

El Pueblo Historical Monument
Traditional Paper Flower Garland
At-Home Workshop

El Pueblo[™]
de
Los Angeles



This workshop is fun for the whole family and can be created with things you probably already have at home!

Decorate the house for special occasions, while staying safe at home. This cultural tradition is a wonderful way to have fun and add some color to any room.

In the instructions below we provide specific measurements, but you can make the flowers smaller or larger by changing the size of the squares depending on your preference.

The step by step instructions below will have you making beautiful flowers in no time!

Historic Facts About Paper Flowers

- Paper flowers have been popular since approximately 100 B.C.
- They are believed to have originated in China, but they are also popular in Mexico and in many places all over the world.
- The popularity of tissue paper flowers was partially because the decorations were used in many locations along the silk road.
- Throughout history they have been used to decorate places of great importance or to honor someone or something.
- Tissue paper originated in China and was introduced in the Philippines and Mexico during the Galleon Trade when ships often crossed the ocean from the Philippines to Mexico. This historic trade route began in 1565 and lasted until 1815.

Materials:

- Tissue Paper (2) 20"x20" sheets per flower ***Please note this is for one color, if you are going to make multicolor flowers than you will need more tissue paper***
- (6') of yarn, string, or balloon ribbon
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- (1) Twist Tie per flower (the kind used for loaves of bread, grocery produce bags, or garbage bags)

Step One:

- Lay the sheet of tissue paper on a flat surface and smooth out the best you can.
- Measure 8" VERTICALLY from the bottom of the paper and mark lightly with the pencil.



Step Two:

- Measure 8" HORIZONTALLY from the edge of the tissue paper from the point of your last mark. Then mark that spot lightly with a pencil.



Step Three:

- Draw a light line connecting the two marks using your ruler or straightedge.



Step Four:

- Draw a light line from your HORIZONTAL mark to the bottom of the page using your ruler or straightedge. You should now have a square.



Step Five:

- Cut out the square following the lines you drew.



Step Six:

- Take your square and place it over the same sheet of tissue paper in a different area and use it as your guide to cut out a new square. Don't worry if it is not an exact match, we will even them out in a later step.



Step Seven:

- Repeat (Step Six) (6) more times.
- You can use the same color tissue paper or start using different colors.
- There should be a total of (8) squares.



Step Eight:

- Stack the papers on top of each other as evenly as possible. Notice that ours are not perfectly cut :)



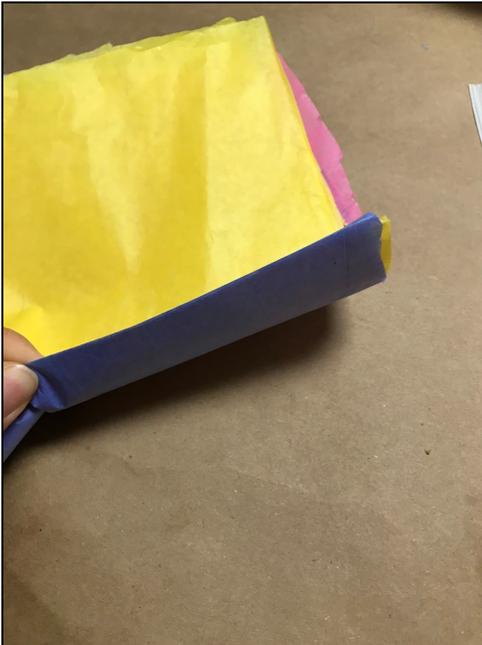
Step Nine:

- Choose an edge and fold up (away from you) about 1”.
- Press down on the fold to make sure the fold is as crisp as possible.



Step Ten:

- Flip the square over (facedown.)
- Make sure to lightly pinch your fold as you flip so that it does not come loose.



