

let's get started + bonus

get to know your paper

WHAT IS FROSTED PAPER?

On our site and in our videos, we often talk about and design projects for frosted paper. What I call frosted paper is also called metallic paper or pearl paper. It is a paper that has tiny flecks of gold or silver-colored metal dust infused in the ink to create a velvet-like sheen. This type of paper is one of my favorites for paper flowers because when light reflects on the paper, it adds a dimension of color.

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WHY FROSTED PAPER (INSTEAD OF CREPE)

Though crepe paper offers the ability to make the most realistic flowers, there is something so artful about flowers made from frosted paper. I like to say they are like small sculptures. You can also get a lot more tiny details when cutting frosted paper on a cutting machine. Often times I will mix both papers in one flower or mix the style of flowers in a bouquet.

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TEXT WEIGHT VS. CARD STOCK

When designing and making paper flowers, I have always loved the look of lighter weight (text weight) paper. I have seen many paper flowers made with card stock and prefer the look and feel of the text weight. It is lighter and offers a softer curl and shape to the petals and leaves.

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cutting frosted paper flowers

FROSTED PAPER FLOWER TEMPLATES

Since frosted paper is not pliable and forgiving like crepe paper, it is important that your templates are specific for frosted paper. Since I have been working with this type of paper for many years, I find the shape of the template can make all the difference to the look of your finished flower. In this master class, I have worked to perfect each flower for you.

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CUTTING FROSTED PAPER WITH SCISSORS

When I started making frosted paper flowers, I cut every petal and leaf by hand with scissors. If you do not have a cutting machine, this is an option, but you may want to simplify some of the very detailed cuts.

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USING A CUTTING MACHINE

If you do have a personal cutting machine, this is a perfect craft for you. All machines cut frosted paper with a standard fine-point blade. Using the machine not only speeds up your cutting process, but it allows you to cut details that are near impossible to accomplish by hand cutting. If you are using a Cricut, be sure to watch our Craft Academy mini courses on uploading your files and cutting frosted paper.

cutting machine tips

1. USING A CLEAN, SHARP BLADE

CRICUT FINE-POINT BLADE

When cutting frosted paper on the Cricut, you will use the fine-point blade with your Maker or Explore. Since frosted paper is more delicate than card stock, here are two tips for the best cutting results.

- Use a clean blade. If you have been cutting vinyl or label paper with your blade, thoroughly clean it with alcohol.
- Use a sharp blade. Using a new blade is ideal.

2. PREPPING THE MAT

CRICUT STANDARD GRIP OR LIGHT GRIP MATS

For frosted paper, I use the Standard Grip or Light Grip mat. A new mat might be too sticky, so test a corner to ensure you can release the paper from the mat without it tearing. The paper should not move on your mat, yet it should peel off without too much difficulty. Your mat must be clean without any bits of material that will interfere with your cut.

- If using a new mat, make sure you can easily remove the paper without it tearing.
- Use your scraper tool or tweezers to remove any bits of paper or debris before applying your frosted paper to the mat.

3. SETTING SCORE LINES

STEPS IN CRICUT DESIGN SPACE

If your cut file includes lines intended for the scoring tool, you will change your line type to score and then attach the cut and score lines. For the Explore, you will use the scoring stylus in the duo housing, and for the Maker, you can use the scoring wheel or the stylus. I prefer the scoring wheel as it creates a finer score line.

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To set your score lines:

- On the right-hand side of your Cricut canvas in Design Space, click on the layer or layers that will be score lines.
- You will find your “Linetype” drop-down menu at the left above your canvas.

For Lia Griffith SVG files, score lines show in “Linetype” as fuchsia.

- Change your line type from Cut to Score.
 - Select your cut and score lines for each object and click “attach” at the bottom of the right-hand column. This will keep your cut and score lines on the same mat.
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4. CHOOSING CUT SETTINGS

CRICUT SETTINGS FOR FROSTED PAPER

Because the fibers of frosted text weight paper are finer, more compact, and denser than a standard colored paper, we use the cardstock setting.

