

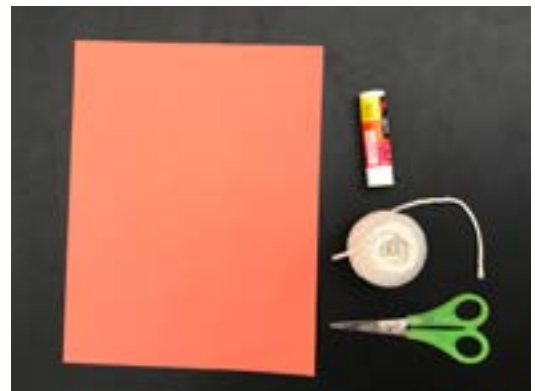


## ***Papel Picado* Banner**

Altars often have *papel picado* (literally “punched paper”) banners of colored tissue paper perforated with scenes of skeletons, birds or floral designs. These can be made with scissors and machines. They can also be made in the traditional way with a chisel, a small hammer and a template to cut through up to 50 paper sheets at a time. There are also different styles of *picado* displayed on many other holidays and special occasions such as Christmas, birthdays, and Easter. For *Dia de los Muertos*, *picados* symbolize air, one of the four elements represented on an altar. They flutter in the breeze and remind viewers how fragile and delicate life can be. Your banner can be one piece long, or you can connect pieces together to make a longer one.

### **Materials:**

tissue paper  
scissors  
glue stick  
string



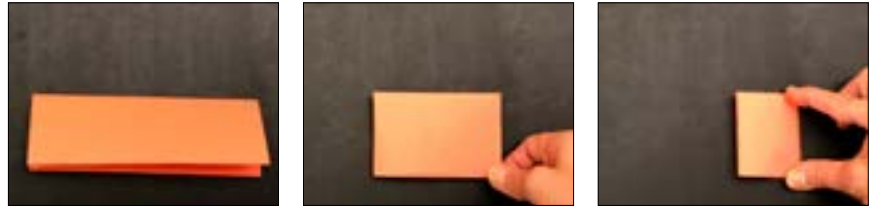
## Instructions:

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Fold paper down in half,  
then in half again.



Fold paper across in half,  
then in half again.



Cut out designs such as triangles,  
half-circles, and rectangles around  
all four edges, and then unfold.



## *To add string:*

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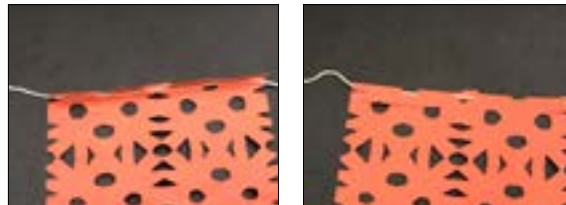
Fold down a small strip across top  
and crease to make a flap.



Lift up flap and add glue across—gently.  
Be careful not to tear paper.



Place string across the glue area and  
fold flap back down and press to close.



**Finished!**

