

No. 15277

# Hispanic Design Craft Papers



Hispanic Design Craft Paper is printed in eight beautiful patterns, each having its own distinct characteristics based on the design traditions of Spanish and Portuguese speaking Americans.

Each design has unique characteristics:

**Zapotec rug:** Today, the Zapotec Indians are located in southern Oaxaca, Mexico and on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. These people established a great empire in 450 BC. They make rugs out of sheep's wool that they card and weave themselves. Natural dyes are used to color the wool. Purple dye is made from sea snail ink, red from cochineal insects, indigo for blue, black from shells of huisache tree seeds and brown from nut shells.

**Huichol Indian prayer bowls:** The Huichol Indians live in Nayarit and Jalisco, Mexico. The prayer bowls carry the prayers of the people and are used in religious ceremonies. The designs are made from beads. Today, glass beads are used but in earlier times beads were made of bone, clay, coral, jade, pyrite, shell and turquoise. The beads were dyed with insect or vegetable dyes. The colors represent gods and goddesses.

**Amusgo Indian huipil:** Today, the Amusgo Indians live in western Oaxaca and eastern Guerrero, Mexico. We have depicted an ornately decorated huipil blouse. Some huipil blouses were woven brocades, while others were actually embroidered. Typical symbols include the diamond representing the earth and sky, snakes symbolizing fertility, figures representing frogs or saints, and forms with three vertical lines symbolizing the foundation of the world.

**Panamanian molas:** The molas are made by the Kuna Indians living on the mainland of the San Blas Islands and just over the border into Columbia. Molas means "blouse". Originally, designs were sewn onto the blouse. Now, these designs are used to decorate other clothing, table covers, quilts or pillows. Red, yellow, black and blue are the predominant colors. The first designs probably stemmed from an earlier practice of body painting.

**Mayan rug:** Mayan descendants living in Belize produce woven rugs with bright, colorful designs reflecting their ancient culture. The same symbols used to make the huipil are seen in the Mayan rugs.

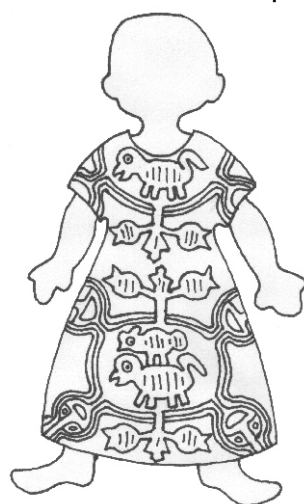
**Vallero Star Blanket:** These beautiful blankets have roots going back to Spain with an Islamic influence from the 15th and 16th centuries. An intriguing part of the design is the eight-pointed star that appeared in Mexican weaving in the 1800's. Some of the distinctive characteristics of Vallero designs are broad and full borders and a background of concentric diamonds.

**Inca silk wool:** Made by descendants of the Inca in Peru, silk wool looks and feels like silk, but is actually wool.

It is made from sheep, alpaca, or llama wool and woven into traditional symbol designs.

**Mexican Saltillo serape:** Saltillo serapes were named after the town of Saltillo in Coahuila, Mexico where many of them were made. They are unusually large and have a central diamond motif. They are made of wool dyed with traditional insect, vegetable and mineral dyes.

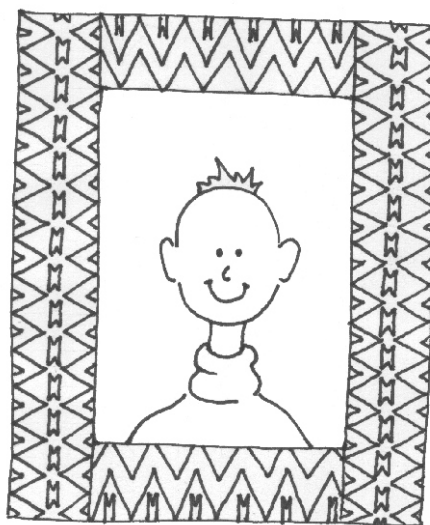
Now that you know more about the designs, let's make beautiful Hispanic paper crafts!



Dress paper dolls! Create dresses, hats, pants, robes, and shirts with colorful Hispanic Design Craft Paper. Cut out a cardboard paper doll or use Roylco's R52004 Card Characters as a base. Trace or draw the clothing shape onto the back of the paper and cut out with scissors. Top off the outfit with a handbag, shoes and other accessories.

Create a bulletin board background! Bring multi-culturalism into the classroom by learning about the Hispanic culture and their symbolic designs. Tape the design paper to the background of the bulletin board and add important facts and pictures focusing on the culture to the board.

Decorate frames for reports, pictures and drawings! Cut out a frame from a piece of cardboard; trace it onto a piece of Hispanic paper; cut out the paper, and glue it onto the cardboard frame. Place the picture inside the frame.



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