

## A SNOWFLAKE DECORATION FOR YOUR HOME

We all like decorating our homes at Christmas.

Here's how to make a snowflake decoration to hang on your Christmas tree or in a window.

The snowflake is made using a technique called shadow quilting.

### You will need

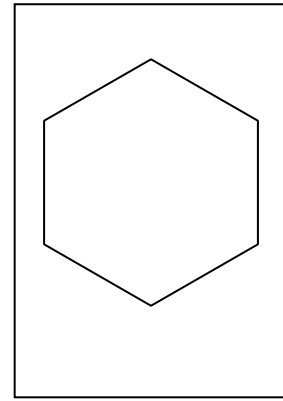
- Sheets of A4 paper
- A pencil and ruler.
- Sharp paper scissors and ruler
- Large hexagon template
- 20cm square of thin white wadding
- Two 25cm squares of organza (a semi-transparent fabric) in pale blue or white
- White or blue cotton perlé (a thick, shiny sewing thread).
- Pins and a needle with a large eye.
- 505 Spray glue
- Two A4 sheets of thin white or blue card.
- Double sided tape.

### The decoration is made in 8 steps

1. Cut out a paper hexagon.
2. Fold it into 6 layers, and cut away to make a snowflake template.
3. Cut a thin wadding snowflake.
4. Layer the snowflake between two pieces of organza.
5. Trap some sequins in with the snowflake.
6. Sew around the edge of the snowflake.
7. Cut out two card rings.
8. Stick the organza snowflake between the card rings.
9. Make a loop to hang up the snowflake.

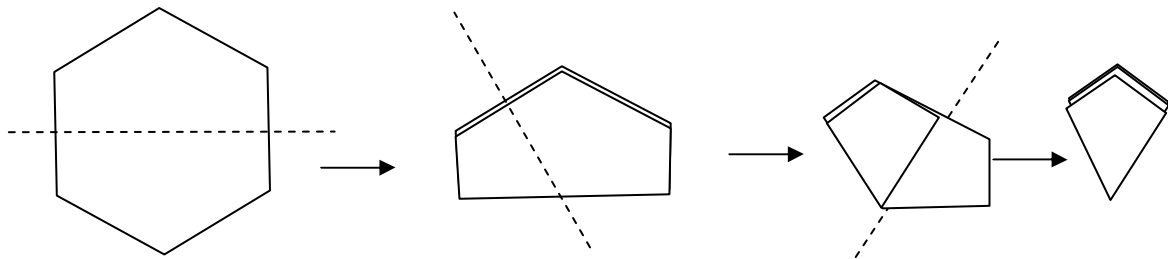
## Making the snowflake

1. Draw round the large hexagon template on a piece of A4 paper. Cut it out using paper scissors.

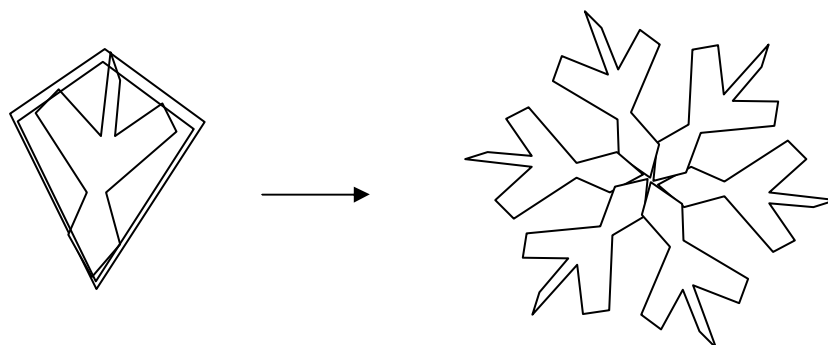


2. Fold the hexagon in half. Fold at the middle of the sides, not at the points.

3. Then fold this into three, folding one side to the back, and the other side to the front. If you line up the left hand point over the top one, this will help you where to make the second fold.