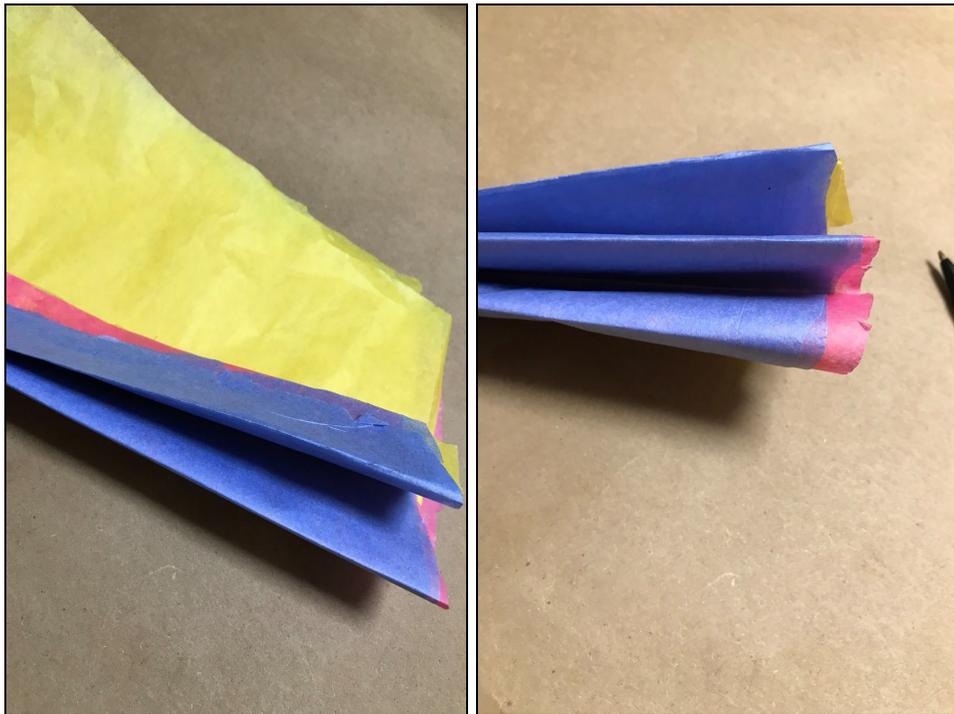
Step Eleven:

- Fold up again about 1" and press down on the fold.



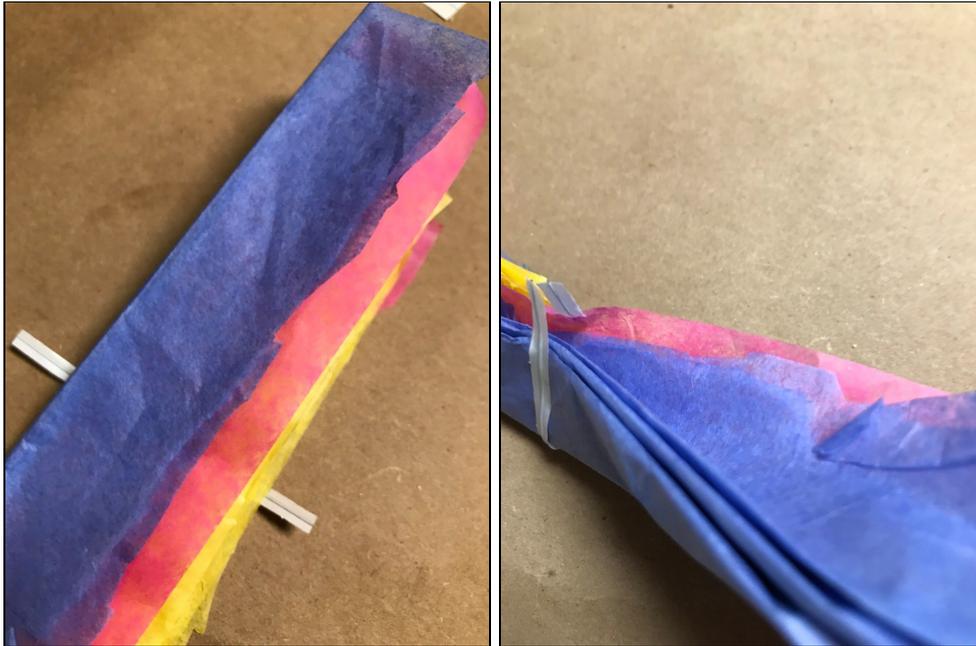
Step Twelve:

- Flip back to the original side and fold up another 1" from the edge making sure to pinch so that your original folds do not come loose.
- Repeat these steps to form an accordion until you get to the end of the square.



