Papel Picado Instructions

Papel Picado, meaning “cut” or “punched” paper, is a traditional folk art of Mexico and many of Spain’s former colonies. In Mexico, you can find papel picado at every major holiday, often draped across narrow streets, in front of homes, and in gathering places.

Traditionally, the stacks of tissue paper are cut using chisels to form intricate designs and patterns. In this project, we will be stacking and folding tissue paper to cut designs with scissors.

This kit contains three papel picado templates: beginner, intermediate, advanced.

- Start by stacking 3-6 sheets of tissue paper with the bottom edge lined up. (Smaller hands and artists with concerns about cutting strength should stick with 3 sheets. Remember, once folded, you will be cutting two to four times the thickness of your stack with each cut.)

- Fold your stacked sheets in half and then fold your template in half.

- Insert the folded tissue paper into the folded template like pages in a book. Take care to line up the bottom edge and middle folds.

- Holding the template and tissue paper “book” securely, start cutting out the blackened shapes and the flag outline. You’ll notice that the beginner and intermediate templates include dotted lines that can be used as fold guides for the necessary cuts. Fold on one dotted line, make the cuts along that line and then unfold. Repeat until all shapes are removed. Unfold.

- If you will be turning in your papel picado to JFFA for the community ofrenda, you’re done! Just drop them off in the Market Art collection (Chase Bank lobby - 101 W Front St in Port Angeles) by **5pm on October 21st.** If you’re planning to display your papel picado at home, you’ll need to add a small hole in each upper corner. String them together and display.

For more detailed instruction and a video tutorial, visit [youtube.com/jffapa](https://youtube.com/jffapa)