Click Here

Tool involving paper This article is about the tool. For professional artists who work with scissors and paper, see Papercutting. For other uses, see Paper cut (disambiguation). This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "Paper cutter" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (July 2010) (Learn how and when to remove this message) A paper cutter 1820s old style paper cutter A safety (rotary) paper cutter Large format paper cutter Small format paper cutter, part of the Museum Europäischer Kulturen, Berlin, Germany A paper cutter, also known as a paper guillotine or simply a guillotine, is a tool often found in offices and classrooms. It is designed to administer straight cuts to single sheets or large stacks of paper at once. Paper cutters were developed and patented in 1844 by French inventor Guillaume Massiquot. Later, Milton Bradley patented his own version of the paper cutter in 1879. [1] Since the middle of the 19th century, considerable improvements to the paper cutter have been made by Fomm and Krause of Germany, Furnival in England, and Oswego and Seybold in the United States.[2] Paper cutters vary in size, usually from approximately 30 centimeters (11.8 inches) in length on each side for office work to 841 millimetres (33.1 in), the length of a sheet of A1 paper. The surface typically has a grid that is either painted or inscribed on the surface. It may also include a ruler across the top. The surface also includes a flat edge against which the user may line up the paper at right angles before passing it under the blade. On the right-hand edge is a long, curved steel blade, often referred to as a knife, attached to the base at one corner. Larger versions have a strong compression coil spring as part of the attachment mechanism that pulls the knife against the stationary edge as the knife is drawn down to cut the paper. The other end of the knife unit is a handle. The stationary right edge of the base is also steel, with an exposed, finely-ground edge. When the knife is pulled down to cut paper, the action resembles that of a pair of scissors; only instead of two knives moving against each other, one is stationary. The combination of a blade mounted to a steady base produces clean and straight cuts, the likes of which would have otherwise required a ruler and razor blade to achieve on a single page. Paper cutters are also used for cutting thin sheet metal, cardboard, and plastic. A variant of this design uses a wheel-shaped blade mounted on a sliding shuttle attached to a rail. This type of paper cutter is known as a rotary paper cutter. Advantages of this design include being able to make wavy cuts, and perforations or to simply to score the paper without cutting, merely by substituting various types of circular blades. With a rotary cutter, it is also almost impossible for the user to cut oneself, except while changing the blade. This makes it safer for home use. Higher-end versions of rotary paper cutters are used for precision paper cutting and are popular for trimming photographs. An even simpler design uses double-edged blades which do not rotate but cut like a penknife.[clarification needed] While cheaper, this design is not preferable for serious work due to its tendency to tear paper, and poor performance with thick media. Most modern paper cutters come equipped with a finger guard to prevent users from accidentally cutting themselves or severing a digit while using the apparatus. However, injuries are still possible if the device is not used with proper care or attention. In the modern paper industry, larger machines are used to cut large stacks of paper, cardboard, or similar material. Such machines operate in a manner similar to a guillotine. Commercial versions are motorized and automated, and include clamping mechanisms to prevent shifting of the material during the cutting process. In addition to simple straight paper cutters, saw paper cutters(paper sawing machine) are widely utilized in the paper processing industry, where circular saw and band saw cutters can more efficiently cut large paper rolls, facilitating subsequent storage and processing. vinyl cutters can cut shapes or stencils out of paper, card, vinyl, or thin plastic sheets. Such cutters require vector files and cutting software to manage the cutter. Using small blades, the machine can cut shapes out of the material. Board shear Guillotine Scissors Wikimedia Commons has media related to Paper cutters. ^ "Did Milton Bradley Invent the Paper Cutter?". Entertainment Legends Revealed. 2015-06-11. Retrieved 2023-09-08. ^ "Etherington & Roberts. Dictionary--guillotine". Retrieved from " Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Paper cutting can seem tricky at first. But it's simpler than you think. Recommended Best Paper Cutters 2025 With the right tips, anyone can master it. Paper Cutting Made Easy is a fun and creative activity. It's perfect for making decorations, cards, or art projects. With just a few tools and some practice, you can create amazing designs. In this blog post, you will learn easy methods to get started. Whether you are a beginner or need a refresher, these tips will help. Grab your scissors and paper, and let's dive into the world of paper cutting. You'll be surprised at how simple and enjoyable it can be. Ready to start? Let's make paper cutting easy! Paper cutting is an art form that has been enjoyed for centuries. With a few basic tools and some practice, anyone can create beautiful designs. This blog post will introduce you to the world of paper cutting, providing insights and tips to make the process easier. What Is Paper Cutting? Paper cutting is the art of cutting paper to create intricate designs. Artists use scissors, knives, or cutting machines to carve out patterns. These designs can be simple or complex. They often include details like flowers, animals, or abstract shapes. Paper cutting is both a craft and an art form. History Of Paper Cutting Paper cutting has a long and rich history. It originated in China after the invention of paper. The earliest known paper cuttings date back to the 4th century AD. From China, the art spread to other parts of the world. In Japan, it is known as 'kirigami.' In Mexico, it's called 'papel picado.' Each culture has its own unique style and techniques. Over time, paper cutting evolved. Artists began to experiment with different types of paper and tools. Modern technology has also impacted the art form. Laser cutters and cutting machines have made it easier to create detailed designs. Yet, traditional hand-cutting techniques remain popular among many artists. Starting with the right tools and materials makes paper cutting easy. The right items help you create clean, precise cuts. Let's dive into the basics you need. Basic Tools Needed A sharp craft knife is essential. It allows you to cut with precision. A cutting mat protects your surface. It also helps extend the life of your knife. Scissors come in handy for larger cuts. A metal ruler is great for straight lines. Tweezers help with small, intricate pieces. Choosing The Right Paper Not all paper is suitable for cutting. Choose a paper that is not too thick or thin. Cardstock is a good choice. It is sturdy and holds its shape well. Avoid flimsy paper as it tears easily. Colored paper adds a vibrant touch to your designs. Patterned paper offers exciting options. Paper cutting can seem daunting at first, but it can be quite simple. The key is to start with the basic techniques. Once you master these, you can create intricate designs effortlessly. Let's explore some of these foundational techniques. Simple Cuts And Folds Start with a sharp pair of scissors. This makes cutting easier and cleaner. Begin by folding the paper in half. Fold it again to create a smaller square or rectangle. This helps create symmetrical designs. Practice cutting along the folded edges. You can make simple shapes like triangles, squares, and circles. Remember to keep your cuts smooth and even. Creating Patterns And Designs