



Cutting with a pair of scissors

Dictionary

Introduction

When sewing, one of the most basic skills is the ability to competently cut with a pair of scissors. Remember that we discussed the first two pairs of scissors in Lesson 1, when we discussed quilting tools. That is the pair of sharp fabric scissors and a pair of paper scissors.

How are you going to do that?

Today you are going to learn more about scissors, the different sorts and you are going to learn how to hold and control a pair of scissors, which hand to use and how, and which fingers go where. We are going to, first, cut paper with your paper scissors and then cut out and make a project in fabric.

TAILOR

A tailor is a person who makes, repairs, or alters clothing professionally, especially suits and men's clothing. Although the term dates to the thirteenth century, tailor took on its modern sense in the late eighteenth century, and now properly refers to makers of men's and women's suits, coats, trousers, and similar garments, commonly of wool, linen, or silk



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What do you need?

A place to work

- For today's project you will need a space where you can work without interruption for at least one hour.
- Table.
- Chair, high enough for you to sit on and work comfortably at the table.
- Enough light to see what you are doing.
- A wastepaper bin for offcuts.

Tools

- Fabric Scissors
- Paper Scissors
- An appliqué glue stick or other school glue. (like Pritt)
- Pencil
- Ruler

Different Scissors

Paper scissors.

The long one is a specialist pair that can cut the length of a A4 sheet in one snip. The other pairs are more common and have blunt points. These are all too blunt to cut fabric.



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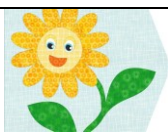
Fabric Scissors

Fabric scissors are sharp and most often have sharp points.



Embroidery Scissors

These are small scissors that are kept with embroidery or other hand projects. The fine points and sharp blades can cut thread efficiently.



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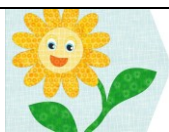
Appliqué scissors

Very sharp with very sharp point and straight serrated blades, specially designed to cut the most fragile appliqué designs.



Pinking scissors

Pinking scissors is used to cut fabric to prevent fraying. The blades cut fabric in a zigzag pattern.



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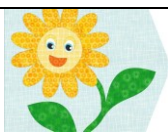
Kitchen Scissors

Cut all other material with kitchen or utility scissors. Cable ties, plastic, thick cardboard etc.



Today you will need the following materials

- 2 x A4 paper in white
- 2 x A4 Coloured paper
- White fabric 30cm x 30cm
- Coloured fabric 30cm x 30cm



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How to hold a pair of scissors

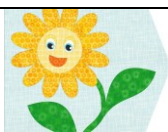
To cut efficiently, you need to hold a pair of scissors in the proper way. Do you know that there are different scissors for people with right hand dominance and another for people that are left-handed?

Are you left or right-handed? With which hand do you write with? Make sure to use the right pair.

When you want to use your scissors, put your thumb into the small hole and index finger, middle finger and the ring finger through the larger holes in the handles. You will use your thumb to open and close the blades. Your



thumb nail must always face the ceiling.



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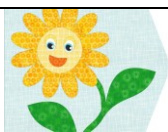


If you use scissors with smaller holes that all your fingers do not fit in, put your middle finger through the hole and place your index finger above the hole on the blade and the ring finger underneath with your pinkie.

I like to anchor the base of my hand when cutting out delicate patterns on the edge of the table. I then move the paper or fabric around with my left hand.



When cutting a large piece of fabric, place the fabric flat on the table, slant the scissors a little upwards and drag the lower point of the scissors on the table to keep a clear, cutting line. Cut with the whole blade in long and even cuts. Short cuts with just the front tip, has a jagged cutting line as a result.

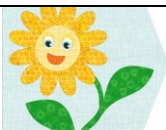


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Be safe. Scissors are sharp with sharp points. Never run with a pair of scissors and make sure to hand it over to someone else by holding the blades, for the other person to take the handles. Be careful. Be clever. Put your scissors back into your toolbox.



