



Card Making Made Simple

Card Making 101: Cardstock Cutting Guide



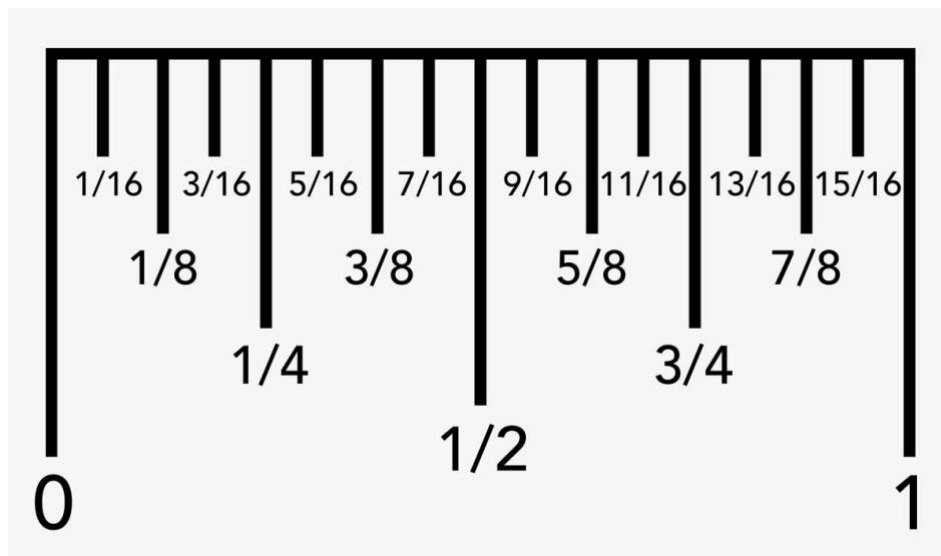
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Take the guesswork out of creating beautiful layered cards by creating your own CARD STOCK CUTTING GUIDE. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced crafter, using this guide and knowing standard measurements can make designer cards much easier and more precise.

There are three basics to make sure you know to help you cut the perfect layers. (NOTE: this guide is based on creating A2 size cards, the most popular in the United States.)

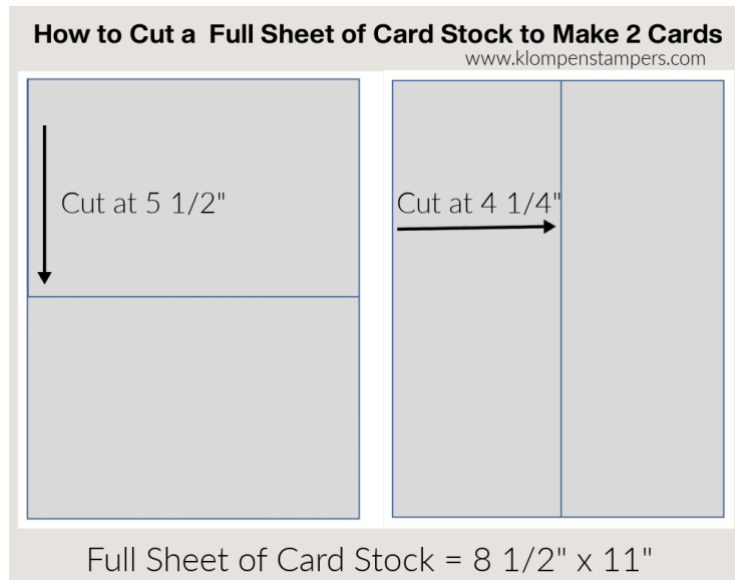
How to Read a Ruler

In card making, we often cut card stock by using small measurements. Most cutting tools do not list the actual measurement on the ruler, so it's important to know which "tick mark" represents the different measurements. Here is an enlarged ruler to show all the common measurements you will use when cutting layers.

