
Make Paper Pajaki Chandeliers with Mia Semingson of Two Hands Paperie

Chapter 1 - Make Paper Pajaki Chandeliers

Overview

- This is a pajak. These are pajaki. They're a traditional Polish chandelier made out of decorative paper and straw. My name is Mia Semingson, I'm an artist, bookbinder, and I co-own a store in Boulder, Colorado called Two Hands Paperie. In this class, we will explore two different styles of pajak, one using traditional rye straws and the other using paper straws, forming a more geometric pattern. I'll walk you through all the tools and materials that you'll need to create your basic structure, and then, of course, teach you how to make a variety of decorations. Some of the decorations include simple pom-poms, tassels, rolled paper roses, and of course, the popular Polish star that I like to call a hedgehog pom-pom. (cheerful music) A brightly-colored and decorative pajak has the power to transform any space. (cheerful music)

Materials

- You'll need a variety of materials to create a decorative paper chandelier. One of the main things you'll need to choose at the beginning is a hoop. I have here metal hoops from the floral section at the art supply store. You could also use an embroidery hoop or create your own hoop using a flat one-inch reed. The size of the hoop really doesn't matter. It just depends on how large or small of a pajak you want to create. The next main ingredient that you'll need in your pajak are straws. Traditionally, they're made with rye straw, a natural straw, but you can also use paper straws. These are just plain white paper straws that you can paint or cover in decorative paper. You can also use pre-decorated straws. The number of straws that you'll need will also depend on the size of pajak that you're creating, but I recommend thinking about at least 50 to begin with. That gives you a lot of pajak to create if you want to. You'll need a variety of papers, from handmade papers, tissue paper, and different weights of crepe paper that you can use to make decorative circular discs to string between your straws or little Dresden stars. That can also be an option to put between your straws. A handy thing to have also is a small circular paper punch, variety of glues, including PVA, tacky glue, and or a hot glue gun, a good pair of scissors, a nice long piece of string and a clip. This you can use to hang your pajak as you work from the ceiling, creating a simple pulley system to raise it or lower it. Some clips, either little binder clips or clothes pins, you can use for stringing as you string your straws. Some basic tools such as needle-nose pliers that can also cut wire. Two different sizes of awls. This is a really thin awl for punching small holes. This is a larger awl for punching through felt balls. Two different size needles. I like to use a very long thin needle with a slightly wider eye. I know these as a doll needle, but they may have a different name. And then a ribbon needle with a big eye that you can thread quite a few strings through at once. A key ring comes in handy. This is what we will hang the pajak from. A pencil, a ruler, some strips of paper to help with measuring, a good tape measure, wire, painting supplies if you want to paint your flat reed or your straws, a little dish and then a brush, hand wipes for painting your straws, and, of course, keeping your hands clean. I recommend using a type of hand wipe that has alcohol in them. If you use baby wipes, they actually won't work with the paint. Ways to cut large circles. You can use just a regular compass to measure out your circles, but I actually like to use a circle punch or circle cutter. Clear scotch tape, washi tape, and very strong string. This is a waxed linen thread. The color does not matter, but it's really nice that it's waxed because it holds up as you're stringing your

straws and your circle discs. And then the only other thing that you really need are a variety of embellishing materials. Here I have some little rosettes made out of ribbon, some Dresden trim medallions, a variety of felt balls in many sizes, paper balls that you can paint. Colored beads and metal beads can also be a fun embellishment too. I found some little butterflies that I thought would be nice flying around a paper pajak or these are little stars, handmade stars. There's a lot of fun materials out there that you can use to create your paper pajak. Look around your house for inspiration. You may just be surprised at what you find.

Anatomy of pajaki

- The structure of the pajak is fairly basic. Everything is built off of a center ring or a base ring. I like to call these the upper arms and then the lower arms, which can form a basket. And then this here is your center arm. Depending on how you design your pajak they can all look a little bit different. The idea is that they're bright, colorful, and festive, kind of like a burst of color and of materials. This one is made out of paper straws, some of which I've covered in actual decorative paper or painted. This one here is using the traditional rye straw. This space is made out of a metal hoop that's been covered in decorative paper. Here, we have the circular paper disks going in between each straw. Depending on the type of material you choose they'll have a very different look. Once you have everything put together you can use larger decorations to cover up your work and add more color and more detail to your piece, including hanging or small little attachments or decorating the center arm and also working at the top. They're usually hung as a mobile or a chandelier meant to be looked at from below. So as you're designing your pajak, you want to think about how you're positioning your decorations or your little paper straws so that you can look up and see everything.

Basic preparations

- The first step is to choose your base ring and decide how you wanna prepare it. If you're using a metal ring, you can cover it in decorative strips of paper. These I've cut about half inch to three-quarters of an inch wide. And I just take the glue and spread it on the ring itself, working in small increments. I take the metal ring and place the decorative strip kind of at an angle. And you're gonna just carefully but tightly wrap the ring with the paper. This can take a little bit of time. Just go slow. You can always tear off the paper and readjust the angle. I'm using my thumb to anchor as I work my way around. If you run out of glue, you can just add more. Kind of twisting as I work my way around. When you're ready for your next strip, you just overlap the paper just slightly and continue on. When you've gone all the way around, it will look something like this. You can also do the same technique on your embroidery hoop. So this one I've wrapped in the same manner with decorative paper. If you're using the flat reed, you can cut off a length for what you need. Just make sure you add about an inch so that there's overlap. To attach the reed together, just take a little bit of glue, add some to one end, and then overlap your reed by that inch. And I like to use a little stapler to staple that section in place. And I staple at an angle so that I don't split the reed as I'm putting the staple in. If you want, you can also use a little clamp to hold that in place while the glue dries. There's a couple ways you can decorate the reed. You can easily just use a little bit of craft paint to paint it. If you want, you could start with the inside, working your way around. You can also do multiple coats. I would wait a little bit to let the paint dry before you add your second coat. Another option is instead of wrapping the reed in paper, like I did on the ring, you can actually take strips of decorative paper and glue it flat on the reed itself. I'm gonna apply glue directly to the face. Starting at one end. And then take your paper and attach it to the reed. Just use your fingers to get

