



## family banner

We have had a love affair with banners and pennants around our house (as has the craft world) for a few years now, and we keep exploring different styles and reasons to put them to use. Some of our banners are for specific occasions, such as family birthdays, camping, and the 4th of July, but we decided that we wanted one for daily use, something we could make together and then leave hanging in our home to enjoy every day.

### materials

- \* Heavy cardstock
- \* Various patterned papers
- \* Glue stick
- \* Pencils, pens, and/or markers
- \* Other optional items: photos, watercolors, stickers, memorabilia
- \* Ribbon for hanging the banner (we used 5 different colors)

### tools

- \* Scissors
- \* Paintbrush (optional)
- \* Sewing machine (optional)
- \* Craft utility knife or hole punch





## technique

**1** Decide how many flags your banner is going to have, based on the word or words you want to write. (We chose "FAMILY.") Gather enough pieces of heavy cardstock to make a flag for each letter. Determine a general size and shape for the flag. Our flags were approximately 10 x 7 inches (25.4 x 17.8 cm), but we decided to vary each individual flag instead of using a

consistent shape and size. Draw or trace each flag shape onto the cardstock.

**2** Cut out each flag shape. We like the homespun feel that freehand cutting gives the banner.

**3** Once you have the flags cut out, it's all about gathering and adding assorted papers onto each flag. One

good idea is to paint patterns onto sheet music with watercolor paints. Once dry, cut the painted papers up and either glue or stitch them to the flags.

**4** Arrange additional collage pieces on the cardstock for each flag until satisfied, and glue or sew them in place. If sewing, add interest by varying the different stitch types. You may also

choose to add more embellishments, including photos of your family, buttons, beads, or stickers.

**5** Cut out the letters for the banner from colorful paper. My youngest cut the letters by hand for a more kid-created look. Sew or glue the letters on.

**6** Once you are pleased with each flag, use a craft knife to make a small slit in both upper corners of each flag. This is a parent activity, but you can make it kid safe by using a hole punch instead.

**7** Twist the strands of ribbon together into a loose "rope" and thread it

through the holes in the corners of each flag. We chose to thread into a slit from front to back, behind the flag, then back to front, so the ribbon wouldn't obscure the designs on the front of our flags.