

Paper Crafts for Grown Ups



Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction	2
Chapter 2: A Little Paper History	4
Chapter 3: Making Your Own Paper	9
Chapter 4: Paper Flowers.....	14
Chapter 5: Paper Party Decorations	23
Chapter 6: Easy Hanging Ornaments.....	26
Chapter 7: Complex Paper Accessories.....	30
Chapter 8: Mexican Paper Decorations	44
Chapter 9: Paper Mache.....	72

Chapter 1: Introduction

A Word On Paper Crafting

Making things with paper used to be an activity that kids did with their teachers or at home on rainy days to keep them occupied. But for many adults paper crafting is a serious hobby. Making beautiful things out of paper can be simple or quite complex depending how advanced you are in the hobby of Paper Crafts. You can do endless things with different types of paper. From, scrap booking, to making cards, flowers, origami, paper cutting, and all kinds of decorations. As you can see there are many things one can do creatively with paper.

When it comes to paper crafting there is a multitude of projects, techniques and supplies one can use to achieve a work of art made from paper. Paper crafts no longer means just hanging streamers for a party or drawing a sketch on a folded piece of paper for a birthday card. With all the possibilities available in the world of paper crafting today one can take virtually any plain piece of paper and make it into a thing of beauty.

Even though most projects do come with instruction and techniques one gets the most satisfaction when they let their own creative touches enter the equation. Many people who think they do not have a creative bone in their body start to paper craft and are surprised with what they add to a basic project. What happens is the more a person crafts like anything else the better they become and then they start to experiment. The person starts to then experiment with the tried and true paper crafts; and as they master them and the results really start to become paper works of art. For those who really feel they have “NO” artistic bones in their bodies there is things like rubber stamping to create paper things with. So the possibilities are

there for those who want an easy inexpensive hobby.

It is recommended that as far as supplies go you want to use what is referred to as Archival vs Non Archival quality paper supplies. What this means is when you use archival quality materials the piece you create will last a life time. This goes for the quality of paper adhesives and inks as well. If you don't use Archival inks and adhesives they too will fade over time. If you want your piece to last then it is recommended to go with archival quality material. If you are just practicing then you can go with cheap quality materials just to make a prototype or experiment before you use the good quality stuff. What makes archival materials last is that they are acid free and there for do not discolor or fall apart the same way non Archival materials do. If you are doing something for a one time only reason like a party and don't care if it lasts or not go with the cheaper non archival materials.

When you begin paper crafting like anything else start with the easier projects first. After you get used to them you can advance at your own pace. The possibilities are endless and it will open up the creative side of your personality.

Chapter 2: A Little Paper History

Before we discuss a brief history of paper; what is paper anyway? Well true paper is categorized as thin sheets of fiber that have been macerated until each filament is a separate unit. The exceptions to this is Papyrus, Parchment and Rice Paper.

Papyrus is made from a family of grass like aquatic plants in the Sedge family called Cyperus Papyrus. With Papyrus the woody triangular stems are cut with a knife into board sheets. The boards were then cut and pasted together much like laminated wood.

Rice Paper is made from strips of spirally cut pith from the rice paper tree. The rice paper tree is a small Asiatic tree or shrub called Tetrapanax Papyrifera that is widely cultivated in both China and Japan. The pith is cut into a thin ivory textured layer by means of a sharp knife. So based on the techniques to make Papyrus and Rice Paper neither one is technically a paper by definition. Parchment Paper as is Vellum are also not considered true paper. They are both made with the skins of animals.

Paper as we know it today began in China in 105 AD created by the Chinese Eunuch Ts'ai Lun. At that time it was made thin, futed, formed flat and made in porous molds from macerated vegetable fibers. Before the third century the first paper was made from cloth bark from trees that was disintegrating and vegetation such as mulberry hemp and Chinese grass. Paper was used in China from 868 AD to 1634 where it reached its height of engraving religious pictures on wooden blocks and printing them. This was made popular by Sung Ying-hsing.

The technology of making paper moved from China to Japan and

then Korea in 610 AD. It was made commonly from mulberry bark and Gampi at that time. Later it was made from bamboo and or rice straw.

It was Marco Polo who gave a description of Chinese paper making in his writings as he traveled abroad. He also mentioned that the Chinese emperor “jealously guarded” the secrets of paper making. He noted that fine paper was made from vegetable fiber: rice or tea straw, bamboo canes and hemp rag cloth. It is guessed by historians that paper made of fiber bark, fibers of hemp and fibers of rags traveled with Caravans following the Gobi Desert, the Desert of Takla Makan and the Tarim Valley and finally arrived in Samarkan. At that time paper making was still a closely guarded secret and not actually made there until after 751 AD. It was in 751 AD that the Chinese lost a battle to Turkistan on the banks of the Tharaz river. It was noted that among the Chinese prisoners were skilled paper makers. Thus, the paper makers started to make paper in Samarkan.

Historians conjecture that the first paper mill was established in Bagdad. Paper making then spread from there to Damascus, Egypt and Morocco. By the end of the 10th century paper replaced papyrus and parchment in the Arab world. There are a lot of Arab manuscripts dating back to the 9th century however. These were made with linen. The Persian craftsmen were skilled and used flax, which still grows abundantly in Khorasan which was there as their main material at that time. As the demand grew they started to use rags of any vegetable fiber and used cotton as well. Cotton was used sparingly. Paper made in what was referred to as the “Orient” at that time in the middle ages can be distinguished as thick in substance and glossy in surface devoid of water marks.

The demand for paper in 1st century Europe was scant. Paper cost

more than vellum, was considered fragile than parchment and associated with Arabic and Semitic people who the Christians didn't trust. In fact the Catholic Church in Western Europe banned paper altogether stating it as part of the Pagan Arts. They conjectured that parchment was the only holy thing to be used to carry the word of God on.

It was the Muslim conquest of Spain that brought paper to Europe. The English word “ream” meaning 500 sheets is derived from Spanish and the French from the Arabic word rizmah which translates as bundle. Both Spain and Italy claim to be the first to have paper in Europe. One of the first paper mills was in Xativa which is now now Jativa or St. Felipe de Javita in the ancient city of Valencia and it can be dated to AD 1151. Some scholars claim it was the Arabs that built Xativa in 1009 AD. Paper making continued until Moorish rule was kicked out in 1244 AD. Paper making slowly made its way to Christian Europe.

In what was referred to as “Christian Europe” the first wire mold for making paper was identified in Spain dating back to 1150. Bamboo molds were used in China but not readily available in Europe at that time. Because the wire European molds were not as flexible as the Chinese ones; the rigid European wire molds were better suited for the formation of the rag fiber. The Europeans also created the Fence or Deckle which keeps paper within bounds. The earliest European paper was called cloth parchment but often contained wood and straw as well. All these raw materials were beaten to a fine pulp and mixed with water. Sheets of paper were pressed out, dried and hardened.

Medieval paper was made of diluted cotton linen fiber. The fibers were intermixed with water and then with the use of a sieve-like screen the fibers were lifted from the water leaving a sheet of matted fiber on the screen. This was paper. There were several manuscripts found written in European countries written on Oriental paper made in the Oriental fashion at that time. The first mention of rag-paper as such was in the Tract of Peter by the Abbot of Cluny dated 1122 to 1150 AD. The oldest recorded document on paper is a deed of King Rogers in Sicily dating 1102 and there are others of Sicilian Kings in the 12th Century.

In Italy the first great center of the paper-making industry was Fabriano in the marquisate of Ancona. Mills were established in 1276, and rose to importance with the decline of the manufacture in Spain. Fabriano was the first manufacturing center to harness water power to drive the fibrillation (pulping) process, previously a labor intensive manual activity. Paper making in Italy is dominated by the historic and powerful feudal family, Fabriano. The Council Statute of 1436 prohibited anyone within a radius of 50 miles from Fabriano buildings from manufacturing paper or teaching paper making secrets to those not residing in that radius. A later prohibition has even stiffer penalties. Transgressors were considered "rebels" and thereby banned from the city with consequent capital confiscation. The extent of the power of the local tribunal's protection of the Fabriano papermakers is highlighted in a 1445 document. Council priors, concerned that if maestro Piero di Stefano, the only artisan who practiced the "modular" art in the Marche province died his craft would die with him. The Council demanded the old maestro to teach the craft to his son or any apprentice in his workshop and not to construct or repair screens used outside the district of Fabriano or he would be penalized with a fine of 100 ducats. g within the Council territory, pending a fine of 50 ducats.

It was through the advent of printing that paper became popularized in Europe in the 15th Century. The first representation of the printing process is the 1568 wood print *Der Papierer* by Jost Amman in the *Little Book of trades*.

