

The Comprehensive Guide to DIY Invitations on a Budget

For more resources, check out www.emilywaldie.com



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what you'll learn

★ Section 1: Invitation Basics

- Components of a wedding invitation
- How to select and personalize enclosures to best fit your wedding

★ Section 2: Invitation Assembly

- Enclosure order and placement
- Inner envelopes and different ways to tie your invitation together

★ Section 3: Mailing Invitations

- Postage: how much, pricing, and where to buy
- All you ever need to know about hand-stamping (hand-canceling) invitations
- Best sources and ideas for unique, artistic, or designer stamps perfect for wedding invites

★ Section 4: To Print or Not to Print

- Which is best for you: printing service vs. self-printing and the pros/cons of both
- How and where to get the best custom invitations personalized and printed
- DIY Assessment: How to decide which DIY invitation activities are for you

★ Section 5: Creating Invitations Yourself

- The ultimate guide to creating your own invitations, including:
 - Paper selection
 - Printer type and settings
 - How to cut invitations perfectly

★ Section 6: Embellish

- Tons of ways to add classy glam

★ Section 7: Pro Tips

- The best sites and sources of inspiration for creating your own invitations
- Extra tips like creating guest lists, tracking RSVPs, and addressing envelopes
- The best budget tools for DIY invitations—all on Amazon! Links provided!

★ Section 8: Example Invitations

- Different examples of invitations, enclosures, and accessories

★ Section 9:

- Various invitation examples to give you ideas for your own wording

★ Section 10: DIY Appendix

- Envelope Liner Tutorial
- Foiling Tutorial
- Cutting Straight Lines by Hand Tutorial



section 1.1: timeline of an invitation

10 -11 months before event: Begin thinking about event theme/ invitation design and if buying (instead of DIY) invitations, order samples.

5 months before event: Have a preliminary guest list and gather all guest addresses.

8 -12 weeks before event: Send out invitations!

9 -11 months before event: Send out Save the Dates.*

4 months before event: If you have guests who are traveling long distance, send their invitations at least 16 weeks in advance to give them ample time to make travel arrangements, book flights, etc. Same goes for destination weddings.

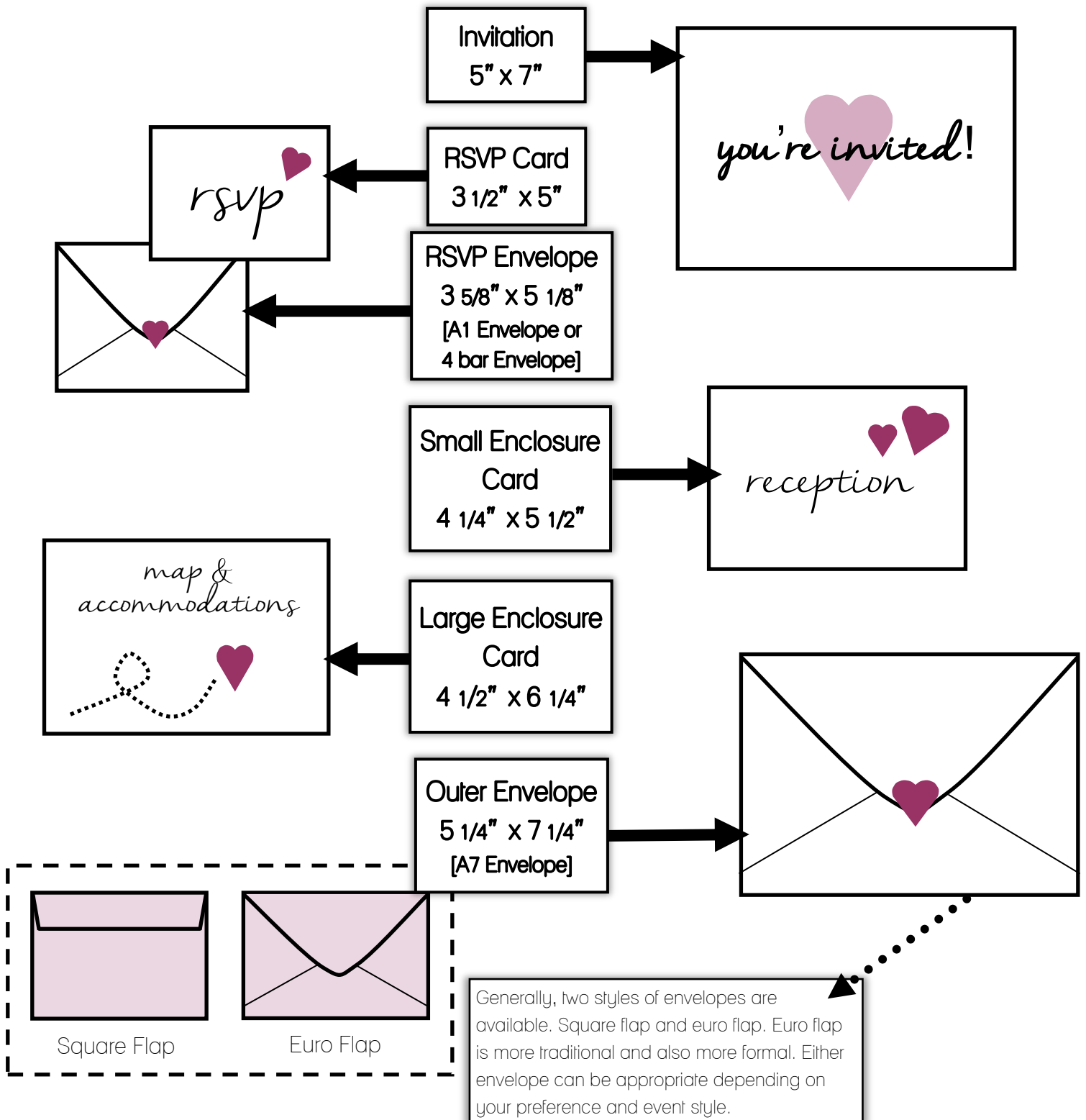
4-6 weeks before event: Send out rehearsal dinner invites.



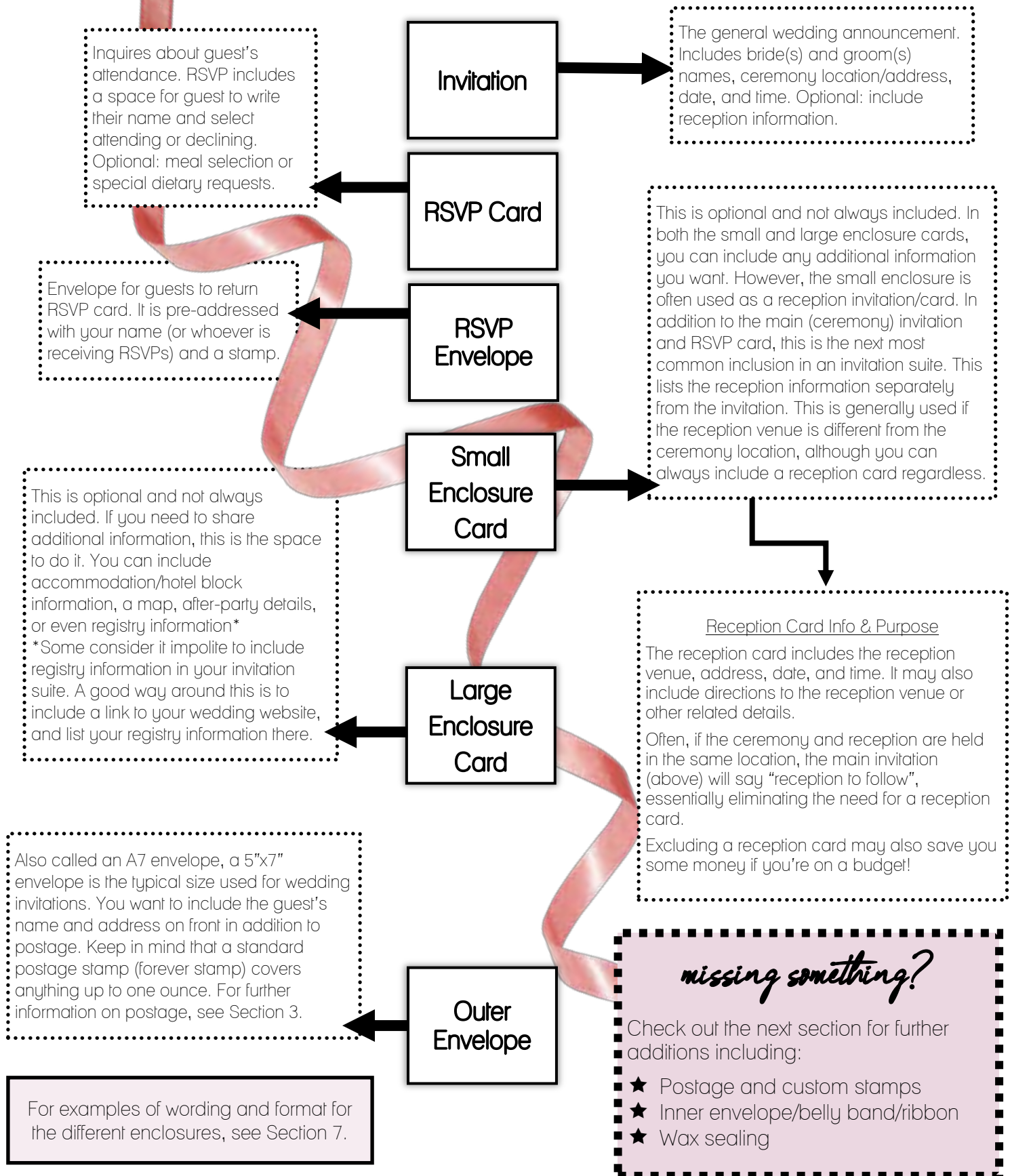
*Save the Dates usually go out before you really start to get into wedding planning, so don't worry about matching your Save the Dates to whatever design you decide to go with for your invitations.

section 1.2: anatomy of an invitation

There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to invitations. This outline gives the typical type and dimensions of each enclosure. However, if you want a unique shape or different size, go for it!



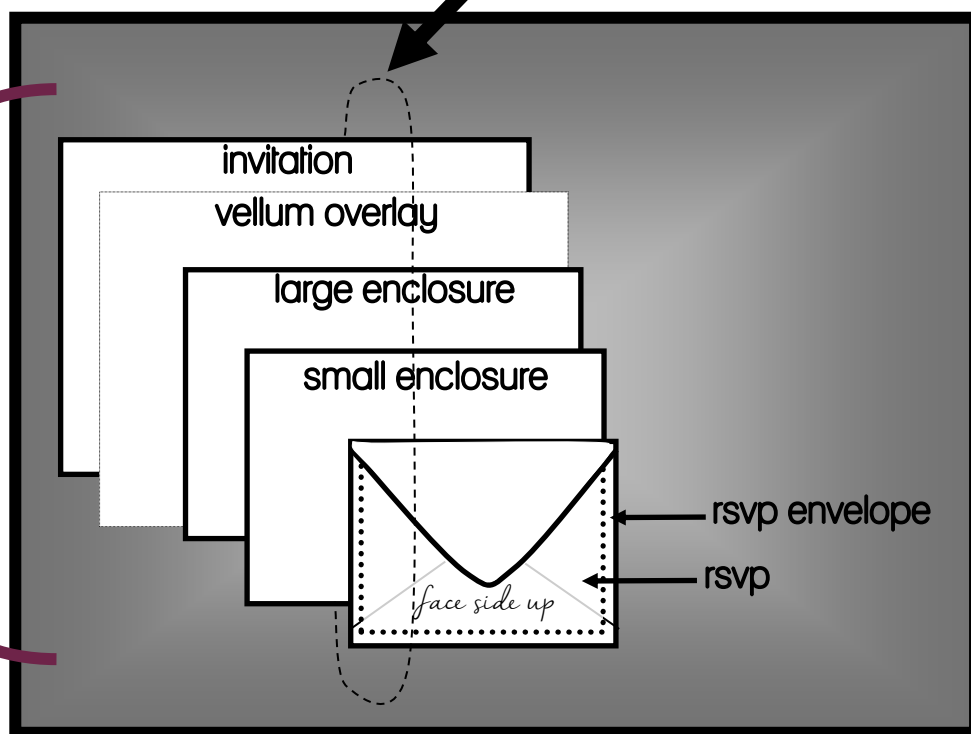
section 1.3: enclosures explained



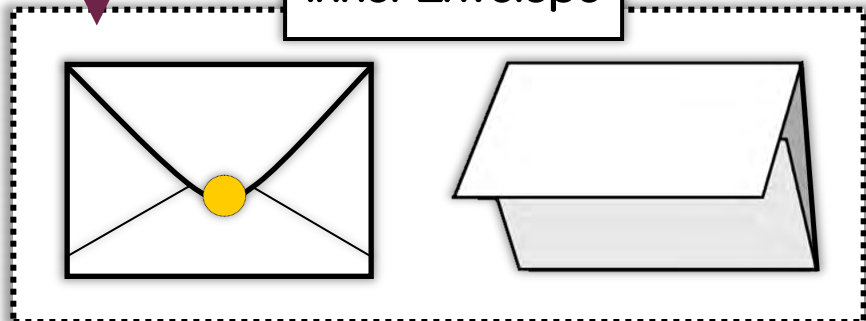
section 2.1: assembly

There are several options for holding together the invitation suite within the outer envelope. You of course don't have to use anything to hold the enclosures together (based on your personal preferences and formality of the event), but it's recommended to place them all together in the following order (essentially from largest to smallest).

