

OPEN HEART SURGERY (from stencil instructions)

By attaching two half-hearts to a folded element you can make the heart open up in various ways. Inside the heart you can put a special message or photographs.

First you will need to make two halves. In this project the heart will be hinged on the left and open like a book. Since the hearts will be the dominant shape, the teardrops will be cut to make each half. For one half-heart you will need 1 **H2**, 1 **H3**, 1 **H4**, 1 **T2**, 2 **T3**, and 2 **T4**. Score each teardrop in the center, and skipping over one section to the right or left remove the rest of the piece. (I like to make a set that is cut right and left so that I can put the pretty side out on both teardrop pairs. You could also cut them all to one side.)

Assemble each heart in the normal way with all the cut ends of the teardrop pieces on each half facing in the same direction, forming tabs.

Fold the cut ends (tabs) over to lie against the hearts as shown and trim off the areas that overlap or stick out as indicated by the dashed lines. Glue about 12" of ribbon on the right end of one half-heart and on the left of the other. Using the stencil, trace two overlapping **H2** hearts on medium weight paper; score in the center and cut out the hearts. (Cut a bit inside the line to make the folded hearts a little smaller than the heart halves.) A guide of two perpendicular lines will help you line up the hearts and the overlap scoreline which should be with the grain of the paper. You should add any message or decoration for the inside of the heart at this point before the final assembly.

Score along the vertical line in the center of the overlapped hearts. Fold in half and glue a half-heart to the back side of the folded heart piece. Trim a little piece of the **H2** where it extends beyond the fold. Glue the second half-heart to the front. Don't trim. Finish with a bow or slip bead.

TIPS-If you can keep the paper from squirming when you cut you can position the heart over the edge of a folded piece of paper, trace, and cut both layers together.

To make a border around the heart, cut wide around another traced heart and glue this behind the front half-heart before gluing it to the hinged piece.

SOME MORE IDEAS

Instead of closing the heart with ribbons you can make a small hole in the center near the top of each half-heart; put a hanging cord through both halves, and tie the cord ends together. The weight of the heart will keep it closed when hanging. You can also add a slider bead on the cord.

Hang charms or beads from the heart wherever you like.

As long as the holes can be hidden, you can hang ribbons from any part of the heart.

Try making a heart that is hinged on the top instead of the side, or one that opens on the teardrops instead of the hearts.

