

INTRODUCING HASTY LACE

My second love is paper engineering – my first is bobbin lace. When I saw a technique that looked like cross stitch when seen at an angle, I decided to try it. The technique uses the Pergamano® Easy Grid and involves poking holes through translucent vellum that is placed on top. Having to count out each hole from a pattern proved to be frustrating as it took try after try to get the pattern right. I set this aside.

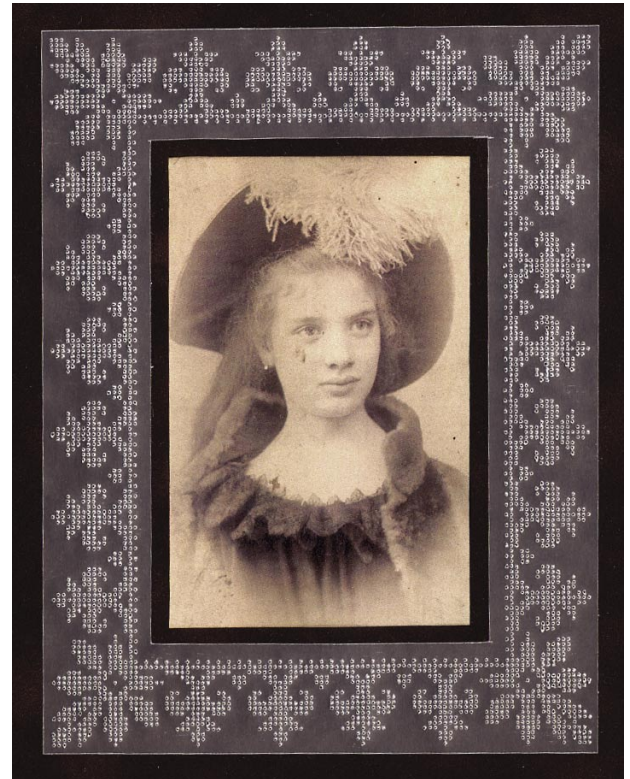
Later, when we started producing stencils I realized that if I had a template with the holes in the right place, it would make the technique enjoyable and accessible to all crafters.

Working with the templates proved to be more fun than I had anticipated. With one template you can extend and rearrange the pattern in an infinite number of ways. (There is no escape from the wonderful world of mathematics.)

Another bonus was in the mounting of the perforated paper. I like to use a thin translucent vellum and mount it with a double-sided tape to a piece of suede paper. This gives the design more contrast.

You can also use the templates to make embossed dots, or pierce any paper you like which can then be adorned with embroidery. There are a lot of creative options with a very modest collection of tools, templates and paper.

Click on the new Hasty Lace button on the website to see examples of what can be done.



My great grandmother in a great frame.



Gold pierced paper made into a cube.



Ask Sandy

Q: I have received a lot of questions via email about using the dies. Which machine to use, what to do with the foam, where is the foam, the dies aren't cutting through the paper, etc., etc., etc.

A: Here are my latest tricks.

First of all, the dies cut by squishing; it's as simple as that. If there is too little pressure on the die it won't cut. If there is too much pressure on the die it won't go through the machine. Adjust the thickness of the cutting sandwich by adding or subtracting shims. The shims might be pieces of plastic, card stock, or any firm material of an appropriate thickness.

All of the dies can be cut in the Sizzix machine with a few adjustments. If you are cutting one of the larger dies, take the converter out. Fill the space from underneath with extra cutting boards or anything solid, flat, smooth and level. You may have to make more than one cut. If it is skipping somewhere, put another piece of cover stock on top of the trouble spot.

For the small and medium dies, but not the large ones, you can use a small roll-through machine like the Sidekick®. You can use any of the larger roll-through machines, such as the Wizard®, for all of the dies.

