

Chinese New Year: Fire Horse Charm Craft

Gallop into the Lunar New Year with the Fire Horse.

Color Themes: Red, Pink, Orange, Yellow, White, Green

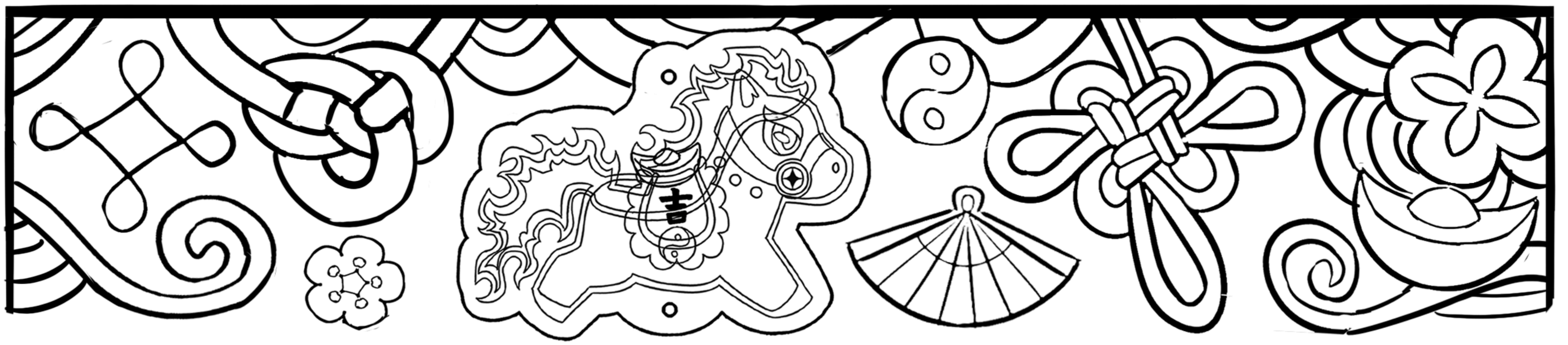
Materials:

- Printout
- Felt sheets or felt scraps in your colors of choice (colors outside theme are welcomed)
- Plastic sleeve/Plastic bag/ Clear book cover plastic wrap
- Newspaper/Cardboard (surface to work on)
- Scissors
- Medium Thick Cord or Medium Thick Yarn (ideally red)
- 1-3 beads of any type, size and color as long as the cord/yarn can fit inside.
- Toothpick/ Short Skewer
- Temporary Glue Container:
 - Small plastic container, e.g., yogurt cup, tupperware with lid, makeshift lid, plastic wrap (keep the glue container covered when not in use, as it dries quickly)
- Fabric glue/ Tacky Craft Glue / Homemade Tacky Craft Glue
 - Materials for Homemade Tacky Craft Glue: (Guide on the next page)
 - White Glue
 - Cornstarch/Cornflour
 - Teaspoon
 - Tablespoon
- Dry dust cloth/big brush (optional for a cleaning the work surface)
- 2-3 Cotton swabs (Rubbing off any excess glue)

Preparing your workspace:

- Lay down a few layers of newspaper or work over a scrap cardboard piece.
- Gather all the materials and tools you need.

Note: The outer layers of the horse silhouette are designed to look like fire. Use colors like Yellow then Orange and Red or Yellow, Green and Blue.



Preparing your Horse Silhouette Felt Cutouts:

- Use one reflected side of the cutout page so you can have spares.
- Roughly separate one side of the designs, leaving white space on the page around the drawings.
- Select which felt colors you'd like to use for your layers of choice.
- Overlay 2 layers of felt at a time then cut out each of the big pieces along their lines (you can leave one side blank or use both sides. Decorate as you wish).
- Cut out one extra of the inner horse body silhouette.
- Cut out two layers of felt around the biggest silhouette.
- Use a sharp pencil or a bamboo skewer to poke holes into each of the felt layers that will have the string through it.
- Work with one color at a time and keep any extra cuttings aside.

Preparing the Glue:

- Place a bit of your glue into your container.
- Cover with a lid when not using the glue as they dry quickly.
- Give the glue a little stir with your stick.

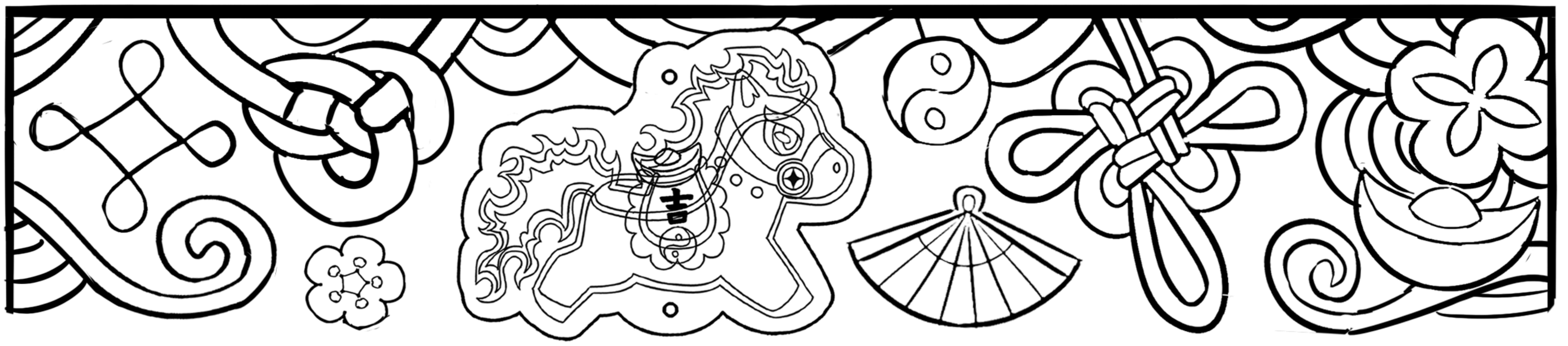
Tips for cleaning the Glue container once you are done:

If the glue is still wet, rinse it off with water.

