

Making Modern Stereo Cards

Making the Card

By

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Components of a card

- Card blank
- Front and back paper overlay
- Glue
- Images

Card blank

- “Acid free” for long life
- Rigid enough to hold up to handling
- Color that complements the image
- 4 ply card stock is a good choice
- Cut 1 to 2 inches larger than the finished card will be

Front and back overlays

- Good quality paper
- Thick enough to work with
- Nice “touch” when handled
- Color that complements the image
- Can be a photograph or an inkjet print

Glue

- One of the most important parts of the card!
- Often the most expensive
- 3M PMA
- Spray mount
- Dry mount
- Xyron – my choice

Images

- 4 x 7 or “APS” format photo print
- Ink jet print
- Individual “chips” cut from photo print
- Combination of different prints

Tools



Preferred tools

- 15” RotaTrim Professional trimmer - \$250
 - ◆ Cuts 4 ply mat board
 - ◆ Very accurate
- Lassco Model 20 corner rounder / 1/4” die - \$150
- Xyron 900 - \$70
- Alignment frame - \$20 for parts

Xyron machine

- Archival glue
- Uniform coating across surface
- Backing sheet and clear overlay
- Easy to use
- Expensive – 55 to 75 cents a card but still reasonable

The steps to making a card

- Glue up the images
- Paste them to the backing board
- Cut the card out of the board
- Round the card corners



- Place the back and front in the machine at the same time



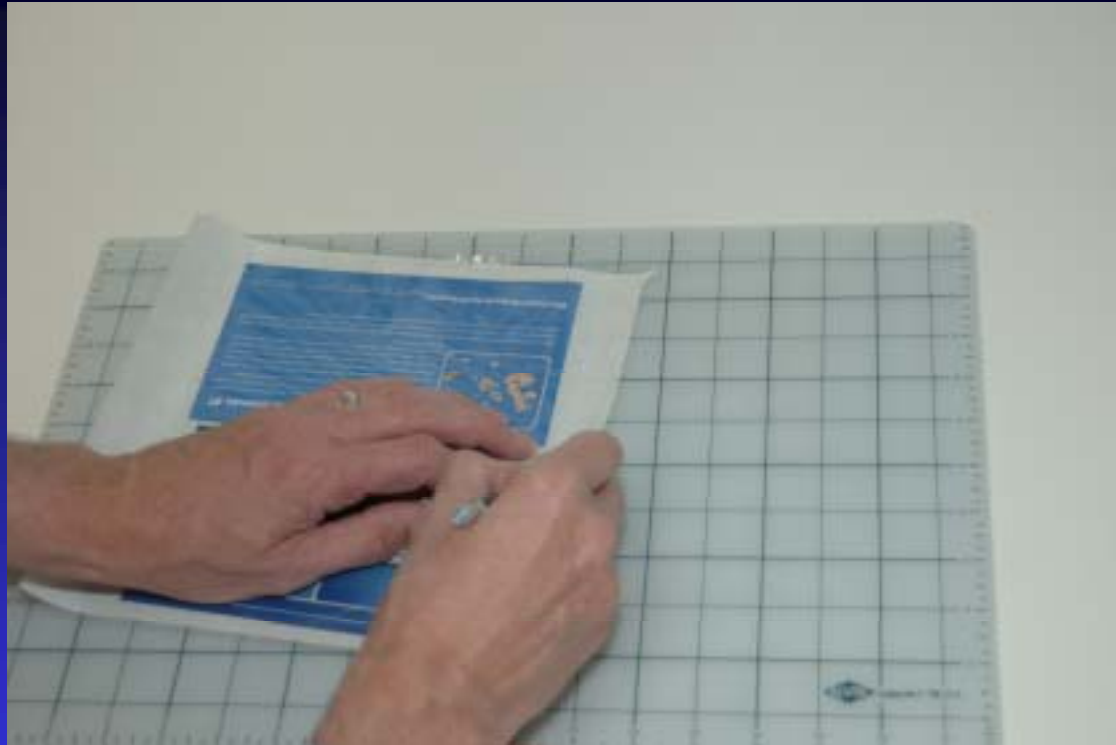
- Slowly crank the images through the machine
- If you are making more, do them without cutting the first ones



