

Make your photos stand up and stand out! Four pop-up photo ideas for you to try.

One of the most intriguing ways to alter your photographs is to turn them into pop-up cards and pages. The resulting dimensional photo collages can be surprising and surreal, incorporating unexpected spacial twists and humorous combinations of images. For information on how to construct the necessary pop-up forms, follow the step-by-step directions in Carol Barton's **The Pocket Paper Engineer** workbooks (Popular Kinetics Press, 2008).

A Pop-Up Self-Portrait

Take a frontal photo of your own face or have someone else shoot it, then print it onto matte, card-weight paper and cut it out. Fold the picture in half through your nose, then follow the directions for constructing the photo as a platform pop-up in volume two of **The Pocket Paper Engineer, How to Make Pop-Ups Step-by-Step**. Your face will mysteriously float over the background of the page. You can add interesting background effects such as landscapes or interior views, as well as accessories such as glasses, hats and jewelry either by gluing or drawing them onto your portrait.

A Pop-Up Group Portrait

Here's a way to make an intriguing group photo, and you don't even need everyone in the same place at the same time. Take each person's photo individually, or have your subjects send you copies of their own photos. (Differences in scale and lighting can add a dreamlike feel to the final piece). Cut each person out, then follow instructions in **Volume Two of The Pocket Paper Engineer** for making them into "prop" pop-ups. Voila! You have a virtual, three-dimensional photo assemblage of your friends and family. (Pets can be added, too).

Pop-Up Cityscapes or Landscapes

Try making a pop-up of your home and yard, your neighborhood street, or a scene from your last vacation. (You may need several copies of the same photograph.) Using the pop-up "prop" device, cut out each element of the scene and follow instructions for gluing the props into a folded card. Don't forget to shoot a general view for your background image. The pop-up can be true to the original scene or can be an imaginary landscape of your own invention.

A Surrealist Photomontage

Using the computer to change the scale and colors of photo collage elements, or mixing photos, drawings, and other graphic images will result in the type of bizarre photomontages that were typical of twentieth-century surrealist art. Turning these photomontages into pop-ups adds movement and another level of surprise to each piece.

As you improve your paper engineering skills, you'll be able to anticipate the types of photos that work best with various pop-up forms in order to develop an entirely new format of photographic expression.



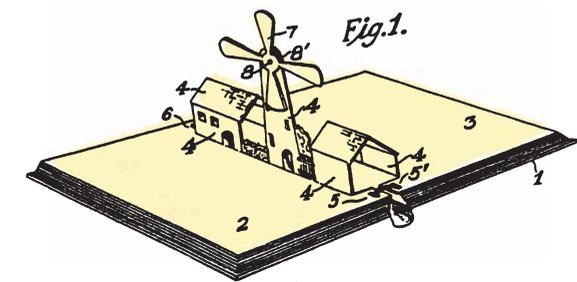
Paper Engineering

There is magic in opening a flat page to reveal a three-dimensional form, and the magicians behind this magic are paper engineers. Their art of mechanizing paper is used to create pop-ups, pull tabs, rotating wheels, and other devices that activate the page surface.

Today, pop-ups and movable paper mechanisms are usually associated with children's books, but the genre has its roots in antique scientific texts. As early as the fifteenth century, paper dials and lift-up flaps were used to explain concepts in astronomy, mathematics, and human anatomy.

Designing pop-ups and movables involves a sense of play along with trial-and-error problem solving. The Pocket Paper Engineer workbooks are guides to the various structures that comprise this visual language. Each structure is presented in its simplest form with do-it-yourself models for reference. Although little or no math is required, models are drawn so the beauty of their underlying geometries can be readily comprehended and appreciated.

These basic pop-up shapes are easy to construct, and once you learn the forms, the only limit to your designs is your own imagination.



Patent for the "Manufacture of Integral Three-Dimensional Self-Erecting Illustrations" by A. Shenk, January 11, 1949



Box Supports

- Centered across the fold of a page spread
- Landscape position
- Ideal position of pages, 90° (opened halfway)

Pop-up boxes can serve as supports for images that are glued onto them. An object can be drawn or cut from photographs or printed materials, then glued to one side of a box so that it stands up as the box pops from the card. By making several boxes of different sizes on the same card, you can create an entire scene with objects sitting at different positions.

This device works well with the card in landscape (horizontal) position. Be careful not to make your images too tall or they will stick out when the card is closed. The formula on the back of the sample card explains how to avoid this problem.



