

Never-Ending Square Instructions

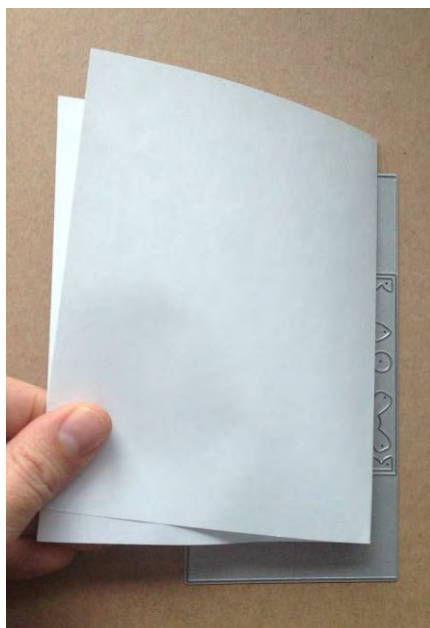
1. Cut a standard 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of copy paper (i.e., text weight/printer paper) into two 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" pieces. Set aside one piece to make another project later on.

Tip: Cardstock may be used instead, but it can be bulky and difficult to fold/turn the finished project. We recommend using copy paper; when you add the stamped cardstock panels at the end, it will make the project more sturdy.

2. Fold the other 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" piece in half across the short side, and place it onto the die with the fold positioned along the edge of the **decorated side** of the die. Carefully turn over the paper/die to prevent slips, and place it onto the cutting pad. Add a scrap piece of cardstock as a shim on top, before adding the upper machine plate.

Tip: You may wish to use a magnetic base plate underneath (sold separately for many die-cutting machines) or removable tape to hold the paper/die in place as you run it through the machine, but it isn't required. Or you can just be careful to make sure the paper doesn't slip from the die, and that usually works fine, too.

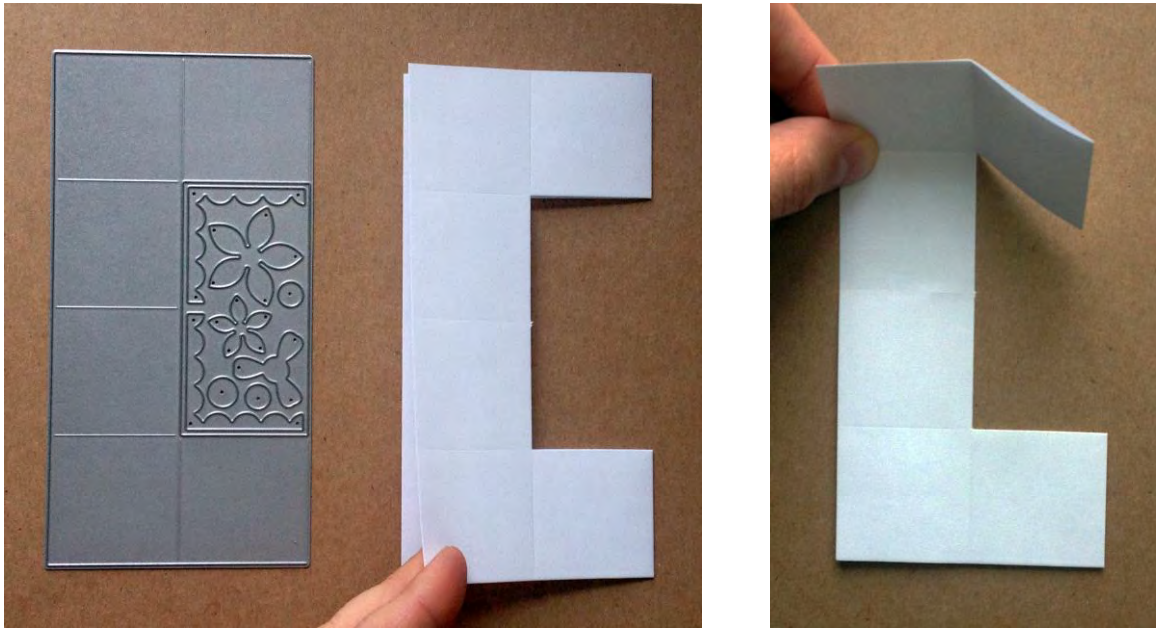
The photo below shows the paper being set onto the die. Before die cutting, the paper should be flat and the fold placed flush along the edge.



