



# TIN – CAN *Magic*

Even though I grew up “working-class poor,” my homespun life would be considered rich in this decade of do-it-yourselfers. We grew all of our own food (organic, of course!), sewed our own clothes, and crafted from scratch our home decorations. In fact, my mother’s holiday homemade gift list was created in January every year and then worked on throughout the year. We made gifts from bottles, jar tops, old tires, fabric remnants, last year’s Christmas cards (those became six-sided baskets held together with crochet), and even tin cans.

My father’s parents lost their Utah farm in the Great Depression, and with six children under the age of 18, they moved to the city of Ogden looking for work. Grandpa Butters found a job making cans in a factory and spent the rest of his life working there. When his son, my father, turned 18, he too signed on and did his “duty” in the same factory for 45 years. If ever you’ve bought anything in a can, you have men like my grandfather and father to thank.

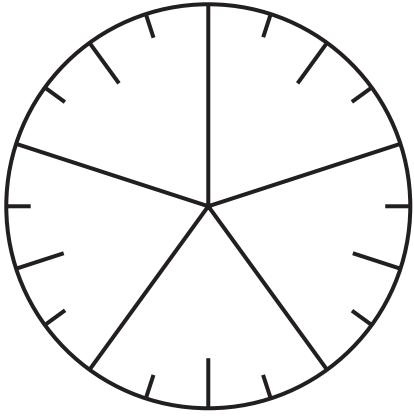
With tin cans such a big part of our life, we used them in a million different ways. One Christmas, my mother made an entire tree from tin-can remnants (oh so shiny) that my father had brought home from the factory. So, get out your tin snips and a good pair of gloves. You’re about to create some stunning holiday ornaments, rescued from your trash (hopefully, your recycling bin!).



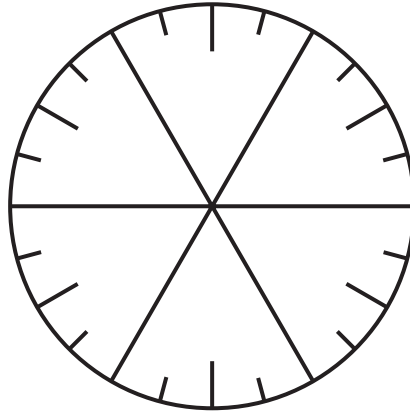


You'll find patterns for 28 different ornaments on the following pages. After you've mastered a few simple techniques, you'll be able to create your own patterns, as we did in the ornaments pictured here. You can even combine patterns to make layered ornaments.

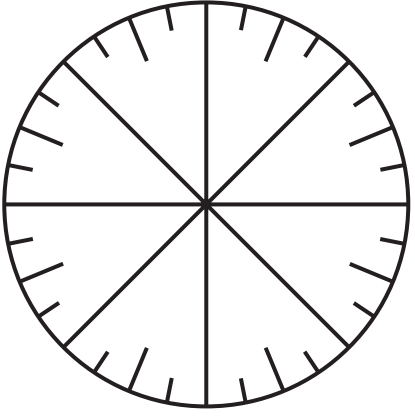
- YOU'LL NEED:**
- tin-can lids
  - tin snips
  - round-end needle-nose pliers
  - compass
  - wax pencil
  - wire ornament hangers



