Design a Three-Card Greeting Set

One coordinated layout system, three original card-front designs

These are original printable digital plans for adult paper crafts. Dimensions are calculated; every finished size is nominal. Paper thickness, printer scaling, adhesive, cutting accuracy and folding technique can change the fit. There has been no physical printing, cutting, folding, gluing, fit test or durability test. Work at a clear table, keep sharp edges and wet adhesive away from children, and use only materials and adhesives that are suitable for the intended craft according to their labels. Keep food, flame, heat and electrical loads away from these objects.

A coordinated set rather than three unrelated cards

This guide helps you design a three-card greeting set with a shared size, typography rule and visual accent while giving each card its own purpose. The examples are called THANKS, HELLO and CELEBRATE, but those are reader-selectable messages, not prescriptive wording. It is suitable for lightweight personal notes or everyday greetings and does not ask you to reproduce a commercial design.

All three original pattern pages start from a 140 x 100 mm rectangular blank. A central score 70 mm from the left edge makes a nominal folded card 70 mm wide by 100 mm high. The outside cut border is solid; the central score is green dashed. One side of the open blank becomes the back, the other the front. The downloadable sample art sits within the right-hand front-face panel and avoids the score.

Working from one measured form saves time but should not make the designs identical. Card A uses a nested-corner line motif, Card B uses a ribbon-like diagonal accent with two small circles, and Card C uses a compact arc of dots and triangles. The patterns are original line drawings, not photographs of printed or folded samples. You can use the art as printed, trace it, or replace it with your own message.

Understand the safe design zone

On an opened card, use x=0..140 mm from left to right and y=0..100 mm from bottom to top. The score is x=70 mm for all y. The front panel is x=70..140 mm, and the protected message/design window is x=78..133 mm and y=12..88 mm. That rectangle is 55 x 76 mm. It leaves at least 8 mm next to the score, 7 mm from the outer right edge, and 12 mm at both top and bottom.

Guide lines and circles on the pattern page are not glue zones and are not additional cutting paths. If you decorate the card with heavier collage paper, keep it away from the score and use a compatible adhesive; do not assume that a decorated card will close because the undecorated blank does. The original patterns keep their art relatively light to make writing space available inside.

The three individual full-size cut-and-score pages are intentionally separate. Trying to fit three 140 x 100 mm landscape blanks onto a single Letter sheet at actual size would force cramped space or scaling. Print one card per matched A4 or US Letter pattern page at 100%, measure the 50 mm reference bar on EACH page, and refuse clipped cut borders. Use coloured paper or decorate plain paper after the cuts are marked.

Decide what keeps the set together

A coordinated visual system has at least four choices. First, size: each folded card is 70 x 100 mm nominally. Second, design space: each front uses the same 55 x 76 mm message window, even though the line art differs. Third, a recurring accent: choose the same ink colour or line thickness across the three fronts. Fourth, a type rule: use either one simple letter style or one family of handwritten capitals on all three cards.

Write one purpose for each card before you begin. THANKS can carry a short note of gratitude with generous blank space; HELLO can introduce or reconnect without requiring a long message; CELEBRATE can mark a milestone without a big printed slogan. These are examples, not commercial greeting-card claims or a prescription for a recipient.

The inner writing panel is usually the reverse of the front-facing design, not a printed advertisement. If the greeting is personal, avoid including private addresses or photographs on a publicly shared pattern. A card that looks visually coordinated on screen may print differently across papers, ink types and settings; check all three actual sheets before committing to a final set.

Make the three card blanks and decorate

1. Select a suitable low-risk cardstock for hand folding, around 140-220 gsm as a starting comparison rather than a guarantee. Prepare a millimetre ruler, ordinary scissors, blunt scoring tool, pencil and expendable scrap. Do not use knives or heat tools.

2. Print all three corresponding patterns on the chosen A4 or US Letter paper size. Turn off Fit to page and choose Actual Size / 100%. Check each page's 50 mm bar separately; if any page does not measure correctly, redraw its numbers or reprint before cutting.