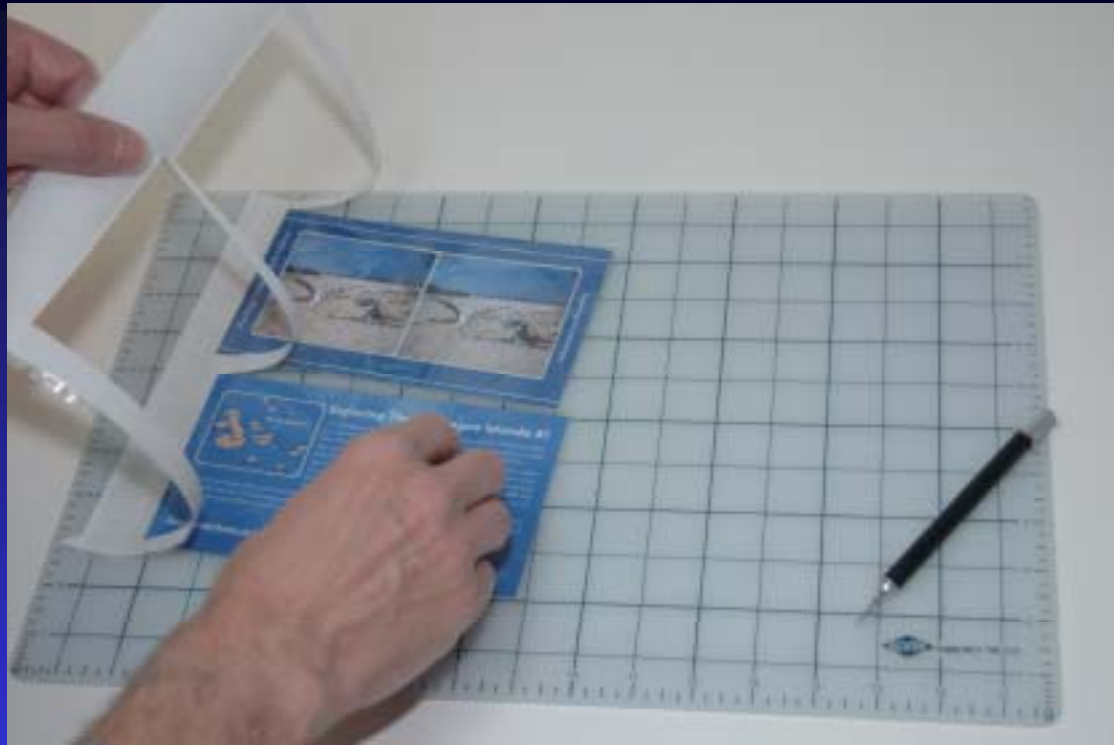
- Trim images to remove them from the backing
- Trimming removes the glue from the edges making it easy to handle the images



- Use a cutting mat
- Trim using a **sharp** Xacto knife
- Use a new blade for each batch of slides
- Blades are cheap in packs of 100



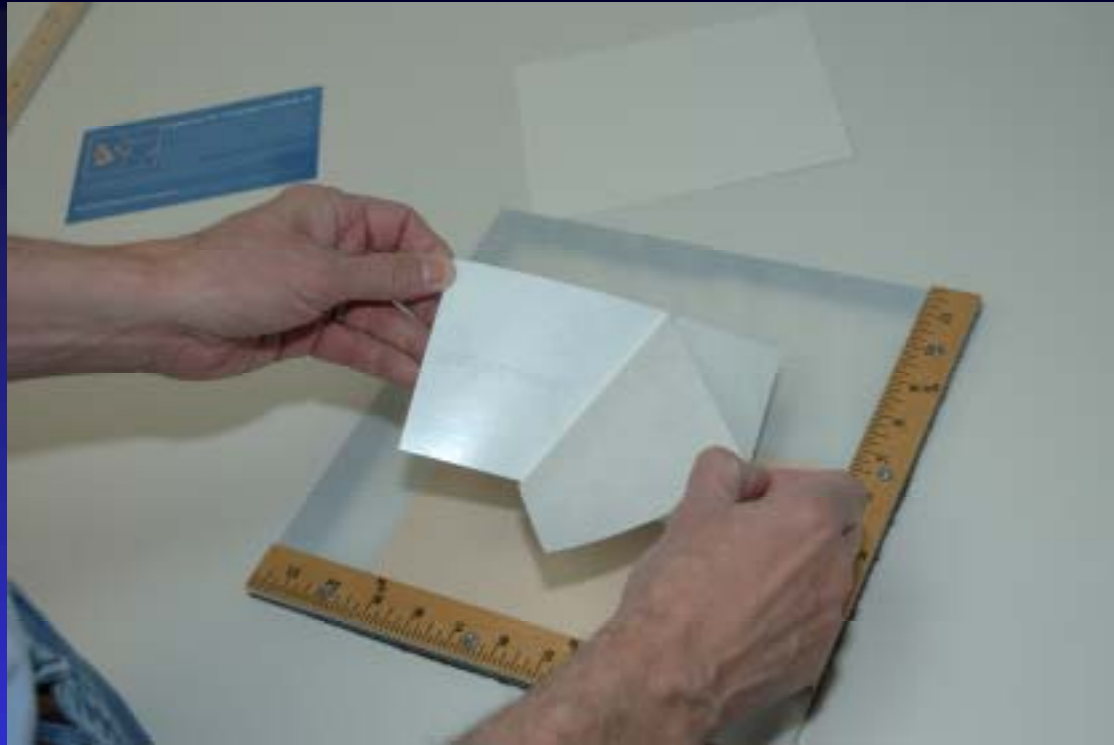
- Let the paper edge guide the knife
- A light easy stroke is best
- Cut in a smooth single motion per edge



