Carps & Good Fortune

Full-size reference | Print at 100% / Actual size | Do not fit to page

KEEP: Black shapes / REMOVE: White openings and the white outside area

METHOD: Fold the frame; carve flat. See page 2 before folding or cutting.
Black = keep. White = remove. Step-by-step cutting instructions are on pages 2-3.
Use scissors for open edges; enclosed details may need a craft knife and cutting mat.
Physical connectivity and cutting time are not tested. Make a trial cut first.

50 mm calibration line - measure after printing

chinesepapercut.com/templates/carps/

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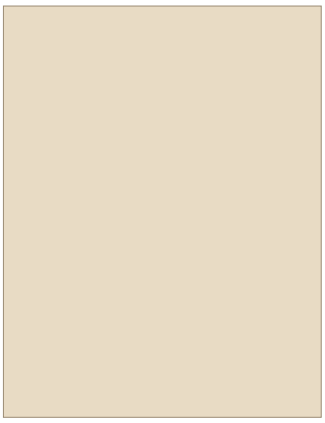
Fold the frame; carve flat | Steps 1-3 of 5

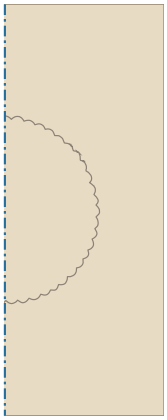
US Letter: 8.5 x 11 in



1. Start with a full Letter sheet

8.5 x 11 in · nothing has been cut

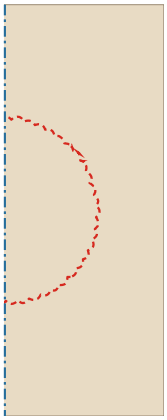
Take one blank US Letter sheet (8.5 x 11 in), preferably thin colored paper. Print PDF page 1 separately at 100% and check its 50 mm line. Center the pattern on your blank sheet; do not cut off the surrounding paper yet.



2. Fold and mark the frame

Folded Letter rectangle · no cuts yet

Fold the US Letter sheet lengthwise with the closed crease on your left. Transfer only the right half of the outer frame from the full-size guide. Leave the animal, lettering and flowers unmarked for now: they must not be mirrored.



3. Cut the outer frame only

Red dashes: outside cut · leave the center solid

Begin at the loose outside edge of the folded rectangle and approach the red frame outline through waste paper. Cut this outside boundary through both layers. Leave the whole center solid and the connections across the crease intact.

RED DASHES: NEXT CUT | BLUE: FOLD, DO NOT CUT | GRAY: TRANSFER GUIDE

Tan shows the remaining paper; white holes are already removed. Diagrams are not full-size templates.

Use page 1 for the full-size pattern. Test fragile paper bridges on a scrap before the complete cut.

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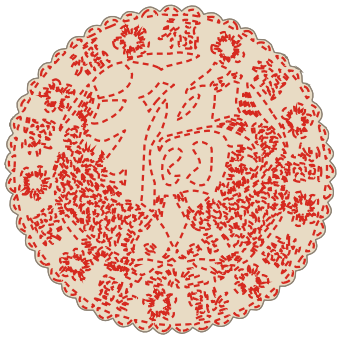
Fold the frame; carve flat | Steps 4-5 of 5



4. Open, then cut the details

Opened paper is still solid · red marks the next openings

Unfold and flatten the frame. Align and trace the complete original drawing in its correct direction. Now cut the smallest lettering and fish details, then the white spaces around the paired fish, one layer at a time on a cutting mat. Follow the red interior boundaries and preserve the character strokes, circular border and connecting ornaments.

5. Lift and refine

Finished result · no new cut lines

Gently release the cut design from the surrounding offcuts. Lay it flat and trim only attached scraps or uneven edges. Preserve the character strokes, circular border and connecting ornaments. A finished opening does not need to be cut again.

RED DASHES: NEXT CUT | BLUE: FOLD, DO NOT CUT | GRAY: TRANSFER GUIDE

Tan shows the remaining paper; white holes are already removed. Diagrams are not full-size templates.

Use page 1 for the full-size pattern. Test fragile paper bridges on a scrap before the complete cut.