Once you are comfortable with simple cuts, try creating patterns. Draw a design on your paper first. This can be anything from flowers to geometric shapes. Cut along the lines of your drawing. Be patient and take your time. For more complex patterns, fold the paper multiple times. This allows you to create repeating patterns. Open up your paper to reveal the design. Paper cutting is a fun and creative activity. But it's important to stay safe. Here are some key safety tips to ensure a smooth and injury-free experience. Handling Sharp Tools Always handle sharp tools with care. Sharp tools include scissors, craft knives, and paper cutters. Use tools with sharp blades to avoid slipping. Keep your fingers away from the cutting line. Cut slowly and steadily for better control. If you're using a craft knife, opt for one with a protective cap. This reduces the risk of accidental cuts. Always retract the blade when not in use. Maintaining A Clean Workspace A clean workspace is essential for safe paper cutting. It helps you avoid accidents and improves your focus. Ensure your work area is well-lit. Keep tools and materials organized. Clear away any scraps or clutter immediately. Use a cutting mat to protect your work surface. This also helps in getting clean cuts. Do Don't Use sharp tools Use dull blades Organize your workspace Leave scraps around Cut slowly Rush your cuts Following these tips will keep you safe and make your paper cutting experience enjoyable. Paper cutting can be a delightful and calming hobby. With a few simple tools, you can create beautiful designs. In this section, we'll guide you through step-by-step projects. Whether you're a beginner or looking for a challenge, there's something for everyone. Beginner Projects Starting with easy projects can help build confidence. Here are some simple ideas to get you started. Basic Shapes: Begin with cutting basic shapes like circles, squares, and triangles. These are perfect for learning control and precision. Simple Silhouettes: Create silhouettes of animals or objects. Trace a drawing onto the paper and cut along the lines. Paper Snowflakes: Fold a square piece of paper into a triangle. Cut out small shapes from the edges. Unfold to reveal a beautiful snowflake. Advanced Projects Ready for more complex designs? These advanced projects will challenge your skills. Intricate Patterns: Try cutting detailed patterns or mandalas. Use a fine-tip blade for precision. 3D Paper Art: Create 3D models by cutting and folding paper. Follow detailed templates for best results. Layered Designs: Stack multiple layers of cut paper to form a picture. Each layer adds depth and detail. Adding colors and textures can make your paper cutting projects stand out. It transforms simple designs into eye-catching pieces. The right combination of colors and textures can elevate your artwork. In this section, we will explore how to enhance your paper cutting with colored paper and various textures. Using Colored Paper Using colored paper is a simple way to add vibrancy to your projects. Choose colors that complement each other. Bright colors can make your designs pop, while softer hues offer a subtle elegance. Here are some tips for using colored paper effectively: Mix and match different shades for depth. Contrast colors for a dramatic effect. Use patterns for added interest. Layer colors to create a 3D effect. Experiment with different types of colored paper. Try glossy, matte, and metallic finishes. Each type brings a unique look to your artwork. Incorporating Textures Adding textures can enhance the tactile quality of your paper cutting. Textures bring a new dimension to your designs. Here are some ways to incorporate textures: Use embossed paper for raised patterns. Try textured cardstock for a rich feel. Incorporate fabric elements for softness. Use vellum paper for a translucent effect. Combining different textures can create a layered and complex appearance. Use a variety of materials to see what works best for your project. Don't be afraid to experiment with unconventional textures like sandpaper or tissue paper. Colors and textures can transform a simple paper cutting project into a masterpiece. By using colored paper and incorporating textures, you can create unique and engaging art. Imagine holding a plain, unassuming sheet of paper; now imagine transforming that sheet into a stunning piece of art that leaves viewers awestruck. This is the magic of paper cutting art. It's an ancient practice that has been revived in the contemporary art scene, with artists creating intricate designs and sculptures that are truly a sight to behold. Whether you're a seasoned artist or a curious beginner, the art of paper cutting: exploring intricate designs and sculptures is a craft that's not only rewarding but also deeply therapeutic. So, let's get started on your journey into this delicate and intricate art form.Choose your paperAs you start your journey into the art of paper cutting, the first step is choosing the right paper. The paper you choose must be sturdy enough to hold the design, yet flexible enough for precision cutting. Here's a quick guide to help you find the perfect canvas for your intricate paper cutting art.Weight MattersWhen it comes to paper cutting, weight plays a significant role. Thicker paper—often referred to as cardstock—provides stability and is ideal for creating sculptures or designs that need to hold their shape. On the other hand, if your design is delicate with lots of intricate cuts, you might find lighter weight paper easier to handle.Texture TalksBelieve it or not, the feel of a paper can impact the end result of your artwork. Smooth papers are a great choice for beginners as they're easier to cut, but as you become more skilled in the art of paper cutting, exploring intricate designs and sculptures, don't shy away from textured papers. They can add an extra layer of depth and interest to your creations.Color CountsThe color of your paper can make a world of difference. While white or cream is a classic choice, vibrant colors can make your designs pop. Don't be afraid to experiment with different shades and even patterns—after all, part of the art of paper cutting involves exploring and pushing boundaries.Remember, the right paper can be the difference between a good piece and a great piece. So, spend some time, consider your options, and choose wisely. Happy cutting!Moving on to the next step in the art of paper cutting: choosing your cutting tools. Just like a chef needs a sharp knife, a paper cutting artist needs precise cutting tools. Let's explore the options available to you, shall we?Exacto KnivesExacto knives are a popular choice among paper cutting artists. They have a sharp, pointed blade which allows for precision cutting. Perfect for those intricate designs and sculptures. But remember, safety first—Always cover the blade when not in use.ScissorsYes, the humble pair of scissors! Scissors are great for larger cuts and shapes. They might not be the best for tiny, intricate details, but they're a staple in any paper cutting artist's toolbox.Swivel BladesSwivel blades are a little less known but are fantastic for cutting curves and circles with ease. If your design has a lot of twists and turns, a swivel blade could be your best friend.Choosing the right tools can often make or break your paper cutting experience. And remember, the best tool for you is the one you're most comfortable with. So, go ahead, try them out, and find your perfect match.Design your artworkNow that you've picked out your tools, it's time to dive into the heart of the art of paper cutting: designing your artwork. This stage is where your ideas come to life in the form of intricate designs and sculptures. Let's see how you can make it happen.Sketching your ideaEvery masterpiece starts with a simple sketch. Grab a pencil and paper and let your imagination run wild. Don't worry about perfect lines or shapes at this point; focus on capturing your idea. This sketch is your roadmap for the paper cutting journey