

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLEANER CUTS

In this document you will find some suggestions to familiarize yourself with the craft knife and to start cutting.

You can print the last two pages of this document on the back of a paper similar to the one you are going to use for your final project and practice the exercises before cutting your layers.

It is not essential that you practice or use these cutting tips but, in my experience, they tend to generate cleaner and more efficient cuts even when you don't have previous experience with the technique.

CUTTING STRAIGHT LINES

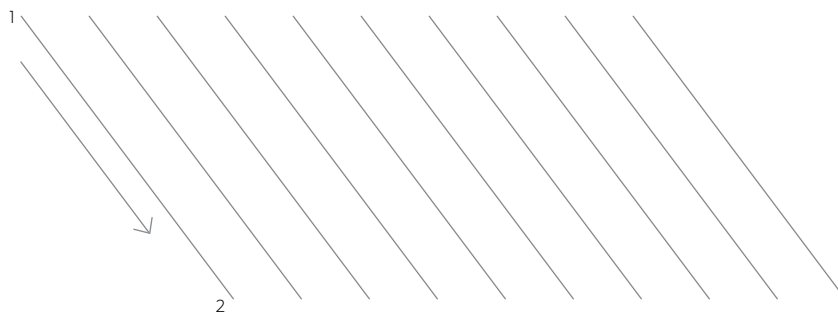
To cut these lines place the paper with the short side of the page parallel to your body. Your arm will move from the top to the bottom of the paper and from the left to the right.

This is the direction in which I suggest you orient as many cuts as possible. This means that every time a line to be cut appears, you should turn the paper so that said line is oriented as in this initial exercise to facilitate cutting (approximately at a 45 degree angle)

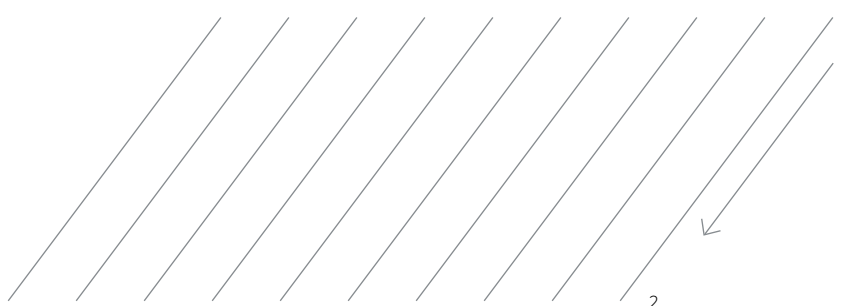
This instruction applies to right-handed people.

If you cut with your left hand, you will find the same exercise below (cut with your left hand from top to bottom and from right to left).

Straight lines for right handed people

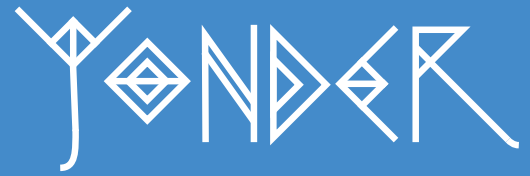


Straight lines for left handed people



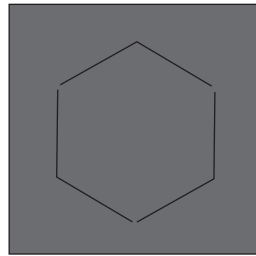
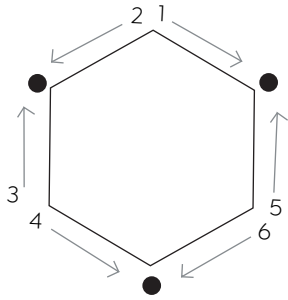
Practice Cuts

Class with Don Krumpo
Additional Materials



CUTTING CLOSED SHAPES

To my understanding, the most convenient cutting order for closed figures will depend on the combination of angles of each figure. Here are some examples:

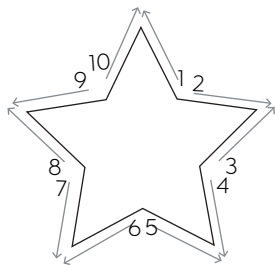


In the corners where the cut is interrupted, it will be necessary to puncture with the cutter again to detach the figure

In this case, in which we seek to cut the negative of a hexagon, it will be convenient to choose a corner to cut the first two segments and skip the next corner. At the corners where two cutting ends meet (●), it may be necessary to pierce again to detach the inner shape

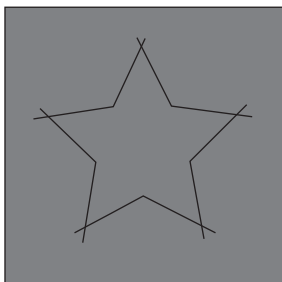


The result allows the use of both the positive and the negative of the hexagon because the two parts should be clean. In case you want to cut only the positive hexagon silhouette, apply cutting instructions from the following example.