out any air bubbles. It doesn't matter if it's a little wonky. You're gonna trim it down to the actual size of the reed. You can add glue as you work your way around. If you have a paper that has a larger decorative pattern that you want to show off, it's a great way to highlight that pattern versus wrapping it directly around. Long as it overlaps just a little bit, should be fine. Once the paper is dry on your reed, you can trim this edge with just an X-Acto knife or a sharp pair of scissors, and this is what it'll look like once it's trimmed to that edge. And it really shows off the pattern of your paper. You have a lot of different options to prepare your hoop. Now we're gonna move on to preparing your straws. If you're using paper straws, you have quite a few options on how you can cover them. Sometimes I just use them as they come, but it's also really fun to cover them in paper or paint them. If you're gonna cover them with paper, I recommend cutting a strip of paper that's a little bit longer than the straw. This strip is about 11 inches long and about 1 1/4 inches wide. I'm gonna take some PVA glue onto a foam brush, and I like to coat the paper. It makes it easier than trying to coat the straw in some glue. And then take your straw and put it on your strip of paper, but at a slight angle. And what you're gonna do is you're gonna start at one end and roll the straw onto the paper. Getting it started can be a little tricky, but once you start, it's easy to continue rolling. So I just make sure, work my way up the straw, and make sure that the paper's connected and then roll it. And mind your glue (laughs) that you put on the paper. And you can let it dry. I usually let them dry about 12 to 24 hours, just to make sure they're completely dry before I begin cutting them. The other option that I like to do, especially if I'm in a hurry and I want to decorate the straws, is just use paint. I'm not gonna use a paintbrush. I'm gonna use that alcohol-based wet wipe and a pair of gloves. This is a really fast and easy way to coat your straws, and you can get through 50 straws in probably about 15 minutes. Take your wet wipe and add a good amount of paint. I'm just using a gold acrylic craft paint. And you're gonna literally wipe the paint onto the straw. The idea is not to get a perfect coating of paint but actually to just get a nice kind of patina onto the straw. And if you want additional paint or a darker color, you can add additional layers after you've painted your first one. So let them dry first, basically. And then just keep adding. I've tried this with regular paper towels without the alcohol, and it just doesn't allow the paint to flow. Once you have the color that you like on your straws, just make sure to let them dry completely before you begin working with them. Once you have your materials, you're gonna cut your paper straws to get them ready to assemble your pajak. There are two methods you can use to cut your paper straws to the length that you want to create your project. I use a variety of lengths to give different effects, but as far as the length goes, it doesn't really matter. This can be personal choice. Sometimes I use very short straws versus longer straws depending on the look and the feel of the pajak that I want to create. Most important thing is just to stay consistent with those lengths. You don't wanna have some that are a little shorter and some that are a little longer. Just be consistent. So the way that we do that is by creating a jig. And the first way I'm gonna show you is just by using a piece of washi tape on your table. And you can mark out the increments that you want to cut. So I'm going to cut 1-1/4 of an inch, 2-1/4, and then 3-1/4, and those will be the lengths that I use. Most of the straws that I'll be cutting are going to be the shorter length, and then some will be the 2-1/4, and then probably just maybe four or five will be the longer length. Again, it's completely your choice in terms of how long you want your straws to be. I'm gonna use this jig to cut my rye straws. Now, one thing with rye straws is that they're natural, they're not manufactured, they are grown, and so you're going to find all different sizes and shapes and lengths when you buy your straws. These are rye straws that are just bleached in the sun. They're a natural color. They haven't been dyed in any way. This is the traditional color, the way to use them. They can be a little bit tricky to cut, only because they can

crack a little bit. This is kind of normal, so just be patient with your technique and how you are cutting. And sometimes when you cut them, they will, they'll be, a great example, that's a good one. I usually put them directly into a little cup so that I know, I keep my sizes consistent. But sometimes when I cut them, they crack really easily. That one was a good one actually. We'll keep going. So I'm just gonna do 1-1/4. And you can see it cracking just a little bit when I flex it. That's still pretty good. It's when they crumble, that can be a real problem. The other solution is if your straws are cracking a little too much, you can always use a little bit of Scotch tape on the end to hold them together. Sometimes when I'm not working with them and I need to, you know, put away my project, I'll put them into Ziploc bags to store them with the size marked on the bags. I'm gonna just show you that. That one's cracking quite a bit, so, whoops, I would probably just throw that one away. Let me just cut some more and we'll see how it goes. That's not a good one. (laughs) We'll throw that one in the trash. Sometimes the technique, you have to be a little bit delicate. If you are cutting too fast through the straws, you might experience more cracking and splitting. And the number of straws that you're cutting, again, really depends on the size of the pajak you're creating and the look. So, oftentimes, I'll cut a bunch of straws in the sizes that I want, but I don't cut all of them. And I start playing with the lengths and the placement of the different straws that I'm using, and then decide, oh, I need more of one particular size versus another size. And so don't feel like you have to sit down and cut every single straw. I would definitely just cut some to get you started and then, you know, come back to this part of the process. The second way to cut your straws are using a jig with a straw and cutting it to the length that you want it, and then using that as a measurement or a guide to continue cutting. I've cut three jigs. One is at 2-7/8, one is at five inches, and one is at 3/4. And I've marked my lengths on the jig so that I know easily when I grab one which one I'm using. Grab one of your jigs and grab a straw, and just hold it up to the straw that you want to cut, and I like to position my scissors directly against the edge of the jig, and then simply cut through the material. And then you can just continue working down that straw. They like to run away from you as you're cutting them. I do not recommend putting your fingers in front of the scissors to hold them because I've given myself a lot of cuts that way. (laughs) The nice thing about the paper straws is that they're a little bit stronger than the rye straws, and so you can use longer lengths if you want to. Again, it's just a particular look that you might be after. You can definitely cut 'em shorter than this 2-7/8. But just experiment with what you'd like to use or what you think you might wanna use. And you can go ahead and store them in your cups to keep them organized. If you are using a straw that you've covered in paper, I like to trim the edge of the paper off so that I can get to the straw. The paper that I used to cover the straw lengths is definitely a little bit longer, so I wanna make sure that I have a nice, clean edge to work with before cutting it down to the size that I want. You can also use a paper straw to cut the natural straws as well. Sometimes I go in between using the two techniques. It just kinda depends on my mood and what feels right at the time. I definitely like using both. And again, I would not cut all your straws right away. I would cut some, and then as you assemble your pajak, you can test out the lengths that you're using and see if you like the look and feel of what you're creating, especially if this is something you're doing most likely for the first time. You know, you can play around with it. I put things together and I take a lot of things apart as I'm working. Once you have your straws complete or at least started, you can also think about or start creating the disks that you're going to use to put in between each straw. So anytime you have, you're stringing your straws together, you're always gonna have something kind of buffering between them. We are gonna use paper. A variety is really nice. You could also just use one color. It's completely up to you. Sometimes people use cardstock, colorful cardstock, or I like to

use a lot of marbled paper, handmade papers. The other thing that you can use are these little Dresden trim stars or anything that you think would look nice in between your straws. When you're working on the top of your pajak though, you wanna sure that whatever you put between your straws, the width of that spacer stays consistent. So if you use handmade beads, for instance, that are different sizes, that's gonna cause a problem as you are stringing, at least on the top section of the pajak. So again, whatever you choose to go in between the straws, make sure that it stays consistent. There's other places to kind of play with other materials at the bottom section, but at the top, I like to keep it all together. An easy way to create the disks to go between the straws is to use a one-inch circle cutter. I like to turn the cutter over so I can see the area that I'm cutting, and then I can just move down my paper. If it gets stuck a little bit on your paper, you can just push it, the inside, and continue. Some papers are definitely easier to cut than others. Just keep cutting until you feel like you have enough circles to work with. Once you've used up a section of your paper, you can always trim a row off and then continue. Now that you've prepped your hoop and you've prepped some straws and your disks, you're ready to assemble.