You can use the QuicKutz® machine for the smallest dies, but you must cover the dies with foam to avoid damaging the cutting pad and the die. However, with other presses, I now recommend against using foam. Rubbing the dies with waxed paper or marble polish helps to release the piece of cut paper. If there are small cutout elements (snowflakes, Eiffel Tower) leave the paper that stays in the die and just cut the next piece right over it. If this doesn't cut well, clean the die and cut a thinner piece of paper along with the thicker one and leave the thin one in the die. This fills up the die enough to make it easier to get the cut pieces out. One great advantage to not using foam is that the paper will be held in place if you need to press again to cut through completely.

The dies are flexible and you can flex them back and forth to loosen the paper. This is usually all you need to do with the large and medium dies to release the cut piece.

A few more tricks are to throw the die face-down on the table to knock the paper loose, or to stick a piece of tape on the paper to pull it out.

If all else fails use a pin to stab and lift an edge to remove the piece of paper. With heavy paper the tiny hole won't show on the other side.

Cutting Plastic – You must cut against a material that is harder than the one you are trying to cut. Most of the cutting boards are softer than Mylar® (an excellent material for snow globes). You need to cut against polycarbonate which is a harder plastic. We sell shims that are made of this material, or you can have some cut at a plastics supplier.



Large and Small Snowmen, the newest models from SAR.



Upcoming

NEW DOVE

A larger version of the bird from the Things on Wings stamp set is in the works. There are many scores that need to be made accurately for this model but dies do not make them properly. For that reason the model is going to be made available as a stencil which has channels to guide the scoring. This is a good model for a stencil, as the bird requires very little cutting and has no slots.

The dove is sized perfectly to be an ornament and it will be collapsable for easy storage. (Great gift idea.) It also will be a fun item to take on holiday visits to entertain adults and children alike.

It should be appearing on the Stencil page in the next week or two.



Dove ornament decorated with feathers.

IMPROVED WEBSITE

We are planning some major overhauls for the website. They should make it easier to find products and to see the various formats that are available for each model. I am really excited about this project! When it will be ready is beyond my control – it always seems to take forever.

LOVE NOTE BOOKMARK

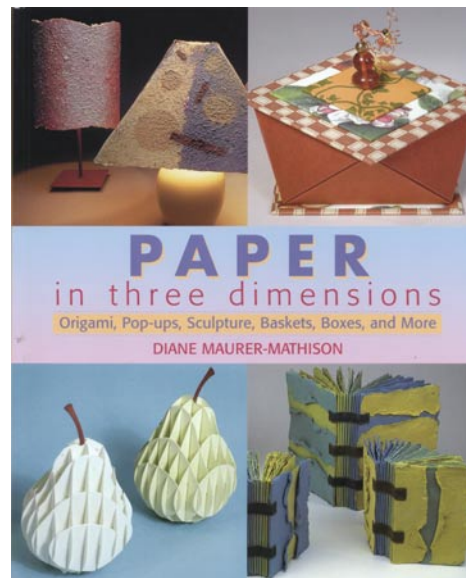
There is a special project in the current issue of *Bound & Lettered*. The pattern and instructions are included. The little book can be customized with several pages and your own message. It can either fold flat or close like a book. The magazine (Volume 5, Number 4) is available from John Neal Books at <http://www.johnnealbooks.com>



Love Note Bookmark

PEARS ON COVER

This lovely book has a chapter on the making of the Eiffel Tower that shows how I developed the design from scratch (postcards, to be exact). That little ET is responsible for getting me hooked on sliceforms!





The Ultimate Pop-Up Card

For fast and efficient card making this design just can't be beat. It has to be the simplest pop-up mechanism ever! The card appears in the Cool Projects for the Eiffel Tower and for the Little Egg which has two projects. These patterns (download and print right on the paper you want to use) are great if they are the size you need. The Simple Egg card accommodates the smallest models and makes a fabulous gift tag with a huge surprise inside. The Eiffel Tower card is just right for the large models.

The diagram to the right shows the dimensions for the Eiffel Tower card. Start with an $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 11''$ piece of cover stock, score on the dashed lines and cut on the solid lines as shown.