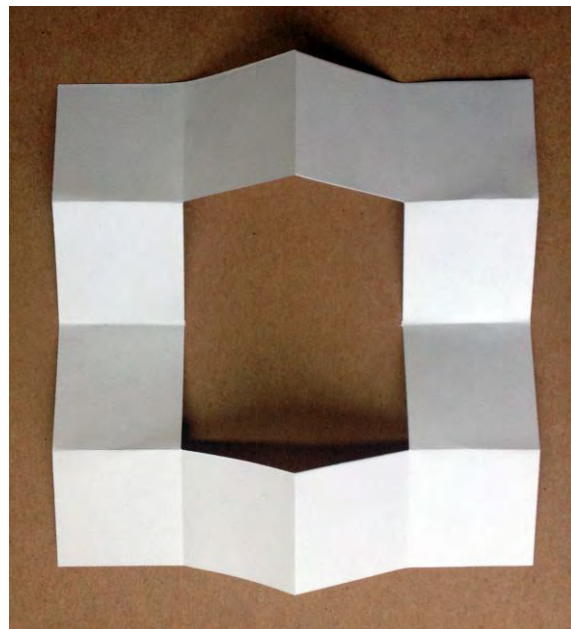
3. Run the paper/die through the machine, and remove all the pieces. (The flower petals, flower centers, and scalloped corners are "bonus" decorative elements can be used to embellish your project later on, if desired.) Take the largest piece, which will form the Never-Ending Square base, and pre-fold on the score lines.

Don't worry about what direction to fold; this step is just to deepen the creases of the score lines so they'll be easier to fold again in the correct direction in the next step. Therefore, just fold, press, and open, all the way around the base piece until all score lines have been pre-folded.

The left photo shows the Never-Ending Square base piece. The right photo shows the pre-folding in progress.

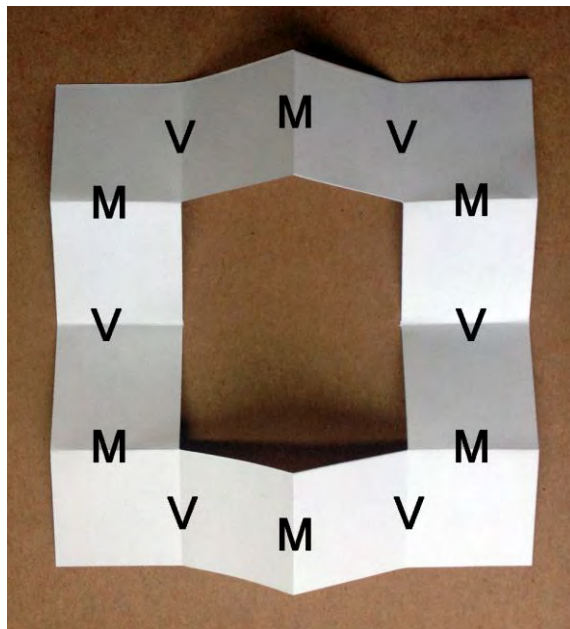


4. Open up the base piece, and lay it onto your work surface so the middle folds at the top and bottom are both pointing upward – in other words, mountain-style or raised folds.



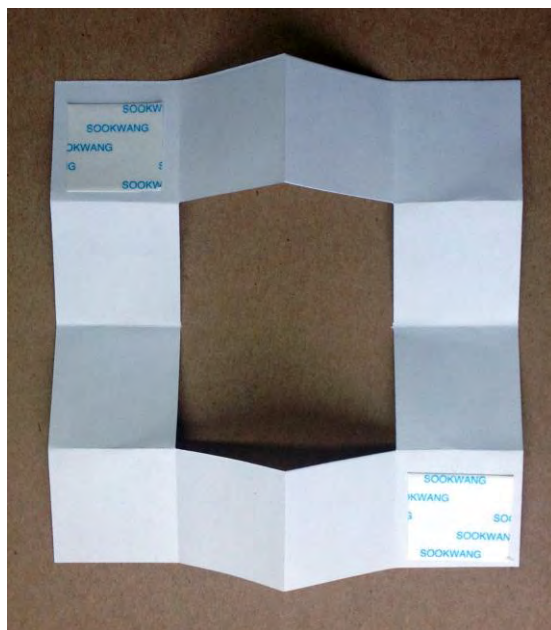
5. Starting at the middle top, work your way around the piece and fold again on the score lines as needed, alternating the pattern of mountain, valley, mountain, valley, mountain, valley, mountain, and so forth until you get back to your starting point.

Tip: Some of the folds will already be in correct direction; skip those and re-fold only the ones needing to be changed.