3. On each page identify the 140 x 100 mm cut border and the x70 score. The 55 x 76 mm front design window is printed as a faint non-cutting guide. Do not cut the window or treat it as an aperture.

4. Using a ruler and blunt tool, score the x70 vertical fold line gently before removing the blank from its larger sheet. The objective is to guide a fold, not cut through the paper fibres.

5. Cut the first card along the full solid outer border. Keep the blank one piece. Fold at x70 so the two halves meet; the front panel is the original right half of the open blank. Check it opens and closes without a torn score.

6. Repeat with the second and third patterns. Arrange the three folded blanks beside one another; their nominal closed outer edges should all correspond to 70 x 100 mm. Record any print or cut differences rather than adjusting one card without marking the change.

7. For Card A, use the nested-corner line art within the front window. Keep the centre area open for a short THANKS or your own word. Repeat the corner spacing lightly rather than drawing a border at the very edge of the card.

8. For Card B, use the two small circles and soft diagonal stripe as a HELLO motif. Keep the stripe inside the window and clear of the main fold; it should look different from Card A while retaining the same accent colour and line weight.

9. For Card C, use the dotted arc and small triangle pattern as a CELEBRATE motif. The loose arrangement provides a visual centre without covering the entire window. Place any message so it does not compete with tiny details near a crease.

10. Choose one consistent hand-lettering approach for the three messages. Test the lettering size on expendable scrap before writing on a final card. A short legible message and generous whitespace are more reliable than packing the full window with tiny text.

11. If colouring or gluing decorations, protect your working table and follow actual material instructions. Let wet ink or adhesive dry fully before closing the card; avoid sticking valuable original images directly to paper craft materials.

12. Write a separate personal note on the interior if desired. For a coordinated series you may also keep an inner blank margin of roughly 8 mm from edges and folds, but this is reader guidance rather than an additional cut line.

13. View all three fronts side by side at normal reading distance. Ask whether their sizes, colour choices and lettering belong together while the motifs and messages remain distinct. Correct only the parts that interfere with legibility.

14. Place the cards flat in a clean dry envelope or folder until used. A handmade card is not a weatherproof parcel, protective archival enclosure, toy or structural object. Record the final print settings and what you would change for a repeat set.

A practical layout checklist and common mistakes

One common mistake is cutting the message window because it looks like a rectangle in the diagram. In this guide that 55 x 76 mm zone is only a design reference. Cut the outside 140 x 100 mm perimeter; score x70. The three decorative motifs are printed paths, not perforations. If you accidentally separate the front panel, start a new blank rather than gluing a structural hinge back together.

A second mistake is applying different printer scaling to each card. A 50 mm scale bar printed at 48 mm implies a 4% reduction; the 140 mm cut width would become 134.4 mm and the folded card would be 67.2 mm rather than 70 mm wide. This is arithmetic, not a demonstration of how a particular printer behaved. Reprint or draft the full measurements rather than silently mixing sizes.

If heavy decoration makes a fold resist, reduce the layers near the hinge, choose flatter motifs or select a more manageable card. The shared visual rule does not require identical paper weights. For any new paper, check fold grain and the manufacturer's printing limits when relevant. If a printed ink layer cracks, the next attempt may call for less scoring pressure, different orientation or a different stock rather than covering the crack with more ink.

Adapt the wording and respect privacy

The printed sample headings are mere design examples; change THANKS to a name, HELLO to a friendly question, or CELEBRATE to a word meaningful to a recipient. A decorative repeated theme may use a restrained palette or the same two hand-drawn flourishes without reproducing someone else's trademarked artwork. All patterns should remain free-standing, original drawings.

For an individual recipient, consider accessibility and readability: adequate contrast between ink and card, lettering large enough to read without strain, and clear space around the message. Pale metallic pencil on glitter paper can reduce contrast. The goal is not a social-media photograph of a card; it is a practical greeting someone can actually open and read.

