

Papel picado

Perforated paper is a traditional folk art decoration for celebratory occasions in Mexico and Central and South America. Celebrate today by making your own banner.

Since this version uses an utility knife, this papel picado project is for advanced students. For younger kids, see our beginners set which has simpler designs and uses scissors.

SUPPLIES

- **Light weight paper** cut to 11"x10"; tissue, crepe, and oragami-like paper work well, but you can also use thin paper from magazines. Our template is sized to be 11"x10" but feel free to modify it and make it your own
- **Scissors** (a hole puncher is also good for making circles); older and advanced students can use utility knives for cutting - **GET ADULT SUPERVISION AND BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO CUT YOURSELF**
- **Craft glue**
- **String or chord.** For a 5 panel banner, a 80" long string allows 1" between panels and 12" at each end for tying.

STEPS

- 1 Using our template as a starting point, draw on the template to make your own design.
- 2 Fold your 11"x10" paper in half to 5.5"x10."
- 3 Place the template over the folded paper. Be sure to match the fold with the center line edge of the template.
- 4 Keeping all the layers (2 layers of light weight paper and template) aligned, carefully cut through all three layers.
- 5 Reuse the template for multiple panels.
- 6 To create a banner, lay the panel flat on a surface and set the string in the 1/2" crease. Apply glue to the top 1/2", smooth is across the surface and fold over the string. Add your next panel to the string, leaving a minimum of 1" between the panels.

Important: like snowflakes, no two papel picados are the same. There are lots of different ways to fold and cut - have fun experimenting!



TEMPLATE