Ribbon, Belly
Band, Tie



Inner Envelope



Inner envelopes hold the invitation suite together. In earlier times, envelopes were carried by hand, sometimes over very long distances. As a result, envelopes often became dirty or worn. An inner envelope was included to keep all the contents clean and unblemished. Based in tradition, an inner envelope or tie of some kind will up the formality of your invitations.

section 2.2: assembly extras

Belly Band

A belly band is a paper strip that wraps and holds together invitation enclosures.

Inner Envelope

An inner envelope, trifold, or form of paper wrap can also be used to hold enclosures together before placing in the outer envelope.

Ribbon, Cording, String, etc.

Lots of options exist for tying enclosures together: ribbon, string, leather (try faux leather!) cording. These items are held together by knots, wax seals, bows, and more.

Vellum/Paper Overlays

Historically used to keep hand-written ink from bleeding and smudging, a piece of paper—often vellum* due to its absorbent properties—was placed in between enclosures within an invitation suite. Modern invitations are printed by machine (smudge-free) and overlays now tend to be used for a formality effect.

Envelope Liner

To add formality and more detail, outer envelopes can be lined with decorative paper. You can buy envelopes pre-lined, but it's really easy to line them yourself (see DIY appendix!).

Postage

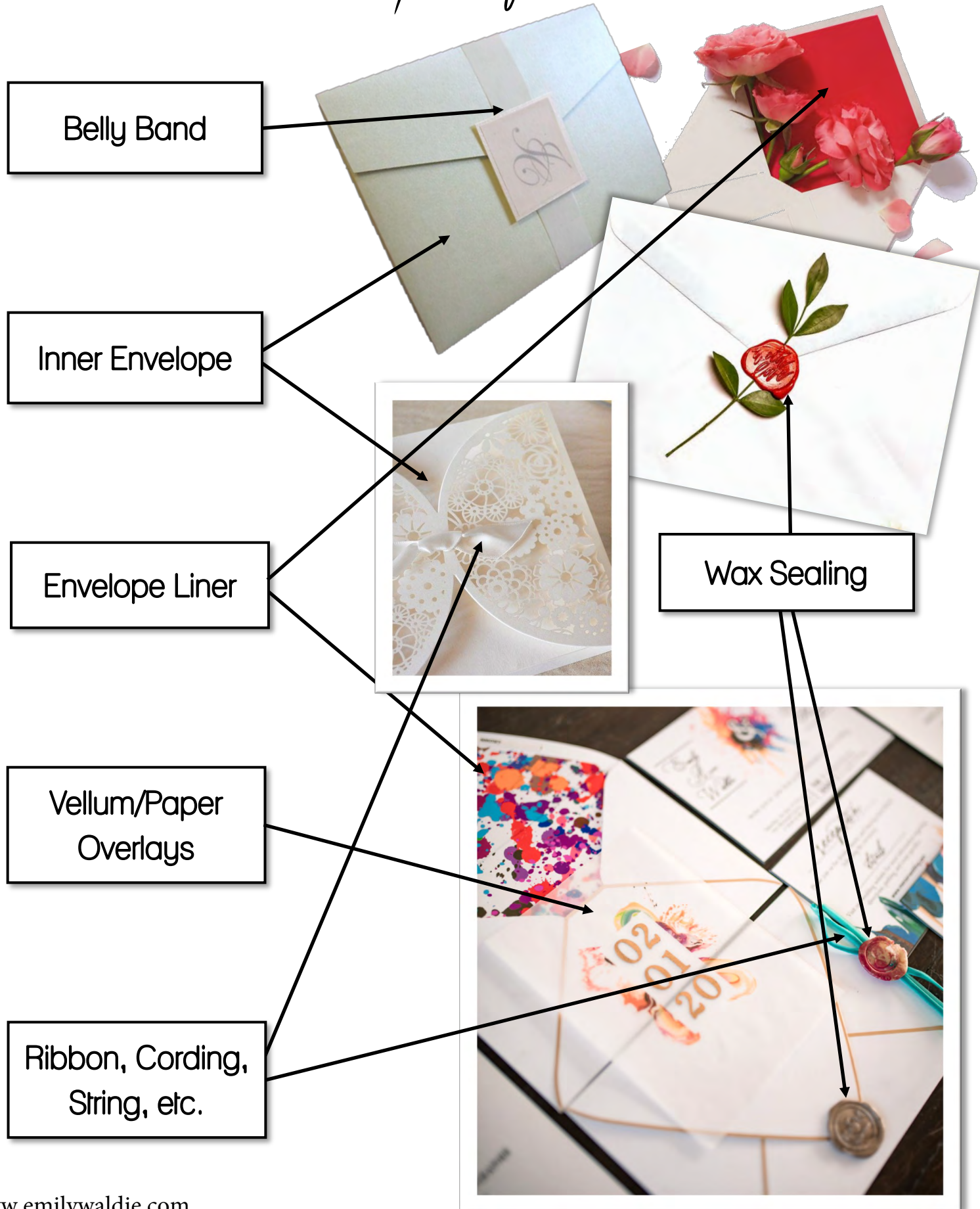
You have so many options with stamps: flowers, vintage, love-themed, artist series. Hand stamping. Custom stamps. Don't get overwhelmed! We've laid it all out for you in Section 3.

Return Address Stamp

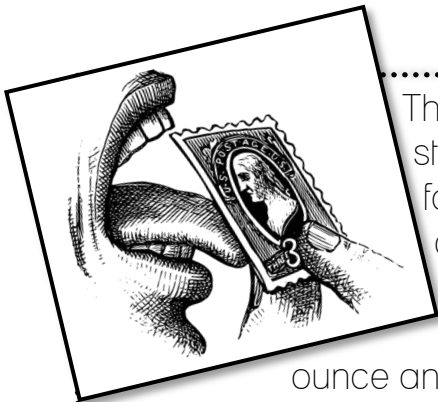
Another opportunity to get fancy, you can buy custom return address rubber stamps, stickers, embossers, etc. You can always write it yourself, too.

***Pro tip:** Vellum is a type of paper that is subtly textured and has a “toothy” feel to it. Vellum is not necessarily translucent, but refers specifically to the *composition* of the paper. Many people assume vellum refers to translucence, but this is not true. A lot of vellum on the market is translucent, but not all. When hunting for paper, keep that in mind and if you want the sheer vellum look, make sure you find the word “translucent” (or the equivalent) somewhere in the product description.

section 2.3: examples of extras



section 3.1: a note on postage



The standard Forever stamp covers postage for envelopes up to one ounce. Wedding invitations are often heavier than one ounce and require more than a single Forever stamp. Each additional ounce requires more postage. You can also purchase two-ounce stamps. See the table to the right for pricing of postage in the US.

What is Hand-Canceled Mail?

Hand-canceling always comes up when mailing wedding invitations and there are a lot of misconceptions on the subject. Here's what's up:

- ★ **What:** Hand stamping/"hand-canceling" envelopes: Instead of mail running through an automated machine, post office workers stamp them by hand.
- ★ **Why:** The idea is that hand-cancelled mail will get less wear and tear and avoid damage to your precious invitations.
- ★ **How:** While hand canceling mail prevents an automated machine phase of mail handling and can potentially prevent excessive wear, *all* mail still goes through a flat belt for processing. Old-school hand canceling actually hasn't been done in years.

*For 2020, the cost of a Forever stamp is 55 cents. The US Postal Service reevaluates the cost of stamps every year and due to inflation, the cost usually (but not always) increases by a couple cents every year. These are the prices for 2020 and may not reflect the most recent postage prices.

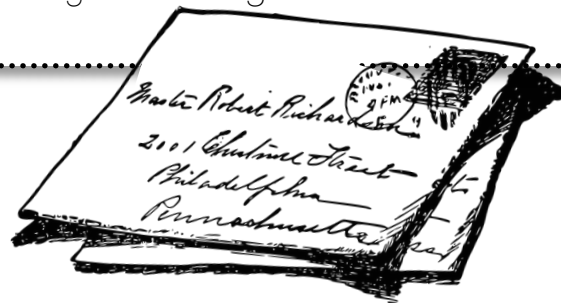
Postage Cost in 2020:



Postage	Cost*
Standard Forever (1 oz.) stamp	\$0.55
Each additional ounce	\$0.15
2 ounce stamps	\$0.70
Non-Machineable stamp (surcharge)	\$0.70

The Truth About Hand-Canceled Mail

- ★ **Myth:** A post office employee told me that they don't hand-cancel.
- ★ **Truth:** You asked a moody employee. Hand-canceling is available at *every* post office. If your heart is set on it, find another employee or post office. Or raise hell and throw some punches. You do you.
- ★ **Myth:** Hand stamped mail doesn't require an extra fee.
- ★ **Truth:** Hand stamping costs extra. For 2020, the cost is an additional 70 cents! This adds up quickly if you've got a lot of invitations, so consider your budget before planning out your postage!
- ★ **Also truth:** Some post offices (and this is rare) will let you hand cancel the mail yourself for free. You can always ask and see if they'd be willing to cut some costs.



section 3.2: diy stamp guide

The Best Stamp Options for Weddings

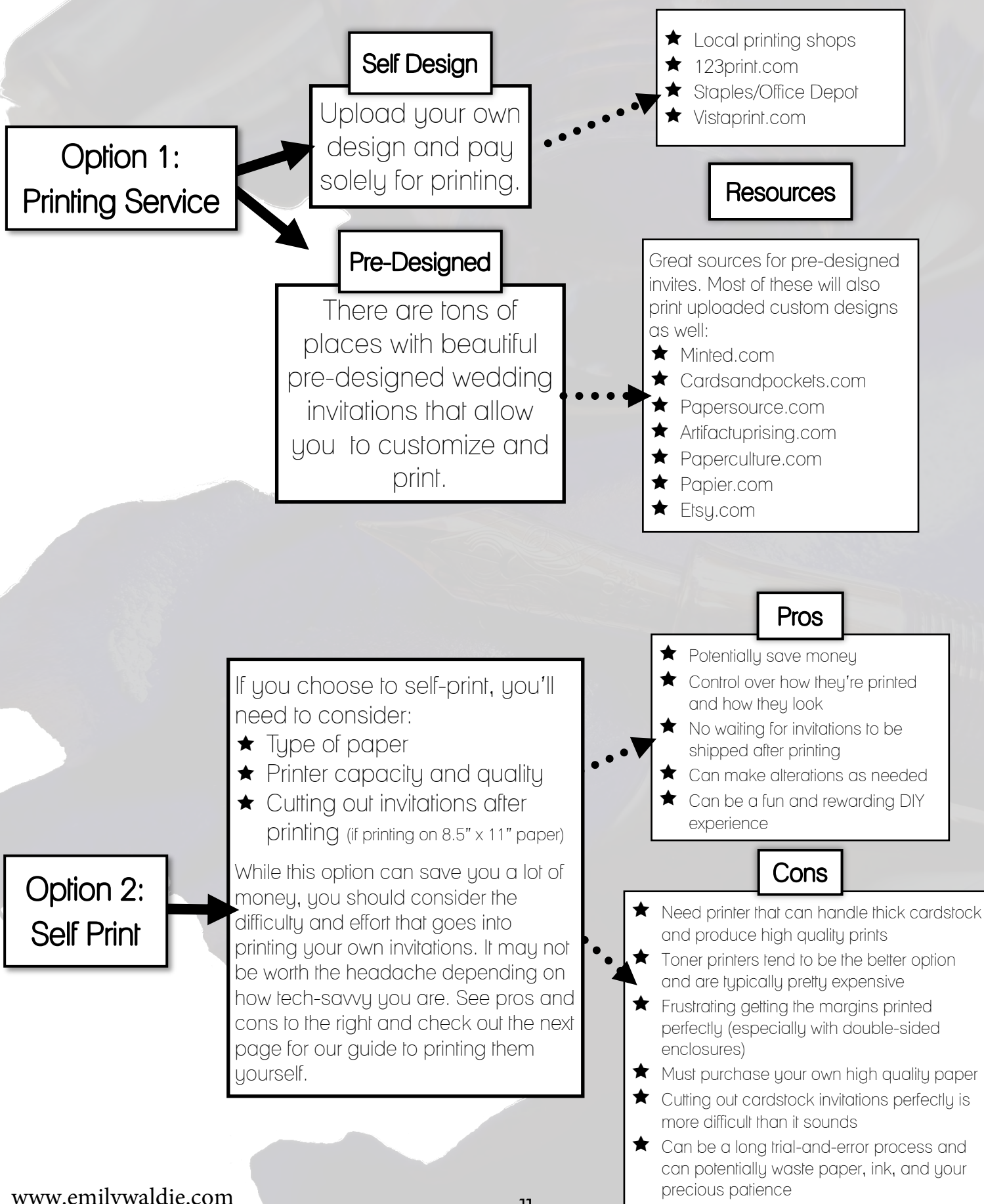
- ★ Custom stamps and wedding themed stamps. Where you can get them:
 - Minted.com (has over 2,000 wedding themed stamps available!)
 - Shutterfly.com
 - Photostamps.com
- ★ USPS love series stamps—every year a new love series stamp is issued and these are great options for wedding invitations. You can find love stamps from all different years on Amazon.
- ★ USPS floral series stamps—floral themed stamps are released regularly and can be fitting for invitations.
- ★ USPS artist series stamps—various artists have had their artwork featured in a stamp series. This can be a great fit for modern invitations or those looking for an eclectic or vintage vibe.
- ★ USPS wedding stamps—these are issued occasionally and have included wedding cake, wedding rings, and floral themes. They usually have a 2-ounce wedding stamp as well as a standard 1-ounce stamp.
- ★ Depending on your event, you may want something different. The USPS currently sells stamps of all kinds at store.usps.com.



