Just the Card

In the last article we looked at paper and card in respect of its composition and thickness. The card that we make blank cards from should be made from at least 200 + gsm. If anything less than this is used the cards will not be stiff enough.

There are many shapes and sizes of cards, but mostly they are sized around the standard envelope sizes available.

Here is a chart of the most commonly used sizes:

Card Size	Mertric size (mm)	Imperial Equivalent(ins)	Envelope size (mm)
A4	210 × 297	8.27 × 11.69	C4
A5	148 × 210	5.83 × 8.27	C5
A6	105 × 148	4.13 × 5.83	C6
A7	74 × 105	2.91 × 4.13	C7
DL	99 x 210	4.00 x 8.00	DL
202 mm Square	202 x 202	8.00 x 8.00	220 x 220 *
150 mm Square	150 x 150	6.00 x 6.00	150 x 150
135 mm Square	135 x 135	5.31 x 5.31	140 x 140
125 mm Square	125 x 125	5.00 x 5.00	125 x 125
120 mm Square	120 x 120	4.75 x 4.75	120 x 120
100 mm Square	100 x 100	4.00 x 4.00	100 x 100
76 mm Square	76 x 76	3.00 x 3.00	86 x 86 *

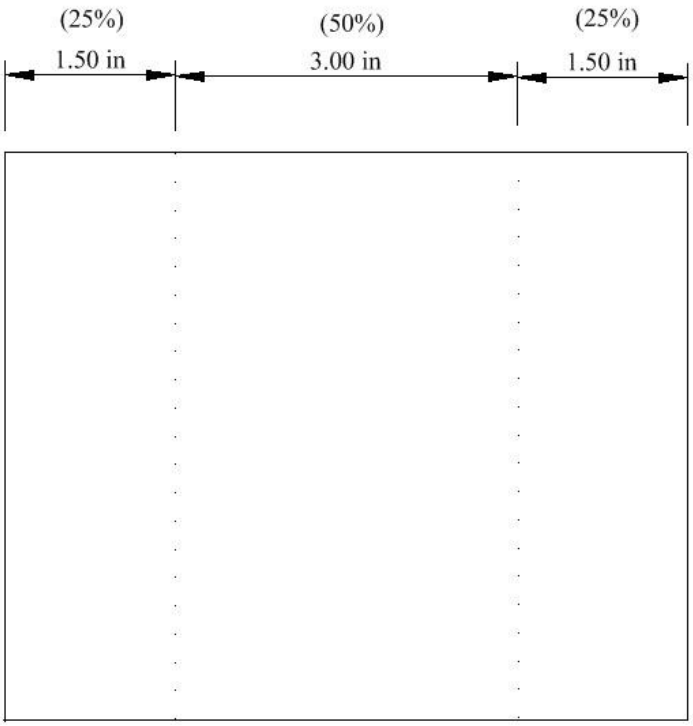
* Nearest equivalent

Not only are cards available in many different sizes, but also in an infinite variety of shapes. The most common card blank used is the simple bi-fold. For instance if you get a piece of A 4 card and fold it in half on its longest side you will make an A5 blank.

There are many ways that cards can be folded to produce different effects. I will illustrate a few ways that are most common.

Gate Fold

Using a piece of A4 as an example, but any size you wish can be used, with the card laid in a landscape position in front of you, measure 25% in from each side and fold, so that the ends meet in the middle. The example below shows a piece of 6” x 6” card folded to make a gatefold card.

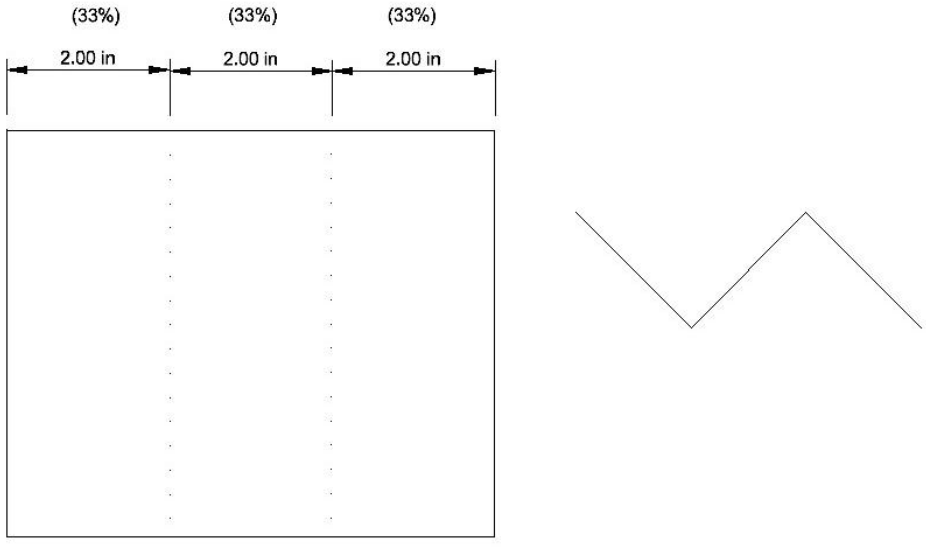


Gate Fold Card

(Dotted line denotes fold line)

