We are here to help you!

DIY
3D paper model
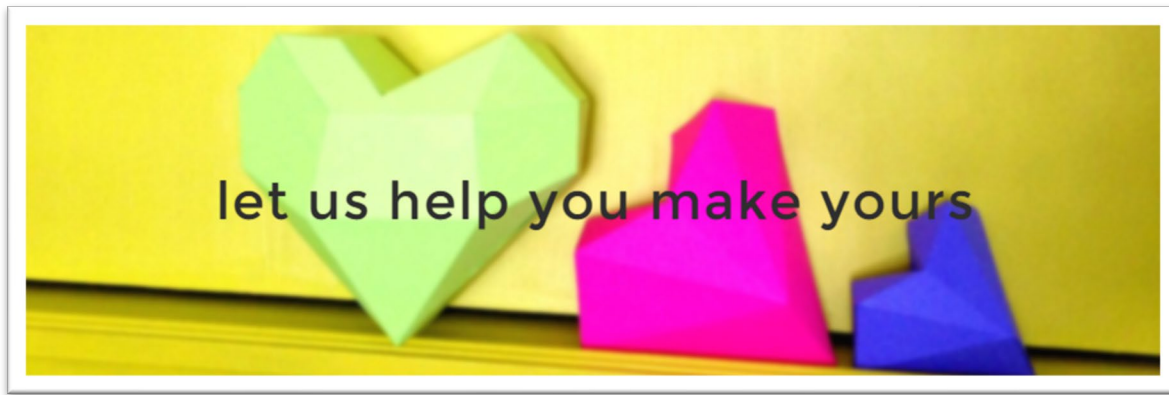
FAIRE SOI-MÊME
modèle papier 3D

made/fabriqué 🍁
Montréal, Canada

www.sofsdesigns.com

the below instructions apply to every models!

READY?

let us help you make yours

Before you begin, you need to know that some of the more difficult 3d papercrafts might take quite a long time to make. Also, its always the first one that is the longest but once you get the hang of it, it gets easier and easier and SO satisfying.

If you need help or have questions/comments don't hesitate to contact us.
sofs@sofs.ca

Here is the link to some general You tube videos on how to make 3D paercrafts.
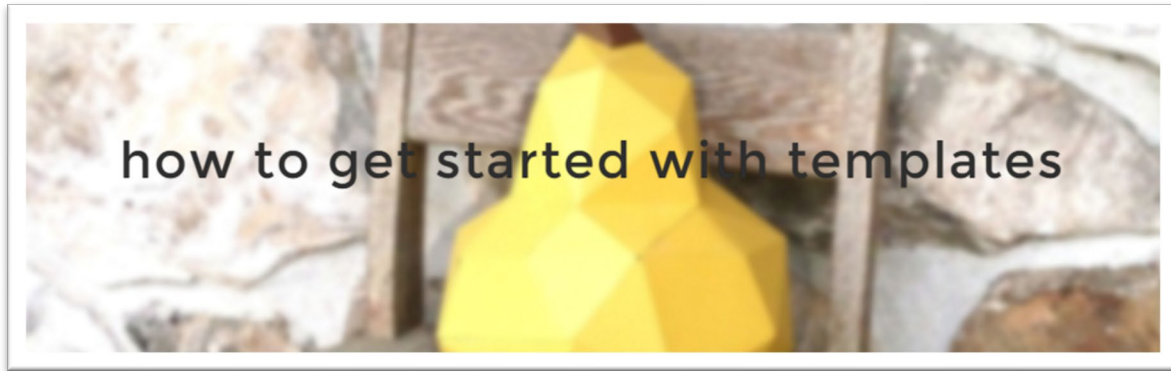http://ow.ly/Wy5PA

WEB PAGES:

Finally, you can always go on www.sofsdesigns.com where you'll have the link to our many HOW to pages

Let's get started!

What you need to get started:
- Printer or die cutter
- Paper, anywhere from paper to card stock 65lb (176 gsm) to 80lb (236 gsm)
- Craft knife and cutting mat or scissors *
- Ruler and something sharp-ish to score your fold lines *
- Glue stick, white glue or double side tape (hot glue doesn't work well)

*If you are using a die cutting machine you can skip some steps.

.

Please read: SVG files use with DIE cutters
IF YOU NEED HELP USING YOUR DIE CUTTER MACHINE, PLEASE REFER TO YOUR SPECIFIC BRAND'S HOW TO PAGES.

