

# Christmas Countdown

DESIGNED BY ERIKA FREI & ELAINA APPLEBY



**Count the days to Christmas  
with a fun treat-filled jar.**

INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK

**IMPORTANT**  
Have an adult help you with this project.

### You'll Need

Aleene's Fast Grab Tacky Glue  
Black fine point permanent pen  
Button to match  
Cardstock (white, red and green)  
Cool Melt Glue Gun and glue sticks  
Delta Ceramcoat Matte Varnish  
Disposable plate to use as a palette  
Fine iridescent glitter  
Glass wide-mouth pint Mason jar, plus metal ring and lid to fit  
Glue stick  
Green felt  
Hemp string  
Hole punch  
Paper towels  
Pencil  
Scissors (regular and decorative-edge)  
Small and large clear rhinestones  
Starlight candy mints  
Stylus  
Tracing paper  
Water container to clean brushes  
White feather boa  
White gesso  
White graphite transfer paper  
Wooden pear (3 1/2" tall)

### DELTA CERAMCOAT ACRYLICS

Black  
Coral  
Rooster Red  
Rouge  
White

### LOEW-CORNELL BRUSHES

(American Painter Series)  
4000-#3 Round  
4300-#10 Shader  
4550-3/4" Wash

### PREPARATION

1. Use a copier to copy the pattern onto a piece of white cardstock.
2. Carefully cut out the hat and tag pieces from the cardstock to use as templates (don't cut out the saying piece yet, it will be used later).
3. Trace the rest of the elf pattern onto a piece of tracing paper.

### LET'S PAINT ELF

1. Use the 3/4" wash brush to basecoat the pear on all sides with Rooster Red. Let dry.
2. Cut out elf tracing and transfer the main face and beard lines with white graphite paper.
3. Use the #10 shader to basecoat face with Coral. Let dry.
4. Use the #10 shader to float shading on bottom of face with Rouge. Let dry.
5. Transfer nose, eyes, smile, and beard onto the face with white graphite paper.
6. Use the bottom end of a brush to dip-dot the beard with White (dip-dot large and small dots randomly in beard area). Let dry.
7. Use the bottom end of a brush to dip-dot nose with Rooster Red and eyes with Black.

### JAR LID

1. Use the 3/4" wash brush to basecoat top of metal lid with white gesso. Let dry.

### HAT

1. Lay the hat template over the green felt and carefully cut out hat piece.
2. Fold the pointed end of the hat up about 1". Then fold the hat around placing the short sides slightly over each other. Have an adult use a cool melt glue gun to glue the short sides together (make sure the pointed ends are facing out and that the hat is large enough to fit the elf's head when gluing it together).
3. Use hemp string to tie a tight bow around the hat about 1 1/2" from the top.
4. Have an adult glue the button and large rhinestone to the middle of the bow using a cool melt glue gun.
5. Carefully cut thin strips down from the top of the hat to just above the bow to form the tassel.
6. Scoop up some gesso with the #3 round brush and create drips of snow around the hat. While the paint is still wet sprinkle fine glitter over the whole hat. Shake off extra glitter and let dry.

### FINISHING TAG

1. Lay large tag template onto a piece of green cardstock, trace around and cut out. Then cut off bottom edge of template to make the medium tag template. Lay medium tag template onto a piece of red cardstock. Trace around and cut out.

- Use glue stick to glue red tag over green tag (adjust tags so tops match).
2. From the copied white cardstock cut out saying and use decorative edge scissors to cut across top and bottom. Glue to middle of red tag.
3. Punch a hole at the top of the finished tag with a hole punch. Fold a piece of hemp string in half and place loop through hole in tag. Pull ends of string through loop till loop meets tag.

### DETAILS

1. Apply one thin coat of varnish over elf. Let dry.
2. Cut a 14" piece of feather boa. Have an adult use a cool melt glue gun to glue lid inside metal ring and feather boa around outside of metal ring.
3. Use tacky glue to glue elf onto middle of metal lid. Let dry.
4. Tie tag around elf so it hangs just under elf.
5. Use tacky glue to glue small rhinestones to beard and hat to head.
6. Use a black permanent pen to line smile. Place 25 candies into the jar. Eat one each day till Christmas. Makes a sweet gift!

