

6x6 One-Sheet Wonder Class #1

Project Supplies:

- 6x6 inch square of patterned paper
- Stamps and ink in coordinating colors
- 2 sheets of coordinating color of 8.5x11 inch cardstock
- Adhesive, paper trimmer or scissors

Project Specifications:

- Makes: 4 cards
- Time: about 1 hour
- Cost: \$
- Level: Beginner

Need Stampin' Up supplies? Visit my online stamp store <http://bit.ly/shopwithLyssa>

What's a One-Sheet Wonder?

A "one-sheet wonder" refers to the technique of stamping an entire sheet of cardstock with images to create a pretty pattern. The sheet is then cut up according to a specific guide, and used to decorate plain card bases. One-sheet wonder cutting guides also work with pre-printed patterned papers. It is a fast and efficient way to stamp a lot of cards in a short amount of time. Plus, it's fun!

Stamping Your Own Patterned Paper

- Pick out the stamps you want to combine to make your pattern. You will want a variety of image sizes to create a pleasing overall look and fill in all the space. Flowers, hearts, stars, butterflies and balloons work well.
- Choose 1-2 colors of cardstock for your card bases. Use colors for which you have coordinating ink pads.
- Your biggest stamp image should be in the lightest and softest ink color. The next biggest stamp should be the medium ink colors. The smaller "filler" stamps can be bolder colors.
- Your saying stamp should always be in your darkest color of ink so that it is very easy to read at a glance.

Tips for Beginner Stampers

Here are some **helpful tips** for first-time stampers:

- Make sure your surface is flat and protected from staining. Wash your hands before you work with paper.
- Have baby wipes handy for cleanup. Clean all the stamps you intend to use so they are ready to go.
- Good lighting helps you combine colors best. Choose your color combinations before you begin.
- Push the stamps straight down onto the paper, and pull them straight back up without rocking.
- Well-inked pads provide the best results. If you are having trouble consistently getting nice images, try re-inking the pad. If it is too juicy, blot some off with a paper towel.
- Don't sweat the small mistakes! Stamping is an art, not a science.

Mailing Handmade Cards

You will need four regular A-2 "medium" envelopes for this project. Handmade cards sometimes have trouble fitting in the envelope if they are too bulky. Hand-deliver any that use buttons, wooden die-cuts, or other large embellishments, or use a padded envelope. You should only need one regular postage stamp for the average handmade card, however, unless it is an unusual shape or thickness.

Step One: Stamp the Pattern

Skip to Step Two if you are using pre-made patterned paper.

1. Open your ink pads and set the stamps in front of each color. This will help you keep the colors separate so you do not have to clean the stamps after every use, only at the end of your craft session.
2. Starting in the center of a full sheet of 6x6 white or vanilla cardstock, stamp your largest image several times all over the paper. Start from the center and work your way right up to and off the edges.
3. As you work to fill the paper, stamp “randomly but strategically.” The overall effect will appear random, but try to space your images without overlapping them too much, and spread out your different ink colors so that the whole sheet is filled consistently with the pattern and color.
4. Continue with the next largest stamp in your next ink color, starting from the center and working your way out to the edges.
5. Continue with the remaining stamps and colors, filling in the last open spaces with the smallest images. Your whole sheet should look like one piece of patterned paper.

Step Two: Cut your Cardstock

1. Take the two sheets of colored cardstock and cut each one in half. You can cut them in half either vertically or horizontally—either way, when folded, they will be the right size for a regular “medium” or A-2 size envelope. A paper trimmer will help you with accurate cuts, but you can use scissors as well.
2. Fold each piece in half, taking care to match up the corners before pressing flat. Smooth the folded edge with a folding tool or a stamp block to completely flatten.
3. Use the Cutting Guide included with this class to cut your stamped or patterned sheet into the 8 pieces you will need for the four cards. There shouldn't be any leftovers.

