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Spiral-Cut Chandeliers

Whimsical, colorful, and much easier than one would expect, these paper creations make festive decorations for mere pennies

Interior designers have known for centuries that a chandelier is more than just a functional piece of lighting. It creates a focal point, energizes a space, and sets a desired mood.

Artist Dale Chihuly has created colorful glass chandeliers that adorn museums and public spaces around the world. Constructed from as many as 3,200 individual pieces of glass and towering more than 40 feet high, these chandeliers make an aweinspiring statement of light, color, and beauty.

Far less complicated than a Chihuly installation, a fanciful hanging piece with multiple spirals and swirls can be created using just a few sheets of paper.

A simple spiral cut — a line that starts on the edge of a circle and continues to the center — is the only skill needed. No glue, no extra construction. The secret is starting with multiple conjoined circles.

Although these chandeliers could be made with just about any type of paper, this project introduces Plastic Posterboard. It's brightly colored, outdoor-friendly, cuts easily, and it resists tears.

For extra pizzazz, "bling" the spirals with glitter paint, sequins, plastic gems, or anything that sparkles. Hang as a collaboration in a classroom or to add excitement to parties and indoor or outdoor spaces.

GRADES K-8 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.





Materials (required)

Pacon Plastic Posterboard, 22" x 28" sheets, assorted colors (13155-); share a minimum of 2 sheets across class

Maped Ultimate Scissors, 5" ambidextrous (58470-1005); need one per student

Hygloss Book Rings, package of 50, silvertone (64203-1001)

Materials (optional)

Plaid Mod Podge Sparkle Finish, half pint (02916-1005)

Elmer's Glitter Glue, 6oz assorted colors (65304-)

Creativity Street Peel-and-Stick Gemstones, assorted varieties (611764-)

Creativity Street Cupped Sequins, 1 oz (60717-1003)

Hygloss Holographic Self-Adhesive Paper, assorted patterns, package of 5 (12493-)

Hygloss Book Rings, pkg of 50, silver-tone (64203-1001)

Blick Studio Brush Markers, assorted colors (24532-)

Blick Construction Paper, assorted colors, 12" x 18" sheets, package of 50 (11409-)

