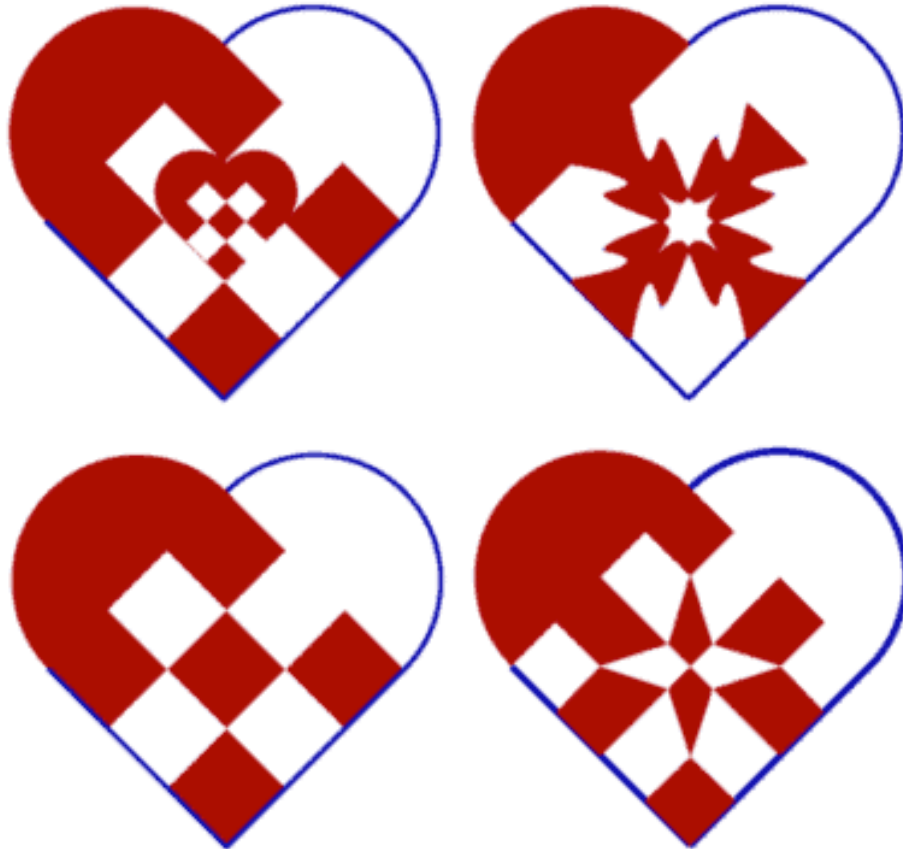


Julehjerter– Danish (Christmas) Hearts



The woven heart is a traditional Christmas decoration that can be found almost everywhere in Denmark in December. It is said that author Hans Christian Andersen crafted the original *julehjerte* and gave them away in the spirit of Christmas. The oldest preserved heart dates to 1860 and is exhibited at the HC Andersen Museum in Odense, Denmark.

They are used as ornaments and because they open as small baskets, are often filled with small candies.

What you need:

- Heart template (there are several on the next pages, print out the one(s) you want)
- 2 pieces of paper – one light and one dark. Construction paper is thick enough, but good quality wrapping paper can also be thick enough and has pretty patterns. If the paper is too thin, it can tear when you're working with it; too thick and it's hard to weave.
- Scissors for cutting paper