Traditional rye straw pajak

Upper structure

- The first structure that we're gonna explore uses the traditional rye straws and the metal hoop that we've covered in paper. We need to attach four strings to this hoop just to keep it simple. If you want more strings to attach, you can easily do the math to figure it out, but we're gonna start with four to keep it on the simple side. We're gonna have to do some math, though. The strings get attached evenly around the circumference of the circle, so we need to know exactly where to place them. To figure out the circumference, I'm going to take the diameter of the circle. When I purchased this hoop, it had a little tag on it, and it's a 14-inch hoop, and it also translates it into centimeters for me, so it's 35.5 centimeters. If your hoop does not have a tag or you don't know what size you're starting with, the easiest way is just to take a measuring tape and measure it at the widest distance, so 14 inches. Once you know that dimension, you can easily plug it into a formula to figure out the circumference. The circumference is going to be pi times the diameter, so pi would be 3.14 times the diameter of our circle, which is 35.5 centimeters, or 14 inches. I like working with centimeters because it breaks down into easier increments that I can easily translate onto my ruler. Take 3.14 and multiply it by 35.5 centimeters. That gives me 111.47 centimeters. I know that's a big number, but it's okay. You can do it. You're gonna take that number and divide it by the number of strings that you're going to attach. So in this case, I'm going to attach four strings. If I divide 111.47 centimeters by four, it gives me 27.87 centimeters, and that's going to be the distance between each string that I attach around the ring. If I wanted to attach more strings, I just need to do the math again. So eight strings divided into 111.47 would give me 13.93 centimeters. Once I know that number, I can translate it onto a strip of paper, and that will help me place the strings around the hoop. You also can round up, so I don't need to put 27.87. I can put 27.9. Here's my 27, and 0.9 would just be right before 28. I like to write on the jig what the dimension is. So this would be my length that I'm going to use. Once I have that, I can pick up my hoop and just place a mark on top, and that's going to be where I place my first string, and then working around my hoop, I will continue using my jig to figure out where the next one goes. I'm using a white pen just so I can see it on the dark paper that I covered my hoop in. So that's four marks, and we'll just double check. I'm

pretty close. We're going to go with it. Doesn't have to be absolutely perfect. It just kind of gives you a ballpark in terms of where to place the strings. Otherwise, dividing it into fours or sixes or eights can be a little more challenging. So that's why I like to start with the math. Now we get to attach strings to the ring in the places that we've marked. I have figured out, through trial and error, the length of string that I like to use, and I like 28 inches. You could go a little longer, you could go a little shorter. Again, it's trial and error, and once you start making these, your dimensions may completely be changed and different than what I'm suggesting, and that's totally fine. I'm going to measure out my wax linen thread. I like using the wax linen because it's very, very strong. It has wax on it, so it also is kind of a little bit stiff. I don't need to necessarily always use a needle when I'm gonna be stringing. So this is like one of my favorite strings to work with. 28 inches, and then I'm going to double up my string. Versus tying on four, well, technically, actually eight strings, I'm gonna tie on one extra long length, 28 inches times two, and that way I can use less knots tying onto the hoop. So I have my 28 inches doubled up. I'm going to find one of the X's, or where I placed my mark, and just loop the string around the hoop, pulling it tight. And then you can just continue on. So the reason why the string is doubled up is that I'm going to have one outer arm and then one inner arm that are both gonna be strung with the straws. You could start with just one outer arm if you want to, and you can always add on and tie another string later if you decide you want to add a second layer. I already know that I do, so that's why I've doubled up my string. And when you're working with a metal hoop, you are working from the base of the hoop up to the top, which is different than when I'm working with the flat reed. And I'll show you that process later. And there's all four strings are attached. We get to start stringing, putting the straws and the discs on our pajak arms. We're gonna do two arms per spot on the ring. One is gonna be slightly longer than the other. It's gonna be a drapery arm that's gonna be on the inside, and then the other one is gonna be a little shorter on the outside. I like to either use a needle or I can pre-punch discs using a thin awl ahead of time. I typically don't use a needle, so I'm gonna show you this method without the needle first. What I like to do is have my materials kind of ready for me to start assembly. I like to also count out the exact number of straws that I need that I'm going to be stringing. If this is your first time making a pajak, this is a great time to start experimenting with the length of straws, the number of straws that you would like to use, the patterns that you wanna create on the strings. Just start playing and having fun. I like to count out my materials ahead of time though, once I've established my pattern so that I don't get confused as I'm moving around the ring. I have counted out 11 of my short straws and two of my medium straws. So these are gonna be on my outer arm. And then I'm gonna use my pre-punched discs to go in between each straw, which I've also put a tiny hole in. I'm gonna start with a medium straw and just insert the string. And then take one of my punched pieces of paper and add that before I continue my pattern. Then I'm gonna move to my smaller straws. That's gonna be the main look of the row that I'm stringing. The reason why I start with a medium is that at that location where the straw or where the string is tied onto the ring is where I'm going to put some kind of decorative element to cover up where the knot is. It can get a little messy there when you start tying on lots of strings. And so I use a medium straw so that it can stick out beyond that little decorative element that I'm adding. It also can get a little bunched up when you're using these small paper discs if they're too close to the ring to begin with. It's not a very complex process, but when you're done, it's so beautiful to see all these little discs compiled together in one nice clean row. I have chosen to do one color on my outer row and then my next row, I'm going to do two different colors. You could have one color for your entire pajak. You could have a multitude of colors. Again, it's how you design or how you wanna create the look and feel of your piece. The options are