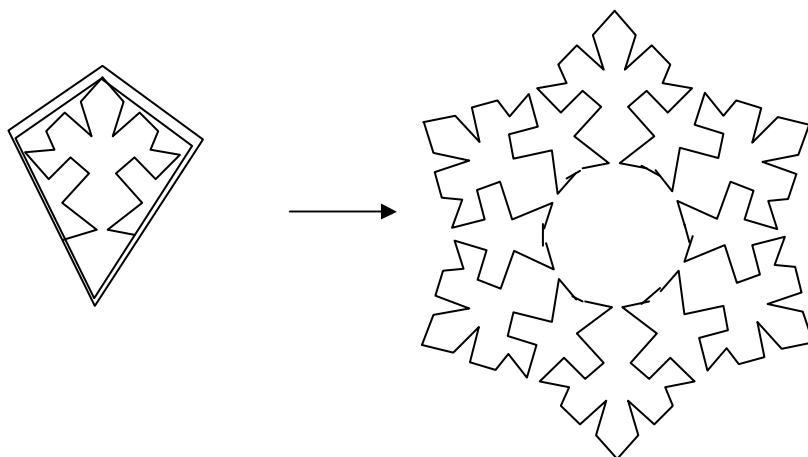


4. Starting at a place about 2 cm up from the bottom, cut a zig zag line up each side of the folded edges of the hexagon and across the top (again with your paper scissors). Don't just cut pieces out, as you might have done when making paper snowflakes before - holes will make it more difficult to stitch later, so you need to cut away all of the folded edges above your starting point.



Cut through all the layers, trying to keep the shape that you cut the same on both edges of the folded paper - it can be spiky or curvy.

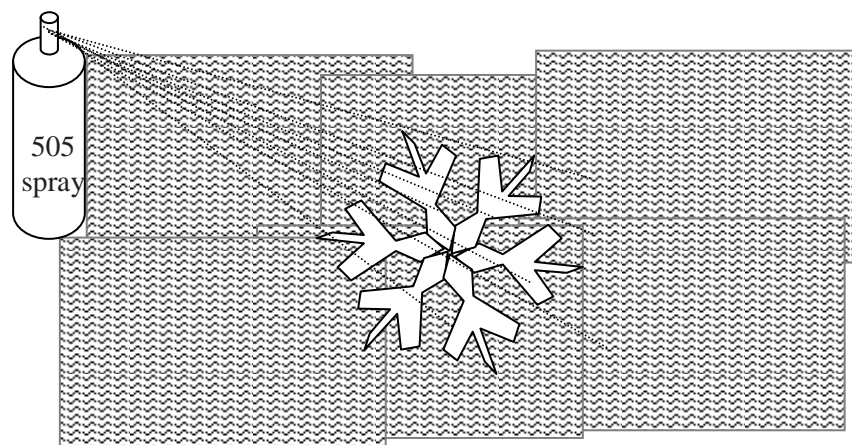
5. Open out the hexagon, and look at your snowflake. Are you pleased with the shape? If not, try making another one, until you have a template shape that you like. Don't make it too complicated!



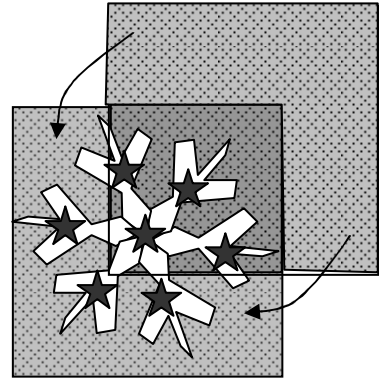
6. Pin the paper snowflake template onto the square of thin wadding. Cut out very carefully, using sharp sewing scissors.

### Trapping the snowflake between the organza

1. Cut out two pieces of organza 20cm square.
2. Protect your table with some newspaper or plastic.
3. Place the wadding snowflake on the table, and spray *lightly* with the 505 spray. Shake the can well before spraying, and hold about 30cm above the wadding.
4. *Note: Make sure that the room is well ventilated; and if you or anyone else in the room suffers from asthma, use the spray glue outside.*

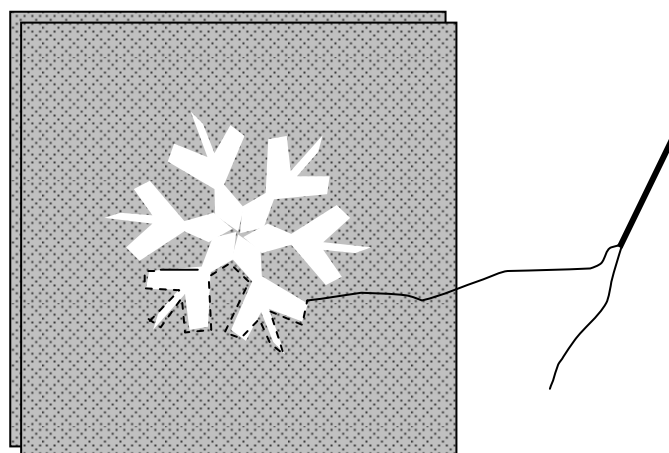


5. Place a few silver stars onto the sticky snowflake - you can put them in particular places, or just scatter them. Now place one of the pieces of organza on top. Make sure the snowflake is in the middle of the organza, and press gently to stick.
6. Turn over and spray with the 505 spray again.
7. Put a few more silver stars onto the snowflake, and then cover with the other piece of organza. The spray glue will keep all the layers together while you do the quilting.



