Papel Picado Banner

Altars often have papel picado (literally “punched paper”) banners of colored tissue paper perforated with scenes of skeletons, birds or floral designs. These can be made with scissors and machines. They can also be made in the traditional way with a chisel, a small hammer and a template to cut through up to 50 paper sheets at a time. There are also different styles of picado displayed on many other holidays and special occasions such as Christmas, birthdays, and Easter. For Dia de los Muertos, picados symbolize air, one of the four elements represented on an altar. They flutter in the breeze and remind viewers how fragile and delicate life can be. Your banner can be one piece long, or you can connect pieces together to make a longer one.

Materials:
- tissue paper
- scissors
- glue stick
- string
Instructions:

Fold paper **down** in half, then in half again.

Fold paper **across** in half, then in half again.

Cut out designs such as triangles, half-circles, and rectangles around all four edges, and then unfold.

**To add string:**

Fold down a small strip across top and crease to make a flap.

Lift up flap and add glue across—gently. Be careful not to tear paper.

Place string across the glue area and fold flap back down and press to close.

**Finished!**