For CRICUT users: You will need to adjust a few things manually. You will need to find the score lines which are blue and red and change these to 'score' instead of cut. Please go ahead and do the same for the numbers.
For all SVG files: A box frame was added to prevent design programs to resize our pieces. Since it very important that the pieces fit together, **please make sure that all 'pages' or 'files' have these dimensions** using the box frame to resize if necessary:

: 8.25 by 11.50 inches or 22.95 by 29.21 cm
Once the size is correct, you can delete the box frame or hide it and continue with the pieces. See here for a quick video HOW TO (for cricut especially)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja-FAUYEnZw

ALSO, FOR SVG file users please **refer to the pdf file for all the tips and tricks**. Also remember that the blue score lines are the 'mountain folds and the red score lines are the 'valley folds. Finally, **sometimes the svg file are not exactly the same as the pdf**. Not too worry, this is because I may have changed a few things along the way on the svg file to improve the model using die cutter machines. **Use the SVG as is and use the pdf as reference**. Both files will make a great paper sculpture!

how to make your papercraft
DIE CUTTING machine users/SVG files skip steps 1:

STEP:
1-- You will need to prepare your pieces first by cutting them (#1, #2) and scoring them (image #3 notice the knife is upside down using the back of the knife to apply a score line not cutting the paper) Scoring allows for a clean fold line.
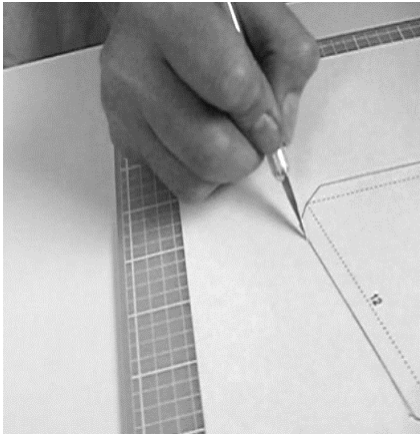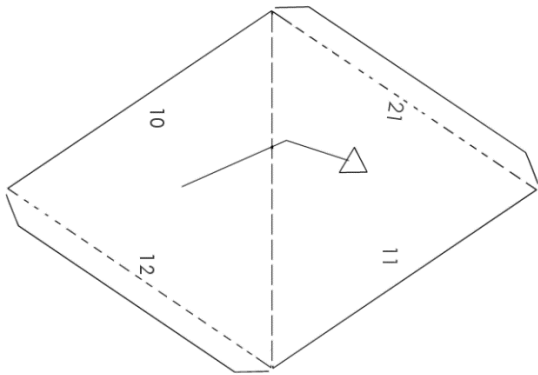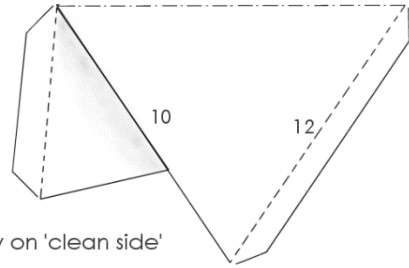
image #1

image #2

image #3

Notice that the Assembly lines (see images #4- #7 below) make mountains (fold up) and valleys (fold down) on 'clean' side.

make mountain on 'clean side'

image #4

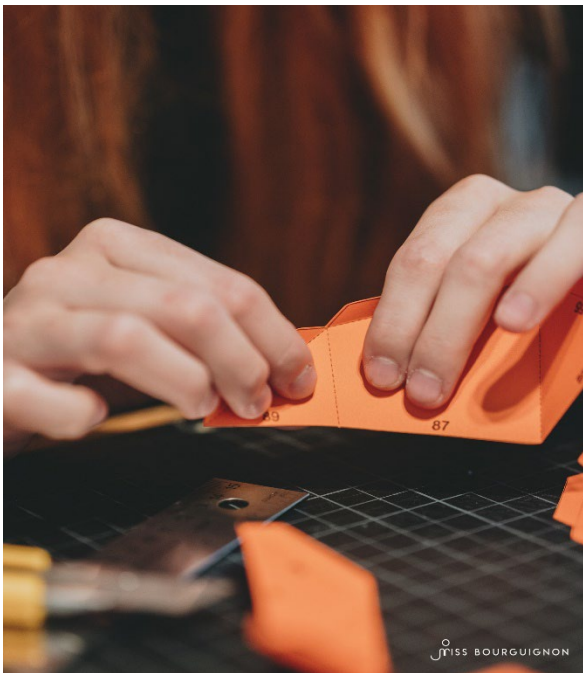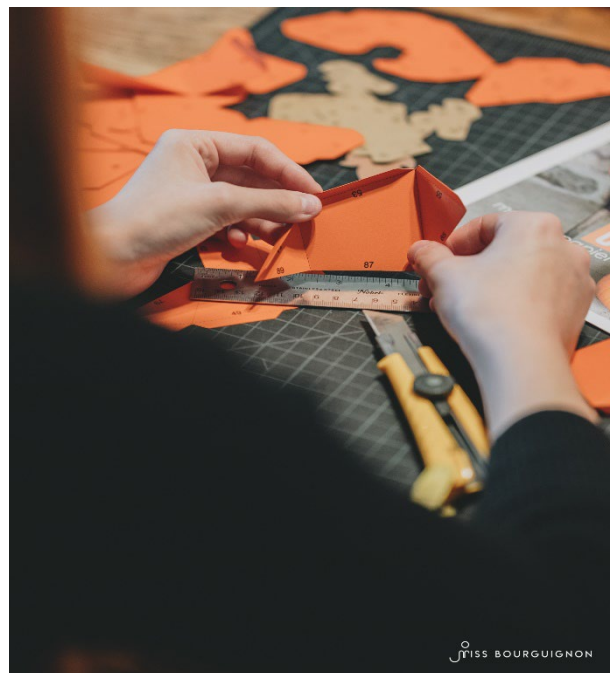make valley on 'clean side'

image #5

image #6   and 7

STEP 2-- Once that's done you need to find the matching numbers on your tabs (image #8-9) as this is where you will glue the two same number tabs together. Since you have a 'printed side' and a 'clean side', you glue or use double side tape all tabs on printed side so that your model has no trace of the template once complete (image #10).