### How to shadow quilt the snowflake.

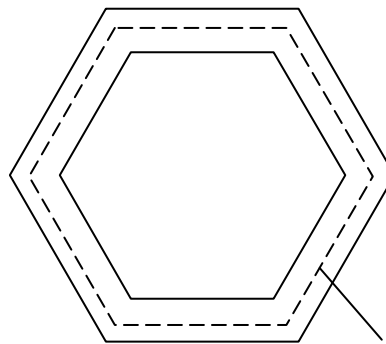
1. Thread a needle with a piece of cotton perlé thread about 40cm long. Tie a small knot in the end.
2. Starting at a place where the glue has not stuck the layers together very firmly, push the needle just into the top fabric, and go in between the organza layers for about 5cm along the edge of the snowflake. Come up through the top fabric again, and then stitch all round the snowflake with small, neat running stitches. Try to stitch right next to the edge of the wadding, not through it.



- When you get back to the beginning, cut off the knot, and continue the running stitch over the part where the thread is trapped inside. Then push the needle just into the top fabric, and go in between the organza layers for about 5cm alongside the first stitching that you did. Come up through the top fabric again, and cut off the thread carefully right next to the surface. This is a neat way of starting and finishing off without leaving a lumpy knot.

### It's time to make the decoration!

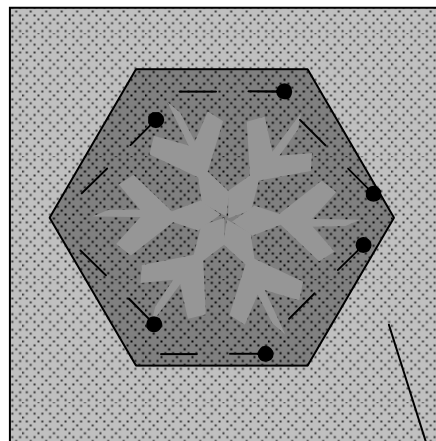
- Draw round the hexagon ring template once onto paper and twice onto card.



Cut between the two lines.

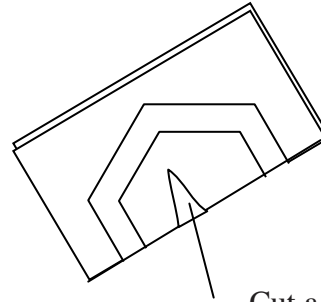
- Cut out the paper one *between the two lines* using paper scissors.

- Pin this paper template onto the finished snowflake, so that the snowflake is in the middle. Cut the spare organza away around the edge of this paper circle template, using sharp fabric scissors. Remove the template.