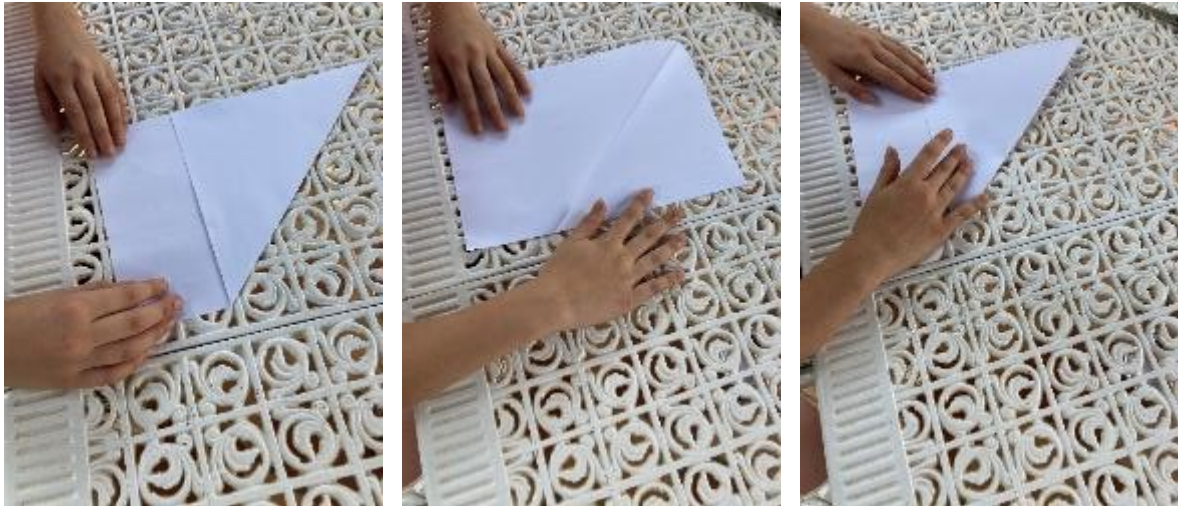
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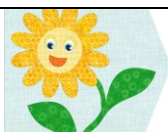
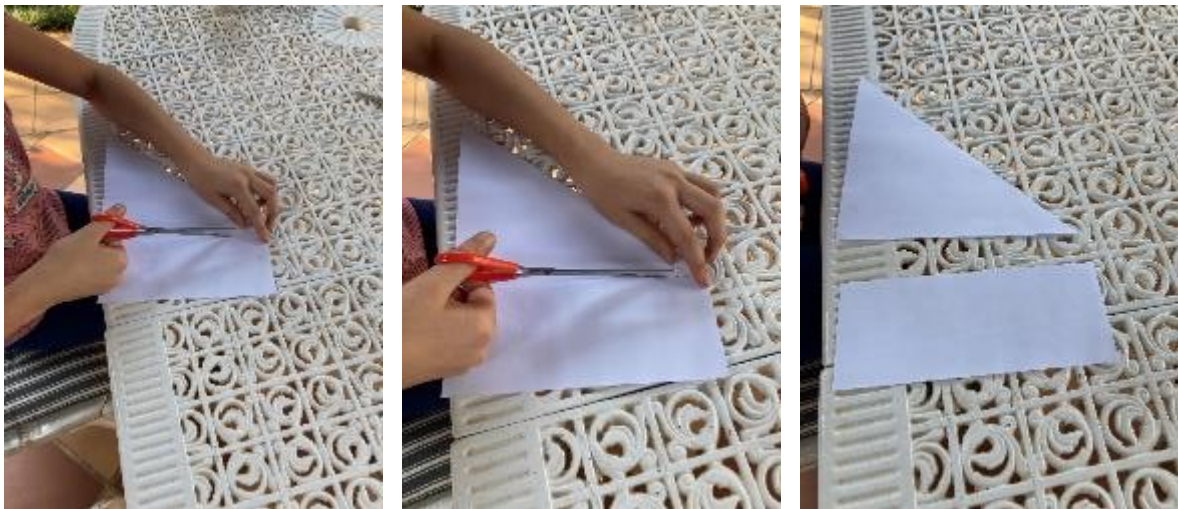
Do something fun

Today, we are firstly going to practice cutting paper and then use the same technique to cut fabric.