Wait for the glue to dry and peel it off.

Homemade Tacky Glue:

- 2 Tablespoons of White Glue with 1 heaping Teaspoon of Cornstarch
- Place the White Glue in a small container.
- Use a little bit of cornstarch at a time while you stir until smooth with no lumps.
- The glue should not be as stiff as peanut butter (caused by too much cornstarch) or as runny as syrup (caused by too much glue).
- Add a bit more of the cornstarch or glue so the mix looks like a thick whipped cream that jiggles lightly when wiggled but keeps its shape.
- Work with the proportions if you need to refill your glue.

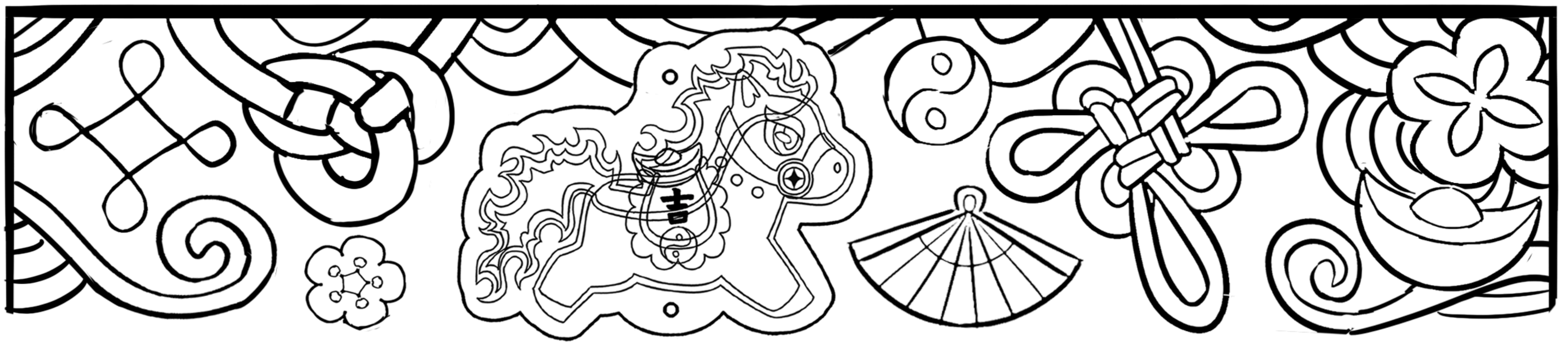


Making Smaller Felt Decorations :

- Use other reflected side of the cutout page and place inside a plastic sleeve.
- Spread some of the glue on the plastic over a smaller decoration design on the template.
- Cut strips of felt in different shapes or colors, you can even break off small bits of felt.
- Place your felt pieces for the decorations on a smear of glue following the design guide.
- Shape your decorations with the bamboo skewer while the glue is wet.
- Once dry, you can peel it off the plastic.
- Repeat until you have created your decorative elements.
- Try to keep your hands clean as you can dirty the felt with glue and felt cuttings.
- Remember for some of these pieces you will need to make 2 mirrored versions for each side (horses face details, reigns, gold ingot, chinese character).
- Once you have all your decorative elements, trim off any excess glue with scissors.

Building the Felt Charm:

- Use the felt guide to see how the pieces are arranged.
- While focusing on one mirrored half of the charm at a time:
 - Make sure to cover the back of each felt layer with glue the as you place the felt
 - Press to ensure a secure stick
 - Repeat until you have all your decorations glued together
 - Add your decorative pieces on the top most Horse Silhouette
 - Use small drops of glue to place smaller decorations
 - Adjust while the glue is wet to make sure they line up with each other
 - Once the glue has dried for both sides, glue the extra smaller Horse Silhouette in the back
 - Glue the final two halves together pressing on the edges



Finishing off the charm:

- After drying you can add more glue to places that didn't stick.
- When the glue is dry. Use a cotton swab to clean up any excess glue with a little bit of friction.
- Cut the yarn into two pieces.
- Fold one yarn piece in half and use a Cows Hitch/ Larks Head knot (Push the loop through the hole then thread the other 2 ends of the string through the loop you pushed through).
- Do this for the top and bottom
- Make sure to thread the beads on the string.
- Use the knott guide to tie the Traditional Knots.
- Tie knots on the ends of the string.
- Hang it up or tie it on your bag.

Note: The goodluck knot can be repeated and by pulling on the outer strings you can make the smaller loops. Then, repeating the pattern locks the loops - if the loops are too loose you can tie them together with a simple knot as a precaution.