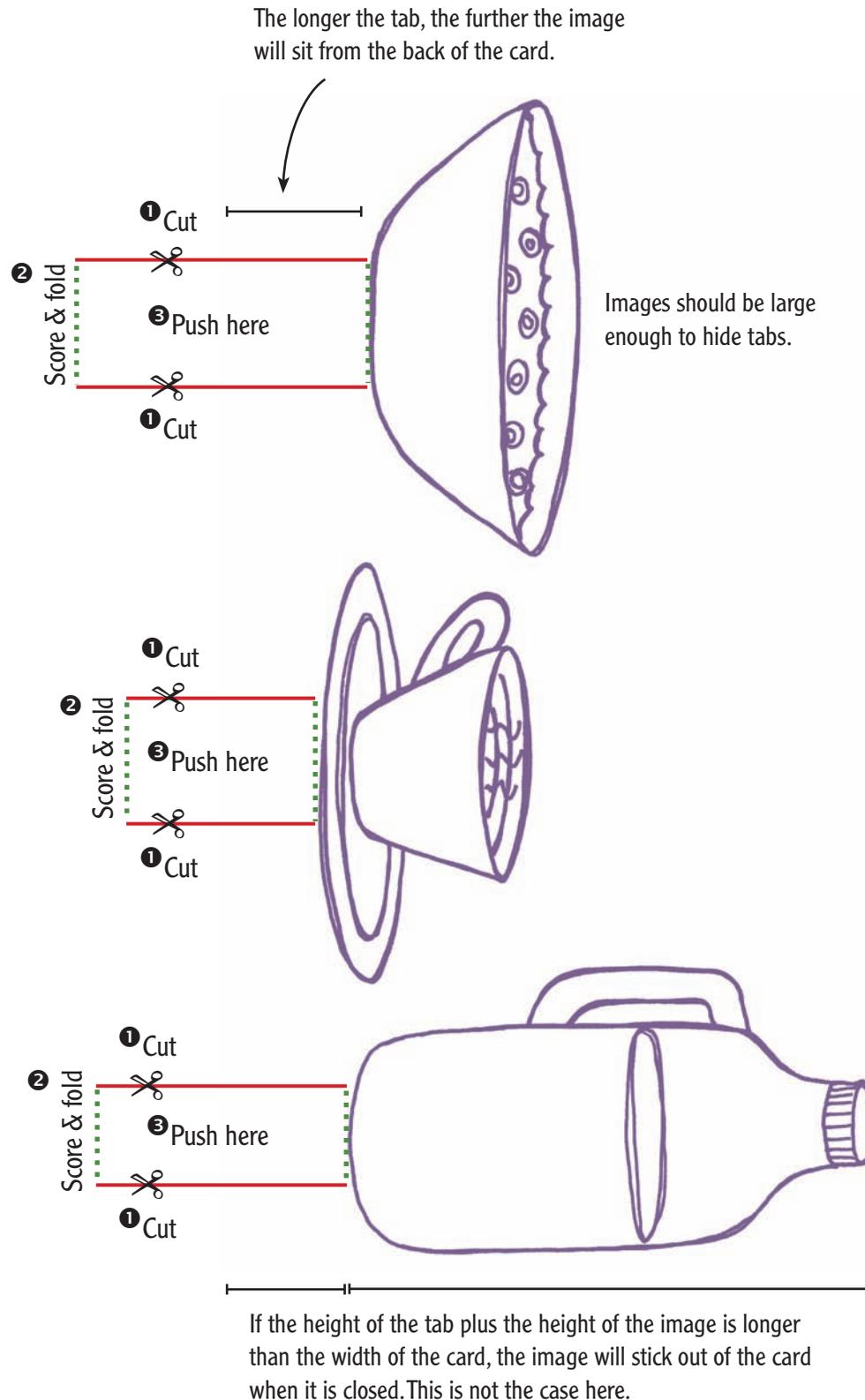
Box Supports

Keep card folded with this side up.

Follow directions on pages 16 and 17.