ahead.Choosing a themeWhether it's nature, abstract shapes, or intricate mandalas, choosing a theme can give your paper art a cohesive feel. It can also be a great source of inspiration when you're not sure what to create.Creating a stencilOnce you're happy with your sketch, it's time to create a stencil. This step is like tracing your sketch onto a thicker piece of paper. It's this stencil that guides your knife or scissors and helps you create that perfect design.Designing your artwork is an exciting process. It's where you get to be creative and put your personal touch on your paper art. So, enjoy it, take your time, and remember, the journey is just as important as the destination.Practice cutting skillsOnce you've designed your artwork, it's time to perfect your cutting skills. The art of paper cutting requires precision, patience, and practice. The more you practice, the more intricate your designs and sculptures will become. Ready to get started?Start with simple shapesIt's a good idea to start small and simple. Practice cutting straight lines, circles, and triangles before moving onto more complex shapes. This will help you get a feel for your tools and understand how to apply the right pressure.Try different cutting techniquesDid you know there are different ways to hold and use a cutting tool? Some people prefer to cut towards themselves, while others find it easier to cut away. Try out different techniques to see what feels most comfortable for you.Practice on scrap paperDon't dive straight into your main project. Practice your cuts on scrap paper first. This allows you to make mistakes without ruining your artwork.Remember, practice makes perfect. Don't be discouraged if you don't get it right on the first, second, or even third try. Keep going, and before you know it, you'll be creating intricate paper art with ease.Learn folding techniquesWhen you're ready to move beyond flat designs, folding can add a whole new dimension to your paper cutting art. Exploring intricate designs and sculptures often involves some degree of folding. But don't worry, it's not as complicated as it sounds. Let's go through the basics together.Understand the fold typesThere are several types of folds you can use in your paper art. The most common ones are the valley fold (where the paper dips down like a U-shape) and the mountain fold (where the paper peaks up like an inverted U-shape). Try these on a piece of scrap paper to understand how they work.Mastery in symmetryMany paper cutting art designs involve symmetry. This is where folding becomes your best friend. For instance, if you want to create a heart or a butterfly, you would fold your paper in half and cut half the design. When you unfold it, you'll have a perfectly symmetrical shape.Creating three-dimensional shapesA flat piece of paper can turn into a three-dimensional work of art with a few clever folds and cuts. For example, you can create a cube by folding a square piece of paper in certain ways. It's like magic, isn't it?So, don't shy away from the fold. It's an essential technique in the art of paper cutting, especially when you're exploring intricate designs and sculptures.Master layering for depthNow that you're comfortable with folding, let's add another dimension to your paper cutting art: depth. Layering is a technique that allows you to create a sense of depth and volume in your designs, making them more captivating and dynamic. Let's explore how you can achieve this in your paper cutting art.Mix and Match Paper WeightsBegin by choosing papers of different weights. Lighter papers will seem further away while heavier papers will pop out, creating an impression of depth. Experiment with different combinations to see what works best for your particular design.Understanding Layering BasicsLayering in the art of paper cutting is like making a sandwich. You start with a base layer, add elements on top, and then seal it with another layer. This can be as simple as a background layer, a cut-out design, and a top layer. Or, you can go wild and add as many layers as you'd like—just remember to keep the balance.Playing with Light and ShadowsAnother interesting aspect of layering is how it plays with light and shadows. By strategically placing your layers, you can create fascinating shadow effects that add to the depth and intricacy of your paper sculptures. It's a little bit of science blended with a whole lot of art!Mastering the art of layering can truly take your paper cutting designs to the next level. So, don't be afraid to stack it up and watch your paper sculptures come to life!Experiment with colors and texturesLet's add a little more personality to your paper cutting art. Colors and textures can breathe life into your designs, making them more visually appealing. Plus, experimenting with different colors and textures can be a fun and rewarding part of the process. Here's how you can go about it.Choosing ColorsThink of colors as the mood setters of your artwork. Bright colors can evoke feelings of joy and energy, while cooler colors might create a sense of calm and tranquility. Try to choose colors that match the theme or emotion you want your paper cutting art to convey.Exploring TexturesTextures, on the other hand, are all about touch. Even though paper cutting art is mostly visual, incorporating different textures can make your designs more engaging. You could use textured paper, or create your own textures by layering or crumpling the paper. The possibilities are endless!Combining Colors and TexturesNow here's where the magic happens. Try combining different colors and textures to create unique effects in your paper cutting designs. Perhaps a rough, crumpled paper in a soft pastel color? Or a sleek, glossy paper in a vibrant hue? Don't be afraid to experiment and see what combinations you like best.Remember, the art of paper cutting: exploring intricate designs and sculptures is all about expressing your creativity. So feel free to play around with colors and textures until you find what works best for you. Happy experimenting!Apply Finishing TouchesThe final step in the art of paper cutting is to apply the finishing touches to your design. It's like the cherry on top of a sundae, that last little detail that makes your artwork truly stand out. Here's how you can polish your creations to perfection.Smoothing EdgesFinishing touches start with the basics: smooth edges. If parts of your cut out design have rough or jagged edges, take the time to smooth them out. You can do this with a craft knife or a pair of fine-tipped scissors. A clean, precise cut can make all the difference in the final look of your artwork.Adding EmbellishmentsNext, consider adding embellishments to your paper cutting art. This could be anything from glitter and sequins to small beads or even fabric pieces. Remember, less is often more when it comes to embellishments, so don't go overboard. Think of these extras as subtle accents that enhance your design, not overpower it.Sealing Your WorkFinally, you'll want to seal your work to protect it from dust and damage. A clear acrylic spray or a craft sealant can do the trick. Just make sure to test the sealant on a scrap piece of paper first to ensure it doesn't discolor your artwork.Adding the finishing touches is a crucial part of the art of paper cutting: exploring intricate designs and sculptures. It's the difference between a good piece and a great piece. So take your time, pay attention to the details, and watch your designs come to life.If you're fascinated by the world of intricate paper cutting art and want to learn more techniques, check out the workshop 'The Art of Paper Cut' by Mar Delmar. This workshop will provide you with the skills and knowledge to create your own stunning paper cut art pieces and expand your artistic horizons. If you're searching for a new hobby or already a fan of crafts and paper art, the fascinating world of paper cutting awaits you. The Adventures in Paper Cutting range is a great place to start. We developed this innovative paper