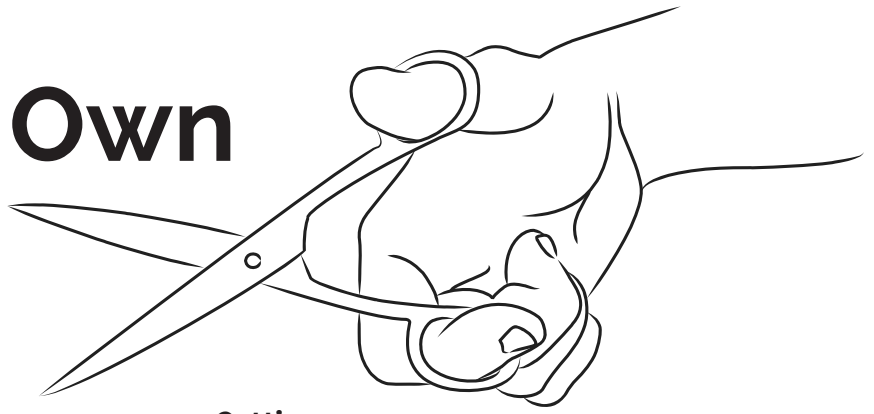


Make Your Own Papercut



What you need

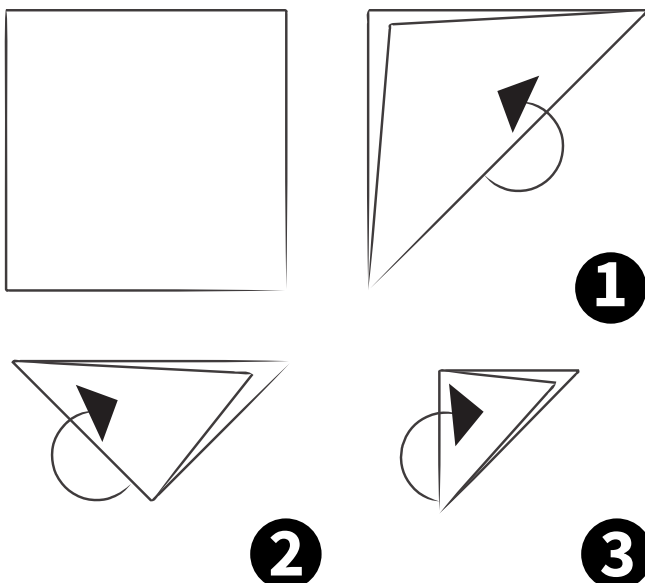
- Scissors
- Paper
- Glue
- Coloured Card

Papercutting

Papercutting is a craft that has been practiced around the world since the invention of paper in China in the second century. A lot of cultures have their own typical style of papercutting. If you are interested in this, you can do some internet research and look up silhouettes and the papercutting traditions of China, Mexico, Lithuania and Switzerland. Contemporary artists who have worked in this technique include Matisse and Banksy. Banksy uses papercut templates for his murals.

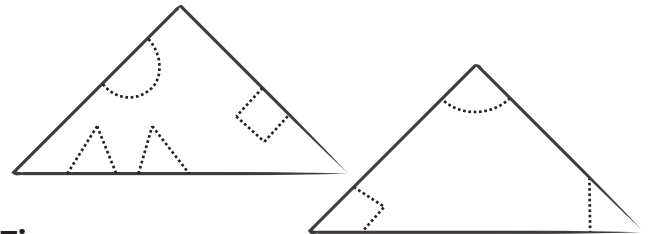
Folding

Start with a square sheet of paper. It should not be too heavy; photocopy paper is perfect. Fold your square in half three times. Each time you should end up with a smaller triangle.



Cutting

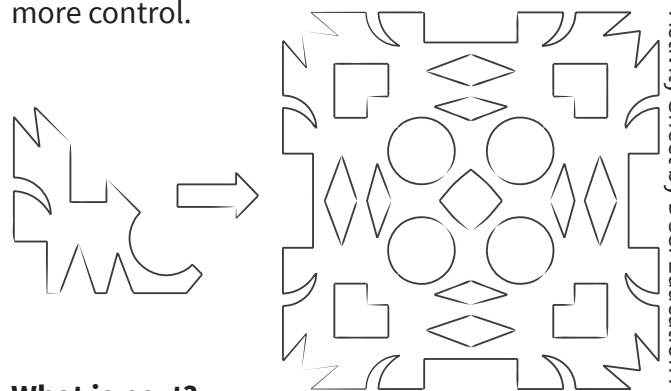
Cut shapes from the three edges of your triangle. Start with little triangles and then squares. Curves are a bit trickier. Leave some space between these cuts, to make sure your papercut stays in one piece. You can even cut off the corners. When you are done cutting, open the papercut. It might look good glued onto a coloured sheet of card.



Tips

Be careful, scissors can be sharp. Always cut away from the hand that is holding the paper and pass the scissors to another person like a bunch of flowers.

When you cut, open up the scissors as far as possible and push the paper back into the scissors. When you cut, you don't need to completely 'close' the scissors. The back of the scissors cuts better than the front and gives you more control.



What is next?

If you want to do more papercutting, try and make a really large papercut using newspaper. You can also experiment with different ways of folding, or look online to find how to fold paper if you want to cut a six-pointed flower or snowflake.