Step Thirteen:

- Grab your twist tie and tie it around the center of your accordion fold.



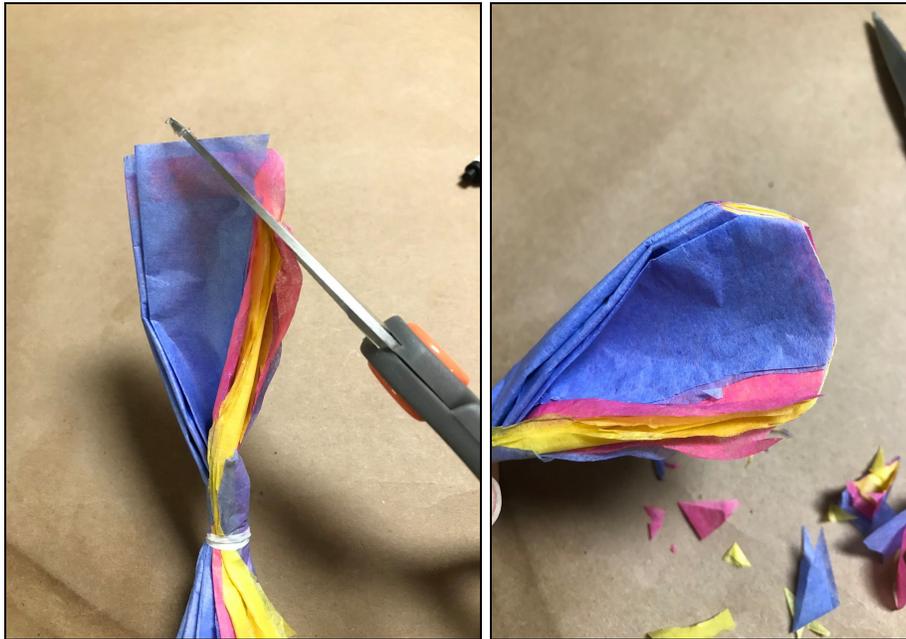
Step Fourteen:

- Pinch the twist tie until the middle of the accordion fold is narrow and slightly resembles a bow tie.



Step Fifteen:

- Choose one end of the accordion and cut a semicircle about half an inch from the edge.
- This will help even out the edges!



Step Sixteen:

- Cut out a semi circle on the opposite edge.



Step Seventeen:

- GENTLY spread out one side of the accordion fold into a fan and then the other side.



Step Eighteen:

- Pick one side and locate the piece of tissue paper that is on the top and closest to the center where you pinched.
- SLOWLY & GENTLY start to pull it towards the center and separate it from the other pieces of tissue paper. Carefully pull it as close as possible to the center without tearing it. TIP: Pull from close to the center and not the edge of the paper.



Step Nineteen:

- Repeat this step with the piece of tissue paper directly underneath it
- Continue this step with each layer of tissue paper on both sides
- Now you have a beautiful flower!



Step Twenty (Optional):

- Once you have separated the tissue paper, you can continue to fluff them by gently pulling and you can pinch the tied section until the flower is the shape you desire.



Step Twenty-One:

- Flip your flower over and tie the yarn onto the flower leaving approximately 1' on the end so that you can hang the garland.



Step Twenty-Two:

- Continue to make flowers and add them to your garland!



Congratulations! You have completed a beautiful and unique piece of art. Stay safe and we hope to see you on your next visit to El Pueblo Historical Monument soon!