cutting collection with paper artist Emma Boyes who shares her top tips for beginners in this video introduction to paper cutting. There's a FREE Paper Cutting Practice sheet to download too! Watch Emma Boyes' paper cutting tips for beginners Emma Boyes, renowned for her intricate and delicate designs, is one of the UK's most talented paper cutting artists. When we worked with Emma to create her first Adventures in Paper Cutting Series 1 Pad, we wanted to make it as accessible for beginners as we could, so the pad contains a practice sheet and three copies of each template. The template designs are sectioned for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced so you can work through the pad and see your paper cutting skills grow. This craft pad is an excellent resource for anyone eager to explore paper cutting techniques. Emma's Top Tips for Beginners To ensure a successful first foray into paper cutting, Emma shares crucial guidance that every beginner should know. Let's delve into these paper cutting tips: 1. Essential Paper Cutting Tools: For starters, you need a self-healing cutting mat and a sharp scalpel. The emphasis on a sharp blade is vital—it ensures cleaner, more precise cuts. 2. Practice Paper Cutting: Emma strongly advises starting with the practice sheet included in every pad. This gives you a feel for the paper and helps you understand how much pressure to apply. CLICK to download your FREE practice sheet! 3. Starting Your Paper Cutting Design: Emma suggests beginning in the centre of the design and focusing on the smallest pieces first. This approach minimises the chances of making a mistake after investing a lot of time in easier sections. 4. Apply Gentle Pressure: Apply light pressure when cutting. A hard press may lead to mistakes and hand fatigue. 5. Secure Your Paper Cut Design: While cutting, use your spare hand to hold the paper down close to the cut. This strengthens the paper and helps prevent tearing. 6. Cutting Curves in Paper Cutting: When cutting curves, rotate the paper, so you're always cutting towards yourself. Don't hesitate to stop and reposition your blade until you feel confident. 7. Removing Excess Paper: Remove the excess paper in sections using the tip of your blade, making it easier to manage. 8. Cutting Small Areas in Paper Cutting: For intricate shapes like circles, cut in sections while simultaneously rotating the paper. 9. Mistakes are Part of the Learning Process: If you cut too much, don't worry. The design will still look attractive. 10. Display Your Paper Cut Art: Display your finished paper cut on a contrasting background for maximum visual impact. 11. Share Your Paper Cut Creations: Don't forget to share your creations on social media using the hashtag #PaperCutCraftPad. Emma would love to see your work! Emma Boyes' Adventures in Paper Cutting Series is an excellent range for beginners looking to learn the art of paper cutting. With her practical tips, you'll have a strong foundation for your paper cutting journey. Remember, like any art form, paper cutting requires patience and practice. Take your time, enjoy the process, and you'll soon be creating intricate designs with ease. Happy paper cutting! Join our Facebook Group We'd love to see your paper cutting creations! Share your pics and get tips from our paper art community by joining our Facebook Group, Paper Art with Katy Sue Designs. You'll find regular posts from Emma, fellow beginners sharing their paper cutting questions and finished pieces, plus sneak peeks of upcoming new products. About Emma Boyes Emma Boyes is one of the UK's most talented paper cutting artists. She first put scalpel to paper in 2010 and quickly became a full time paper artist. She has exhibited her work throughout the UK and has created works of art for both private clients and commercially for companies such as Fossil and G F Smith. Emma works from her studio at home in the Lake District from where she often draws her inspiration. You can find Emma here:Instagram @emmaboyespapercreationsFacebook Paper Art with Katy Sue Designs Photo: Glenda Taylor for Bob Vila We may earn revenue from the products available on this page and participate in affiliate programs. Learn More › A paper cutter can cleanly cut paper, photographs, and other items more quickly and accurately than a pair of scissors. These tools create the crisp, straight lines that crafters, teachers, homeschoolers, and a host of remote professionals often need to make daily for work or school. We wanted to know which paper cutters were truly up to the task, so we decided to test today's top models. First, we analyzed dozens of paper cutters designed to accomplish various cutting tasks, then selected the highest-rated models to test. We sliced through hundreds of sheets of paper (individually and stacked), card stock, and cardboard. We even chopped a book in half! In testing the cutters, we discovered that some functions are more important than others. Unfortunately, not all the models we tested earned a spot on this lineup, and you can find which ones didn't make the cut (pun intended) under "Also Tested" below. This guide will explore the different types and cover the considerations to keep in mind while shopping. Ahead, learn more about our testing process and find out how the following models earned a spot in our lineup of the best paper cuttersfor most users. Photo: Glenda Taylor for Bob Vila Before we selected several paper cutters for hands-on testing, we researched more than 30 models to determine which ones were most likely to stand up to the cutting tasks of our readers. We looked at ratings and reviews, but we also carefully analyzed cost, weight, design, and safety features, keeping in mind that users' projects vary widely. Our actual testing process was relatively straightforward. We set the paper cutters up, assembled those that required assembly, and then checked to ensure all the parts were working as intended. Then we started cutting… One of our primary goals was to establish how easy it was to align the paper using markings or grids on the tool's cutting bed. We also focused on how well the device cut the maximum number of sheets based on the manufacturer's claims, and we noted whether the cutter offered guidelines for making common-size cuts. By the time we finished testing, we'd cut through four entire reams of printer paper, plus a ream of card stock, dozens of poster boards, and even a paperback book. Yes, one model was advertised as being able to cut through a book, so we tested it, and it sliced the book in half cleanly. We used a rubric and awarded points based on the quality of the materials, usefulness, design, and functionality. The better a cutter performed, the more points it earned. After testing, we added and averaged the points and used the results to help determine the best uses and categories for the cutters. Testing StatsProducts tested 9 Hours spent testing 2 to 3 Sheets of printer paper cut 2,000 Price range $50 to $350 The following paper cutters all scored well in our hands-on testing. While each offers a range of functions best suited to specific types of projects, all are among the best options for quality paper cutters. We cover the pros and cons of each model so our readers can make an informed buying decision. Photo: Amazon Sharp, smooth-cutting blade; easy to use and suitable for beginners as well as experienced crafters American Standard (ANSI) and European Standard (DIN) metric measurements. DIN measurements plus grid for precise sheet alignment Rubber stoppers on the bottom keep cutter from sliding Self-sharpening blade requires less maintenance than comparable options Safety latch could be tripped by older children Bottom of blade extends about 0.0625 inch below the cutting bed Type: Guillotine Cutting bed size: 18 inches long by 18 inches wide Maximum sheets: 15 (tested), 20 (claimed) Our Ratings: Ease of Use 5/5; Portability 5/5; Performance 5/5; Value 5/5 The guillotine paper cutter from X-Acto is ideal for cutting through various sheet materials, including