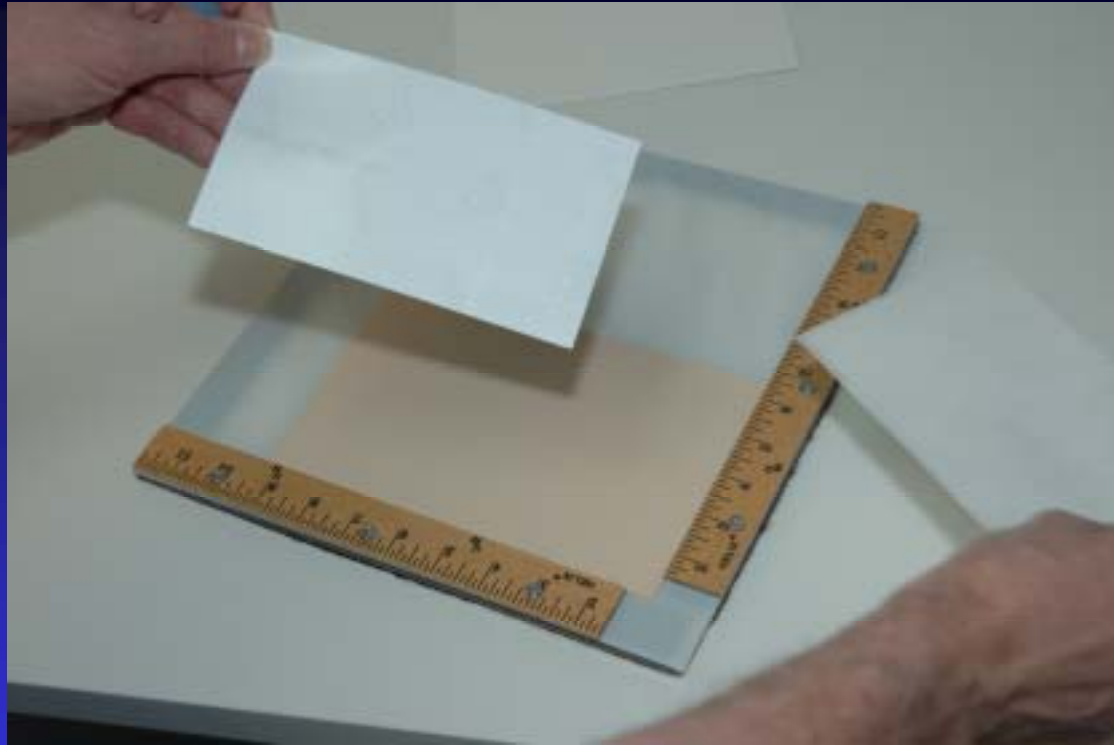
- Gently remove the backing
- Cut all the cards at the same time
- Keep the clear overlay in place to protect the image