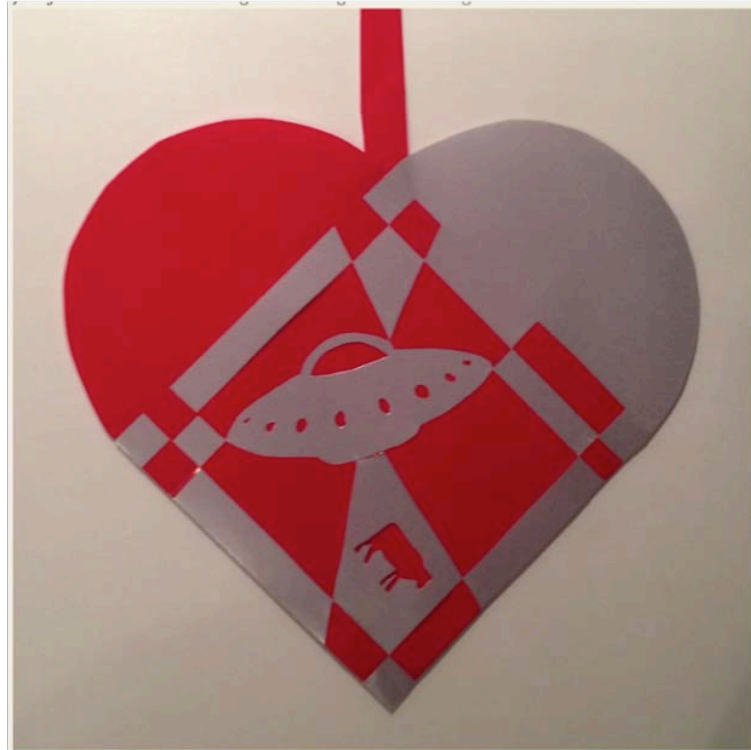
Danish Hearts can be simple



Or complex



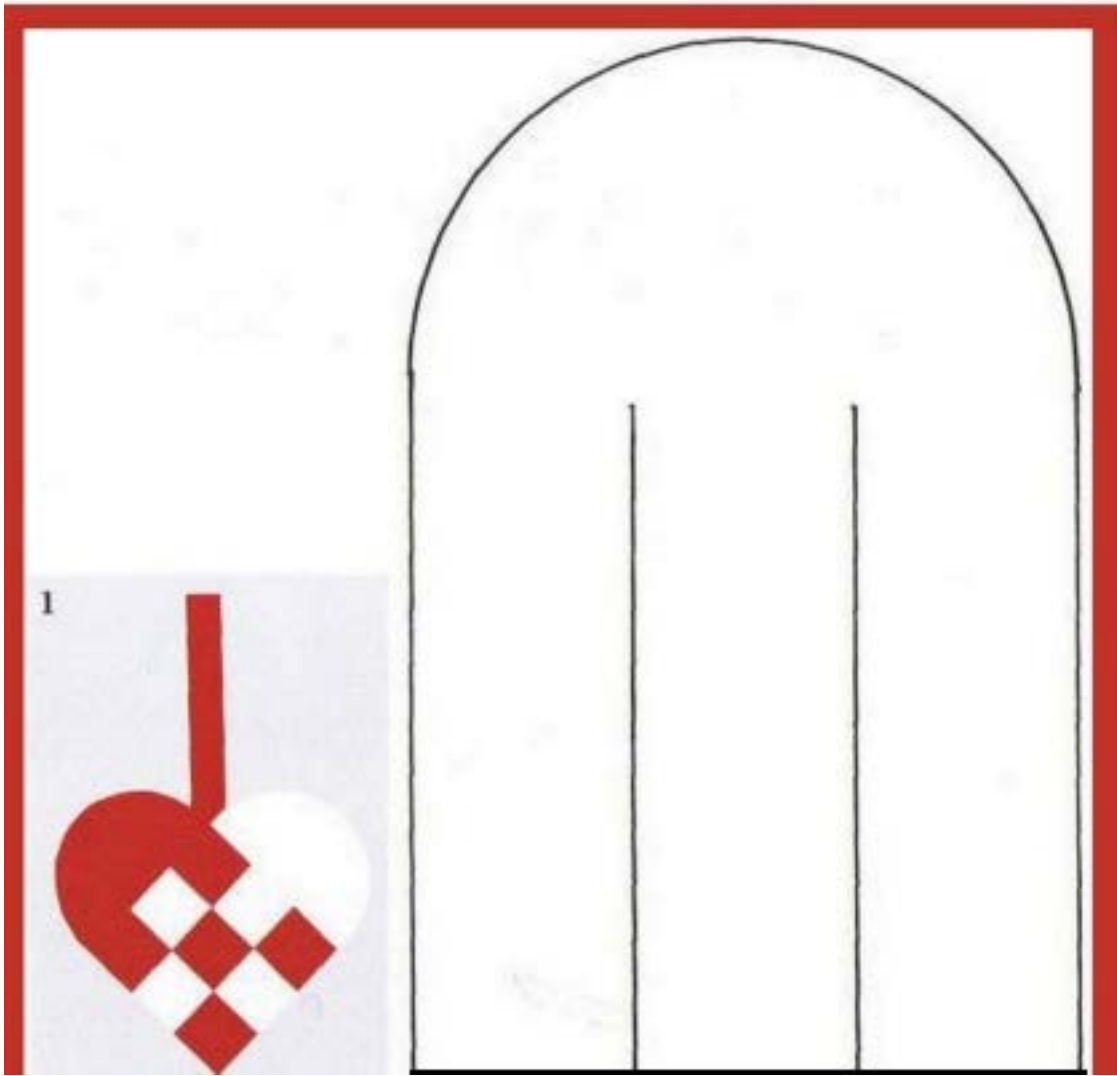
They can be non-traditional.



They don't even have to be hearts.



We'll start with simple.



Print the template above out. Printers differ in sizing and size is not that important. Bigger is easier to work with, especially as you get into more complex designs, but it's really about your choice of how big you want the final heart to be. If the horizontal line (that will be placed on the fold) is somewhere in the 2 - 3 inch range, that will be perfect. The ratio IS important - 3:1 (unfolded).

Take your 2 pieces of construction paper (or whatever you are using) - one light and one dark and fold them so that you can fit the template (horizontal line on the fold) on the paper. Cut your light and then dark sides of your heart, cutting in on the vertical lines in the middle to get strips.

Now we weave - through and around rather than under/over.

Here are 3 slightly more complex hearts:

