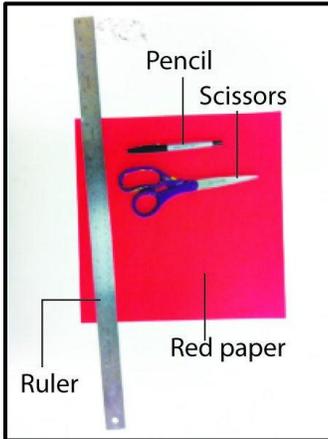




Paper Cut Art is a cultural practice in China. It is used in all kinds of celebrations including wedding, promotion and moving to a new house. The paper art can be attached on a door or window to symbolize happiness and good luck.



Step 1: Materials

1. Pencil
2. Scissors
3. Red square paper
4. Ruler

Tips:

1. Use pencil to draw so the marks can be erased later.
2. Red is recommended. In Chinese culture, red is the color that represents happiness and fortune.
3. Choose thin paper. Otherwise, it might be too thick after several folds.

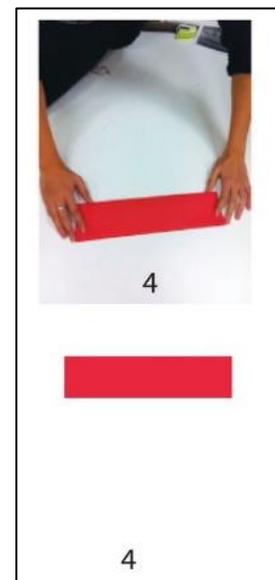
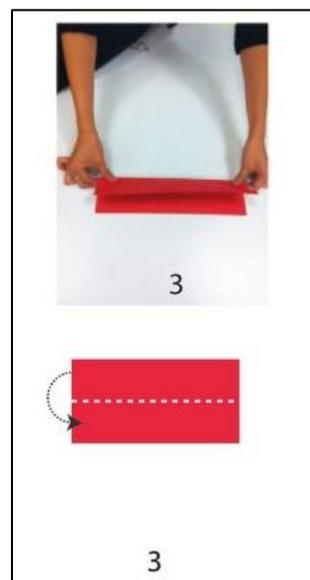
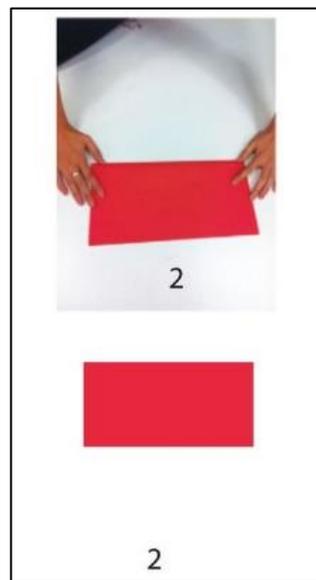
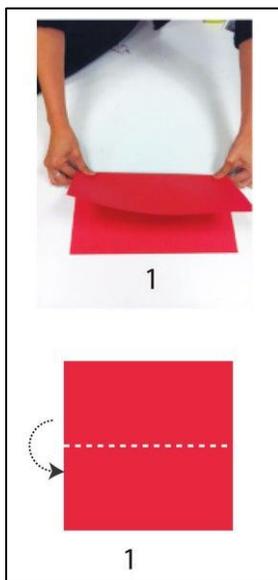
Step 2: Fold the Paper

Fold the paper two times:

First, fold it into half and then fold again.

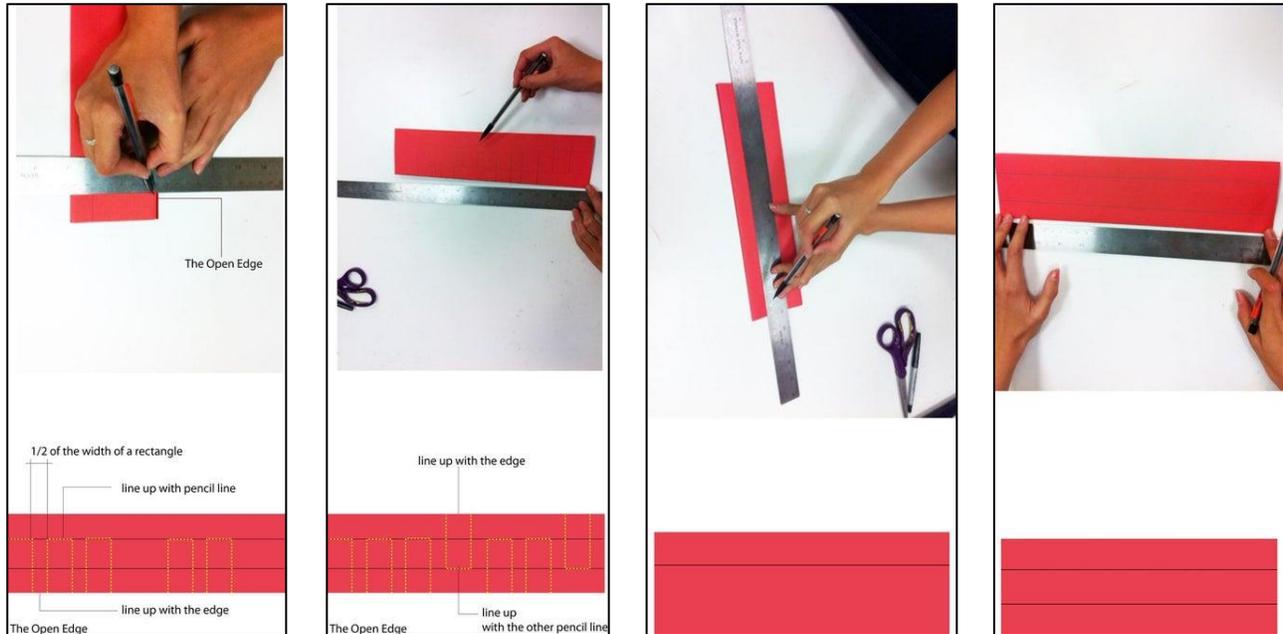
Now you will have a paper that is only a fourth of the original size.

