

Photo Star Lantern



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Photo Star Lantern

Use your own photos to make these popular star lanterns!

Materials

- *Kaleidoscope Collections* Kaleidoscope Kreator™ 3
- PC with 13" wide inkjet printer*
- Digital photo
- Five sheets of 13"x19" flat matte inkjet photo paper or 12"x12" digital scrapbook matte photo paper
- Corkboard and paper piercer
- Straight pin
- Bone folder and straight edge
- Craft knife and acrylic grid ruler
- Book binding glue (aka PVA adhesive)
- Small brush to apply glue
- Durable tape
- 2 feet of ribbon or cord
- Round toothpicks
- 15 watt compact fluorescent bulb
- Lantern cord kit with single socket electrical cord

* If you only have a standard-format printer, you can make a smaller version of this lantern using the alternative directions provided below.



On the Computer

1. **Choose a photo with a strong subject such as a child or pet.** In Kaleidoscope Kreator, open the digital photo with **File>Open Image**.
2. **Select the Star (08) template shape.** Click on the **Select Kaleidoscope Shape** button in the **Toolbar** (the button that looks like a pie wedge) to bring up the template shape selector. Double-click on **Star (08)** to select.
3. **Create a kaleidoscope design.** Move, rotate and/or resize the photo in the workspace and watch the **Kaleidoscope Preview** in the upper right corner of the screen. (**Figure 1**) Every time you move the photo in the workspace, the Preview will update with the current design based on the position of the photo in the template. Click on the **Kaleidoscope Preview** if you want to see a full-screen preview of the kaleidoscope.

Important: For this project, you need to look at the kaleidoscope from a different perspective because the outer points of the kaleidoscope star shape that you create in Kaleidoscope Kreator will actually become the center of the finished star lantern. (**Figure 2**)

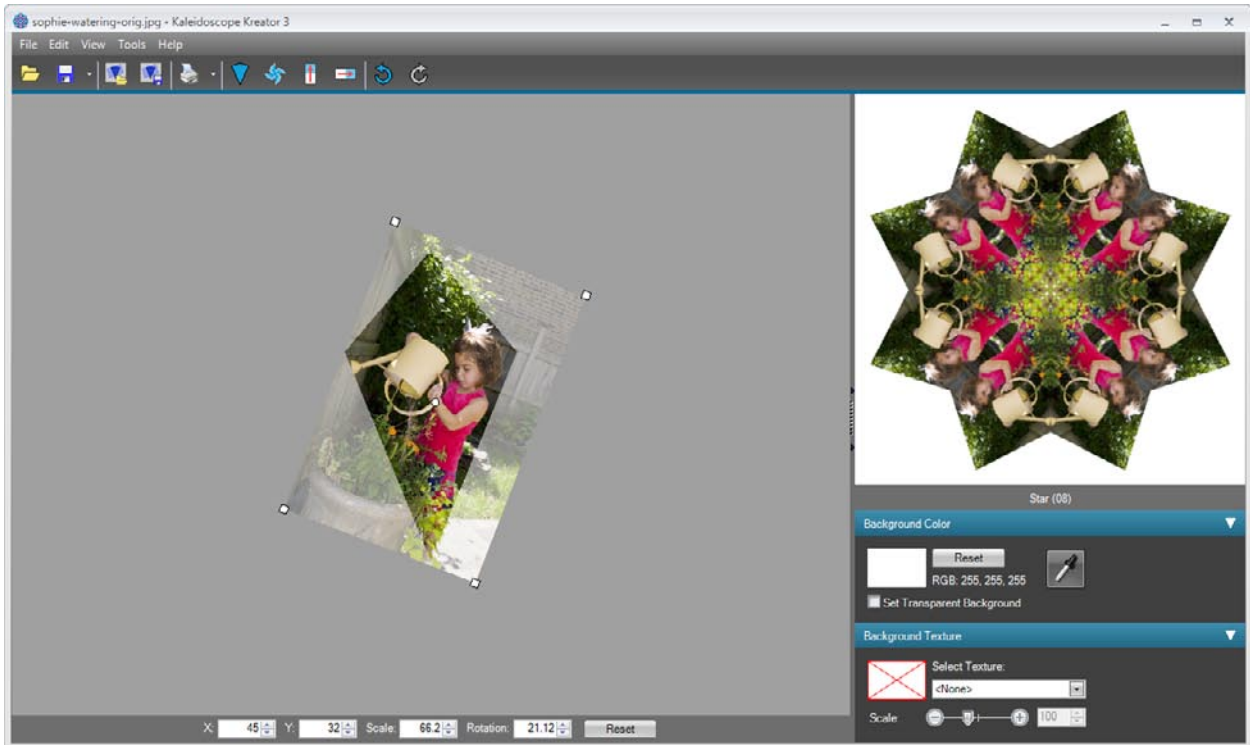


Figure 1.