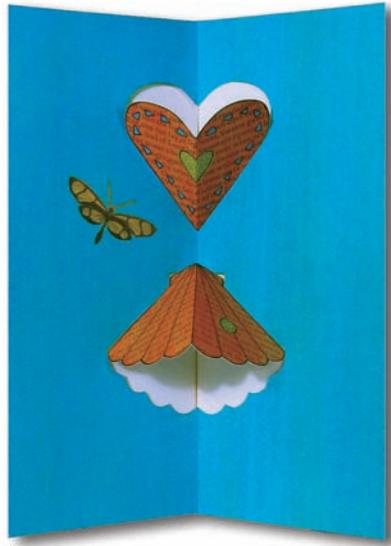
4 Cut out separate milk, cup, and bowl images found on card in pocket.

5 Glue images to other side of this card, as indicated.
NOTE: Put glue on box pop-ups, not on images.



Box Ideas

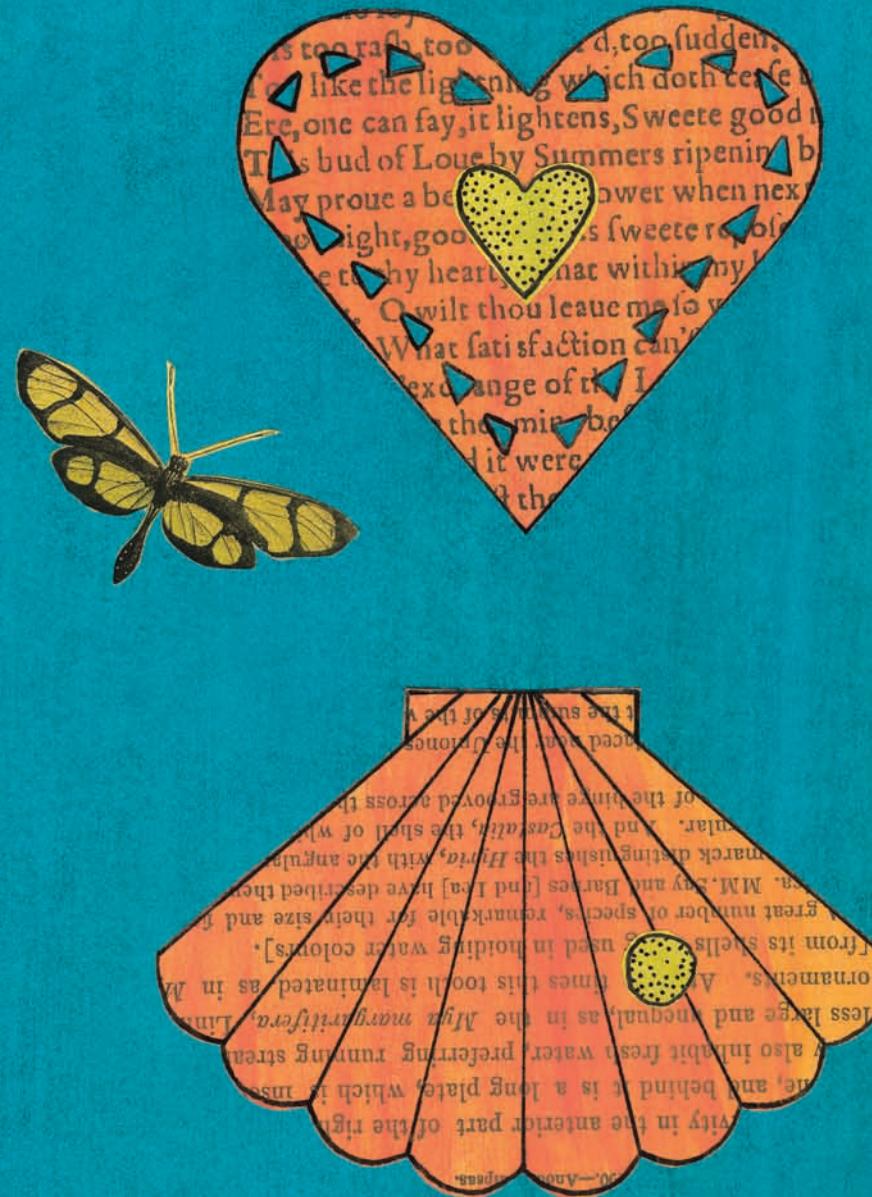




Tilted Boxes

At this point you have created several pop-up boxes that push straight forward from the centerfold of their sample cards. These pop-ups all have hinges that run parallel to the main fold of the card.

