



# Simple Swaps Guide

Easy alternative supplies for  
Colour, Cut & Go Create Book 1





**To keep the books affordable and easy to read, I can't always go into as much depth as I would like to...**

To help you further, I've created this booklet on material and tool swaps to help you create the projects with what you have in your craft room.

Print this as individual sheets, cut out the boxes and fix into your book, or even print out as a booklet and staple.

**How to use this guide:**

- Find your project
- Look for the item you don't have
- Swap it using the suggestions
- Keep creating — don't stop for supplies


Other free guides will be available in due course, follow our site for new downloads or join our Discord.

[gocreatecraft.co.uk](http://gocreatecraft.co.uk)

Thanks

Natalie


## Watercolour Backdrops

 **Watercolour card:** swap for mixed media paper or smooth white card

**Acetate:** *For aligning your stamp:* swap for the printed acetate sheet from clear stamps or a piece of perspex.

*For the watercolour background:* swap for your glass mat, inky/gel plate, blending mat or simply a sandwich bag/clingfilm (which you can scrunch on your surface for effects)


**Stamps:** any floral and sentiment stamp sets you may have

 **Cutting:** use basic shapes on your cutter, basic shape dies, or simply grab a plate and draw around and cut. If you like fussy cutting, just cut around your background design with scissors.


## Silhouettes with Style

**Stamps:** any silhouette design stamps or print over your blended background with a digital download of silhouettes from Design Bundles, Creative Fabrica etc.

**Ink Blending:** use any blendable ink pads (often known as hybrid pads) to make your background. Dye-based ink pads tend to dry too quickly to blend well on the glossy card...

 **Glossy card:** I created the project onto photo paper which gives it the "pigment cloud" effect. However, swap for smooth or ink blending card if you only have dye-based ink pads or prefer a smoother blend. Beginners will find the blending/smooth card much easier to begin with.


## Watercolour Stripes

 **Watercolour card:** swap for mixed media paper or smooth white card

**Acetate:** *For the watercolour background:* swap for your glass mat, inky/gel plate, blending mat or simply a sandwich bag/clingfilm.

*For aligning your stamp:* swap for the printed acetate sheet from clear stamps or a piece of perspex.

**Stamps:** any large floral stamp set you may have

 **Cutting:** use basic shapes on your cutter, basic shape dies, or simply grab a heart template and draw around and cut. Top tip: you can print a template onto the back of your card before creating the background.

## 100 Flipbook Card


**Software:** while I've used Affinity (free download available), you can use any vector design software including Inkscape to create the same design.

### White Foil:

Swap for a white gel pen or change the background card to a light colour for printing or stamping.


**Xyron adhesive:** swap for sticker/self-adhesive paper to avoid the need for a Xyron machine.

**Clear vinyl:** use basic clear tape - you know the one I mean.


 **No cutter?** Just print the design and cut out using a craft knife and cutting mat.

## Monotone Colouring

**Stamps:** any character stamp sets you may have. Swap the Shaded Bauble stamp for stronger ink blending around the edges or add dots with a fineliner.


 **Cutting:** use basic shapes on your cutter, basic shape dies, or simply grab a plate and a square to draw around and cut. Add additional embellishments with dies or digital cut files. Use sentiment dies, stamps or cut files to suit your theme.


**Masking:** Use a circle stencil, frisket film, masking film, stencil material including Mylar or Duflex or masking tissue.

 **Kraft card:** swap for coloured card to contrast to your monotone colouring.

## Faux Ceramic Inspiration

**Stamps:** any small detailed floral stamp sets you may have: especially frame or border designs

 **Hot-pressed Watercolour card:** swap for smooth white card

 **Watercolours:** Swap for squidging ink pads onto a glass mat or palette and use those instead.


**Clear vinyl:** Swap for cold lamination pouches which usually use adhesive instead of melting. Smaller designs can use clear parcel tape.

**Foiling:** Don't have a Foiling Pen? Swap for hot foiling dies, foil tools for your cutter or a 2-way glue pen. No foil? Use a metallic gel or paint pen.

## Retro Geometric Card

**Shapes:** Use basic shapes in any design software with any electronic cutter.

**Die cutters:** Swap for basic shape dies (such as the Waste-free Dies from Stamps by Me, or the doodle dies from Sizzix/Gummiapan)

 **Cardstock:** No coloured card in the right shades? Use ink blending or print colour onto white card before cutting.


**"Don't worry about perfect blending - soft edges come with practice"**

Start off your page, use a glass or blending mat beneath your card, crop then blend, work lightly by dabbing off excess ink before moving to your surface. All of these steps can help you perfect your technique.