**Kaleidoscope as designed
in Kaleidoscope Creator**



**How the kaleidoscope design
will appear in the Star Lantern**

Figure 2.

4. **Save your kaleidoscope design.** Use **File>Save Workspace** to save your kaleidoscope design as a workspace file on your hard drive. A workspace file has a **.kk3** extension and stores everything about your kaleidoscope design so that you can open it again later in Kaleidoscope Kreator. Save the workspace file using a name and location that will make it easy to find later.

(Optional) Use **File>Save Kaleidoscope** to save the kaleidoscope design as a JPEG file as well, using the same base name as the workspace file. Having a corresponding JPEG file for each workspace allows you to quickly see the design in the thumbnail view of Windows Explorer, and makes it easier to manage your saved workspaces. Since this doesn't need to be a high-resolution image, a size of 400 or 600 pixels is sufficient.

5. **Print five quarters of the kaleidoscope.** This is accomplished through the use of the Print Poster function. Each quarter of the kaleidoscope becomes one point of the star lantern. Since there are five points in the star, you'll need to print five quarters.

Put five sheets of matte photo paper in the printer. Then select **File>Print Poster** from the menu to bring up the **Print Poster Preview** as shown in **Figure 3**.

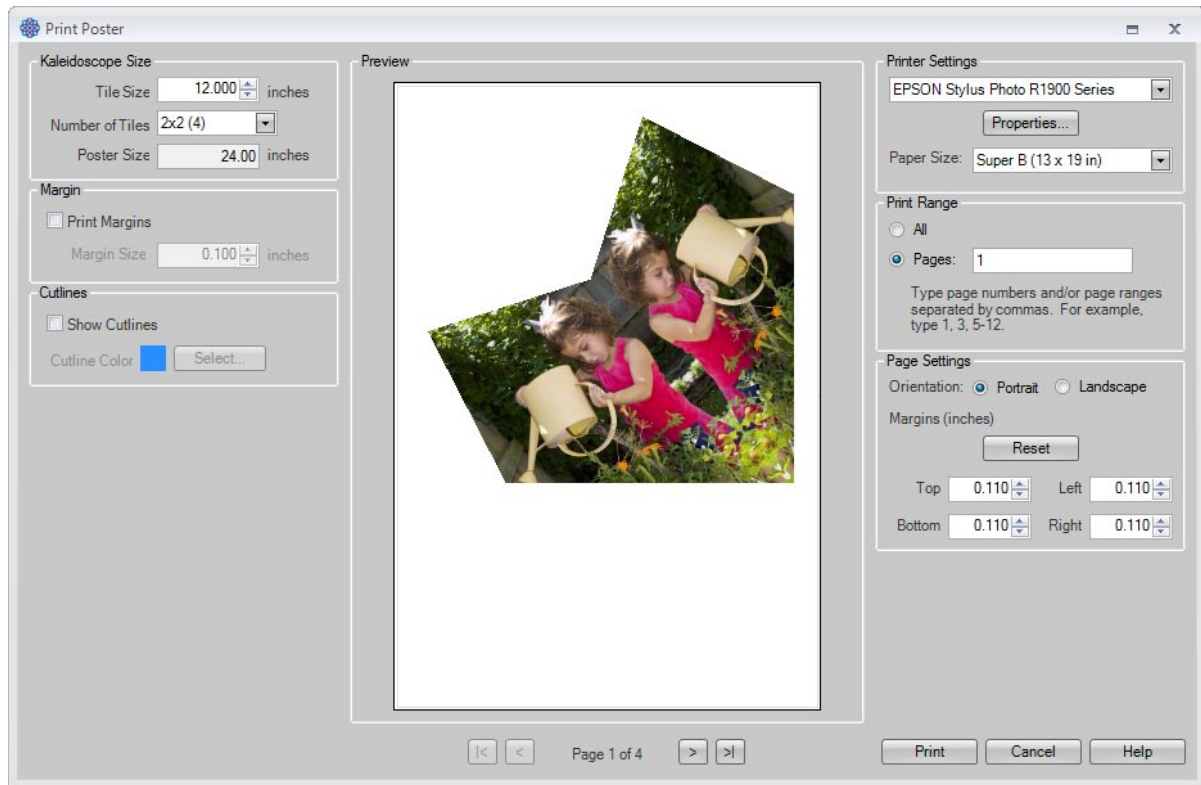


Figure 3.