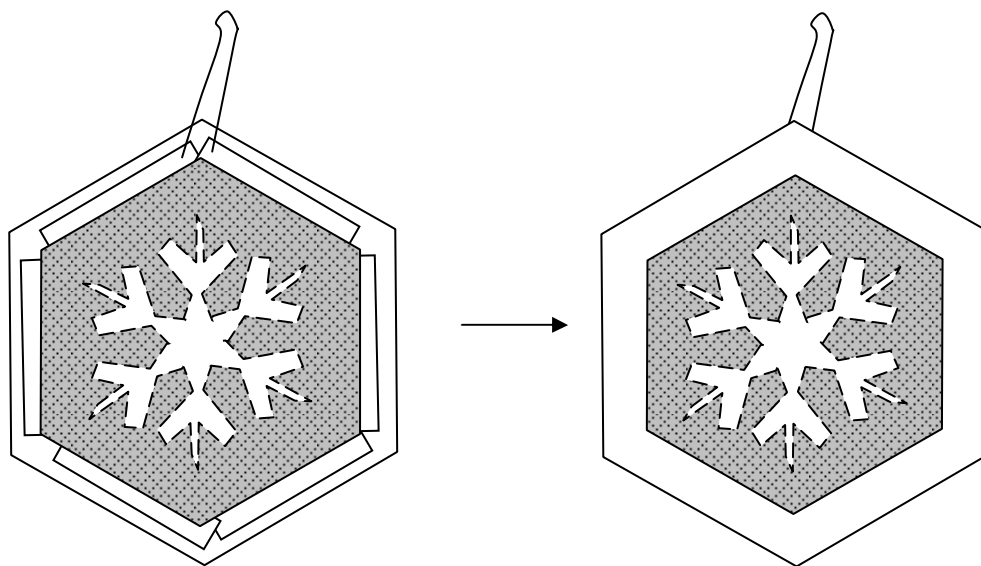
Trim away spare organza

4. Fold the hexagon cards lightly just at the centre, and cut a wedge out. This makes a place where you can get the scissors in properly to cut out the middle of the hexagon "frame".



Cut a wedge out of the fold, so that the centre can be cut out.

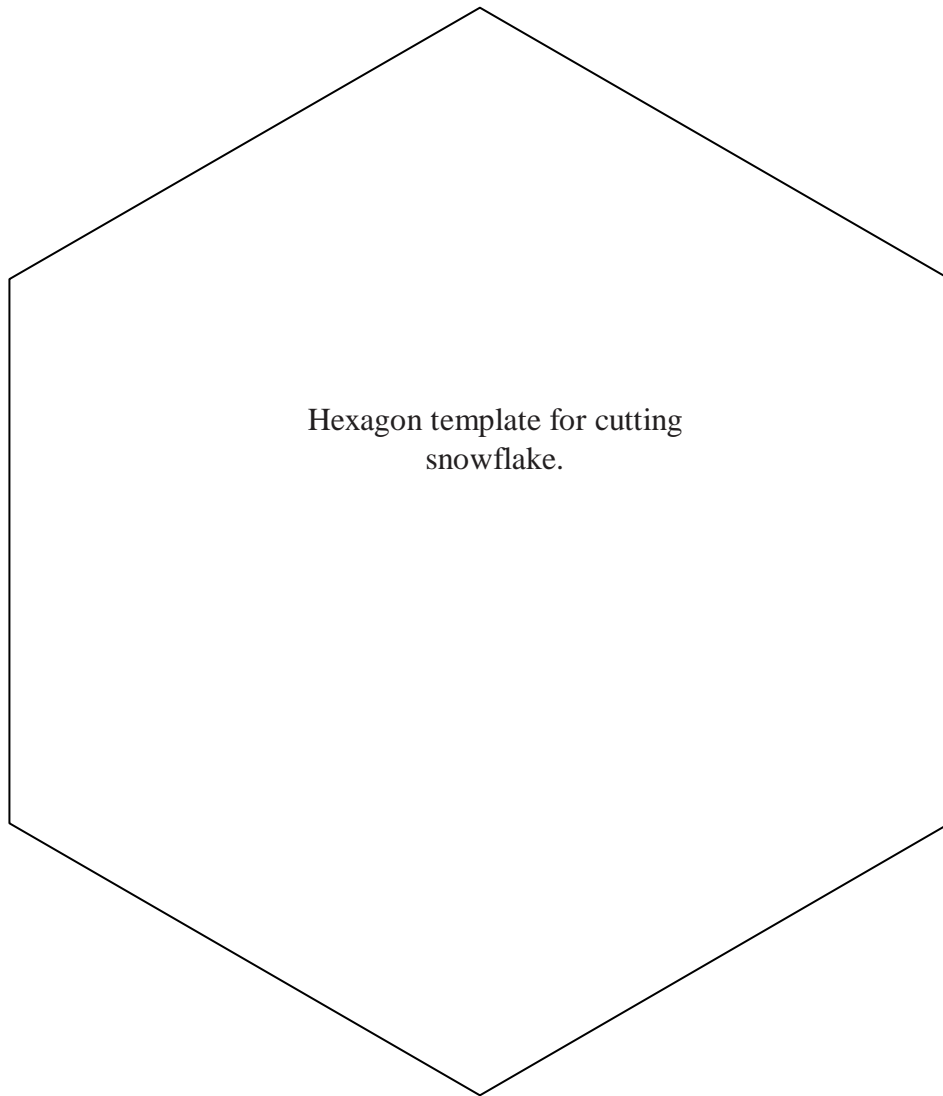
5. Cut around the outer edge too.
6. Stick pieces of double sided tape around both card frames.
7. Peel away the backing paper on one frame.
8. Place the card hexagon frame onto the table, double sided tape side up, and lower the finished snowflake down onto it, making sure that the snowflake is in the centre.
9. Place a loop of thread onto one of the pieces of double sided tape, so that the snowflake can be hung up.
10. Turn over and then stick the second card frame down exactly on top of the other one, so that the organza is trapped in between.



