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.

Pop-Ups on Stage

Pop-ups are theatrical in their surprise, movement, and dynamic presence. They are small, hand-held magic acts, appearing and disappearing across the page with the verve of actors making stage entrances and exits, telling dimensional stories.

Tabbed props and platform pop-ups are important structures that allow for a lot of spatial play and design flexibility. Both structures can be used to build layered scenes or objects in the same way that a set designer uses scrims, flats, risers, and backdrops to suggest a room or vista. And pop-up characters can be added, too.

Floating platforms work with the card or page spread fully opened to 180°. They seem to hover or float above the page, mounted on hidden tabs that attach the back of the pop-up to the page surface. They can be stacked one on top of another to create a multi-layered landscape or tiered object. You will learn to build variations of this structure in this book.

A tabbed prop works with the folded card or page spread opened halfway to 90°. Props are usually viewed with the card or page in the landscape or horizontal position. One side of the folded card serves as a backdrop or "wall" and the other serves as the "floor." The pop-up sits on the floor in front of the wall and is connected to the wall by a tab. In this book, you will assemble props from separate pieces of paper and glue them into a folded card. Finally, you will learn two additional pop-up forms: the spiral and the straddle.

By adding these structures to your expanding paper engineering repertoire, you'll be able to create a wide range of dimensional images. So step right up and try your hand at devising these most amazing, incredible, pop-up paper delights!