- a. Set the **Tile Size** to 12 inches (8 inches if you have a standard letter-size printer) and **Number of Tiles** to 2x2 (4).
- b. Uncheck **Print Margins** and **Show Cutlines**.
- c. Choose your printer in the **Printer Settings** section on the upper right of the window and

click on the **Properties** button to set the paper type to “matte photo paper” (or equivalent). Also, set the **number of copies** to 5. Click **OK** to return to the Print Poster Preview window.

- d. Set the **Paper Size** to *Super B 13x19* if you have a 13x19 printer; otherwise keep the paper size set to Letter size.
- e. Then click on **Pages** in the **Print Range** section (on the right) and enter *1*. You have now set the printer to print five copies of the first page.
- f. Click the **Print** button at the bottom right of the Print Poster Preview window to send to the printer.

Assembly

1. **Score the folding lines on each kaleidoscope quarter.** Place each kaleidoscope quarter over the cork board and poke a small hole with a straight pin at each peak and valley of the kaleidoscope quarter. Then turn the kaleidoscope quarter face down on a cutting mat and use a straight edge and bone folder to score lines between the holes as shown in **Figure 4**.

2. **Cut out each kaleidoscope quarter with some key “tabs”.** Orient the kaleidoscope quarter as shown in **Figure 5** and cut along the red lines:

- a. Place the grid ruler with the 3/8” mark along the right edge of the kaleidoscope image. Cut with craft knife.
- b. Align the grid ruler with the 3/8” mark along the two edges that create the “valley” and cut with a craft knife.
- c. Then place the ruler so that the edge connects the two points of the star and cut.
- d. All other edges should be cut flush with the kaleidoscope image.
- e. Cut the “valley” flap into two pieces by clipping in the middle.

You should now have five pieces that look like **Figure 6**.

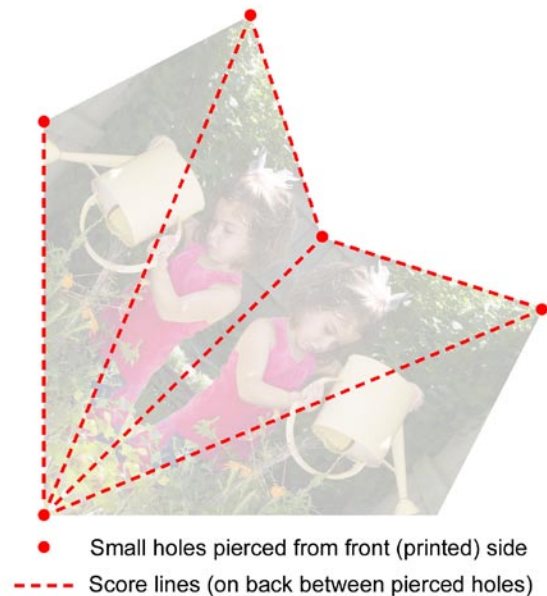


Figure 4.

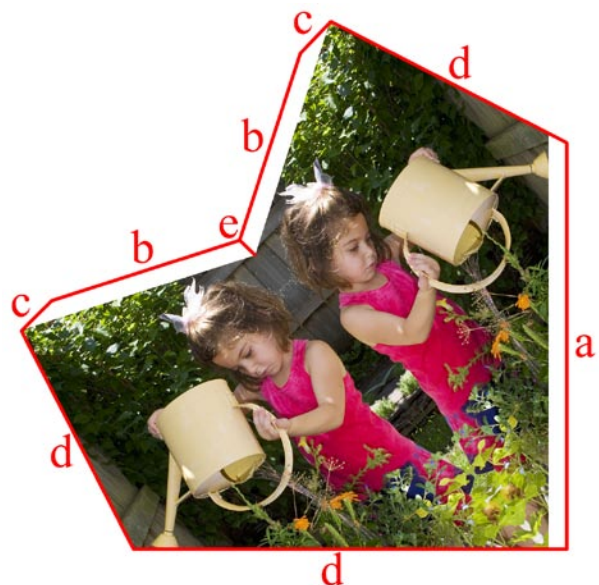


Figure 5.

