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Papel Picado

16 templates for making traditional Mexican decorative garlands out of tissue paper

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INTRODUCTION

Papel Picado

Papel Picado is made by cutting designs into thin tissue paper that is then hung up as decoration for various occasions such as weddings, Easter, Christmas and the Day of the Dead in Mexico. Unlike conventional garlands, large individual sheets are glued together on a string to form long chains. The colors of the paper are strikingly bright. The most common colors are purple, orange, pink and lime green. The designs that are hung on the Day of the Dead, 'Dia de los Muertos', are especially popular. The patterns are composed of whimsical skeletons riding a bicycle or playing an instrument, for example.

Papel Picado is a folk art in Mexico that was adopted from the Aztecs. The Aztecs carved their designs, which often depicted gods and goddesses, into peeled off tree bark with various chisel tools. Even today, Papel Picado designs and patterns are painstakingly cut by hand, just not in bark, but in paper.

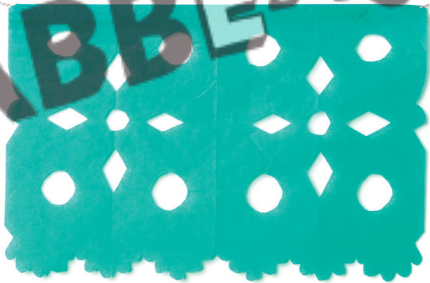


Over time, a new technique developed that is much easier to do and became very popular with children throughout South America and the United States: simple patterns are cut out of thin tissue paper with a pair of scissors. When the colorful tissue paper flutters in the wind, Papel Picado looks especially beautiful.

Micha Labbé

OVERVIEW

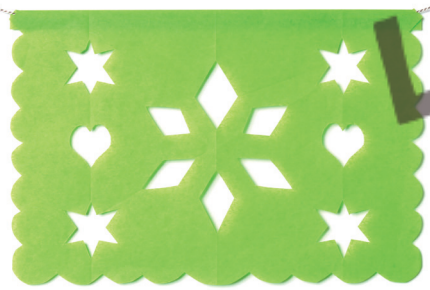
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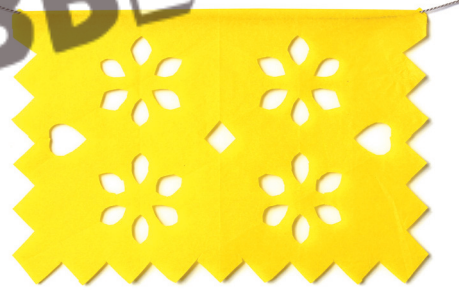
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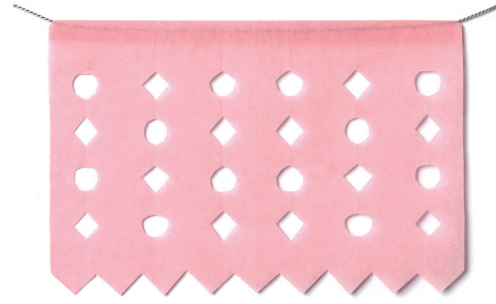
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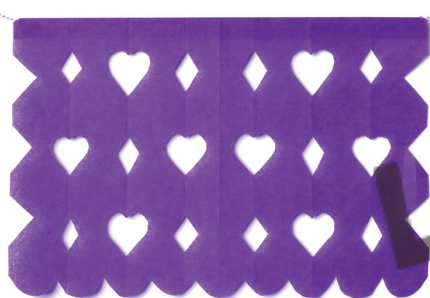
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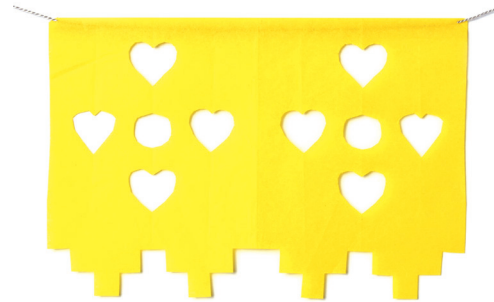
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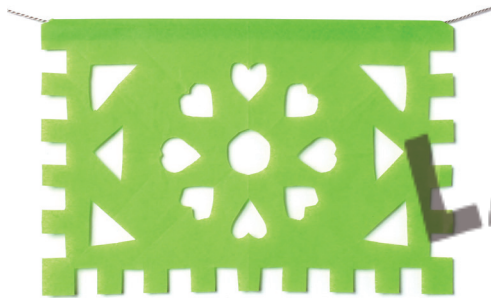
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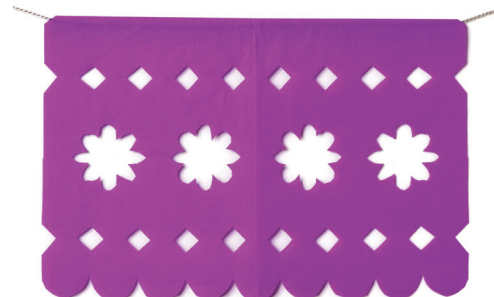
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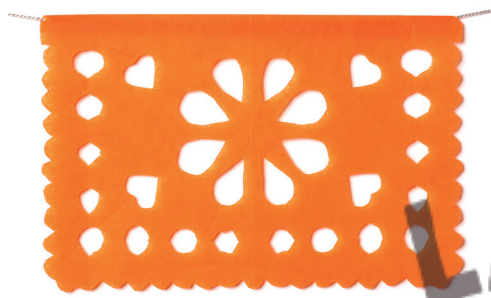
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