

This beautiful papercut card is perfect for a Valentine or special loved one. It features the simple mirror fold and the design is cut out from the edge of the paper, farthest from the fold.

Tool kit

- Bone folder
- Metal safeguard ruler
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Craft knife and blades

Materials

- Printer paper
- Thin cardstock in two contrasting colors
- Sticky tape
- Double-sided tape

Choosing materials

When selecting your cardstock for this project, remember that the thickness will double when folded. The thicker the paper, the harder it will be to cut through. I'd recommend a maximum of 80 lb text (120 gsm).



Template is on page 89

1 Cut out template 1 on page 89. To use the template more than once, print, copy, or transfer the template using one of the methods on page 16. The printed template will be cut and discarded, and the finished papercut will have no visible guidelines on either side.

2 Take a piece of thin cardstock for the papercut part of the card. Using a bone folder and metal ruler, fold the cardstock in half widthwise. Use the bone folder to apply even pressure when folding to create a clean crease.

3 Place the printed template on the cardstock with the straight edge flush against the folded edge and the squirrel's nose against the open edge. Tape the template to the cardstock so it won't move as you work—I like to use colorful washi tape.

4 Using a craft knife on a cutting mat, start by carefully cutting out all of the tiny leaf shapes, before moving to the squirrel's ear and eye. When you're cutting, don't press down hard—you risk breaking the blade or losing control of the knife. It is better to make two or three passes with the blade over the same area. Trust me, the extra seconds taken are far preferable to a cut finger or slashed template!

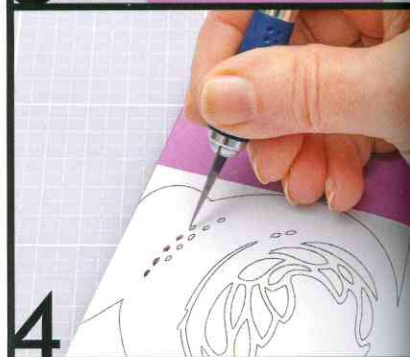
5 Cut the rest of the details on the fur, from the body up to the tail. When you're cutting the longer and circular shapes, don't try to cut them in one pass. Lift the blade and make multiple cuts from different angles for better control.

6 Cut the outline of the squirrel. To cut the straight lines of the bottom of the squirrel and the card outline, use a non-slip metal ruler with a finger guard.

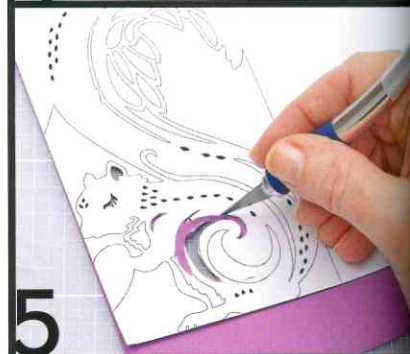
3



4



5



6





7 Unfold the card and use the bone folder to smooth down the crease line.

8 Carefully fold each squirrel over toward the center of the card. To do this, place the metal ruler along the join between the card and squirrel section and use the bone folder to etch a sharp crease line—this will guide your fold. As you fold, apply even pressure with the bone folder to smooth down the crease and create a clean fold.

9 Take your contrasting color of cardstock and use a craft knife and metal rule on a cutting mat to cut a square very slightly smaller than the central square of the card. Attach this insert to the inside of your card using small strips of double-sided tape. This will be where you write your love note.





TEMPLATE 1
Kissing
Squirrels Card,
pages 20-21

This beautiful card is lovely for any occasion, but it is for the patient cutter! Although it's not a complex design, cutting all those leaves can be time-consuming—but the effect is well worth the effort.

Tool kit

- Bone folder
- Metal safeguard ruler
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Craft knife and blades

Materials

- Medium-weight cardstock
- Colored paper for insert
- Sticky tape
- Double-sided tape

Choosing materials

You want your card to stand up when it is finished so it's best to use a medium-weight cardstock for the main part of the card—I would recommend 60 lb cover (160 gsm). Try using a contrasting color paper for the insert.