paper, photographs, film, and poster board. This is the type of paper cutter we remembered from our school days, and it was every bit as precise at cutting a stack of 15 sheets of paper as it was when we cut a single sheet. We liked that it has horizontal and vertical grid markings in addition to two rulers—one near the top and another near the bottom of the cutting bed. The lines and markings made it easy to select the correct size when cutting and aligning the paper. This model provides a safety latch to keep the guillotine arm secure when it isn't in use. It also offers an additional safety guard rail adjacent to the blade to protect fingers during use. The solid wood base is sturdy and comes with rubber bumpers that kept the paper cutter from sliding on the table as we tested it. At 18 inches long by 18 inches wide, it is also generously sized for larger cutting projects. We found it to be well designed and accurate. We'd ask for a more secure safety latch if we had our druthers. With a bit of maneuvering, little fingers might be able to push the latch to the open position, which would allow full access to the blade. Plus, the bottom of the blade extends about 0.0625 inch below the cutting bed when closed and locked in place, so never position hands on the side with the blade when lifting the paper cutter. Overall, this paper cutter is a high-quality product that will hold up well to frequent use. Still, due to the inherent safety risks, we'd suggest limiting its use to home offices, craft rooms, or other areas with adult supervision. Get the X-Acto paper cutter at Amazon, OfficeSupply.com, or Zoro. Photo: Amazon Makes clean, precise cuts for paper, card, and photo sizes No exposed blade for safety; suitable for adult as well as children's crafts and projects Preprinted cutting sizes make it easy to find the right size when cutting Rubber feet on the bottom provide a secure hold during use No bar magnet to help hold paper while cutting Not designed for cutting large stacks of paper; lacks the durability of some other heavy-duty models Type: Rotary Cutting bed size: 18.18 inches long by 9 inches wide Maximum sheets: Up to 10 Our Ratings: Ease of Use 4/5;Portability 4/5; Performance 4/5; Value 4/5 There's no need to spend a lot for a quality paper cutter. This affordable model, made by Carl, boasts an 18-inch cut length and cuts up to 10 sheets of paper at once. It features a sharp blade that allows for clean, precise cuts, and it can slice through plastic sheeting, mat board, and photographs as well as paper. This was the first rotary cutter we tested, and we were impressed. While this is a relatively lightweight cutter—it weighs just 1 pound—it came with rubber stoppers on the bottom that held it firmly in place during cutting. The cutting bed is 18.18 inches long by 9 inches wide and comes with rulers along all four edges. Even better, it features alignment markings for common size cuts, such as 4-by-6-inch photos and 5-by-7-inch photos, as well as letter size, legal size, and more. We tested it on single sheets of paper and then on a stack of 10 sheets. It made clean-cut edges on both, although we had to hold the stacked sheets firmly to keep them from shifting when we cut. The rotary feature makes this paper cutter safer than a guillotine cutter—a better option for homes with young children. This model can be fitted with 11 different cutting blades (sold separately), including a perforated blade for creating a tear-off section or a scalloped blade for a pretty border on gift cards or scrapbook entries. We would have liked a magnet bar, such as those included with some of the other cutters we tested, which helps hold paper securely, but for the price, this is a good option for crafters, home offices, and homeschools. Get the Carl professional paper cutter at Amazon, Carl Manufacturing, or MyBinding.com. Photo: Staples Guidelines make cutting accurate angles easy Rubber feet keep the cutter from sliding or shifting during use DIN guidelines provide an advantage for some users when cutting No ANSI measurements, which is a downside for some users Type: Guillotine Cutting bed size: 22 inches long by 11 inches wide Maximum sheets: 13 (tested), 15 (claimed) Our Ratings: Ease of Use 5/5;Portability 4/5; Performance 4/5; Value 4/5 The Dahle 534 trimmer looks like many other guillotine paper cutters at first glance, but as we inspected it more carefully, we noticed a series of angled guidelines on the cutting mat that allowed us to trim paper and card stock at precise 15-, 30-, 45-, 60-, and 70-degree angles. The 534 also offers guidelines for other square and rectangular sizes, but there we found it slightly lacking. The rectangular guides on the cutting mat of the 534 are listed in DIN sizes (millimeters), which are slightly off from the sizes most Americans are familiar with. For example, on the 534, we found a rectangular guideline for A4-size paper labeled 210 by 297 millimeters. While this is similar to U.S. letter-size paper that measures 8.5 by 11 inches, A4 paper is about .24 inches narrower and .5 inches longer. Rulers at the top and bottom of the cutting mat, however, offer both millimeters and inches. The cutting bed measures 22 inches long by 11 inches wide, and the base has rubber feet that keep it from sliding during test cuts. The manufacturer claims the 534 can cut up to 15 sheets of paper, but we found it topped out at 13 sheets. Every time we added one more sheet, the cutter pulled on the stack of 14, and the cut edges were slightly uneven. A plus for the 534 is the inclusion of a bar magnet that helps hold a sheet of paper in place while cutting, and even though the guillotine blade does not come with a safety latch, it takes a firm pull to raise the blade, which we felt a toddler probably could not do. Plus, it has a plastic guard next to the blade, which keeps fingers from sliding under it. This is an excellent paper cutter, but this is not the best option if shoppers are looking for U.S.-standard guidelines. Get the Dahle 534 paper cutter at Staples, Quill.com, or B&H Photo. Photo: Amazon Rotary cutting mechanism is safer because the blade isn't exposed Very big cutting bed is suitable for sizeable projects and large paper Rubber feet keep it from sliding or shifting during use Magnet bar helps hold the paper in place for ease of use and accuracy Large size takes up more space than other models; may be hard to store between uses Type: Rotary Cutting bed size: 28 inches long by 12 inches wide Maximum sheets: 20 Our Ratings: Ease of Use 4.5/5;Portability 2/5; Performance 5/5; Value 4/5 This oversize paper cutter offers everything we can envision a teacher might need when cutting paper, card stock, and photos. It features a precise cutting blade, and because it doesn't have a guillotine bar, it may be a safer option for students. The manufacturer claims it will cut up to 20 sheets of paper at a time, and our testing verified that it could—with clean, straight cuts. Unlike some other rotary paper cutters where the user must apply downward pressure on the blade housing to engage the blade, all we had to do was slide the housing from one end of the cutter to the other to cut through the paper. A sturdy metal base helps keep the paper cutter from sliding around and likely adds to its durability and longevity. The work surface measures a large 28 inches long by 12 inches wide, which is suitable for various cutting projects. Like the other Dahle cutter we tested, the 554 features metric DIN measurements and guidelines—but it also boasts ANSI measurements and template guidelines. This is a very nice paper cutter, and we were impressed by its performance and safe-use aspect. Get the Dahle 554 paper cutter at Amazon, B&H Photo, or Today's Classroom. Photo: Amazon Locking rail keeps paper from shifting during the cutting process Can create straight cuts or perforated, tear-off sections by switching blades Side, top, and bottom rulers feature both ANSI and DIN measurements Weak magnet didn't adhere well to the steel cutting bed