Paper remained inexpensive through the centuries at least up through the 19th Century. It was the 19th century that brought great advances in paper making. Together with the invention of the practical fountain pen and the mass produced pencil of the same period, and in conjunction with the advent of the steam driven rotary printing press, wood based paper caused a major transformation of the 19th century economy and society in industrialized countries. With the introduction of cheaper paper, schoolbooks, fiction, non-fiction, and newspapers became gradually available by 1900. Cheap wood based paper also meant that keeping personal diaries or writing letters became possible and so, by 1850, the clerk, or writer, ceased to be a high-status job.

Chapter 3: Making Your Own Paper

As we know from history before the creation of paper; people would write on things in their environment. This would range from rocks, to animal skins to tree bark. The use of wood paper was initiated around the year 1719 by a man named Rene de Reamer. He studied the way wasps made their nests from regurgitated wood. Rene thought that the thin paper quality of the wasp nest could be used for writing tablets. This idea was passed on to others at that time who made wood pulp. The first tree pulp paper was made in 1786.

To make paper there are three basic steps. They are:

1. Making the pulp
2. pulling and couching
3. drying

In order to shape and press the paper you will need two screens. One for the top or deckle and one for the bottom or mould. To make your own deckle and mould frame you can use canvas stretching bars that you can buy at an art supply store. You can also use four pieces of moulded wood that is nailed together into a square to use as a frame. The screening can be attached with a staple gun pulling it taut at the edges of the frame. If you want to really make it easy for yourself you can use two screens sandwiched in between two embroidery hoops.

Step 1

If you are attempting this project at home then its easiest to use recycled paper. All the old junk mail and magazines that you throw away can do just fine for this project. You can also buy paper pulp at your local art supply store or on line that come in uniform sheets of the same cellulose plant fiber. The store bought paper pulp gives you

a more uniform end result. In either case you tear up your old paper sources or the store bought one into 1 and 2 inch square pieces. They do not need to be perfect. You can then soak them in a bowl of warm water, some home paper makers like to boil them. If you choose to boil your paper then boil it for 5 minutes and then simmer it for one hour. This is done in order to break down the old paper so you can make new paper. After the paper is softened to your liking you can then fill a blender with three cups of warm water.

To the water you can also add a “sizing” if you like which improves the quality and shine of the paper you are about to make. Sizing also helps for the paper to hold together better. An easy sizing recipe is to take 1 cup of boiling water and to that add one package of unflavored gelatin and two tablespoons of corn starch. After the sizing is mixed completely then you add it to a blender that has warm water in it. To it you add the softened paper pulp and then blend the two together. You want to make sure that the paper is completely blended into a slurry. You do not want any big pieces or jags left in the blended mix. The results should be a fine, smooth, liquid substance.

Once the mixture is blended you can then add special touches for your paper. You can color the paper by adding drops of food coloring to the liquid. If you want a glittery paper you can add glitter or sequins. You can add in flower petals and grasses by gently stirring them in. Other things to give the paper a special touch would be to add things like thread, yarn, ribbon or string cut into tiny pieces and stirred in. You can use metallic thread or even tinsel for special occasions and holidays. Different colored torn pieces of tissue paper also adds a nice touch. You can also add fragrances to the liquid if you want. Any extract like vanilla, lemon or almond as any essential oil adds a nice touch to the paper when dried. The liquid pot

potpourri oils give a stronger scent than the extracts.

Step 2

This is the pulling and couching step. You want to pour the liquid mixture into a container that is big enough to hold the mold in it comfortably. Stir the liquid mixture to assure its smoothness. This is where you add things like fragile flower petals or any other fragile thing you want to add to the liquid. You now take the mold or bottom part of the screen frame and slowly immerse it in the liquid that is in the container. Once completely submerged you lift it up to see if it is completely evenly covered with the liquid.

Once you lift it you want to make sure that it isn't too thick, that it evenly covers the screen, that it isn't too thin, or there are no holes or bumps on the screen. If there is you shake it and re-submerge it. When you lift it gently shake it back and forth for the water to fall off. You now place the top screen or deckle on top of it. Now you set the mould on top of paper towels to soak up any excess water.

Carefully remove the deckle from the mould. Dump the paper from the mould onto a piece of smooth felt on a hard surface. Place another sheet of felt on top of that one and use a rolling pin to extract more water from the piece of paper you have just made and to flatten it out as even as possible.

Step 3

There isn't really much to do in step 3. You leave the paper there to dry for a couple of days or if you are in a hurry you can dry it with a blow dryer. Once you get the hang of how to make paper you can get even more creative.

For those that want to really get into the paper making thing there

are websites on line available for you to buy your supplies from.

GETTING
STARTED
EASY
PAPER
CRAFTS

Chapter 4: Paper Flowers

Paper Flowers can be easy to make. They can add pizzazz to your home or party. If you use good quality materials they can last.

Paper Flowers # 1 Easy Tissue Paper Flowers



These are very easy to make in 20 minutes (or less, not including drying time); add your own personal pot.

Materials

Tissue Paper (choose the colors you like)

Green Pipe Cleaners

Plaster of Paris

Small Cup or Small Plant Pot

Instructions:

Cut three 4- to 5-inch circles out of colorful tissue paper. Cut a green pipe cleaner in half. Roll one end of your pipe cleaner halves into a small circle; poke the other end of the pipe cleaner through the center of one of the tissue paper circles. Pull the circle up to fit snugly below the circle you made in the pipe cleaner. Crumple the circle a little bit so it looks "fluffy". Repeat with the other circles.

Make 3 or 4 flowers and twist the ends together. Prepare the Plaster

of Paris as directed on the package and pour it into a 3 to 5 oz. paper or plastic cup. If you use a small flower pot, make sure you line the bottom with some foil or plastic wrap to plug the holes. As it sets, stick the flower bouquet in it.

When set solid, arrange the flowers to your liking. Decorate the "pot" with a ribbon or stickers if you like.

Paper Flowers # 2

Small Paper Flowers with Rubber Stamping Details

These Flowers are perfect for a bouquet or party decoration center pieces. You can stamp a design on the paper to add a beautiful contrast to the flower. You can use a stamp color that coordinates with the party or room they are in.



These flowers are made from sheets of rectangular tissue paper and can be made any size. The flower in the picture was created from pieces of tissue paper that were 5" x 8"

Materials

4 sheets of tissue paper

Rubber stamps and inks

Scissors

Craft wire

The first thing you want to do is to stamp the tissue paper with the design you want.

Stamp The Tissue Paper



Stamp an all over design over the tissue paper. A contrasting color ink, such as the black ink used on white paper, gives the most dramatic effect. Use a stamp that complements other designs, for instance that reflects the theme of a wedding or party, if required.

Tip: Remember that tissue paper is thin and the ink may seep through the paper. Work on a protective surface to ensure that the ink does not damage the work surface.

The next Step is to fold the paper like a fan :



When the ink is dry, accordion fold the paper, folding the short edge. Keep the folds relatively small. The layers of paper will be fluffed out later and this will disguise any uneven folds. Wrap a piece of craft wire around the center of the folded paper.

Finishing the Flower:



Carefully fluff out each piece of paper. This needs to be done carefully and slowly to stop the paper from tearing. The picture shows one half of the flower that has been 'fluffed' compared with the other side that is still folded. When the flower is finished, use the craft wire to attach the flower to a stick or pipe cleaner and stand the flower in a vase. The flowers can also be attached to a piece of string and used as a garland.

Paper Flowers# 3

Tissue Paper Flowers



This is a larger flower than the other two flower projects

Materials:

Tissue Paper (an 8 sheet package will make 2 to 3 flowers)

Scissors

Wire (Floral or Pipe cleaners work well)

Step 1:



First buy your chosen color or colors of tissue paper. Even if you only want to go with one color, I'd suggest you buy two shades of that color for contrast. If you can't find a large package of tissue paper most gift stores, card stores or even the gift bag section of a store like a Walmart or Kmart carry an 8 pack of tissue paper. Open the package, and unfold the tissue paper.

Step 2



Next take the 8 sheets and cut them in half.(leave full size for bigger flowers)Now you have 16 sheets. Take 6 to 8 sheets and lay them on top of each other making sure all the corners match up.



Step 3

Next take the tissue paper and fold it accordion style folding it over 1/2 inch to 1 inch then folding it back the other way. It should look similar to a fan when you open the folds.

Step 4



To make rounded petals and a prettier flower, take a pair of scissors and round the edges at each end. To make petals that look like Dahlias cut a small slit in the middle of the round edges about 1 inch deep.

Step 5



Next tie the middle together with floral wire, pipe cleaners or twisty ties from your garbage bags. Keep in mind how you will be displaying them. Are they going to be tied to something or put in a vase? If so, you want long pipe cleaners or floral wire. If you are simply setting them on tables a small piece of wire will do.