Template is on page 91

1 Cut out template 2 on page 91. To use the template more than once, print, copy, or transfer the template using one of the methods on page 16.

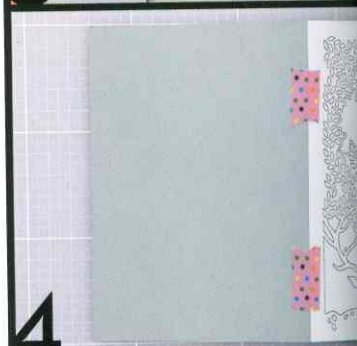
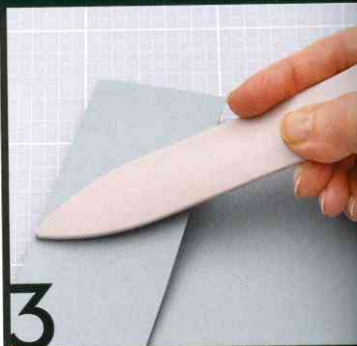
2 Cut a piece of medium-weight cardstock the same height as the template and four times the width. Using a bone folder and metal ruler, fold the cardstock in half widthwise. Unfold.

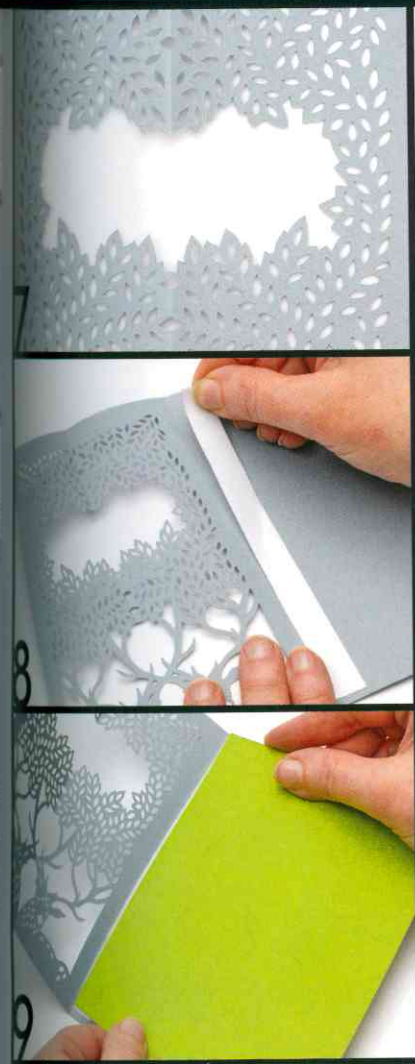
3 Take the left-hand edge and, using the metal ruler and bone folder, fold it to meet the central crease.

4 Flip the paper over so that the folded edge is now on the right and folds under. Place the template on the cardstock flush against the folded edge. Tape the template to the cardstock so it won't move as you work.

5 Using a craft knife on a cutting mat, first carefully cut out all the small leaf shapes. Be patient.

6 Next cut out the shape of the deer and his antlers. Take your time and be careful not to cut through the thin lines of the antlers.





7 Finally, cut out the void in the center of the leaves. You don't have to try and cut large shapes all in one go. Lift the blade every now and then and make multiple smaller cuts. Remove the template carefully and unfold the card.

8 Open up the card so that you are looking at the inside of the greeting card. Place a strip of double-sided tape just to right of the central crease line. This is how you will fix your colored insert paper.

9 Take a piece of paper in a contrasting color and cut it to the same size as your piece of cardstock. Fold it in half widthwise and carefully stick to the double-sided tape inside the card, aligning the folded edge with the central crease.





TEMPLATE 2
My Deer Card,
pages 24-25



TEMPLATE 3
Fairy Ring Card,
pages 54-55



This lovely nature-inspired design will add something extra to your dinner-party table. Use the simple design or take it to another level by adding the extra details for a more advanced papercut.