Type: Rotary Cutting bed size: 18 inches long by 12 inches wide Maximum sheets: 25 (as tested), 36 (claimed) Our Ratings: Ease of Use 4/5;Portability 5/5; Performance 4/5; Value 4/5 Those looking for a multiple-sheet rotary paper cutter should consider this option by Carl Manufacturing. It comes with a handy locking bar that raises to slide papers under the guide and then locks them in place during the cutting process. We found this especially helpful when cutting thicker stacks of paper sheets. The manufacturer claims this cutter can handle up to 36 sheets of paper. We verified that in our tests, but at 36 sheets, the very ends of the cut edges were just slightly uneven. When we reduced the number of sheets to 25, the cut edges were clean with no pulling or tearing. The base alignment grid helps ensure precision and includes measurements for cutting common items, such as photographs and standard paper sizes. Rulers along the side, top, and bottom feature both ANSI and DIN measurements. The overall dimensions of the cutting bed are 18 inches long by 12 inches wide. A perforated blade, a straight blade, and a storage compartment to hold extra blades are included. After replacing the existing blade with the perforated blade, we were able to create tear-off sections on papers. A slight downside: The magnetic bar guide didn't have much holding power. The magnet seemed weak, and a slight bump would cause the bar to slide out of alignment. Fortunately, the magnet bar isn't necessary since the Carl paper cutter has the locking rail that holds the sheets when cutting. We consider this a good multipurpose cutter for regular paper, card stock, photos, and even cardboard, but we would limit the number of sheets to around 25 for the best results. Get the Carl heavy-duty paper cutter at Amazon or Carl Manufacturing. Photo: Amazon Lightweight (under 12 ounces) and small for portability and storage Cuts card stock and photos as well as 8 sheets of paper cleanly Angled guides for cutting accurate 45-, 60-, 75-, and 90-degree angles May not be suitable for some users' preferences; not designed for heavy-duty use Type: Rotary Cutting bed size: 12 inches long by 4 inches wide (12 inches long by 13.5 inches wide when extended) Maximum sheets: 8 (tested), 12 (claimed) Our Ratings: Ease of Use 4/5;Portability 5/5; Performance 4/5; Value 4/5 This rotary paper cutter by Firbon is designed to cut through various materials typically involved in scrapbooking projects, including paper, cards, scrapbooking mats, and laminated items. The usable portion of the cutting bed measures 12 inches long by 4 inches wide, and the ruler at the top and the bottom of the bed offer both ANSI and DIN measurements. A foldout ruler along the side extends the cutting width to 13.5 inches for larger projects. The Firbon also has handy angle guides for making various common cut sizes. While the manufacturer claims the cutter can handle up to 12 sheets of paper, we found that it cuts best with eight or fewer sheets. At more than eight, the blade pulls the sheets slightly and leaves ragged edges. Still, this is a nice little cutter for light-duty projects and will fit in most tote bags for easy carrying. It's a simple, no-frills paper cutter that we feel is well suited for small craft or household projects. Get the Firbon paper cutter at Amazon or ArtBeek. Photo: Amazon Slices cleanly through large stacks of paper; designed for heavy-duty use Solid construction, substantial weight, and rubber feet mean no sliding when cutting Both DIN and ANSI measurements included; offers a variety of cutting angles Cutting through large stacks requires some physical strength Expensive compared to other options on this list Type: Guillotine Cutting bed size: 21 inches long by 15 inches wide Maximum sheets: Up to 1.5-inch-thick stack (approximately 400 sheets) Our Ratings: Ease of Use 3/5;Portability 3/5; Performance 5/5; Value 4/5 Here comes the big boy of paper cutting! The first thing we noticed about this model was its weight—a beefy 35.5 pounds. That heft plus large rubber feet keep the cutter from sliding during use, and such stability is necessary for cutting thick stacks of paper. Unlike the other cutters we tested, the HFS has a bit of a learning curve, but once we understood how it operated, we found it straightforward to use. The HFS features knobs, buttons, clamps, and handles, all of which adjust to hold various-size stacks of paper firmly when cutting. The manufacturer claims the HFS will cut up to 400 sheets—or a 1.5-inch stack of paper. We didn't count the sheets in our stack, but we did measure a 1.5-inch stack for testing. It took half a dozen tries to cut the stack—the thickness made it physically challenging to lower the handle that controls the blade. Eventually, we discovered that lowering the handle as quickly as we could—almost jerking it—let us slice through the stack cleanly and with ease. We were impressed! Then, we cut a paperback book, and the HFS did the job, leaving the edges of the pages straight and clean. The cutting bed measures 21 inches long by 15 inches wide and comes with metric and ANSI markings, making it versatile for most users. The large steel handle is removable for storage, and the cutter features an on-deck tool holder for stowing the small wrenches (included) needed to assemble the cutter. Get the HFS paper cutter at Amazon. Photo: Amazon 18-inch-square cutting bed is suitable for many paper sizes Cuts multiple sheets cleanly; holds up to 15 sheets at a time Both ANSI and DIN measurements on the ruler for accuracy; can cut multiple angles No rubber feet; cutter tends to slide when the arm is lifted/lowered Safety latch disengages easily; not ideal for use around children Type: Guillotine Cutting bed size: 18 inches long by 18 inches wide Maximum sheets: 19 (tested), 15 (claimed) Our Ratings: Ease of Use 3/5;Portability 4/5; Performance 5/5; Value 4/5 For accurate, precise cuts in a traditional guillotine cutter, check out Swingline's ClassicCut model. This cutter is billed at being able to cut up to 15 sheets of paper at once, and we can verify that it does that very well. In fact, we were able to add a few more sheets (19 total) and still get sharp, clean cuts. The cutting bed features solid wood for an old-school look and a grid that makes it simple to align the paper squarely. The ruler along the top offers measurements in both ANSI and DIN. The guillotine arm features a spring that keeps the arm from falling when it's raised, which adds a measure of safety, but we wouldn't recommend this paper cutter for classes or homes with small children. A small wire latch slips over the handle to keep it from being lifted, but it doesn't offer much protection as it's simple to move out of the way. Another downside: The Swingline cutter doesn't have rubber feet; consider using it on a nonslip surface, such as a rubber pad, to keep it in place. Get the Swingline paper cutter at Amazon, OfficeSupply.com, or MyBinding.com. We've long been fans of Fiskars scissors and rotary hand cutters, but the Fiskars SureCut Deluxe Paper Trimmer didn't live up to our high standards. While we liked the guidelines on the cutting mat for making stock photo and business-card-size cuts, the cutting blade wasn't sharp enough to make crisp, clean cuts on more than two pieces of stacked paper—we ended up with ragged edges. We also discovered the fold-out ruler, which is supposed to extend the cutting width measurement up to 15 inches, was challenging to extend fully. It was supposed to snap into place via a small plastic guide on the underside of the cutter, but when we tried to snap it into place, the plastic guide broke off. We liked the rubber feet on the bottom of the cutter, which kept it from sliding around during use, but overall, it didn't score high enough to be among our top picks. We respect the Fiskars brand and look forward to testing an upgraded and improved model of this lightweight and versatile paper cutter. In addition to the four types of paper cutters described above, it's