



# PAPERCRAFTING

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JOANN'S FIELD GUIDE

NAME

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# Introduction

Hi there! Welcome to JOANN's Field Guide to Papercrafting.

If you picked this up, you must be interested in some sort of paper craft, whether it's cardmaking, journaling or paper sculptures. Just getting started? Lucky for you, we've got lots of tips!

For specific projects and inspiration, make sure to visit [joann.com/projects](http://joann.com/projects). But if you need some basic information to get started, you've got the right guide in your hands. After reading through this information, you'll know what tools you need for the project you want to tackle and learn basic techniques to help you cut, glue and craft your way to your happy place.

Have more questions? Check out the Cricut classes we offer at [joann.com/classes](http://joann.com/classes).

As always, we can hardly wait to see what you make. Share with us! [#handmadewithjoann](https://twitter.com/handmadewithjoann)

## Common Tools & Techniques

### Adhesives

A variety of different adhesives are used to paper craft. Glue dots are great for small embellishments, while double-sided tape, rubber cement and glue sticks work better for larger areas.

### Applique

Yes, even fabric can be applied to your paper projects! Stitch or glue fabric backgrounds onto cardstock, then cut out and apply other shapes to make an applique on the front of a card.

**Bone folder** -- This dull but smooth tool helps you create perfect, sharp folds to give cards or other paper projects a professional look.

**Cutting mats** -- Protect your work surface and use the handy guidelines and special rulers to help make precise even cuts.

**Scissors** -- Although regular scissors are just fine, papercrafting scissors allow you to create decorative edges and corners.

**Punches** -- Save time and achieve precision by cutting uniform shapes out of paper with the press of a button. Punches come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Border punches are used to create decorative edges to paper.

**Die-cutting machines** -- Any of several brands of electronic machines used by paper crafters, card makers and scrapbookers to cut paper, felt, vinyl, fabric and more. The machines make use of dies to create specific shapes and patterns.

**Embossing tools** -- Often used with stencils, these tools allow you to create raised images on paper projects. The two main methods for embossing are: 1) melting embossing powder with a heat gun and 2) using tools such as an embossing stylus set to create the image by hand. If you want to emboss a larger surface area, layer your paper with an embossing folder and run it through an embossing machine.

**Rubber stamps & ink** -- An inked rubber stamp provides the outline of an image, word or saying to a page that can then be colored in. Ink comes in a rainbow of colors and metallics and can be cleaned off your stamp with stamp cleaner. After an image is complete, distress ink can be used to give it a vintage or aged look.

**Stencils** -- Use these templates for embellishing paper projects with shapes or letters and then color them in. Stencils can also be used to apply a raised shape to a project with the help of embossing tools (see above).

**Transfers & rub-ons** -- These themed symbols, artwork, letters and words are used to embellish scrapbooks, journals and cards by removing the plastic film and rubbing the back of the image with a bone folder or craft stick until it transfers to the paper.

**Washi tape** -- The word "washi" comes from wa, meaning "Japanese" and shi, meaning "paper." The texture is somewhat like masking tape but much stronger and more durable. It's also more fun because it's available in myriad colors, designs and themes.

**Writing tools** -- There are all kinds of writing tools such as markers, color pencils and calligraphy and handlettering pens to help you embellish paper projects. See our Fine Art field guide for more information.

## Types Of Paper

**Cardboard** -- a generic term for heavy-duty paper products with greater thickness and more durability than paper.

**Cardstock** -- also known as cover stock or pasteboard, cardstock is thicker and more durable than writing or printing paper. Cardstock is commonly used for scrapbooking and is labeled as cover stock when it has a coated finish on one or both sides.

**Construction paper** -- a tough, relatively coarse colored paper with an unfinished surface. The source material is primarily wood pulp, so small particles are visible on the paper's surface.

**Crepe** -- tissue paper that has been coated with sizing and creped to create gathers, giving it a crinkly texture.

**Kraft** -- strong and relatively coarse, kraft paper is usually a brown color but can be bleached white.

**Mulberry** -- paper made from mulberry tree bark and processed by hand for a pure, translucent paper. Lightweight but strong, mulberry paper is ideal for painting, calligraphy, scrapbooking and card making.

**Newsprint** -- a medium-weight paper with a rough surface finish. It usually has an off-white cast and is ideal for practicing dry drawing techniques.

**Origami** -- the paper used to fold origami, the art of paper folding. This lightweight and smooth surfaced paper holds a precise crease.

**Scrapbook** -- decorative paper that's printed with patterns and colors. Sold individually or packaged in pads by theme. Some scrapbook papers even have raised textures or glitter and metallic finishes.

**Tissue** -- a lightweight paper or light crepe paper. It can be made from recycled paper pulp.

**Vellum** -- originally a prepared animal skin or membrane, modern paper vellum is made from synthetic plant material. It's used for tracing, technical drawings, plans and blueprints.

## Types Of Papercrafting

**Card Making** -- The craft of hand-making greeting cards, gift tags, place cards and other forms.

**Decoupage** -- The art of decorating an object by gluing colored paper cutouts onto it in combination with special paint effects, gold leaf and other decorative elements.