Fold the card in half and open it back up. Fold the bottom portion of the card up and coax the inner section to fold outward as you fold the card in half again.

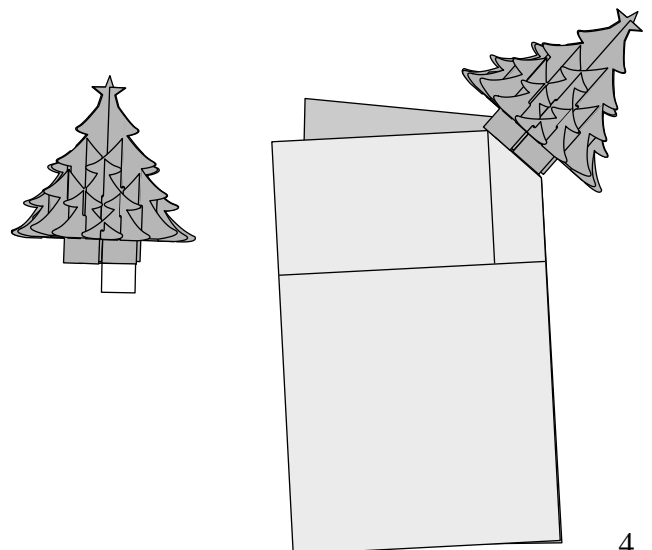
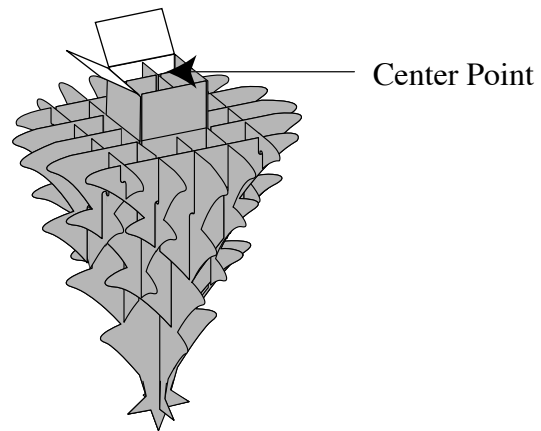
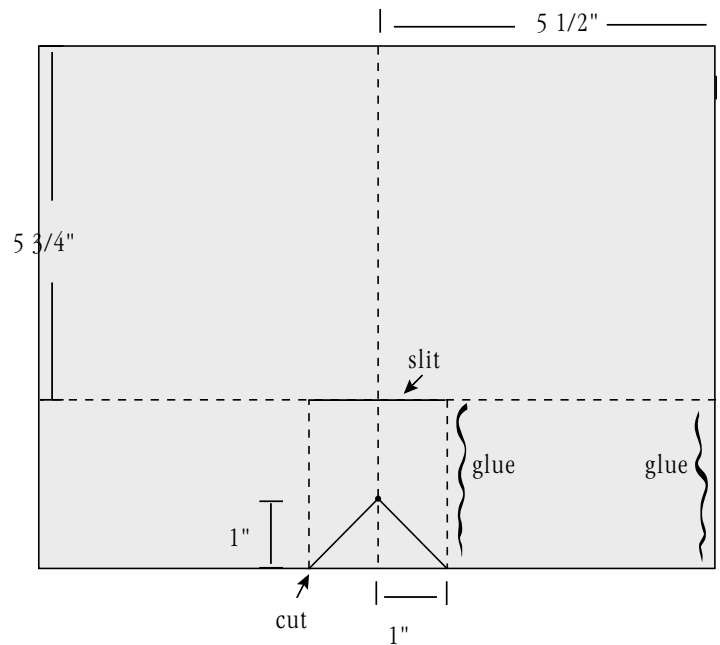
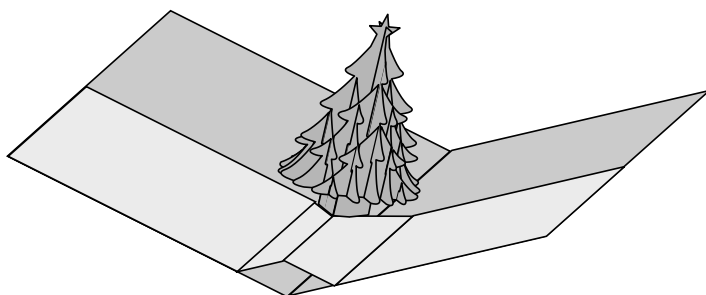
Anything you put in the card needs to be attached with tabs. Any of the flat-bottomed models work very well, and the ones that are slightly rounded (Pear, Egg Earring, Medium Egg) can be trimmed flat by collapsing the model and cutting across the bottom.