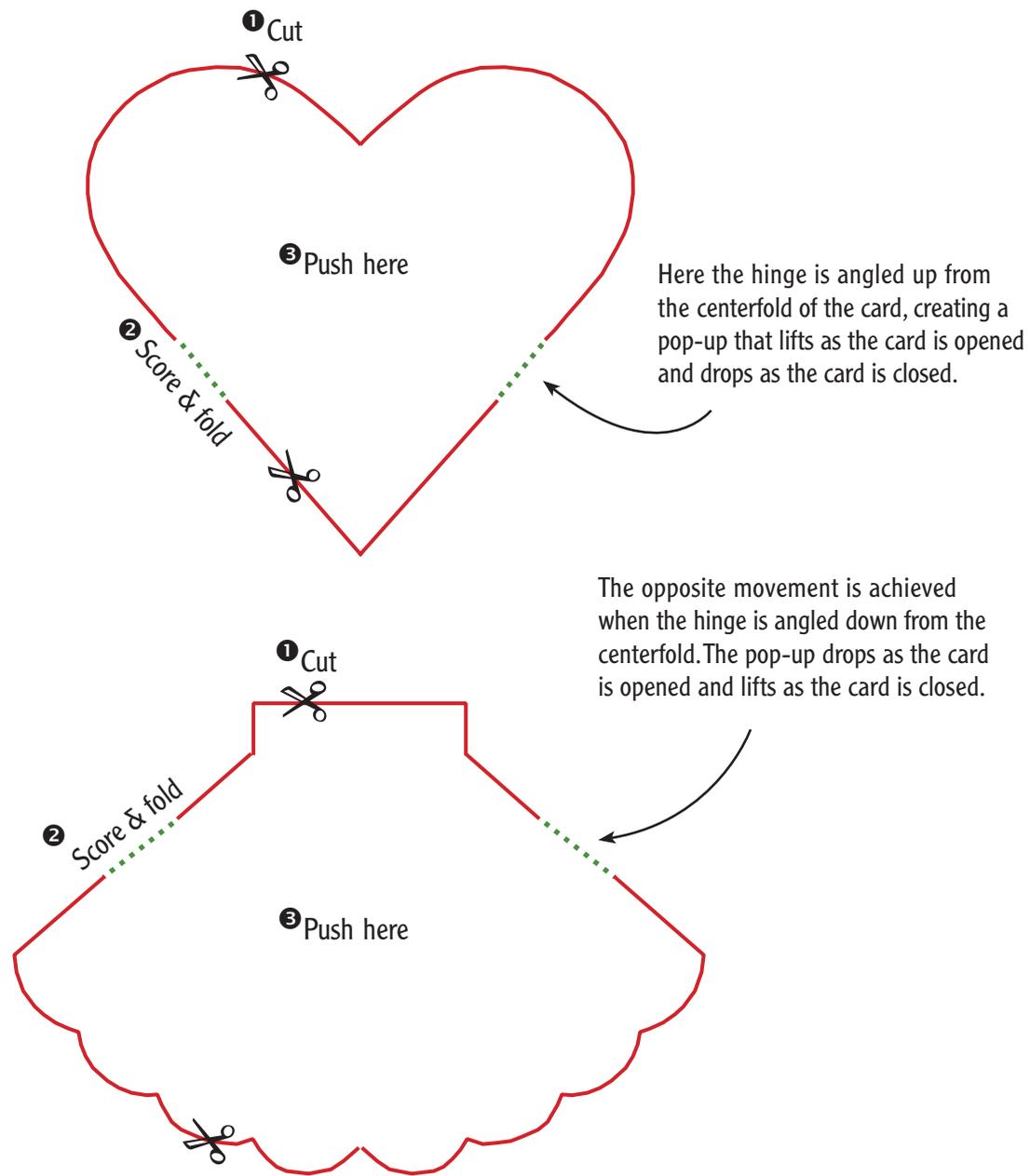
Now you will create two pop-ups that extend at an angular tilt from the centerfold—one that lifts up and another that drops down. This tilted effect is achieved with hinges that angle away from the card's central fold. The upward or downward motion of the pop-up is determined by the direction of each hinge's slant. Changing the angle of the hinge slightly will dramatically change the pop-up's action, and understanding this principle will enable you to design how your pop-ups move in space.



Tilted Boxes

Keep card folded with this side up.

Follow directions on pages 16 and 17.



Box Ideas

Illustrations by Eleni Smitham



The Princess



Flower at Night



Bow Tie Man