

Spring Crackers



Crackers aren't just for Christmas and used increasingly on other occasions. With the remaining cotton rag paper I couldn't resist making these to fit in with March occasions and celebrations - Easter, Mother's Day and Spring parties. They are saucer crackers so only a very small 'gift' will fit inside. Best of all, no one-use 'snaps' have been used and the heavy weight paper allows reuse time after time. Perhaps make some to use as table favours for an up and coming wedding or anniversary – make to match your theme.

Materials:

- 100% recycled A5 cotton rag paper 250gsm
- Masking tape, pencil, ruler, scissors, ball tool, bone folder, PVA glue
- Inner cardboard tube from kitchen foil
- Optional - A5 flat pack aperture card box and white card
- Embellishments, fillers of choice (each contains a covered small chocolate treat)
Top left – dried reindeer moss, craft feathers, half craft egg, twill ribbon
Top middle – twill ribbon, garden themed paper craft stickers
Top right – organza ribbon, lace ribbon, cotton flower braid
Bottom left – twill ribbon, organza ribbon, mulberry paper flowers
Bottom right – organza ribbon, mulberry paper flowers and leaves

Instructions:

Using the measurements below allows for making two A6 size crackers from each A5 sheet.

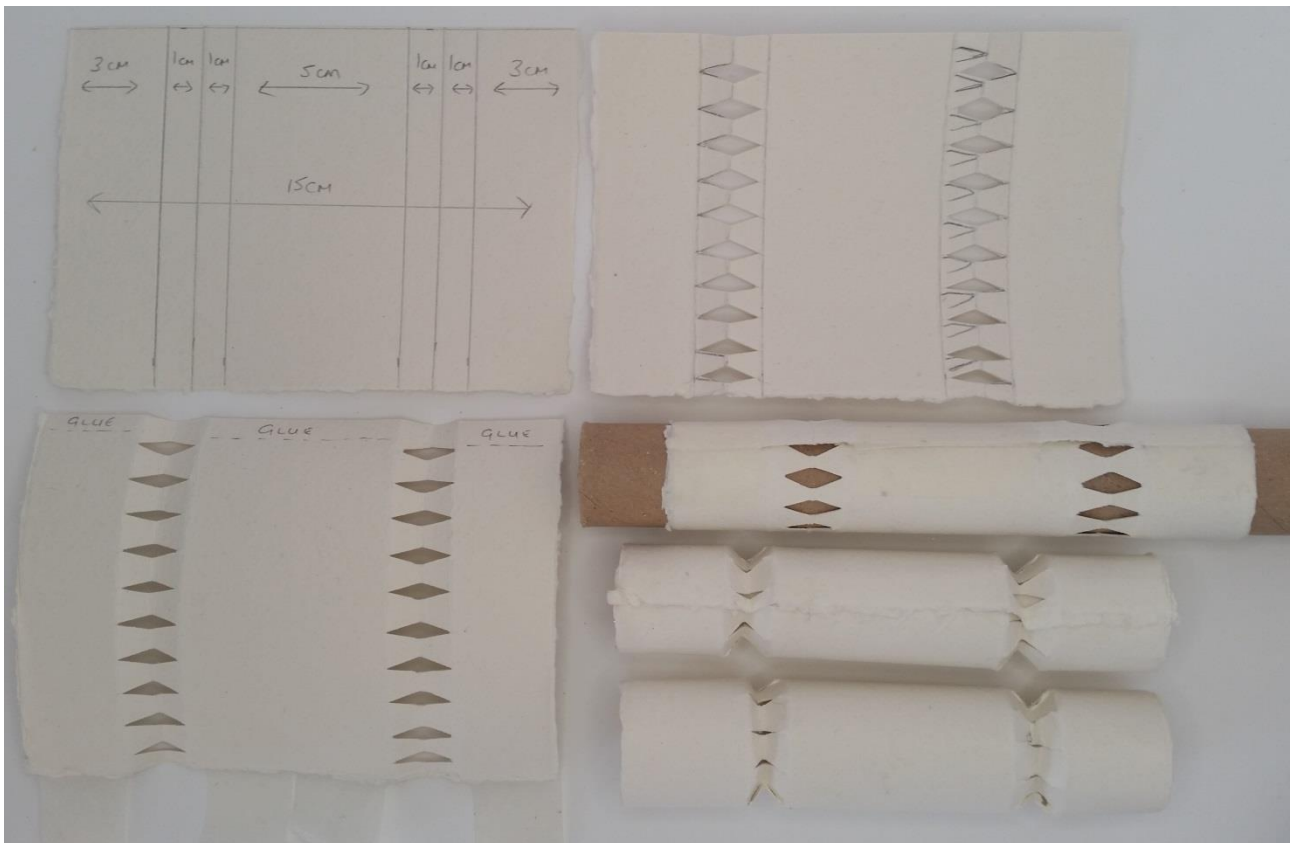
Mark the shorter edges of the paper lightly with a soft pencil at the intervals given and half way point on the longer edges. Using a ruler and ball point tool score in fold lines where the pencil lines are shown below. Cut A5 sheet in half and erase the pencil marks. Making in this way is less time consuming than having to mark out on two A6 pieces of paper.



Cut in 'diamonds' as shown below. I did this by eye and cut 10-11 on each side, they will be covered with ribbon so not seen. Fold over the line between the two 1cm marks where it is scored and cut in triangles to form the diamond shape. The centre line is a valley fold and the outer lines are mountain folds.

Mould the cracker to round off. Take one end and run it over a table edge a few times to warm the paper and break the fibres, then the centre and other end.

Wrap round the cardboard tube, perfect size and great surface to press on so not to flatten the cracker while gluing. Add a line of PVA to one end on the cut edge leaving the feathery uncut edge for the outside. Wrap the other side over and onto the glue, press down and hold for a few moments, add a small piece of masking tape to hold as it dries. Repeat for the centre and other end. Slide from the cardboard tube. Leave to thoroughly dry before filling, decorating and tying the ends closed.



Assemble an A5 card box. A presentation box is a lovely add on and also acts as a storage box to keep for another time.

Make a three compartment box insert from white card to hold and separate each cracker, measurements below. The decorated crackers were bigger than the depth of the box so the insert gave added height allowing the crackers to fit inside without being flattened. Score and fold where the lines are shown. Fit inside the box and add your crackers. The box can then be wrapped shut with more ribbon or elastic cord.



Gillian Cain, Bowes Belles WI, Tyne & Wear South Federation
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