

How to Mark a BLANK Foam Ball

Easily locate the poles & equator
of your foam ball...
without measuring!

Many no-sew "quilted" ornament patterns require markings on your foam ball that indicate the top pole, bottom pole, and (sometimes) an equator line that runs around the middle. Here's an easy way to identify these if your ball is not marked.

In addition to your foam ball, you will need:

- **1/8" wide ribbon**, about 33" for a 3" ball (*black grosgrain ribbon recommended*)
- **straight pins** (*optional: pearl head pins*)
- **a pen/pencil**

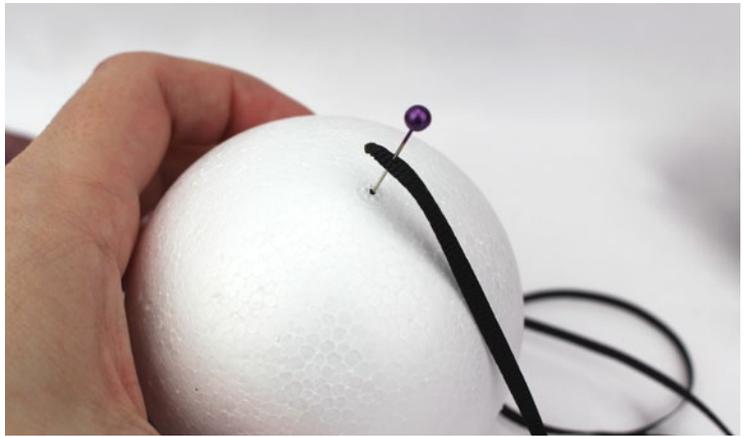
1. Make a Dot

Use a pen/pencil to make a dot anywhere on the ball. This is now the TOP point of your ornament!



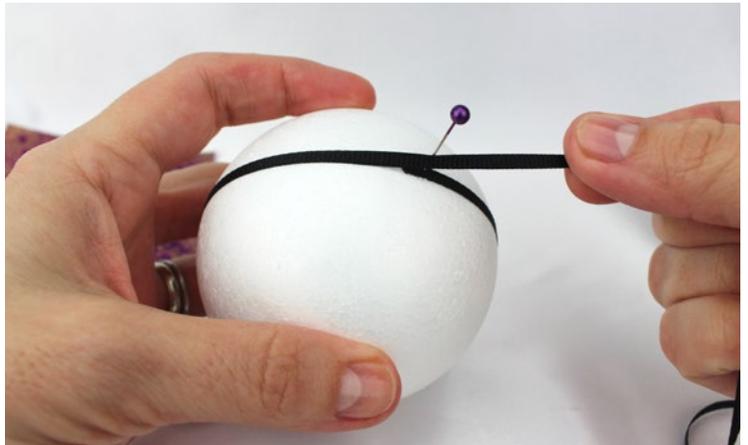
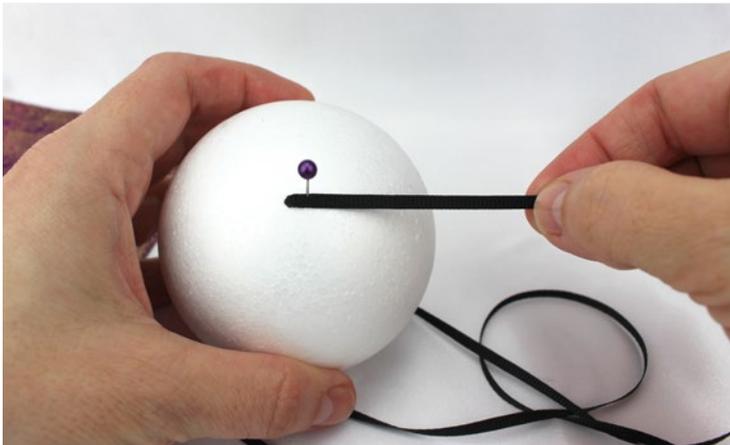
2. Pin the Ribbon to the Ball

Pin one end of the ribbon directly on the dot, but do NOT push the pin all the way down.



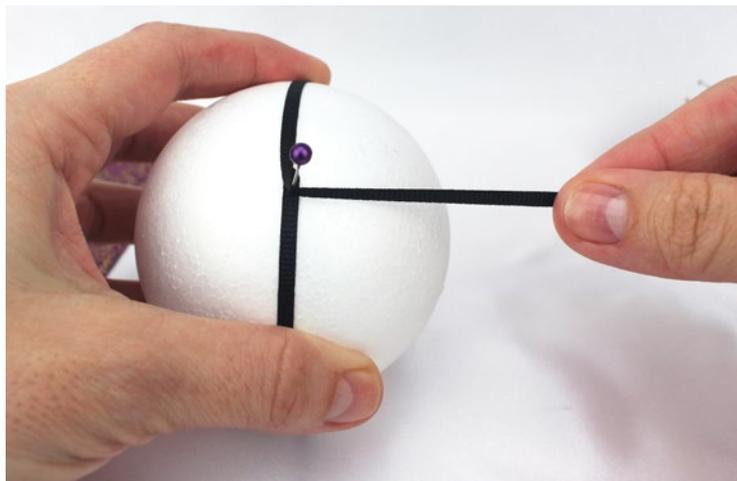
3. Wrap the Ribbon Around the Ball

Hold the ribbon (with a bit of tension) outward from the pin, and begin carefully wrapping it around the ball. Try to keep the line as straight as you can, *but it's okay if it's not perfect... you'll adjust it later!*