essential to consider various features before selecting the best paper cutter for particular tasks and projects. Paper cutters are available in different sizes, offer other cutting mechanisms, and include various safety features. Shoppers will want to think about these features and decide what suits their needs best. Paper cutters come in four main types: rotary, guillotine, stack, and electric. Each type offers different features and is best suited for specific tasks. Understanding the uses and applications for each of these types can assist shoppers in selecting the best paper cutter for their needs. Rotary Rotary paper cutters are sometimes referred to as paper trimmers. These models feature a sliding blade that can simultaneously cut through a few sheets of paper. The cutting mat on a rotary paper cutter includes a grid design to help users accurately line up each sheet of paper for a precise cut. The grids on some rotary paper cutters also have guidelines extending from the blade at various angles to help make more intricate cuts. The biggest downside of a rotary cutter is that most can't cut through as much paper at a time as a stack or a guillotine model. Some rotary paper cutters may be able to cut through up to 10 sheets at once but are most accurate when cutting only one or two sheets at a time. Guillotine paper cutters are a popular choice for schools, offices, and individuals who need to cut larger quantities of paper quickly. The design features a long arm attached to a cutting blade that the user pulls down to slice through a single sheet or stack of paper. To prevent injuries or premature cutting, the blade is often designed with a tension spring that keeps it in place until it is pulled down. Guillotine paper cutters are available in various sizes to accommodate situations ranging from cutting large sheets of stiff construction paper to trimming thin copy paper. In these instances, they can cut up to approximately 30 sheets of paper at once. Another benefit of guillotine paper cutters is they can easily cut through thicker items, such as card stock or poster board. Stack Stack paper cutters offer one of the largest cutting capacities among the types. Many stack cutters can slice through an entire ream of paper—500 sheets—at once. Rotary and guillotine paper cutters can generally only cut through up to 30 sheets of paper at once, so a stack paper cutter can save tremendous amounts of time for folks who regularly need to cut through a massive amount of paper at once. Stack paper cutters are a subset of guillotine paper cutters; they have a long arm with a cutting blade that the user pulls down to slice through a stack of paper. The primary difference, however, is stack paper cutters have one or more heavy-duty clamps to hold the stack in place and a sharper blade to cut through hundreds of sheets of paper with one pass. We were able to slice cleanly through a paperback book with the stack cutter we tested. The downside is that the thicker the stack, the more physical strength the user needs to pull the blade arm down. Electric paper cutters are the most advanced—and the priciest—option to consider. These models feature an automatic motor that powers the paper cutter to slice through a stack of paper. The capacity of each electric paper cutter varies, but some options can cut over 500 sheets of paper at once. Some electric paper cutters are also programmable. With these models, users can create and save different cuts for future use by programming a set of steps for the paper cutter to follow to create the desired finished product. Paper cutters are available in a wide variety of sizes, ranging from compact options, which are only a few inches wide and about as long as a standard sheet of paper, to larger models designed to cut full sheets of construction paper or poster board. Shoppers will want to consider two main points when deciding on the best size of paper cutter for them. First, they'll want to determine how they plan to use the paper cutter, such as the types and sizes of materials they'll be cutting. Second, they may want to determine how much space they have to store and use the paper cutter. In addition, many of the newer-style paper cutters come with popular paper-size guidelines on the cutting mat, so users can quickly cut a standard 8-by-12-inch letter-size sheet or a 4-by-6-inch photo size. These guidelines often appear in ANSI measurements, but some can be found in European Standard (DIN) metric measurements. Those considering a stack or guillotine paper cutter should pay close attention to arm design. The arm on paper cutters pulls down to slice through the paper; however, quality products are distinguished by a tension mechanism that prevents the arm from coming down accidentally on its own. This is an important safety feature because if the arm comes down while the user is still positioning the paper, the blade could cut in the wrong spot or, even worse, injure the user. Stack and guillotine paper cutters feature an extendable arm with a blade that pulls down to cut through paper. Users will often have to put more pressure on the blade to slice through a larger stack of paper. Rotary paper cutters have a sliding blade. This blade type is often used for precise cutting needs, such as trimming photos for scrapbooking. Sliding blades don't cut as well through multiple sheets of paper at once. Two types of metal are most commonly used to craft a cutting blade: steel and titanium. Steel is very durable and inexpensive; however, it will need to be sharpened regularly to keep the edge. Many of today's guillotine cutters have self-sharpening blades—with every cut, the blade's edge skims the steel base at an angle that helps keep the blade sharp. Titanium may also be self-sharpening and even more durable than steel blades, but they are also more expensive. The blade on a guillotine paper cutter is located on one side of the base, and most cutters of this type come with a safety latch that secures the blade in the closed position to prevent accidental injuries. The blade on a rotary paper cutter is underneath the sliding housing. Some blades are slightly exposed at the edges, while the blade's housing entirely protects others. Those looking for a safe cutter that children can use for crafting projects will want to choose one where the housing completely encompasses the blade to reduce the risk of injury. The blade on a stack paper cutter is generally located on the far side of the clamp to position the user farther away from it. Stack paper cutters are usually designed with a guard to keep the exposed side of the blade covered. Paper cutters have very sharp blades that can cause serious injury if not used correctly. Selecting a model that includes a variety of safety features to prevent accidental injury is essential. One primary safety feature to consider is a locking latch for the arm of a guillotine or stack paper cutter. This will keep young children and others from touching the blade and possibly being injured. Guillotine paper cutters should also have a tension spring, sometimes called a safety spring, that prevents the blade from coming down unless it is pulled. Rotary paper cutters are sometimes designed with transparent cutting surfaces. This feature can improve visibility when cutting and prevent mishaps. Rotary paper cutters have a smaller blade than guillotine paper cutters, but the blade is still very sharp. The blade on some rotary paper cutters won't work unless the housing is pressed down, which offers an additional measure of safety. Stack paper cutters have the potential to be very dangerous. Their sharp blades are designed to cut through a large stack of papers and could easily cause harm to children or adults. When not in use, stack paper cutters often lock in place and are relatively safe. The danger comes during use, and the operator should treat the cutter as a power tool—it should not be used when small children are present, and older children should only use it with adult supervision. Nonslip