



# Paper Quilling

## Best for Ages

6+

## Workspace

Flat indoor surface

## Is electricity required?

No

## Description

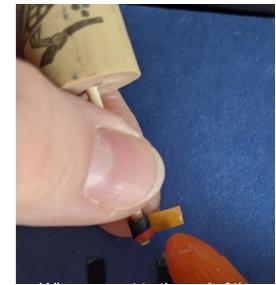
Paper quilling, also known as paper filigree, is an art form where a strip of paper is rolled, using a slotted quilling tool, then shaped to create a three-dimensional piece of art.

## Materials

- Slotted quilling tool: purchase from store or make one by cutting a slit across the open end of a drinking straw
- Glue
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Quilling paper strips: recommend  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide. Cut paper strips using scissors or paper shredder. Card stock or construction paper can be used as well.

## What to Do

1. Create your quilling tool and cut strips of quilling paper.
2. Slide a strip of paper in the slot of the quilling tool.
3. Hold the tool in your dominant hand and the strip of paper between your other thumb and index finger. Slowly turn the tool. You can turn the tool towards you or away from you whichever is most comfortable. The paper should wind evenly around the top.
4. There are two options for this next step. For a tight coil: add a tiny bit of glue to the end of the strip and roll to complete. Then remove coil from the tool once it is glued down. For an open coil: finish the coil and gently remove it from the tool. Let the coil expand then add a tiny bit of glue to the end. Use tweezers or fingers to hold down.
5. Now you can get creative! Start pinching your coil to make different shapes. Arrange and glue down your shapes on cardboard, card stock, or construction paper to create a paper quilling art piece.



## Concepts Explored

- Hand-Eye Coordination
- Fine Motor Skills
- Creative Expression



# Paper Quilling

## Troubleshooting Tips

- Make a quilling tool by carefully cutting a slit into the end of a drinking straw, toothpick, or stick.
- If making your own quilling strips, use a ruler for straight lines. Also a heavier weight of paper, like card stock, is better than copy paper.
- Be sure to hold the paper strip tightly as you roll the paper onto your quilling tool.
- Remember to *gently* remove the coil from the tool or it may turn into a curly-q spiral.



**What shapes are easier to create? Which ones are harder and why?**

**What kind of paper do you like to quill with and why?**

**What other materials can you use to make your own quilling tools?**

## What is Happening?

- This activity helps to develop **fine motor skills** which is the coordination of small muscles in your wrist and hands. When you hold and manipulate the quilling tool with your hands, your brain coordinates your muscles with your vision, honing your **hand-eye coordination**.
- Quilling can easily turn into your favorite craft and method of **creative expression**. There are endless ways to display your three-dimensional art, from gluing it onto a canvas or making jewelry. You can create shapes of all kinds that can be turned into an intricate greeting card or an abstract piece of art.

## Taking it Forward

- Talk a walk in your neighborhood or park. Look for inspiration for your next quilling project. What colors would you like to see together? What shapes or patterns do you want to recreate with your coiled paper?
- If you like this activity you may also like:

[Maker Fashion](#)

[Weaving](#)