

LET your art shine



A COLLAGE LANTERN CARD

BY lyn **b**elisle

I discovered this lantern form when I was teaching a workshop on simple book construction. It was originally called an “X” book, a one-page folded mini-journal, but by adding cut-out windows and a tea light, this traditional book can be transformed into a lantern.

This project is a good place to recycle collage leftovers, orphan charms, ribbon scraps, and lovely paper remnants that may be too small for other projects but are just too pretty to toss. These little lanterns are a wonderful way to say, “You light up my life.” During the busy holidays, this is a great project to make and give as a gift. Just tuck it in an envelope and send it on its way.

Simple and fun to make, these collage lantern cards can be personalized or themed for any occasion.

- Create one for each guest at your next dinner party as a place card.
- Make several and use them as the centerpiece.
- It's a perfect hostess gift or special thank you to a friend. Punch a hole on one corner of the lantern to attach a handmade tag with a personal message.

directions

1. Fold the 9" × 12" paper in half the long way (the fold should be 12" long). Crease well with the bone folder.
2. Open the paper, fold it in half in the other direction (short sides together), and crease. This fold should be 9" long. Fold the paper a second time in the same direction, thus dividing the paper into 8 sections. (Figure 1)
3. Unfold the paper and place the paper flat on your work surface. Mark the center of the long fold between the first and last short

folds (the center 6") using a pencil or chalk. (Figure 2)

4. Using the craft knife, cutting mat, and ruler, cut along the marked line.

note: The center should now open to a box shape when the side pieces are pushed together. (Figure 3)

5. Glue the 4¼" × 11" strips of decorative paper to the center of each side. (Figure 4)

decorative paper fun

One particularly fun way to customize this project is to create your own decorative paper for the sides of the lantern.

- Design a motif on your computer, set your printer to borderless 8½" × 11", and print. Your design will print to the edges.
- Stamp and splatter a piece of paper with paint, and then fold the paper and press. Open the paper to reveal a unique design.
- Gift wrap paper is a perfect weight, and the choices are practically limitless.
- Add thin layers of tissue paper painted with matte medium to a sheet of plain copy paper for an artful collage effect.
- Because the side trim papers are relatively small, you can splurge on more expensive papers if you like. Gold marbled Asian papers or Florentine prints are gorgeous to use for this project. Keep them lightweight, though, for ease in folding.

MATERIALS

- Cardstock, 9" × 12" (or other similar weight craft paper)
- Bone folder
- Pencil or chalk
- Craft knife
- Ruler
- Craft glue, for paper
- Vellum or translucent rice paper, four 2¾" square pieces
- Ribbon or contrasting paper, two ½"–1½" strips approximately 11" long
- Scissors
- Embellishments: stamps, stickers, metallic pens, charms, etc.

optional

- Computer and printer
- stamps
- Hole punch, 2" round
- Small twigs, reeds, or sticks
- Paint
- Gift wrap
- Tissue paper
- Matte medium

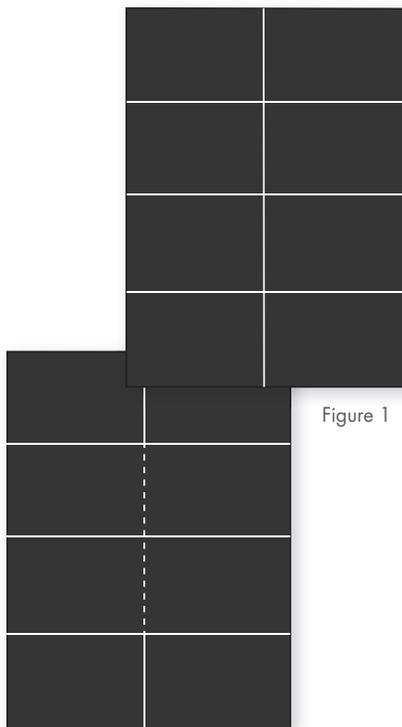


Figure 1

Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

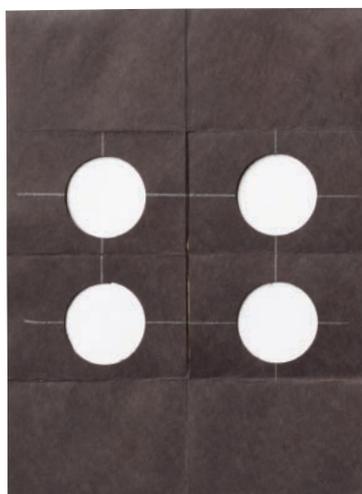


Figure 5

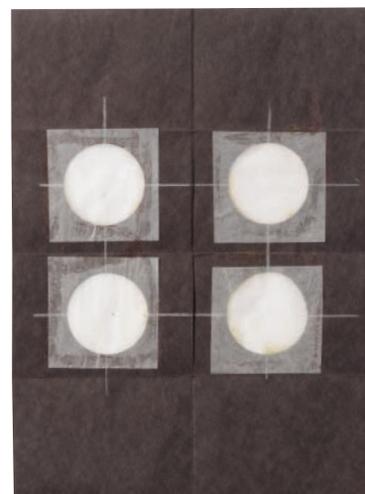


Figure 6

6. Mark the center of each of the 4 center rectangles with an X and cut or punch a 2" round hole in the center of each section. (Figure 5)
7. Carefully glue the translucent paper squares on the inside of the card behind each "window" opening. (Figure 6)
8. Fold the card with the long sides together and glue the end

rectangles together, leaving the center rectangles free to open and close. (Figure 7)

finishing

1. Glue the bands of contrasting paper or ribbon around each end to trim and secure them. Use stamps, inks, charms, lace, small punches, and/or beads to embellish your lantern card. (Figure 8)

2. Punch a hole for a tag, if you like. Glue small sticks or reeds near the folds for a true lantern look (optional). (Figure 9)
3. Set the lantern card on a table, insert a lighted tea light (battery powered), and bask in the magical glow. (Figure 10)

CAUTION: Although "real" tea lights are often used in luminaria paper bags with sand, I recommend using a battery-powered candle with these paper lanterns for safety.

When your lantern card is finished, fold it flat and put it in an envelope, or put it in a gift bag along with a small battery tea light, and tie it with a beautiful ribbon. ●

Figure 7



Figure 8

more
online

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Figure 9



Figure 10

