

Merry **CHRIST**mas Banner Decoration



While shopping at my local Church Distribution Center, I noticed how many pictures of Christ they had for sale and I was inspired with the idea to create this Christmas Banner for my missionary son. I bought 15 pictures of Christ in the 5 X 7 inch size Most of them were priced at 75 cents each.



I went to a local party supply store and purchased a Merry Christmas Banner. It is the kind that has the letters connected by rivets that allow the letters to turn so that it will stack and fold flat.

I bought a roll of 2 inch wide red, shiny, flat ribbon. I bought a big roll of it, but I only used 21 feet of ribbon for the project. I also bought a can of spray on adhesive.

I cut the ribbon into seven 3 foot sections. On one end of each section of ribbon, I measured up 2 inches and made a mark at the center of the ribbon, then cut an upside down V into the ribbon so the end would look decorative.

I spread the Merry Christmas banner out and stapled one end of ribbon to each end of the banner with the decorative end hanging out. I thought this might make it easier for my missionary to hang the banner in his apartment.



I covered my work area with newspaper so I wouldn't get adhesive on it while working. I got a piece of cardboard and laid it on the newspaper. I laid one of the photos on top of the cardboard in the middle with the picture side down. Then I laid a sheet of cardstock on the sides of each picture, leaving only a 1 ½ inch strip open on the back of the picture. I sprayed this open space with the spray on adhesive. I carefully removed the cardstock, and then moved the picture to a clean area of the table laying it face down. I measured and laid the ribbon down on top of the picture using the measurements from the chart below. After laying the ribbon down on top of the adhesive, I smoothed it with my hand to adhere the ribbon to the picture.

I repeated this for each picture, making sure to place each picture in the same space on my cardboard to prevent getting adhesive on the front of the pictures. On each ribbon strip I placed three pictures of Christ. Three sets had the pictures in portrait mode and two strips had the pictures in landscape mode.

Attaches to the C	Attaches to the H	Attaches to the R	Attaches to the S	Attaches to the T
4 inches	5 inches	4 inches	5 inches	4 inches
7 inch picture	5 inch picture	7 inch picture	5 inch picture	7 inch picture
3 inches	5 inches	3 inches	5 inches	3 inches
7 inch picture	5 inch picture	7 inch picture	5 inch picture	7 inch picture
3 inches	5 inches	3 inches	5 inches	3 inches
7 inch picture	5 inch picture	7 inch picture	5 inch picture	7 inch picture
5 inches	6 inches	5 inches	6 inches	5 inches

When the five ribbons with pictures on them were dry, I turned them over and stapled them to the letters in CHRIST. I skipped the letter I because the spacing was too close with the letter S, but it worked out really well so the spacing was almost equal between the ribbons. Then I trimmed the ribbon around some of the letters to eliminate the sharp corners sticking out.



To fold it up, I started at the bottom of each picture ribbon and accordion folded the pictures up then laid them on top of the letters at the top. I then started at one end and turned each letter in with the rivets laying each on top of the next. When it was all in one square, I folded the ribbons from the ends over and around the whole pile. It all fit neatly into a gallon sized zip-lock bag. I squeezed the extra air out and it made a nice little package that fit easily into one of the Priority Mail Envelopes for mailing.



The total cost was under \$20. The party supply store also sold a smaller Merry Christmas Banner and it would work if you used pictures that are the 3 X 5 inch size and narrower ribbon. That would be less expensive and even easier to mail to missionaries in far away lands.