

Lunar New Year Snake Paper Cut Instructions

By Grace Lin (www.gracelin.com)

Make your own decoration for the Lunar New Year! This snake papercut incorporates the design of an auspicious Chinese knot so that our Year of the Snake is extra lucky!

Please visit gracelin.com for video instructions. Also see templates and instructions for other Chinese zodiac animals such as the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit and Dragon! The perfect craft to pair with Grace's books such as "Bringing in the New Year" and "The Year of the Dog."



You need:

- this snake template printed
- an 8x8 in (or 20cm) piece of red origami paper
- a hole puncher (preferably with a small hole- 3mm)
- a stapler
- a pair of small, sharp and pointed scissors
- a pair of large scissors (optional)

Steps:

1. Cut along the dotted line of the printed template. You should be left with a rectangular shape that is 4 inches wide.
2. Fold the origami paper in half. It should be the same size as the template.
3. Place template onto the folded origami paper so that the snake is coming OUT from the folded edge. Staple the template onto the folded origami paper; but only staple through the BLACK areas of the template (important!)
4. Carefully punch holes in all the inner, black shapes that do not touch an edge of a paper (the snake's eye, the inner shapes, etc).
5. With your pointed scissor, cut all the black shapes you punched holes into. It is important to cut these FIRST as your papers will come apart if you do not start there. The holes you made with the hole punch should allow you to insert the scissors and cut the shapes with ease.
6. When finished, cut away the remaining black shapes. This should be the large area around the snake. You can use larger scissors here.
7. After cutting the last black shape, the template should be detached from the origami paper. Set the template aside and unfold your origami paper.
8. Ta-dah! You now have a snake paper-cut! Hang it on your door or window and have a lucky year of the snake!