Zig-Zag

The Zig-Zag card is another example of how card can be folded to produce unusual shapes. This time the longest length is divided into thirds (33%) and folded at these lines.



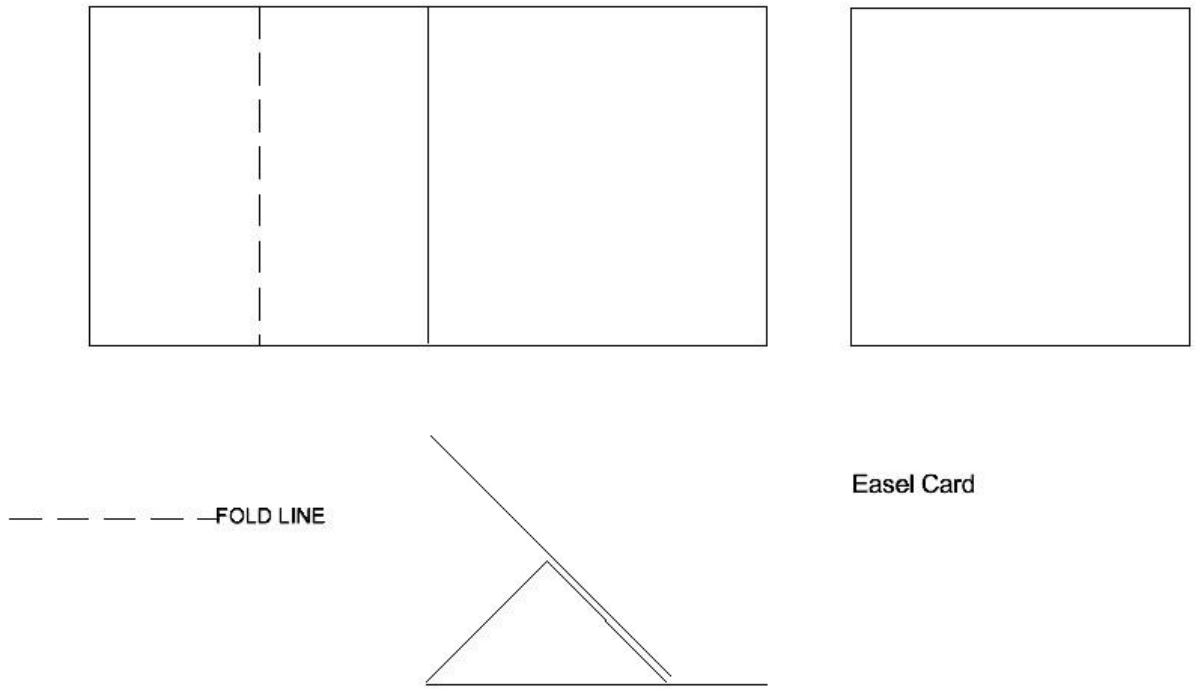
Zig Zag Card

Easel Card

The Easel card is a little bit more complex than the previous cards. For this you will need one piece of card 12” x 6” (A4 will do, but it will be slightly smaller in width). Cut the 210mm to 6” (150mm) and fold in half on the longest length. Also cut a piece of card 6” x 6” for the front.

Now make a fold on one of the folded sides so that the edge folds to the middle fold. Bend so that the side you have folded forms a triangle.