Some of Our Favorite USPS-Issued Stamps



section 4.1: printing



section 4.2: Diy self assessment

Use this section to determine your DIY preferences and get personalized recommendations to best use this guide!

Do I want to have a hand in designing my own invitations?

YES

MAYBE?

NO

I'd like to easily customize a pre-designed invitation suite using a beautiful template of my choosing.

YES

I'm not super creative but would like to try a pseudo-DIY experience

Recommended for you:

- ★ Sections 1-3
- ★ Section 5.2
- ★ Sections 7-9

NO

YES

Recommended for you:

- ★ Sections 1-3
- ★ Section 5.2
- ★ Sections 7-9

I'm also down to print my own invites, cut them out myself, and rock this bad boy!

NO

Recommended for you:

- ★ Sections 1-3
- ★ Section 5.2
- ★ Sections 7-9

YES

NO

I've read all the pros/cons/requirements in section 4.1. I'm ready. I was born for this.

YES

NO

Read them girl!

After self-printing, I'd like to continue DIYing with some embellishments—envelope liners, vellum overlay, light glitter, etc.

YES

NO

Recommended for you:

- ★ All sections!
- ★ YouMode Invitation Templates & Editing Guidebook
- ★ YouMode DIY Invitation Tutorials
- ★ RSVP Tracker

Recommended for you:

- ★ All sections excluding Section 6
- ★ YouMode Invitation Templates & Editing Guidebook
- ★ YouMode DIY Invitation Tutorials
- ★ RSVP Tracker

I'm skipping out on the self-print, having a mai tai, and sending my customized invitations to a commercial printer.

YES

NO

I'd still like to do a bit of DIYing with embellishments—envelope liners, vellum overlay, light glitter, etc.

YES

NO

Recommended for you:

- ★ Sections 1-3
- ★ Section 5.2
- ★ Sections 7-9

Recommended for you:

- ★ Sections 1 to 4.1
- ★ Section 5.2
- ★ Section 6-9
- ★ YouMode Invitation Templates & Editing Guidebook
- ★ YouMode DIY Invitation Tutorials
- ★ RSVP Tracker

Recommended for you:

- ★ Sections 1 to 3.2
- ★ Sections 6-9
- ★ YouMode Invitation Templates & Editing Guidebook
- ★ YouMode DIY Invitation Tutorials
- ★ RSVP Tracker

section 5.1 self-printing steps

1. Choose Your Paper

Paper Guide:

- ★ Cardstock—use at least 250 GSM/169 LB (see next section for paper guidance).
- ★ Check the packaging to see if the paper is suited for your printer. Some papers are best for ink jet while others print higher quality with a toner printer.
- ★ Smaller printers tend to get jammed with thicker cardstock, causing the print to misalign. This can make double-sided printing especially difficult.
- ★ See next section for our Paper Weight Guide.

2. Set Printer Settings and Print

Printer settings to consider:

- ★ Thickness of paper
- ★ Optimize for png* images and text
- ★ Double-sided (if desired)
- ★ Print quality

3. Cut

Cut options:

- ★ Cut with scissors (not recommended)
- ★ Manual paper cutter with lever or rolling blade
- ★ Cut by hand with ruler and craft knife
- ★ Cutting machine (Cricut, etc.)

4. Embellish

Embellishing by hand can be a timely process that may take some dedication. It can certainly provide big rewards though! Here are some of the options:

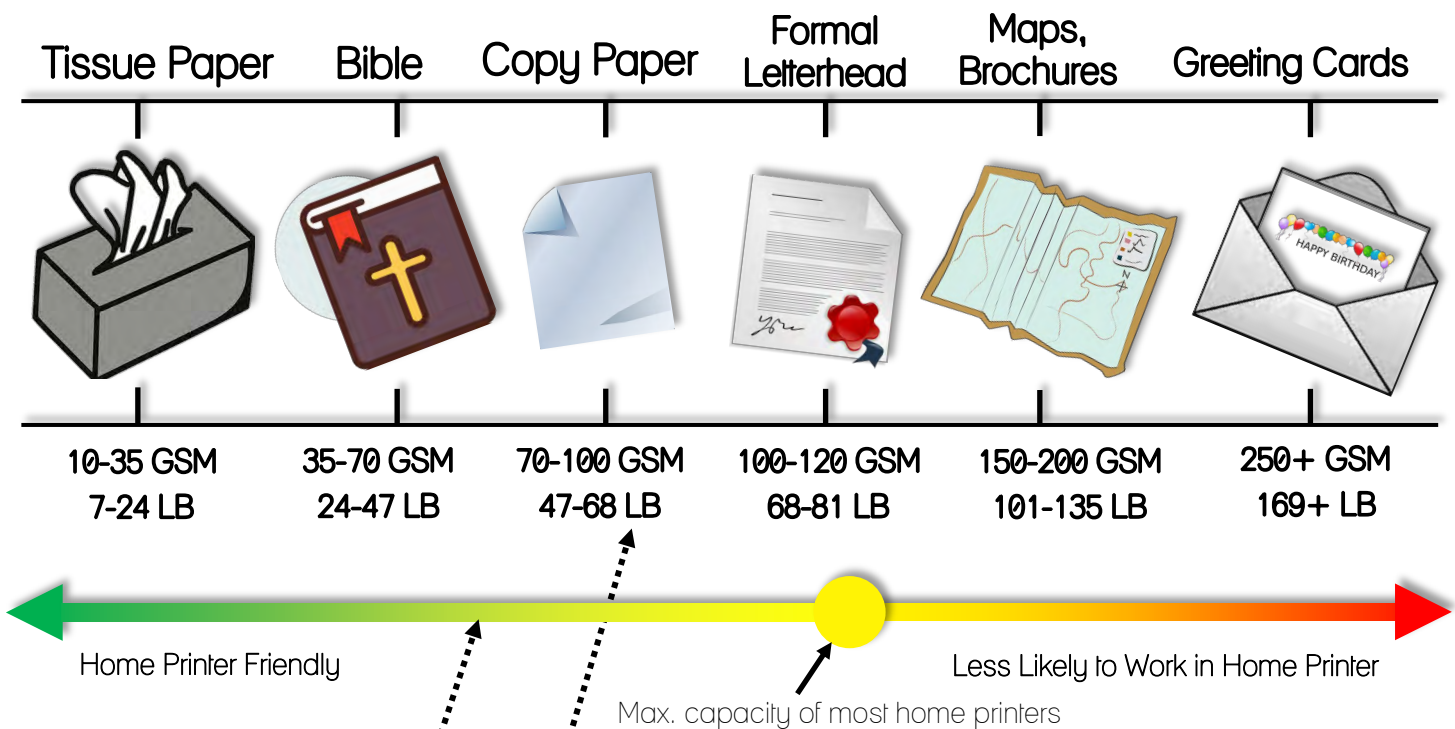
- ★ Foiling
- ★ Paint-based pens
- ★ Gel pens and gel glitter pens
- ★ Wax sealing
- ★ Decorative postage
- ★ See section 5.5 for details on embellishments

*Png images, also called vectors, are images like illustrations, graphic designs, or text where the variety of color is typically minimal (in comparison to a jpeg photograph). Printers often have a setting that maximizes the quality of png images. This is helpful for invitations since they are usually comprised of text and simpler imagery.

section 5.2.: choose your paper

Paper weight/thickness is measured in both GSM and LB. The chart below lists the weight in both GSM and LB and compares it to common types of paper to give you a sense of relative weight.

paper weight guide



Use the colored arrow as a general guide for the paper capacity of most home printers.

Not all paper sellers will list the paper's weight in both GSM and LB, so the equivalents listed will allow you to compare paper products regardless of measure used.

a note on texture

You should also consider texture in your paper selection. Paper can range from rustic, toothy parchment to smooth, thick, polished translucent paper. Go to an arts and crafts store to feel for yourself before you buy.

section 5.3: select a printer

ink

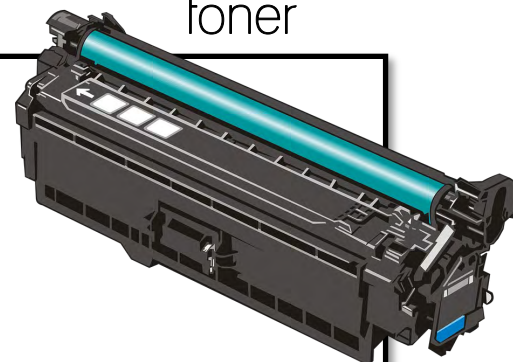


- ★ Home printing, especially with thick paper, can be a trial and error process. If you're testing out

your home printer, use scrap paper until you get the settings right so you won't waste your nicer paper.

- ★ If you are interested in foiling any text yourself (see section 5.5), you'll need to print using a toner printer to adhere the foil. At-home foiling will *absolutely* not stick to inkjet prints, so don't waste your time and money trying.
- ★ If you don't have a compatible printer, ask friends to see if someone you know has one. If your office allows, you may even be able to use a high capacity laser printer at work.

toner



- ★ Inkjet printers use ink cartridges and this is likely the type of printer you have at home.
- ★ Laser printers use toner, a colored ultra-light powder that usually comes in large, long cartridges.
- ★ Laser/toner printers are typically used for high capacity offices and commercial use. They are usually much more expensive and larger in size. Images printed using laser printers are less likely to smudge, as they don't use ink.
- ★ Inkjet printers are often used for printing photos with lots of color, while laser printers optimize text and vector images (like clipart or graphics).

section 5.4 cut it out - manual cutters

Good to Know:

- ★ You can always buy 5" x 7" cardstock (or whatever size your invitations are) and print them out individually to avoid having to cut invitations yourself.
- ★ You'll need to check your printer settings and do a couple test runs to see if your printer will format to a 5" x 7" document size with quality results.
- ★ This cutting section is for those who have printed out on larger paper (usually 8.5" x 11") and need to cut their invitations down to size. This is the most budget-friendly route for self-printing
- ★ Printing on larger paper also allows you to print multiple invitations on one page, which can save you money (and paper)!

What's a Manual Paper Cutter?

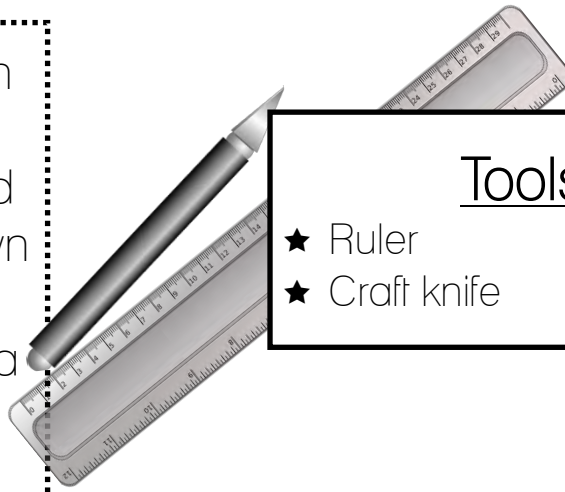
- ★ Manual paper cutters usually come with a measurable grid and cutting mechanism—either a sliding one (like the cutter to the left) or a manual pull-down lever blade.
- ★ Don't know which cutter to buy? There are tons out there. Read the reviews before you commit. The cutter to the left is a popular budget-friendly manual paper cutter by Firbon. You can find it on Amazon!



Pictured: Firbon A4 Titanium Paper Cutter, 12 Inch Trimmer, amazon.com

section 5.4 cut it out - cutting by hand

Check out the tutorial below on cutting by hand with ruler and craft knife—our recommended method for cutting out your own invitations. You can also try a manual paper cutter that has a pull-down blade or rolling blade.