Template #1: 5 / 10 / 20



Template #2: 6 / 12 / 24

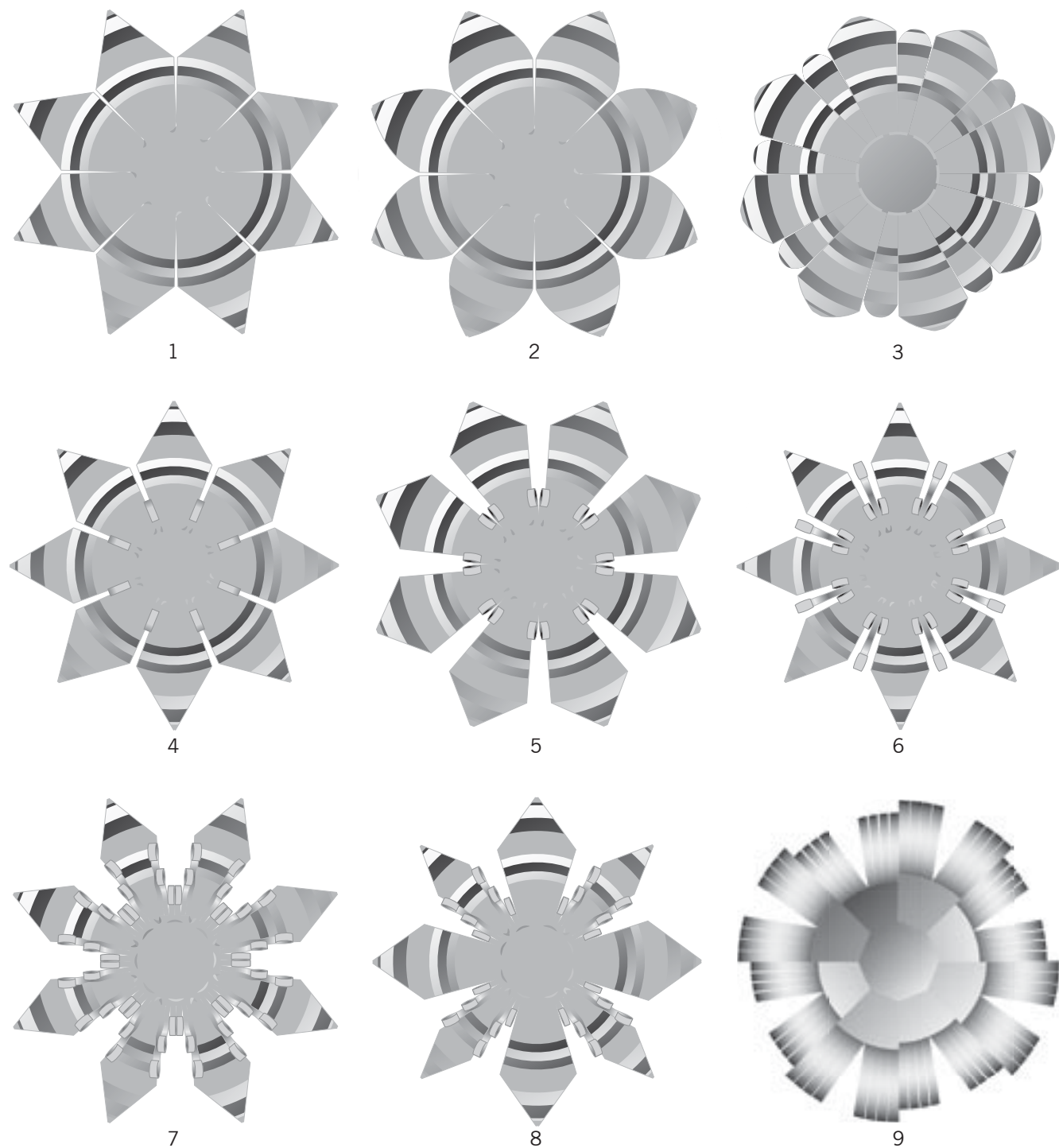


Template #3: 8 / 16 / 32

The tin ornaments pictured here are all made from tin-can lids. The templates above are used to divide the lids into equal sections called "spokes." Template #1 is used for 5, 10, or 20-spoke ornaments; Template #2 is used for 6, 12, or 24-spoke ornaments; Template #3 is used for 8, 16, or 32-spoke ornaments. Templates are marked with the maximum number of cuts possible for that template. For example, Template #1 has a total of 20 marks, but if you are making a 10-spoke ornament from this template, you would make only 10 cuts. Make a photocopy of this page to provide templates for 15-oz. cans with a 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" lids. Center a template on top of a lid and make cutting marks at the end of the division lines for the number of spokes in the ornament you're making. Remove the template and, using a ruler and a wax pencil, connect the marks opposite each other to make a diagram on the lid. Using a compass, draw a 1" circle around the center of the lid that will be your stopping point for all cuts made into the lid. Use tin snips for all cuts and round-end needle-nose pliers for all bends and curls. Wear heavy leather gloves to protect your hands. When finished, use a drill and small drill bit (or a hammer and nail) to drill a hole to hang your ornament using a wire ornament hanger (or a bent paper clip).



