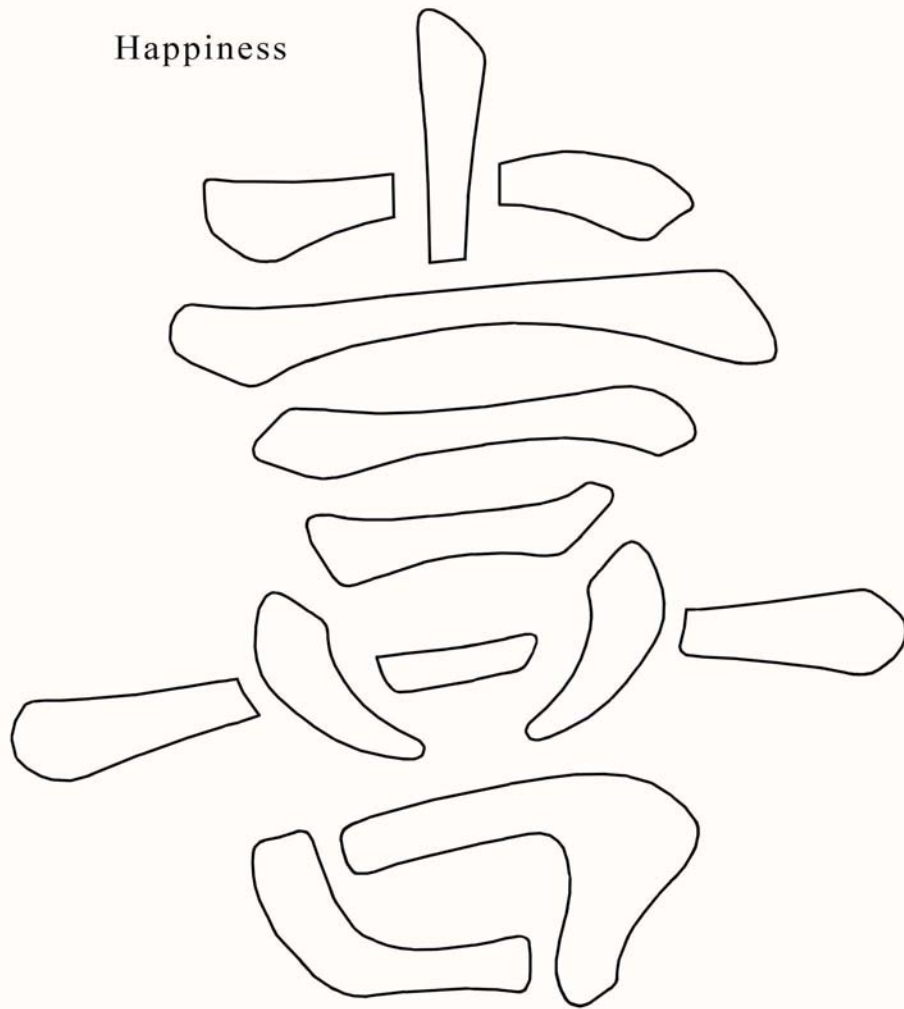


ORIENTAL DESIGN

Happiness Symbol Stencil

By Penny Vedrenne

Happiness



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Happiness Symbol Stencil

This stencil of a Happiness Symbol is part of the Oriental Design: A Book of Stencils collection. This collection was assembled for you, the artist and crafter, to use as a guide in creating some great works of art by combining images with symbols. Paint them on paper for framing, furniture, or fabrics for pillows or curtains to bring a little of the Orient into your home. Just use your imagination and the possibilities are endless!

The research performed for this book lead me down a very interesting path. The information is endless and if you have a desire to bring more of the oriental style into your life I encourage you to do your own research. This collection was assembled for arts and crafts purposes only and is not intended to be an authoritative resource.

My goal was to create a project for the artist or crafter that would be easy enough to complete in a minimal amount of time and yet leave you with an art piece only lacking of your individual touches. These stencils are designed to inspire your creativity!

I hope you enjoy your Oriental Stencils and create some great works of art!

Please visit our web site at www.designsfrompenny.com for some other great projects and ideas!

Instructions

This stencil was designed for use on walls, furniture, fabrics, canvas, floors, curtains, clothing... wherever your creativity demands. They can be used alone or combined with other stencils to create scenes or prints. Just use your imagination!

This is a single overlay stencil which means that it is completed with only one layer (one page).

Please read through all of the instructions once before starting your stencil.

To create your stencil, follow the steps listed below:

1. Make a copy of the stencil. By using a copy to produce your picture, your originals are preserved for future use. When you make copies, don't forget that you can reduce or enlarge the size to fit the area you want to place the picture.

These procedures assume that you are using plain paper. However, you may prefer to copy onto full-page sticker sheets that can be purchased at a craft or an office supply store. Always test on your surface to be stenciled.

2. Using a craft-knife, cut out the objects on the stencil. You have several options for craft-knives. I prefer to use an X-ACTO with a Fine Point Blade pictured here. Cut out the triangle holes in each of the four corners, which will be used for the alignment of the stencil overlays. Make sure your blade is sharp at all times. Dull blades may cause the paper stencil to tear.

Carefully use a firm finger to hold down the paper while cutting.



3. Determine the area where you want your picture. Tape your stencil to the wall or object to be stenciled using a low-tack tape across each corner. If you are stenciling a flat horizontal surface, you may find it easier to use weights instead of tape. Another option is to spray the back side with spray glue. Make sure to test your surface and decide which method works best for you.
4. Painting in your Stencil.
 - a.) I recommend a brush made for stenciling or one with a round short soft bristle head. It is best to use a separate brush for each color of paint; but if you do not, just make sure to wash and allow the brush to dry thoroughly between colors. Do not add water to the brush or to the paint. Hint: I have also had great luck with Foam Brushes. They help reduce paint seeping under the stencil. Make sure to apply to the stencil only when the sponge is on the dry side. Blot well before using.



b.) Pour paint onto your palette (a paper plate can be used). Dip your brush in the paint and then work the paint into the brush by dipping it firmly. Then dab the brush several times on a paper towel or piece of paper to get out any excess paint. It's important to have a brush that is on the dry side because it will keep paint from seeping under the stencil and smearing or running if you are working on a vertical project. This will most likely happen to some degree anyway so be prepared to do some touching up. More color is achieved by repeated coverage, not by using more paint. When your brush is properly loaded, an even powdering of paint is left when blotted on the paper towel or paper. Apply the paint using a downward or dabbing motion over the edges of the stencil so as not to push paint under the stencil. If you use a back and forth brushing motion, the brush will push paint under the stencil and cause smearing. Another reason you do not want to use a brushing or back and forth stroke with your brush is because it may tend to curl or bend your paper stencil. Apply paint with this dabbing and blotting motion in all the cut out areas of your stencil overlay (except alignment triangles). Allow to dry and apply additional coats of paint, if necessary.

5. Carefully remove your stencil. Do any touching up that needs to be done. Allow the paint to dry.

Hint 1: Your paper stencil may be used again but make sure to let it dry thoroughly on a flat surface between uses.

Hint 2: I created an authentic grass paper look as a backdrop for prints to be framed. Here's how: First, I painted a piece of paper (I use watercolor paper for its thickness) with a very light tan or off-white. Second, I painted a thick coat of a darker tan. While that is still wet, run a comb across the paper horizontally and then vertically to impress lines in the paint. Let dry thoroughly before starting your stencil.

Well, I hope you enjoy your stencil as much I have enjoyed creating it! Please look me up for some of my other projects and stencils.

Notes: _____

Happiness
(1 Overlay)