Tools:

- ★ Ruler
- ★ Craft knife

invitation



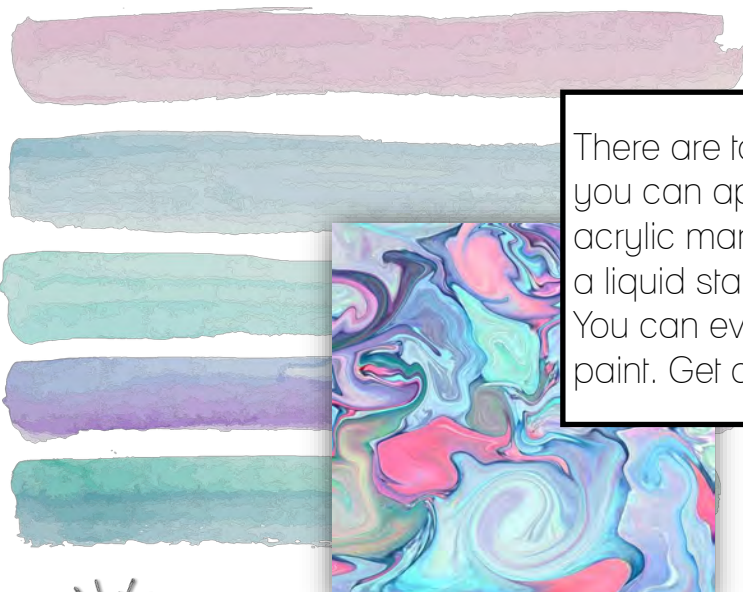
Directions

1. Line up ruler with outside edge of invitation.*
2. Line up your craft knife against the ruler at the top where you want to slice.
3. Slice downward, holding the ruler steadily (and safely) in place with your other hand, using the ruler as a guide for a perfectly straight cut.

*Because it's much easier to make accurate cuts with lines to go by, we recommend printing your invitations with a border so you can line up your ruler easily.


section 6.1: embellish

Paint




There are tons of different painting methods that you can apply to invitations. A watercolor wash, acrylic marbling using various methods, such as a liquid starch bath (or even shaving cream!). You can even use rubber stamps to apply acrylic paint. Get creative! Google is your friend here!

Glitter Pens



When in doubt, add glitter! There are so many great pens and paint-based pens on the market that will make a big impact on your invitations. For a classy, sheer shimmer, use our recommended glitter pen brush (#5 on page 21). Lightly swipe the pen across your paper in areas you'd like to subtly enhance—colored parts of your invitation, headings, etc. Play around and try different areas until you find the perfect fit!

Foiling




While commercial foiling can be pricey, you can do it yourself relatively easily and affordably. You can buy foiling sheets that you place on top of text/images that have been printed on a *toner* printer. Place a cover sheet on top of the foil and run it through a laminator. This is recommended for use with sturdy and/or cardstock thickness paper as it has to pass through the heat of a laminator. See the DIY appendix for our easy-to-follow Foiling Tutorial!



For examples of embellishments, check out Section 8 on pages 22-25.

Wax Sealing

- 
- ★ You can buy wax stamps of all different kinds. There are even affordable custom ones that include your initials or wedding date.
 - ★ You can buy wax columns to hand-drip and you can also buy them in glue stick form. You put the wax sticks into a glue gun to release the hot wax, which allows you to easily control the amount and location of your wax seal. They even have glue sticks in glitter form.
 - ★ In addition to Amazon, Etsy is a great place to find wax seals and sealing wax.

section 7.1: pro tips

★ Keep a guest list (Excel is easiest) on your computer and keep track of:

- Finished invitations (if you're making them yourself)
- Sent invitations
- Declined invitations
- Accepted invitations
- Meal count
- Hotel rooms booked (if you're providing guests with a hotel block)
- Check out our RSVP Tracker Worksheet!

★ Your guests will return your invitation RSVP with their own names handwritten on the front. If you're worried about being able to identify some of the returned RSVPs (guests with less legible handwriting), you can write their names on the back of the rsvp with invisible ink before mailing invitations out. Also called "spy pens", you can get them on Amazon, amongst other places. They come with a light that you shine to reveal the ink (see Section 7.3!).

★ Not sure how much postage you need? Take a completed invitation to the post office. They can weigh it for you and tell you how much postage you'll need for each invitation.

★ Some of our favorite resources and tools for invitation (and wedding) inspiration and DIY:

- Martha Stewart Weddings
- Minted
- Pinterest
- Wedding blogs (check out YouMode's blog!)
- Brides.com, weddingwire.com
- Instagram #diybride and other hashtags
- Liagriffith.com
- Cricut Design Space
- Microsoft Publisher
- 1001freefonts.com

A Note on Text

Addressing your invitations is a huge part of the suite design. If you don't want to address them yourself and don't have someone with great handwriting to do it for you, consider:

- Sending them out to a professional calligrapher .
- Getting a cutting/writing machine (like Cricut) that you can use to write text and stationary throughout your wedding planning.
- Print out the addresses yourself by running individual envelopes through your printer, but if you want a more formal look, hand-written addressing packs a punch.

section 7.2: the essentials amazon products guide

These are our favorite Amazon items that will help you get started with DIY invitations.



1. Best Paper for Printing Your Own Invites: [Next Day Labels Heavy Digital Smooth White Cover Card Stock, Pack of 100](#) [\$17.99]
2. Best Personalized Return Address Stamp: [Pickled Stamps Customizable Stamp](#) [\$18.50]
3. Best Craft Knife: [OLFAAK-1/5B Standard Art Knife with 5 Blades](#) [\$8.20]
4. Best Envelope Liner: [Zazzle Wrapping Paper](#) [prices vary]
5. Best Glue Gun Wax: [TELOSMA Champagne Glue Gun Wax Sealing Wax Sticks, 16 Pieces](#) [\$11.99]
6. Best Budget Translucent Overlay Vellum: [Darice Vellum, Pack of 50](#) [\$11.48]
7. Best Wedding Wax Seal Stamp [UNI QOO "With Love" Wax Seal](#) [\$12.99]
8. Best RSVP Envelopes: [Limited Papers 4 bar envelopes, 100 pack](#) [\$13.30]
9. Best Black Glitter Pen for Embellishment: [Sargent Art Black 25 Glitter Gel Pens, 25 Pack](#) [\$7.00]
10. Favorite Love Series Stamps: [King & Queen of Hearts, Booklet of Twenty 44-Cent Stamps](#) \$18.75]
11. Best Double-Sided Tape: [Tombow MONO Permanent Adhesive Applicator, 1/3-Inch Width](#) [\$7.37]
12. Best Invitation Envelopes: [A7 Self-Seal White Envelopes with Gold Border, Pack of 50](#) [\$19.99]

Please note that prices on these items change and may vary. Some may also be out of stock.

section 7.3: the accessory amazon products guide

These are our favorite Amazon items that give DIY invitations that *WOW* factor.



1. Best Shimmer Paper for Printing Your Own Invites: [Best Paper Greetings Metallic Shimmer Paper Sheets, Pack of 96](#) [\$13.99]
2. Best DIY Foil for Invitations: [Heidi Swapp Machine Reactive Foil by American Crafts \(Rose Gold\), 12-inch x 120-inch Roll](#) [\$8.72]
3. Best Colored Glitter Pens for Embellishment: [Cricut 2004025 Glitter Gel Basics Pen Set, Pack of 5](#) [\$10.49]
4. Best Thin Velvet Ribbon for Wrapping Enclosures: [May Arts 1/8-Inch Wide Ribbon \(in Teal\)](#) [\$23.44]
5. Best Shimmer Glitter Pen for Embellishment: [Zig Wink of Stella Brush, Glitter Clear](#) [\$5.68]
6. Best All-Inclusive Wax Seal Kit: [Yoption Wax Seal Kit with Wax Sticks](#) [\$16.99]
7. Best Wax Beads for Seals: [AQUEENLY 230 Pieces Octagon Sealing Wax Beads, and Stamp Kit](#) [\$9.99]
8. Best Invisible Ink Pens: [SyPen Invisible Disappearing Ink Pen with UV Light, 6 Pack](#) [\$10.98]
9. Best Luxe Translucent Vellum: [Borden & Riley #90 Sheer Trace/Medium Weight Vellum Pad, 11 x 14 Inches, Pack of 50](#) [\$23.97]

Please note that prices on these items change and may vary. Some may also be out of stock.

www.emilywaldie.com

section 8.1: example suite 1

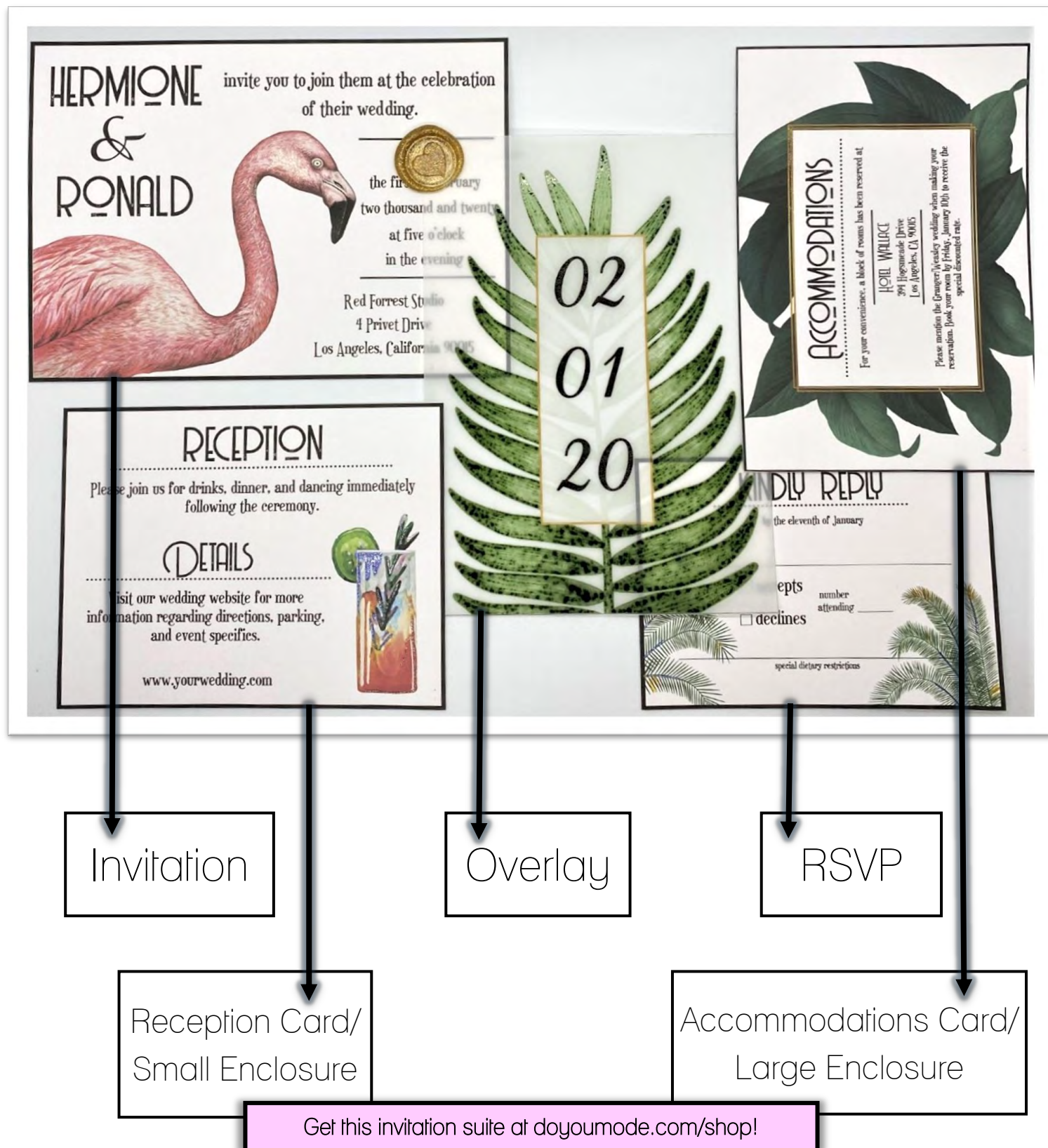
YouMode Splatter Series Invitation Suite



You can buy this editable invitation suite at our online shop! Check at doyoumode.com/shop. The customizable invitation template comes with an editing guidebook for easy customizing!

