

CARD BASES, LAYERS SIZING GUIDE & MORE

CARDMAKING BASICS



Eva Dietz

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Card Bases, Layers Sizing Guide & More

– Imperial Measurements

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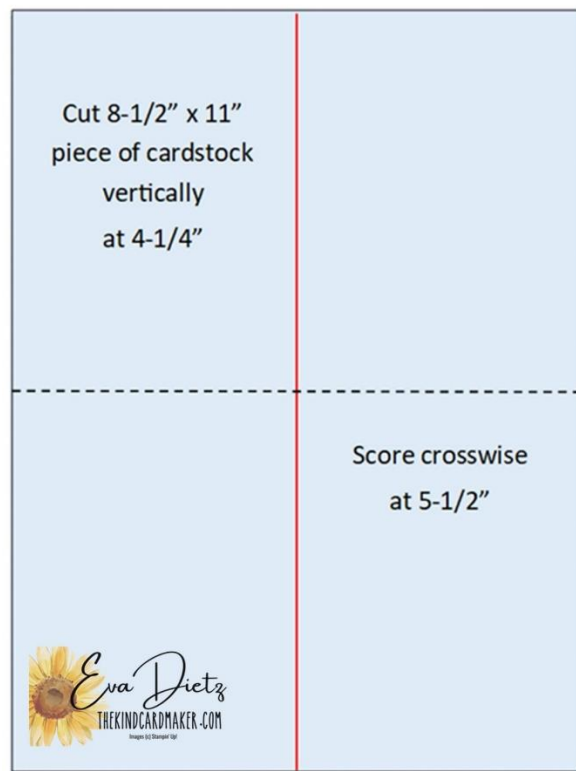
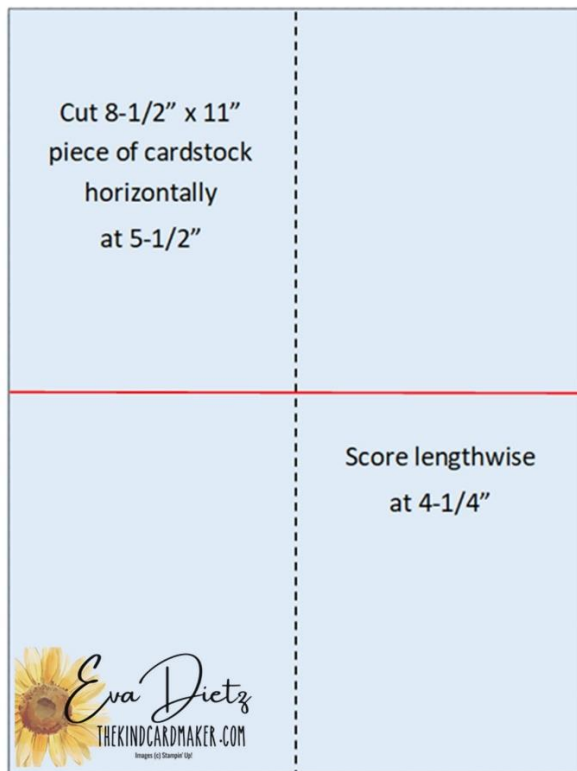
Preparing Card Bases with Stampin' Up! Cardstock

There are two ways to cut cardstock into basic card bases using the Stampin' Up! Paper Trimmer. Two card bases can be made from one sheet of 8-1/2" x 11" "letter size" cardstock. In the diagrams below the Red line is the cutting line. The Dashed line is a folding line. Once cut, you can fold the card by hand and crease using your fingernail, or fold and crease with a bone folder (or if your bone folder isn't handy, the edge of a clear stamping block works great too.)
Bonus Hint: Score cardstock first, then cut the cardstock in half is a time-saver.

By cutting the sheet of cardstock in half, then folding in half again you have created a card base. This folded quarter sheet look is called an A2 size.

"Portrait" cards, stand 4-1/4" wide by 5-1/2" tall. The fold can either be on the left side (opens like a book) or at the top (stands like a tent.)

"Landscape" cards, stand 5-1/2" wide by 4-1/4" tall. The fold can either be on the left side (opens like a book) or at the top (stands like a tent.)



