

AFAM FROM HOME

Paper Cut Activity

During the nineteenth century, cut paper hearts and hands were exchanged as tokens of love, friendship, and gestures of regard all year long. Try your hand at creating a card for someone you care for inspired by this love token from the museum's collection. Inscribed on one of the hands is this sweet sentiment: "Hand and heart shall never part / When this you see / Remember me." What message will you include on your card?



ARTIST UNIDENTIFIED; **Heart-and-Hand Love Token**; possibly Connecticut; 1840-1860; ink and varnish on cut paper; 12 x 14 in.; museum purchase, 1981.12.15. Photo by John Parnell.

Materials:

scissors or Xacto knife, pencil,
colored paper

Optional: patterned papers, glue, paint,
paintbrush, markers, embellishments
such as glitter

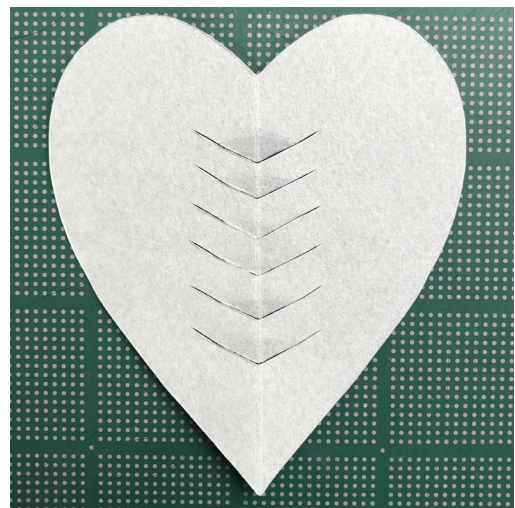
Step 1: Trace your hand shape on a piece
of colored paper and cut it out, including a
couple of inches for the wrist.



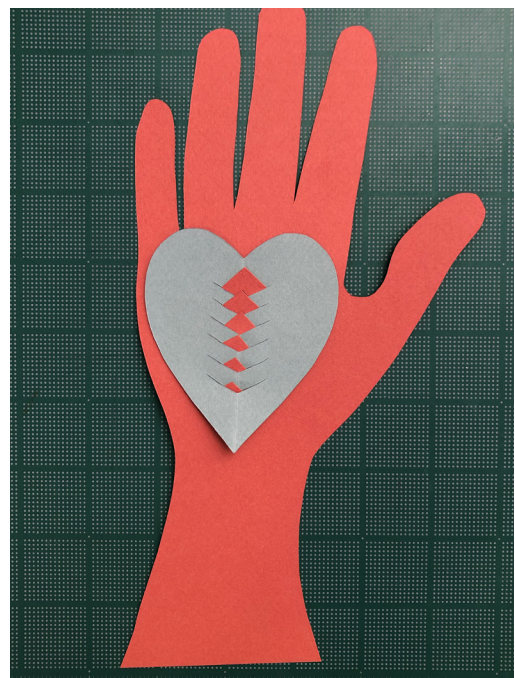
Step 2: Cut several “inverted V” slits in the
palm of the hand, in a vertical stack. This
example uses 6 slits, but you can use more
or less depending on your preference.



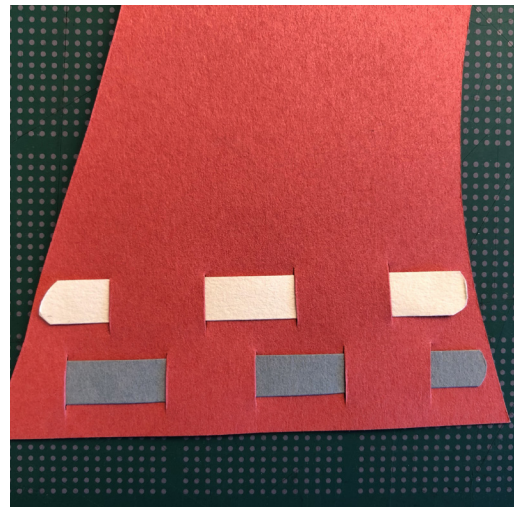
Step 3: Cut out a heart shape that fits on
the palm of your hand. Then, cut the same
number of “V-shaped” slits in the center
of the heart.



Step 4: "Weave" the slits into one another so that the points from the hand show through the heart.



Step 5: Cut small vertical slits at the wrists and weave strips of colored paper through them for additional embellishment.



Note: This project can also be made simply by collaging shapes and designs onto the hand, and/or painting and drawing designs.