Take a piece of A4 paper and fold the corner over to form a triangle like this.



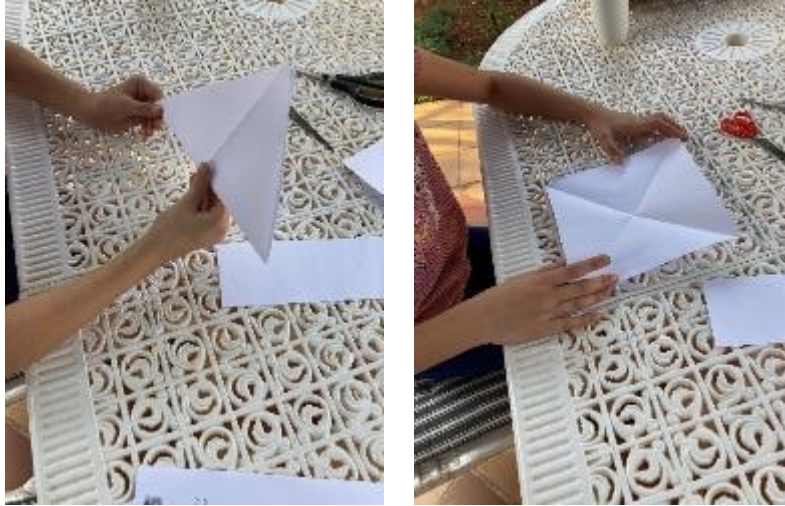
Use your paper scissors from your toolbox to cut off the rectangle that is not covered by the triangle.



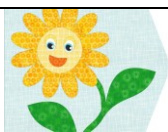
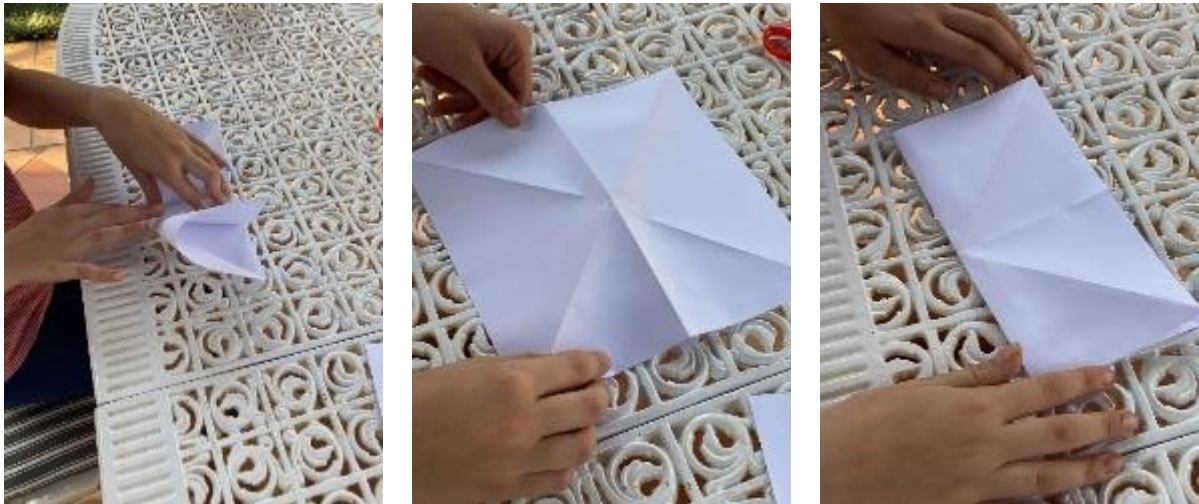
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Unfold the triangle. You now have a square. Fold the paper again to the other side to have two diagonal folds on the triangle. Your paper is now divided in four.



Now fold the square to form a rectangle. Unfold and turn the paper and fold the paper again. Your paper is now divided in eight parts.