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Preparing Card Layers with this easy Sizing Guide

The basic idea is to cut your sheet of cardstock into fourths and then start decreasing by $\frac{1}{4}$ " on top and $\frac{1}{4}$ " on one side to create layers that will look great together. However, that starts to be wasteful quickly. So it is better to follow my example suggestions.

Here's an example – if you cut your 8-1/2" wide sheet into two 4" x 11" strips you will have a lengthwise $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" strip left over for potential tags or greetings on your card. Then if you turn your 4" x 11" strip and cut one piece 5-1/4" and another at 5-1/4" you will end up with one $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" strip for tags or greetings from each 4" x 11" section.

One more example – say you need layer pieces that are 4" x 2-3/4". One sheet of cardstock will give you 8 pieces. Here's how – cut the two 4" x 11" strips with the leftover $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" strip for tags or greetings. Then an 11" long piece of cardstock will easily cut into 4 equal sections of 2-3/4". So 2 strips = 8 sections.

Proportional Matting for a 5-1/2" x 4-1/4" card base

Each layer is $\frac{1}{4}$ " smaller which results in an $\frac{1}{8}$ " border around each layer.

5 $\frac{1}{4}$" x 4"
5" x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$"
4 $\frac{3}{4}$" x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$"
4 $\frac{1}{2}$" x 3 $\frac{1}{4}$"
4 $\frac{1}{4}$" x 3"
4" x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$"
3 $\frac{3}{4}$" x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$"
3 $\frac{1}{2}$" x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$"
3 $\frac{1}{4}$" x 2"
3" x 1 $\frac{3}{4}$"
2 $\frac{3}{4}$" x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$"

Another way to view proportional layers is on the next page.

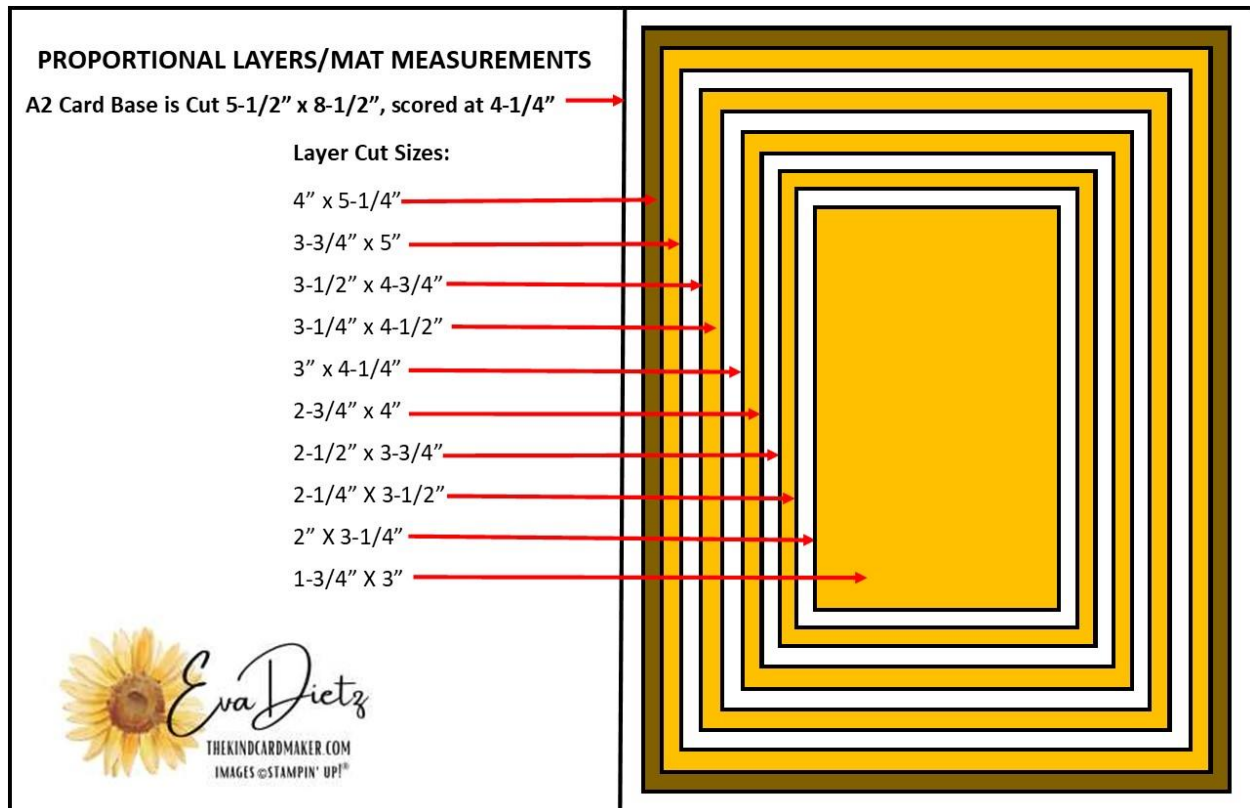
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Inside Your Cards