endless and sometimes a little overwhelming. There you go. One arm is complete. You'll notice I have some extra string at the top. This gives me a little wiggle room if I wanted to add some additional straws. You need a little extra string to tie on to the ring at the top as well. And I'd rather have a little extra than not enough. So this is a comfortable amount that I determined for my project. For the longer arm, I'm going to add 12 short straws. So I'm just adding one more instead of the 11 I used for the outer arm. I'm also gonna change the colors. I'm gonna have two different colors, but I'm gonna still start with that medium straw and then I'm gonna alternate. If you notice, these discs I'm adding have a distinct pattern on one side and a plain backside. The way that you wanna string those discs, especially if you wanna see that pattern, is to make sure that they're facing down because remember when you are looking up at your pajak, you wanna be able to see the pattern. All right, the last one is my medium length straw. And now you can see how the pattern will start to emerge when they're together. Once you've completed all four strings, you can hold it up and get a sense of what your final work for the top will look like. The top part is coming together. Before tying it off at the top and hanging it, we're gonna create an X pattern in the center with more straws and paper discs. I'm gonna tie on four strings. I like to just basically use the measurement of my hoop as a guide. So my hoop is 14 inches. So I cut four strings that are 14 inches long. And you can just tie on directly to the hoop on your little X. You're gonna do that all the way around the hoop. These will be joined in the center with straws, just filling it out, adding more decoration, more details. I try and get them as close to that X mark as I can. That might mean just moving them over a bit. I also like to check my work just to, before I tie anything off, to make sure that my straws are holding up, nothing's breaking too much, and I don't need to swap out any of my materials in case one of my straws is breaking quite a bit. If you notice some cracking, you can also do some repairs with just a little bit of tape. It will disappear. You will not notice it on your final piece. So here you can see that I have a straw that is cracking and the string is breaking through. So I like to just, rather than take all my work apart and put another straw on, just take a little bit of tape and roll it around. And it'll just add a little bit of support. These straws are not perfect. So you kind of just have to work with the flaws that they have. It's very rare that you find an absolutely perfect straw to work with. Now I'm gonna basically create this pattern in the center where all these strings are gonna meet in the middle, just to show you. And I'm gonna string them with straws. This time my pattern is going to be one medium straw. Oh, that one's cracking. Let me repair it before I add it. Also, if you wanna be preventative on some of your longer straws that are gonna be butting up right against the ring, you can just add a little tape just in case you want to give them a little extra support ahead of time. So one straw. This time I'm going to add two discs and they're gonna be back to back so that rather than seeing them from the bottom up, they're gonna be more vertically placed. And so I'm gonna just back them and I'm gonna come back through the center hole and then string. I'm gonna do my short straw. And you could make up your own pattern. It doesn't really matter. It's just really the length, the final length that you want them to meet all in the center. Again, I'm adding two discs back to back and then my final straw. This is actually the only time I'm using the long straws in this project. So I only need four. And I will continue. You may notice that the straws that I'm using are all different sizes. And again, it's kind of the sum of the parts make up the whole, they're all gonna be a little different. And I think that's what's unique about this, using these materials, is that there's imperfections in them, but you don't notice the individual imperfections. It's basically kind of how the piece comes together when all the materials are working together and complete. Once you have all your strings, your center strings together, you can begin to tie them off and connect. You'll notice that I'm not gonna put a disc in the center here because there's going to be another

decorative element that's gonna cover that. I'll come back in later and do that. So I'm just gonna tie a knot, another X. It doesn't really matter how you tie them. You can just make sure that they're connected. I do one square knot and then another over it. And don't worry about trimming any strings yet. You can come in and trim at the end as well. To hang the pionk, we're going to connect all the strings, gather them together at the top and connect them to a key ring for easy hanging. I'm gonna gather one string section at a time and then just tie a little knot, kind of connect them. You'll notice that because this arm has one less straw, this inner arm dangles. That's what I want it to look like, an inner dangling arm. So I'm gonna connect that one, lay it aside and work my way around. I'm not really tying a knot, just connecting them. You don't need a square knot. In case you wanna do any adjustments, then you don't have to untie a little knot, but they're easier to work with when they're gathered together, connected. Once I have them all together, I'm going to bring each group of arms to the center and there's two ways you can go about this. If you feel confident in your work and how it's looking, you can tie a knot and connect your key ring or you can just attach it to the key ring and tie a knot later. Right now, I'm just gonna tie a knot and this will be the test of how all your cutting went for your straws and one reason why you wanna be consistent with the links that you use, so that when you actually pick up the hoop, that they are level. Once you have your knot tied, you can wrap your string around the ring. Sometimes I just loop it through. And you can split all those strings in half and then tie another knot just to secure it. The next step is to hang the pajak so that we can continue working on it. I like working and hanging from the ceiling. I can also get a sense of what my work is looking like. I can look at it close up, but I can also step back. Sometimes I even get underneath. This is the really exciting part. So I just need a long bit of string. You'll have to decide where you're gonna hang this and work in your home. All I'm doing is tying a very long piece of string onto the key ring. And then hanging it from above. I'm gonna hang this from the ceiling. These pajaks typically are very lightweight, so you don't need a super industrial heavy hook. You just need something to hold it or secure it so that you can work. I'm in the studio, so I'm using kind of a big hook, but you could actually screw just a very small little hook directly into your ceiling at home. I've hung the pajak from the ceiling and I've created this very easy, simple pulley system to allow me to raise and lower as I work on different elements. I'm just using a binder clip so that I can raise and lower it at the right height and then clamp it in place without it falling. Now it's really easy to begin working on the bottom section of the pajak.

Lower structure

- To begin the bottom portion, we're gonna grab some thread. I've cut four lengths at 18 inches. We're gonna tie them on in the locations that we've already designated. These arms are going to be gathered in the center, continuing the purple paper disc pattern. I'm going to start with one medium straw and then add my paper. And continue on with five short straws. And then I'll finish with another medium straw. And I'll continue the same pattern on the other three remaining straws. Now that the dangling arms are strung with the pattern, I'm going to gather all four of them to the center and tie them in a knot. These are just gonna hang here for a bit until I'm ready to add the decorations. They'll eventually attach here, so you can see the pattern. But for now, they're just gonna hang. The next step is I'm going to add arms along the sides. These will dangle. I'm going to add the thread in a slightly different way than I've been using the thread. I'm going to approximate the length and just work until I like, kind of how I'm creating the pattern on the actual pajak. This is often how I end up figuring out my dimensions versus when I'm trying to see the pattern and estimate the thread or the materials that I'm using. It's easier if I just tie some thread on and start

stringing, and then I can count what my pattern will be and then repeat it all the way around. So, the thread is tied. I'm gonna start with one medium straw, add my paper, continue with my short straws. Once I get it to a length that I think might work, I'm just gonna hold it up and see what it looks like. And then I can always add on or take off before I continue. I'm gonna add my last medium straw 'cause that'll give me an idea. I think I'm gonna make it a little bit longer. The nice thing about not tying too many knots all at once is that you can add and take off and add and take off, get it to where you like it. I'm gonna add two more before I put on that last medium straw. See what it looks like. I think that looks better. Rather than tying a knot, I'm going to just loop the thread around this arm and continue on with the pattern. I like doing this because sometimes if I get to the end and I wanna change things, I can easily go back and undo without having to tie or untie knots. So I need to count what I did though. So I have two medium straws at both ends and then two, four, six short straws. So I like to count them out so I don't mess up. Final step, I'm going to just wrap this around and tie a knot. Now that that's attached, we can move on to the decorations.