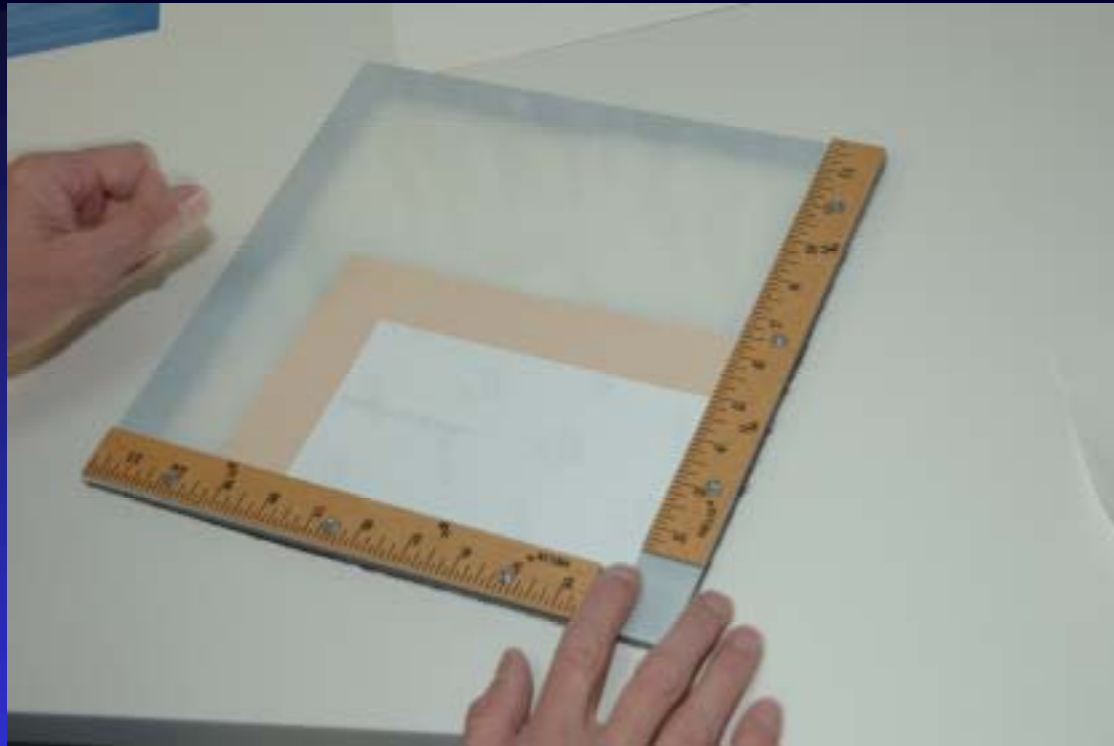
- Check the frame to make sure it's square
- Put a clean sheet of paper on the frame
- Always glue board to paper not paper to board



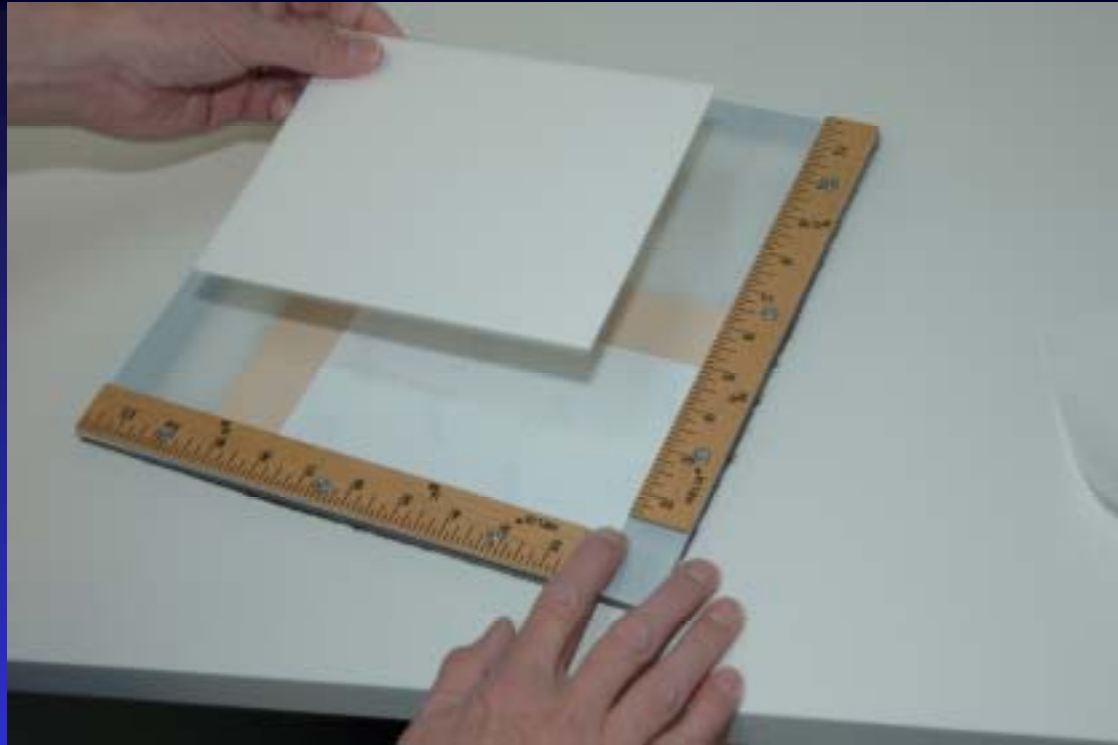
- Peel the backing off the front image starting at one corner
- Start at the upper left corner to reduce curling
- Hold the card just by one corner



