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Project Description:

This tutorial is for all files in the Alphabet Shadow Box series. The construction of each is identical. Each is built from 5 box layers and one background. The finished box is 5" square. Each letter can be used as an independent monogram or combined with other letters for initials or words.

Click [here](#) for display ideas.



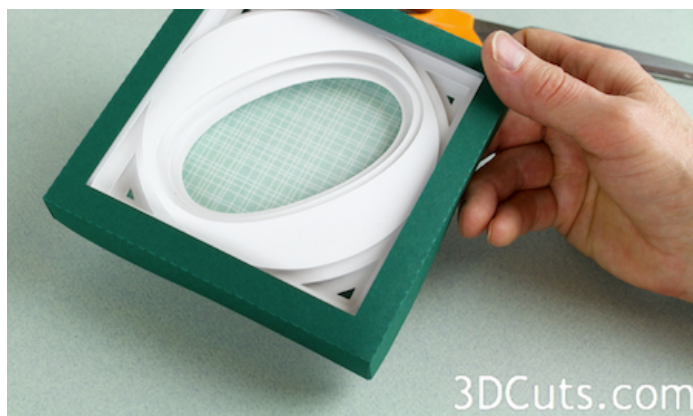
Alphabet Shadow Box Tutorial

Supplies Needed:

<http://www.3dcuts.com/alphabet-shadow-box-tutorial>



- Cutting File available [here](#)
- Glue dots 3/16"
- 8.5 x 11" card stock - 5 pieces - I used the 65lb Cardstock from Recollections for the colors and plain index card stock for the white layers.
- 4 7/8" square patterned paper
- Tape
- Double stick foam spacers (I used double-stick window weatherstripping!)



Important Note: This tutorial in pdf format is included with your download when purchasing files from 3dCuts.com. If you go to the following website you can view this tutorial online with active links. The active website is located at: <http://www.3dcuts.com/alphabet-shadow-box-tutorial>

Steps for completing the Alphabet Shadow Box project:

1. Download the cutting files for your cutting machine. The files are available [here](#).

2. Load the files into your cutting software following the steps for your cutting machine.

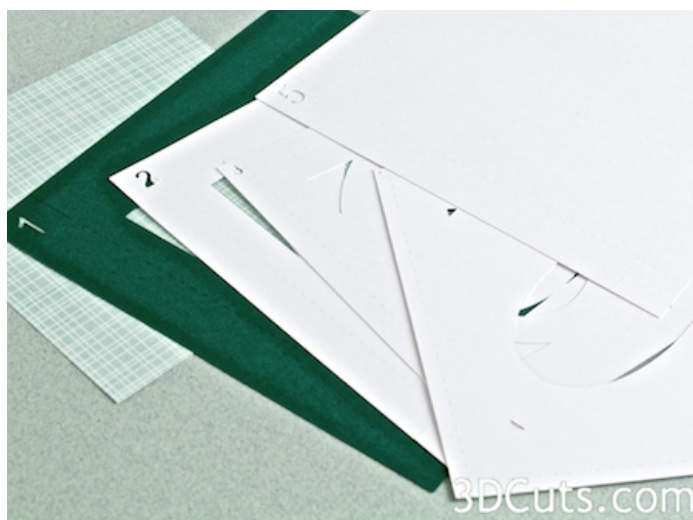
3. Prepare the files:.

Helpful Hint: For the Silhouette, the SVG files from this site will need to be turned into cutting files.

Click [here](#) for detailed steps on how to use SVG files on your Silhouette.

4. Cut the files:

- The shadow box is made up of 6 pieces - the 5 frames and a back

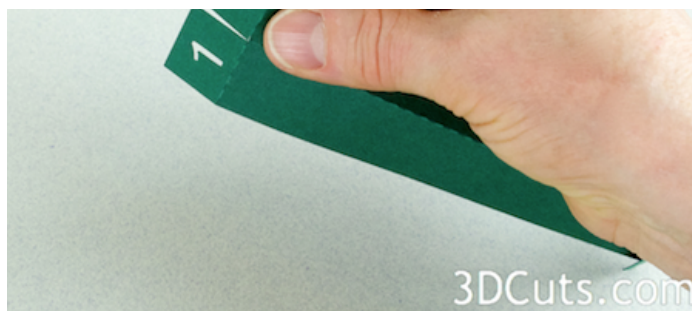


Cut the files.



ground paper.