Simple decorations

- There are so many great options to create decorations for your paper pajak. One of the simplest things that I love to do and also one of the fastest is just to create simple paper pompoms. I like to use very lightweight crepe paper. It's readily available, and it comes in so many different colors. One thing about crepe paper is that it's rolled in on itself, and so I always cut basically through the entire section all at once. I'm gonna cut four inches from one end. This will give me a good size pompom. You can always make it a little larger or a little smaller. After I've cut through, I'm gonna find the center of all those folds of paper and go to one of the ends. Basically I'm gonna cut both ends first, but I'm gonna leave a connection in the center, so I'm not gonna cut all the way up. I'm gonna leave about one inch connected in the very center. And I'm gonna flip it over and do the same thing on the other end. This sets a guideline for my fringe cuts. Once you have those ends cut, you basically just begin cutting along the edge about 1/8 of an inch. You could make 'em a little smaller. You could make 'em a little wider. But again, just be aware of that center portion that you're leaving connected. These do not have to be perfect. They're gonna be messy like bedhead. (laughs) this is also a great way to make fringed streamers for a party. Once you have it completely cut, you're gonna unfurl the entire length. And then I measure it so it's in approximate thirds. So I just hold it up and kinda visually measure. And this crepe paper's really easy to rip, or you can cut it into three sections. One, two, three. Grab one of your sections, and then you're gonna gather the paper at one end. I usually, I'm right-handed, so I'm gonna gather it into my left hand and basically kinda do a little accordion fold so the paper's going back and forth and back and forth. Again, it does not have to be perfect. Once I have it gathered, I'm gonna grab some thin floral wire. I'm using 24-gauge, but it could be a little thinner or a little thicker. And I like about three inches at one end. I'm just gonna wrap it around that center kinda tight a couple times. And then you can cut it with your wire cutters. Once you have it wrapped, just twist that wire. And then you can scrunch it up. You can be rough with it. These are not delicate. They're pretty sturdy. And there you go, easy. You can do two more or switch different colors. The other thing you can do with the pompoms is you can also use string to tie it off if you don't wanna use the wire. This is a great way to add the straws. So I have a pompom strung onto string instead of the wire, and then I just added my straw pattern on top of it. And this will hang off of my pajak. Another option is instead of using one color of crepe paper, you can easily use two. Here I have two colors about the same length as what my purple one started out as. And you can lay one color on top of the other and do the same gathering technique. And this

will give you a multicolored pompom. Tie this one with some thread. Wrap it around just like the wire and tie a knot. And then scrunch. And that's it, fast and easy. Another fun and festive decoration is to create a fringed tassel. I like to use a heavier crepe paper, either a metallic crepe or a solid color florist crepe. One thing about crepe paper when you're working with it is that it has a way of stretching, and you wanna work with the stretch when you're thinking about doing your cuts. I'm gonna cut a five-inch strip. Just gonna mark it with a pencil. Just eyeball my cut, and cut straight up the paper. Again, it doesn't have to be perfect. And then I'm gonna do about half of this. 20 inches in length, so I'm gonna do 10 inches for one tassel. I want the crepe paper, as I mentioned, it has some stretch, I wanna use that stretch when I'm creating the tassel, basically so that I can pull on my tassel and adjust the lengths. I kind of like it to be varied. Take your crepe paper and roll it up towards the top. And just visually give yourself about an inch margin. That's gonna be your safe zone from cutting. I roll it up so that I can do even cuts across the whole length. I'm gonna cut about the same size as I did for the pompom, about 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch. Again, you can vary the size. Just fringe all the way across. Next, I'm gonna turn it and add a little piece of wire before I roll it into the tassel shape. I've cut about a five-inch piece of thin floral wire. Wanna just fold it in half and then fold it in half again. You could also use a heavier wire, but I tend to have thin floral wire more on hand, and so this is my modification for giving it a little more structure without having to go buy a brand-new roll of wire. So I just make a little loop, and then I'm gonna use hot glue in stages and glue this little wire to the inside, making sure that the loop of the wire is sticking out beyond the edge of the crepe paper but a little bit hidden. And just roll. Roll that edge around the wire. If you want a fuller tassel, you could add another layer. If you want a shorter tassel, you could cut it, or you could start with just a shorter piece. Again, you wanna make sure you're aware of that stretch in your crepe paper so that you can pull and adjust the crepe strips. Second option would be to combine two different colors, and you could do that by rolling one color and then adding the next color around it, but this time I'm gonna actually roll them together so that the colors are mixed. I'm gonna take a little bit of glue. Just glue that whole edge. And align it. Little bit of wire. Fold the wire in half and then, again, just loop the little ends just to give it a little more support. Add your glue. And roll your wire. 'Cause I'm using two layers this time, it's gonna just be a little bit thicker of a pompom. Another fun option you can do if you wanna hide that edge is you could add another layer of crepe, just another little piece to cover and finish that top edge. Another easy decoration to create is just a basic rolled paper rose. I like using a variety of decorative papers. And all you need is to start with a square. I'm gonna fold the corner to this edge, not crease it, but just use it as a guide for cutting. And that gives me a nice square. Next, I'm gonna round the corners. And then I'm going to cut a spiral pattern towards the center of my square, starting about 3/4 of an inch from the edge. And I like to wave the edge, not have it be one consistent line, until I get to the center. It reminds me of a little snake. So if this was the head of the snake and this was the tail of the snake, that's kind of what I want the shape to look like. I'm gonna start at one end of the snake's tail and tuck it in and roll it towards the center. If you want to shape the edge of the rose as you're cutting or before you even start rolling, you can do that. I'm gonna see what I get with this. When you get to the very end, you're just gonna stand it up and let it unfurl. I might trim a little bit, give it a little shape. Basically that is it. I'm just gonna secure the bottom to that flat base so that everything stays in place. One final very simple decoration to make is called a cockade, and it's basically two pieces of paper that are put together to create a circular pattern. It's fun to play with the different types of paper that you make them with or the different colors that you can create since it's two pieces. I typically make them out of crepe paper. You wanna work with the stretch and the grain of the paper so that the

stretch is the long dimension. I have two pieces that are approximately 4-1/2 by 3. You're gonna take one edge, fold it over, and then gather it at the center, like you gathered the pompom in my first decorative demo. And secure it in the center. Just hold it with your fingers. You could also fold it in the center if that holds it in place for you a little better. And do the same thing with your second piece. Fold it over and then gather. Then fold this one in half. We're gonna join the two together in the center. I like to flip it over to the back side. Grab some wire and just wrap it around the center. I leave about an inch to an inch and a half. And then cut it off and twist to secure. Once you have the two pieces joined, then you can pull the edges to form your circular shape. If your paper is really thin or doesn't want to attach at the ends, you can always use a little bit of hot glue. I encourage you to explore many of the types of decorations that we've covered, but the fun part really is when you start to combine them, not just having them live on their own. Here's an example where I've taken a cockade and added a rolled paper rose directly to the top. I literally just glued it right on top of the cockade. In this sample, I took a pompom, added it to the cockade, and then added another little tassel, a small tassel, but included a paper straw and a little felt ball. There's enough variety here on the table for you to complete your pajak as it is, but if you really wanna dive deeper, we will explore that next.