feet are another safety feature on a paper cutter as they will keep the cutter from sliding around during use, hopefully reducing the risk of injury. Gridlines with marked measurements are vital for creating accurate and even cuts. Consider a paper cutter with a ruler along the top or side of the gridlines to help line up each cut. Users will want to identify whether the measurements are in inches, metrics, or both so they'll be familiar with the model they purchase. Some paper cutters also feature a fold-out expandable ruler for additional accuracy and support. Paper cutters are certainly handy tools. They accurately and cleanly cut through multiple sheets of paper at once to assist with crafting needs and tasks for teaching, making presentations, and other purposes. If you still have questions about paper cutters, take a moment to read through these frequently asked questions and their corresponding answers. Q. Who invented a paper cutter? Guillaume Massiquot patented the first paper cutter in 1844; however, one of the first models was built in 1837 by Thirault. His paper cutter design featured a flat surface with a fixed blade. Q. How do you cut straight with a paper cutter? To cut a straight line with a paper cutter, using the grid lines on the cutting bed to align the paper is essential. Once the paper is correctly aligned, either pull down the arm or slide the trimmer blade to cut, depending on the type of paper cutter. Glenda Taylor is a product tester and writer specializing in the construction, remodeling, and real estate industries. She and her husband own a general contracting company, and Taylor is experienced in both residential and commercial building applications. She tests a wide range of power tools as well as other home improvement, household, and lawn-and-garden products. Additional research provided by Deirdre Mundorf.   Whether you're selling or staying, everyone can get something out of a kitchen update. Learn why we consider this renovation the Most Valuable Project of 2025 and how to stay on budget.   We really want to encourage you to have a go at paper cutting yourself, and we'll be sharing the key things you need to know to get started. This 'top tips' post is a real gem! As ever, we asked some lovely UK crafters to share their tips for beginners - and these amazing papercutters have been so generous in their advice. They have helped to create what I hope is a fantastic resource for anyone wanting to learn paper cutting themselves. Read on and take on board their insights! Don't blutack papercuts to the wall if you want to get them off in one piece. Also, paper bends easily under the weight of a human, so check chairs for papercuts before sitting down. It's usually best to draw your design in a mirror before cutting, especially if you have words on it, to make sure everything's the right way round. Also make sure everything's connected in your design, so your piece stays together! Getting a good mat is so useful. I use the Xcut self-healing mat. It isn't too hard, so you don't break your blade and it doesn't get covered in cutting marks. Bronwen from Bronwen's Paper (@bronwenspaper) I'd say my number one piece of advice, is before you begin cutting, consider the piece you're going to cut as a whole - as in, how every part of the image relates to the other parts structurally, and cut out the smallest/most intricate parts first. The more that is cut out of a piece of paper, the more unstable the remaining paper becomes. So although it's tempting to dive right in and cut out the largest parts first, this results in being left with trying to cut out the more fiddly parts from paper that is now much more delicate or easily torn.Secondly, although the vast bulk of cutting is done with a craft knife, needles are great little tools that most people already have at home, and can be used to create great effects, depending on what's going on in your artwork. I use a little craft hammer flat against a cutting mat to tap the needle through the paper, so as not to bend the paper by holding it up to push the needle through. Caroline Argo Photo: Caroline Argo Firstly just be careful, scalpel blade cuts aren't very pleasant so just be mindful of what you are doing. If you drop your scalpel resist every reflexive urge you have to catch it, that's a lesson I learnt the hard way! But at the same time don't be afraid of the blade it's amazing what you can do and having confidence is really key when handling something that is surgically sharp. When you first start you might find that your back/shoulders ache too and I take regular breaks and do a little gentle yoga to help stretch out and I also swim 2-3 times a week to give my core some strength as you spend a lot of time hunched over. Lastly a word of caution! Papercutting is addictive! I started cutting in 2010 and literally haven't stopped so enjoy your new obsession! Charlotte Trimm from By Charlie's Hand (@bycharlieshand) My number one tip of someone starting out is make sure you have a scalpel that has replaceable blades and remember to change your blade often. It is when your blade is blunt that tears or accidents normally happen. Emily Hogarth (@emilyhogarth) I think one of my top tips for anyone trying paper cutting for the first time would be to wrap a plaster around the blade handle for an instant mini cushion. It will help stop your fingers from aching, as it's natural to grip quite hard when starting out, until you get the feel of cutting. Also, use a cork on the end of the blade for instant safe storing. (Best excuse ever to pop open the vino!) Lisa Jay Photo: Lisa Jay If you're cutting out a preprinted template and you start veering away from the line, don't panic, just go with it and gradually bring the blade back to the intended line. Embrace those little wobbles, as they'll give the finished piece character and stop it looking like something that was cut by a machine! Lucy Nichols from Lucy Dorothy (@lucydorothyart) Photo: Lucy Dorothy My top tip would be to cut the details and inner most parts of your design first, and work outwards. That way there's less chance of your design tearing and it stays more stable whilst cutting. Rebekah Marsh from GlimpsingLight (@glimpsinglight) So my top tips for beginners would be to find the right knife that feels comfortable in your hand, and one that has replaceable blades, this might mean trying out a few brands but its worth giving them ago. Some recommendations from me would be the Swann Morton No.3 handle and 10a blades or the Excel knife. Next tip would be to cut from paper that's between 120 - 160gsm thickness anything thicker than you will find it very hard work on your hands, anything thinner and the paper could rip easily. Samantha A Sherring from SAS Creative (@sas_creative) Add colour to the reverse of your papercuts to make them stand out. Simply photocopy the back of your finished cut onto everyday paper and use this copy as a template. Place it on top of coloured paper and cut through both pieces, then glue the coloured shape to the reverse of your papercut. Place a desk lamp (ideally with a daylight bulb) in front of your cutting hand so the shadows fall behind your hand and don't mask your view of the template. Sarah King (@appleseedpapercuts) You don't have to be good at drawing to papercut. There's lots of papercutting templates available, if you don't like drawing your own. Most you can download instantly, and can use unlimited times to practice! There's plenty to choose from on Etsy! The Paper Roses Photo: The Paper Roses What a wealth of information that was! Thank you so much to our lovely paper cutters, and please do go and click on the links and check out more of their work. Rachel x Cosy Craft Club is a craft box subscription - receive a beautiful kit to try a different craft every month! All our kits are suitable for beginners and contain everything you need to sit down and get crafting. Our kits are also available to purchase individually (subject to availability). blog, top, tips, paper, cutting, beginners