

Welcome!

Hello and thank you so much for choosing these beginners papercutting templates from Meet the Moon! Whether you're completely new to the craft or just looking for a calming, creative hobby, I'm so pleased you're here. Papercutting is a wonderfully mindful activity - all you need is a little patience, a steady hand, and a few tools to get you started.

These templates have been designed with beginners in mind, so don't worry if you've never held a scalpel before. You'll find a practice sheet to get you started, and instructions to guide you step by step. Take your time, enjoy the process, and remember - there's no rush and no 'perfect' way to papercut.



YOU'LL NEED:

1 x A4 SELF-HEALING CUTTING MAT

1 x STAINLESS STEEL SCALPEL HANDLE
& REPLACEMENT BLADES

PRINTED TEMPLATES (IDEALLY ON 100-120GSM PAPER)

1 x PRACTICE SHEET

If you don't have these tools, they are easy to find in my Beginners Papercutting Kits which are available in my Etsy shop.
www.etsy.com/uk/shop/meetthemoondesigns

I hope these templates inspire you to relax, unwind and discover the joy of creating something beautiful with just paper and a blade.



Let's get started!

BEFORE YOU START

Make sure you're working on a flat, sturdy surface and sit in a comfortable chair. Cutting on a tray or your lap won't work and could be unsafe.



SETTING UP YOUR SCALPEL / CHANGING THE BLADE

Any craft knife is ok to use, but if you are using a stainless steel No.3 handle with 10A blades, here's a little guide on getting started.

To load your scalpel, unwrap a blade and slide it onto the neck of the knife handle, lining up the hole with the top. Press the blade gently down onto your cutting mat until you hear a small 'click'. Some people prefer to wrap the blade in masking tape and push it into place with pliers, but please take extra care as new blades are incredibly sharp.

To remove a blade, unclick it and dispose of it safely in a sharps box. The easiest way is to use a steel ruler to lift the edge and push it off away from you. Alternatively, you can wrap the blade in tape and remove it with pliers or use a blade removal box (which takes the hassle out of changing your blades!)



You can buy removal boxes from my Etsy shop!

Wrap a cushioned plater around the neck of your knife for extra comfort while cutting



HAVE A PRACTICE!

Once your scalpel is ready and your mat in place, you can begin. I've included a practice sheet so you can get used to holding the knife and trying out different cuts before moving on to a template. There's no single right way to hold a scalpel - just find a grip that feels comfortable and safe for you. As long as you are cutting with the blade in downward strokes, and not cutting with the very tip of the blade (this will tear the paper and ruin your blade) then you're good to go!

BEGINNING YOUR PAPERCUT

When you're ready, choose a template. **Remember: the grey shaded areas are what you keep, and the white is what you cut away** (so, slightly different to the practice sheet). All templates are printed in reverse, so you'll work on the shaded side, leaving the back of the paper clean. This 'clean' side is your finished artwork to be displayed.



Keep the grey, cut away the white

TIPS FOR CUTTING

Some shapes are easier than others. Straight lines and angles are simple, while circles and curves take a bit more patience - slow and steady is best! If you slip and cut into the design, don't worry! Just patch it from the back (the grey side) with masking tape and it'll be invisible from the front. As you work, try to keep your design attached to the paper. The more you cut away, the more delicate it becomes. Save the outline cut for last (if the template allows), then gently lift your piece free, as it's much easier and safer this way.

Always keep your blade nice and sharp!

FINISHING YOUR PAPERCUT

Papercuts can be framed, turned into cards, bunting, decorations, window decals, invitations or stencils. To mount your piece, use a very small amount of glue - a few dots around the edges and centre is enough. Let the glue go slightly tacky before pressing your papercut onto the front of the card.

Remember: always glue the back (the shaded side) so your clean, white side shows at the front.

You can find more templates, book a workshop, commission artwork, or just chat papercutting with me on Instagram, Facebook, Etsy or by email. Scan the QR code to join my mailing list for monthly news, freebies and offers. I'd love to see what you create.

Happy cutting!
Stacey xx



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