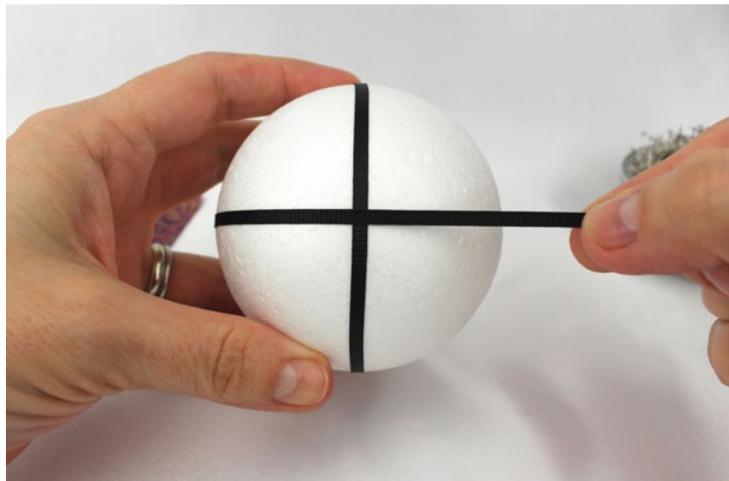
4. Catch & Wrap Again

When the ribbon returns, allow it to "catch" on the pin (to wrap around it a little) as you rotate the ball 90°, as shown below:



5. Criss-cross

Continue wrapping it around the ball (again) so the ribbon crosses over itself at the bottom of the ornament. Return to the top.



6. Check the Lines

When you return to the starting point, temporarily pin the ribbon again, near the first pin. Are your ribbon lines straight?

Make an effort to straighten the ribbon lines as much as possible, but don't stress about absolute perfection (*especially when working with rough foam balls, which tend to be less perfectly round!*)



OG Tip: If you are using a **ROUGH** foam ball, a pin can help you to straighten your ribbon lines.

Simply slip the pin between the ribbon and the foam. Then gently slide it back and forth, coaxing the ribbon to move in the direction you want it to go...

Easy peasy!

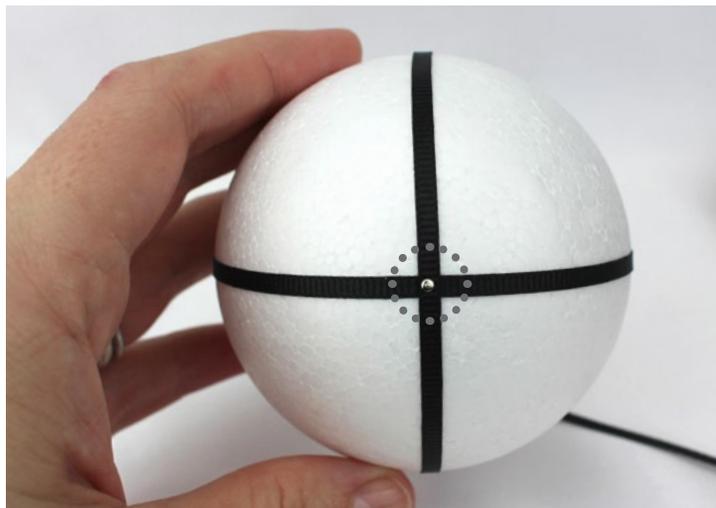


7. Pin & Mark the Bottom

When your lines are as straight as you can make them, place a pin where the ribbons criss-cross (on the bottom). This pin will keep the ribbon from shifting around.

Then, mark along the sides of each ribbon with a pen/pencil — about 1" or so out from the center. This will indicate the intersection point when the ribbon is removed.

*(Later, you can identify the **exact** center point by connecting the corners of the marks you drew.)*



8. Marking the Equator

Some patterns also require an equator line — a line that runs all the way around the middle of the ball, halfway between the top pole and the bottom pole.

(If you DO NOT need an equator line for your pattern, you can remove the ribbon and pins from the foam ball and be done!)

You can use the same piece of ribbon (already pinned to the foam) to find the equator, or if your remaining ribbon is too short, you could use a second piece of narrow ribbon for these next steps.



Here's how to find the equator...