If you use a Basic White or Very Vanilla colored cardstock for your A2 card base, there is no need to add an additional piece of cardstock to write on, unless you want to for extra sturdiness.

If you use any other color of cardstock, it is always a good idea to place a $4'' \times 5\text{-}1/4''$ piece of Basic White or Very Vanilla inside to write on. Some stampers do not adhere that layer until they are ready to send/give the card, so they can stamp an appropriate greeting on the inside in coordinating ink with the intended recipient in mind. Other stampers go ahead and affix the layer inside and leave them blank to handwrite a message on when the time is right.

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No matter which way you do the inner liner, you can still stamp images on the corners or one corner to create a coordinated effect. Or add a scrap of coordinating Designer Series Paper, cut to fit, or tear it on the top edge for a nice effect.

Envelope Tips

The typical A2 size envelope measures 5-3/4" wide by 4-3/8" tall for your A2 cards to slide easily into. Stampin' Up! sells good quality envelopes in Basic White or Very Vanilla. You can also make your own envelopes from Designer Series Paper with a White sticky label to hold the address.

There's a saying in the Stampin' Up! world to never send a "naked" envelope. That means you can stamp on the flap or lower left front corner.

Or you can attach a piece of Designer Series Paper (DSP) to the back flap and trim off the excess DSP. I typically cut a piece of Designer Series Paper 6" wide by 2-3/8" tall which allows for minimal paper waste and if you accidentally misalign the flap paper, you have some wiggle room to trim if needed.

Or another creative idea is to put the envelope flap into an embossing folder and run it through your die cutting machine. That gives a wonderful tactile texture to your envelope. (Don't emboss the whole envelope, the post office doesn't like that!)

Mailing Your Finished Cards

The United States Post Office has regulations that says your envelopes with a card inside may not be more than 1/4" thick and no smaller than 3-1/2" x 5". The largest size envelope may be 6-1/8" x 11-1/2". The envelopes must be rectangular in shape. One ounce or less is what you hope your card will weigh which will only take one forever stamp.

Square envelopes cost extra postage. Envelopes thicker than 1/4" are considered packages and cost substantially more per item. (I learned this one the hard way mailing my too thick

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Christmas cards one year! Very expensive!) These rules ensure the envelopes can go through the sorting and cancelling machines.

If your card is especially thick, fragile, or has embellishments that might be troublesome for mailing, you have a few options. Personally, I tend to reserve a special card like that for times when I can hand deliver it and therefore don't have to worry about special packaging when mailing it. But if I am mailing the card, I use a photo mailer or padded bubble mailer I purchased on Amazon.

Photo Mailer link

[Amazon.com : ValBox 6x8 Self Seal Photo Document Mailers 25 Pack Stay Flat White Cardboard Envelopes, 6.25 x 8.25 Inches : Office Products](#)

Padded Bubble Mailer link

[Amazon.com : UCGOU Bubble Mailers 6x10 Inch White 25 Pack Poly Padded Envelopes Small Business Mailing Packages Opaque Self Seal Adhesive Waterproof Boutique Shipping Bags for Jewelry Makeup Supplies #0 : Office Products](#)

The Best Deal Around!

Making and giving or sending a handmade card to a friend or loved one is the best value around because it helps two people through the process. You have had the fun of designing and creating the masterpiece while thinking good thoughts about the intended recipient. The recipient will be touched by your gift of time in the creation process and the beauty of the card received. Many recipients display them for a while, and then save their handmade cards for a very long time to be cherished again and again.