

Paper Piecing: Part 1

In this demonstration we're going to talk about paper piecing. Now, paper piecing can be an easy technique, especially if you have a pattern to follow. It can also be a little more advanced, depending on how much work you want to put into it.

So, today I'm going to start with a pattern. So, I want to put a little puppy into one of my layouts, and you can either draw on of these or you can find one. They're in coloring books or little pictures you can find just about anywhere. I want to recreate this but with color and dimension for my scrapbook.

The first thing I'm going to do is choose a color. I have this brown paper, and this is going to be for the body of the puppy. First, I'm going to use a little repositionable glue. Now, repositionable glue comes in little tubes like this, but you can also get it in glue dots. Now, the great thing about the repositionable glue is that it allows you to put a template onto a piece of paper, and when you are done with your template, you can just remove it.

So, I have my template here on my piece of paper, and I'm just going to cut around it to get rid of some of the excess paper. So, just working with this piece there are a couple of different ways you can do this. If you want clean, crisp lines, you can just go ahead and cut around the outside edge of the dog. If you want it to look a little more fuzzy, you can do a technique called paper tearing. This one is a little more advanced, but you basically tear that paper following the lines of the outline. You don't have to make it perfect, but you want to keep the shape pretty close to what you have there. You want to make it a little bit fuzzy. It kind of gives the impression of fur when you do this. So that's one way you can kind of create a little extra dimension to your picture. I'm just going to go ahead and cut around the rest of it here.

Now, one thing you're going to notice is I'm not actually cutting around all of his parts. So, it looks like the tail just got cut off, but the reason I'm doing that is I'd like to use a different color for that tail. I think I'm going to use a different color for the ears as well. So, I'm just going to go ahead and cut right past those, and I will create the ears out of a different color. So, I'm just going along the outside of the image here. When I come to something like this where I have cuts that go into the picture, I'm going to cut along those lines. I just don't want to cut all the way through the picture.

If you don't feel comfortable cutting along those lines, you can actually recreate that later using ink. So here is his mouth. I'm getting down to his feet here. So now, I have the basic outline of my dog, and you can see here that there is actually a little bit of empty space. So, I'm going to go ahead and cut that out because I don't want that in my picture. I also have some empty space up in here. Now, with the dog's feet I can also just cut up along these lines, or I can use ink later to create those lines, and for his feet, I think I'm just going to go ahead and use the ink.

Now, I have the basic outline of my dog and I'm going to hang onto my template because I need it for when I create the face, but I'm going to actually take it off. So, that leaves me with this here. I'm also going to use my ink here. We talked about having those lines and I want to make sure you can see those lines that create his nose and his mouth. I'm just going to use a little brown ink right around the edges

there. It doesn't have to be too clean. It can be a little messy - give us a little shading - just sort of helps to outline dog, and you will be able to see the parts of his body better with that ink.

Now, something to notice here on that outside edge where we were doing our paper tearing, you can see that there's a little bit of a rougher edge. It's a little bit fuzzier. So if you're creating an animal and you don't want these nice clean lines, you can use the paper tearing technique and that will create the fuzz. I also want to add that tail and those ears, but I want them to be in a different color. I'm going to take my tail from my template, put a little repositionable glue on there, and then I'm going to put it on a darker color - this darker sort of chocolate brown here. I'm going to cut around the tail. Now the trick here is, I have to stick this tail back to the dog. So if I just cut along the bottom on the actual line I'm not going to be able to do that. So, I want to leave myself a little extra space here along the bottom. You can see that after I cut the tail, I'm just going to leave this extra tab here, and that's what I'm going to use to stick the tail to the dog.

Here, I have my dog's tail, but I also have that little extra material so I can stick the tail back onto the dog. I'm just going to take off my template, now - find the spot on the dog for this. Then, I'm going to add just a little bit of glue, and this not the removable glue. This is not readjustable I want to make sure, I get this in the right spot because it's going to be stuck there. I find the spot on my dog for his tail, and I'm going to use that little tab to stick it together. You can see that we have the dog in one color, and his tail is going to be that darker brown.

I'll go through the same process with the ears, and same idea here. I'm going to cut around the ears, but I'm also going to leave that little extra tab, so I can stick the ear to the dog. Now on this particular ear, we have the same thing - that line that goes into the ear. So I'm just going to cut along that line without cutting all the way through, and I'm going to create that sort of dimension by using some ink. This time, I use a darker color to see on this darker color of brown. Again, just outlining - not being too careful. I want a little bit of shading there to add the dimension, and there we have the dog's ear. Again, I'm going to glue the dog's ear with some permanent glue. I'm just going to add a little glue to the tab here, and glue that onto the back right here. And I'll continue that with next ear.

Now, what about his facial features? Well, remember I'm hanging on to my template, and in our next video I'll talk to you about how to cut out and add all of the detail for that face, including the eyes nose and whiskers.

So, stay tuned for next video in which we talk about adding the details to our paper cut out.