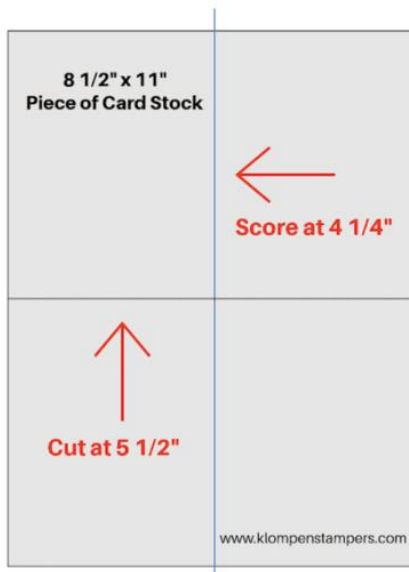


How to Cut Your Base for Your Card

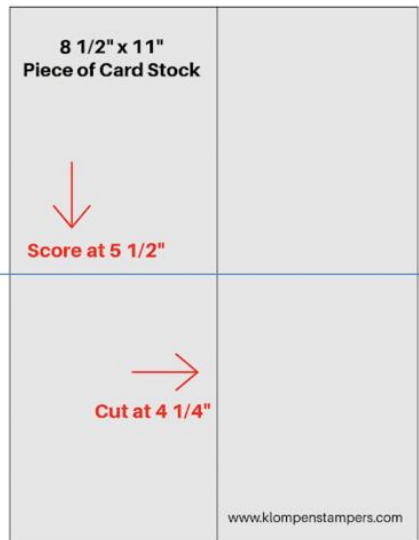
When making an A2 card, you usually start with a piece of card stock that is $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 11"$ and cut it in half to create two cards. You can cut your card stock in either direction, both giving you same sized "card front" to create on.



If you are making more than one card, here is a little tip – SCORE ONCE then CUT ONCE and you will have two card bases.



If you want your card base to be $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 5\frac{1}{2}"$, with the fold along the $5\frac{1}{2}"$ side, start by scoring vertically at $4\frac{1}{4}"$. Rotate your card stock and cut at $5\frac{1}{2}"$

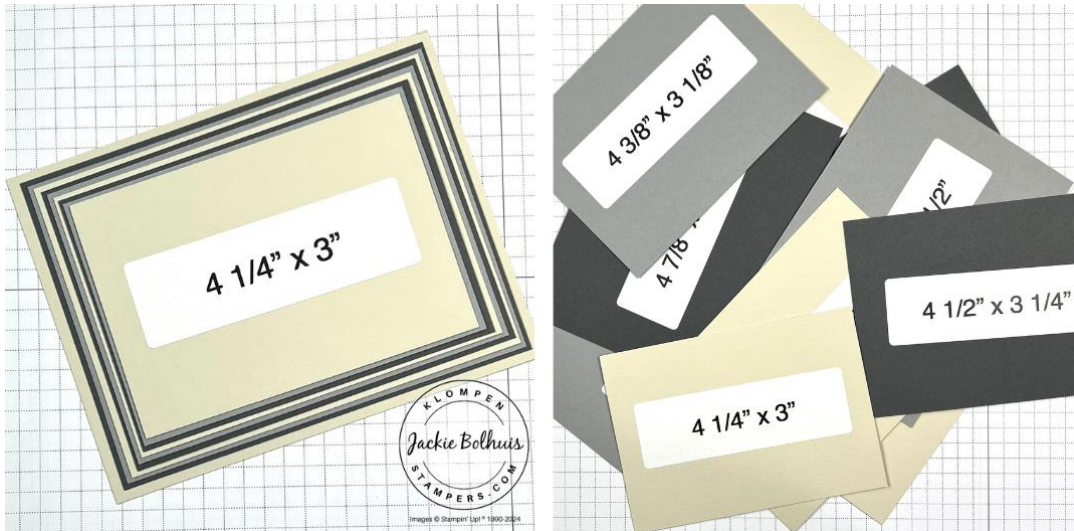


If you want your card base to be 11" x 4 1/4" with the fold along the 4 1/4" side, start by scoring horizontally at 5 1/2". Rotate your card stock and cut at 4 1/4"

Create a Card Stock Cutting Guide

When making a A2 size card, the front will be $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{4}''$. This guide will help you with proportionate layering, each successive layer is either $\frac{1}{8}''$ inch or $\frac{1}{4}''$ inch larger on all sides. This consistent difference creates a visually pleasing, evenly spaced border between the layers.

First, decide on the size of your topmost layer (this is often where your sentiment, focal image, or main design element will go). You can then play with the templates to decide how big of a border you want behind it. Or, if you want more than one border, and the size of each.



The sizes used for this guide are to make all layers, including the topmost layer, proportionate to the card base. If you start with a different size top piece, you will want to cut each layer, $\frac{1}{8}''$ or $\frac{1}{4}''$ larger on both the height and width to have even borders on the top layer.

Use this list of measurements to create your own Card Stock Cutting Guide. Cut the pieces, alternating colors and label each piece (I used labels, but you could also just write on each piece)

Card Layering Template Sizes

- $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{4}''$ (card front size)
- $5\frac{1}{4}'' \times 4''$
- $5\frac{1}{8}'' \times 3\frac{7}{8}''$
- $5'' \times 3\frac{3}{4}''$
- $4\frac{7}{8}'' \times 3\frac{5}{8}''$
- $4\frac{3}{4}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$
- $4\frac{5}{8}'' \times 3\frac{3}{8}''$
- $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{4}''$
- $4\frac{3}{8}'' \times 3\frac{1}{8}''$
- $4\frac{1}{4}'' \times 3''$