Step 6



Now you are ready to open your flower. Carefully separate the tissue layers. Make sure to separate the left and right side towards the center to make your flowers shape more apparent. Be very careful when separating as not to tear the tissue.

Step 7



After you've separated the layers play around with arranging them. Sometimes they need to be fluffed a little. To make the center another color simply make 2 of the 6 or 8 layers a contrasting color and put that color on the top of the pile before you start folding them. Or alternate the colors like the example here...

Now you are ready to display your flowers! Tie them on the back of chairs, arrange them on tables or in vases. They are super light weight and can go just about anywhere. Perhaps you want to hang them from the ceiling with fishing wire and a thumb tack. The possibilities are endless. Have fun!!

Here are some ideas on how to hang paper flowers:

Idea 1

Attach the materials to hang the paper flowers as you make them. Martha Stewart's website recommends using a hole punch through the layers of paper for each flower and tying string through it. Use fishing line for a less visible flower hanging line.

Idea 2

Add the string to finished flowers if necessary by looping it around the center of the flower or tying it to a pipe cleaner, wire, or other structure on the paper flower. Disney Family video recommends using pipe cleaners to make the paper flowers and attaching them to bamboo stakes with tape.

Idea 3

Make some of the paper flowers into garlands if desired by tying the strings together so they hang in a row, close together like popcorn on a string, or in clusters with space between them. For example, tie three flowers together, then tie another three flowers 6 inches down the string, and continue until the garland reaches the desired length

Idea 4

Use tape to attach garlands and individual paper flowers to serving tables. Place the flower or garland where you want it and tape the string.

Idea 5

Hang flowers from doorways, windows and ceiling fixtures, using tape to hold the string. Have an assistant help with any that require a ladder or step stool to hang.

Chapter 5: Paper Party Decorations

These are elegant dinner party decorations you can make for your next dinner party-



Floating Lilly Pad On a Plate



Lillies

Here are some simple party decorations you can use to jazz up your next dinner party.

Floating Lilly On A Plate

Materials:

It is recommended to use water color paper (or any paper that can hold paint) a good origami craft paper for this project.

A Good Paper Scissor

Paint

A Good Paper Glue

The First Step:

Begin with a square piece of paper. Fold the square in half and then



in quarters. Cut into the shape as indicated in the picture. Unfold and if water color paper is used paint as desired. Repeat the process with a slightly smaller piece of paper.

Step 2:

Once the pieces dry re crease them and then and then glue them together; placing the smaller piece on top of the bigger one, in the middle of the bigger one. Bend the petals so they point upwards. This gives the lilly a full bloom look.



For even greater depth you can add a third layer as in the lilly to the far left. A third layer would be made as the other two but slightly smaller than both the first two.

Step 3

Once the lillies are complete you can make the lilly pad. Use a brightly colored piece of paper for the lilly pad. Begin with a circular shaped piece of paper with a notch cut as indicated in the picture.



You can then add some pleats if you want, if the paper is already a nice texture then you may want to leave it as is. If the pleating is too challenging for you you can ball up the circle in your hand like a wad and then open it up and press it flat with your hand to have a crinkled effect which is also beautiful, like a real leaf.

Step 4

Attach the water lilly to the lilly pad with a small dab of glue in the center. You can put them on the plate or use them to decorate the table.

Chapter 6: Easy Hanging Ornaments

Here are some easy ornaments you can hang on a tree or use to hang any time of the year to match whatever thing you are doing. For example if it's the Fourth of July you can use the same pattern in Red, Whites and Blues, If its Christmas use Christmas colors. These are non denominational so you can use them for any occasion to dress it up with the colors of your choice.

Hanging Decoration # 1 Paper Flower Ornaments

Materials

Virtually any Paper that can be cut in to strips.....The person who got this idea used cheap copy paper from the Office Depot Store. You can buy cheap colored copy paper to make them in colors of your choice.

Staples and Stapler

Double Stick Tape

Clear thread to hang them (you can purchase clear thread online or at any craft store)

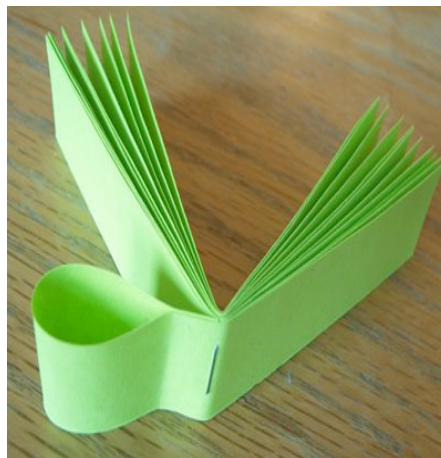


Step 1

Cut 1 piece of paper 8 1/2 X 11 into 1 inch strips (oriented landscape/aka fold so you end up with 11 strips)

Step 2

Stack them and staple them once in the center and then fold it so it



looks like a little book.

Step 3

Put a little piece of tape on the first page. Bend it inward towards the center and stick it down. Repeat for every page/strip until you have a

flower. You can hang them anywhere with anything actually....matching ribbon works well too.

Hanging Ornament # 2

Little Paper Lanterns



These little lanterns are festive for any occasion. You can change the colors to suit the season or occasion. You can hang them for a party or just because you enjoy them in your home.

Materials

Paper good quality any size, the paper can be plain or with designs.....you can stamp a design on it or draw one if you want or by paper with designs already on it at your local crafting store.

A good paper scissor

Either tape or glue

String, ribbon or anything you want to hang it with

Step #1

Take a piece of paper and fold it half ways long

Step #2

Cut along the folded edge but not all the way through

Step #3

Take the shorter ends and fold them together. Use either tape or glue to close them.

Step #4

You can take another paper strip and make a handle or punch two holes through it to hang it

Chapter 7: Complex Paper Accessories

In this section we have two projects that are a little more challenging one is a recycled gift bag you can make and the other is a paper rose.

Project # 1 A Recycled Gift Bag



This is a cute idea that is also a good way to recycle newspapers. You can vary the dimensions, of course, but here's what you can use to create a bag that's 5" tall, 4.5" wide, and 3" deep. You can use left over gift wrap also.

Materials

Newspapers (or left over gift wrap)

Card stock or Chipboard

Glue

Cord

Eyelets* (the instructions follow this craft)

Step # 1

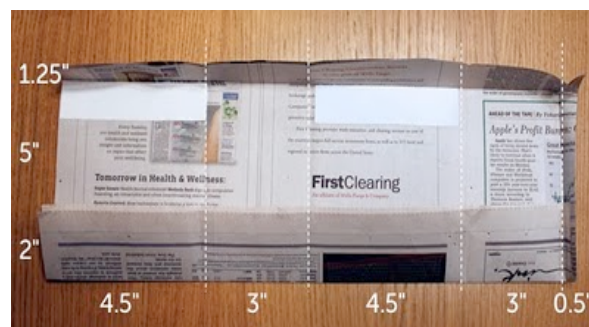
Stack two sheets of newspaper on top of each other. This will be a two-ply bag for extra sturdiness.



Cut out a rectangle that's 15.5" wide and 8.25" tall. If your paper already has a fold in it, align the existing fold with one of the fold lines in the diagram below, unless you don't mind an extra fold appearing somewhere on your bag. For this project cut the rectangle, then flip the paper over so the blue area would be on the outside of the bag.

Step #2

Fold a flap 1.25" down from the top. Fold a flap 2" up from the bottom. Then measure off and make vertical folds in the places shown in the diagram above. The front and back panels are 4.5" wide, the side gussets are 3" wide, and you'll need a 0.5" flap for gluing the bag together.



Step # 3



Cut two pieces of card stock or chipboard to 4.25" x 1", then glue them on the widest two panels just under the top fold. These will reinforce the rim of the bag. Glue the top flap down along the length of the bag, covering the card stock. Since the bag is two-ply, you'll need to glue both flap pieces down one at a time.

Step#4

Put glue on the outside of the 0.5" tab and bring the left-most panel over to form the body of the bag, aligning the cut edge of the panel with the folded edge of the flap. Add a little more glue to make sure the outermost sheet of newsprint gets tacked down, too.



Up end the bag so the 2" flap is now up. Fold the short sides inward as if you were wrapping a present. If it seems easier, you could also lay the bag on its side and crease those folds against the table.

Step #5

Put glue on both flaps and fold them inward to form the bottom of the bag. Standing the bag upright and pressing down from the inside will help to secure them.