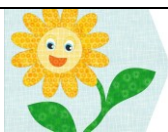


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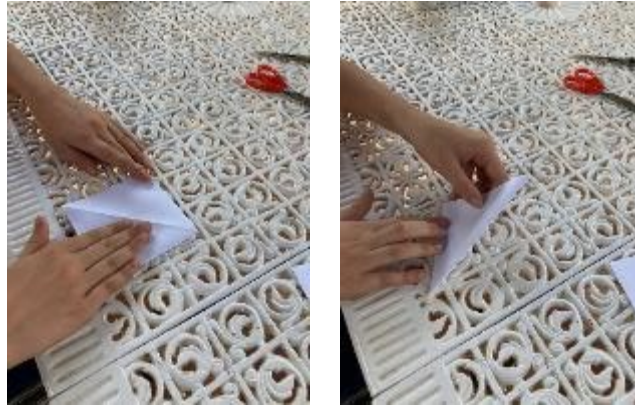


Refold the paper again into a rectangle and fold the rectangle to form a square. Fold the square double on the folding lines, diagonally to form a triangle.



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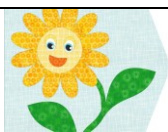




Use your paper scissors and cut out shapes from all the sides of the triangle, through all the layers. Make sure that you cut right up to the tip of the corners to leave clear shapes. Anchor the hand you are not using for the scissors, to the table. Lay the bottom blade of the scissors, on your forefinger too guide your scissors. This is the patterns that Kaylen cut.

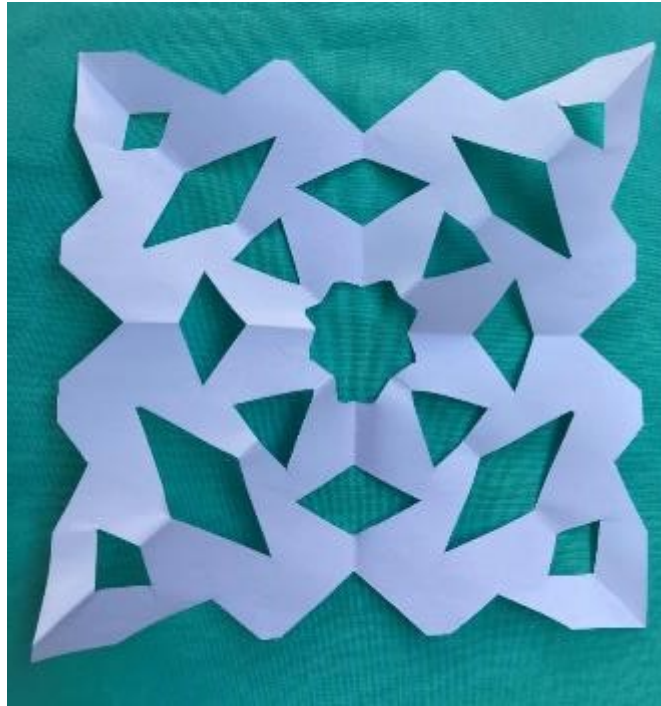


Unfold the square to open your paper doily. Wow! What does yours look like? You can cut another one. Each one will look different.



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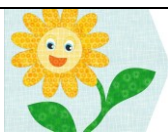




Now, let's try this out on fabric. This time you are going to use a pair of fabric scissors. Although these scissors are bigger, you are also going to anchor your scissors on your left hand in the same way.

