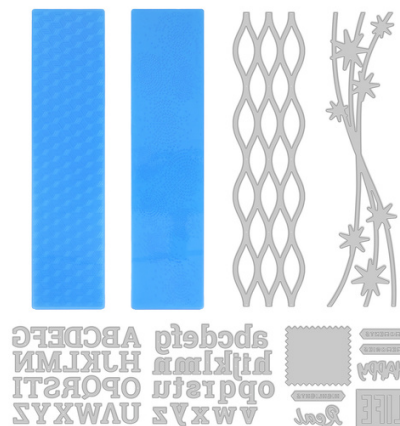




TOOL TIME

Die Cutting & Embossing System



GETTING A CLEAN CUT

- Cutting edge faces DOWN. The raised cutting ridges face the paper and Cutting Base Plate; you should see the flat back of the die.
- Keep dies from shifting by using a small piece of Place & Peel Tape, washi tape or other low-tack tape. Save the piece and reuse it!
- Use less tape on designer paper. Low-tack tape can sometimes lift the printed surface, so use only what you need.
- Intricate die? Run it twice. Crank completely through, then reverse and crank it back before taking the sandwich apart.
- Stubborn little pieces? Use the pointed end of the Dual-Tip Tool to poke through the holes on the back of the dies to pop them out.

PLATES & YOUR MACHINE

- Pops and creaks are normal. The plates may also separate slightly after part of the sandwich has passed through the rollers.
- Your Cutting Base Plate will look used. Cutting marks are expected. Use both sides and flip the plate periodically to help manage warping.
- Consider keeping a spare Cutting Base Plate on hand. Especially helpful if your machine gets frequent use.
- Use plates made for your machine. CM dies may work in other manual die-cutting machines but use that manufacturer's plates/sandwich and any needed shims – not CM plates.

LATTICE WAVE TIPS

- Start with a generous 3-inch-wide strip. Take a moment to make sure the top and bottom of the die are completely covered.
- Use BOTH sides of designer paper. Keep the lattice, then flip the little cut-out pieces to the reverse pattern for an instant coordinated design.
- Raid your scraps! Place coordinating scraps over sections of the die to create extra insert pieces without cutting another full sheet.
- Try 7/8-inch strips on the diagonal. This is an efficient way to cut the small curved insert pieces with less waste.
- Think beyond the lattice. Those curved pieces can become petals, leaves, fish, water elements and more!

ALPHABETS, EMBOSSING & STORAGE

- Do an ABC check before putting letters away. Make sure every little alphabet die made it back onto the magnetic sheet.
- Keep small dies enclosed. Store the magnetic sheet inside the original packaging, an envelope or a closed pouch so a loose die can't escape.
- Embossing has two looks. Check both the raised (embossed) and recessed (debossed) sides before choosing which one to use.
- Add easy color to embossing. Lightly skim an ink pad over the raised surface – don't press down into the recessed areas.
- Keep the instruction inserts. The plate guide is a handy sandwich reminder, and embossing-folder inserts make patterns easier to identify in storage.



Tool Time Video