

# The Top Five Crazy-Cheap Tools You Need to Get Started Paper Crafting Now

Want to make some of the amazing paper crafts you see on my blog and on Pinterest? YOU CAN DO IT! And for a lot less than you might think. You don't need a fancy cutting machine to get started. Here are the **exact tools I used** when I first began:

1. **Scissors** with a good, long blade. (No school or embroidery scissors.) If you've got some old or cheap scissors that aren't sharp, just cut about 20 narrow strips of aluminum foil -- this will sharpen the blade!
2. **Card stock**. The cheaper stuff from the office supply store works fine. No money for paper? Look around your house for card stock you can recycle and use for your projects. Old books often have nice, thick paper, for example.
3. **Glue**. You really don't need fancy glue. Basic school glue from the dollar store works fine. That said, I've also found tacky blue (my preferred glue) at the dollar store!
4. **Toothpicks**. You can use this to spread glue evenly on your paper, and you can also use it as a DIY quilling tool!
5. **Light**. A bright light bulb to put in a lamp (make sure your lamp is rated for the bulb). Light makes a HUGE difference in your ability to craft. And you can also use this bright light when you need a lightbox -- just hold it up to the light and you can see through your paper.

You probably have all of these things already. If not, you can get them for **under \$20, or much less**.

Ready to start crafting? Check out these beginner-level projects that you can make with just the five items listed above:

Butterfly Card: <https://jennifermaker.com/diy-pop-butterfly-card-tutorial-easy-5-x-7/>

Origami Heart: <https://jennifermaker.com/diy-paper-winged-heart-hidden-message/>

Paper Daisy: <https://jennifermaker.com/paper-daisy-easy-rolled-flower/>

Love,

*Jennifer*

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