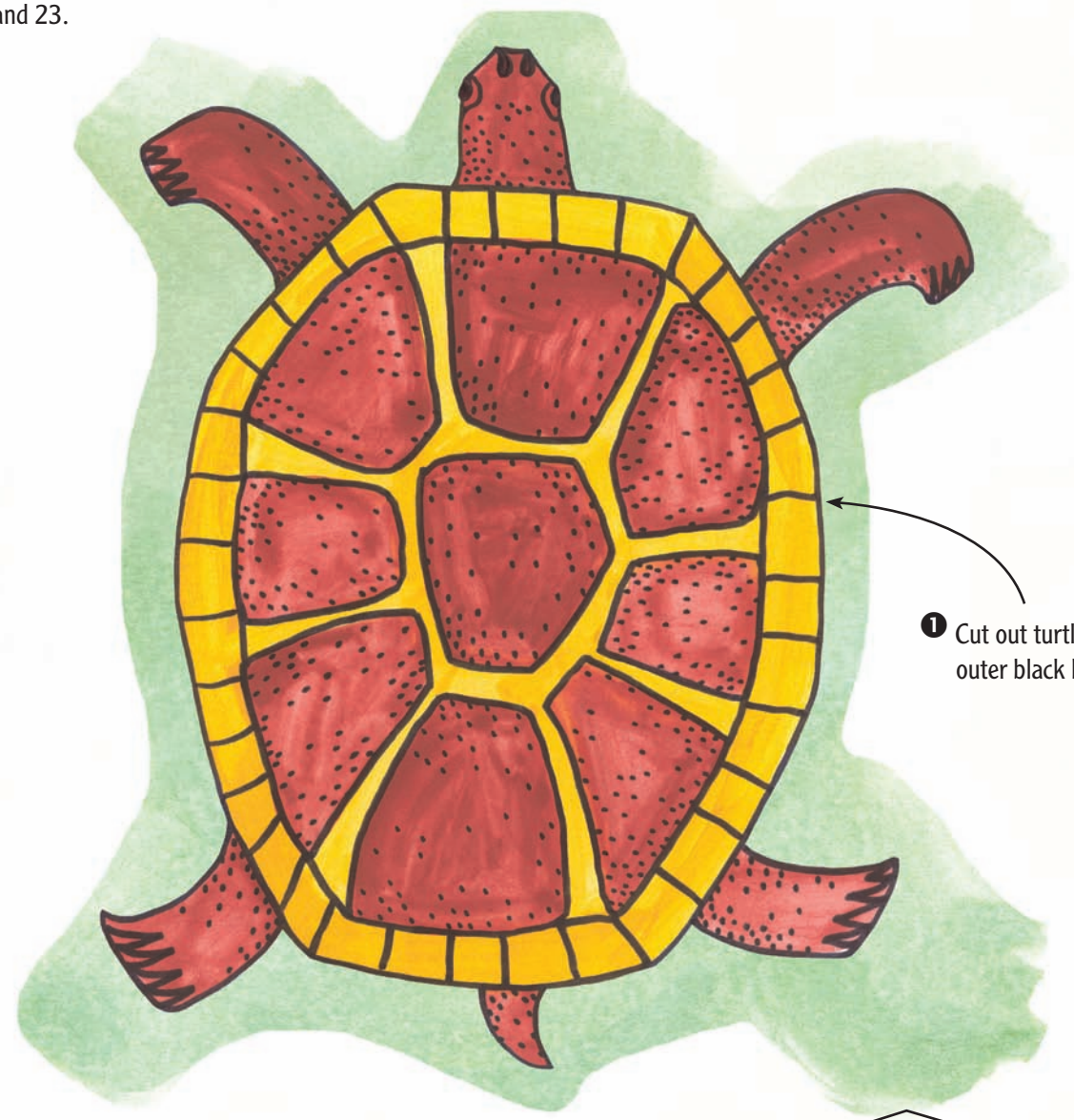
Floating Platforms

- Symmetrical or asymmetrical pop-up shape
- All folds run parallel to centerfold of card or page spread
- Minimum of three support tabs
- Ideal page position, 180° (fully opened flat)

Platform pop-ups appear to magically hover above the surface of the page, floating on three or more short tabs hidden underneath. A platform can be either symmetrical or asymmetrical in shape, with a central fold that aligns with the fold of the card or page spread to which it is glued. Practically any image can be made into a floating platform, and the mechanism is especially effective with images meant to be viewed from above. This is a sturdy structure that often is used as a base for other pop-up forms.

Floating Platforms

Follow directions on pages 22 and 23.