Step # 6

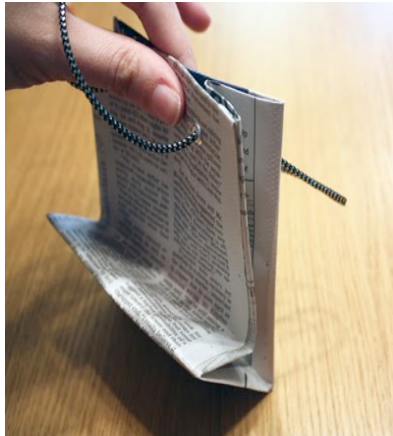
Cut a piece of chipboard to 4" x 2.5" and glue it to the bottom of the bag to reinforce it and hide the flaps if you want to be an overachiever.



Step# 7

Punch holes in the rim of the bag, adding eyelets* if you like, and

string some cord through the holes to form handles. Knot each end of the cord so it won't pull out through the holes.



If you want to store your bag flat, pinch the top together, fold in the sides, and bring the bottom up so that it lies flat. (***instructions for eyelets follow**)

***Eyelets**

How to set an eyelet:

Step one:

Gather your tools; a hammer, anywhere eyelet-setting tool, eyelets, work mat, paper or photo.



Step 2



Punch a hole. Make a hole compatible with the size of the eyelet in the desired location. Insert the eyelet so the decorative side shows on the front of your design and turn over the paper.

Step 3



Hammer the eyelet. Place the eyelet setter on top of the back of the eyelet and hammer several times. Don't hammer too firmly—you'll crush the decorative front. Lift the eyelet setter to make sure the eyelet is set firmly against the paper.

Project #2

A Little More Challenging: Paper Rose

This is a little more challenging than the 1st set of flowers.



This rose involves making your own template.

This template can be used over and over again. It can be stored to use any time you want to make roses. Below are directions to make your template and rose. Don't be intimidated. Once you start with the help of the instructions and the pictures you will be able to visualize the completed project and finish in no time.

Materials for Making The Rose Template:

Bristol Board/Heavy Stock Board

Scissors

Pencil

Coffee Can

Another round object 1 1/2 inches smaller than the coffee can

Another round object 1 1/2 inches smaller than the second object

Template Instructions

Step 1



Take your coffee can place it in the center of the stock board and draw around it to create your circle. (Anything that has a round bottom works well as long as it is the approximate size of a coffee can circumference.)

Step 2



Next you need to find another round object that is about 1 1/2 inches smaller in diameter than the coffee can to draw the next circle inside the coffee can. Line up the second object to the left side of the first circle your have drawn. Now you have a circle inside a circle.

Step 3



Now Find a second round object that is 1 1/2 inches smaller in diameter than the second object you used to draw the second circle with. Line this object up with the right side of the second circle to draw your third circle with. Now you have a total of three circles.

Step 4



Look at the diagram carefully, then proceed. Starting on the left side where the first two original circles meet; draw half circles two inches wide working your way counter clock wise around the circumference and stoping about 3 inches away from where you started the half circles. This does not have to be perfect.

Step 5



Look at the picture to show you how to continue. You will draw more half circles again but this time begin from where you started the first ones and continue on to the second circle.

Step 6



Following the next diagram repeat the half circles until you come to the end in the center. This is done by Stopping at about 1 1/2 inches from where the second and last circle meet and then continuing on into the center and ending in a small circle in the middle.

Step 7



Create a tail about 4 inches long and 1 1/2 inches wide. These measures are approximate. The measurements on this template are approximate and create the inside of the rose. The inside part of the template design forms the outside petals.

Your template is finished now you can cut along the outside lines of the picture which are the petals and tail you have drawn.

Step 8



Once it is cut free from the board you then need to continue to cut along the petals that go inside the circle. Cut until you reach the end.

Step 9

Cut around the inside of the pattern again so you have a traceable template you can use.

Once you finish the template you can now go on to make the rose.

Materials to assemble the Rose

Colored paper of your choice

Chenille stems/pipe cleaners
Glue gun and glue sticks
Floral tape or Green masking tape
Ruler

Step 1



Trace the template on the paper of your choice and cut it out following the template pattern.

Step 2



Next slide the cut out paper between a ruler and your thumb to curl the paper slightly.



You can also do this technique with a scissor. The results is a puffed up design like the following picture.

Step 3



Glue a chenille stem to the tail of the flower (the demonstrator only had red) You roll it along the design. Glue the petals down every now and then, this determines how tight the rose will be.



Step 4

Once the whole flower is done and rolled up, tuck the small tail around the stem and glue in place. Use florist tape or if you can't



find a green stem wrap the stem in green masking tape.

Now for the Petals:

Trace some petals on some green paper.



Glue the petals every now and then on the stem. Here is your finished rose.



Chapter 8: Mexican Paper Decorations

Papel Picado is the Mexican Art of paper cutting. We have a similar art when we fold paper and cut out what we call paper dolls. These are little doll or ginger bread looking figures that connect at the hands. When the paper is unfolded it looks like a long stream of dolls holding hands.

Papel Picado traditionally was designs cut into tissue paper; which were made to celebrate religious festivals and national holidays in Mexico. Mexican craftsmen would make designs ranging from simple lattice designs to complicated scenes cut into paper. Sometimes the results are simple symmetrical designs and other times they are complex works of art. The designs are placed in windows or hung as banners. They can be used for runners and place mats as well. The tools used besides scissors to create beautiful art range from punches and knives to chisels and hammers.

Here are some easy directions for some Papel Picados.

PAPEL PICADO # 1

Materials

10 inch by 14 inch brightly colored tissue paper.

Decorative hole punches

Iron

Crafting scissors or Pinking shears

String

Glue



Step # 1

Make eight equal sections: Fold one sheet of tissue paper in half the short way, then fold it in quarters, then in eighths. Unfold the paper and refold it accordion-style along the same folds. If desired, you can iron the paper now to make it flatter and thus easier to work with.

Step #2

Create a repeating pattern by punching holes in the folded tissue paper using a variety of decorative hole punches. Do not use the punch on the folded edge or it will jam. Use scissors or pinking shears to cut shapes along the folded edge. Cut a curve that will make a scallop-shaped bottom edge. Leave a little room at the top. Open the folded paper. Using a warm iron, iron out the creases.

Step #3

To hang the decorations as banners, fold the top 1/2 inch over, and crease. Run a string across the sheets, just under the fold. Carefully glue the folded edges down over the string.

Variation Papel Picado # 2



Here are some samples of how intricate a design can be

Materials

Colored tissue paper

Paper Clips

Sharp Scissors

Paper Craft Scissors with fancy blades

Craft Knife

Iron

Dowel Rod

Craft Glue

Step #1

Make a pattern out of scrap paper. Cut the desired shape out of the scrap paper, and then fold it however you want. This step is similar to making paper snowflakes.

Step #2

Lay three sheets of colored tissue paper on top of each other. Place the pattern you just cut on top of the tissue papers. Clip the pattern and tissue papers together with a paper clip.

Step #3 Cut the tissue paper out following the pattern you made. You can use a craft knife to cut out the design for your decorations or a

pair of sharp scissors. If it's easier, you may also fold the tissue paper the make the cuts.

Step #4

Add a border to three sides of your Mexican paper decoration. You can cut your own scalloped edges or use fancy edger scissors.

Step #5

Separate the three tissue paper sheets. Press them flat using a hot iron. Put each cut sheet between two sheets of plain tissue paper so it doesn't scorch.

Step #6

Fold the unscalloped edge around a dowel rod. Run a bead of craft glue down the unscalloped edge. Attach the cut paper pattern to the dowel rod.

You can also choose a soft, flexible paper to make Mexican cut paper curtains, following the previous steps to do so. Depending on the size of the window, you can either use a large sheet of paper or attach several sheets of paper together like a quilt. Attach the finished curtain to a flexible-length curtain rod.

Tips

1. Take one sheet of tissue and fold it in half so both short ends are together. Fold it in quarters and again until it is in eighths.

Remember making snowflakes? This is similar.

2. Unfold the sheet and refold it again the opposite way. This will make the creases flatter. You can also choose to iron the folded paper to make it easier to work with. Make sure your iron is not too hot and that there is no steam setting turned on.

3. Use the scissors to cut along the bottom of the tissue. When it is unfolded, it will create a pattern. Choose a hole punch and make repetitive patterns all over the rest of the paper, trying to keep it orderly. Don't punch over folds or your hole punch will jam up.

4. When the holes are done, slowly unfold the tissue, taking care it does not tear. Lay it flat on the ironing board and use a warm iron to flatten out the creases.

6. Cut a length of string so you can hang them up as banners. Make it long enough to glue several tissues in a row. Fold the top of the tissue over by about half an inch. Place the string in this fold and glue the edges of the paper down. Mix up the colors in your banner strings so you get the full effect of color. Let them dry thoroughly before you hang them up. Drape them along the walls, over windows and around tables.

