FONKOZE
PRESENTS...

We wish you very happy holidays, Haitian style!

Make Your Own Haitian Fanal

A printable Christmas activity inspired by a treasured Haitian tradition

For generations, the glow of fanals helped mark the arrival of Christmas in Haiti. Created primarily by skilled artisans, fanals appeared in many forms; from colorful miniature houses and churches to simpler lanterns made from glass bottles and tin cans.

Traditionally made from repurposed materials, fanals transformed cereal boxes and other cardboard into intricate little buildings, often brightened with translucent colored paper. In rural communities, makers also turned glass sauce bottles and tin cans into lanterns, puncturing small openings in the metal so light could shine through. Meaning "lantern" or "beacon," fanals brought warmth, color, and artistry to Christmas celebrations—carried through the streets or displayed for neighbors to enjoy. While the tradition is less commonly seen today, Haitian artisans and cultural organizations continue to preserve this distinctive expression of creativity and celebration.



A Haitian Holiday Lantern Installation Brightens Brooklyn's Crown Heights - bkreader.com

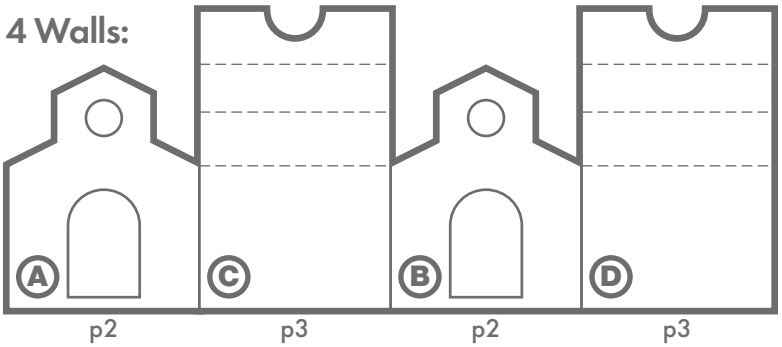
Create and Decorate Your Own Fanal

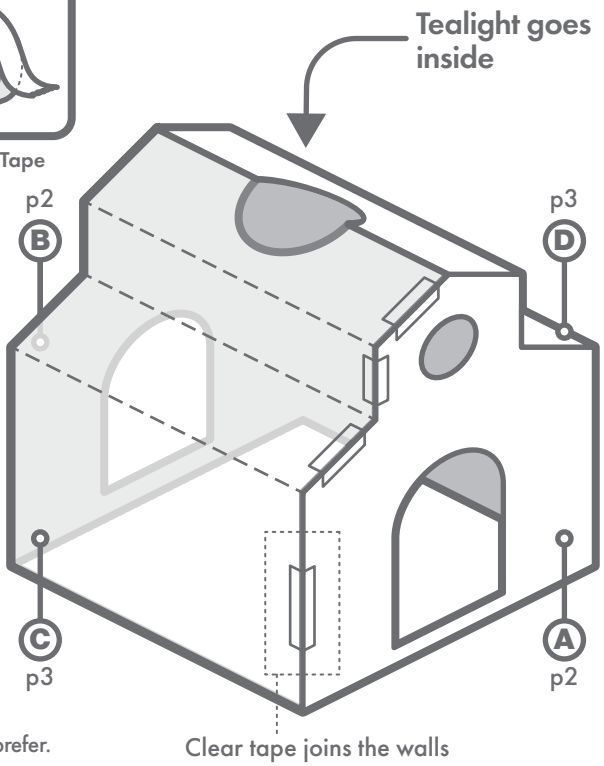
You'll need the following items:



A Printer | Battery-operated LED tealight. | Safety Scissors | Crayons, Felt-tip Pens, or Colored Pencils | Clear Tape

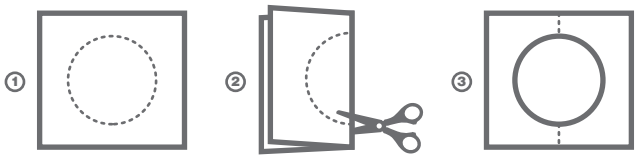
4 Walls:





(1) To keep things simple, it's best to do your coloring before the final assembly.

(2) Don't worry too much about coloring inside the lines, you can even ignore them if you prefer.



To cut the holes for doors and windows, you can fold the paper and cut your shape out. Once you've made your cuts, you can fold the paper back over to flatten it out.