**Journaling** -- Writing as a form of expressive therapy. Often, art pens and color pencils are used to illustrate journals.

**Art Journaling** -- A visual journal to record thoughts, capture memories and express ideas through drawings, sketches and writings.

**Planners** -- These personal organizers may include a diary, calendar, address book, blank paper, maps and telephone codes. Planners can have themed pages or inserts that can be customized with stickers and other embellishments.

**Paper folding** (e.g. Origami) -- The transformation of a flat square of paper into a finished sculpture through folding and sculpting techniques. Traditional origami does not involve cutting, gluing or marking the paper.

**Paper Cutting** -- The art of cutting a single sheet of paper into an intricate design. It has evolved uniquely all over the world to adapt to different cultural styles.

**Paper Maché** -- The art of saturating strips of newsprint or other thin paper with glue, then layering them on a form to create a 3-D sculpture. The object is often painted after the glue has dried. Although this is a popular children's craft, paper maché can also be used to create trendy home decor such as bowls.

**Paper Sculpture** -- Paper sculptures are a combination of papercutting and paper folding to create 3-D objects that can stand alone or be hung on a wall as art.

**Quilling** -- Uses special thin strips of paper that are rolled, shaped and glued together to create coils to make 3-D pictures or decorative designs, such as paper flowers.

**Scrapbooking** -- Scrapbook pages are created by embellishing cardstock or cover stock with any number of techniques and tools, photos, memorabilia and ephemera. These are then collected in a binder or album as a way to preserve memories.

# Die-Cutting Machines & Accessories

Die-cutting refers to a process in which you use a machine to mass-produce cut-out shapes. You can create the same shape, with the exact same dimensions, over and over without using scissors, stencils or a craft knife.

A die-cutting machine is designed to cut materials such as paper, corrugated fiberboard, paperboard, vinyl or fabric to a specific shape. Dies are the template designs you use to cut out all the different shapes and patterns. They are purchased separately to be used in the machine. Die-cutting machines can be electronic, like Cricuts, or manual.

Cricut is one of the more popular electronic die cutters used by papercrafters, card makers and scrapbookers because of the variety of styles and tasks they allow papercrafters to do. There are a few different models to choose from and tons of tools to try depending on what kinds of projects interest you.

Cricut also uses proprietary software called Cricut Craft Room that enables users to combine, merge and stretch/rotate images. It also enables you to view the images displayed on-screen before beginning the cutting process, so the end result can be seen in advance.

## POPULAR MACHINES

**Cricut Explore Air** -- a wireless die cutting machine that can cut a variety of materials from paper to fabric and more.

**Cricut Explore Air 2** -- a refresh of the Explore Air line, with added colors and a Fast Mode that can cut cardstock at up to two times the speed.



**Cricut Maker** -- a new line designed to cut thicker materials such as balsawood, basswood, non-bonded fabric, leather and felt. It is the only Cricut machine that supports the use of a rotary blade for cutting fabric directly.

**Cricut Easy Press** - a machine that provides professional iron-on results and a foolproof way to get flawless transfers of vinyl to fabric.

## TOOLS & SUPPLIES

**Spatula** -- precisely lifts images off the cutting mat

**Scraper** -- scrapes and cleans the cutting mat

**Brayer** - eliminates wrinkles and bubbles in vinyl and fabric

**Scoring stylus** - scores precise folds on boxes, 3-D objects, cards, envelopes and more.

**Pen sets** - give a handwritten look with the precision of machine drawn words and phrases for cards, tags, invitations and more.

**Weeding tools** - Weeding is a process of separating the vinyl cut-outs from the negative space. Weeding tools--tweezers, weeders and piercing tools-- hold and lift intricate vinyl designs, pierce, lift or place cuts and weed trickier materials.

## Tips & Tricks

- Sharpen paper punches by using them on tin foil.
- Cover mistakes with a white gel pen.
- Use washi tape on the edge of journal or planner pages to mark where sections or months start.
- Save the shapes you punch out of paper to embellish future projects.

- When using rubber or acrylic stamps, always stamp on a level surface. If your images aren't fully transferring, try adding a piece of felt between the surface and the paper. This allows for a little more give and can sometimes do the trick.
- Sometimes when stamping an image, small areas are not fully inked. Don't re-stamp. Use a black marker or pen to fill in the blank or lighter areas.
- When you're heat embossing, remove all static cling or anything that might cause the embossing powder to stick where you don't want it. Before stamping with embossing ink, rub the entire surface of the paper with a powder bag or tool. If you don't have a powder tool, try a simple dryer sheet. Then stamp the image with clear ink and spread embossing powder over the image. The powder will only stick to the stamped areas and will fall off the rest of the card.
- You can create a darker appearance on patterned or colored cardstock with clear embossed sentiments after stamping. The busier or darker the cardstock, the more noticeable the results.
- For a nice even banner, insert your strip of paper into a square punch and punch on the corner.
- Help light colored die-cut pieces stand out by adding a thin border with a black marker. Hold the marker with the tip pointing up and run the side of the marker around the backside edges of the die-cut piece. Edging from the back gives you more control over the line thickness.
- Self-closing tweezers will help hold ribbon or string when tying. They give you an "extra pair of hands."

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