



## **Chinese New Year: Fire Crackers and Paper Horse Craft**

Gallop into the Lunar New Year of Fire Horse with Fire Crackers in a majestic arrangement to make a colorful poster, welcoming “success” for the year ahead.

### **Materials:**

- Printout Year of the Fire Horse Decorations
- 1x Black paper
- Colored paper (Red, Yellow, Orange, Green or pink)
- Glue stick/White glue
- Scissors
- Colored pencils/ Markers/Water color paint
- Compass/Pencil with a String
- Ruler
- Glitter glue, gold or silver markers for decoration

### **Instructions:**

#### **Prepare Your Workspace**

- Gather all the materials and tools you need.

#### **Prepare the Black Colored Paper:**

- Draw a big circle by using a compass or design a border that cuts curves into the edges of the rectangular page.
- Be sure to use as much of the Black Colored Paper as possible.
- Cut out your canvas.

#### **Prepare the Labels and Images:**

- Color-in the elements you want to use and not cut out.
- Cut out the elements you want to use with colored paper.
- Overlay coloured paper and use the printout designs as a template to cut out shapes you want to use.
- Some pieces overlap together the horse, gold ingot, characters, and labels.
- Decorate your pieces with glitter glue, gold./silver markers and colored paper.



## Making the Fire Crackers

Below is a table showing the different parts of the fire cracker:

Part	Common Name	Symbolic Meaning	Method
<b>Header</b>	The Crown	High status and "Good Head" (a good start).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut out a 2.5" Square/Cut out a octagon (cut the squares corners)</li> <li>• Place a banner with a label or symbol on it</li> <li>• Decorate with yellow borders and cuttings</li> </ul>
<b>Individual Fire Cracker Tubes</b>	The Scales	The many blessings or "bursts" of joy.	Method found below this Table ~
<b>Main Cord</b>	The Spine	Strength and the "Body" of the dragon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use red cut scraps to place under or over the fire crackers to make it look like they are attached to each of the pieces.</li> </ul>
<b>Tassel (also on Lanterns)</b>	The Tail	Longevity and a "Good End" to the year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To Make the Knot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Cut out a 1" circle to show the knott</li> <li>◦ Glue on the small decorations)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To make the Tassels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Cut a bell shape that can fit under your knot (or lantern)</li> <li>◦ Cut out triangles or slits to make the shape look like many strings tied together.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Prepare your Fire Cracker tubes:

- Use the table and guide on the next page to help you decide how many fire crackers you want to make.
- Each tube is at most 2.5" long and 0.6" wide with rounded edges.
- Overlay yellow and red paper and plan out your crackers sizes.
- Fold the paper so you can cut many at once.
- Cut the edges of the folded overlaid paper.
- Unwrap and use the yellow paper to cut out decorations you can glue on your page.
- Chinese fire crackers can be stacked as sideways tubes altogether. Or they can be placed in vertical rows of 3 dangling separately with the folded edges cut, separating each tube.



A Guide based on Chinese Cultural Symbolism:

No. of fire Crackers	Character and Pinyin	Sounds Like (Homophone)	Cultural Meaning
3	三 (Sān)	生 (Shēng) — Birth/Life	Represents growth and new beginnings. Very solid.
5	五 (Wǔ)	我 (Wǒ) — Self/Me	Represents balance, harmony, and the Five Blessings.
6	六 (Wù)	流/溜 (Liú) — Flow	"Everything goes smoothly." A top-tier favorite.
8	八 (Bā)	發 (Fā) — Wealth	"To get rich." The luckiest number.
9	九 (Jiǔ)	發 (Fā) — Wealth	Long-lasting health and longevity.
12	十二 (Shí'èr)	(No Homophone)	One firecracker for every month of luck and safety.
16	十六 (Shíliù)	要流 (Yàoliù)	"Will surely be smooth/successful."
18	十八 (Shíbā)	實發 (Shífā)	"Definitely get rich." Very powerful.

Guide Notes:

- Pinyin shown in this table is a way of using the ABC alphabet to show you how to say Chinese words out loud, helping you "read" the sound of the characters and can help you understand the meanings of some of the numbers.
- The best numbers to use are 6, 8, 16, and 18 because they focus on wealth and smooth progress, 10 is reserved for gods and 11 is considered lonely for a family gathering (Represents "One on One" or "Starting Fresh."), while 4 and 7 should be skipped to avoid associations with death or ghosts.
- There is no right amount of firecrackers so choose what you like
  - Many Asian families burn these fire crackers so each cracker bursts one after the other for a long time. These can be bought in packs with as many as a 100 firecrackers each!
  - The longer the fire cracker chain, the better.
  - Loud sounds like from music, fireworks and drums help to ward off evil spirits and welcome in the Lunar New Year.

**Building the Poster:**

- Assemble and layer your cut out pieces on your black canvas in a festive way
- Glue everything down securely .
- Use Prestik/Sticky Tack/Poster Putty and put it anywhere you like.

Traditionally these posters can be placed on the front door(exterior), Entry Walls, and Living Room Walls: Places where family are gathered and entrances that allow the flow for good fortune to enter your home.