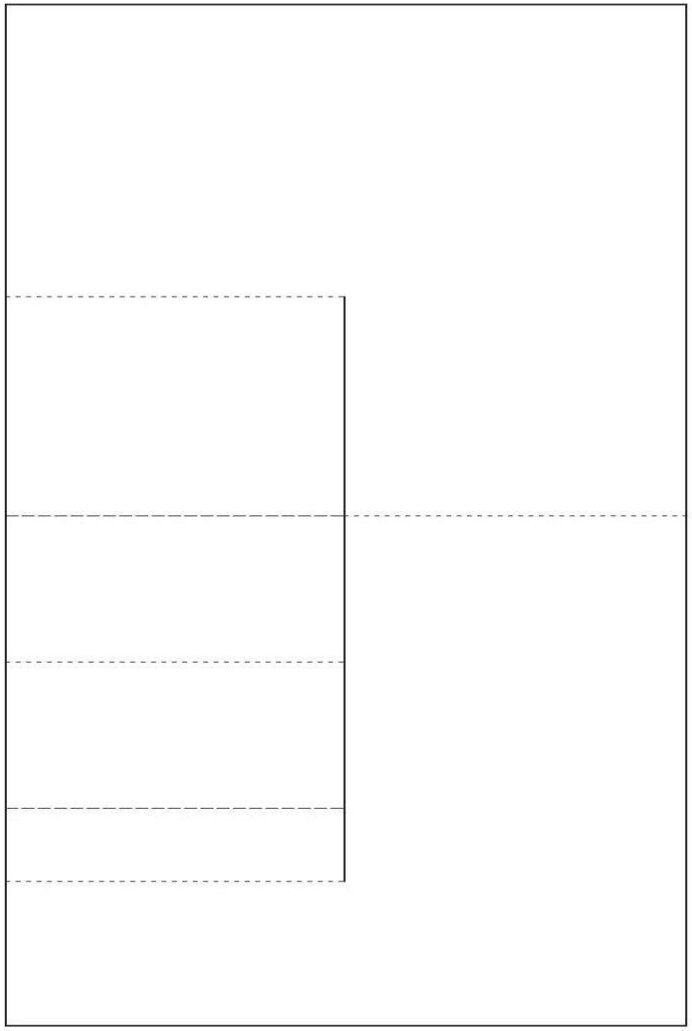
Take the 6” square card and glue onto the folded card as shown below.



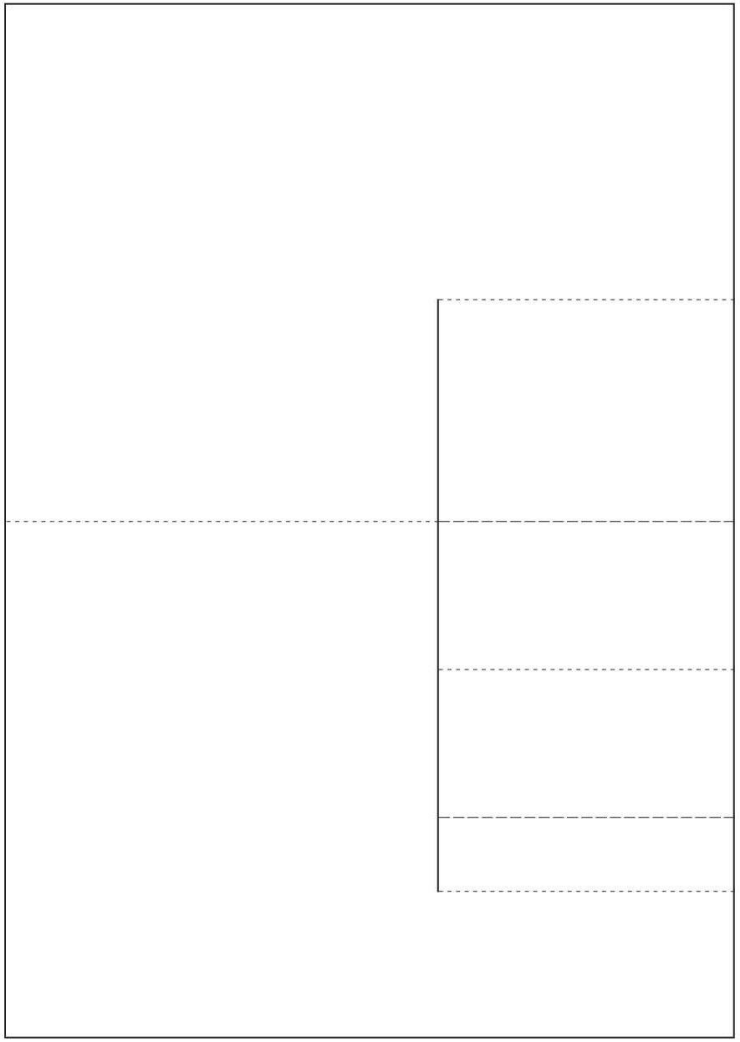
Stepper Card

There are several forms of this type of card. The first three are a play on the same theme.

