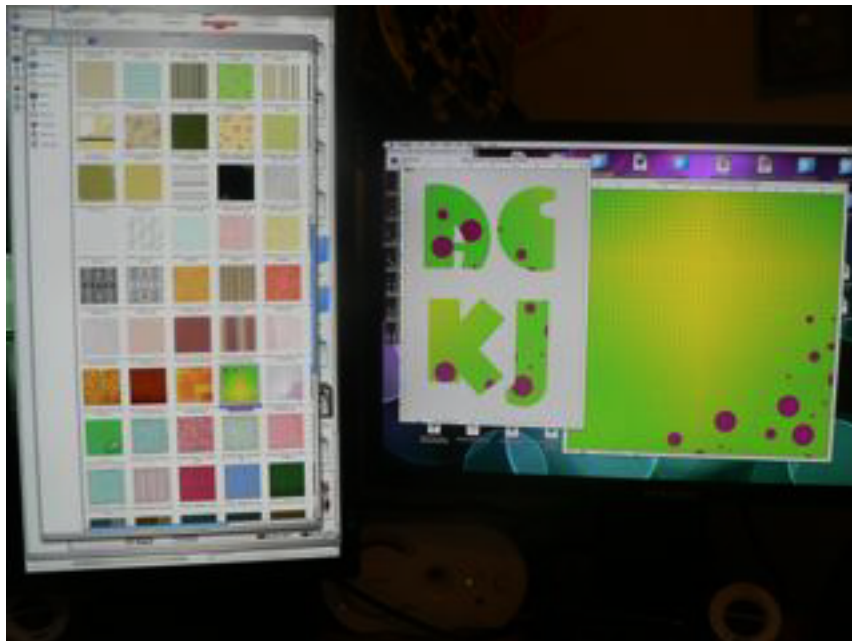


# WORD BOOK FROM CARDSTOCK

by Mary Anne Walters

## You will need:

cardstock (heaviest weight you can get)  
Patterned paper (see more on this in the text)  
a couple of binder clips, clothes pins or big paper clips  
scissors, knife and metal edged ruler  
adhesive  
Font of your choice - mine is called Arbuttle



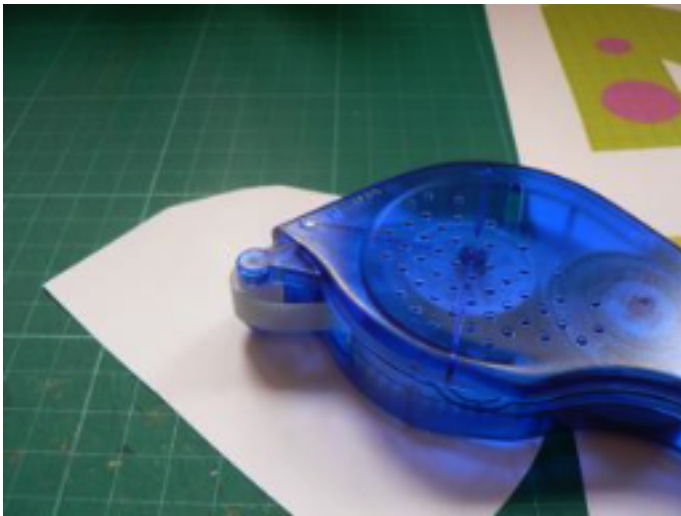
To start, pick your word. A bit of guidance on this - if you want a lot of letters, 6 or more, you need to pick a fairly thin font. I wanted 4 letters so a fat font worked perfectly. You want the letters to be the same height, if you want your book to stand up, although more on this later too! Assuming you are working with a 12 x 12 sheet to begin with, the TOTAL LENGTH of the word needs to be no more than about 8 inches. This will be the measurement with the letters overlapped, like traditional word books, or as you can see my 4-letter word one is, with the letters side by side with a gap.

A font with no complicated serifs is best, especially if hand cutting!

I created my letters in Photoshop, typing the font then filling the letters with digital patterned paper (by Erica Hernandez) because I love the vibrant pattern and have nothing like it in actual paper. You can simply use heavy weight patterned cardstock or cover plain cardstock with thinner patterned paper, either way.