- For my shadow boxes, I cut Layer 1 (the front layer) from a solid colored piece of card stock.
- I cut layers 2, 3, 4 (the letter layers) and 5 (the back layer) all from white index card stock. You certainly can experiment with other color combos. A gradation of color will provide a different effect.



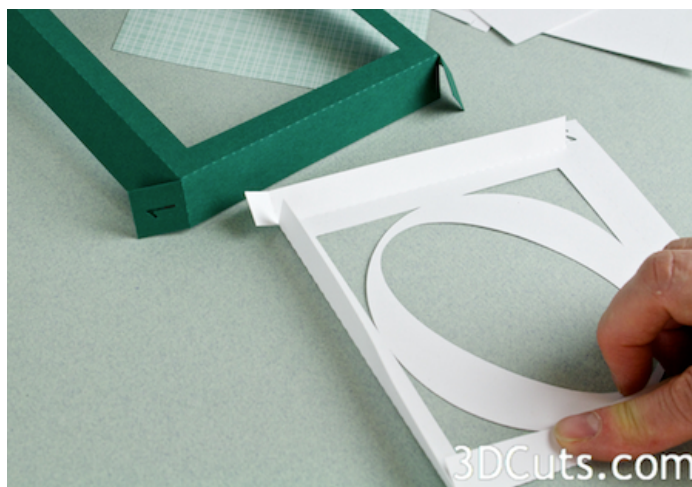
Keep the identifying numbers in the upper left when viewing from the front.

5. Notes about the frames:

- Note: each cut file has dotted lines. These are fold lines.
- Also notice the cut out number on each frame. All frames are numbered to help in the instructions and construction. Always make sure the corner with the number cutout is in the upper left corner when viewed from the front.
- If cutting by hand from PDF file - It is not necessary to cut the identifying numbers. Just write them with a pencil.

6. Fold the 5 frames

- Fold frame 1, 2, 3 and 4 sides BACK away from the front along all fold lines.
- Fold frame 5 the other way. Fold the sides toward the FRONT.



Fold edges on frame 1-4 back, and on frame 5 forward.

7. Glue all corners square



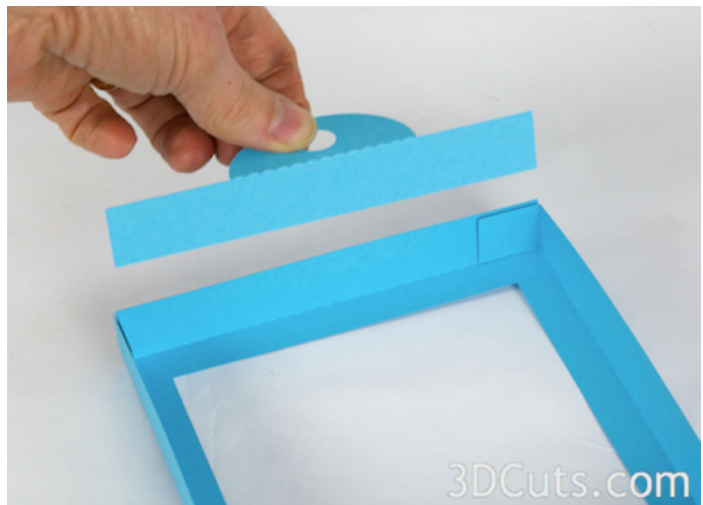
- I like to use Glue Dots on the corners although other glue types are appropriate.
- It is important to make square corners.



Glue corners keeping things square.

8. Adding the hanger (Optional)

- Use the included paper hanger depending on how you anticipate mounting the shadow box. If you will be attaching it to a ribbon for a vertical application, the hanger isn't needed.
- It gets folded and glued to the inside top of frame 1.
- Make sure to center it.