Complex decorations

- The next two decorations are more traditional and require a little more time in order to complete the projects. We're going to create a template in order to cut all our pieces I'm gonna use a circular cutter. You could also use a compass to draw a circle. I'm gonna set it to four inches. Tighten it. I'm just gonna use a piece of thick scrap paper to create my template. I'm gonna lay the cutter on the paper and hold it in place and spin. I'm gonna have the perfect size circle that I need. I also need one one inch circle that I'm just gonna cut out of the same paper. Once I have those pieces, I'm gonna find the center of the paper. So for the little circle, I'm just gonna fold it in half, and then in quarters. Open it up and mark the center with a little dot so I can see it. For the larger circle, I'm gonna do the same thing, fold it in half, in half again, and then one more time. You can also mark the center with your pencil. I'm gonna take the small circle and a needle, punch it through the center of my mark, and then punch the larger circle with the needle. That way I have the small circle centered within the large circle, and then I'm just gonna trace that smaller circle onto the larger sheet of paper. This is basically creating a guide for cutting, and I know where to stop with my cuts. Take your scissors, and then just cut to that circle edge along all of those folds. Now that we have the jig, we're gonna use this to create a many layered flower pompom. I typically like to use crepe paper, very lightweight crepe paper, or tissue paper. I'm going to take the jig and lay it on just a stack of sheets. Probably eight to 10 is a good number to begin cutting. You can lay your circle right onto the tissue paper or crepe paper. I like to trace it. We will use it again in a minute for cutting. And cut all the layers, or a little section at once. Use the needle to punch through the center to hold all the layers in place, and then cut out my circles. It's nice because you can do many circles in one cutting. You don't have to cut them individually. Once you have a stack of paper cut, place your jig back on top and secure it with a needle. Then we're gonna cut slits all the way around, ending at this center circle. I like to move very carefully. If you twist the paper underneath the jig, you can have uneven cuts. You need about 14 to 16 layers of paper to make your flower pompom. The next step is just to take one layer and hold one of these pedals, scrunch it to the center and twist it, and then twist 360 degrees, and then cup the edge of the paper just a little bit. Reversing that fold. It's okay if they don't stay in place. They're gonna move around, they're not gonna be perfect, but once you put

them together, all the layers, you'll be amazed. Just continue scrunching and twisting until you work through all the layers. Once your layers are complete, then we're gonna start to assemble. I have chosen two separate colors to combine into one pompom, but I have a total of about 14 layers. You'll need a needle with some thread, with a knot tied at the very end, and two circular discs. Take one of your one inch paper discs and fold it into quarters. We're gonna create a little stopper or washer so that your knot doesn't pull through all the layers of your pompom. Take your needle and just thread it through to the knot. Then I'm just gonna trim this down a little bit. The shape does not matter. It just needs to be larger than the knot itself. You won't see this. And grab your first layer and I'm gonna alternate colors. They're gonna alternate back to back, front to front. It's a little hard to tell what is the back and what is the front, but you can basically tell sometimes by how you've manipulated the edges of the flower. If you don't twist them or turn them right, it's fine. Again, this doesn't have to be perfect. You can fluff it up a little bit. I'm going to add another stopper before I tie the knot. So I'm just gonna fold this little circular disc into quarters. I'm gonna trim the washer down, remove the needle, and then I'm just gonna tie a knot to hold everything in place. And you're done. For the final decoration, we're gonna create something called a Polish star, or a hedgehog star. You're gonna use the same circular template that we created and you're going to also cut out 14 circular pieces of paper from your decorative sheets. You can use just about anything that you want. It needs to be a little bit crisp, but on the thinner side, not too thick. Take your template and lay it on top of four of your decorative sheets of paper. Secure with a needle. And again, we're gonna cut through those layers, securing as you move around. I'm moving slowly just because it's really easy to move the layers underneath and I've had to recut many circles because I've sped through the process. All right. You can see that I actually did cut through a little bit here. It's okay, I'm just gonna remove that tiny little piece. You won't notice it, but for the most part, everything is cut just fine. You also need a pencil, a sharpened pencil, some glue, and I also like to have a wet rag on hand in case I need to wipe my fingers off as I'm working. You're gonna take your sharp pencil and you're gonna lay it on one of the sections. You're not gonna come over the edge of the circle, you're gonna line it right to the edge in the center and you will fold these edges around the pencil and secure with glue. I'm gonna add a little bit of glue before I fold to show you. So I'm gonna roll the pencil towards the glue to create that point. To speed up the process a little bit once you are familiar with making the form, you can actually go ahead and add, I like to add about four dots of glue at one time and then I can move a little faster. You also wanna hold the glued edge with your finger for about three seconds before moving on to the next one. If one comes unglued while I'm working, I just revisit that one at the very end. It takes a little bit of practice, so be patient with yourself. Just a little dotted glue in the corner. Not too much. I have glued my pencil onto the paper and that makes it a little tricky to remove. The first one I made came unglued, so I'm just gonna add a little bit of glue to that corner again and reglue it. There's one. Now I have 13 more to go. Now that I have all 14 of my layers complete, I'm going to use my needle to thread another paper circular stopper. I fold it into quarters and then thread it onto my needle, trimming it like a little washer for my knot. Then I'm gonna take my first star layer. I like to see the pattern first, thread that on, and then I'm gonna alternate front and back, front and back. I also will stagger the shapes of the points slightly as I'm threading them. Once you get to your final layer, you're gonna use a paper washer, thread it onto your string and trim it down again. Cut the needle off the thread and pull everything pretty tight. You can trim the thread off the opposite end before you pull everything tight. You basically want all these little points on your hedgehog pompom to become a complete sphere. And then you just tie a little knot. It's a beautiful decoration in and of itself. Now that you have an idea of

some of the traditional ways of decorating your pajak, you can think about how many of each you might want to make. To save time, I will use less layers in my designs. For instance, the last one I made to give you a full sphere is 14 layers, but if I'm attaching them to the side, I might just do eight instead. It saves me a little bit of time and I don't need it to be a complete sphere once it's on the pajak. Before making decisions about your decorations, you might wanna watch the next chapter where I take you through the process of adding the decorations onto the pajak.