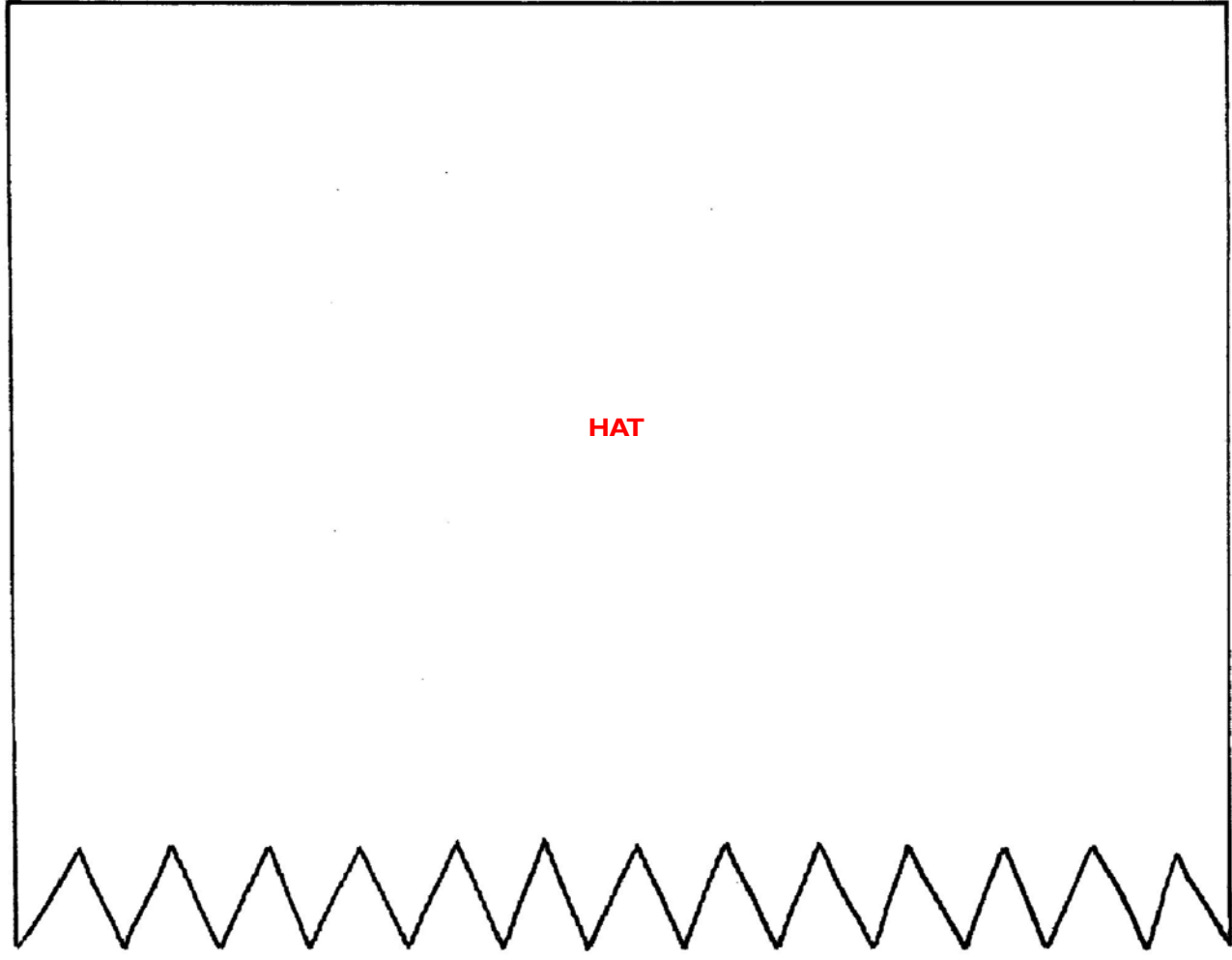
### TEACHING TIPS

- This project is geared toward kids ages 8 and up. It takes approximately two hours to complete if a few things are prepared beforehand.
- Have a few things done before class: Cut the hats out, glue them together, and tie bow on top. Cut out ears, feather boa pieces, and tag pieces. Glue metal lid to metal ring. Make a kit for each student which includes all the pieces.
- During first half of class have the students add snow and glitter to the hat, basecoat elf body, basecoat metal lid, basecoat face, pick out a button for hat, glue tag together, punch hole in tag, and add string to tag.
- During their break, go around to each student and glue elf to metal lid with tacky glue. Also glue button and rhinestone to each bow, and feather boa around each metal ring. Screw lid on jar.
- During second half of class have students float face and ears, tie tag around elf, dot nose and eyes, and dot beard. Apply one thin coat of matte varnish. With tacky glue, attach rhinestones to beard and hat to head. Draw on smile.

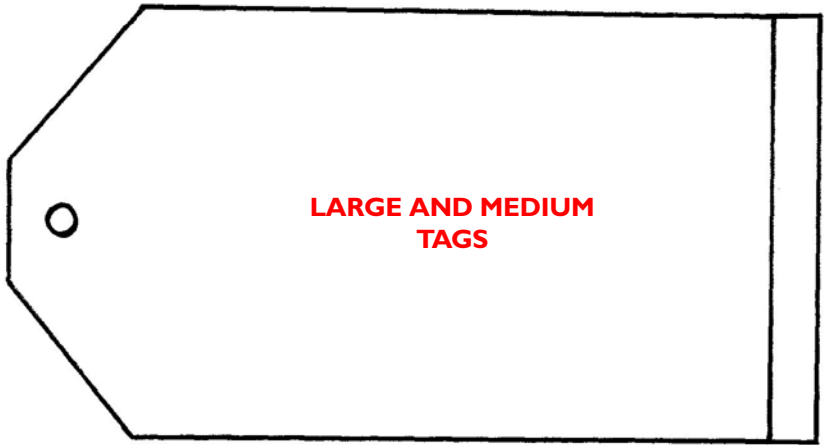
### ABOUT THE DESIGNERS

**Erika Joanne Frei** and **Elaina Appleby** collaborate on kid-friendly projects, including their latest book, *Kids Luv to Paint*, which is produced by Kooler Design Studio and distributed through Leisure Arts ([www.leisurearts.com](http://www.leisurearts.com)). They also developed Beginner Painting Kits, which include a handy carrying case, Loew-Cornell brushes and various supplies to get started. Contact them for details at Erika Joanne Designs, P.O. Box 630, Manchester, WA 98353, (360) 769-8870, [www.erikajoanne.com](http://www.erikajoanne.com) or Appleby Designs, (360) 990-3807.

# Christmas Countdown Patterns



HAT



LARGE AND MEDIUM TAGS

DASHED LINE REPRESENTS HAT PLACEMENT



*Enjoy a  
Little treat  
Each day  
To countdown  
December  
In a  
SWEET  
Way.*