Yeah, I did. (laughs) - Well on that note, thank you so much Marly for joining us, it's always a pleasure. - Thanks everybody. (laughs) - And thanks all of you for joining at home, we'll see you next Thursday. - Bye. (upbeat music)

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026