

## PAJAKI – PAPER CHANDELIER

Pronounced 'pah-yonk-ee' they are traditional Polish chandeliers made from coloured paper and straw celebrating the colours of the carnival, these eco-friendly chandeliers can be developed and made in a myriad of colour, ways, and sizes. Symbolising health and happiness Pajaki date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century when they were made after the autumn harvest as decorations for country-side homes, during Easter, Christmas, and wedding celebrations.



### Instructions

**Kit includes:** Tissue paper circles, Paper discs, 20cm wheat straws, Fine jute string, Large eye needle, 25cm Bamboo hoop, Command hook to hang it up from ceiling, Instructions.

**What you need:** Pajaki Kit, Scissors, Small bowl, Ruler/tape measure.

### Making the Chandelier structure

**Step 1:** Carefully cut each of your straws into half and then into quarters. Your straws should now be roughly 5cm long. Put these to one side in a bowl for later.

**Step 2:** Cut 4 x 90cm lengths of string.

We are going to tie the lengths of string to the hoop. Fold a piece of string in half and at the centre point tie it at any point around the hoop tightly in a double knot. At the opposite side of the hoop tie your second piece of string. Repeat this again at the two middle points between the first two knots.

You will have 8 lengths of string of equal length tied to you hoop, splitting your hoop into quarters.

**Step 3:** Paper discs. Choose 24 coloured paper discs. These are known as the stars and this first set will be for the upper strings of the chandelier. Make a hole in the middle of each disc with your needle. Keeping your hoop flat on the table pick up one of the pieces of string and thread it onto your needle. Now thread on one section of straw and then a paper disc. Continue threading the straws then discs alternating the colour of the discs. Stop when you have 6 discs finishing with a straw. Repeat this with the string from the opposite side of the hoop. Tie these two strings together so that the straws do not come off but not too tightly to avoid damaging the straws. Repeat on the other two strings and tie all four together at the top.

**Step 4:** Paper discs. Choose three colours for the bottom strings of the Chandelier. You will need 20 discs in total, 5 for each string. You may choose to have one colour in the centre, with another two colours either side e.g., Red, orange, yellow, orange, red.



Thread in the same way starting and ending with a straw. Bring the string over to the side and tie it off on the hoop, at the knot point of the next available string. Work your way around the hoop. Make sure your knots are solid and cut off any excess string.

You have now finished the chandelier structure.

### **Making the tissue paper Flowers**

You could investigate making different types of paper flowers to decorate your chandelier. Described here is one option.

**Step 1:** Count out 8 layers of tissue paper circles. All the same colour or mix and match. Mark the middle point on one sheet, put them in a stack and poke your needle through all 8 leaving it there to keep them together. Cut a slit from the edge to just before the middle point where the needle sits. You want to do 8 slits to create 8 even sections on the discs. The easiest way is to cut another slit opposite the first one then two more slits in between so you have 4 cuts. Now do another one in between each of these so that you have 8.

Repeat this with another 8 layers of tissue paper circles.

Carefully separate the sheets of tissue, you now have 16 sheets of tissue paper circles.

**Step 2:** Pick up one piece of paper and hold it in the middle between thumb and finger in one hand. Choose one of the 8 sections to begin on. Move the thumb and finger about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a cm. up that section. With the other hand twist the section twice like the ends of a sweetie wrapper. Gently squeeze the twist and move on to the next section, do this all the way round so all 8 sections are twisted.

Repeat with all 16 sheets of tissue.

**Step 3:** When all 16 sheets are twisted thread the needle with a short length of string, around 40cm. Double the thread up and knot the ends together in a double knot. Now thread the twisted tissue sheets onto the string, through the needle point from before. When all 16 sheets are on the string gently push them down in the middle, close to the string until it forms a tight ball. Tie it in a knot, leaving the string long and put it to one side. You have a tissue paper flower!

Repeat until you have 5 beautiful tissue paper flowers.

### **Final Step – Putting it all together.**

To complete your chandelier, you may find it easier if you can suspend it over the table by the top strings somehow. Tie one paper flower to the hoop at each of the four knot points, the last paper flower should be tied to the top of the chandelier, where the four strings meet.

Stick your command hook up (which will come off without damaging your ceiling), tie a bit of fishing wire around the top flower and hang up your chandelier.