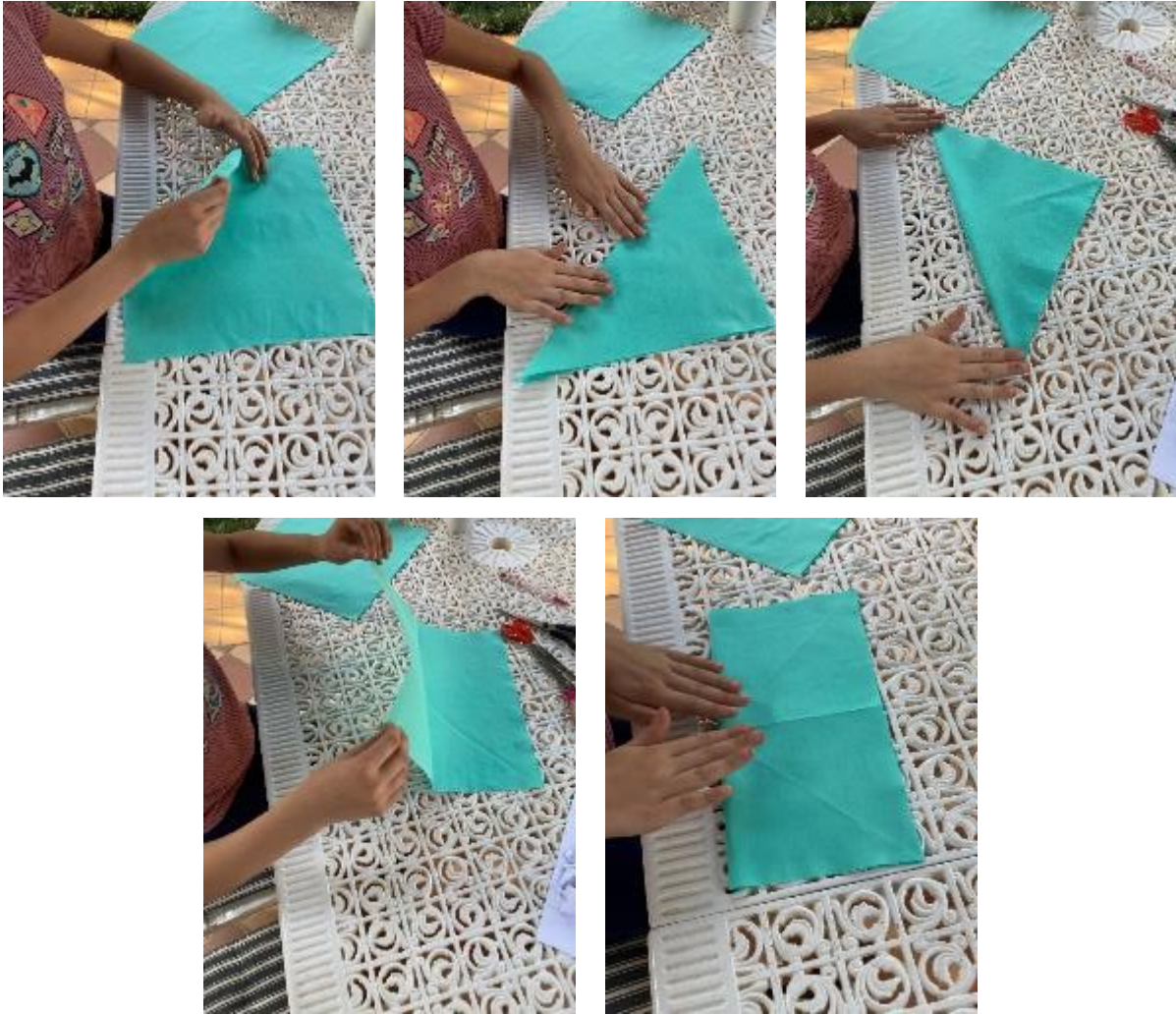
Take a piece of cotton fabric 30cm x 30cm and fold it into triangles, open and fold again into rectangles to form eight.

Open the fabric and fold back into a triangle.

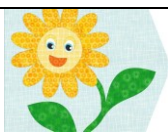


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Pin the open corners together with a pin to keep the fabric in place. Use your fabric scissors to cut shapes from the triangles. Cut up to the sharp point of the scissors to obtain clean, neat corners.



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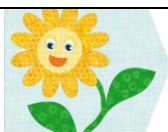




You can now mount this doily onto a piece of contrasting felt or paper with glue.

Well done!

Clean up time!



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Remember to return all the tools to your treasure tool box. Be sure to drop paper and fabric cuttings directly into the waste-paper bin. Leave your workspace as neat as you found it. You can be proud of yourself today!

Show and tell

You can ask your parents to help you glue (or Modge Podge like in lesson 1) your finished doily onto a contrasting piece of paper or fabric, the size of a place mat. Ask for help to post one or more pictures of your placement to the #saqqc4y WhatsApp group.

What's next?

In the next lesson you are going to learn how to press with an iron.

Did I miss something?

- What do I need to quilt?
- How to thread a needle.
- How to start and end with sturdy knots.
- Pin it!
- How to measure and draw



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