

Greeting Cards and Stationary with a Scroll Saw

Materials List

1. Scroll saw with # 2/0 blade or similarly fine blade of choice.
2. Drill Press or drill motor with 1/16 "or smaller bit.
3. Card Stock or other heavy paper.
4. Paper cutter
5. Packing tape, painter's tape or tape of choice.
6. Bone folder, may substitute kitchen knife handle, spoon, doweling, or any other nonabrasive smooth material. These tools are used to make folded papers crisp and neat.
7. Glue stick and glue pen. Both are necessary
8. Roller Brayer - not totally necessary but does make for ease of work.

Making the Card

Using the Scroll Saw

Preparation

With these instructions you will be making cards that are known as a quarter fold card. However, it is also possible to make other folds (tryptic or simple bi-fold). These instruction work equally well for them. Just take care when you are planning out the layout and make a mockup so you will know where things are printed and where things are to be cut out.

- A. Choose a theme--- Holiday, Birthday, Special Event
- B. Choose a color appropriate for you theme. This will include paper as well as ink color. Just understand that color ink on colored paper may change, so do a test run. (Home printers cannot print white. They depend on the white of white paper for that.)
- C. Paper should be a good quality cardstock.
- D. Set up a grid which will include card size, interior sheet size. If you are adding a popup, a grid will help determine the number of sheets of paper needed to make the popups. This step will prevent over or under purchasing (nothing worse than not having the proper amount of materials and colors) as well as reducing waste.
- E. Once you have established all your prep work you are on the path to making a project that those who receive you card will cherish.

The Card

I normally make fifty (50) cards at a time. You will need fifty full size sheets for the card body and fifty half size sheets for the inside message.

- A. When preparing to make your card you will need to put any message, greeting, or picture on your card stock before cutting your card. You will not be able to use your printer once you have cut out your card.
If you are using a card making program (Print Shop, Print Master, Hallmark Cards), set up a mockup of your card so that you will know where things are. If you are hand scribing your cards, do the same as for using a program.
Note: that you need a few regular paper copies of the card with the pattern to cut out for the next steps. The card stock that you are actually cutting **should not** have the cut pattern printed on them.
- B. Stack your coversheet card stock making sure all pages are even. These are the sheets you will saw.
- C. Sandwich your paper between very stiff stock. I like and use mat board, or you may want to use 3/32" plywood. Just make sure the stack is held as tight as you can make it. Pinching your stack as hard as you can tape the stack edges. Do this on all sides. Now you can use your tape (I like clear packing tape) to wrap your card remembering that you need to keep the paper wrapped tight. If the paper is loose you will have what I call paper flutter.
- D. Once you have sandwiched your stock between your stiffener boards, your card will not be seen. Your pattern will go in one of the corners of your stack. Make sure you have marked your stiffener so you will be able know where to put your cut pattern.
- E. Spray your pattern with adhesive and attach it to your pattern to the stack.
- F. Using a colored marker (I like red) put a dot or other mark in EVERY space to be cut out. These dots will insure that you do not miss a sawing point.
- G. Now drill your blade entry holes following your dots. Re check to make sure all entry holes are completed. This will be a very important part of your card making.
- H. As in most fret work you should start from the inside of the pattern and work your way out. This will maintain the strength of your material while you are working.
- I. Set up your saw with the blade you have chosen. Set your speed on about 1/3, or a speed you are comfortable with. The slow speed will give you control and less paper flutter. As you finish your cuts you may need to apply some pressure on the stack and work as close to the blade as you can. You can do it, just be careful.
- J. Now that you have completed all your cuts you are almost ready to put your cards together. Remove the matboard or plywood or whatever you have chosen as your front and back stiffener from your card stock. Look at the great job you have done.
- K. Fold your card as per its design. The simplest is to fold the card in half and in half again (quarter fold). To make sure you have crisp sharp edges now is the time to use your

tool, (bone folder, spoon bowl, handle of a kitchen knife) any tool that is smooth and will not leave a mark on the edge of your card.

- L. If you are making a quarter fold you will need one sheet of paper per card. You will also need a backer sheet for your design to make your work stand out and will be inserted and glued into the quarter section.
- M. You can add a half or quarter sheet for your message section. If you are using a half sheet one side will be left blank for any written note you may want to add. The message section should contain your theme thought such as (Unto us a Child is Born, Happy Holidays) or any message you want to send. If you have a program like Print Shop you should use it to make your message and other decorations as you see fit. This inner sheet will need to be glued to your card.
- N. Should you want to scribe your theme message to the inside sheet you can use a copy machine to make as many copies as needed.

Now you have completed your work-of-art that your friends will cherish for years to come. Do not forget to sign the back of your card as well as adding the date. Now that your cards are finished you will be hooked and start thinking about next year's card.

Paper Sources

I have found Kelly Paper, 1099 Vine St., Sacramento (from Richards Blvd.) to be a good source. Watch the pricing. It may be cheaper to buy a ream of paper than individual sheets. You may find your perfect envelope there, also.

Other sources are Office Depot, Staples, Michaels, Hobby Lobby. **DO NOT PURCHASE FLIMSY PAPER!!!** Flimsy will tear and make you really upset.

If I can help just give me a call,

Bob Beckert

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