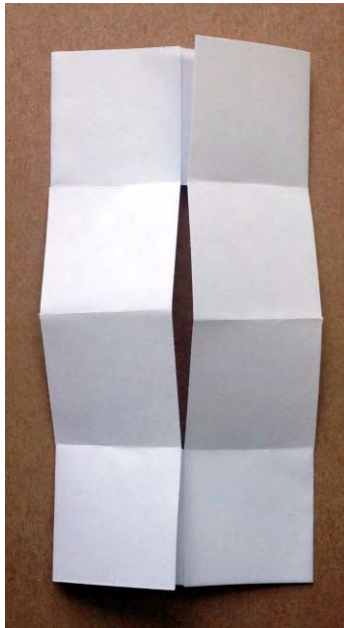


6. To assemble the base piece, place Scor-Tape on the two opposite corner squares of the piece. Note that the Scor-Tape should only be in those squares and should not extend past the squares into the other spaces.

Tip: Scor-Tape is the strongest option – and the 1" wide size works great – but regular double-sided tape or an adhesive runner may also be used. We like Scor-Tape the best, though. Glue or other liquid adhesive is not recommended.



7. Now take the folded squares with the tape on them, and turn them inward – into the next column of squares – to make a rectangle or a bar shape, and press down to adhere.



8. Place Scor-Tape onto the two opposite corner squares – in other words, the two remaining squares that you did NOT tape down the first time.

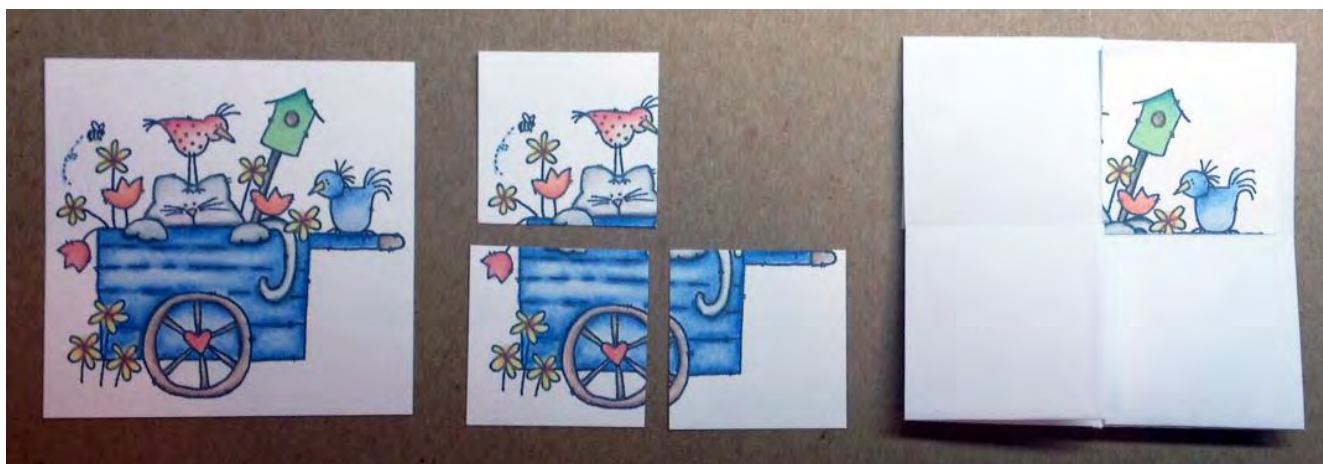


9. Fold the remaining two corner squares inward to create the final Never-Ending Square base shape.



10. Practice opening the Never-Ending Square several times to “break in” the project. Remember that it opens in alternating directions: sides, then top/bottom, then sides again, then top/bottom, and so on. Always hit the back halves of the piece together before attempting to pull it open.
11. To decorate the Never-Ending Square base, stamp four panels that measure $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ each and color as desired. Then cut each square into four smaller pieces ($1\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$), and adhere the first set of pieces onto the first side of the Never-Ending Square base.

The left side of the photo shows one of the $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ panels. The center shows the panel cut into $1\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$ pieces. The right shows one of the smaller pieces adhered to the Never-Ending Square base.



When adhering the smaller pieces to the base, place them flush with the two inside edges of the square, with a $\frac{1}{8}''$ border showing around the two outside edges.

12. Open the Never-Ending Square base to the next side, and adhere the next four smaller pieces onto the base. Repeat for the third and fourth sides, making sure that you keep the piece oriented upward, even as you continue to open it in opposite directions each time.



That's it, you're done! Now be prepared to impress your friends with this clever project.

To view the video tutorial of the process outlined in these directions, please visit us online at www.inkyantics.com/craftycutts.htm