7. Single sheets can be used for place mats. Use them to make festive table settings or set them under the plates.

MORE PAPER CUT OUT PROJECTS

Paper Cutting Craft # 1

Basic Materials

- 1 Good sharp pair of embroidery or cuticle scissors
- 1 Good quality utility knife with replacement blades
- Transfer or tracing paper
- A bone folder
- Paper of your choice
- Template or picture to copy
- Paper Clips or staples



These are some ideas for cut out designs....the first are birds attached to place cards for a dinner or lunch the second picture has cut outs that are used on blank home made stationary cards and the third example is Halloween decorations. The things you can create are endless as long as you can cut out and be inventive.

Step #1

Use your tracing paper or transfer paper to trace the template or picture on to the transfer paper so that the design is right facing. From cutting designs involving folding paper do not fold the paper more than two or three times. Score the paper with the bone folder for precision. Before you begin cutting secure the pages with paper clips or staple the paper on the outside boarder of the design.



Step # 2

With paper cutting; paper is easiest to handle if you start cutting from the center and work your way to the outer edges as in the picture below. Pierce the paper with the scissor tip or even a pin to gain entry to the small spaces. A utility knife works the best on curved shapes, central areas and small spaces. When you work; rest the paper on top of a self healing cutting mat. Apply steady pressure from the blade as you cut. Guide the blade towards you while holding the paper taut with the other hand. Scissors work best for large shapes and outer areas.



Tip: Once you have begun to cut on a fold never open the paper up to check the progress of the work. This can ruin the symmetry of the design. Also to minimize the possibility of tearing the paper, you need to change the blade of the utility knife if the paper starts to pull back as you try and cut it.

If you intend to paste the cut out on another piece of paper or even hang it up as is; it is recommended that you either flatten it with a heavy book for a couple of days or iron it with a cool iron before doing so.

Step for gluing onto another piece of paper or other surface

Mark and measure the surface that the cut out is to go onto before you actually attach it to that surface first. Once a cutout is placed it is hard to move it to correct placement without either distorting or tearing the cutout. White craft glue is recommended with a fine tipped brush or a good spray adhesive. But with the second choice make sure you have good ventilation. You can use a glue stick for heavier pieces of paper.



If you are using paper cut outs to apply to furniture as decorations then it is suggested that you should cover them with several coats of a good based sealer so they can last through regular handling.

Here is an example of a plain white chair with red paper cut outs that were used to decorate it with.



his country cottage and garden were inspired by the scherenschnitte wall decorations popularized in Holland and Germany. The house is a symmetrical image cut from a single folded sheet with a utility knife; the fence, trees, and flowers are single images cut along one continuous line (flower centers were made with a tiny hole punch). White cut work mounted on black paper like this was the first preferred style in cutout-crazed seventeenth-century Europe. (Black-on-white silhouettes came later.) Here, heavy paper backing was added between some of the layers before mounting to add depth to the completed piece. If you intend to frame your cutouts, be sure to make them out of non yellowing, acid-free white and nonfading color papers.



You can always go to your local crafting store to purchase paper templates or even google paper crafting templates on line to start you

off.

Cut Out Project # 2

EASY CUT AND FOLD SNOW FLAKES

Snow flake shapes make beautiful decorations for any time of the year. They don't have to only be for christmas time. You can paste them on things or tie a string or ribbon and hang them. Use any color paper you choose to match what you are doing.

MATERIALS

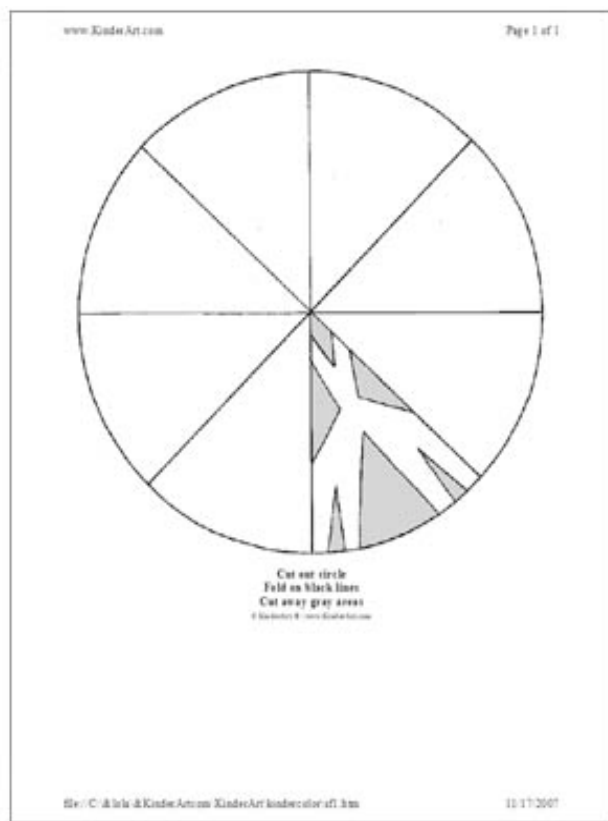
Paper in your choice of color

Scissors

optional glitter to glue on

Here is the Template for you to use:

Snow flake 1 “The Flying M”



Step 1:

You can copy this pattern on the paper you are going to use to make your snowflake with.

Step 2:

Cut the circle out

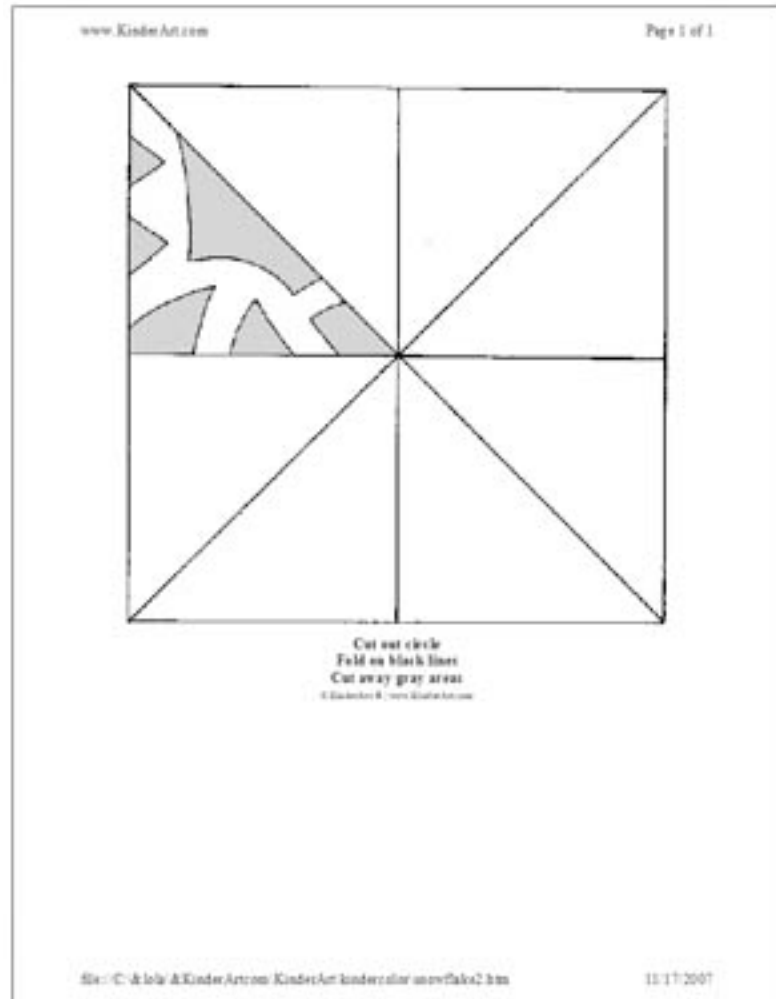
Step 3:

Fold on the Black lines and Cut away the gray areas to reveal the shape when you open the circle up



