



## Cardmaking Made Simple: Add Fun with Folds

### Simple Stamping Tips & Fun Fold Ideas to Elevate Your Cards

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#### Welcome

I'm so glad you're here! My name is Lisa Ann Bernard, I am an Independent Stampin' Up! Demonstrator and I do business as Queen B Creations. My goal is to make stamping enjoyable, approachable, and fun. This guide gives you everything you need to start creating cards that look polished, plus easy ways to add a wow factor with fun folds. Even if you're brand new to stamping, you'll find tips, measurements, and ideas that help you craft with confidence.

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#### Part 1: Stamping Made Simple

##### Essential Tools

The right tools make a noticeable difference in both ease and results:

- A sturdy paper trimmer with cutting and scoring blades
- Bone folder for clean, crisp folds
- A mix of adhesives: double sided tape runner, liquid glue, mini glue dots and double sided foam adhesive dots
- Clear blocks sized for your stamps
- Paper snips (small sharp scissors) for trimming and detail work
- Grid paper to help with alignment and protect your workspace
- A Simply Shammy or cleaning cloth to keep stamps clean

## Paper Basics

- **Cardstock:** solid-color sturdy paper for bases, layers, and accents
- **Designer Series Paper:** patterned paper for quick style and personality
- **Specialty paper:** foils, vellum, and textured papers for focal points
- **White or vanilla cardstock:** crisp backgrounds for stamping and sentiments

## Basic Card Measurements

These layers give your cards a clean, professional look every time:

- Standard card base: 8-1/2" x 5-1/2", scored at 4-1/4"
- Main layer: 4" x 5-1/4"
- Accent layer: 3-3/4" x 5"
- Sentiment layer: start with 1" x 3" and adjust as needed

## Stamping Tips for Better Results

- Tap stamps lightly on the ink pad—don't press hard
- Stamp straight down - no rocking
- Practice on scrap paper before stamping your project
- Hold the stamp down for one extra second to help the ink transfer evenly
- Use darker ink for sentiments to keep them crisp
- Clean stamps between colors for sharp images and accurate color
- For photopolymer stamps, a foam mat under your paper improves clarity

## Color Confidence

- Pick one neutral, one main color, and one accent color
- Let Designer Series Paper guide your palette
- Use darker ink for readability
- Repeat colors two or three times on the card to create cohesion

## Finishing Touches

- Add dimension behind your focal piece to bring it forward
- Keep embellishments simple so the card doesn't get too busy
- Stamp the inside and envelope for a polished, finished look

## Quick Layout to Try

1. Standard card base
2. 4 x 5-1/4 cardstock layer
3. 3-3/4 x 5 patterned paper layer
4. Add a strip of cardstock or ribbon across the lower third
5. Stamp a sentiment on a punched or die-cut shape
6. Attach the sentiment with dimensionals
7. Add one or two small embellishments

## Simple Technique: Inked Edges

- Lightly drag a sponge dauber or blending brush along cardstock edges
  - Soft pressure creates a subtle shadow for depth
  - Even small details like this make a big difference
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## Part 2: Fun Fold Cards

### What Is a Fun Fold?

A fun fold is any card that opens or moves in a unique way. Instead of the usual side or top fold, these cards might include flaps, twists, panels, or pop-ups. Fun folds make your cards interactive and memorable—*without being complicated*.

### Why Try Fun Folds?

- They make cards memorable and exciting
- They give your stamps and papers fresh uses
- They're perfect for special occasions

- They're flexible—you can take a simple design and make it look impressive
  - They spark creativity by allowing small tweaks that transform a card
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## Three Easy Ways to Step Up Your Card

### 1. Change the Card Opening

- **Gatefold:** Score at 2-1/8" and 6-3/8"; fold sides toward the center
- **90 Degree Cover:** Cut card front in half at 2-3/4" and turn that piece 90 degrees and adhere on left side
- **Joy Fold Opening:** Cut part of the front panel off and create a smaller card that goes inside and opens in the opposite direction

### 2. Add a Swing Arm

- **Swing Arm:** Use a 1-1/4" x 5", scored at 4" piece of cardstock as a swing arm in from the right side. (Tuck the 1" section under interior layer) Adhere a focal point to the left side of that strip on card front.

### 3. Add a Surprise Element to the Inside of the Card

- **Pop-Up Insert:** 4" x 10-1/2" scored at 2", 5-1/4" and 8-1/2" inches
  - **Explosion Insert:** Score a 6" x 6" piece of paper at 3" both directions, fold into valley folds, add a diagonal fold and fold that into a mountain fold. Adhere inside card. Adds interest and a surprise element to the inside of your card
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## Tips for Choosing Fun Folds

- Start with one fold and experiment with different papers and stamps
  - Keep layers simple—the fold itself is often enough
  - Combine folds as you gain confidence for more elaborate cards
  - Purchase one or more of [my Fun Fold Tutorial books](#) that have full measurements, directions, diagrams & video links
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## Finishing Touches for Fun Folds

- Use coordinating cardstock to highlight folds
- Keep embellishments away from fold lines for smooth closing
- Add a sentiment outside and inside for a polished look
- Stamp the envelope for a complete, professional touch

## A Beginner-Friendly Fun Fold: Basic Gatefold

1. Start with 8-1/2 x 5-1/2 cardstock
  2. Score at 2-1/8 and 6-3/8
  3. Fold both sides toward the center
  4. Add 1-7/8 x 5-1/4 Designer Series Paper to each front panel
  5. Attach a focal piece in the center with adhesive only on one side
- This fold is easy to make and looks impressive every time.
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## Fun Fold Inspiration Ideas

- Birthday cards with pop-up banners
  - Holiday cards with hidden messages or images
  - Thank you cards with gift card pockets
  - Mini accordion cards for photos or stamped images
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## Next Steps

You now have a strong foundation in stamping and the tools to start exploring fun folds. Begin with one simple fold, try different papers, and experiment with your favorite stamps. Once you feel confident, you can combine folds, add inserts, or explore more complex designs.

For more step-by-step tutorials, layout ideas, and project inspiration, [join my email list](#) or [follow my video tutorials](#). I'll guide you from simple to stunning, one fun fold at a time.

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