## Ceramic Blue Work

**Stamps:** any small detailed village style stamp sets you may have.

**Stencils:** swap for any patterned stencil or make your own with masking/stencil material (see Monotone Colouring above)


 **Distress Ink:** Swap for any water-based dark blue ink pad (dye or reactive).

**Card:** Use smooth white card rather than watercolour card.

**Sentiment:** Use a sentiment stamp, die or why not try a little hand-lettering.

## Patchwork Album


**Fabric Cover:** Swap cotton quilting fabric for bookbinding cloth or even patterned paper. If using paper, I suggest mounting your piece onto copy/printer paper and then stitching.


 **Patterned Paper:** use small scale prints and patterns for the best effect. Don't have any? Download seamless patterns and print onto 120gsm (or higher) printer paper. Normal printer paper will crinkle with most inkjet printed patterns.


**Sewing:** No sewing machine? Use hand stitching, stitch style rub-ons or stamps or use a fineliner/gel pen to draw on stitching.

**Greyboard:** use packaging such as cereal boxes for a free source of card and layer it up for thickness.

## Simple Grid Layout

 **Cutting:** Use circle dies, punches or your electronic cutter to easily cut your apertures. Failing that use a small reel of tape to draw around and cut out with a craft knife.

 **Photo paper:** swap for smooth white card suitable for your printer


 **Coloured card:** Swap for patterned or solid coloured scrapbook paper.


**Clear vinyl:** Use this over your printed smooth white card to add a gloss effect, or use a cold lamination pouch.

**Design software:** Anything from Paint upwards can help you with this project, but if you don't have anything, just print the pictures and crop them to fit.

## Mini Flip-Flap Folio

**Folio Base:** Use strong black card or swap the structure for a pre-made folio base.

 **Patterned Paper:** If you find your paper is a little translucent, mount it onto white card first to maintain colour saturation over the black base. In terms of paper design, go for image based papers rather than patterns. Then use matching pattern papers for photo mounts and inserts.


 **Distress Ink:** Swap the Antique Linen for any pale beige ink pad.


**Closure:** Use ribbon to tie closed or add closure hardware for other options. You could simply use self-adhesive velcro dots or magnets.

## Mini Album Explosion

**Box Base:** Use strong card of 300gsm or above.


**Hinges:** Use Tyvek or pop bottle wrappers to reinforce your hinges as they will get a lot of movement..

 **Patterned Paper:** If you find your paper is a little translucent, mount it onto white card first to maintain colour saturation over the black base.

 **Distress Ink:** Swap the Antique Linen for any pale beige ink pad.

**Adhesive:** Use either red liner tape (the super strong one) or go "belt and braces" with normal double-sided adhesive and wet glue. Don't add too much wet glue - think dots along the tape.

## Peppermint Journal

 **Papers:** While Mary uses my Sweet Peppermint collection, you can swap in any patterned/printed paper pads or digital collections. If printing your own, use paper 120gsm and above for best results.

**Scoring Tool:** use a rounded ball tool, bone folder, old ballpoint pen (with no ink) and a scoreboard or ruler.


**Glue:** Acrylic medium works best for laminating printed papers to card, but go for a thin, even coverage to avoid your inkjet prints bleeding (or use a laser printer).


**Ephemera:** Swap for digital designs, stickers, washi tape, rub-ons etc.


## "Test small, then go for it"

Whether its test cuts or trying out a new media or paper (or combination of both), testing is how we check our work.

## Retro 3D Sunburst

 **Cutting:** Use your electronic cutter or draw/print your template onto the back of your card and cut by hand. Use a layering ruler for working out decorative panel sizes. Use dies for the decorative shape elements such as doodle dies used for the Retro Geometric Card.

 **Base Card:** Use card 300gsm and above for project longevity.

 **Coloured card:** Swap for patterned or solid coloured scrapbook paper from decorative layers.

## Pinned Baubles

**Bauble Base:** Swap for polystyrene globes. Swap to clear baubles, papier mache balls/baubles for use with paper rather than fabric.

**Patterned Paper:** To make the project child-friendly, swap fabric for thin patterned paper, and combine with acrylic medium.

**Ribbon:** Swap ribbon for any decorative strand to conceal the join between the two halves.

**Hanging:** Use metallic thread and an end cap for ball bases without supplied hanging.

## "If it cuts cleanly, it works - the tool doesn't matter"

While I may use a ScanNCut, I also have a great collection of dies and a Kit n Caboodle die machine I'll happily hop onto. If all you've got is scissors, that's great too.!

## "Try new surfaces"

Not just in terms of immediate surfaces like watercolour paper, but also in terms of pre-made blanks that inspire you to create differently.

Why not convert a card design or technique into a scrapbooking layout, or go a step further and turn it into a book cover.

Crafting blanks can help us achieve professional level projects quickly and easily.





# COLOUR CUT & GO CREATE

**Colour, Texture & Craft Play**

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