A

fold

Cut the thick dotted lines

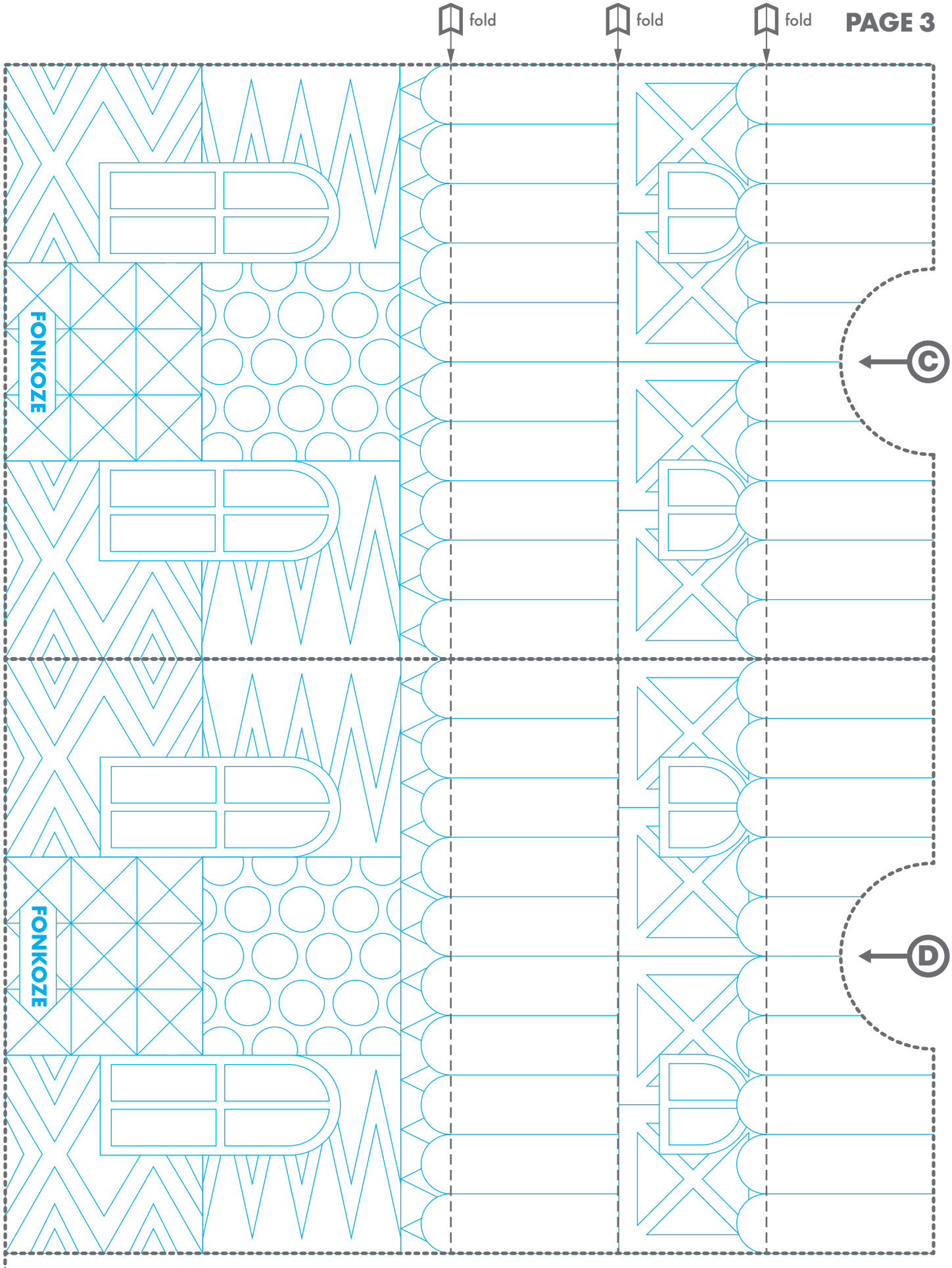
Follow these instructions to cut, fold, and assemble your fanal. Then display it with your holiday decorations and share the story of this Haitian Christmas tradition with family and friends.

B

fold

For safety, illuminate your fanal only with a battery-operated LED tealight. Never place a candle or open flame inside a paper fanal. Children should have adult help when cutting and assembling it.

FONKOZE Christmas FANAL Instructions ©2026 Fonkoze USA by SAQ



Cut the thick dotted lines

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