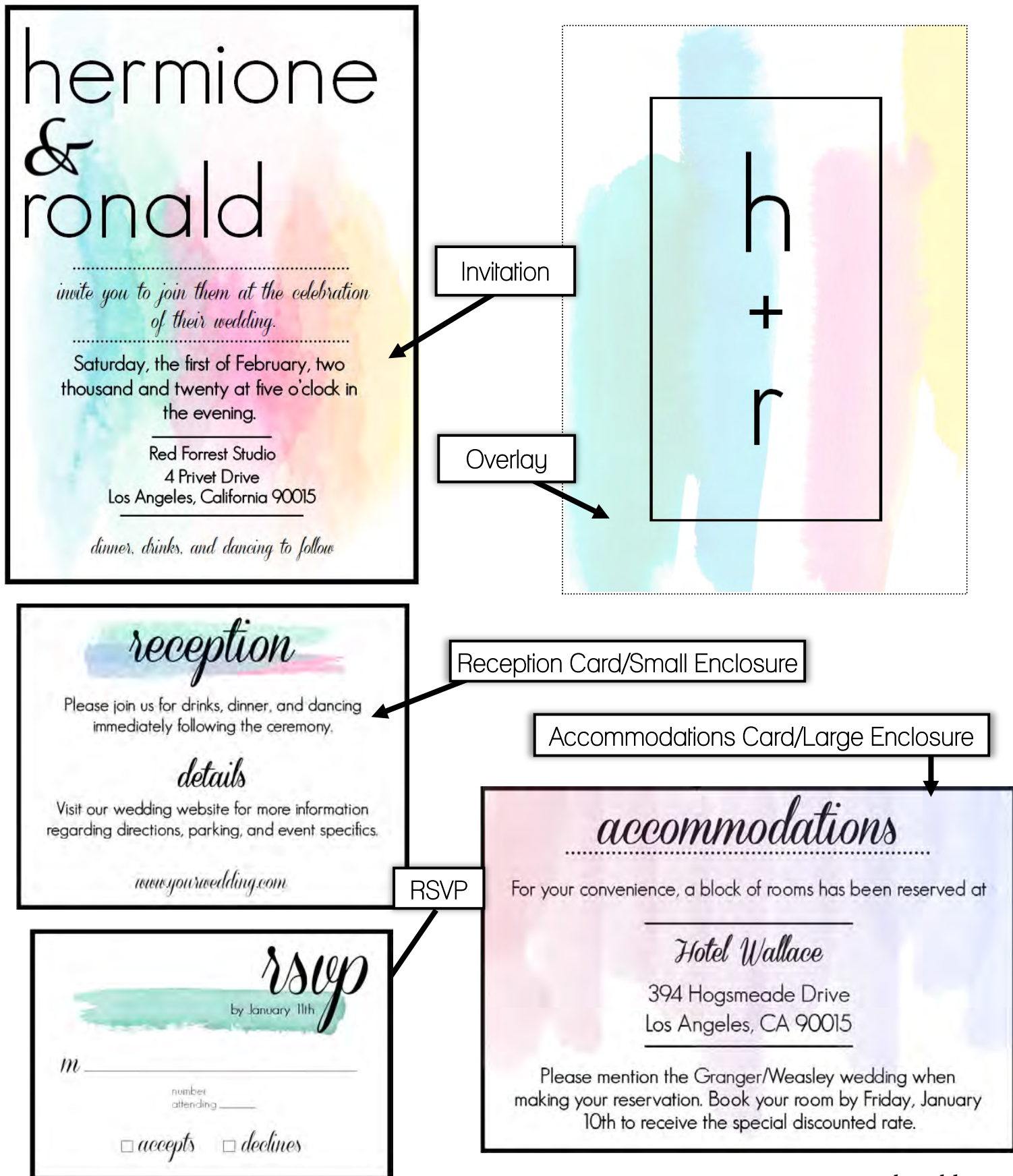
section 8.2: example suite 2

YouMode Palm Springs Series Invitation Suite



section 8.3: example suite 3

YouMode Watercolor Series Invitation Suite



section 8.4: accessory example set 4

YouMode Splatter Series Extras



Inner Vellum Envelope
with Wax Seal



Envelope Liner



Velvet Ribbon and Wax Seal for Tying
Enclosures within Outer Envelope

section 9.1: invitation wording examples

Together with their parents,

Ginerva Molly Weasley

and

Harry James Potter

invite you to their wedding celebration

Saturday, the first of February
two thousand twenty
at three o'clock in the afternoon

The Cupboard Studio
4 Privet Drive
Los Angeles, California

section 9.1: invitation wording examples

With full hearts,

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Weasley

and

Mr. & Mrs. James Potter

request the pleasure of your presence at the
wedding of

Ginerva Molly Weasley

and

Harry James Potter

Saturday, the first of February
two thousand twenty
at half after five o'clock in the evening

The Cupboard Studio
4 Privet Drive
in Los Angeles, California

reception to follow

section 9.1: invitation wording examples

The pleasure of your company
is requested at the union of

Ginerva Molly Weasley

and

Harry James Potter

Saturday, the first of February
two thousand twenty
at half after five o'clock

The Cupboard Studio
4 Privet Drive
in Los Angeles, California

drinks, dinner, and dancing to follow

diy appendix

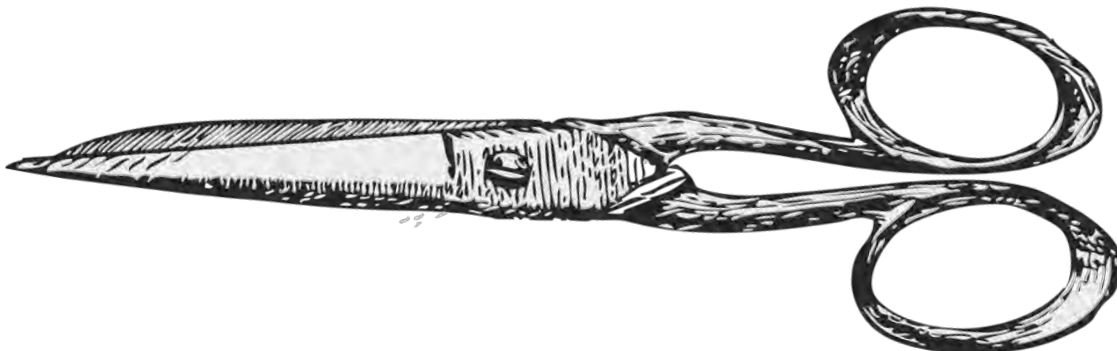
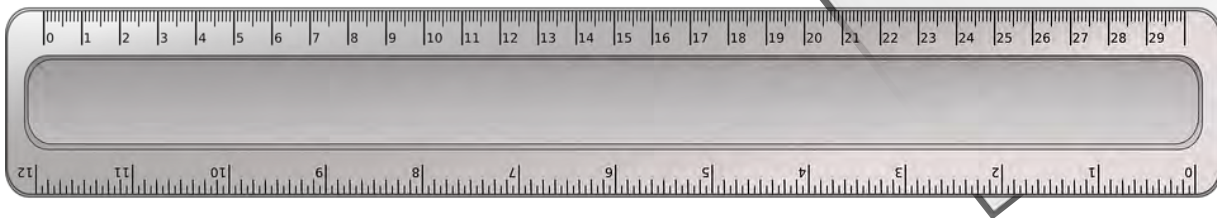
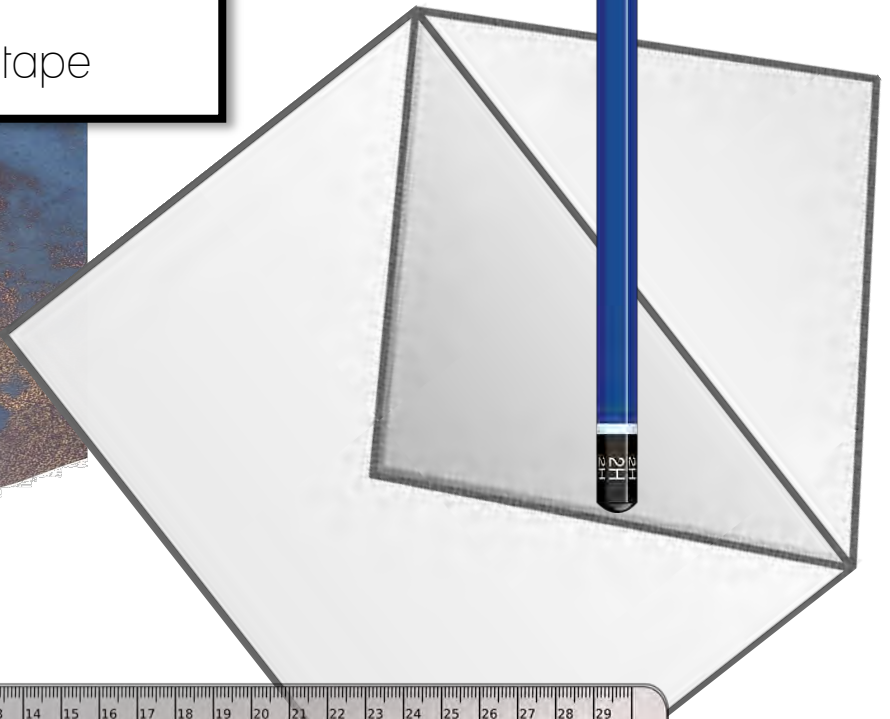
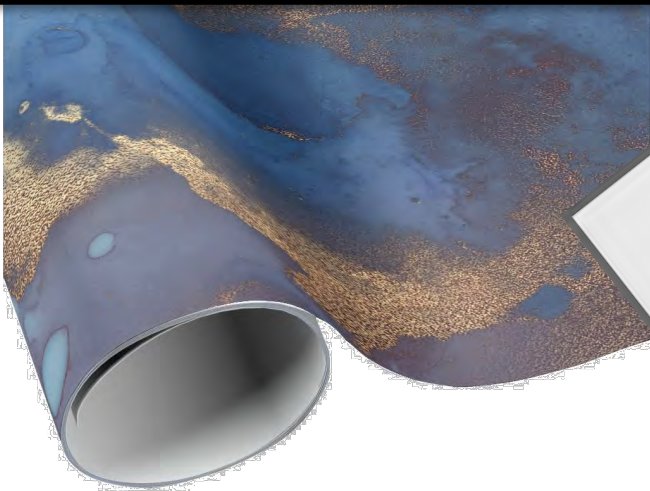
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Diy tutorial: envelope liners

Materials needed:

- ★ Envelope liner paper of your choice (wrapping paper makes great liner material)
- ★ Ruler
- ★ Pencil
- ★ Invitation envelope
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Permanent double-sided tape



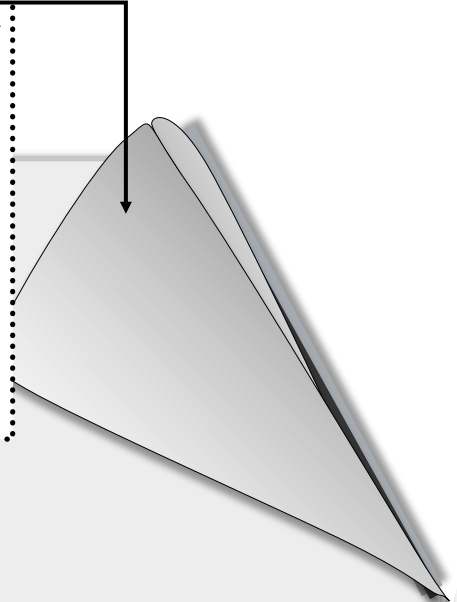
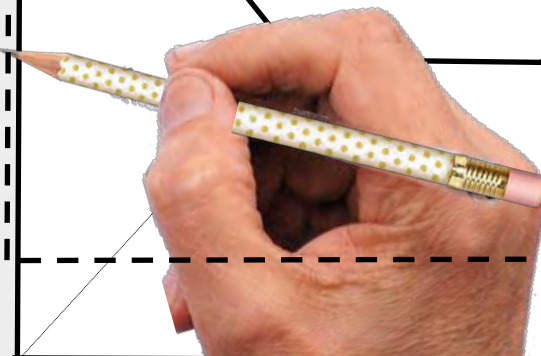
Diy tutorial: envelope liners

1

With the liner paper facing right-side* down, use a pencil to trace the perimeter of the envelope, but leave a 1" margin at the bottom of the envelope.

*For the purpose of this tutorial, we will refer to the decorative side (the side you want showing in your finished envelope liner) as "right-side".

