

# 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

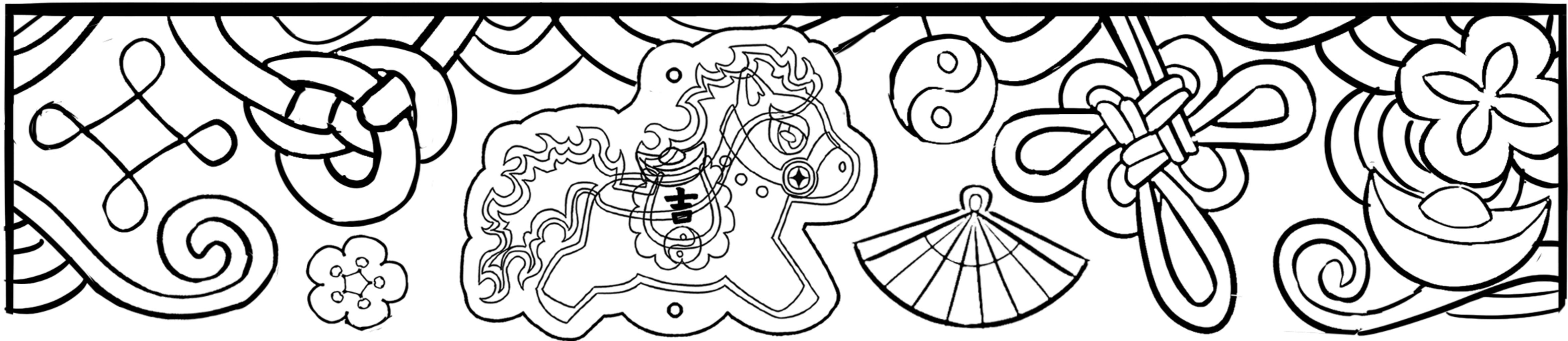
Materials:

- 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.

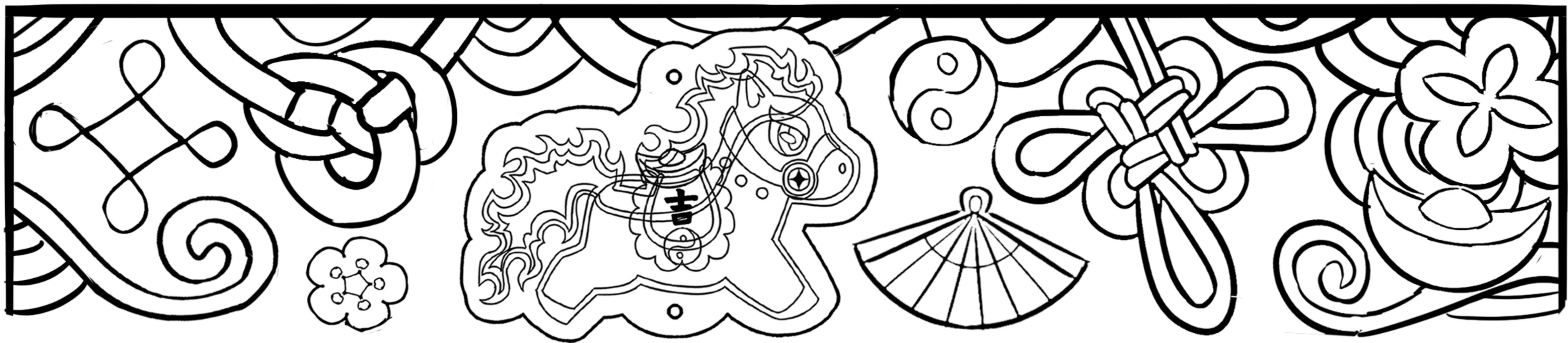
#### Tips for cleaning the Glue container once you are done:

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 corn strach 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.

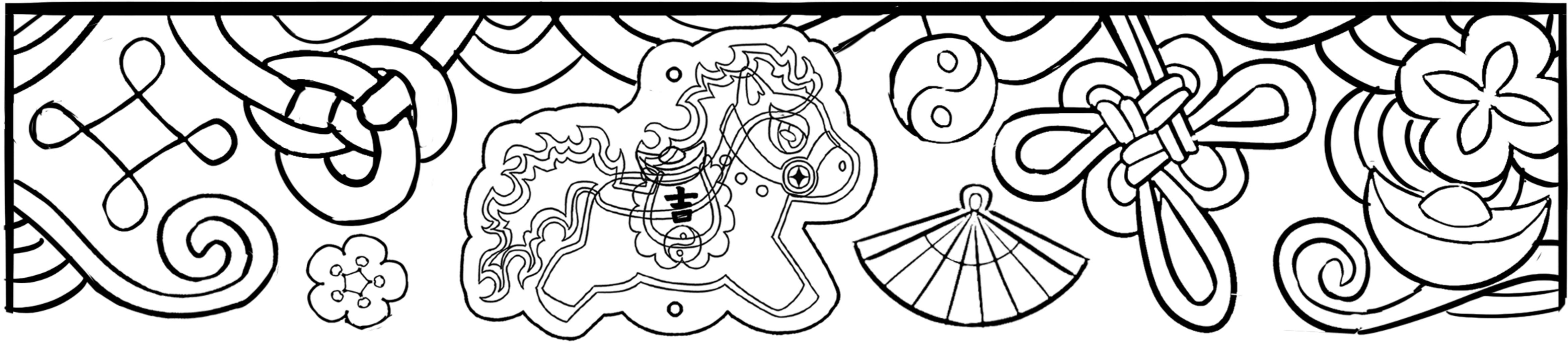


### Making Smaller Felt Decorations :

- 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.