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# Making Magic Windows: Creating Cut-Paper Art With Carmen Lomas Garza



## Synopsis

Author Carmen Lomas Garza is a pioneer in popularizing the traditional Mexican craft of papel picado in the United States and developing it into a sophisticated art form. This workbook shows children and their families how to create these beautiful papel picado designs and banners by simply folding and cutting tissue paper. Children will learn how to craft eight different traditional designs, including The Four Cardinal Points, a design reminiscent of the four points of a compass; Tiles, echoing the colorful hand-painted tiles that decorate many Mexican buildings; and The Fan, one of the artist's favorite designs, consisting of leaves, hummingbirds, and flowers.

## Book Information

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Children's Book Press (January 25, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0892391596

ISBN-13: 978-0892391592

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #164,261 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Children's](#)

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Age Range: 6 - 12 years

Grade Level: 1 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This workbook introduces children and their families to the traditional Mexican craft of papel picado. Following the hands-on format of her highly successful papel picado workshops, this book shows, step by step, how to create beautiful designs and banners by simply folding and cutting tissue paper. Projects you will learn to make include: the Four Cardinal Points, a design reminiscent of the four points of a compass; Tiles, echoing the colorful hand-painted tiles that decorate many Mexican buildings; and The Fan, one of Carmen's favorite designs, featuring leaves, hummingbirds, and flowers. For more advanced students there is a section on using the craft knife safely, and a sample Sunburst project to create.

This is my second copy of this book! I used it in my classroom during Fiesta for my 1-5th graders. Excellent, detailed instructions!

Absolutely one of the best how-to, interactive books I've ever had the pleasure of working through - and I'm not exactly artistically gifted. Carmen Lomas Garza has compiled a series of papel picado/cut-paper art projects with excellent instructions on folds and cuts, the elements of design, and the tools and materials needed to make successful papel picado banderitas/banners. Strong on helpful hints and technique, this book allows you to learn as you go through so that you can add real variety to any cut-paper project whether it be the simplest or the most complex. My sister and I got together a small group - 3 adults & 2 youngsters - and totally enjoyed creating several papel picado projects. Hands down, The Fan, was the overwhelming favorite of our little group of novice banderita makers. Filled with 8 great scissor projects and several challenging X-acto knife picados, Making Magic Windows is creative, interactive fun for the whole family! Explore it for yourself.

Practic,Practice, Practice!!!!

Very good book for your first time. The designs are fun

This book is a very good resource to begin understanding or beginning to work with papel picado. My students and my children loved the activities and enjoyed learning about papel picado. I strongly recommend this book for the classroom and for the home. The activities are best for older children age 8+, but you also could adapt for younger children. We made almost all the patterns in the book and had great fun doing these projects. I wish there were more patterns for specific holidays or special occasions.

The illustrations and instructions were clear, concise and very easy to understand. Projects started easy and worked into more complicated ones. The progression from easy to hard was just right so by the time I got to the more complex designs I was able to do them even as a beginner. The projects were intricate enough for adult interest, but were still easy enough for a beginner to do.

I am a teacher and used some of the examples from this book to teach a class of kindergartners the art of papel picado. The instructions are easy to follow, and the results are just beautiful. It's fun for

the children and adults alike. It's a good idea to show children examples of actual papel picado before you read Lomas Garza's other book called Magic Windows.

If you're an experienced papel picado maker, do not get this book. This book is intended for children. There are no patterns and all the papel picado projects in this book will have big folds all through the finished piece (since that is the method she is teaching in the book.) I am returning my copy.

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