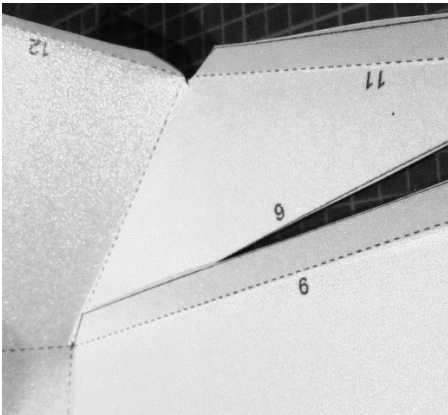Here are some images to help you visualize the process.

Image #8

Image #9

Image #10

You may get into corners where your glue stick can't reach so you can use a toothpick to apply the glue (image #12) or use a different kind of glue which will have better reach (image #13). Using 'strong' double side tape is also a good technique (images # 14-15).
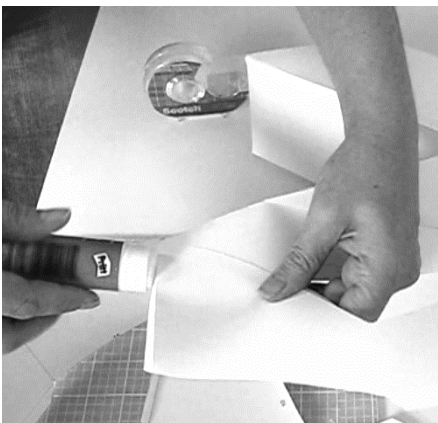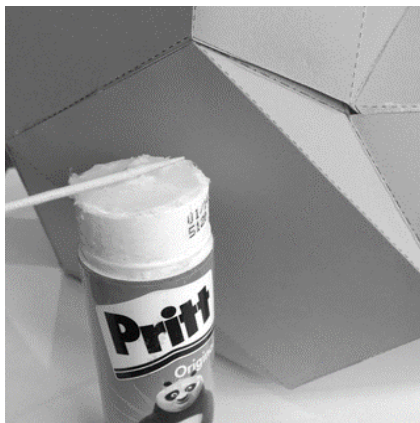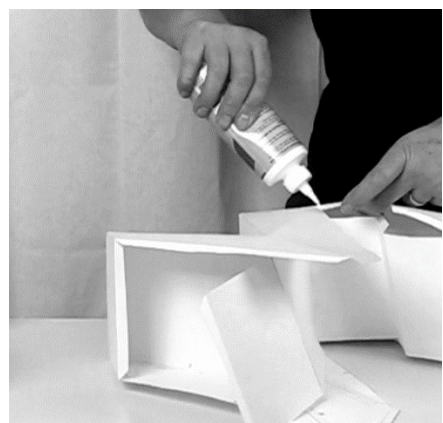

Image #11

Image #12

Image #13

Image# 14

Image #15

When you start it's good to plan ahead a little bit, for example sometimes the template will have specific instructions for which pages to print on what color paper to use. Or, sometimes, it will tell you a little bit about what sections of the paper model you have on specific pages.

With time you'll get to know how you prefer to build your models. WE RECOMMEND that you start with the top of the model and work your way down adding one piece at a time. For example, starting with a piece from the head and add one piece until the head is done then continue on your way around body until you reach the last piece at bottom (or against the wall). Often time that last piece will offer the option to cut a whole so you can reach inside so its eaiser to glue. The body parts are written on the peices so you can tell which is which. Organize them a little bit so you know where you are going ahead of time.

Keep in mind that this is a bit like making a puzzle. The activity does take some time and should not be `rushed`. Take your time and enjoy the flow.

Voila! Now you know all about making 3d papercrafts.

The rest will come with experience!

Terms used:

Template
Its a pattern for your paper. You can use the paper of your choice. The color of your paper will determine the color of the model. For different results, use different color paper.

Printer
You can use your regular home printer using A4 or letter size paper. You don`t need anything fancy or color ink since the paper you choose is the color.

DIE CUTTER MACHINE
Those are commercially sold machines that do the drawing, cutting and scoring for you. Popular brands are Brother Scan and Cut, Cricut and Silhouette

Paper
Use any kind of paper you want. If you want a model that will be a bit more solid, use thicker cardstock (thicker paper) anywhere in the range of 65-80 lb or 176 gsm to 216 gsm .

Scoring
Making a line on the paper that will help the paper fold better. By creating pressure on the fold line with a somewhat sharp object, it will make it much easier and cleaner when comes time to fold the paper. You can use the back of your xacto knife, or an open safety pin. You can also buy a scoring tool at your favorite craft store. Make sure to not apply too much pressure so it does not cut the paper.