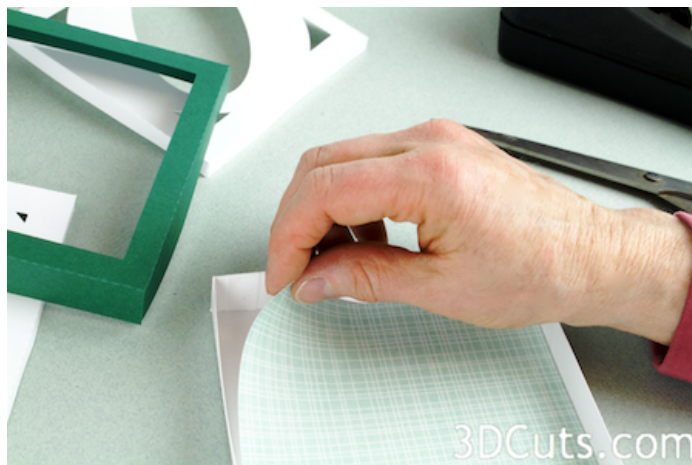
Optional hanger is attached to layer 1.



Finished Alphabet Shadow Box with hanger.

9. Cut the background paper from a complementary paper or card stock.

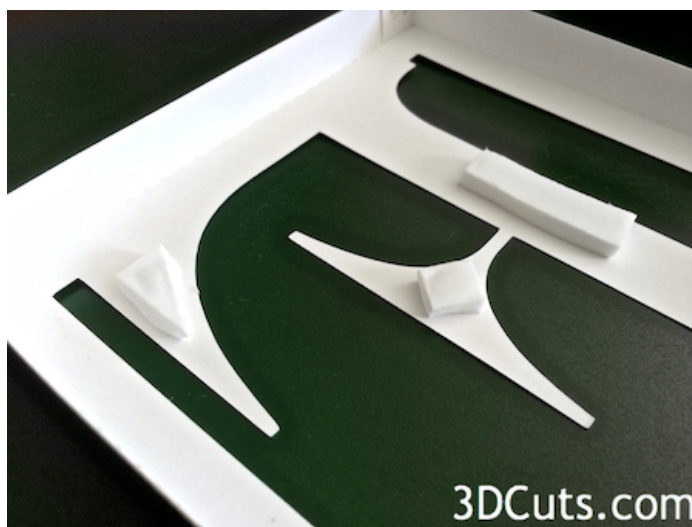
- It is 4 7/8" (124mm) square. You can use the cutting file or just cut it by hand.
- It does not need to be card stock.
- Glue it inside frame 5.



Glue background paper in place.

10. Assemble the 3 Letter layers (layers 2, 3, and 4).

- Place a double-stick foam spacer in any critical locations on the back of layer 2. (This step is optional but adds strength to the design.) Critical locations include any long runs (examples - the long sides of F, or the long vertical of L, etc. Especially critical are any parts that are not supported on both ends (examples - middle line of E and F, etc.)



Add foam spacers to critical areas.



- Slide layer 3 into layer 2.
- Align the back edges of the frames and tape together on all four sides. I use regular scotch tape. The lining up of the back edges is important because it maintains the spacing of the layers.
- Repeat with placing layer 4 inside of the combined layer 2 and 3. Add foam spacers, insert behind, match back edges and tape in place.



Assemble layers 2,3, and 4 using foam spacers and tape.

11. Insert the combined letter layers (layers 2, 3 and 4) into layer 5.

- Be sure to keep the numbered corners all in the same corner.
- You can add glue dots to the sides to hold in place but.....
- Helping Hint: I don't glue these layers together until I am sure about the colors. I did some mixing and matching after the fact so you might want to leave that option available.

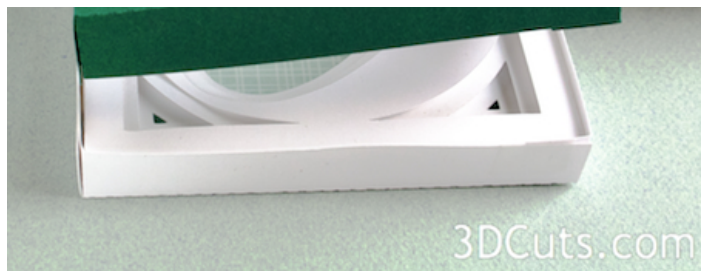


Insert combined letter layers into back layer.

12. Place the front layer (layer 1) over the combined layers 2-5.

- Again, this will get glued in place but wait until you are sure on color combinations.





Place layer 1 over all the others.

13. Combine with other letters to create all types of signs and wall decor!

Go to <https://marji-roy.squarespace.com/alphabet-shadow-box-display/> to see many display ideas.

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