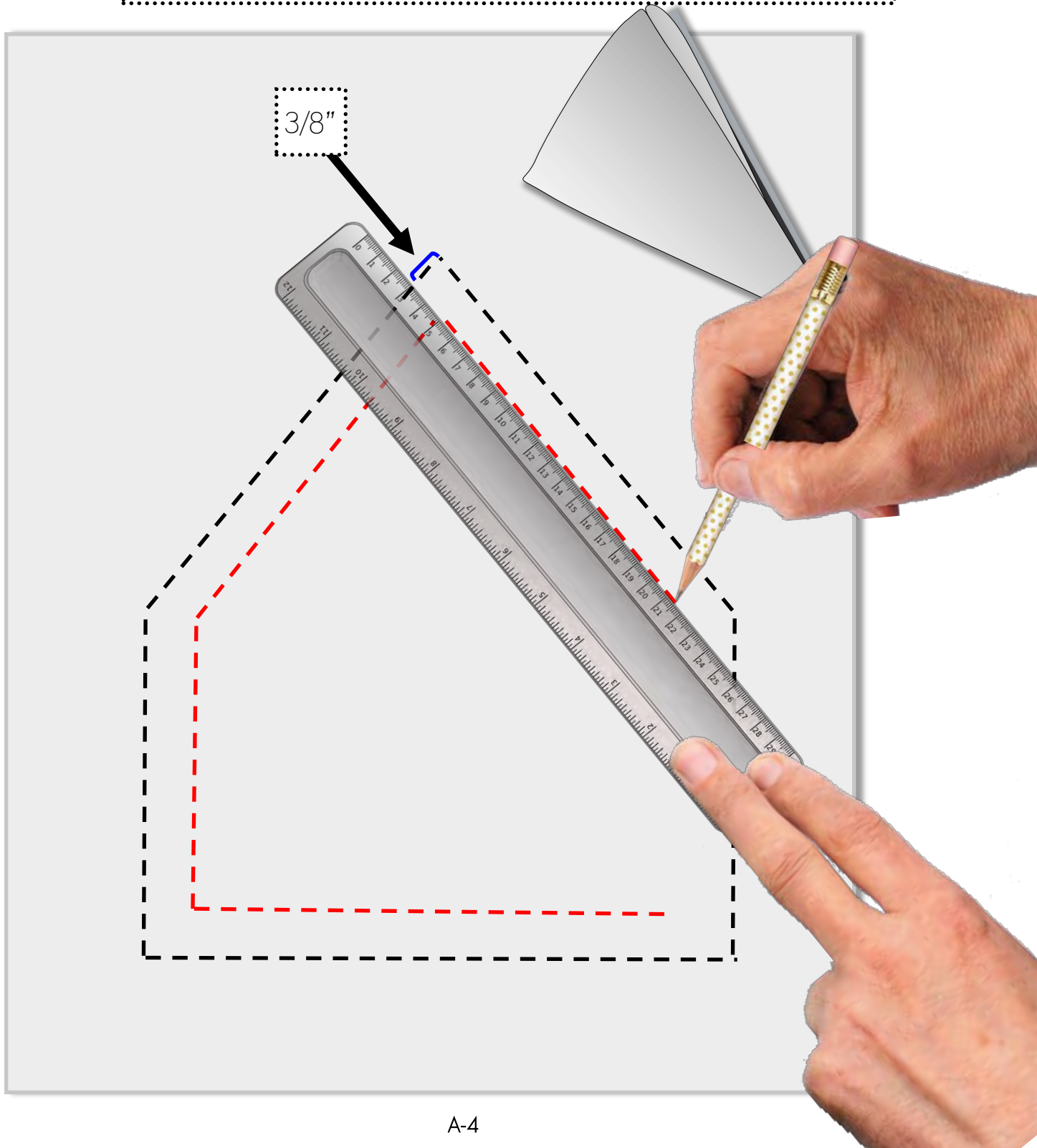
1"



Diy tutorial: envelope liners

2

Measuring about $\frac{3}{8}$ " (or however wide you want the space between liner and envelope) inside from the original (black) trace line, trace a new line (red) around the entire perimeter, staying $\frac{3}{8}$ " inside the original trace line.



diy tutorial: envelope liners

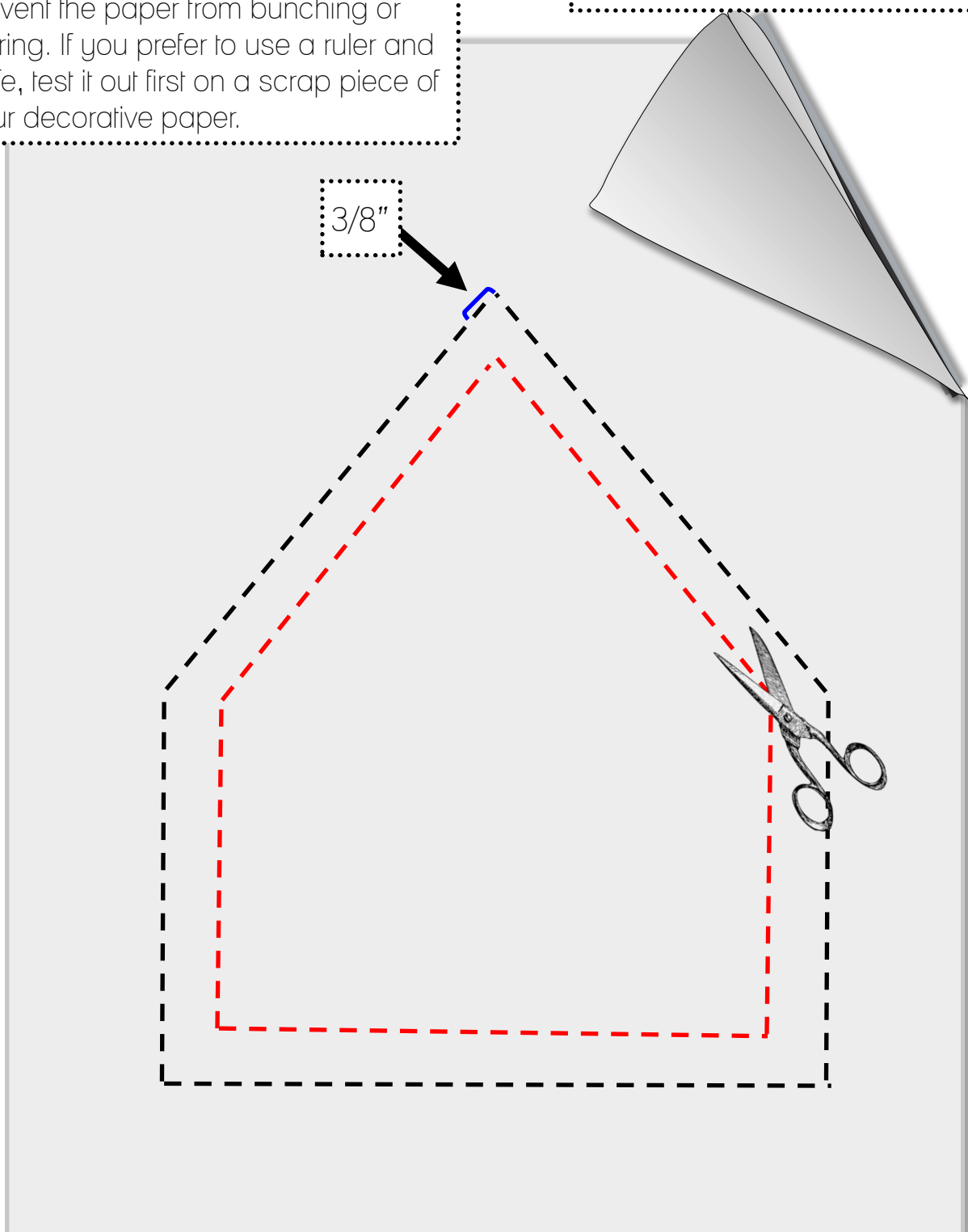
3

Cut out the inner trace line (red) and you have your liner!

For thinner wrapping and decorative paper, it's usually best to use scissors (instead of the ruler/craft knife method introduced in the DIY Appendix) to prevent the paper from bunching or tearing. If you prefer to use a ruler and knife, test it out first on a scrap piece of your decorative paper.

4

Repeat these steps on a thick piece of cardstock instead of your envelope liner paper so you have a template you can use to trace the rest of the liners. This way, you won't have to measure anymore.

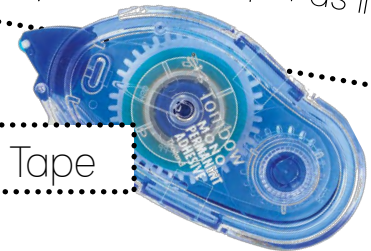


Diy tutorial: envelope liners

5

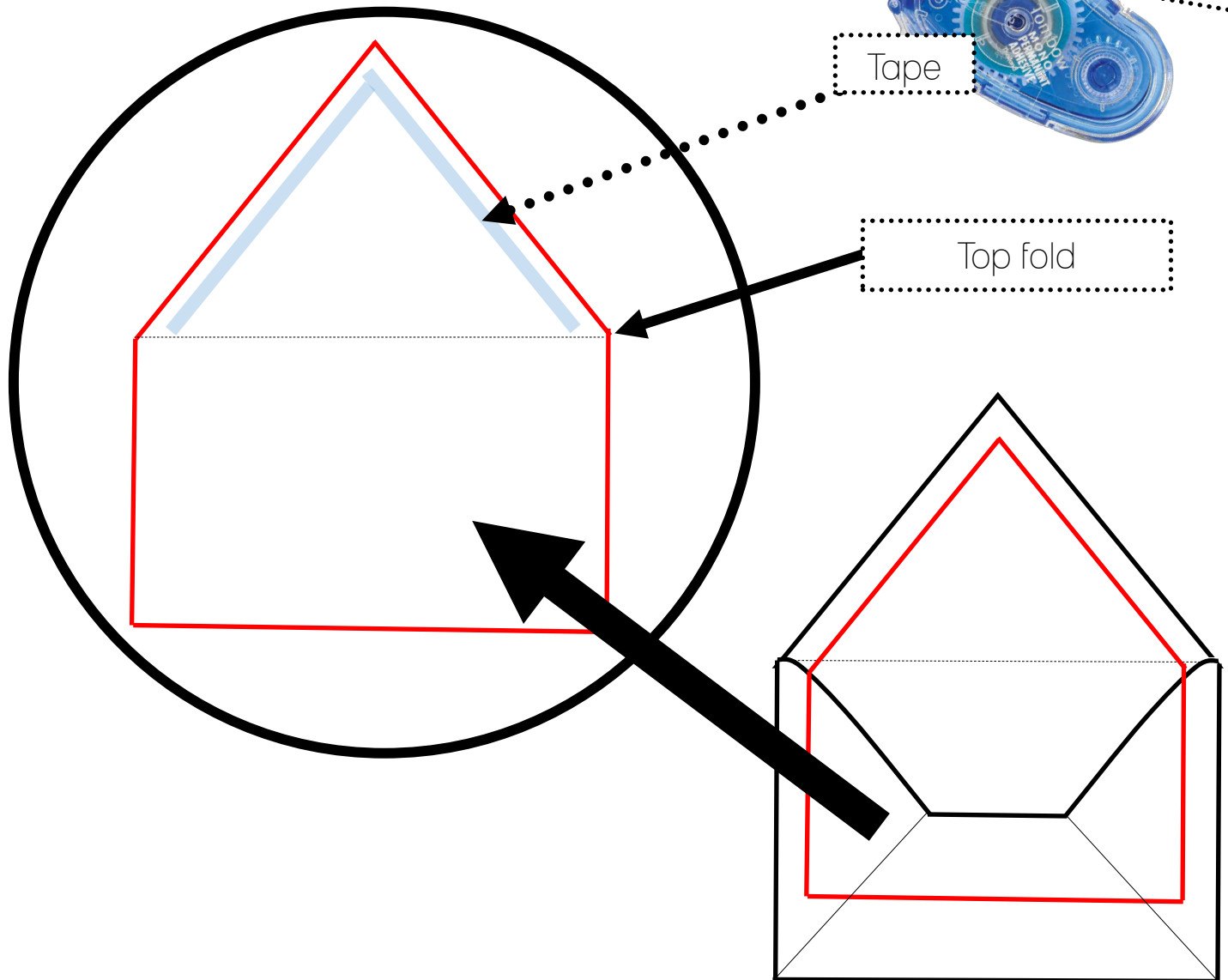
With the right-side of the liner still facing down, apply double-sided tape around the top of the liner, staying above the top fold. See diagram below. Taping above this line allows for easy opening and closing of the envelope flap without the liner bunching and wrinkling. The rest of the liner will stay in place without taping it.

To attach the liner to the envelope, use permanent double sided tape. An easy rolling dispenser like TOMBOW brand makes the application a cinch. Avoid glue, which tends to get messy and often wrinkles decorative liner paper as it dries.



