

Library Latino Style!

"SUPER COOL MEXICANA CRAFTS"

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CANDLE LANTERNS

Materials:

- One 8 ounce can of Mexican chiles
- 3 pieces of chain, 8" each
- Jump rings
- Dangling charm
- Glass votive holder
- Votive or tea light candle
- Hand drill
- Can opener
- Sandpaper

Instructions:

1. Remove the top of the can. Empty, thoroughly clean, and dry the can. Sand the edges at the ridge to remove any sharp points.
2. Drill three holes at the top of the can (just below the ridge) in a triangle fashion, in order to attach the chains. Drill two holes close together at the bottom of the can. Attach a jump ring to each hole at the top and one through the two holes at the bottom.
3. Hook one chain strip to each jump ring. Gather them at the top, and connect with two jump rings. Add a dangling charm to the bottom jump ring.
4. Insert the glass votive holder and candle into the can. Hang and light.



BOOK: Cano-Murillo, Kathy. *La Casa Loca*. Mass: Rockport Publishers, 2003.



PAPEL PICADO

Making things out of colored tissue paper has long been a Mexican folk tradition. One of the common names for the material, **Papel de China**, tissue paper, gives us a

clue as to its origin. Paperwork was apparently among the imports that poured in from the Orient on the annual Pacific treasure fleet that plied its way between the Far East and Acapulco, laden with such exotic goods as silver, ivory, spices, and porcelain. Once the craft arrived in Mexico, it became the basis for many important and widespread folk art forms.

There are examples of **papel picado** dating back to the early 20th century. Cut from colored tissue paper to simulate lace, **papel picado** can be seen hanging from Day of the Dead altars and around graves during November. Day of the Dead paper-cuts is usually purple (for pain), white (for hope) or pink (for celebration). Also during Christmas and other celebrations the **papel picado** decorates indoor and outdoor festivities in Mexico.

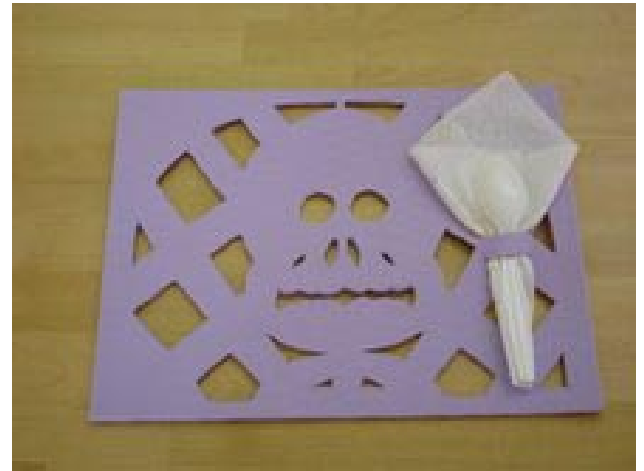
Papel picado is a form of “folk art,” meaning that it is a popular traditional art form handed down from generation to generation. In Mexico, template patterns cut the designs into stacks of colored tissue paper producing many paper cuts-outs at once from a single pattern.

Materials: 8" x 10" sheets of colored tissue paper, stacked and folded in half like a book

Scissors
Straight pins
String
Glue
Pattern

Directions: Pin the pattern to the paper taking care to place the center edge of the pattern on the folded edge of the tissues.

Cut into the pattern and tissue first around the ended to make the border. Then cut out the large “negative” shapes by first puncturing the center of the areas to be cut out and then following the outlines. The small geometric shapes can be cut out by first folding on the dotted lines and then cutting the solid outlines. When completely cut, unfold and separate the tissues. Fold each tissue along the top edge about 1/2". Apply glue to this flap and wrap each tissue around the string, pressing the glue into the string to secure.



PATTERNS ONLINE:

www.nps.gov/archive/tum/a/PapelPicado.html
www.csupomona.edu/~plin/punched_paper/patterns.html
www.storyboardtoys.com/releases/Papel-Picado-Pattern-Simple.pdf
www.cut-it-out.org/table/index.htm
www.cut-it-out.org/portfolio/index.htm

SUGGESTED BOOKS:

Mexican Papercutting: Simple Techniques for Creating Colorful Cut-Paper Projects by Kathleen Trenchard.