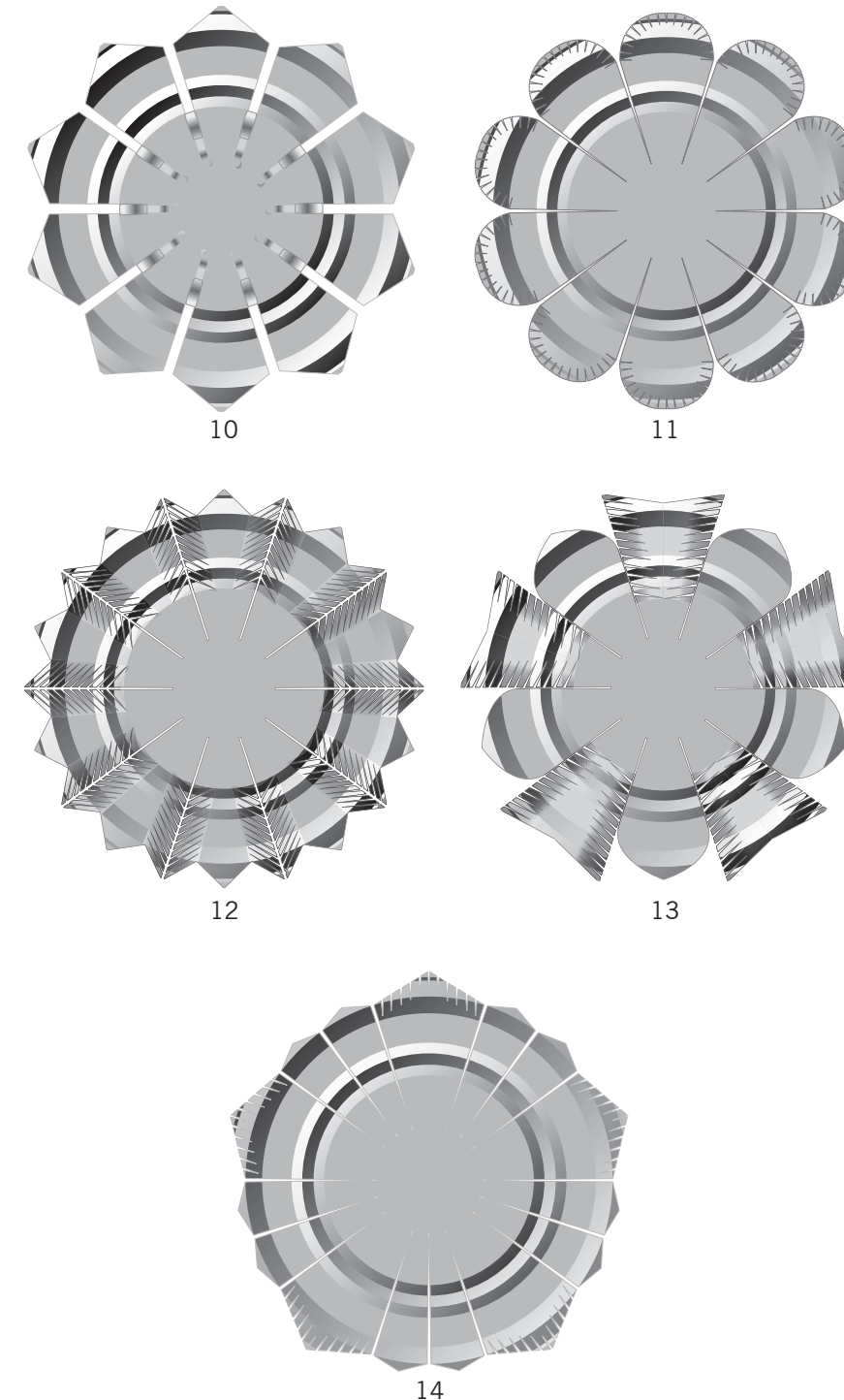
## 8-SPOKE ORNAMENTS



To make the 8-spoke ornaments shown above, first mark and cut your lid into 8 spokes using the template and directions on page 81, then: **1)** notch as shown to create triangle petals; **2)** trim ends and cut as shown to make curved petals; **3)** after dividing into 8 spokes, cut a strip one-third of the width of each spoke on the left of each, then shape ends as shown; **4)** after dividing into 8 spokes, cut  $\frac{1}{8}$ " strip off one side of each spoke and curl toward middle, then notch as shown to create triangle petals;

**5)** same as 4, but cut a strip on both sides of each spoke; **6)** same as 4, but with 3 strips cut off each spoke, curling the 2 outside strips to the middle and the middle strip as shown; **7)** same as 6, but with 3 strips cut off each side of each spoke and curled as shown; **8)** same as 7, but with 3 strips cut off each side of every other spoke; **9)** cut spokes into strips as shown toward center until a "V" comes out of the middle of each spoke, then bend every other spoke forward slightly to create a layered look.

