

Lunar New Year Lanterns Project

For each lantern pattern, just remember three things:

- 1) Decorate! Before you do any cutting, color in your lanterns with whatever materials you like (markers, paint, crayons, stickers, stick-on sequins, the sky's the limit), and color on **both sides** of the paper!
- 2) The grey areas on the pattern indicate where you put glue (or glue dots). Be patient and let glue dry after each step.
- 3) Cut on every dark line (outlines and slits).
 - a. Use a hole punch to punch out the little circles for the rings in all three patterns.
 - b. To get clean interior lines on the body for Lantern Pattern 2 and achieve a rounded lantern, you can use the "poke" method. Grab a pin or a needle, put some scrap of cardstock underneath the pattern, and poke through the line several times at the beginning, to give your scissors an easy way to get into the paper without ripping it. If you are okay with a creased outer shell, you can also fold the pattern in half and cut the slits that way.

Lantern Pattern 1 assembly:

- 1) Cut out all your shapes. You should have 2 top rings, 1 large middle section, 1 tassel (each one is made of two shapes) and 2 little strips.
- 2) Fold the tab sections up on the large middle section on both sides all facing the same direction.
- 3) Put a dot of glue (or a glue dot) on the top of each "petal" of the middle section. One by one, press the glue onto the corresponding strip of grey on the cap. The top rings self-fasten; slide the end slots into each other to secure.
- 4) Repeat for the opposite side of the middle section; glue dot on the bottom of each petal, press the glued bits into the other cap. Again, the strips should come together to form a ring.
- 5) Put a dot of glue (or a glue dot) on the center tab, fastening to the opposite end. You should now have a football shaped tube.
- 6) Make the tassel. (These are especially important to color on both sides!!!) The tassel is made by slotting the non-ringed shape into the center of the shape with the ring. If you're having trouble getting the pieces to fit, widen the slit just a hair so you have some room to maneuver. This will require a little finagling. Be patient.
- 7) You should be left with two little strips. Take one little strip, string it through the ring on the top of the lantern and glue it in place to form a loop. You now have a way to hang your lantern. Take the other little strip, string it through the ring on the bottom of the lantern AND the ring at the top of the tassel, glue that strip together, and you've successfully connected your tassel to your lantern. You're all done!

Lantern Pattern 2

- 1) Make all of your cuts. You should have 6 pieces: the central cylinder (long rectangle), the handle (skinny rectangle that's skinnier in the middle), the outer layer that flares out (rectangle with lots of slits and scalloped border), one little strip (to connect the tassel to the lantern) and 1 tassel (two pieces).

- 2) Start with the slitted, scallop edged rectangle. Fold the scalloped edges over right up to the cuts on each side. Lay down some glue (or glue dots) on one long side to attach it to the top of the plain rectangle, lining the pieces up so the scalloped tabs extend past the interior rectangle. Do the same thing to the other side forming an arch over the smaller rectangle.
- 3) Gently roll the arch fanning out the cuts on the outer layer and curving the inside into a cylinder. Then glue the edge of the inner rectangle to close it into a tube and bring around the scalloped tabs of the outer rectangle to secure it.
- 4) Lay down some glue (or glue dots) to the handle and attach the handle to the inside of the central cylinder.
- 5) Make the tassel, see previous step 6. Attach the tassel to your lantern with the small strip. String the strip through the ring at the top of the tassel and glue one end to each side of the bottom of the inner cylinder so it hangs down. You're done!

Lantern Pattern 3

- 1) As before, make all of your cuts, cutting around the outsides of all the shapes and the little slits in the rounded star shapes. Crease all star shapes along the crease lines as indicated on the pattern facing the same direction. You will have 12 star shapes, 1 tassel (two pieces), and 2 small strips, one for the top of your lantern to hang it, and one for securing the tassel to the bottom of your lantern.
- 2) To start, make sure all of your 12 pieces are sitting on a surface facing the same way. Separate out the four stars with rings on top, and pair them off. One pair forms the top of your lantern, and the other pair makes the bottom. (This lantern forms a special shape called a **dodecahedron**, which is a 3D, ball-like shape with 12 sides. Because all of the stars interlock through their slits, glue is not *technically* required to hold this together, but it is recommended.) To pair off the ringed pieces, slot them together using the slit right below the rings with a dot of glue to hold them part together.
- 3) Each of these pairs gets two more pieces attached, in the big gaps on either side. Slide the new pieces into the slits and be sure to make sure you have lined up the pieces correctly before gluing between each connection.
- 4) You now have two groups of four pieces. Pick one and attach the remaining four pieces, which will be the widest part of the dodecahedron.
- 5) Now add the next four, taking care to keep the bottom ring symmetrical with the top ring. Slot that whole group together with the rest of the pieces and you will have your completed lantern.
- 6) Add the tassel with the hanging ring see step 6 from Lantern1 pattern. You're done!

Happy Lunar New Year!!!