Using the Extruder Inkscape Extension Effect
by Observing

Prepare your path

The path MUST be composed of straight segments. Every segment will generate a tab on the side of the extrusion, so eliminate unnecessary tabs - specifically any tabs that are inside a straight segment. This must be a path, not a Shape.

Some Inkscape actions -- for instance, inset or outset -- will generate paths with curves. To insure your path is composed of only straight segments do the following: Select the path. Click on the node tool (edit path by nodes tool) and select all (ctl a) the nodes. Then click on the node icon to convert to straight segments.

If your path is inside a group, ungroup it.

Set any styles (line width, color, etc) before applying extrude. It will maintain the same styles. If you have no line width, it will default to something you may not love.

After your path is prepared, simply **click Extensions-Effects-Extruder...**

Set the parameters to your preference. Be sure you make note of the units being used. They should match your document. The "Maximum length of the extrusions" has to do with your paper size. If, for instance, you are using letter-size paper to cut, you would want to limit this size to maybe 10 inches.
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Click Apply.

If all goes well, you will generate the following:

A copy of the original shape path with a **1** and **2** indicating the start point and direction of the side pieces.

Side pieces -- If more than one side piece, you can identify which order to glue them by looking at their name in the objects panel They are labeled sequentially.   The top of the first strip (name ending in "s0") will always begin at the node where the "1 and 2" are shown on the shape piece.

Decorative pieces for the top, bottom and sides of your extrusion

(Note that if you have a lot of convex angles, you might want to split the strip at one or more score lines for a better fit, as going around the outside of the piece will take a bit more length. The program does not adjust for this.)

Troubleshooting: Double-check the following

      1. Did you select a path (not a shape object)?
      2. Is the path composed of only straight line segments?
      3. Is your path inside a group?

One issue that can cause the extension to fail is if the path **internal code** has relative moves. The way to avoid this is set a flag in Inkscape preferences:
Edit->Preferences->Input/Output->SVG Output -> Path data   **make sure that the "Path Data" is set to "Absolute'**
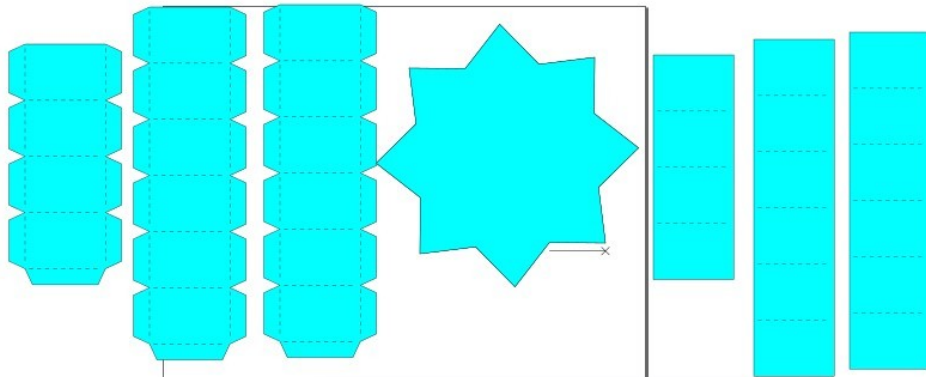
Notes:
The generated pieces will be stacked on top of each other. Just move them to see all.
If you have combined paths with overlaps, you will get unpredictable results (probably will get a result as if the paths composing the combined path were selected individually)

Use union the component paths rather than combining them.

 If a path is entirely encompassed within another, only the outermost path will be used for extrusion.

The image below shows what is generated in a sample request. The pieces were moved out of their stacked positions to be able to see them. You can also see the parameters available.

Extruder

Settings | Help

Width of extrusion: 2.0

Maximum length of extrusion: 9.8

Angle of tab edges (degrees): 65.0

Height of tab: 0.4

Length of dashline(zero for solid line): 0.1

Tab placement on cutouts: outside ▼

Dimensional units: in ▼

Close | Apply

Objects

V	L	T	CM	HL	Label
👁	🔒	≋			▼ Layer 1
👁	🔒	abc			path1968-0s2
👁	🔒	abc			path1968-0s1
👁	🔒	abc			path1968-0s0
👁	🔒	abc			path1968-0d2
👁	🔒	abc			path1968-0d1
👁	🔒	abc			path1968-0d0
👁	🔒	abc			patha
👁	🔒	abc			path2486
👁	🔒	abc			path1968

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Blur (%)