

## A basic guide to hot wire cutting - using a template

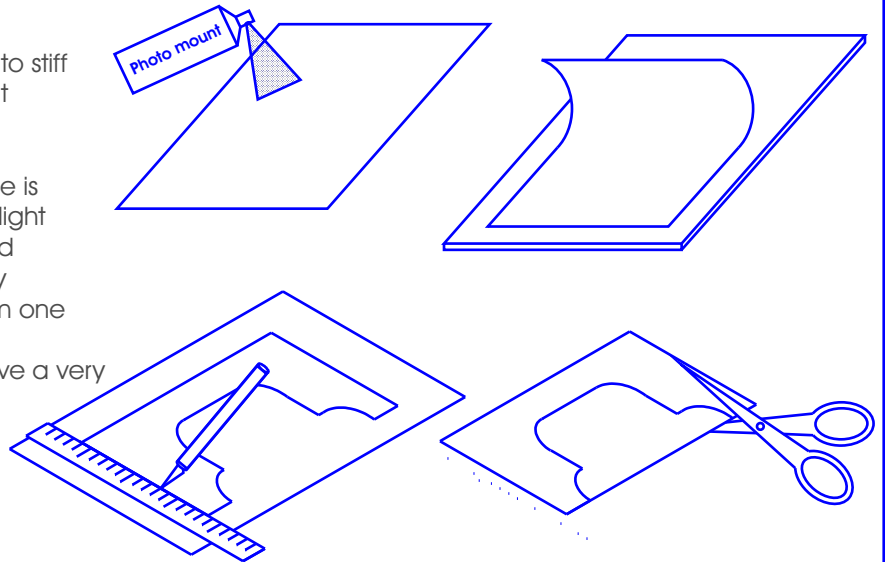
### 1. Making a template

You can either draw your template directly onto stiff card or draw your design on a computer, print out the design and glue it onto the card.

If gluing the template onto the card spray glue is usually the easiest method of gluing. Spray a light even coating onto the back of the design and onto the card, let the glue become touch dry then apply the paper to the card working from one end smoothing out any trapped air.

Using spray glue as a contact adhesive will give a very strong adhesion of the paper to the card.

Cut out the template using a steel rule and craft knife on a cutting mat for the straight edges and scissors for the curved edges.



### 2. Using the hot wire cutter

Before you start you need to check the hot wire cutter is set up correctly.

1. Make sure that the wire is under tension and not loose.
2. Make sure that the wire is set at right angles to the cutting bed.
3. Set the temperature control to the correct setting for the thickness of the material you are cutting.

Then using the guide on the hot wire cutter cut the styrofoam to width, length and height required.

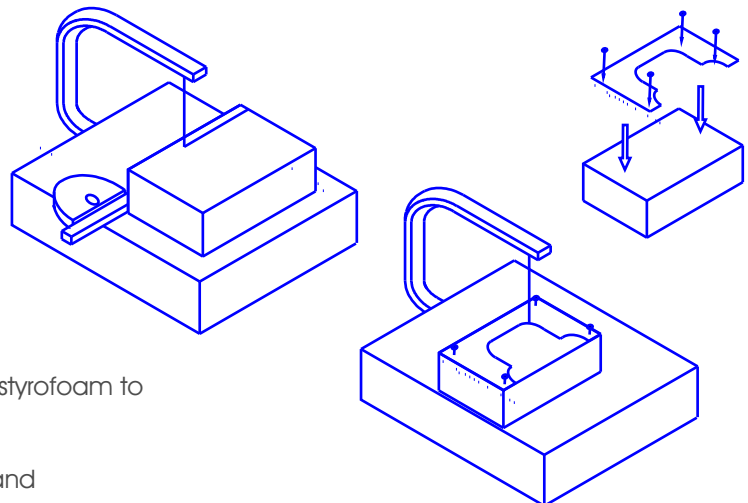
Now pin your cardboard template onto the foam and cut out the details of the design.

note:

When cutting the foam try and make sure that you use one smooth movement as you pass the wire through the foam. The temperature of the wire will determine the speed that you can cut through the foam, you need to find the optimum cutting speed.

Cutting slowly will melt the foam too much causing uneven edges, where trying to cut too fast will distort the wire and could also cause it to break.

Use some scrap pieces to get the feel of the cutter before start.



### 3. Finishing the foam

You can now tidy any uneven areas on the styrofoam using a craft knife and a sanding board.