Snowflake # 2 called the Mini Monster

This one uses a square shape as opposed to a circle



Step 1

Cut the Square Out

Step 2

Fold on the patterns black lines

Step 3

Step 2

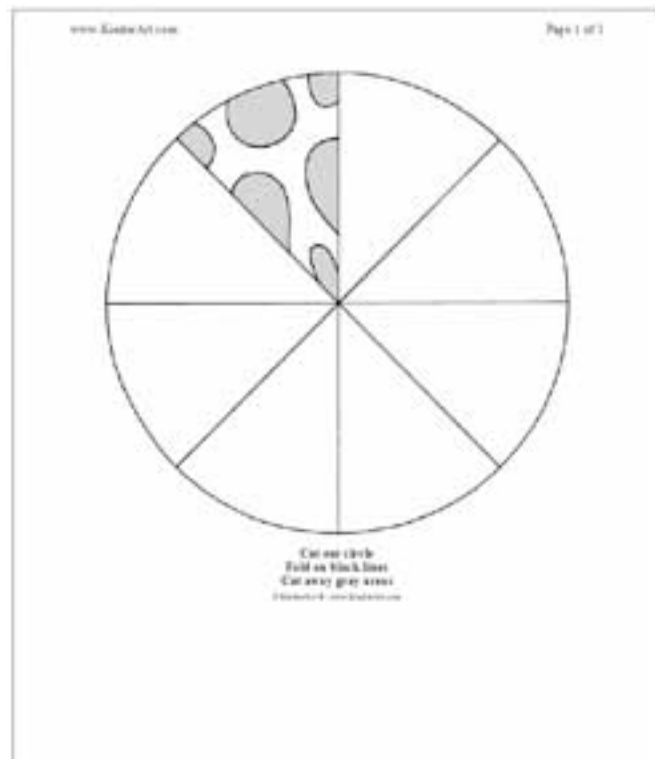
Fold on the Black Lines

Step 3

Cut away grey area and open



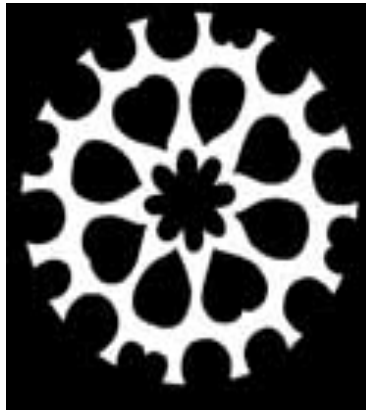
Snow Flake # 4
The Heart Flake



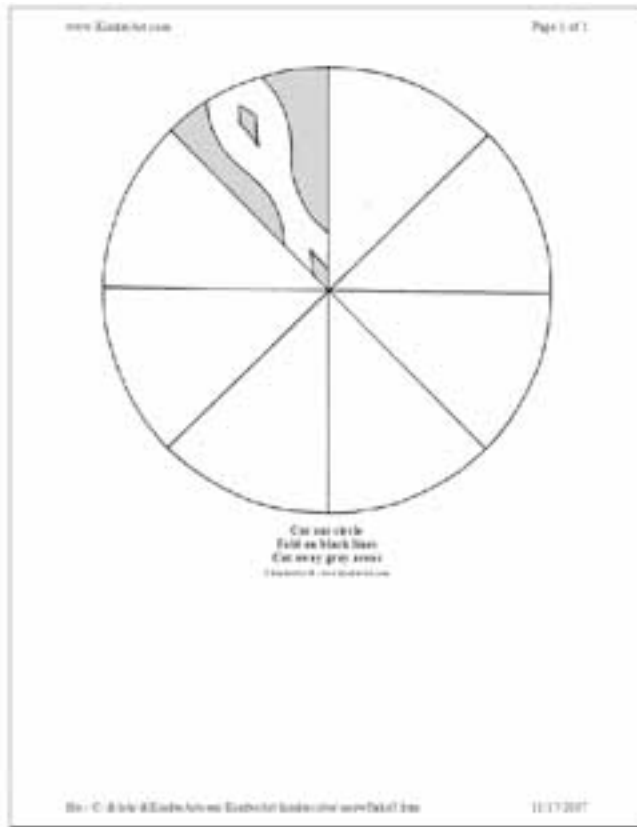
Step 1
Cut circle

Step 2
Fold on Black lines

Step 3
Cut away grey and open



Snowflake # 5
Stars and Diamond



Step 1

Cut the circle out

Step 2

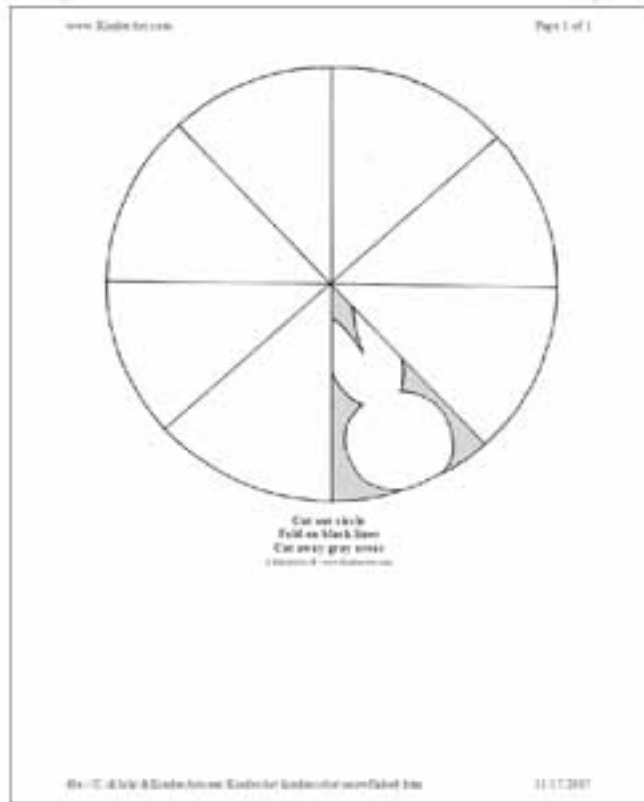
Fold on the black lines

Step 3

Cut away grey area and open



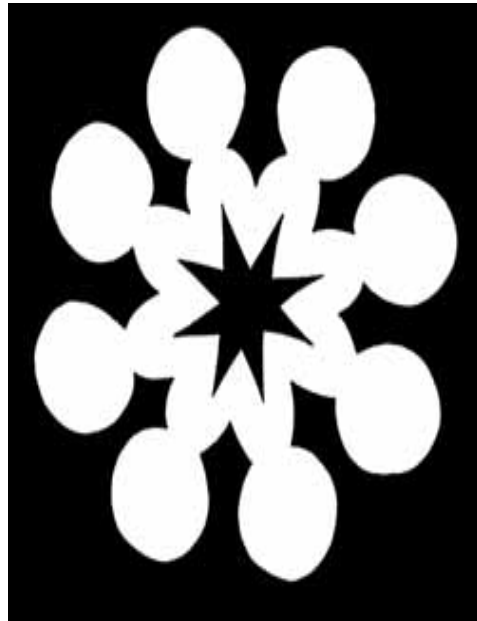
Snow flake # 6
HAPPY DOTS



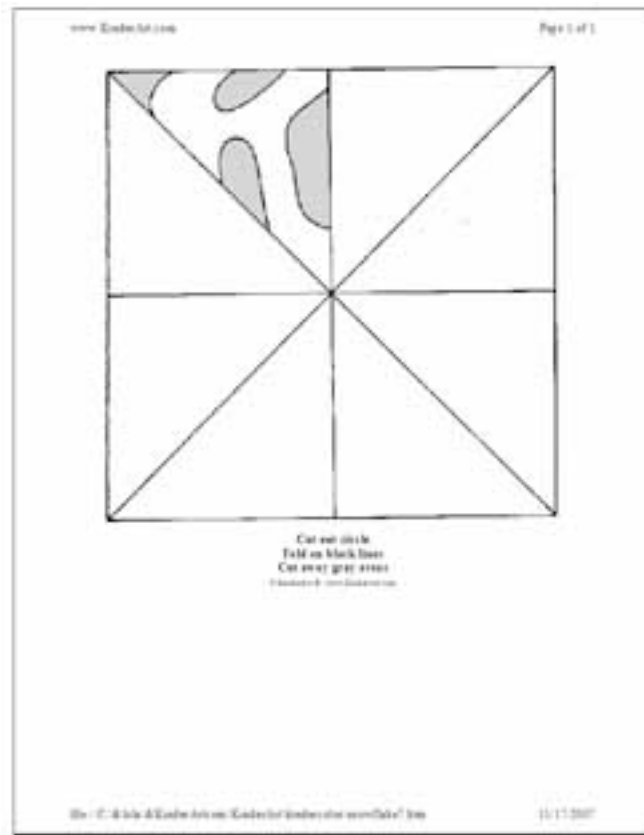
Step 1
Cut Circle out

Step 2
Fold on black lines

Step 3
Cut away grey area and open



SNOWFLAKE # 7 ACORNS AND HEARTS



Step 1

Cut Square out

Step 2

Fold on black lines

Step 3

Cut away grey area and open

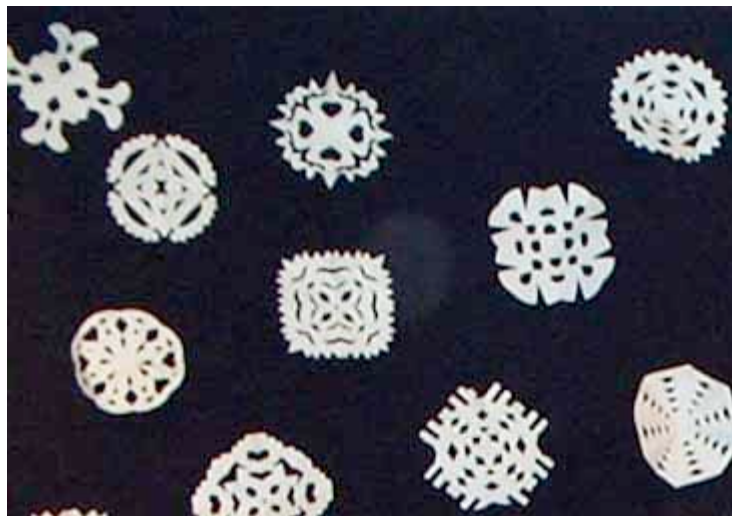
Step 1
Cut Square out

Step 2
Fold on black lines

Step 3
Cut away grey area and open

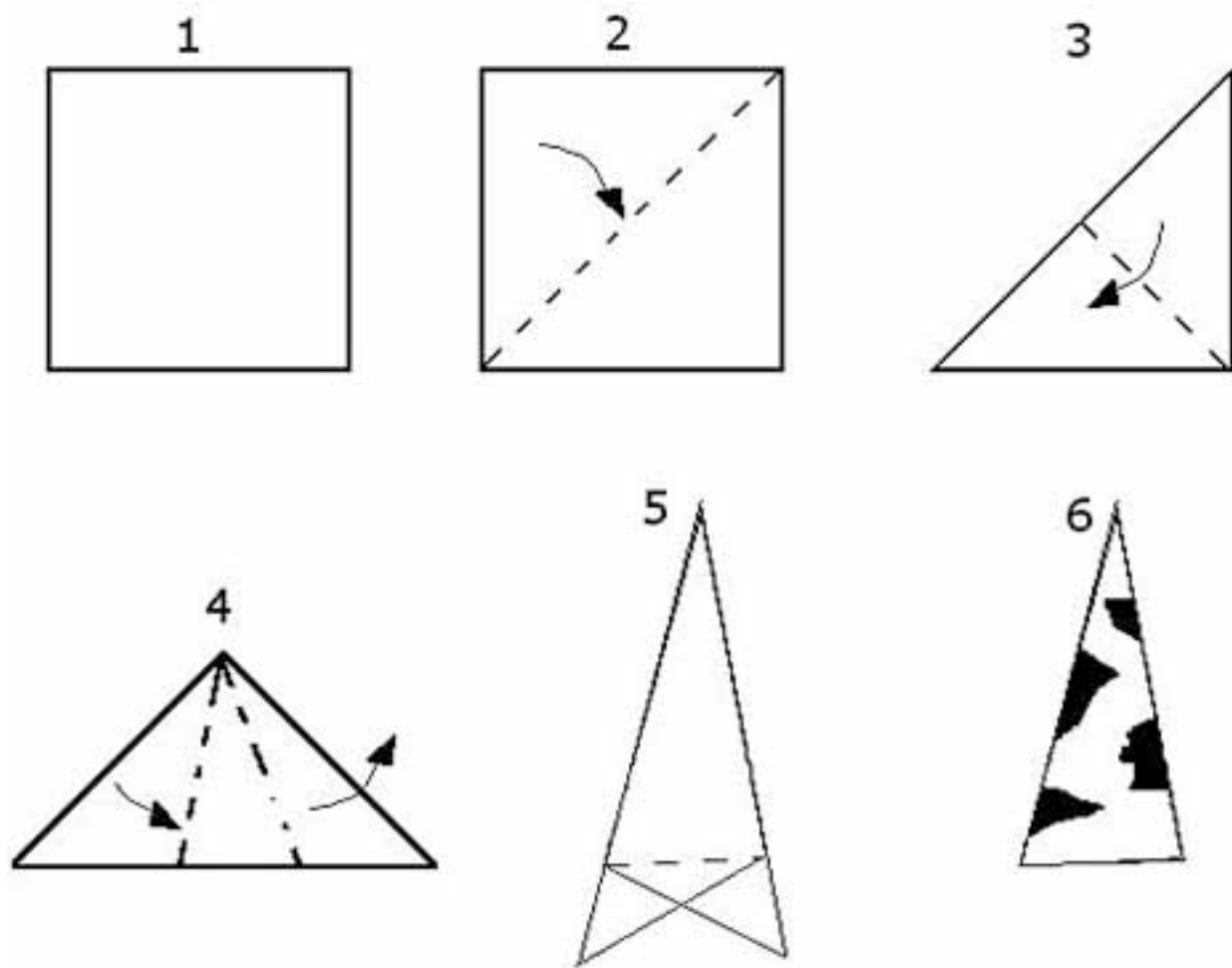


Variation Of Snow Flakes Without A Template



These are made by challenging yourself and folding a square paper either in eighths or even sixteenths.

For this variation all you need is paper and scissors. If you want to use colored paper go ahead and you can add glitter with glue if you wish.



Steps

1. Trim a piece of paper into a square or by a paper that is already square in a craft store.
2. Fold the square in half diagonally(picture #2)
3. Fold the triangle again in half diagonally (picture #3)

4. Fold the paper in thirds – one side to the front the other to the back (picture #4)
