

A LITTLE GIFT TO ALL  
WORLDWIDE ADVENTURE SOCIETY MEMBERS  
FROM BRITTANY JEPSEN, AUTHOR OF  
"CRAFT THE RAINBOW"

ENJOY!



### Dala Horse Piñata

When I was young I discovered the work of the Swedish artist Carl Larsson in a book from my local library. I was instantly drawn to his charming portrayal of childhood and twinkling Swedish meadows. I longed to be a part of that folk-infused, color-permeated world. You can imagine the sense of awe I felt when I attended a field trip to the Swedish countryside to visit Larsson's Sundborn home while studying in Copenhagen, Denmark. On the bus ride we made a stop at the world's largest Dala horse, which is traditionally a small wood-carved statuette that represents Sweden. The enormity of the statue, about 22 feet (6.5 m) tall, inspired this piñata version, which would be a fun décor piece or entertainment at your next party. Fill it with old-school candies for a nod to the past.

### How to use the color red

When brainstorming projects for the red chapter, traditional red symbols came to mind immediately: stop signs, caution signs, national flags. Many of them represent authority and can be a bit intimidating. My challenge was to use red in a lovely way. I softened up the red-and-white palette by imagining it in the context of a Swedish meadow. Consider adding in elements drawn from nature whenever you want to soften something.

**Colors:** red and white

**Inspiration:** Mexican piñatas, Dala horses, Carl Larsson

**Time:** watching the new *Pride and Prejudice*

**Paper:** cardboard, tissue paper, butcher paper

**Technique:** fringing, cutting

**Materials:**

- templates
- 2-3 Large pieces of cardboard 2' x 3"
- craft knife
- masking or duct tape
- hole punch
- Thin rope for hanging, at least 10' or enough to hang from desired location
- red tissue paper
- fringe scissors
- glue gun
- white cardstock
- scissors
- spray adhesive

**Instructions:**

1. Print out the templates. Trace the Dala horse template twice onto cardboard. Cut out with a craft knife.
2. If there are folds in your cardboard, strengthen them with tape to prevent bending.
3. Using a craft knife or scissors, cut strips of cardboard according to how wide you want your Dala horse to be. I cut mine 4 inches (10 cm) wide against the grain of the cardboard or the opposite directions of the lines, to make the cardboard more malleable.
4. Loosen the strips by rolling them gently so the cardboard is easier to bend.



5. Tape the strips to the inside edge of a Dala horse cutout, bending and taping at intervals so the strip lies smooth against the horse. You will need multiple strips to go around the whole horse. When one strip runs out, begin where you left off. Be careful not to leave any gaps.
6. When you have gone around the entire horse, punch a hole at the top of the horse to provide a place to thread the string for hanging.
7. Place remaining Dala horse on top horse with the taped sides, and secure with tape.
8. Cut a U-shaped hold on the side or at the back of the Dala horse to make a flap. You will use this flap to insert candy.
9. Thread the rope through one hole and out the other. Leave about 3 inches hanging inside the piñata and tie a knot, Use the longer end to hang.
10. Cut strips of red tissue paper 1½ to 2 inches (4–5 cm) wide. Fold into layers. Fringe the edge, leaving about ½ inch (1.3 cm) at the top.
11. Beginning at the bottom, use the glue gun to affix the strips onto the horse, overlapping the tissue paper to create a very full look. Continue until you've covered the entire horse.
12. Print out the decorative template pieces on white cardstock. Cut out with scissors.
13. Use spray adhesive to glue the pieces onto the tissue-covered Dala horse.
14. Hang the Dala horse!