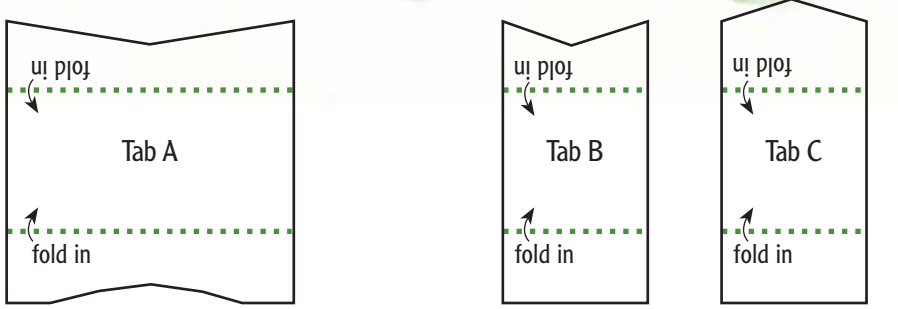


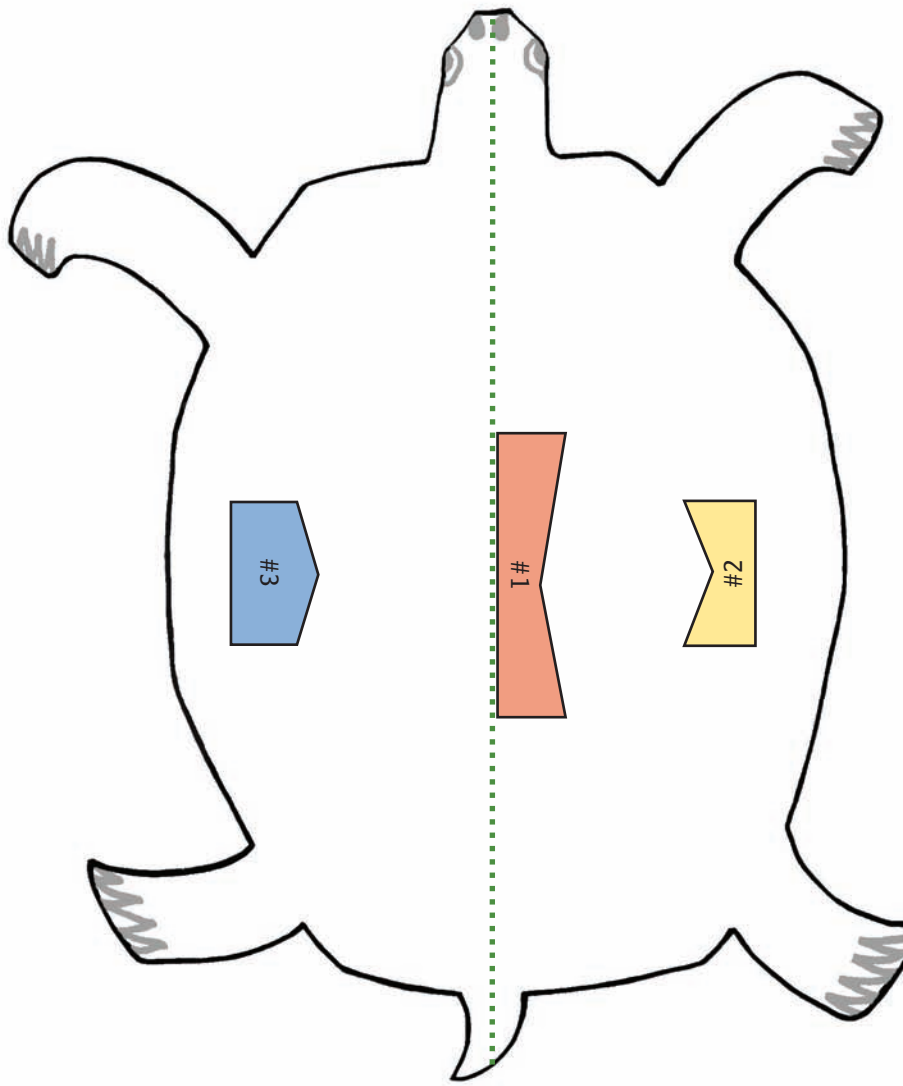
❶ Cut out turtle along outer black line.

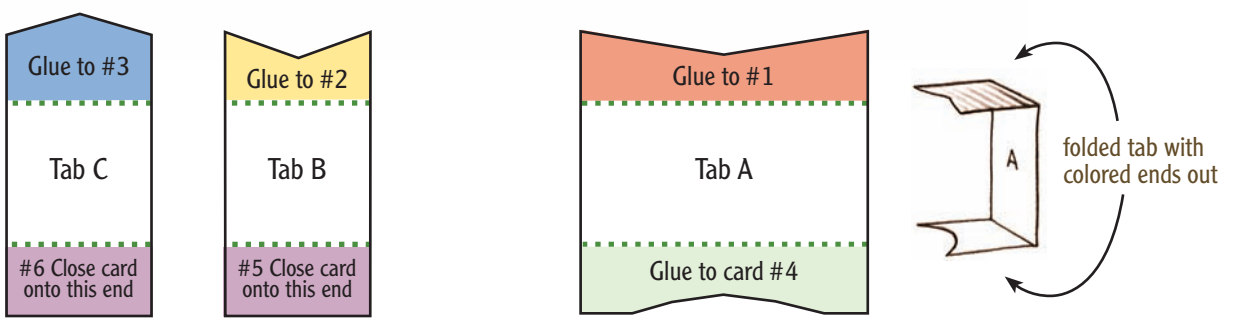
❷ Cut out tabs along black lines.

❸ Score along dashed green lines.

❹ Fold ends in direction of arrows.





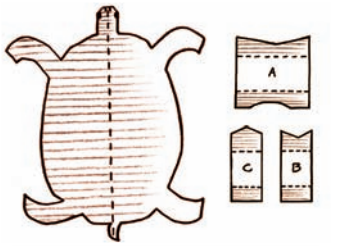


Step-by-Step Directions

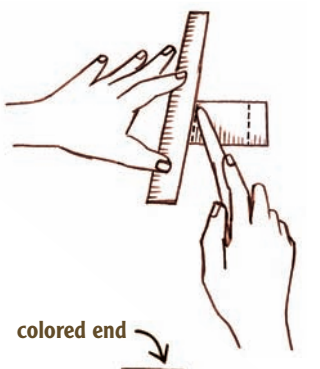
For this first pop-up project, illustrated step-by-step directions are provided. Subsequent projects will require the same general cutting, folding and gluing procedures. Written directions will be provided on the back of each pull-out card. Be sure to match the color and shape of each glued part to its position, and follow the numbered gluing sequence.

Pay special attention to the gluing diagram provided with the directions. One of the main principles you will learn is how to position your pop-ups so they automatically adhere to the correct spot when the card is closed.

