

Toran Door Décor

Make a paper-cup garland for your entrance inspired by the Indian door décor known as a toran.



You will need:

- 5 or 7 colorful 9-ounce paper cups (solid colors and/or designs)
- Plain 9-ounce paper cup
- 7/8"-wide ribbon (about 40" long)
- 1"-diameter pom-poms (one for each cup on the garland)
- 2 paper straws (colors and designs of choice)
- Embroidery floss (color of choice)
- Embroidery needle
- Wooden skewer (any length)
- Marker (color of choice)
- Pinking shears
- Scissors
- Scotch tape
- Masking tape
- Ruler

Print a [picture of a completed toran](#) to show crafters. Post a copy on your bulletin board to create interest in the activity.

What is a toran?

While making your toran, share the following information.

The toran, also known as *bandanwar*, is a decorative door hanging and is an important part of the Hindu religion and culture. Its origins can be traced back to the ancient Hindu religious texts known as *Puranas*. Torans are believed to make a home attractive and pleasing to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Torans are used to decorate the main entrance of homes and temples for religious festivals and weddings. They are especially significant in the observation of Diwali, known as the festival of lights. This, India's most important holiday, occurs in either October or November each year. The toran is a focal part of this holiday's festive decorations.

Torans can be fashioned from many materials, such as beads, fabrics, strings, ribbons, tassels, and metal. They often feature the colors of green, yellow, and red. Commonly marigolds and mango leaves are included in the design because of their spiritual symbolism:

- Mango leaves signify the goddess Lakshmi and are believed to protect against negative energy.
- Marigolds have a stout stalk that symbolizes trust in the divine. Their rich saffron color is symbolic of surrendering to one's god, and the distinct fragrance is believed to ward off stress and negative thoughts.

The toran is a beautiful symbol of love and protection that is fun to make and display. We hope you enjoy crafting one with us.

Directions:

1. Cut a 40" piece of 7/8"-wide ribbon (or cut a length longer or shorter to fit your door or doorway, keeping in mind that 10" of ribbon hangs down on each end of the garland). Set the ribbon aside.
2. Make a measuring cup. Wrap masking tape around a plain 9-ounce cup as shown on the following page. The top edge of the tape should be about 2" from the bottom of the cup. Cut off the top of the cup following the top edge of the tape. You now have a measuring cup.
3. Using the center photo on the following page as a guide, nest a decorative cup inside the measuring cup and use a marker to trace around the edge of the measuring cup.
4. Use pinking shears to cut off the top of each of the garland cups along the marked line.



5. Use a wooden skewer to poke a hole in the bottom of each cup as shown.
6. Cut the paper straws in half. Then cut the halves in half again to make eight pieces of straw measuring about 2" long. Set the straw pieces aside.
7. Thread an embroidery needle with embroidery floss. Knot the ends together and pull the floss through a pom-pom as shown below. Fold over a piece of Scotch tape to sandwich the floss about 2 1/2" from the pom-pom. The tape prevents the floss from slipping through the hole in the cup.



8. Pull the needle up through the bottom (on the inside) of the cup and through the hole. String a straw piece onto the floss as shown.
9. Cut the floss about 3" above the straw. Tie the cup to the ribbon.

10. Repeat steps 7–9 until all the cups have been tied to the ribbon. **Tip:** Tie your first cup to the center of the ribbon. Work outward adding cups one at a time, spacing them about 5" apart.
 11. Use Scotch tape to hang your garland at the top of your door or over the doorway.
-



Toran Door Décor