5. Trim the extra paper off the end of your triangle (picture #5)
6. Around the outside of the triangle cut any shape you want....circles, triangles, squares slits have fun (picture #6)
7. Unfold the paper
8. You now have a snowflake to hang, glue to something or decorate with as you wish

How to Make a 3 dimensional Snow Flake

This one is a little more challenging to make than the other two types



You can make this decoration in any color paper you choose. It can be hung on a ribbon of your choice from any location or from a tree

depending on the occasion. You can use it for any time of year.

Materials

Paper

Scissors

Stapler

Tape

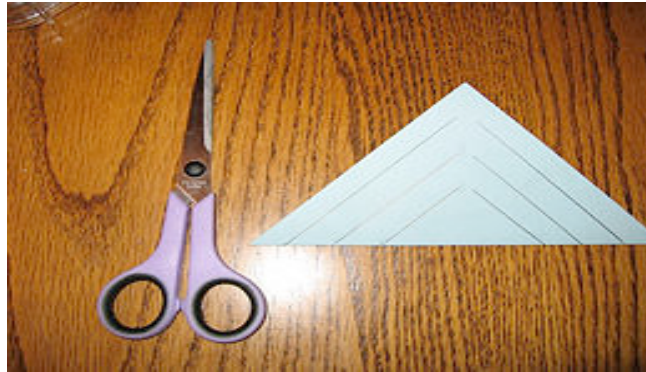


It takes 6 pieces of paper to make one Snow flake

Step 1

Fold each one of the 6 pieces of paper in half diagonally to get a triangle. The triangle doesn't have to be perfect. You can cut the pieces of paper that stick out beyond the edge of the triangle(this occurs when the paper is a rectangle and not square) and then it will align perfectly.

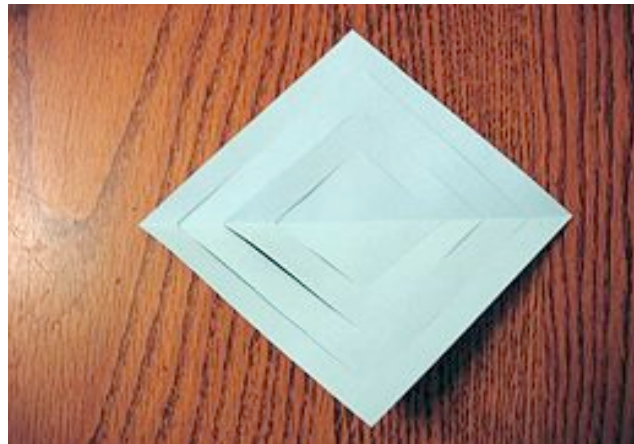
Step 2



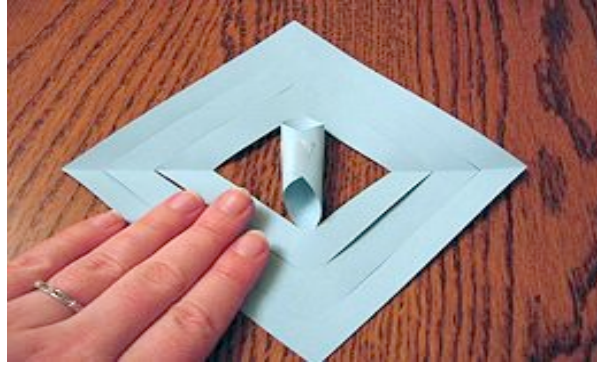
Cut three lines on each side of the triangle from the folded edge.(see picture) **Do not cut completely through to the unfolded paper edges.** The cut lines should be parallel to one another each side and come close to meeting in the middle but not touch; leave a small space between them. To make this easier, you can fold the triangle in half. This way you'll cut both sides at once, making a very symmetrical snowflake. This might not be suitable for thicker paper, since the number of layers makes it difficult to cut through.