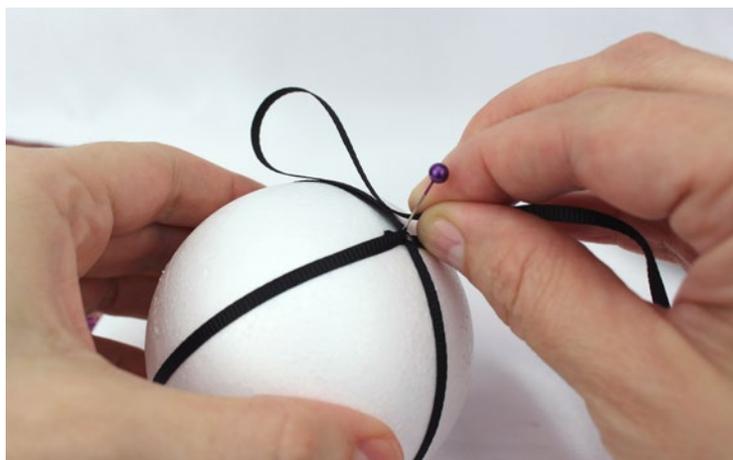
A. Find the Halfway Point: To find the halfway point, you'll need to know the distance between the top and bottom poles. Following the previous ribbon line, continue wrapping the ribbon from the top pin to the bottom pin. Hold your finger and thumb at the spot where the ribbons criss-cross on bottom.



Half of this distance is where the equator will be.

Fold the Ribbon in Half

Bring the point on the ribbon that you are holding (with your thumb/finger) up to meet the top point. The ribbon will make a little loop.



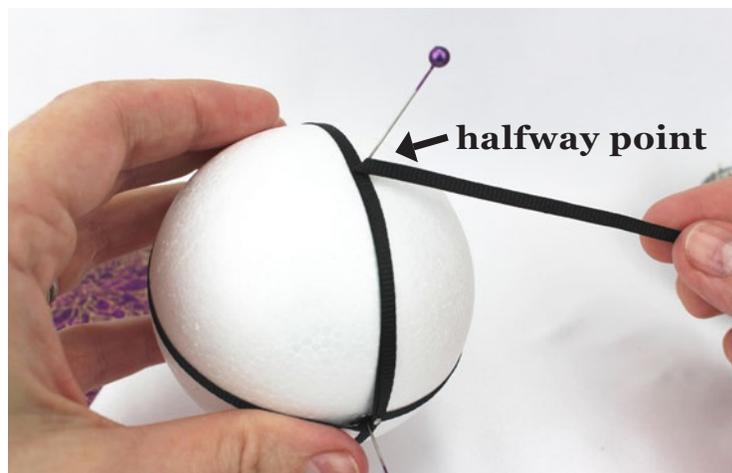
Flatten the Loop

Using a pin, flatten the loop against the foam, as shown. The spot where the ribbon loop ends is the halfway point.



Situate a new pin into the fold of the ribbon loop, and pin it in place.

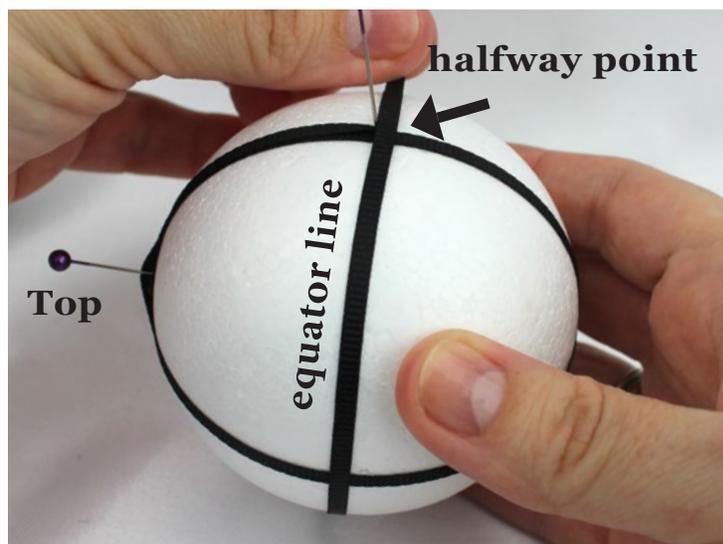
The pin will be sitting at the halfway point, where the equator line will be.



B. Wrap Perpendicular

Next, we will use the remaining (unpinned) ribbon to create an 'equator line' on the foam ball.

Wrap the ribbon perpendicular to the previous ribbon lines, all the way around the middle of the foam ball. Pin the ribbon again when you return to the starting point.



C. Adjust & Draw Lines

Evaluate your new ribbon equator line, and adjust it until it is as straight as possible. Then, mark two lines along the equator line — one line ABOVE the ribbon and one line BELOW it. Continue marking these all the way around the equator of the ball.



Remove the ribbon and pins. The space between the lines you just drew is the equator of your foam ball!