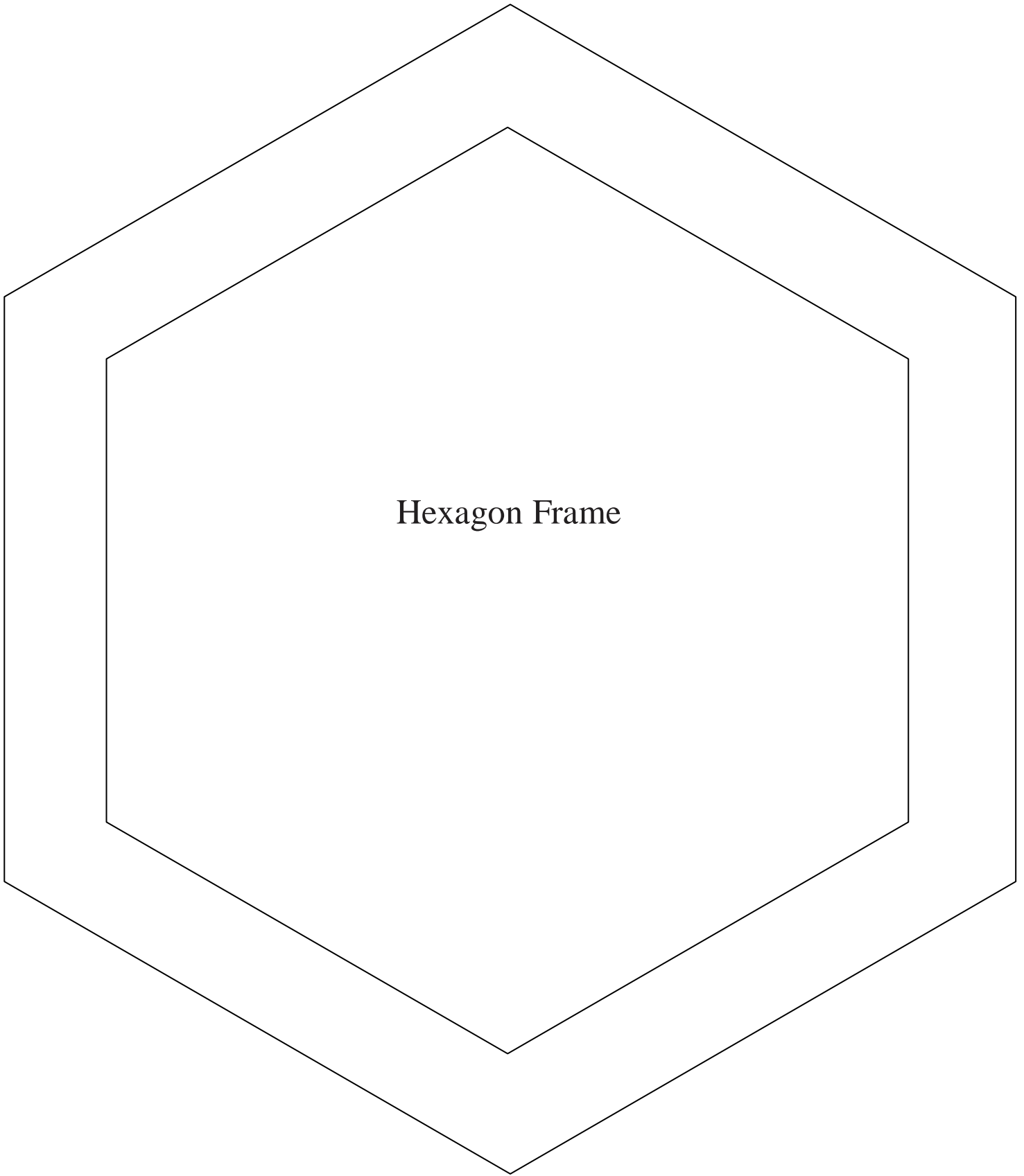
Well done! You've finished! Now you can hang your decoration on your tree, or in a window where the light will shine through it.

### **A few useful hints!!!**

- Paper can blunt scissors so please encourage children to use the right scissors for the job.
- The 505 spray can occasionally affect asthma sufferers. Use in a well ventilated room, or outside.







Hexagon Frame