

# CountrySampler

## Sparkling Beaded Suncatcher

Let your spirit shine bright with a DIY suncatcher that can be made in an afternoon to give any room's window a boost of patriotic flair.

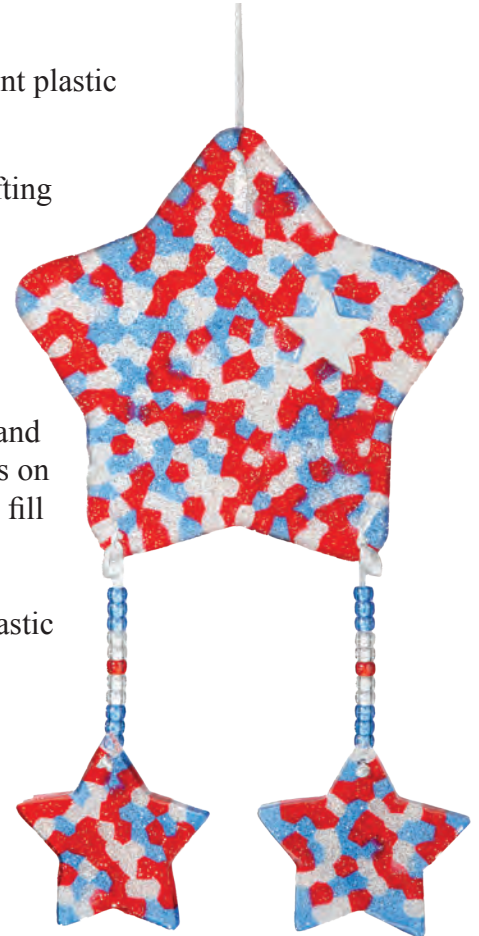
### Materials and Tools

1 star-shaped aluminum cake pan,  
approximately 5" wide  
2 star-shaped metal cookie cutters,  
approximately 3" wide  
1 star-shaped metal cookie cutter,  
approximately 1½" wide

Red, white and blue translucent plastic  
pony beads with glitter  
Thin silver ribbon  
Baking sheet, reserved for crafting  
Marker  
Drill with small drill bit

### Instructions

1. Set the cake pan and the two 3" star cookie cutters on an unlined baking sheet. Position the 1½" cookie cutter inside the cake pan.
2. Arrange a single layer of beads in the cake pan, with the holes facing up and colors distributed evenly, leaving the inside of the 1½" star empty. Set beads on their sides if necessary to follow the shape of the pan. Repeat the process to fill the two 3" cookie cutters.
3. Bake at 350°F in a preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes. Begin checking frequently after about 15 minutes. The suncatchers are finished when the plastic is completely melted and the surfaces are smooth, with no bumps.
4. Remove from the oven and let cool for about 10 minutes. Pop the plastic shapes out of the cake pan and the cookie cutters, and remove the 1½" star cutter from the cake pan.
5. Mark a guide dot at the top of the 5" star for a ribbon hanger and at the bottom for the two beaded hangers. Mark a dot at the top of each 3" star. Drill holes.
6. Loop and knot a ribbon in the top hole of the 5" star to create a hanger. To make the beaded hangers, cut two pieces of ribbon to the same length. Insert the ribbons into the holes in the 3" stars and tie a knot in each. String beads onto each ribbon in a pattern and tie the loose end of each ribbon to the bottom holes of the 5" star.



### Helpful Hints

- \* Choose an inexpensive baking sheet with a flat surface. If there are ridges meant to improve airflow around baked goods, the plastic will seep under the cookie cutters as it's melting.
- \* Consider opening a window for ventilation, although this project produces very little odor while baking.