Tape

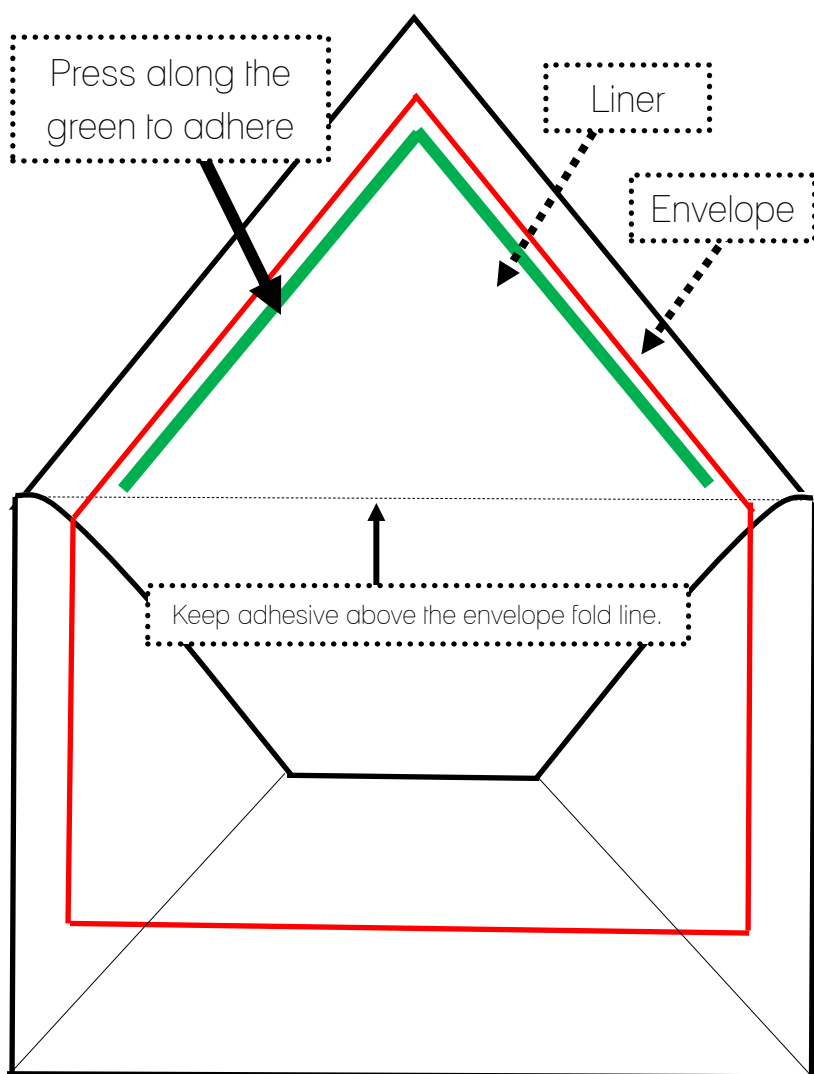
Top fold



Diy tutorial: envelope liners

6

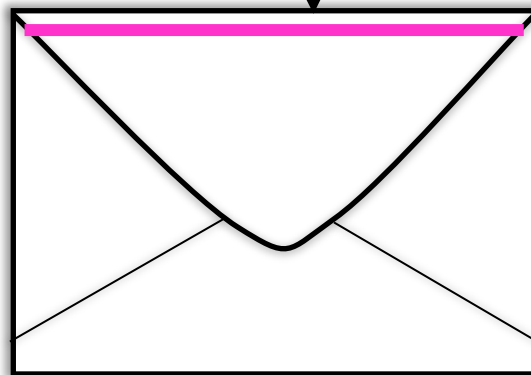
Flip the liner over so right-side is facing up. Line up the edges with the envelope and press down along the taped edges (green in the diagram below) to adhere.



Fold the flap down so the envelope is closed and use your finger to press along the top edge of the envelope to create a crease in the liner. Open it back up and you'll see that the liner creased perfectly, allowing for seamless opening and closing of the envelope. Great job—You're all set!

7

Press along top edge (pink area) to crease the liner



Diy tutorial: envelope liners

Pro Tip: It's pretty easy to eyeball the placement of the liner when adhering it to the envelope. To place it just right, follow these three easy checkpoints:

1

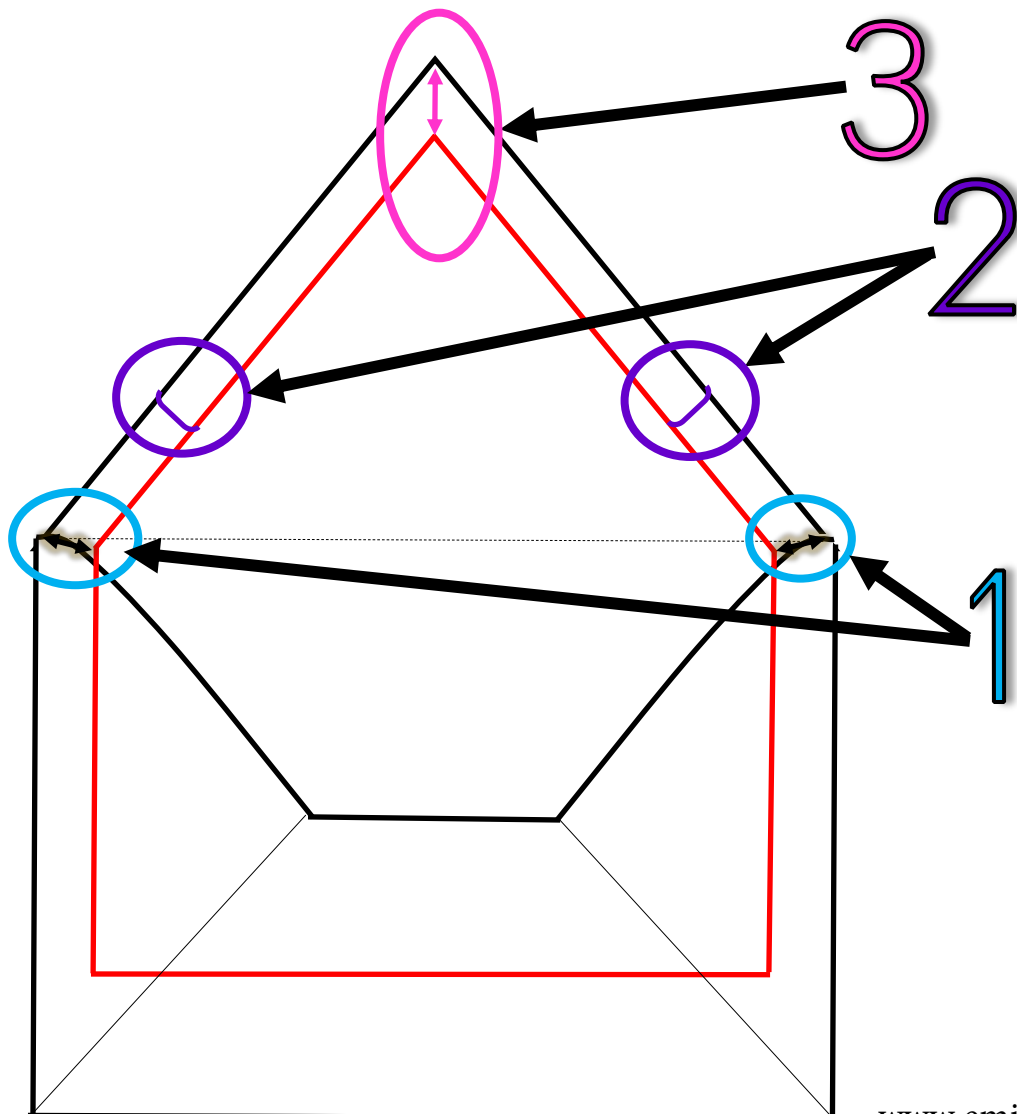
Align the apex of the liner and envelope.

2

Make sure the distance between the liner edge and the envelope edge is congruent along the middle of the envelope flap.

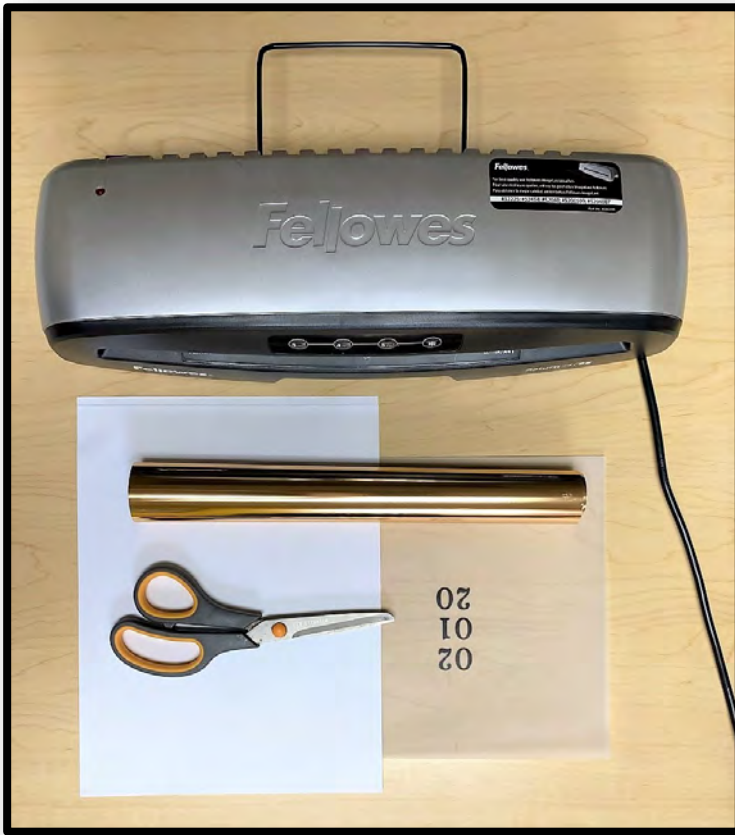
3

Double check that the corners near the top fold are in the same position and there is equal distance between the liner edge and envelope edge on both sides.



Diy tutorial: foiling

What You'll Need



- ★ Laminator or foil application machine*
- ★ Material** you wish to foil
(printed using toner)
- ★ Reactive craft foil
- ★ Scissors
- ★ 2 or more sheets of plain copy paper

Tips & Tricks:

- ★ Make sure your foil is reactive foil—the kind that heat activates. Minc is one brand that sells a wide variety of reactive foil. You can find their products on Amazon.
- ★ We've found that foil applies best right after you print (*using toner*—see below). If this isn't feasible for you, no worries. Just try to apply foil within the same day you've printed the image (however, it will still foil at any point after printing).
- ★ Usually, running the foil through the laminator two times is best. One tends to not be enough and three is too much—in both cases I've found that the foil doesn't apply as smoothly and fully as running it twice. *This may differ* depending on how porous or thick your material is, so experiment before you settle on a method.

*Laminators are way cheaper and work just as well as a \$150 foil machine

**To foil your printed image or text, it must be printed in toner (powder-like substance), not printers that use ink cartridges. It *absolutely* will not work on material printed with ink—don't waste your time trying. If you're not sure whether your printer uses toner or ink, check out Section 5.3.

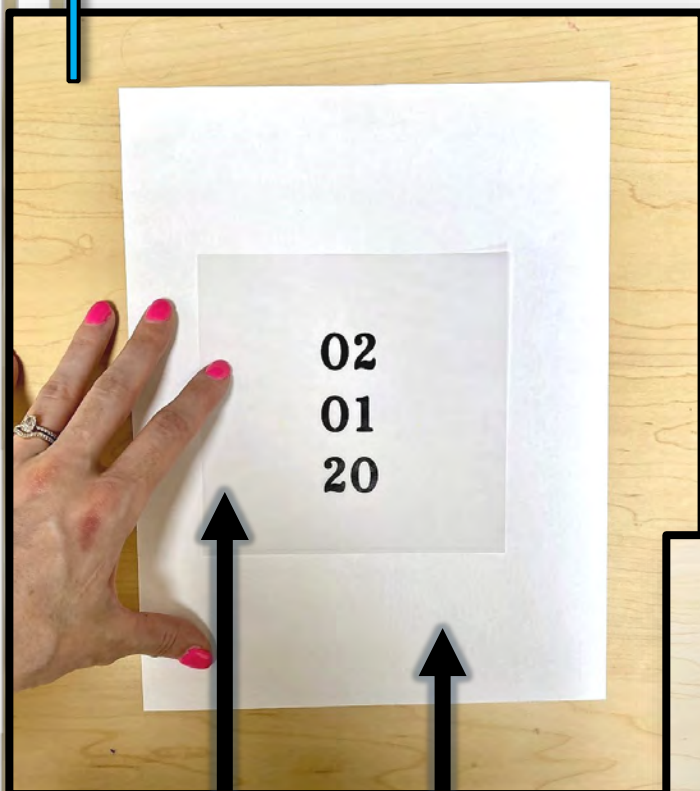
1

Set it up

1. Set your laminator to 5 mil, or the hottest temperature setting.

2. As it warms up, prep your material. Start by placing your material ("material" in this tutorial will refer to whatever paper you're trying to foil) on top of a white piece of copy paper (colored paper may bleed so use white if you can).
3. Cut a piece of foil to cover your targeted image. Avoid other printed images/text that you do not wish to foil. Place on top of your printed image or text, right-side (foil side) up.