If you use a commercial or purchased pattern as a reference, respect its licence and do not redistribute its artwork. The three line motifs and measurements provided here are newly made Steadleaf teaching materials. The set can be customized for personal craft use without implying that a copyrighted outside image has been licensed.

References, rights and limits

Adobe Acrobat Help, Adjust page size for printing PDFs: https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/desktop/print-documents/set-up-and-print-pdfs/page-size.html . This explains Actual Size and Fit but does not certify a printed result.

University of Brighton Visual Communication Technical Resource, Grain Direction: https://blogs.brighton.ac.uk/viscommtech/bookarts/worksheets-for-bookbinders/grain-direction/ . General background on grain and cleaner folds, not a validation of these particular cards.

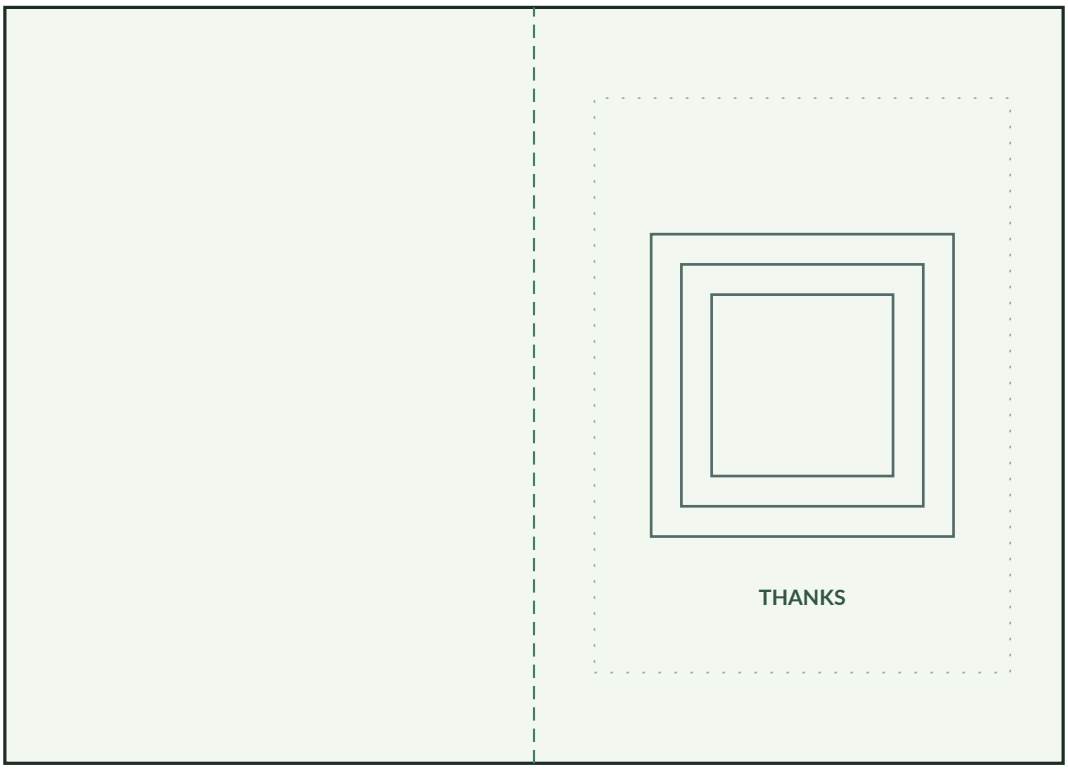
Library of Congress, Care, Handling and Storage of Works on Paper: https://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/paper.html . A reminder not to alter valuable paper artefacts, not a claim that these greetings are archival.

All three measured blanks, front motifs, cut/score diagrams, master instructions, cover artwork and worksheet pages were created as original Steadleaf Press digital assets. The three examples are placeholders for the reader's own messages. No physical printing, folding, marking, ink, adhesive, user legibility or durability trial was performed by the publishing team.

Printable diagrams and build record follow on the next pages.