- Place the image on the frame face down
- Be sure it's turned the right way



- Align the image by gently pulling it into the corner with a finger
- You may need to hold it there



- Place the lower corner of the card against the corner of the frame
- Don't let it touch the image



- Lower the card onto the adhesive gently
- Let the card press against the frame edges
- Practice this move with plain paper several times



- Press the board firmly against the adhesive
- Make sure the corners are pressed down
- You can use a small roller



- Remove the card and make sure the edges are glued
- Check for stray glue on the frame or paper



- Turn the frame
- Always do both sides of a card



- Do the back of the card the same way
- Make sure the card is turned correctly



- Place the back on the frame
- Do it just like you did the front



- Hold it in place with one finger



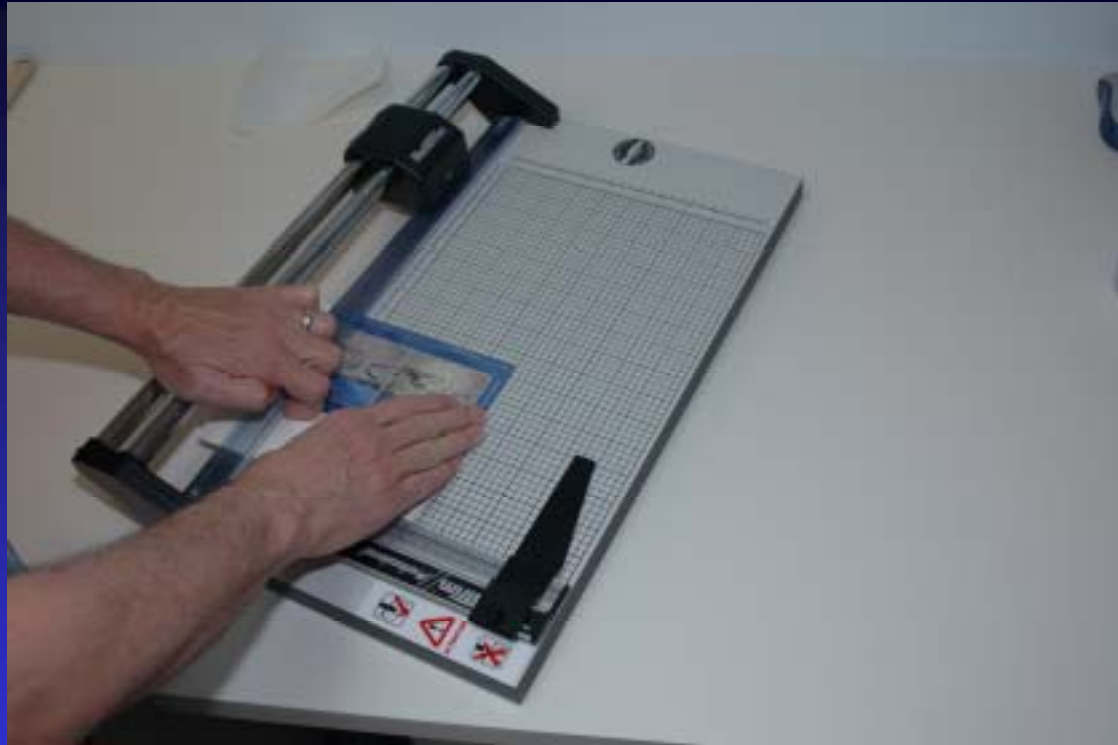
- Place the card on the adhesive



- Press the card down to set the glue
- Be careful not to damage the front of the card



- Do several cards at once
- Stop if you start making mistakes
- Check each card as you make it



- The final step is to cut the card out of the backing
- A good trimmer is essential but you can use a steel ruler and an Xacto knife



- Cut only by pulling the blade toward you
- Remove the card after each cut before moving the blade
- Take your time and stop if you are tired



- Use a corner rounder to finish the card
- Small hand held ones will do a few cards
- Cards look a lot better with round corners



- Round all four corners
- A Lassco corner rounder is a good investment



- Remove the protective film from both sides of the card
- Inspect it for stray glue or other problems



- Clean off any dust
- Place the card in a sleeve



- The card is done

Last Thoughts

- Don't get upset if you ruin a few cards
- With practice, the process will become fast and easy
- Remember this is supposed to be fun!