



Stamping Imperfection

Perfectly Imperfect Ideas for Hand Stamped Cards, Scrapbooks and Paper Craft Projects presented by Kim Skinner.

Stamping 101: Card Layers

Basic Cards are generally 4-1/4 x 5-1/2 after they have been cut, scored and folded. There are two ways to get this card size. For both, you will start with a piece of card stock that is 8-1/2 x 11”.

Landscape orientation:

For this card, you will cut the card stock in half with the long side (11”) against the top of the trimmer.

Line up your card stock with the 5-1/2” line and cut. This gives you two pieces cut at 5-1/2 x 8-1/2”.

Turn it 90 degrees and score it at 4-1/4”. When you fold it, you will have a card that is 4-1/4 x 5-1/2”!

To create a mat, I generally like to cut it at 4 x 5-1/4”. When centered on the card, this gives me a 1/8” border peeking around all 4 sides. I cut the mat 1/4” smaller than the length and 1/4” smaller than the width of the card.

To create a mat with less border around it, cut the mat 1/8” smaller than the card front. Cut the mat at 4-1/8” x 5-3/8” for a small amount of border peeking around the edge of the mat.

Upright Orientation:

For this card, you will cut the card stock in half with the short side (8-1/2") lined up against the top of the trimmer. Line the paper edge with the 4-1/4" line on the trimmer and cut the paper in half lengthwise. This will give you two pieces of card stock cut at 4-1/4 x 11". Turn the card stock 90 degrees in your trimmer and line the edge up with the 5-1/2" mark. Score the card at 5-1/2". When you fold the card, you will have a card that is 4-1/4 x 5-1/2". This is the same size as the landscape orientation, but it opens differently.

To create the mat, you will cut the mat at 4 x 5-1/4" for a 1/8" border or for less border you will cut the mat at 4-1/8" x 5-3/8" as described on page 1. This is really a matter of personal preference!

Keep in mind that the same idea and technique applies if you want to make several layers on your card, or if you want to create a mat for your image or your designer series patterned paper. If you want a tiny border, cut the mat 1/8" larger in width and length than the piece you are making the mat for. If you want more border, cut the mat 1/4" larger in width and length.

You can also create a much larger border as well. Just adjust your measurements for the length and the width by the same amount. If you want a 1/2" border, the mat should be 1/2" less in length and in width so you have the same amount of border around the entire mat!