## 10-SPOKE ORNAMENTS



To make the 10-spoke ornaments shown above, first mark and cut your lid into 10 spokes using the template and directions on page 81, then: **10)** cut  $\frac{1}{8}$ " strip off each spoke and curl forward toward middle; **11)** round ends, then make short "feather" cuts around ends as shown; **12)** notch as shown to create triangle petals, then bend petals slightly to make feather cuts along sides as shown; **13)** trim ends as shown, then bend petals slightly to make feather cuts along sides of every other spoke as shown; **14)** cut every other spoke in half, then notch as shown to create triangle petals and make feather cuts on ends of the larger petals.

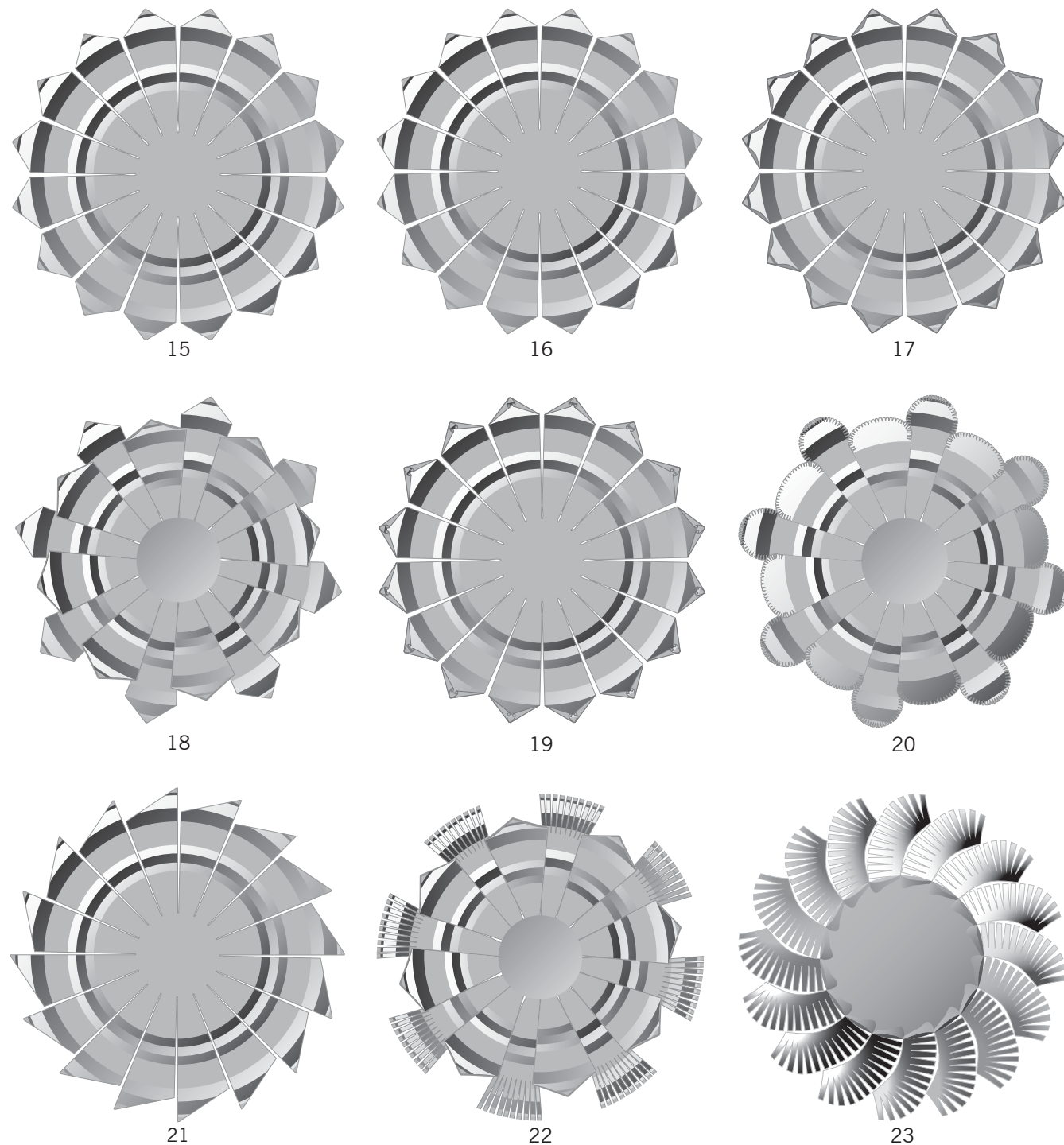


**The Rosa Minstrels** are mother Pat Humphrey and daughters Lynn and Amy from rural central Missouri, a threesome who have enjoyed singing together around the family piano for many years. A few years back, they thought it would be fun to record a CD of unusual Christmas carols from around the world they enjoyed singing when the girls were young. Amy, who also performs and tours with her husband Joe, had the perfect spot: a chicken house converted to an eco-friendly studio on Joe's 125-acre family farm, now a wildlife preserve. The CD was a huge hit among family and friends, a soothing contrast to the hustle and bustle that often accompany the holiday season.

Once demand outgrew the supply of homemade CDs in homemade fabric pouches, the Minstrels decided to rerecord the songs at a professional studio in Nashville, Tennessee, with producer Christopher Rowe, known for his work with the Dixie Chicks, Taylor Swift, and Jewel. The result, "Célébrons la Naissance," was released in December 2006, and is one of MaryJane's favorite holiday CDs. [www.rosaminstrels.com](http://www.rosaminstrels.com)



## 16-SPOKE ORNAMENTS



To make the 16-spoke ornaments shown above, first mark and cut your lid into 16 spokes using the template and directions on page 81, then: **15)** notch as shown to create triangle petals; **16)** same as 15, but bend tips slightly back; **17)** same as 15, but bend tips slightly forward; **18)** same as 16 (with tips bent back), and every other petal bent forward to create layers; **19)** same as 17, but with the edges of each petal tip curled forward; **20)** cut as shown to make curved petals, then bend every other petal forward slightly to create a layered look and

make short “feather” cuts around ends of petals; **21)** cut ends of petals on an angle as shown; **22)** notch every other petal to create a triangle shape and bend those petals forward to create layers, then feather ends of remaining petals; **23)** for this spiral lid, do NOT cut the lid into 16 spokes first; instead, starting at one of the lines on the outer edge of the can, cut in an arc to the next 16th line to the left, stopping at the inner 1" circle; repeat around; then make short “feather” cuts on one side of each petal as shown.