Tips: Make sure you press each fold line hard so later it will be easier to cut.



Step 3: Draw Cutting Lines

Tools: ruler and pencil



1: Draw two straight lines through the paper using ruler and pencil: one at the $\frac{1}{3}$ place and the other at the $\frac{2}{3}$ place

2: Then turn the open edge side towards you and draw 3 rectangles with same sizes (width: height=1:2). One edge will line up with the edge of the paper and another edge will line up with the straight pencil line. Leave a space between two rectangles.

* The space between two rectangles are about half of the width of a rectangle.

3: Leave a space after the third rectangle. Draw another two rectangles after that.

* The space after the third rectangle will equal to the width of two rectangles.

4: Draw two rectangles. One edge will line up with the edge of the paper and another edge will line up with the other straight pencil line.

You should have 7 rectangles in total-5 on one side and 2 on the other.

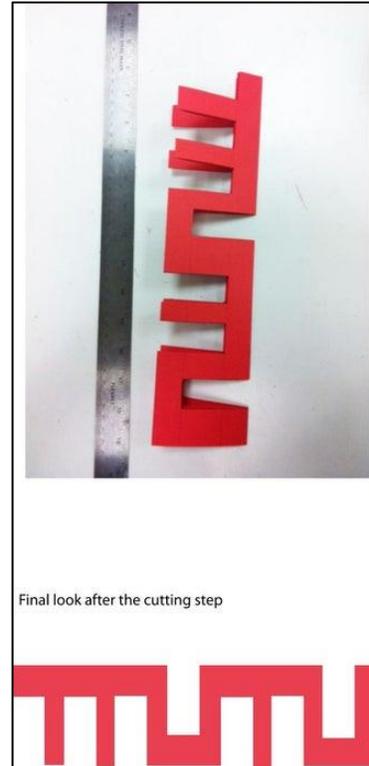
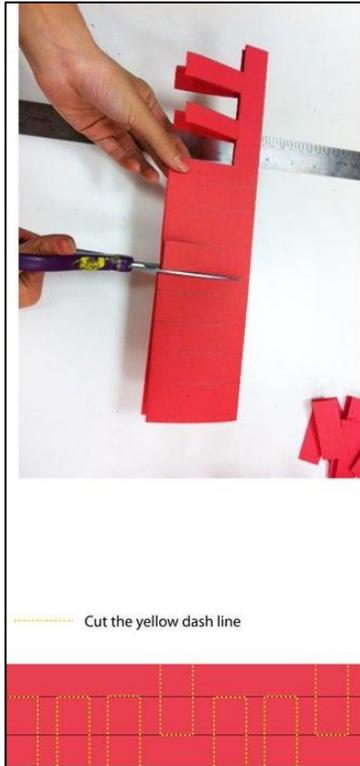
Step 4: Cut the Paper

Cut out the rectangles by following the yellow lines.

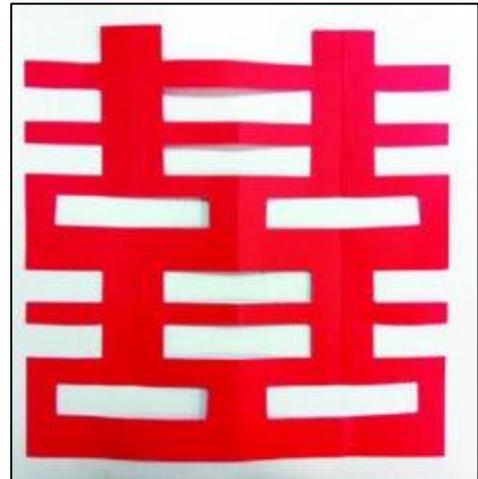
Cut off all the 7 rectangles carefully

Caution:

After being folded twice, the paper can be very thick. So be careful with your fingers when you cut
Cut the paper is the most tricky part. Be care and make sure you cut the right lines. Otherwise, you will get a totally different pattern. But it is also a way to be creative.



Step 5: Extend the Pattern



Simply extend the paper cut art.

Caution: after the cutting, the paper edges are sometimes sticking together. When you extend it, be tender. Otherwise, you will tear it.

You will see the final product with a very symmetric shape.

Tips:

1. Erase the pencil lines before you extend it.
2. Before you unfold it, you may want to fold the folder lines in the opposite direction. So when you open the pattern, it will lay flat on its own.

Congratulations! You accomplished the paper cut art.