In the example shown, get a piece of card 10” x 7.5”, although this design can be scaled to whatever dimensions you wish. Cut the one(or two) lines as shown on the templates and score the fold lines noting the direction of the fold. It is best to make the centre fold first and then fold from the left hand side bending the card in alternate directions.

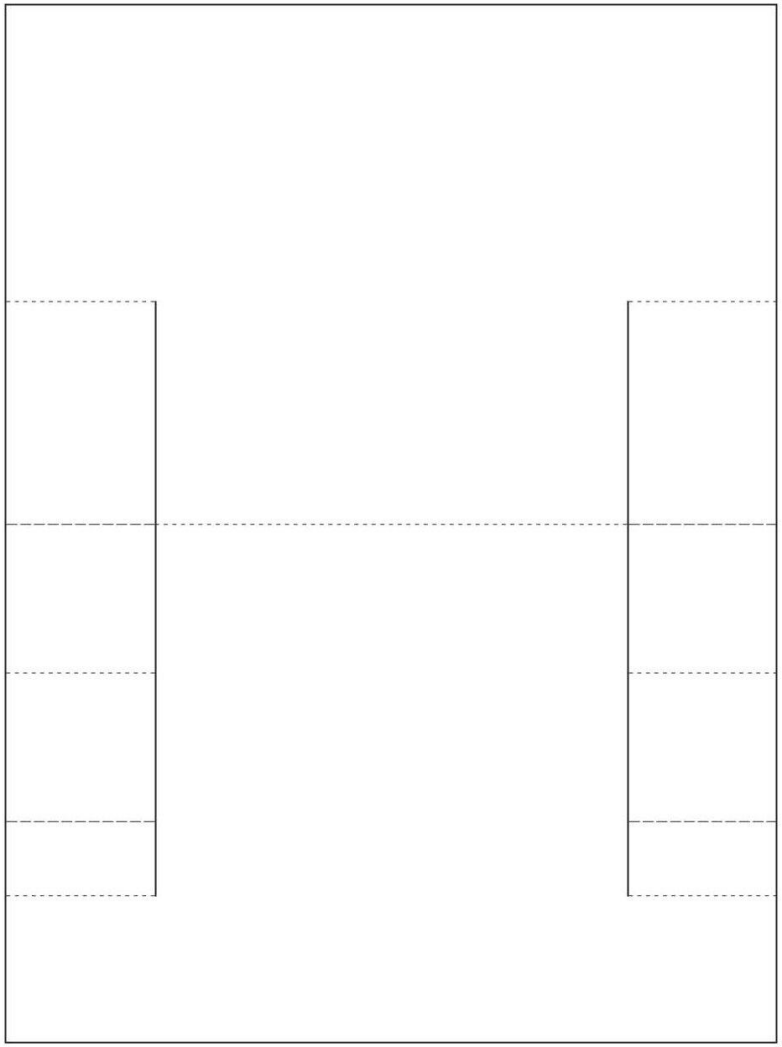


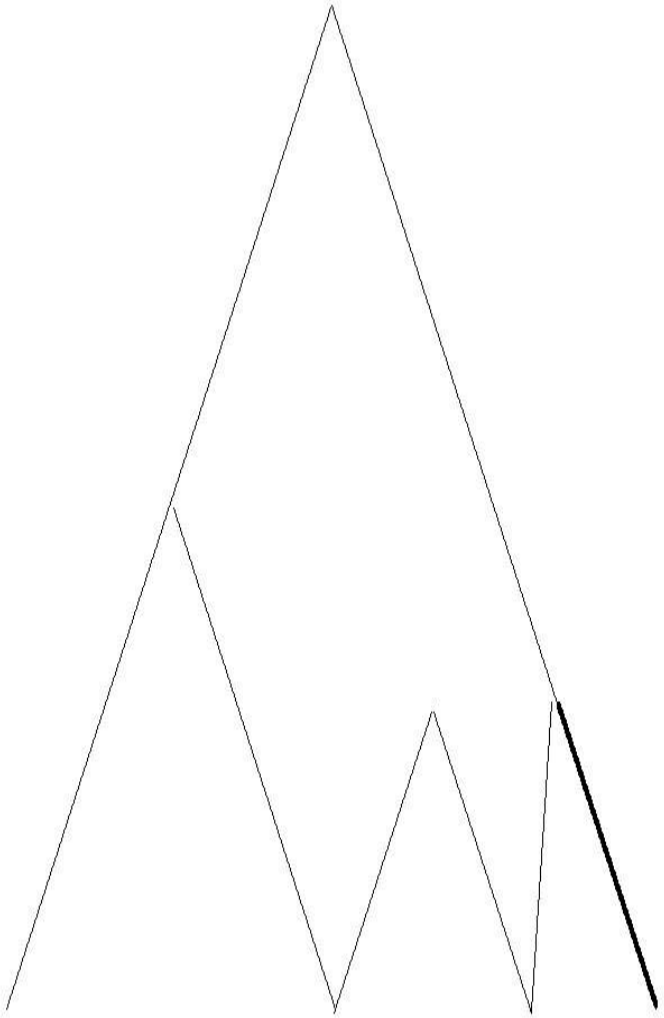
Cut
Fold towards
Fold away



Cut
Fold towards
Fold away

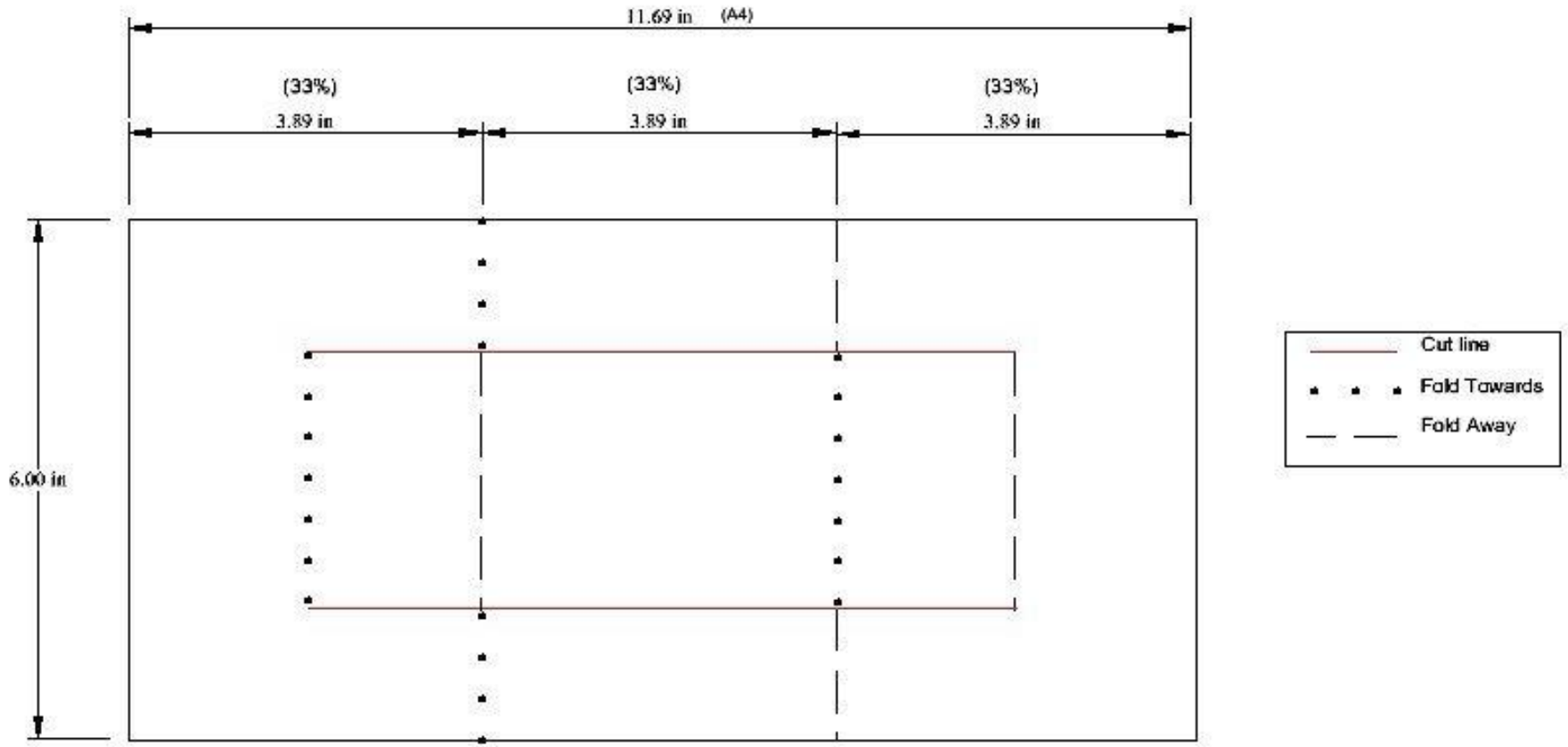
Art#2-01





Stepper Card folding

Art#2-01



Stepper Card

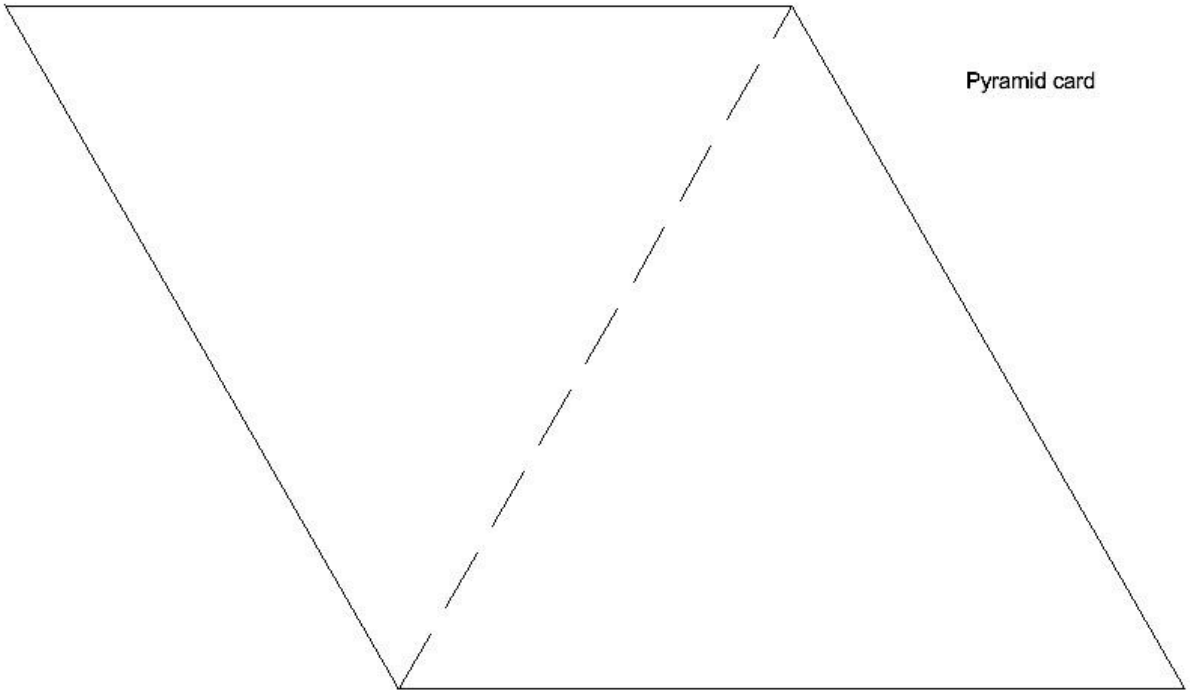
The last design is a slightly simpler version on the stepper card theme. Firstly cut the two lines as shown and fold noting the direction of fold.

Shaped Cards

For the construction of these next few cards you may find a protractor and a compass handy. The drawings are not necessarily to scale. All of the templates have been designed to fit onto A4 card, but you may have to re scale the drawings.