The Skeleton at the Feast: the Day of the Dead in Mexico.

The Paper Cut-Out Design Book by Ramona Jablonski

Magic Windows/Ventanas Magicas by Carmen Lomas

Making Magic Windows: Creating Cut Paper Projects With Carmen Lomas Garza by Carmen Lomas Garza



LOTERIA GLASS CHARMS

Materials:

24-gauge sterling-silver wire, 12" long
 4 loteria bingo cards
 8 jump rings
 Head pin
 Assorted colored glass beads
 Empty film canister
 Needle-nosed pliers
 Safety pin
 Scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut the wire into four 3" pieces. Wrap each piece around the empty film canister to create a uniformly round shape.
2. Use the needle-nosed pliers to create the clasp and hook for the charms. At one end of each wire, create a small round loop for the clasp, and at the opposite end, bend the wire to make a small hook.
3. At a local copy center, reduce the bingo cards on a color copier to measure 1" tall (approximately 75% of full size), and have them laminated. Cut out the laminated bingo cards. Poke a hole at the top and bottom of each one with the safety pin.
4. Thread 2 or 3 beads on the head pin, and attach it to the jump ring. Then attach the jump ring to the bingo card using the needle-nosed pliers. Attach another jump ring at the top of the bingo card to connect it to the silver wire.

BOOK:

Cano-Murillo, Kathy. *La Casa Loca*.
 Mass: Rockport Publishers, 2003.

PESO PICTURE FRAME

Materials:

10"x12" wood frame, with a 2" wide border
 Acrylic paints in yellow, lime green, blue, and purple and Paintbrush

28-30 assorted peso coins *or*
 download Lorenza Carpenter's printable
 peso color photo page at:
<http://www.summerreading.cla-net.org/workshophandouts.html>

Industrial-strength glue

Sandpaper

Saw-toothed picture hanger or easel stand

Instructions:

1. Lightly sand the frame, and then paint a basecoat of yellow. Let the paint dry, and then repeat the process with the remaining colors. Let each color dry between coats.
2. Sand the entire surface so that the layered colors show through. You should be able to see all the colors in the wood.
3. Working on a flat surface, set the frame down and arrange the coins around the border to create a balanced look. Working one coin at a time, add a small dollop of glue, and press the coin firmly to the frame's surface. Let it dry for several hours.
4. Insert the glass and backing. Add either the saw-toothed picture hanger or an easel stand.

BOOK:

Cano-Murillo, Kathy. *La Casa Loca*.
 Mass: Rockport Publishers, 2003.



SUGAR SKULLS

MAKING SUGAR SKULLS IS NOT DIFFICULT IF YOU CAREFULLY FOLLOW EACH STEP.



What you will need: Granulated Sugar (adjust amount depending on how many skulls you will be making. Approximately 1 cup per 6 small sugar skulls, 4 medium or 1 large whole skull.)

- Large bowl
- Water
- Sugar Skull molds (shape and size of your preference. Some are faces only and some include two parts that you put together to make a whole skull.)
- Wax paper
- Meringue powder, 1 teaspoon for each cup of sugar. (Helps to hold the sugar together.)
- Powdered sugar for the icing.
- Paste food coloring to color the icing.
- Icing decorator bags
- A large, dry area for the skulls to dry in. (One for the sugar to dry in the mold, and one for the icing to dry.)
- Any other decoration you like such as foil, beads or feathers.

Sugar Mix:

For every cup of sugar, mix in 1 teaspoon of meringue powder and sprinkle 1 teaspoon of water on top.

Work the water into the sugar with your fingers until the mixture feels like cool



beach sand. This takes a few minutes, so be patient. The sugar is ready when you can press your finger or thumb into it and the print will stay.