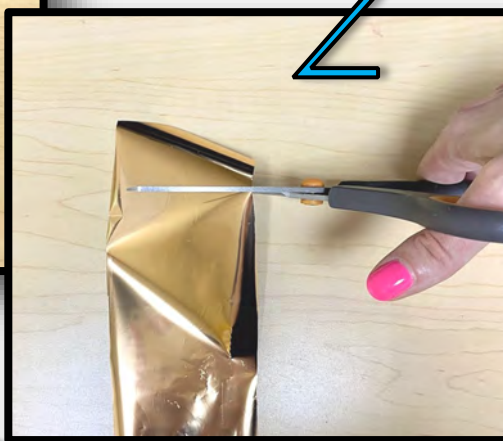
1



plain office paper

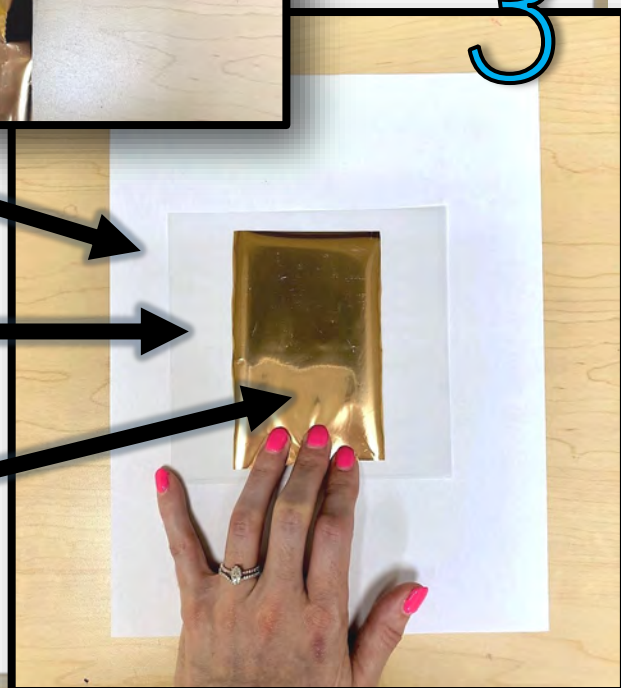
material with toner printed image/text

2



Foil (right side up)

3

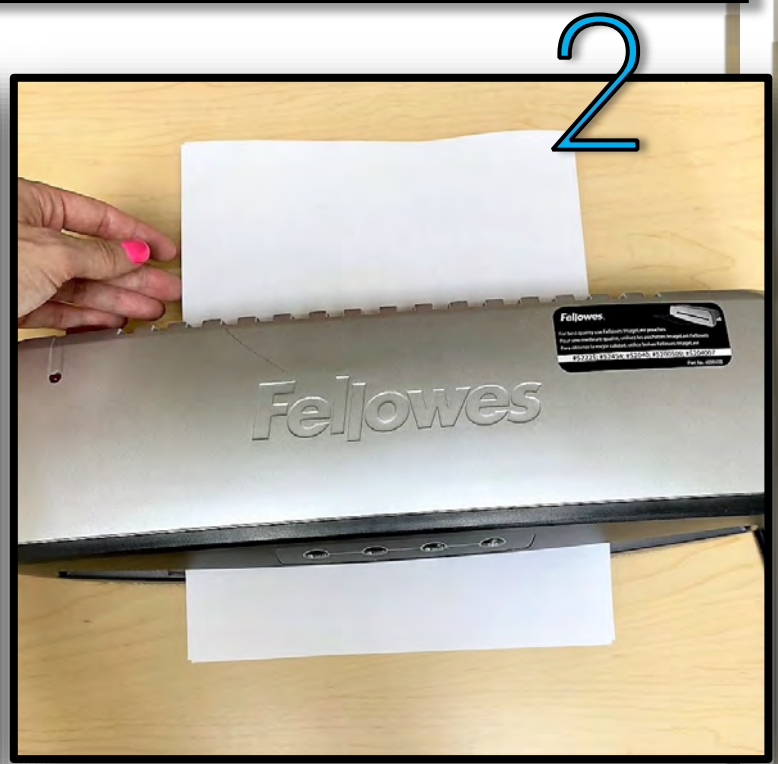
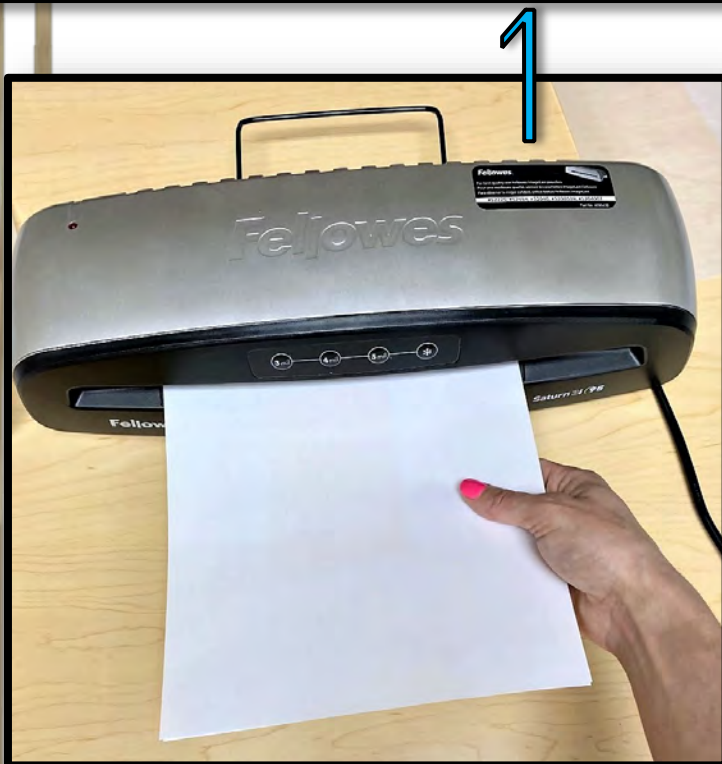


2

Feed it

1. Gently place a second sheet of copy paper on top of the material and foil, being sure not to move the foil off of your printed image.
2. Your material and foil should be sandwiched between two cover sheets of plain paper. Now, feed it into the laminator.
3. Once it passes through, feed it right back into the laminator* again, keeping the same side up and being sure not to displace the material and foil.

*Be sure to read "Tips & Tricks" on the first page of this tutorial to see if you may need to adjust the number of times you run it through the laminator.



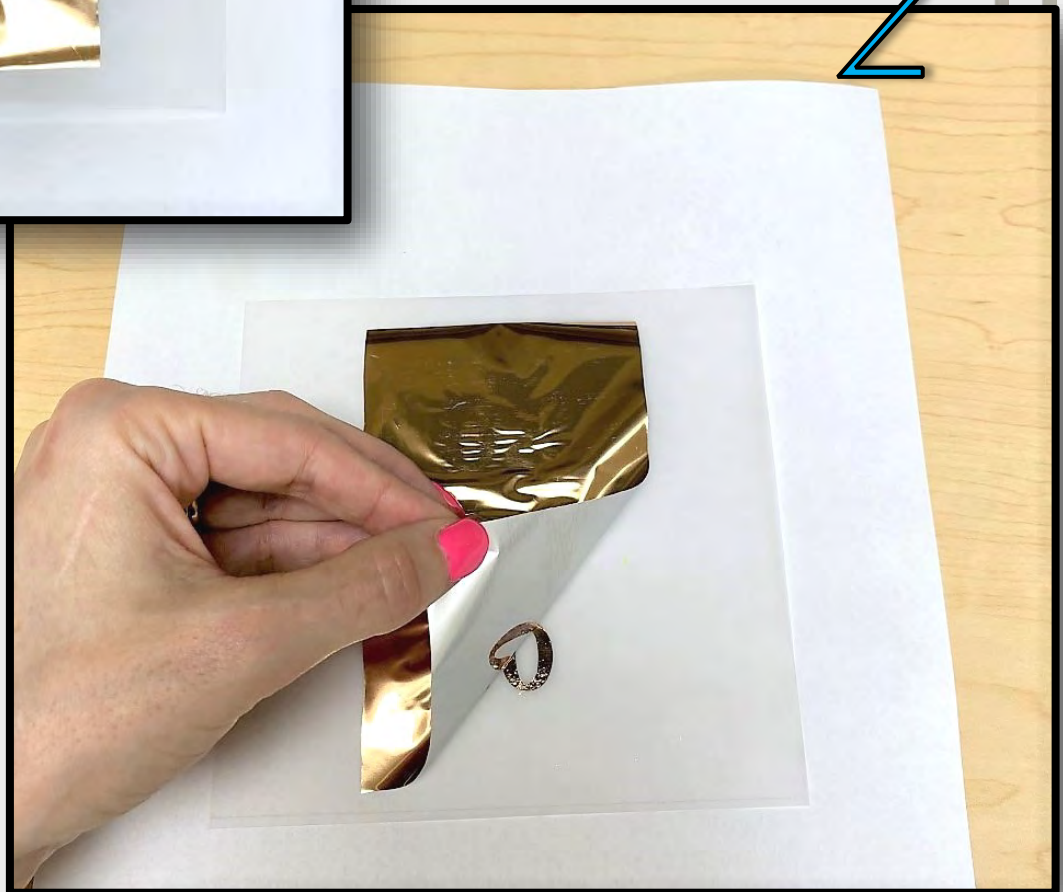
3 Peel It

1



1. After the final laminator run, remove the top cover sheet. The foil will appear stuck to the page.
2. Gently peel off the foil layer to reveal your newly foiled material.

2



4 Dust it Off

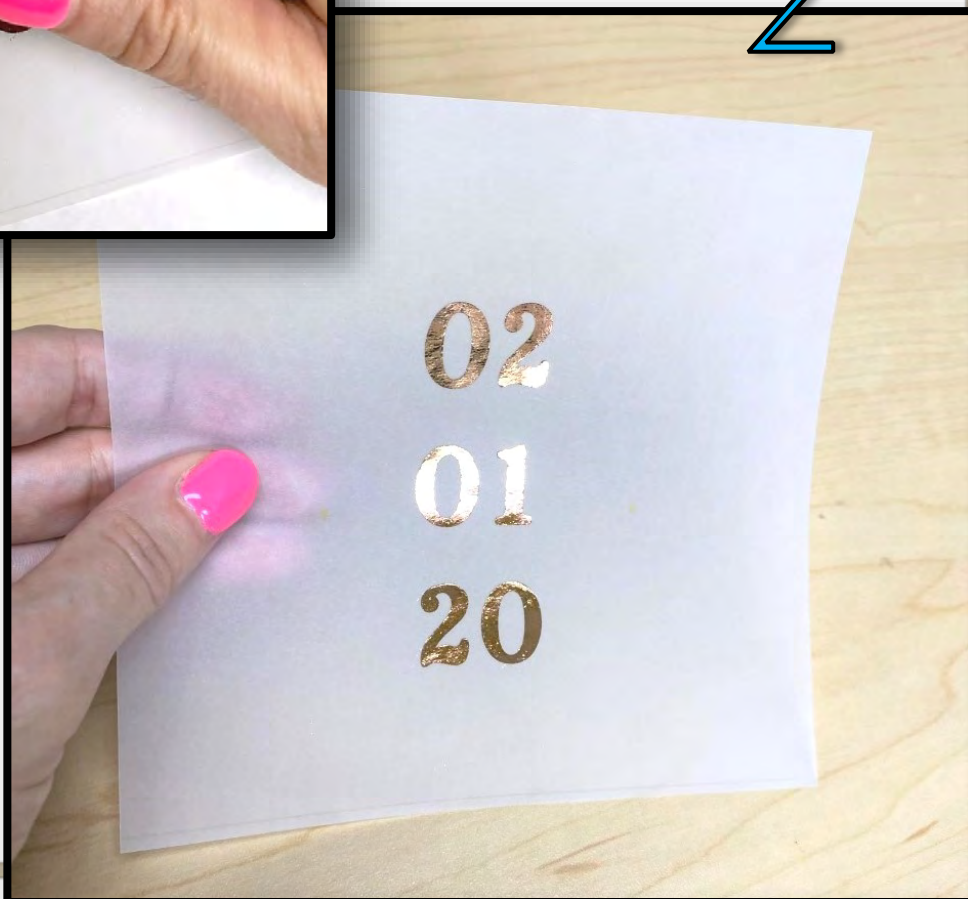
1



1. Gently brush off the foiled area to remove any remaining loose foil pieces.

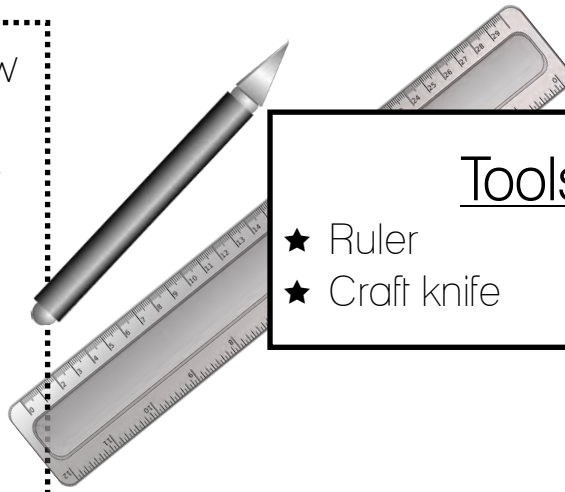
2. Voila! Foiled like a pro!

2



Diy tutorial: cutting by hand

This tutorial will show you how to cut paper items by hand with ruler and craft knife—our recommended method for cutting out your own place cards, invitations, and more. You can also try a manual paper cutter that has a pull-down blade or rolling blade.



Tools:

- ★ Ruler
- ★ Craft knife

invitation



Directions

1. Line up ruler with outside edge of invitation.*
2. Line up your craft knife against the ruler at the top where you want to slice.
3. Slice downward, holding the ruler steadily (and safely) in place with your other hand, using the ruler as a guide for a perfectly straight cut.

*Because it's much easier to make accurate cuts with lines to go by, we recommend printing your item with a border so you can line up your ruler easily. If you don't want the border to show on your final product, line up your ruler so that you make your cut along the inside edge of the printed border.



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