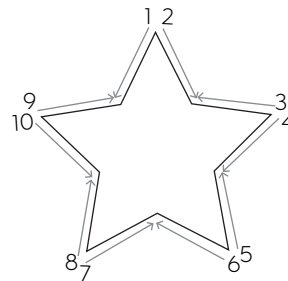


In the case of the star, I will explain two possibilities:
1- If what we are looking for is to obtain a star-shaped silhouette, it is advisable to start cutting from the open angles outwards and, when reaching the vertices of the closed angles, extend the cut to separate them from the paper

the star outline cuts extend and intersect at the vertices of closed angles



The paper around the star is damaged and the silhouette of the star, which is the piece we were looking to obtain, has clean vertices



2- If the objective was, on the other hand, to cut a negative silhouette of a star, it would be convenient to start cutting from the closed angles towards the interior of the star and, when reaching the vertices of the open angles, extend the cut to separate them from the paper

the cuts of the silhouette intersect at the vertices of open angles

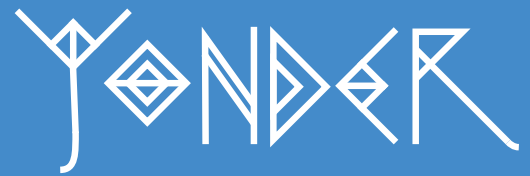


The star is damaged and the negative of the star, which is the part that we were looking to obtain, remains with all its vertices clean

In both cases the paper that is damaged (where we extended the cuts) is the waste paper.

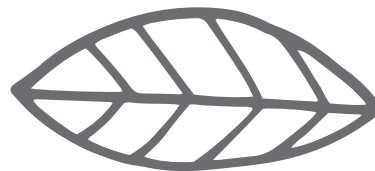
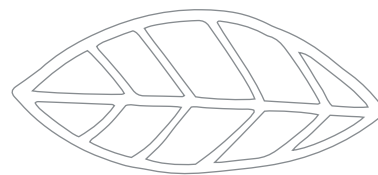
Practice Cuts

Class with Don Krumpas
Additional Materials



CUTTING SMALL SHAPES IN REPETITION

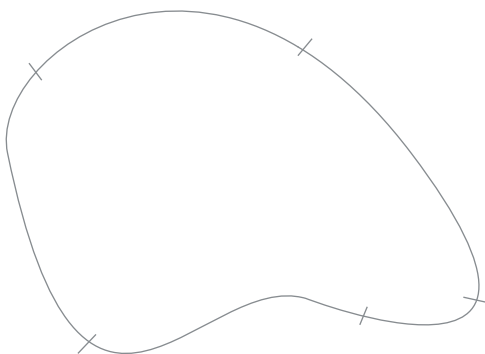
The most efficient way that I found to cut small closed and repeating figures is working in series. Generally, it is best to cut all the long parallel sides first and then the short sides.



CUTTING OPEN CURVES

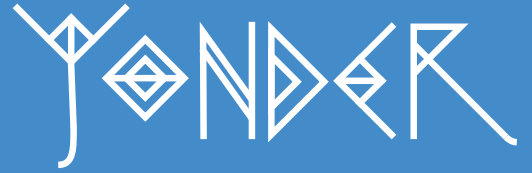
My suggestion when cutting open curves is to divide them into segments that allow the cutter to practically cut straight lines.

In the first example, I suggest you start from one of the marked points, cut to the next point and at that point, raise the cutter, turn the paper and realign it so that the next cut has the approximate orientation suggested in exercise 1 of this guide



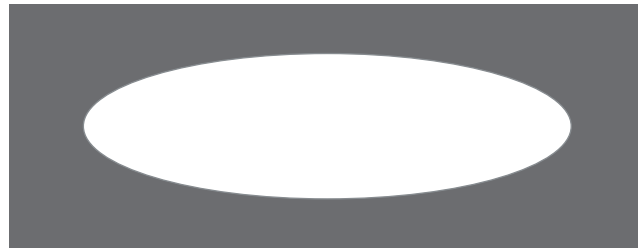
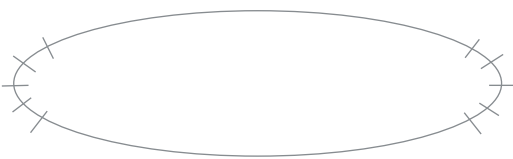
Practice Cuts

Class with Don Krumpo
Additional Materials



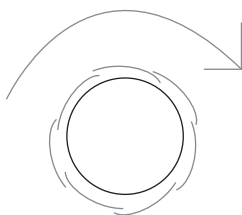
CUTTING CLOSED CURVES

My suggestion when cutting closed curves is to treat them like open curves, but dividing them into very short segments, much shorter than the ones used for open lines. As in open curves, I suggest you start at one of the marked points, cut to the next and at that point, lift the knife of the paper, turn the paper and realign it so that the next cut has the approximate orientation suggested in the exercise 1 of this guide.