STP-MAKE-F035 / THREE-CARD TEMPLATE 1

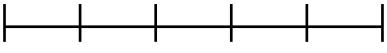
THANKS / CORNERS. Card blank 140 x 100 mm. Solid perimeter CUT, dashed x70 SCORE; fine grey rectangle is guide only.



FOLD x70

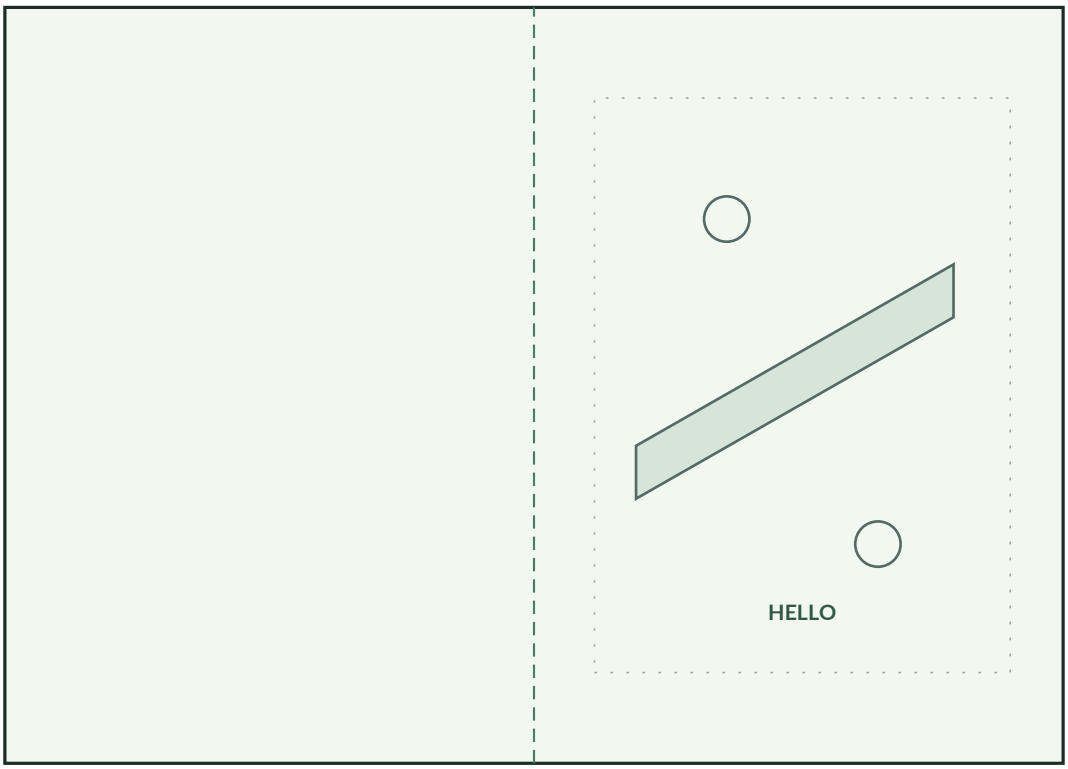
Cut one 140 x 100 mm blank. Score at x70 for two 70 x 100 mm panels. Front x70..140; non-cut design window x78..133/y12..88 (55 x 76 mm).

50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a ruler; must equal 50 mm



STP-MAKE-F035 / THREE-CARD TEMPLATE 2

HELLO / RIBBON. Card blank 140 x 100 mm. Solid perimeter CUT, dashed x70 SCORE; fine grey rectangle is guide only.