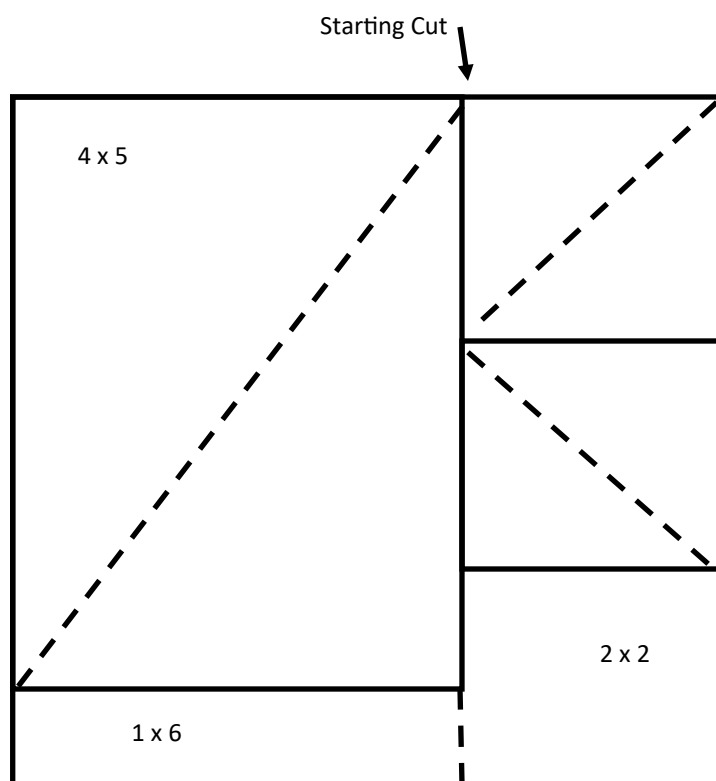
Step Three: Assemble the Cards

1. Once your patterned pieces are cut, lay out the four cards and decide which piece(s) you want to use on each. Adhere the patterned pieces to the card fronts as shown according to the photos on the first page.
2. Using your dark ink color, stamp the sentiment you want for each card and cut or punch them out of your scrap white or vanilla cardstock. If your card base is a light color, you can stamp the saying right on the card as well. Layer them with dimensional adhesive for more texture and interest.
3. Decorate the cards with ribbons, punches and embellishments as desired. Sign and date the back of your pretty creations, then pop them in the mail! Don't forget to stamp the envelopes, too.

Before You Make the Cut:

This is the part that looks complicated, but it's not. Here are some tips for cutting a simple one-sheet wonder:

- Have trouble cutting straight? Use long scissors rather than short ones. Good quality, sharp scissors also don't "catch" on little bumps in the paper and go off course as easily as dull ones do.
- A personal paper trimmer is a great, cheap investment for any papercrafter. You'll have the convenience of the ruler and grid to help line things up, and the cuts will be straight, every time.
- If you make a mistake—well, that's where creativity comes in! Don't get discouraged. You can still use the pieces, and you are on your way to improvising something adorable.
- If you are still nervous, try cutting up a piece of 6x6 copy paper first. You'll get the confidence you need to cut up your pretty pattern.



Cutting Guide:

1. Cut the 6x6 starting sheet of paper in two pieces at the four inch mark.
2. Take the piece that is larger, measuring 4 x 6 inches, and cut one inch off the bottom, leaving you with a 1 x 4 strip. Set those two pieces aside.
3. Take the other original piece measuring 2 x 6 inches, and cut it into three 2 x 2 inch squares. Set one aside.
4. Cut two of the 2 x 2 inch squares in half diagonally from point to point. NOTE: If it matters to the direction of the pattern, cut one of the squares from the lower left to the upper right and the other from the upper left to the lower right.

Enjoying this project? I have many more to choose from! You'll love my Cheat Sheets Collections, cardmaking resources with complete measurements, instructions, alternate layouts and even design tips! There are also One-Sheet Wonders for scrapbookers, so easy layout help is available no matter what type of papercrafting you enjoy. <http://bit.ly/SOMHsetsy>