Making the skull

Fill the mold with sugar and press firmly with the palm of your hand. When the skull is full and pressed into mold,

use the back of a knife to scrape off excess sugar and flatten back.

Lightly re-press the scraped surface to smooth it.



Remove Mold and let the Skulls Dry

Place a piece of cardboard or flat plate over the sugar skull.

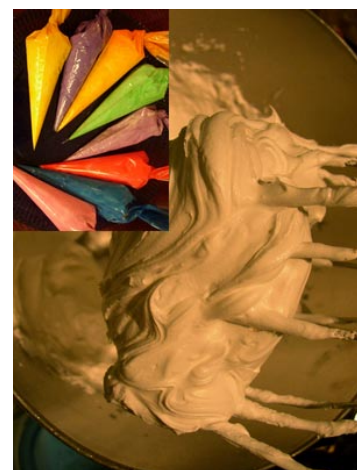
Hold the skull on the plate tightly and flip it over. Set the plate down and carefully remove the mold.

Let the skulls dry for 12-24 hours.



Prepare the Icing

In a large mixer, mix 2/3 cup water, 1/2 cup meringue powder and 2 pounds of powdered sugar until icing peaks or about 9 minutes. Separate the icing into smaller portions (disposable cups and Popsicle sticks work well for this) and use the paste food coloring to color the icing. Place the icing in the



icing decorator bags. Snip the end of each bag when you're ready to decorate. Start very small with the snip; you can make it bigger if necessary.

Decorate the Skulls

Use your icing to decorate the skulls. If you're adding foil, beads or feathers, use the icing as a glue to attach them. If you add non-edible items to the skull, do not attempt to eat it! **Note-** If you have any larger 2-piece skulls, use the icing to "glue" the pieces together. Let the icing dry until it becomes hard. Then you can touch and display them as you like.

Sugar Skull Tips

- Meringue powder cannot be omitted. Some people use egg white but with mixed results. Sometimes they do not want to dry.
- Try to make sugar skulls on a very dry day. If it is too humid outside, they may not dry well. If this happens put them in a warm oven for 2 hours to see if that helps.
- For the larger skulls, you may scoop out some of the front and back pieces to make the finished skull lighter. Let the skull dry for 2 hours, then scoop out a hole in each one leaving a 1/2 inch solid flat border around the edge to glue them together. The scoopings may be re-used to make more skulls.
- Lightly spritz sugar with water if sugar gets to dry while working.



👤 ORDER SUGAR SKULL MOLDS

www.mexicansugarskull.com/mexicansugarskull/
www.mexicansugarskull.com/mexicansugarskull/sugarskullmolds.htm
www.mexicansugarskull.com/mexicansugarskull/Locations.htm

👤 SUGAR SKULL MAKING INSTRUCTIONS:

www.gourmetsleuth.com/sugarskullmaking.htm
www.mexicansugarskull.com/mexicansugarskull/recipe.htm
www.mexicansugarskull.com/mexicansugarskull/recipe.htm#teacher

👤 SUGGESTED BOOKS:

Dia de los Muertos en Mexico, Day of the Dead of Mexico Texto fotos por Mary J Andrade.
ISBN 0966587626.

Dia de Muertos II, Risa y Calavera. Artes de Mexico.
ISBN9-7068-3051-0.

Dia de Muertos, Serenidad Ritual. Artes de Mexico.

👤 MORE RESOURCES:

Sugar Skull Coloring page:
www.multiculturalarts.com/colorskull.pdf

Day of the Dead List of Links:
www.accd.edu/pac/lrc/dayofthedeath.htm

MexGrocer.com: www.mexgrocer.com

Order Milagro Miracle Charms: <http://faustosgallery.com/store/religious/milagros/index.html> or
www.milagromercado.com

Bottle Cap Art Inspiration:
www.goldiegarcia.com/botcap.php3

My Space Crafty Latinas:
www.myspace.com/craftylatinas

Latino Book Festival: www.lbff.us/home/schedule/LA-2006/index.htm

Mexico, Frida and Latin Rubber Stamps:
www.vickieenkoff.com/02mexico.htm