Make two tabs to fit behind the trunk for the tree or an equivalent place on other models. Glue them onto the model on two adjacent sides.

To attach a tree or other model, unfold the card and fold it in the center again, leaving it open a bit. Fold the tree in half so that one tab is on top of the other. Put some glue on the outsides of the tabs, and fit the tree into the "V" of the card as shown below.

When the glue is dry enough to move the tree, open the card and fold up the lower portion. Glue the bottom portion to the main portion of the card, placing the glue along the fold and the edge. The folded up sections can be used as pockets in the card.

The finished card will look like this.



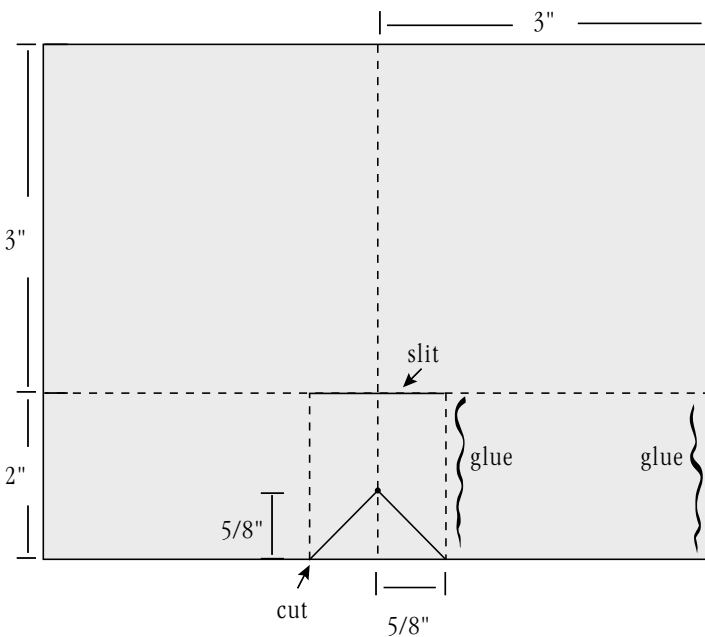
The coolest thing about this card is that you can make it any size or shape you like. All you need is a vertical score to fold the card in half and a conveniently located horizontal score line. Measure a distance to the right from the center score line and make a vertical score that is parallel to the center line and stops at the horizontal line. Measure the same distance from the edge of the card along the vertical line and mark a point. Cut a “V” from the point to the edge of the card where the short vertical line meets the edge of the paper. Cut a slit along the horizontal line from one short vertical score to the other. That’s it.

To avoid a lumpy card when it is closed, use heavier paper for the card and lighter paper for the model inside.

You can use this card design for other sizes too. The one shown below uses a piece of paper 6” x 5” and works very well for the Small Snowman or the Cute Little Tree. It can be used for a greeting card or gift tag.



This fabulous example by Gale Barbieri incorporates a couch with grandkids. The couch is a standard “V” mechanism.



This card by Susan Uncle (4” x 4.5”) uses the small cake plus a tree and Snowman (made with egg) on top! The directions for the small cake card are included in the set.

The smallest size uses a piece of paper 3” x 4” with a 1/2” offset. You can go to the website and download the pattern for the Little Egg Cool Project which is this size. Such a tiny pop-up makes a big impact!