Finishing

- It's time to add the finishing touches to the paper chandelier. The first thing we're gonna do is add the center arm that will go right down the middle of the pajak, attaching all of these beautiful details that we've added. I have two yards of thread onto a needle with a flower pom-pom at the end. I'm gonna start with adding some straws. First, a medium straw, then disks. I'm gonna double up the disks again. And then a small straw and another disk. I'm gonna end that section with another medium straw. I'm gonna add the center dangling arm through the knot using the needle, pull it tight, and then I'm gonna add the layers of my Polish star or hedgehog pom-pom so that it is covered and connects everything in the center. First, I'm going to add a little stopper. Trim it down. And then I'm gonna only add half of my star, alternating. This one has 12 layers total, so six layers. And I'm gonna add another stopper and then tie a knot. And then you can tie the string around the X in the center, making another knot, and it should pull everything nice and tight. Then I'm gonna re-thread my needle and continue adding the other six layers. Use a stopper. It can be a little awkward working in the center, but it's definitely worth the effort. Last one. I'm gonna add another stopper and then tie another knot. And I'm gonna re-thread the needle one more time. (chuckles) I'll start with a medium straw, then a short straw. Oop, that one broke. Keep adding short straws until you reach the top. Just make sure that you finish with another medium straw. And the last straw will tie to the ring at the top. The final step to finish your pajak is to clean up the areas where there's all these intersections of your strings and where you've tied your knots. So we're gonna hide that mess and then also just clean it up a bit, clean up the extra strings that are hanging off, any extra wires you see, and that's pretty much it. I've gone ahead and made a bunch of decorations to attach, including long pom-pom arms. I'm gonna take one and tie it on to the end. Just tie a little knot. And then I'm gonna hide that space with a hedgehog pom-pom or a hedgehog ball. This one has eight layers since I only need it to be partial. It doesn't need to be a complete sphere since I'm tying it on to the edge. And I've made four of each of my dangling pom-pom arms and the hedgehog balls, one for each intersection. You can make these hanging arms as long or as short as you want. This is the fun part when you're really creating the final look. You can also experiment if you've made a variety of decorations and you're not really sure what you wanna hang. Sometimes, I'll make one of something and attach it so that I can easily remove it in case I don't like the placement or I wanna make something else in a different color or a different shape. So I'll do a little test, and then I'll go ahead and make the remaining decorations once I have the idea finalized. I'm gonna go ahead and just give everything a little trim. I like to trim things at the end, clean 'em up. I don't trim too close to the knots because I don't want something to get untied easily and maybe fall off. So I give it a little space, just enough so that you can't see how everything is attached. The last step is going to be to hide the mess at the top where the ring is located. Now that I've tied off at the top, I'm gonna trim everything. And for this one, I've created just two pom-poms on wire, and I'm gonna just attach them by wrapping the wire around, one on either side. It'll hide the mess, and it'll hide the ring a little bit. Twist the wire. Give it a little trim. 108 00:12:38,109 --> 00:12:43,109 All right, and it's done.

I've created a second version of this basic traditional pajak using a few more additional steps. Instead of just having four main arms attached to the ring, this one, I added eight. And the other addition was an extra flower pom-pom in the center and additional pom-poms or fringe pom-poms for the side. So this is just taking it one step further, kind of filling it out. It's really sometimes hard to stop making decorations, so you can always continue just adding on to your pajak. It makes them a little bit more full and festive.

Geometric paper straw pajak

Upper structure

- Now that we've explored making a traditional pajak using the natural rye straws, we're gonna pivot using some alternative materials, such as paper straws and flat reed. Using the flat reed can sometimes be a little more convenient so that you can actually choose the exact size hoop that you want to work with. I have made a 45-inch round flat reed hoop. I've cut the reed to that length. The reed comes in one long piece so that you can cut it at any interval that you would like to work with. I typically align the reed along a tape measure. And then just using a pencil, finding the exact length and marking that plus one inch. The piece I'm going to cut is actually 46 inches long. And you can just cut it with your scissors. Once you have it cut, you can add a little bit of glue and staple it together at that 45-inch increment. Actually, let me mark that. I'm gonna mark that 45. There's my extra inch. And then I would add a little bit of glue and staple it together, letting it dry. Here I've already attached the ends of the hoop, glued and stapled, and painted with a light gold paint, both on the inside and the out. Since I know the exact length of the reed that I'm using, I was able to do a little math. I'm going to attach six strings to this hoop. 45 divided by six is 7.5 inches. So I have created a little paper jig so that I can mark those lines where I'm going to place the strings around the hoop. I always start at the section where I've connected 'cause I wanna make sure that when I decorate my hoop or my pajak that I cover up those overlapping points. So here's my 7 1/2-inch mark. And I just line it up, and just take a pencil and mark. Continue marking. Make sure you have the correct number that you want to work with. Now that I have these marked, I can go ahead and measure out my string and attach the string to the hoop. I'm gonna grab my string. I need one length to be 8 1/2 feet long, but I'm gonna just, it's easy to measure on a shorter tape measure. So I'm gonna actually measure four feet plus three inches, one, two, three, which is 51 inches. And then I'm just gonna double that. And that will give me 8 1/2 feet. I need six of these. Plus, I'm gonna have one arm going through the center of my pajak. So I'm gonna actually measure on a different color thread. This just gives me a visual cue that I'm gonna do something different, and I don't need it to be quite as long, so I'm just gonna measure out two yards, which is six feet. I'm gonna measure three feet and then double it. I'm gonna remove my tape measure because I don't need it anymore. I'm gonna gather all six of my strings and find the center. And then I'm gonna add that additional string to the group, also at the center. And I'm going to attach them to the key ring directly, just by looping through and pulling the strings. For this structure, we're gonna start from the top and work our way down and then attach our hoops. So it's a very different method of working than what we did for the more traditional pajak. Since I'm starting at the top, I'm going to add a decoration right away. You don't have to do this, you could always add something later if you want to, like the pom-poms that I did at the end for the previous project. But I'm going to use a red felt ball and a decorative piece of Dresden trim. I'm going to gather all the strings at the bottom and also include

