

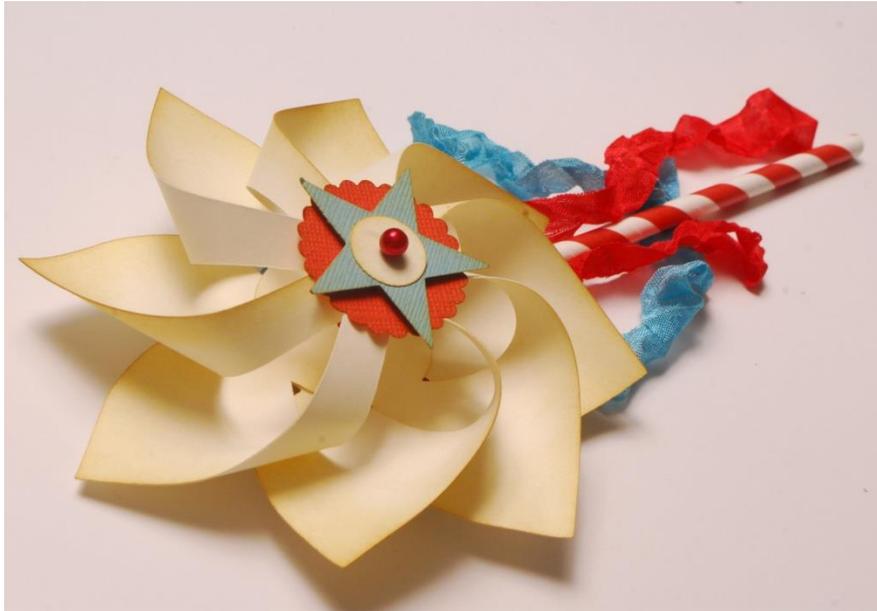
# Studio 5

# DIY Pinwheels

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Pinwheels are nostalgic toys that, combined with today's DIY trend can lend itself to celebrations all summer long!



Here are three creative ways to update the classic toy.

1. Size: from super-sized to teen-weeny; and not only in circumference, but layer & double up and you can have billowy big-drama pieces. This technique is great for tying a whole theme together and creating a custom party look.

2. Not just a toy! I have to admit, I have fond memories of hand-held pinwheels as a child, and it still amused me. But the shape doesn't have to spin to add a lot to you party. Summer and springtime weddings, birthdays, Independence day, of course, but even a baby shower would be adorable in pink and blue pinwheels. Think Backdrops, centerpieces, favors, invitations, place settings, garlands etc.

3. Embellishments: To have a functional pinwheel, you have to be careful what you add to it. But the center is a perfect place to get creative. Anything that can stick to the center works; buttons, brads, pompoms, pictures, monograms etc... You can also add streamers to the back of your pinwheels to give that extra moving feature.

I'm included a download for my favorite template that can be easily cut by hand, but I'm also including the shape so you can use your die-cutting machine to cut quickly and accurately.

However, I will say, I'm in love with a uni-tasker, the Pinwheel punchboard by We R Memory Keepers. They have a whole line of punch boards to make our crafting lives easier, but wow, this tool rocks!



You can make pinwheels from 3" to 12", my favorite sizes being 5" to 12". The smaller ones start to lose their shape. I prefer to use my template to make really small pinwheels.

This tool will punch your holes, corners, center and slice your quarters to make the wings in 2 different styles so you can layer and double up (so much prettier!) Simple to use and fast, fast, fast!

They also have coordinating supplies to make life a bit easier. I love their straw and pinwheel attachments. Just snap together and you have a very smooth moveable pinwheel. I love the extra long straws as well.

If you need to make a bunch of pinwheels, I recommend using this cool tool! I'm starting to see more and more super large sheets of thick cardstock paper in pretty colors and patterns. These are perfect for making a HUGE pinwheel, which is great, inexpensive way to fill a lot of party real estate!

A little trickier to create, because you can't use the punch board...except, I cheated and actually still used part of it, the corner punch.

Then I used a very large round plastic serving platter to draw the lines to create the quarters and then creating a printable template for the 2nd layer quarters. It worked and wow, so much drama!





Here are some cute cupcake pics I made with my template.

Use some bright colorful paper to make a perfect summertime birthday party theme.

Party Hats, Treat tubes, garlands, favors and centerpieces all make for a memorable party theme.

