Handmade Paper Lanterns

Decorate your next outdoor celebration with unique, easy-to-make paper lanterns. To make your lanterns bigger or smaller, use your printer settings to change the size of the template before you print. For an eclectic touch, use different sizes of lanterns on your strand.

Instructions

1. Print the template on the next page, then cut it out along the solid lines.
2. Lay scrapbook paper pattern-side down on a flat, clean work surface, then use a pencil to trace the template onto the paper.*
3. Place your template, still placed on top of your paper, on a piece of scrap cardboard. Line up a ruler along one of the dotted lines, then score** the line with a dull pencil. Repeat for all dotted lines.
4. Remove the template, then use a pencil to lightly write the A, B, C, D, E and F markings as you see them on the template.
5. Cut your paper along the solid lines.
6. Fold along the scored lines.
7. Glue tab A to side B.
8. Repeat steps 2 through 6 until you have five cone-like pieces. These will be the five points of your star.
9. Take two of your points and glue them together. To do this, glue tab C of the first point to side D of the second point. Then, glue tab E of the first point to side F of the second point.
10. Repeat step 8 until all points are glued together and your star is formed.
11. Once the glue has dried, cut a small hole between two points of your star. This hole should be just big enough for one of the bulbs on your strand of holiday lights to snugly fit inside your lantern.
12. Carefully tuck one bulb on your strand of holiday lights into the hole. Push it in until the bulb and base are completely inside the lantern.***
13. Repeat steps 2 through 11 until your strand is complete.

*Tip: To skip steps 2 and 4, simply print our template onto colored printer paper. Be sure to still score along the dotted lines.

**Tip: Scoring is applying pressure to create a line, so that folds are easy and even.

***Tip: To make sure your lanterns stay intact all through the night, use a couple drops of craft glue to secure the light bulb.
Handmade Paper Lantern Template

[Diagram of paper lantern template with labeled parts a, b, c, d, e, f]