Tool kit

- Bone folder
- Metal safeguard ruler
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Craft knife and blades

Materials

- Paper
- Sticky tape

Choosing materials

You can use any craft paper for this project—a weight of around 20 lb bond (75 gsm) would be about right—and Ledger size is perfect for a place mat.



Template is on page 125

1 Cut out template 39 on page 125. To use the template more than once, print, copy, or transfer the template using one of the methods on page 16.

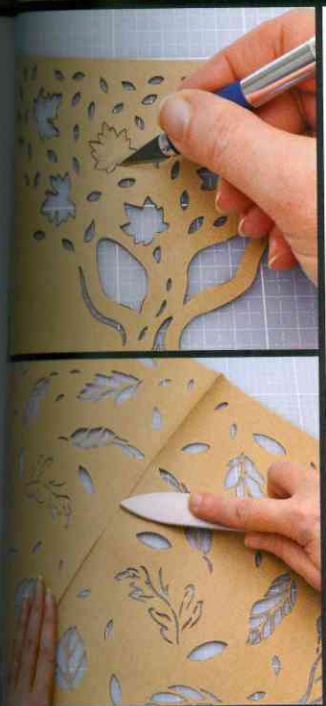
2 Take a Ledger size piece of your chosen paper and fold in half widthways. Use a bone folder to make a sharp crease.

3 Place the printed template on the paper so decorated edge is flush against the open edge. Tape the template in place. From here we have removed the template for clarity.

4 Using a craft knife on a cutting mat, start by cutting out the squirrel at the bottom of the design. Start from his head then work through the details on his body before cutting the outline. Move onto the small leaves and the larger maple leaves.

5 Cut the details on the tree, beginning with the bark toward the bottom and moving up to the foliage. Cut out the side of the tree. Cut around the tiny squirrel on the side of the tree first, as this shape is the most important to cut accurately.



