



Creating Your Own Embossing Folders Using the Accugraphic Embossing System

By Sandy McCauley
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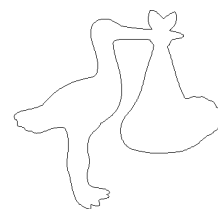


Materials Required:

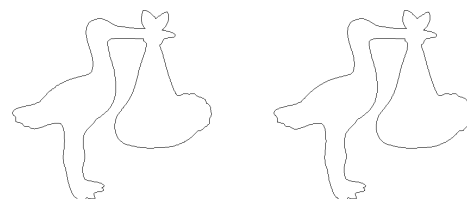
Digital cutter, such as Klic-N-Kut, Craft Robo, Silhouette, Pazzles, etc
Green Embossing Material, selected based on the cutter
Plastic Embossing Folders
Accugraphic Hand Press or other embossing device, such as a Sizzix.

In this tutorial, KNK Studio and RoboMaster are used for designing and preparing the image for cutting. Note that other cutting software programs will work. You only need to be able to create a mirror image of your object and draw a basic shape around it.

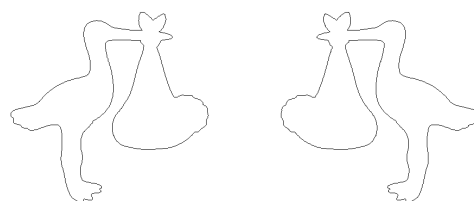
1. Design the image you wish to emboss. I will refer to this as Image 1 and, on the screen, it should look exactly the way you want it to emboss onto your cardstock or other material. Be sure to check the dimensions of your image, as well, and resize accordingly.



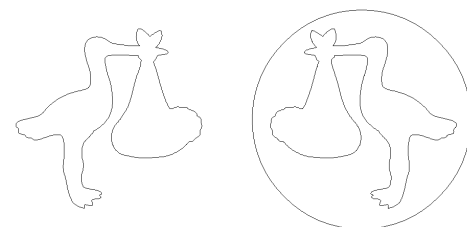
2. Make a duplicate of your image. In KNK Studio, you can use **Ctrl-D** or **Edit>Copy/Edit>Paste**. In RoboMaster, use **Edit>Copy/Edit>Paste**, and then you'll need to move the duplicate aside. This duplicate will be referred to as Image 2.



3. Create a horizontal mirror image from Image 2. In KNK Studio, select the image, RIGHT click on one of the 9 bounding boxes and from the popup menu, select **Mirror>Horizontal**. In RoboMaster, select the image and go to **Edit>Mirror>Horizontal Mirror**.



4. Image 2 is going to be the “negative”, in which you will want to keep the “waste” part of the cut, rather than the image itself. To do this, you want a boundary cut around the shape. Based on the shape and size of the embossing folder you plan to use, either draw a circle or a rectangle around the image. In this case, a circle has been added.



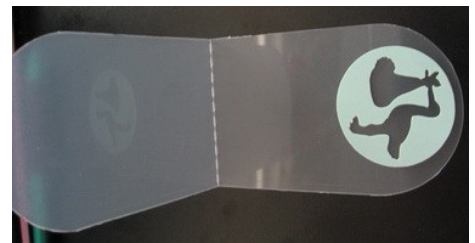
5. On the KNK, set the appropriate blade length. On a Craft Robo/Wishblade/Silhouette, use the pink cap. Do a TEST cut to make sure the material is completely cut but the backing paper remains. You may either use a mat or not, but, if you forgot the mat, be careful about not cutting through the backing paper.

KNK	CR/WB/Silhouette
Speed: 200	Speed: 5
Pressure: 220	Pressure: 25
Regular Blade	Pink Cap

6. Cut out the images. Remove the interior part of Image 2 and discard. Lift both images from the backing paper.



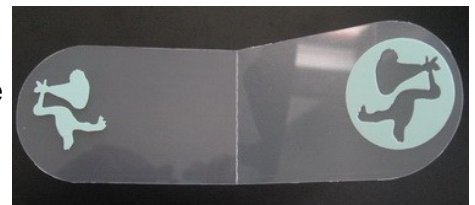
7. Place the negative of Image 2 onto one side of the plastic embossing folder. It is recommended that the image be placed so that the bottom of the image is towards the interior of the folder.



8. Remove the backing paper from Image 1 and carefully press Image 1 (sticky side UP) into the corresponding empty shape inside the negative of Image 2. Note that it is VERY important that Image 1 fit perfectly and evenly inside the negative of Image 2. Because Image 1 is sticky, you may want to use a craft knife or some other tool for this step as Image 1 will tend to stick to your fingers.



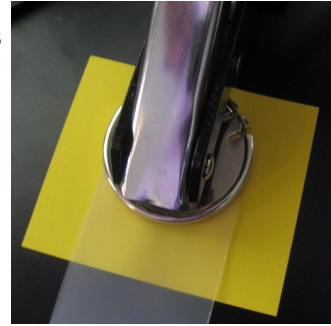
9. With Image 1 pressed into the negative of Image 2, close the embossing folder and press firmly with your hand. Image 1 will now be transferred and will adhere to the other side of the embossing folder and your embossing die is ready to use.



10. Arrange the embossing folder over the cardstock or paper you wish to emboss with the negative of Image 2 on top. If you are embossing a greeting card, then slip the folder over the front of the card only.



11. Slip the sandwiched folder and cardstock into the Hand Press and push down firmly. If your embossing piece is wider than the press, carefully move the press to each part, as needed.



12. Your embossed piece is now ready for embellishing!



Additional Notes:

- ⇒ In Step 1, the design you select needs to have relatively thick lines. If you pick a font with very fine strokes, it will be very difficult to work with the cut pieces. Thus, try cutting from printer paper first to see if you can easily remove it from the mat without tearing and use this as a guide. Also, it's a good idea to test cut any image first to make sure the results are what you want. This will save you from wasting any of the green embossing material.
- ⇒ In Step 7, think about how you will be using your embossing folder. For example, in the stork sample, I wanted to encase from the bottom of an opened greeting card, thus I needed to place the cut image as I show in that earlier photo. In the example on the right, I'm going to encase the cardstock from the right side.
- ⇒ In Step 8, I use Un-du on the cut pieces that I am trying to fit into the matching spaces. It will temporarily disarm the adhesive and make the pieces easier to work with. After correctly positioning, wait a few minutes for the Un-du to completely evaporate and then those pieces will be sticky again.
- ⇒ In Step 12, if you find any parts not quite as embossed as desired, it is easy to flip the piece over and perfect those areas using a regular embossing tool.
- ⇒ You may wish to use chalk or colored pencils to enhance your design, as was done on the finished samples I show in the header of this tutorial.