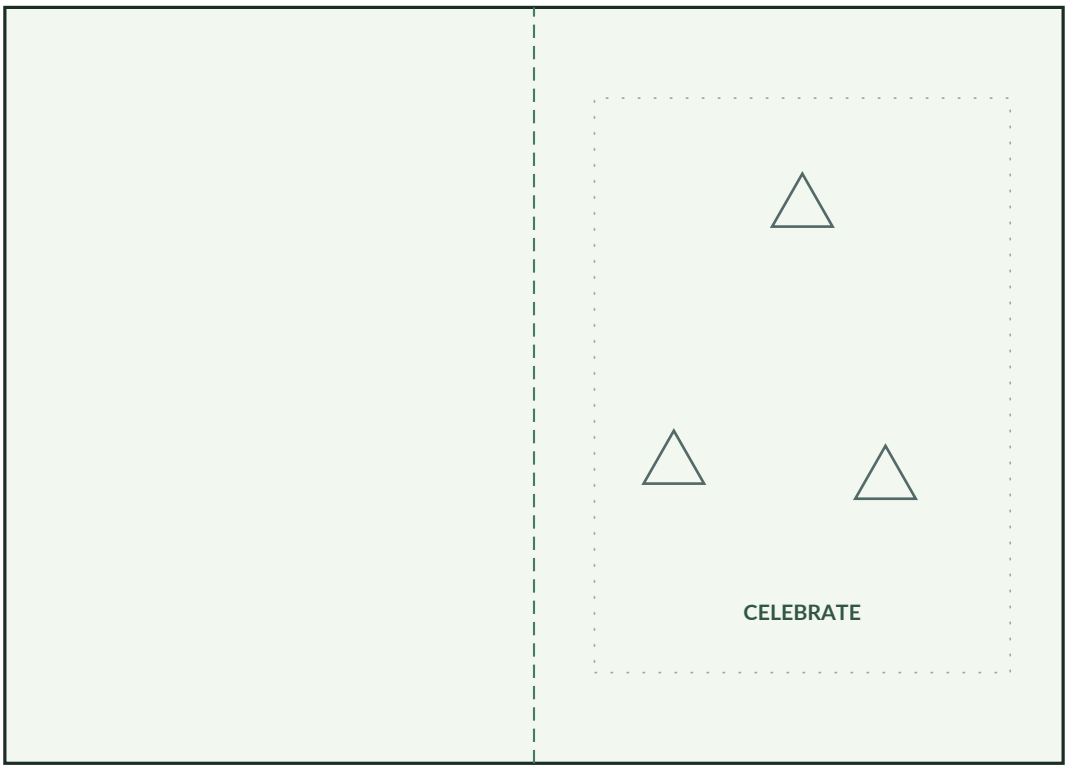
FOLD x70

Cut one 140 x 100 mm blank. Score at x70 for two 70 x 100 mm panels. Front x70..140; non-cut design window x78..133/y12..88 (55 x 76 mm).

50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a ruler; must equal 50 mm

STP-MAKE-F035 / THREE-CARD TEMPLATE 3

CELEBRATE / DOTS. Card blank 140 x 100 mm. Solid perimeter CUT, dashed x70 SCORE; fine grey rectangle is guide only.



FOLD x70

Cut one 140 x 100 mm blank. Score at x70 for two 70 x 100 mm panels. Front x70..140; non-cut design window x78..133/y12..88 (55 x 76 mm).

50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a ruler; must equal 50 mm

STP-MAKE-F035 / MAKER RECORD / PAGE 1

Write your own readings and decisions; no physical trial was performed by Steadleaf Press.

Three pattern pages, Actual Size and 50 mm per page

Paper type and nominal gsm for A, B, C

Each flat blank 140 x 100 mm; score at x70

Front design window x78..133 and y12..88

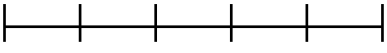
Recurring colour and lettering rule

Three distinct recipient purposes and message drafts

Any fold, ink, print, crop or readability issue

Record an actual observation only if you perform it yourself.

50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a ruler; must equal 50 mm



STP-MAKE-F035 / MAKER RECORD / PAGE 2

Write your own readings and decisions; no physical trial was performed by Steadleaf Press.

What changed from the full-size original?

How was each score/cut location measured?

Where did the paper bind, crack, wrinkle or slip?

What would you change for the next copy?

Date, version and initials

Safety or handling concern noticed by reader

Record an actual observation only if you perform it yourself.

50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a ruler; must equal 50 mm