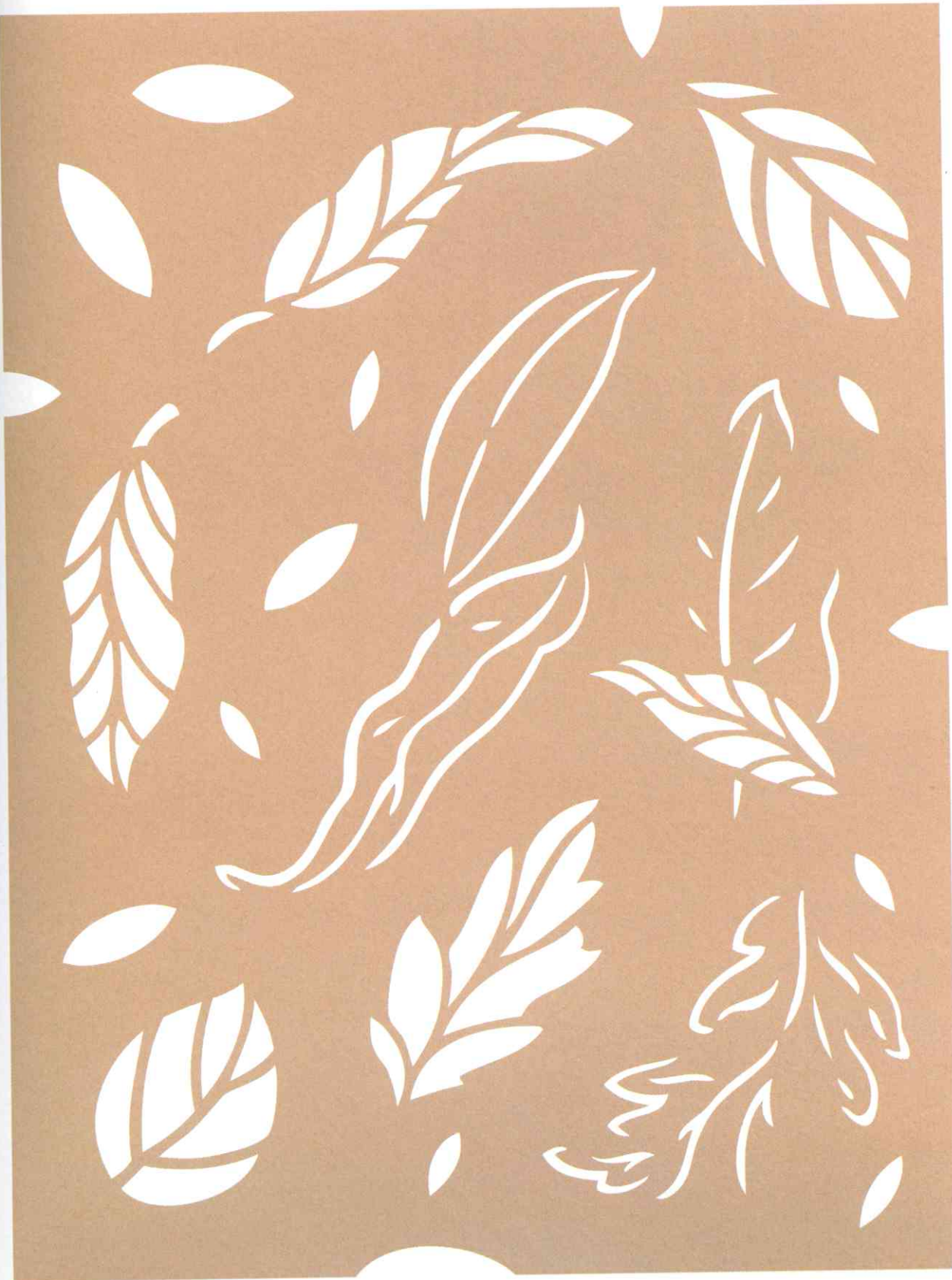


6 Finally, cut the leaves at the top of the tree. Start with the small leaves and move up to the larger maple leaves. If you're feeling adventurous, move onto Step 7, or skip straight to Step 8.

7 Cut some or all of the yellow-colored leaves in the center part of the design. Remember to begin with the smallest shapes and those closest to the fold line.

8 Remove the template and unfold the papercut. Use a bone folder to smooth down the central crease line. To make your place mats reusable and wipe-clean, why not take them down to a copy or office-supply store and have them laminated?





This versatile project can be used as a tealight lantern, hung up as a garden decoration, or used as a favor box. It's a great example of how papercutting can personalize and elevate a simple DIY project.

Tool kit

- Bone folder
- Metal safeguard ruler
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Craft knife and blades
- Craft screw punch

Materials

- Medium-weight cardstock
- Rice, tissue, or vellum paper
- Sticky tape
- Twine
- Glue

Choosing materials

You want the lantern to stand up and maintain its structure, so a cardstock of about 60–65 lb cover (160–176 gsm) would be ideal. You could use a lighter-weight cardstock if the lantern is going to be purely decorative. Choose a light color for the tissue, rice, or vellum paper so lots of light can shine through like a stained-glass window.



Template is on page 119

1 Cut out template 35 on page 119. To use the template more than once, print, copy, or transfer the template using one of the methods on page 16.

2 Take a piece of your chosen cardstock that is at least as tall and twice as wide as the template. Using a metal ruler and bone folder, fold the paper in half widthwise. Scoring the line first will help you to create a sharp crease.

3 Place the printed template on the cardstock with the tab-free edge flush against the folded edge. Tape the template in place. From here we have removed the template for clarity.

4 Use a screw punch to create the two holes at the top of the template.

5 Using a craft knife on a cutting mat, first cut the ribbon-like details in the leaves.

6 Cut out the center petals in the large rose on the right-hand panel.

7 Using a metal ruler to help you, cut along all the straight edges.

8 Cut the remaining shapes on each panel. Start from the top and work your way downward.

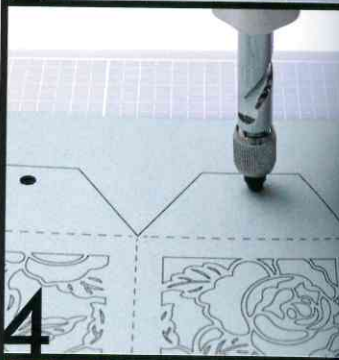
9 Using a metal ruler, cut along the outside edge of the template.