## 32-SPOKE & FILIGREE ORNAMENTS

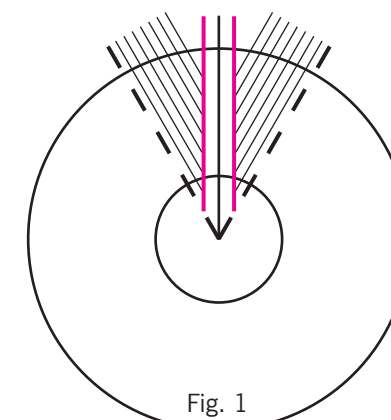
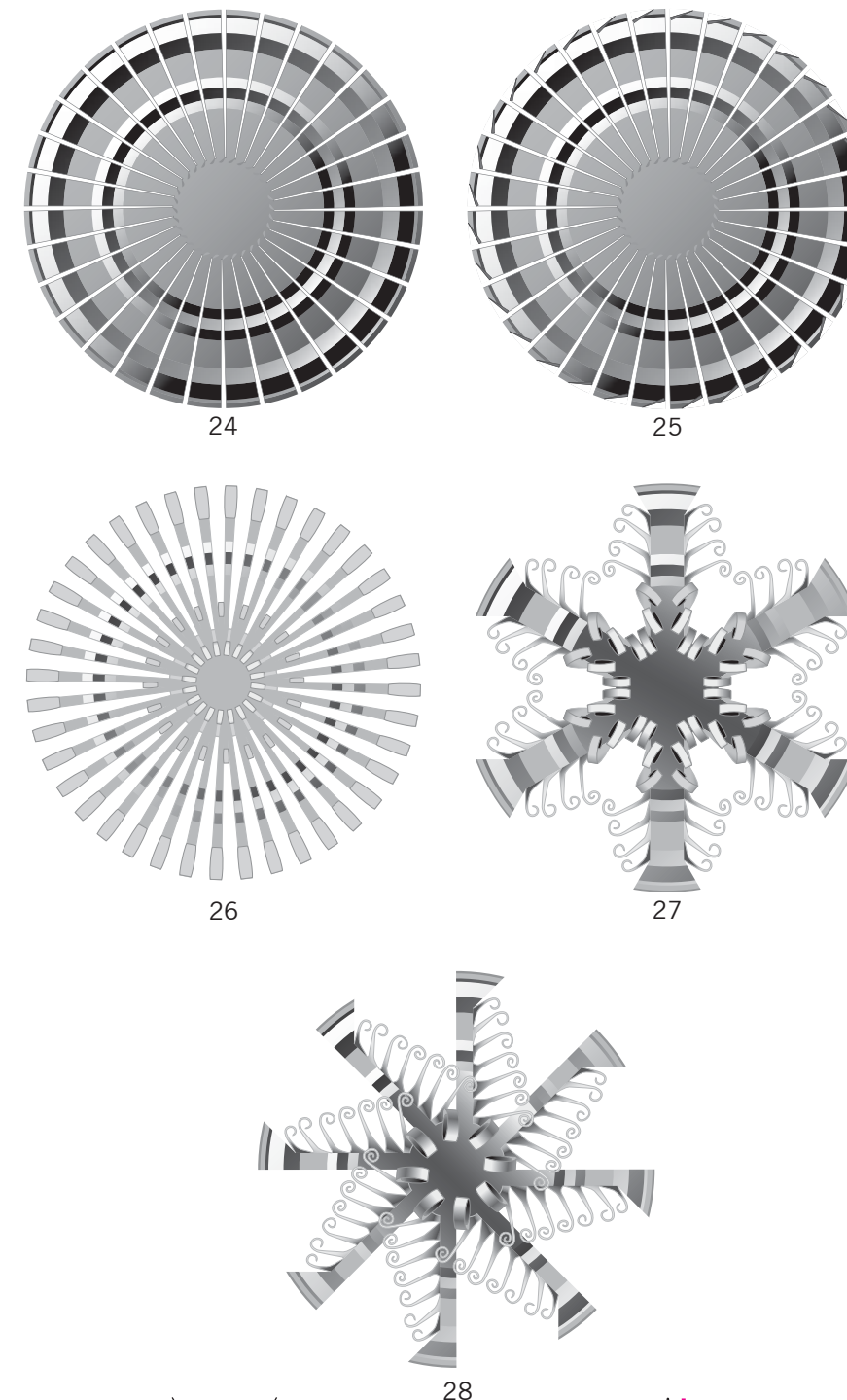


Fig. 1

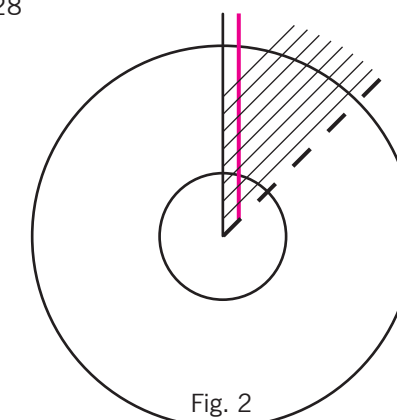


Fig. 2

Numbers 24 and 25 are 32-spoke ornaments. For **24)** mark and cut your lid into 32 spokes using the template and directions on page 81. For **25)** same as 24, but bend forward the left-hand corner of each spoke.

Numbers 26–28 are filigree ornaments. For **26)** first mark and cut your lid into 16 spokes using the template and directions on page 81, then cut each spoke into 5 equal strips. Bend every other strip forward to make a right angle to the lid, then using only the ones already bent forward, bend every other one of these in toward the center of the lid. Again using only the ones already bent, curl the outer ones toward the center to about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and the inner ones to about  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". To finish, curl the remaining unbent flat strips forward just one turn. For **27)**, mark your lid into 12 spokes using the template and directions on page 81 (don't cut yet), then mark a line  $\frac{1}{8}$ " on both sides of every other line. Cut along the 6 lines that are not marked with the  $\frac{1}{8}$ " lines to create 6 equal spokes. Starting at the outer edge of the lid in a single spoke and cutting only to the center 1" circle or the  $\frac{1}{8}$ " lines, make cuts parallel to the side of the spoke about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart (Figure 1). Straighten the strips as you cut so they won't tangle. Bend the 3 longest strips forward at a right angle to the lid, then curl the center strip of each group in toward the center to about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and the other 2 to about  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Curl the rest of the strips as shown to create a snowflake pattern. For **28)**, mark your lid into 8 spokes using the template and directions on page 81 (don't cut yet), then mark a line  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the left edge of each spoke. Starting at the right side of each spoke, cut strips as shown in Figure 2. Curl the strips as shown to create a snowflake pattern.