For our 12x12 frosted craft paper, we find these to be the best settings:

- **Light Cardstock** set on **default** or **more**
- Optional setting: **Copy Paper** set on **more** (recommend to test first)

For 8.5x11 frosted premium paper:

- **Light Cardstock** set on **default** or **more**

PRO TIP: Since software updates can subtly change the way the machine cuts, we recommend creating a small test cut by adding a half-inch star at the corner of your Design Space canvas. Once you know your settings are correct for the paper, you can run the same mat through your machine.

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5. REMOVING FROSTED PAPER FROM THE MAT

When removing frosted paper from the mat, here are the best steps:

- Roll the mat to release and peel the excess paper.
 - If the cut pieces are large without a lot of detail, you can remove them with the roll method or your scraper or spatula tool.
 - Remove small, delicate shapes with your needle-nose tweezers. This method will keep the intricate cut pieces from tearing.
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adding color

ART MARKERS (ALCOHOL BASED)

Markers are a great way to add additional details and color to your frosted paper. I prefer an alcohol marker to a water-based marker, as you can use the blending marker to fade the color and create a gradient. For areas where you need a crisp black color, you might also use a sharpie as it will not smear on this paper.

PAINT MARKERS

Posca markers are an opaque color that will sit on top of the paper rather than blend and darken the colors of your paper. In this class, I show how to use these markers to add a lighter detail to your darker paper.

PANPASTEL

The solid pots of brushable pastel are a perfect way to add a bit of delicate color to your cut petals and in the center of your finished flowers. These colors can be layered for more intensity or as a way to add a slight variation to your paper tones.

SPRAY PAINT

Using a craft or floral spray paint is an easy way to add color quickly to your paper. For this coloring method, I recommend you lightly dust the tips of wired leaves and petals with the spray paint before you arrange them into a finished flower. I also suggest you test a piece of scrap paper before you spray it onto your cut pieces.

KRYLON SPRAY FINISH

If you feel you need to set the pastel powder, lightly dust a finishing spray in either matte or gloss onto your finished flowers.

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Horizontal lines for taking notes.

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assembling your paper flowers

SHAPING PETALS & LEAVES

Since frosted paper is flat and not stretchable, it is important to add as much shape to the paper as possible. This is one of the reasons I prefer lighter-weight paper over a card stock as it allows me to shape the paper cut with a good template easily. I use a paper curling tool that I designed to fit easily in the palm of my hand. Placing my thumb onto the edge of the curler, I will either pull the paper between the two – or on more delicate pieces, roll my thumb to press the paper along the edge of the curler. See my full demos throughout the master class.

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GLUING FROSTED PAPER

For assembling frosted paper flowers, I have had the best luck with a high-temperature hot glue gun. The heat of the glue fuses the paper together and will cool quickly to make a solid attachment. The downside of hot glue is the tiny glue strings left after you have completed assembly. You can remove these with the needle-nose tweezers or by fanning hot air from a blow dryer over the glue strings. Remember to not overheat your finished flower to prevent the glue from softening.

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USING PAPER COVERED WIRE & PAPER SPUN BALLS

My experience with using different types of wire throughout the years has informed me that wire with a paper cover will offer the most success in attaching the paper petals and leaves as well as offering a pretty finish that can be left as is or colored with paints or a marker. Throughout this class, we will be using different thicknesses of wires for stems, petals, and leaves. Another one of my favorite paper flower-making materials is the paper spun ball that comes in different sizes. In this class, I will show you how to use these for flower centers by adding color to the white balls and when to use them as an internal mold to shape your paper petals. There are so many ways to use these vintage-style spun balls.

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OTHER HELPFUL VIDEOS

- **INTRO CLASS:** *10 Things You'll Want to Know About Frosted Paper Flowers*
- **MINI COURSE:** *Upload and Prep SVG & JPG Files for Your Cricut*

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