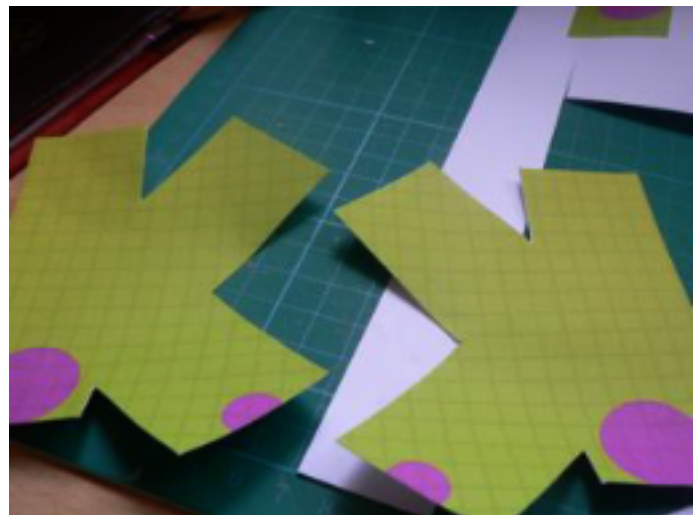


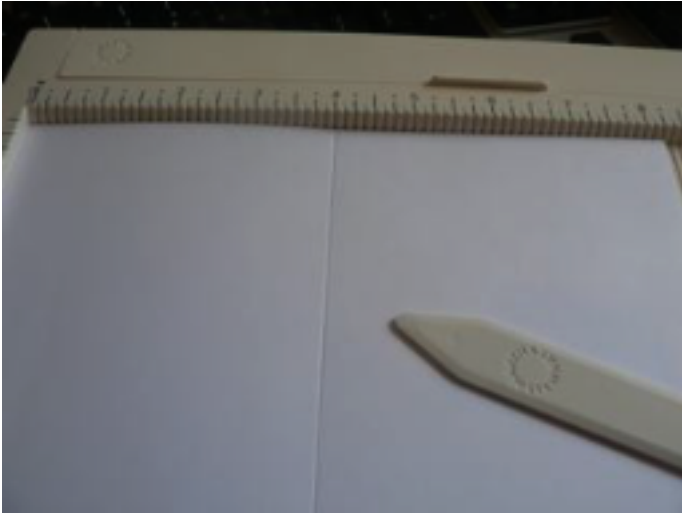
1. Print your letters, once forward, once mirror image. If cutting with something like a Cricut or Craft Robo, the cut letters will match exactly so you can skip this bit. If you are cutting the letters from card then planning on covering with patterned paper, stick the paper to the card FIRST (and make sure the adhesive is something like glue stick and is dry) THEN cut them so you don't have the irritation of trying to match up 4 cut edges) You don't have to, I just think it's easier.



2. If hand cutting, I prefer to cut one set and use temporary adhesive to stick them back to back (I hold them up to the window to line them up!) so you are cutting both versions the exact same way - again, much easier when it comes to the sticking-back-to-back part.

Do this for all the letters





3. Measure your letters. I try to stick to about 4 inches, give or take a smidge. Score your cardstock in half. You will need one scored and creased strip the is height of your letter x 12 inches for EACH LETTER. So 4 letters, 4 strips. 6 letters, 6 strips.

4. Stick the folded cardstock together inside with strong adhesive and right to the edge all around. Don't skimp! Because you will later be trimming these strips down, you really want something with total coverage edge to edge, like glue stick, and NOT just on the edges like ATG gun or double sided tape. You should now have a many stuck-together doubled cardstock strips as you have letters.

5. Stick the first letter to the edge of the folded cardstock sheet, overlapping the edge as much as you can for stability. This is obviously a lot easier with thicker letters! If you can, line up the letters at the top and bottom, but otherwise try to centre them. Do this for all the letters



6. Line the letters up, spacing them as you like, overlapping or not.

NOTE: I do NOT plan on my book standing up, so my J hangs down past the bottom edge. IF YOU WANT YOUR BOOK TO STAND you need to line up the letters, when you stick them, flush with the bottom edge

My K is upside down in this photo, but also hangs down in reality!



6. Once your letters are lined up, clip the pages together with binder clips or clothes pins or paper clips. Something that will hold them in position so you can...

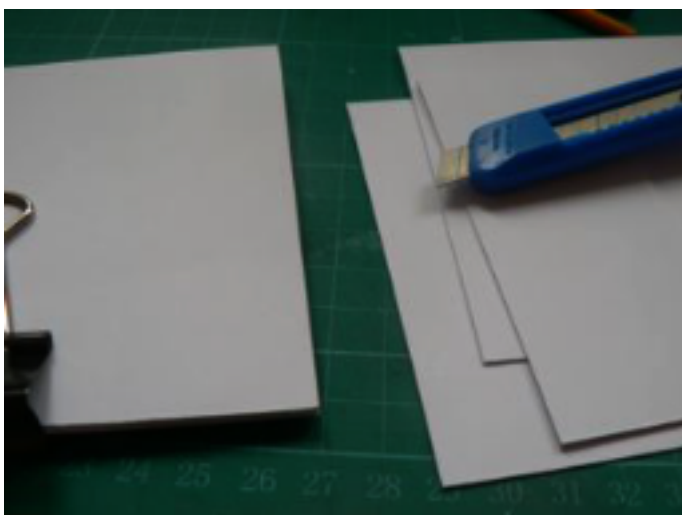
7. ...flip the book over and check to make sure the first page is more than a tiny strip. You want it to be about 4 inches if you can manage it, but at the very least wide enough for whatever binding method you want to use. I usually use my BIA.

This photo is a bit dark. The black lines give you a better idea of how it looks, with the page edges staggered.



8. With your craft knife and ruler, trim off the staggered edges so the edge (your binding edge) is flush. Decorate and bind.

You can easily do this not with folded cardstock, but with chipboard pages. Your letters will not stick back to back totally flat because of the thicker pages, but it isn't horrible. And the pages are much stronger for standing.



**HAVE FUN!**

Mary Anne