



Christmas Crafts

How To Create Your Own Stencils

Materials

- Printed stencil
- Clear stencil material from craft store OR clear plastic report covers
- X-acto knife or sharp craft knife
- Painters tape
- Hardwood board or other sturdy cutting surface
- Fine sand paper
- Repositionable spray adhesive (optional)
- Stencil paint and brushes

Instructions

1. Select and print your stencil pattern from the images above. If necessary, use a copy machine to enlarge or reduce the image.
2. Once printed, position the printed stencil on the stencil material. Make sure to leave enough plastic around your stencil pattern to easily tape your finished stencil to your craft project later.
3. Use painters tape to securely fix your stencil to the plastic stencil material. Masking tape may also be used, but painters tape can be more easily repositioned and will not leave a sticky residue.
4. Flip your taped stencil over so the clear plastic is on top and you are viewing the printed pattern beneath it.
5. Place your prepared stencil on a hardwood board or other flat cutting surface. You will be using a sharp blade, so be careful to ensure any tables are protected. You may also use hard plastic cutting boards or cardboard atop old cookie sheets for creating stencils, but be aware they will get scratched.
6. Use an X-acto or sharp craft knife to cut out all black areas in the stencil pattern. The sharper the blade, the more easy cutting your stencil will be. When cutting, keep your hand positioned above the blade to prevent accidental injury should the blade slip. Rotating your stencil as you go along may make it easier to cut.
7. After you have cut out all of the black areas, untape your stencil. Pop out any stencil pieces if necessary, and use fine sandpaper to smooth any rough or sharp edges if necessary.
8. You're now ready to affix your new stencil to your craft project and start painting!

Notes:

- You can also use cardstock or old manila file folders to create stencils.
- Many craft stores sell Repositionable Spray Adhesive, along with stencil paints and brushes, for securing your finished stencil patterns to your craft projects.
- If stenciling a flat surface, rolling pins work wonderfully for securing your stencil to your project.
- Store multiple stencils between sheets of cellophane to prevent them from sticking together.
- Use Goo Gone to remove any sticky residue from tape or spray adhesive.

Stenciling Ideas

What can you do with your new stencil? With the proper paint, you can stencil just about anything! Add Christmas patterns to cards, t-shirts, place mats, furniture, pillowcases, walls, flower pots, windows, serving trays, shower curtains, tablecloths, wall hangings, baby bibs, scrapbooks, aprons, handbags, tree skirts and more!