

## How to Make Mexican Papel Picado:

### You will need:

1. A supply of tissue paper, pre-cut to letter size (i.e. 8 ½" by 11")
2. Scissors
3. Small hobby knife
4. You will need something to cut against. We recommend discarded magazines or catalogs. Remember to observe every safety precaution.

### Overview:

There's a trick to making tissue paper "papel picado"! Since tissue paper is thin and fragile, it's easiest to cut if you sandwich it inside regular paper. Not only is the regular paper stiffer, but it also provides a convenient surface to plan your designs.

### Instructions:

1. Crease this piece of paper right down the middle (along the dotted line). Do this carefully! The crease must be flat and straight. Make sure these instructions appear on the outside.
2. Crease the tissue paper right down the middle.
3. Assemble the tissue paper and this sheet of regular paper like you're making a book. You can use three or four pieces of tissue paper if you like, but they must be placed one inside another, and this cover sheet must be on the outside like the book's cover.
4. Notice how there's a second dotted line on the pattern. Make a straight, neat crease down this dotted line too. The second crease helps to hold the pages of the book tightly together.
5. Carefully observe the pattern on the back cover of the newly assembled "book". Note how there are "islands" in the design. Many people find it helpful to mark or lightly shade these islands of paper with a pencil. These islands will be cut away and discarded.
6. Okay... you're ready to begin cutting out your papel picado! Be careful. Make sure that your cuts don't leave the lines on the pattern.
7. When cutting with a hobby knife, make sure you always have an old magazine or catalog as a working surface. The idea is to cut right through all layers of tissue paper and pattern into the working surface below. If the surface below becomes too rough, tear away a few magazine pages to get a new working surface.
8. When you're all done cutting, flatten creases carefully before removing the cover. The individual sheets of tissue will be very fragile!

As with most art, it takes practice, so don't get discouraged. Remember to observe every safety precaution.

**Have fun!**

