

How to sand off edges

By Jessica Guthrie

To shave off excess paper that hangs off the edges of your mini-book covers, box and purse sides, etc., try using sand paper, rather than attempting to cut close to the edge with scissors.

Regular sand paper, like the kind found at home improvement stores, is all you need. When you are starting out, just learning how to sand, use a fine or medium coarseness so you don't accidentally tear your project.

As you gain experience with sandpaper, you can use coarser sandpaper for cardstock and other thicker papers in the interest of saving time and muscle. Then quickly go back over the edges with a buffer or very fine sandpaper to smooth the edges.

Nail files work great for tight spaces. Basic Grey also makes a precision file set that is great.



Sand in a perpendicular direction

The technique is always the same: You want to move in one direction, at a perpendicular angle to the edge of your surface. Start on one side and sand it until the paper starts to shred and curl away from the edge, much like an apple peel. Continue around the cover until the entire edge has been sanded.

This technique is also great if you want to distress the edge of your project, or want to bring up the paper's white core so you can use colored inks on the edges of darker papers.