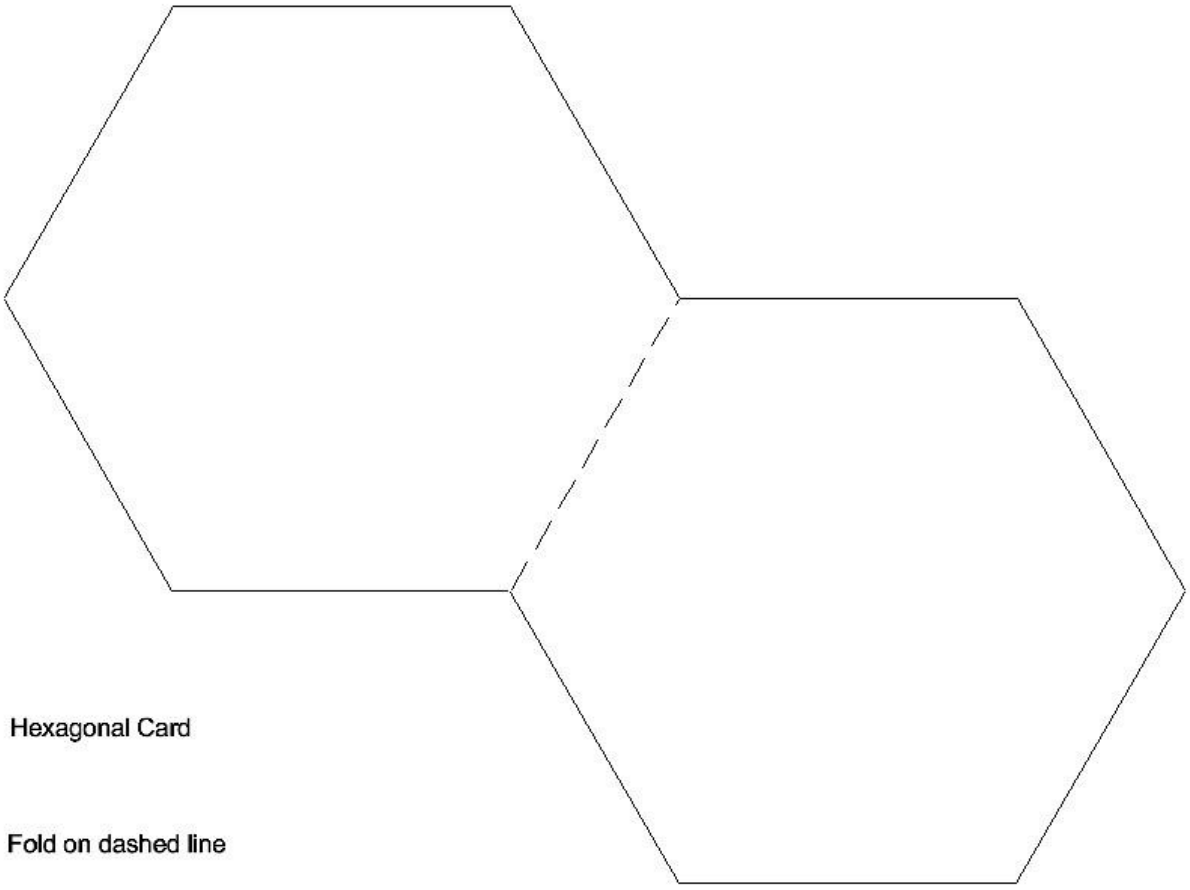
Pyramid Card

This shape is made up of two equilateral triangles forming a geometric shape called a **rhombus**. You can use the template to draw the shape or you can draw it with sides of say 8” and the angle inside the triangle being 60 degrees. Just in case you have forgot your geometry an equilateral triangle has sides of equal length and the angles are all equal (60 degrees). The fold is made at the intersection of the two triangles.



Hexagonal Card

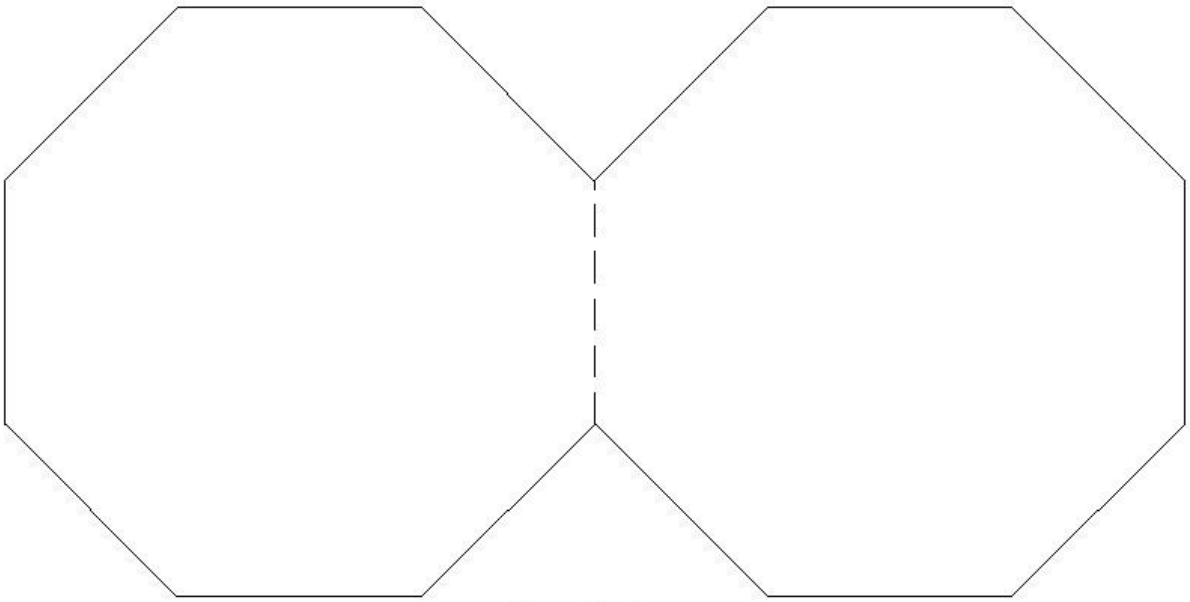
In a similar fashion to the Pyramid card the hexagonal card is joined on one face of the hexagon. As before you can use the template to mark out your card or if you want to make the card a different size you can mark it out yourself. I don't know if you remember this little trick; to construct a hexagon of the width of side that you wish to construct, say 2", and then scribe a circle with a 2" radius. Now with the compass set at this dimension place the point anywhere on the circumference and mark the circumference with the pencil end in two places. Now move the point to one of the place you have just marked and scribe another mark. Do this four times until you have scribed around the circle and joined up with the first set of marks. If you have scribed them accurately the first and last points should join up exactly.