Step 3

Unfold the paper triangle and turn it so you have a diamond shape facing you as you work.



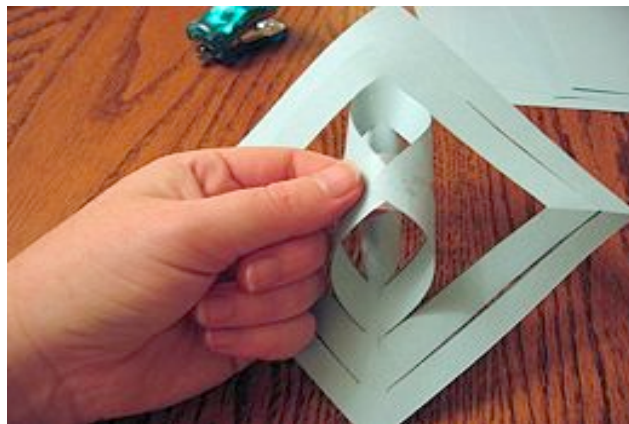
Step 4



Still keeping your paper diamond side-up, roll the first two innermost paper lines together to form a tube. Tape these two pieces together. You should see triangle shapes on each side of the roll.

Step 5

Turn the diamond over to the other side. Take the next two paper lines and pull them together on the opposite side of the tube and tape together as before. This will be a more rounded shape and wider than the first tube.



Step 6

Keep turning the paper and joining the paper lines together on opposite side until all paper lines have been joined.



Step 7

Repeat steps 3 through 6 with the other 5 pieces of paper

Join 3 of the completed rolled pieces together at one end draw (together with your fingertips) and staple together using the other hand. Do the other 3 pieces the same way. Now you will have 2 pieces consisting of 3 strands or "arms" each.



Step 8

Staple the two new pieces together in the middle. You will almost have the snowflake shape by now



Step 9

Staple where each of the 6 arms meet. This ensures that the snowflake shape is pulled into place. See illustration at top for the



finished snowflake.

Chapter 9: Paper Mache

By definition paper mache is a substance made from paper pulp that can be molded and painted when dried almost like one would use clay to mold a structure. Paper mache comes from the word Papier Mache which is the french word for chewed up paper. Paper mache is commonly used to make craft items such as ornaments, figurines and things of that nature. It is economical to make and eco friendly to use. This is because it is made from recycled paper. Anything from old newspapers, stationary to old gift wrapping can be used to make paper mache.

When forming large craft items with paper mache its best to use something as a structure to build the form on. In cases as such one can use inflated balloons, cartons, wire forms or even cans to shape an ornament or structure. Balloon are a preferred item to use because they are popped once the structure dries and the structure can maintain its shape without being too heavy. Many Pinatas are formed with balloons as the structural shape for them. Styrofoam is also used for structures because it is not heavy. People also may even use things like paper rolls under the toilet tissue or paper towel roll cores .You can be as creative as you would like.

Working with paper mache can be messy so you want to make sure you cover your area well with either a drop cloth, news paper or something to protect the area you are working at. There are variations of recipes for making paper mache but they all have one thing in common and that is some kind of recycled paper that is torn or shred as the paper component.

Create your pattern or preliminary design before you start to actually use the paper mache. Once you set your idea you can then begin to build your mold that the paper mache will cover. If your structure

has more than one shape that needs to be attached you can tape them together with a sticky tape to hold them in place. Once you have your basic shape or structure composed you can then start making your paper mache.

Here are some basic recipes for making paper mache.

Paper Mache Recipe # 1

Ingredients

Flour

Water

A good supply of recycled paper

You begin by stirring three parts water with into one part flour until it becomes a smooth, creamy mixture. It is suggested that you add a few drops of oil of wintergreen because it gives the paper mache a longer shelf life. You can get oil of wintergreen at almost any drug store/ pharmacy. After mixing these ingredients together the paper mache paste is now ready for use. Also adding a couple of tablespoons of salt to the paper mache helps prevent it from molding which can occur.

Next step is using the paper with the paste. Old newspaper is highly recommended for this. You basically tear the paper into strips. Tear both long and short strips. When you tear the strips you then compile them by color and size putting the same ones in a common pile.

For the first recipe once you have your model, your paste and paper ready; you then dip your paper in the paste and cover the structure you modeled with the wet paper. When the structure is completely covered to your liking you then let it dry. When dry you can paint it if you wish or leave as is depending on what you made and how you want the finished project to look.

Paper Mache Recipe # 2

Ingredients

Wall paper paste

Water

Paper

Wall paper paste can be purchased at almost any well equipped hardware store.

This paper mache is prepared by mixing one part wall paper paste with three parts water. Once it is stirred well its ready to use. The paper is torn like the first recipe and then dipped into the paste the same as recipe # 1. You then cover your structure and let dry.

Paper Mache Recipe # 3

This variation uses white glue instead of wall paper paste or flour as in the first recipe. You take two parts white glue to one part warm water and mix to have your paste. The paper procedure and structure covering remains the same as in the first two recipes.

Variation to Recipe # 1

½ cup multipurpose flour

3 tbsp sugar

2 cups cold water

2 cups boiling water

In a bowl make a paste using the multipurpose flour and cold water. Boil 2 cups of water and add this mixture to it. Stir continuously to avoid any lumps from being formed. Bring it to a boil and remove from the heat. Stir in the sugar and mix well. The mixture thickens as it cools. Use this paste to make paper mache projects.

Variation to Recipe # 2

If you want a paper mache project to last for many years, instead of flour you could use wallpaper adhesive or paste. The reason is flour paste could become moldy in a humid environment. The materials that you require include the following:

1 cup wallpaper paste
3 cups of water

In an old bowl mix, water and wallpaper paste till it becomes a smooth paste. It is ready for use.

Variation to Recipe # 3

2 cups glue
1 cup boiling water

In an old plastic bowl, mix glue and boiling water to make a smooth paste. This paper mache paste could be used as a wet glue to make paper mache projects.

Once again you are reminded that If you want the flour paper mache paste to last longer, add a few drops of wintergreen oil. Try using non-porous wallpaper adhesive in a humid climate. It is wise to use a wooden spoon to stir and a plastic or rustproof bowl to mix the ingredients. Remember, paper mache projects would be messy; cover your floor or work area with old newspapers or old cloth. Use your innovative and creative ideas to make wonderful wall hangings, bowls and masks using the paper mache techniques.

For each of the above paper mache recipes, it is important to follow

certain precautions in order to get the best results. Firstly, one should be sure to tear and not cut the newspaper into strips, since this increases absorption and adhering properties. Secondly, one should make sure that each piece of paper is thoroughly saturated with the chosen paste while dipping it in. Thirdly, it is important to allow each layer of paper mache to dry completely before adding the next layer. This ensures the best possible hold and consistency.

Also, paper mache paste has a very strong smell and some people prefer to use a bit of cinnamon to reduce it.

When you are covering your paper mache mold you:

1. Dip in the newspaper strips in the paste one at a time. Make sure it is well coated but squeeze off any excess paste so it does not drip.
2. Place the coated newspaper on your mold. Smooth out any wrinkles.
3. Continue the process until your mold is entirely covered.
4. Place up to four layers of newspaper on the mold and set it aside.
5. Allow it to dry completely.
6. Repeat the steps above until you have the desired thickness on your paper mache project. This process may take up to a couple of days.

Once you do the above steps to your satisfaction you can then:

1. Use a sharp box cutter or scissors to carefully make a straight cut down the middle of your paper mache.

2. Separate slowly the two sections from the mold.
3. Join back the two sections (now with the mold removed) using strips of white paper and paste. Repeat until the separation lines are not evident. Allow to dry.
4. Paint your paper mache project with water color or acrylic paint after the surface has completely dried.

Here are some pictures of paper mache projects to give you an idea of how they look when a paper mache project is completed.





These are just a few samples of how elaborate paper mache crafting can get. You can go to you local craft store or even on line to get pre made moulds to use as well.

A Final Word

This book is just a way to introduce you to the many possibilities that you can have using paper as a way to express the artist in you. There are many more ways to use paper in crafts than was written in this book. If you find that you like working with paper you can expand on the basics in this book or even branch out to other paper crafting forms besides those that are introduced in this book. It can be both a creative and even relaxing hobby to enjoy.