my slightly shorter strings if I can find them. I'm just gonna bring the shorter ones to the end and give a little trim. I'm working with plenty of string. And then I'm going to use what's called a ribbon needle. It's kind of a short, wide needle that has a very large eye, and that allows me to attach or insert all the strings at once very easily. Once I have the needle on, attached, I'm going to... I have a felt ball that I'm just gonna widen a hole using an awl. And pull the felt ball onto the group of string. And then with this fun piece of Dresden trim, I'm gonna come through the backside and pull it through. Now I'm ready to hang this from the ceiling and begin stringing my straws. I've gathered all my materials to create the strings for my paper straw pajak. I have straws cut at $2 \frac{7}{8}$ and $5 \frac{3}{4}$. I also have five inches, but those I'm gonna save for a little bit later. And I also have the disks I'm gonna put in between each straw. I'm gonna grab one set of strings, two strings, and one of my short straws, then one of my decorative pieces to go in between. This time, I'm going to put the string through the backside of my decorative piece so that, as I'm stringing, it is facing down. And then I'm going to continue with my straw pattern. This is where you can experiment with the links of your straws, the number of straws you use, and what you put between them. This is just one example. The fun part is really kind of coming up with your own design. The most important thing to remember is to keep your links the same. So whatever you decide to do on one string, just make sure you stay consistent in your links for all the other strings. You want your pattern to be the same length when you get to the end. You can vary the pattern. Just make sure it's the same. We're gonna add two longer straws. And that is my pattern. I'm gonna add this clothes pin at the bottom so that everything stays in place and I don't lose all the hard work that I just did. So my pattern is three short at the top and two long, and then I'll do the rest of my strings. Now that we have the pattern for our straws on our strings, I just wanna point out that we have one set of strings, the purple strings that we cut, that are a little bit shorter. We are going to just ignore these for a little bit. We will add decorations to these closer to the end. I'm gonna grab my prepared hoop and one straw line. I can unclip it. And I'm going to basically attach the string using a stapler. You'll notice that I have the straw sitting directly on the hoop, and I also have the strings in front of the hoop. I'm just gonna grab the strings from behind and pull 'em to the side, kinda just to get 'em out of the way. I'm gonna grab a stapler and staple at a slight angle so that I don't split the hoop. And then I'm going to find my next mark and do the exact same thing. Align the string on my little tick mark. Pull the string from around the backside. I just don't want to staple through the string on the backside as well. I just wanna pull it tight and then staple, and then I can let it go. You can add one or two staples. Sometimes I just add one. But if you feel like it's going to come out, I would add a second. The nice thing about adding the strings to the hoop in this way is that it allows me to adjust the tension a little bit. Also, if things are uneven, I can actually loosen the threads on the hoop and try and level things out, versus the metal hoop, when you're tying the string directly onto the hoop, once you tie it on, it's a little, it can be a little tricky to adjust. Here's the last one. Looks pretty good. Sometimes I have to move the straws at the top just to adjust. And let me show you, I can pull the string and loosen it or tighten it again to help level it out. And you'll also notice that my straws are balanced on the edge of the hoop versus coming down the side of the hoop. These might move as you work, but you can always go back and readjust. Now that the top part is done, we can continue creating a pattern of straws on the bottom.

Lower structure and finishing

- The bottom section of your pajak is a great place to begin adding a more geometric feel to the structure, especially with the paper straws that we're using. You'll notice that you didn't really need

two strings at the top section, but the reason why I like to have them is that when you get to the bottom, you can actually split the strings and then start creating different straw patterns on these individual strings. If you wanted to just start with one string and then tie on a second string, you could do that. But for me, I find it a little easier not to have a knot right here, and I can visualize what the structure might be when I already am starting with the two strings. I'm gonna start with the five-inch straw and feed it through one string. And then move to my next row and grab the string closest, and attach another five-inch straw. If you want, you could tie a loose knot here if you wanna visualize playing with the pattern. Otherwise, you can keep them untied. And I'm gonna attach a little felt ball. That will hold the straws in place and I can just continue with my pattern. I'm gonna grab a needle and attach it to the two threads, and string a little felt ball. This is in place of using a paper disk. And I'm gonna move to the next section, grabbing one string from each row, using the same size straw, five inches, and another felt ball. If the holes are not wide enough to get the needle through for the felt ball, it might help you to use an awl and punch a hole first. I like to adjust the pattern so it's hanging just below the flat reed. But I'll continue adjusting it when I add the next layer on, so don't worry too much about it. I'm gonna do the same thing with the same pattern all the way around. I'm gonna continue my pattern, but in a slightly different way. I'm going to start with two short straws, coming from each direction. Rather than place another felt ball here, I'm just gonna loop the thread to hold it in place. I'm gonna move to the next section using my five-inch straws. And loop. And then I will go with the short. And continue on with the same pattern. I'm gonna complete this short straw section with one more felt ball. Can see I've already added it to the other two sections. And next, I'm going to actually add two layers of straws going horizontally to create more of a cage-like shape, just to do something a little different. I'm going to gather a length of string. I'm just gonna measure using the pajak itself. I need six links. Three, four, five, six, plus a little extra. Going to just tie on my string right below the second straw length. I'm gonna tie a double knot or a square knot. And I'm going to grab one of my 5 3/4-inch straws and rest it on the little gold disk, wrap the string around, pulling it tight. I'm placing the straw so it's right in front of the straw, almost like it's sitting on a little shelf. Adding another straw. The fun part about using paper straws is that you can really build with them. They're definitely not fragile like the natural straws. You have a little more freedom to experiment and play with the shape that you're creating. When you get to the end, you're just gonna tie a knot, just wrap it around a couple times. And pull it through. I'm gonna take another level of straws and attach them here, repeating the same steps that I did to give it a little more dimension. And I'm gonna use the five-inch straw length. The next step is to gather all the strings attached to the longer sections into the center, and we're gonna finish off with a red pompom and a piece of Dresden trim and then a tassel. All the strings are gonna come together, and I'm gonna attach them to my ribbon needle. Gonna punch through the Dresden trim and then the felt ball. I'm just splitting the threads in half approximately and threading one side through the little wire loop. And then just tie a knot. And we can hide the threads underneath the red ball after I trim them. Before I start adding the decorations to the outside of the hoop, I'm going to complete my center arm. I've attached a needle to the center thread. I'm gonna start with a long straw. This length doesn't really matter. You can make it long or short. Create your own pattern. Gonna take one of the pompoms and push the needle through the center. Oh. Pull it through. A short straw. Another pompom. If you have trouble punching through the pompom, all the layers, you can also go in with your awl to create a space. Another straw. This time, I'm gonna use two pompoms just to make one larger one. And I just created, basically, two four-inch pompoms, and I'm just gonna wire them together to make bigger one. One last straw and one last pompom. Then I'm

just gonna tie off using a knot. And trim. Once I have everything on there, I can move it around, get it in place, fluff up the pompoms, make 'em look fuller. They're just kinda dangling in the center, kind of filling the space. Here's the fun part. We get to finally finish our creation by filling in all the spaces that we wanna cover up with decorations. You could also think about adding decorations to areas in between these straws, just filling out your cage or your structure a little bit more. I've created these strings with some shorter straws, some pompoms, some decorative paper, and a little cockade. That is gonna be strung into these diamond shapes here. I will work my way around and fill in in the other two empty spaces, here and here. I'm going to add pompom and tassel here and the rolled paper flower with cockade here. And one more pompom and tassel at this end, making sure I cover up all those connections. The last step is just to clean up any stray threads or wire that you wanna remove. Creating pajaki, it's a bit of a labor of love. Lots of time and energy goes into designing and stringing all the straws onto your hoops. There are so many different options and ways you can take these two projects, from the traditional to the more modern, and you can also combine them. So feel free to play and explore and create something of your very own.