10 Unfold the papercut. Use a bone folder and metal ruler to etch along all of the dotted fold lines, then remove the template.

3



4



5

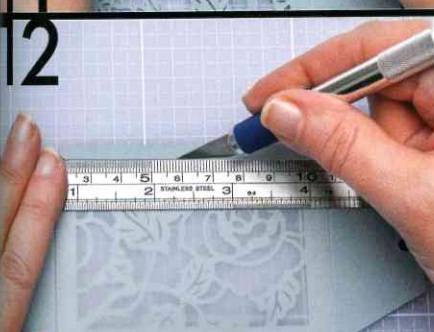
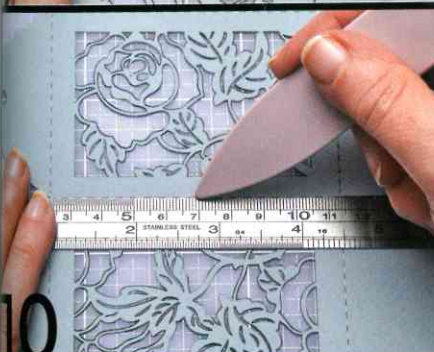
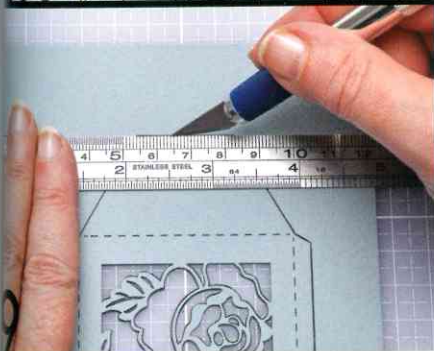
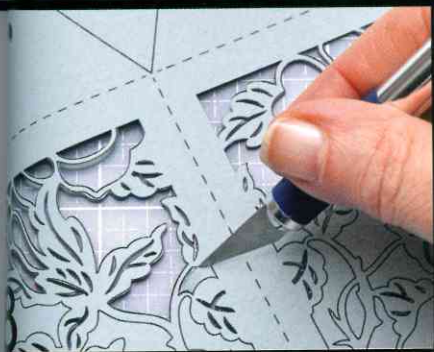


6



7



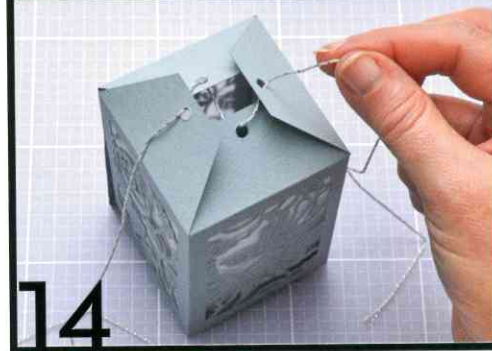


11 Take a sheet of rice, tissue, or vellum paper and cut out 2¹/₄- x 3¹/₂-inch (6- x 9-cm) rectangles. Using a glue stick, attach one rectangle to each of the papercut panels.

12 Using the craft knife and metal ruler, cut off the slim tab on one end of the papercut only.

13 Flip the papercut over so the tissue paper is at the back. Fold along each of the etched lines to form a box shape, and use glue or tape on the side tab and the two bottom tabs to secure.

14 Place your tealight or party favors inside. Bring the top panels together and thread some twine through the holes and tie in a bow to close the lantern.



Safety first!
Only use battery-operated tealights with this project.

TEMPLATE 35
Lantern,
pages 74-75



SUPER-SYMMETRICAL PAPER-CUT PATTERNS FOR ARTWORK,
KEEPSAKES, GREETING CARDS, AND MORE

FOLD IT



INCLUDES 48 TEMPLATES TO CUT OR TRACE
NAOMI SHIEK