Octagonal Card

Again the fold line is on one of the sides of the Octagon. You would be best to construct the card from the template, but if you feel brave you can have a go in drawing it yourself, if you wish to make it with different dimensions. The Octagon has equal length sides and each of the internal angles is 135 degrees. Draw the

base line of the dimension you want and measure the angle of 135 degrees and draw a line, longer than the base line. With the compass set to the base line dimension, scribe a point on the line. From this point measure 135 degrees and draw another line, scribe another line of the same dimension. Repeat this until you join up with the base line.



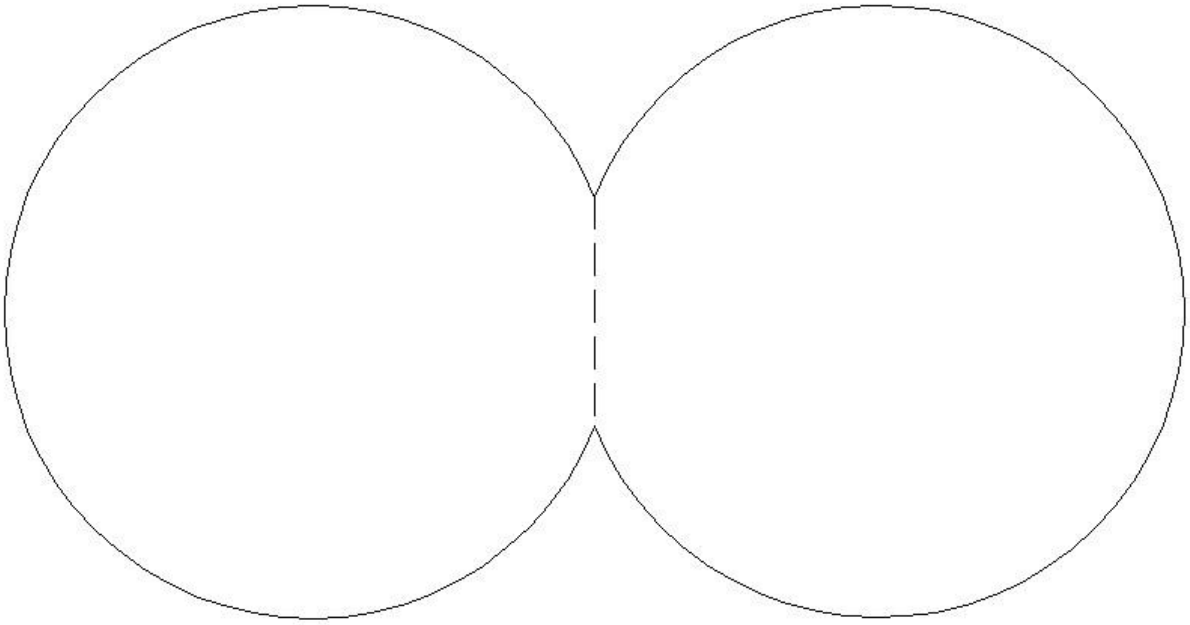
Octagonal Card

Fold on dashed line

Circular Card

This card is simply two circles where a cord is drawn say ¼ " in from the edge of the circle on say an 8" circle. If you want to construct a template with your own dimensions, I suggest that you only cut a template for one circle, then mark out the second circle by using the template again.

You may wish to scribe another cord on the circle parallel to the first as otherwise the card will not stand up. This means that you can only use this in landscape mode.



Circular Card

Fold on dashed line

There are many other shapes that can be used for the construction of cards. I will leave this to your imagination and ingenuity. In a later article I will look at the use of machines that can be used to cut out fancy shapes and I will provide drawings that can be used with these machines.