CUTTING SMALL CIRCLES

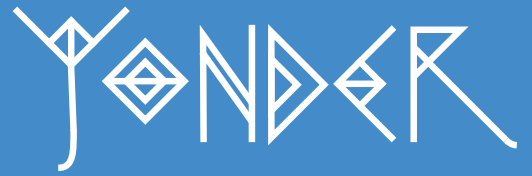
The most efficient way that I found to cut circles of less than 1/16 in. is by repeating the method of cutting closed curves but with a small modification: Instead of advancing the cutter between segments, I recommend you only prick the paper with the tip of the blade and rotate it slightly (to generate a cut similar to that of closed curves only shorter)



Viewed at very close range, these cuts look much less fluid than longer cuts but when looking at them at normal distance it's hard to see that the cuts are not perfectly clean.

Practice Cuts

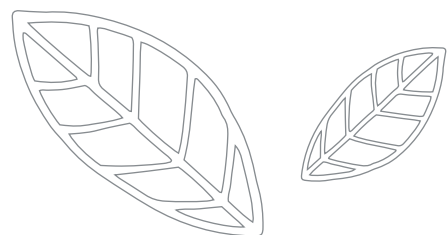
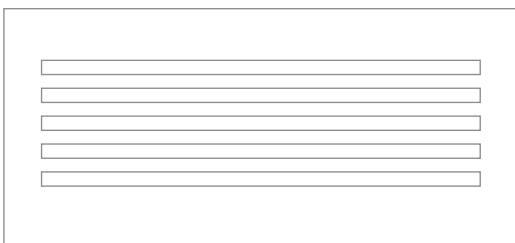
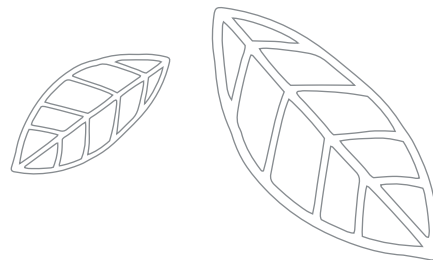
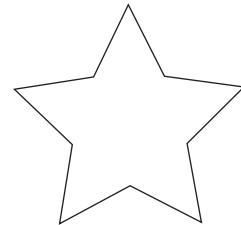
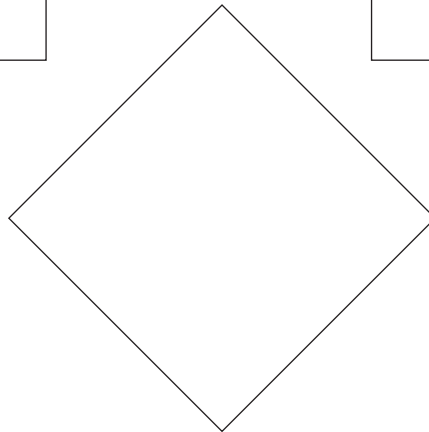
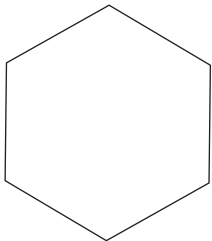
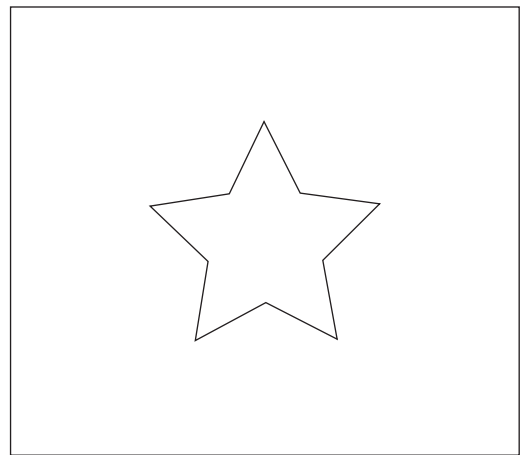
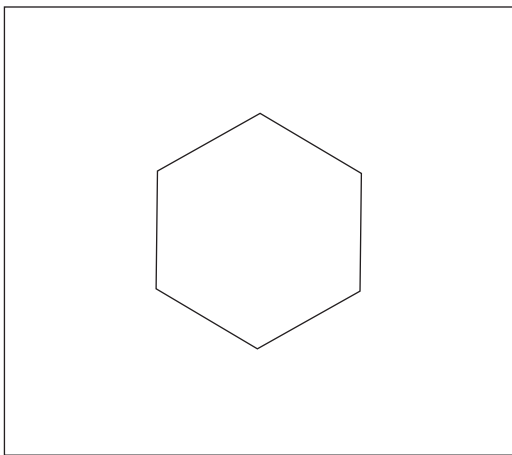
Class with Don Krumpas
Additional Materials



PRACTICE

Print these last two pages on the reverse of 160g paper approx suitable for the type of printer you have.

Practice the exercises as many times as you like before cutting the pieces of your project.



Practice Cuts

Class with Don Krumpas
Additional Materials

