

POLISH FOLK PAPER ART

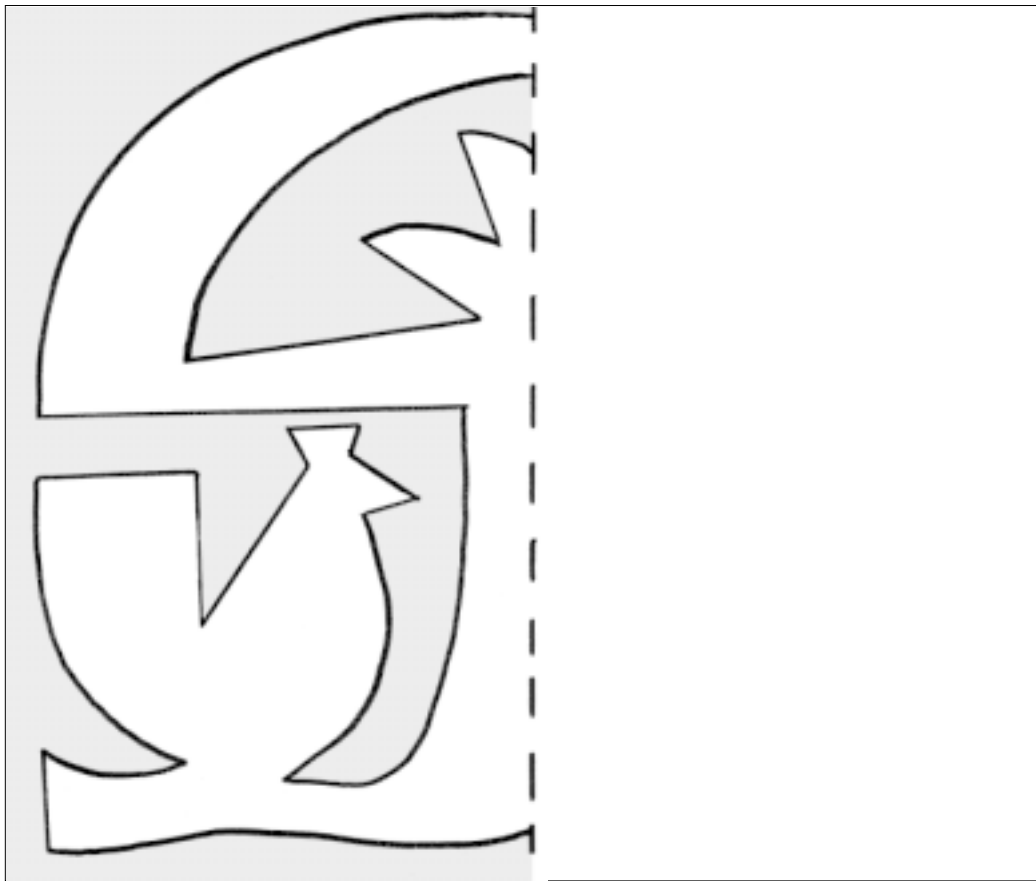
In the early 1800s, farm families in Poland developed an art form called wycinanka ludowa, which means "folk paper art". The folk artists cut complicated patterns in folded paper, then unfolded the paper to produce a beautiful symmetrical design. These cutouts were often placed against a background of a contrasting color. The early Polish cutouts were made to celebrate Easter, and the most common symbol was the rooster. After about 1850, the cutouts were used throughout the year and artists used many different subjects for their designs, including trees, flowers, stars, and farm scenes.

Polish paper cutouts are still popular today as wall hangings and as greeting cards. You can make your Polish paper cutout using the traditional rooster pattern or create your own design!

Materials

Sheet of colored paper
Sheet of contrasting colored paper
Pencil
Scissors
Rubber cement

1. Fold one piece of paper in half. The fold will form the center of the design, so you will really be drawing only half the picture.
2. Draw your design on the paper using the fold as the center. The design should be all one piece.
3. Carefully cut out the main design with scissors.
4. Once the design is cut out, you can go back and cut out some details, like fringe on the rooster's tail, scalloping on the tree, or anything else you can think of.
5. Open the paper and press the design flat.
6. Cover the back with rubber cement.
7. Position the design on the center of your other piece of paper.



Cut out the whole rectangle, fold it in half along the dotted line, cut out the shaded part, jazz it up by trimming out little details, and then unfold it.

Hint: You can make this design bigger — and easier to work on — by enlarging it on a copy machine. Or, you can copy the design freehand in a larger version on your own paper. It's OK if it doesn't look the same: it's all about being creative!

Once you practice on this design, make up your own design, try it out and see how it works!