3. Trim the bottom of the long tab. Place each kaleidoscope quarter face down on your work surface. Fold the long tab to the back. At the bottom corner, trim so that the tab fits inside the adjacent score line. (Figure 7)

4. Fold each kaleidoscope quarter into a star point. Fold the two short flaps towards the printed side. Try to catch a little of the printed image in the fold as this will help reduce any “white lines” that may peak through once you put the star points together. Crease with bone folder.

Fold along every other score line towards the back (unprinted sides together), but do not use a bone folder or you risk rubbing off the printed image! You should now have five pieces that look like Figure 8.

5. Pierce holes in the kaleidoscope quarters to enhance the printed design. This is especially nice if you plan to light the lantern. With each kaleidoscope quarter face up over cork board, use a paper piercer to punch holes to enhance the printed design. If you are not comfortable doing this freehand, you can copy a design onto tracing paper, place the tracing paper over the printed design and punch holes following the traced design. (Figure 9)



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

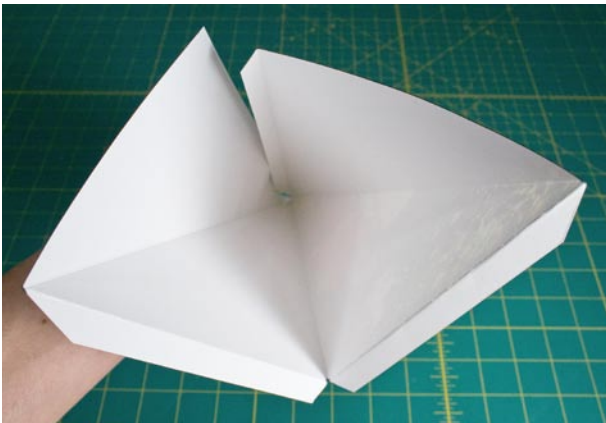


Figure 8.



Figure 9.

6. Assemble the five points of the star lantern. Working one at a time, apply glue to the front of the long tab of each kaleidoscope quarter being careful not to get glue on the printed areas. Then fold along the center score line (wrong sides together) and adhere the tab to the opposite long straight edge. (Figure 10) Adjust the position so that as much of the white from the flap is covered as possible. (You can pick up the piece and fold it along the other fold lines to help you adjust the position if necessary.) Don't worry if the design doesn't match perfectly at the seam because it won't be very noticeable in the finished star. Covering the white of the flap is more important than lining up the printed design along the seam.



Figure 10.

7. Adhere the star points to one another.

Adjust the folds of each star point so that the seam falls in the center, *not* down the side. Place one of the star points seam-side down on your work surface. Apply glue along both short tabs (on the front/printed side.) Place another star point seam-side down on top of the first star point, lining up the points and the top edges. Fold the tabs with the glue on them up and over the open edge and into the star point on top. Press down to secure. In Figure 11, the left tab is already adhered inside the star point on top; the right tab is about to be pressed down into place.



Figure 11.

Continue in the same way until all of the star points are attached to one another. Try to be as precise as possible because small problems will compound over the course of attaching the five star points.

Fold the remaining two tabs to the *inside* of the last star point. Apply glue to the back side of the tabs and press into place. Wait for the glue to dry before continuing.

- 8. Open the star.** Gently lift the first and last star points towards each other and the lantern will start to open. You may need to “help” the middle star points to open fully. If the center seams show too much of the white flaps you can cover the white with a matching felt-tip marker. Carefully draw along each of the center seam lines. (If you do one seam line, you'll need to do them all!)
- 9. Add ties to keep the star open.** Place a piece of durable tape just inside each outside edge in the “valley”. Then punch a small hole about $\frac{3}{4}$ ” from the edge of the valley of the first and last star point (the sides that aren't connected.) Cut two 12” lengths of ribbon or cord. For each piece, tie one end around a toothpick. Cut the toothpick to about 1” in length. Then poke

the other end of the cord through the holes from the inside so that the toothpick acts as a stopper. (Figure 12)

10. *Open the star and tie the cords together to keep the lantern open and provide a hanging loop.*

11. *You can put a light inside the lantern if you wish.* In that case, tie the cords around the hanging cord of the lantern. CAUTION: Never leave a light in a paper lantern unattended! Do not use more than a 40-watt bulb. I have found that a 15-watt compact fluorescent works well and is much cooler than an incandescent bulb. If you use a standard printer to make a smaller star, a standard size light bulb is too large. You can find smaller light bulbs and associated hanging fixtures as well as battery-operated LED lantern lights online.



Figure 12.