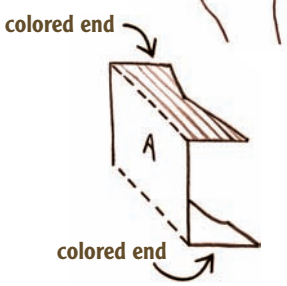
1 Tear both cards for this project from the book along perforated folds.



2 Cut out turtle and three tabs along outer black lines.

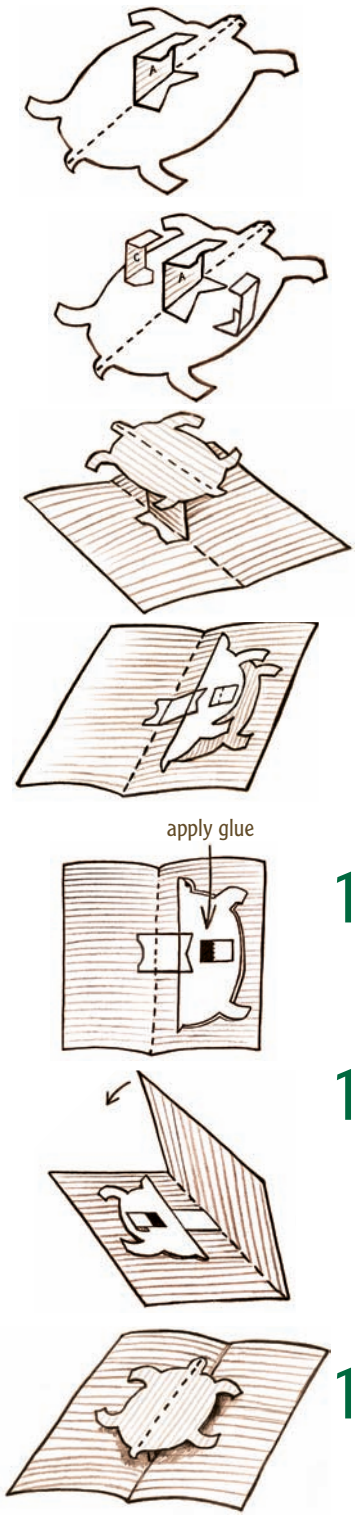


3 Score tabs along dotted green lines, using a bone folder.



4 Fold ends of tabs along dotted green lines with colored ends out (following arrows).

Directions, continued



5 Glue light red end #1 of Tab A to area #1 on back side of turtle.

6 Glue yellow end #2 of Tab B to area #2 on back side of turtle.

7 Glue light blue end #3 of Tab C to area #3 on back side of turtle.

8 Glue light green end #4 of Tab A to area #4 on project card.

9 Fold turtle and flatten against side of card with two fish.

Tab A is extended.
Tab B is pulled back toward card centerfold, purple end showing.
(See drawing)

10 Apply glue to purple end #5 of Tab B. Close card onto the glued end.

11 Open card so Tab C is showing.

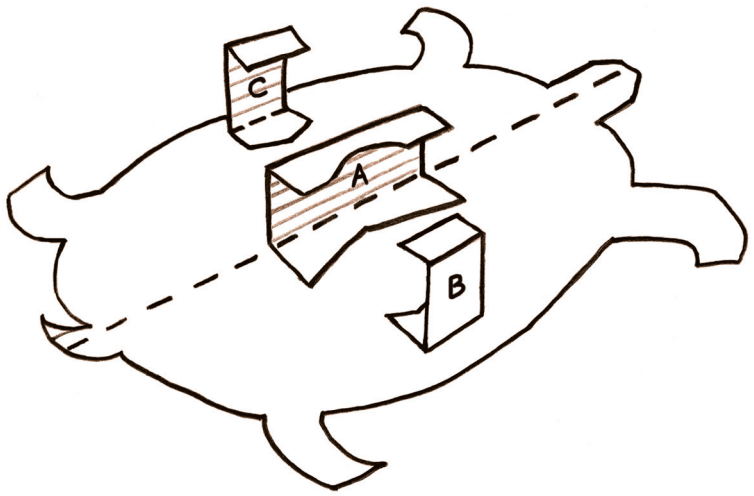
Tab C is pulled toward card centerfold, purple end showing.

Apply glue to purple end #6 of Tab C and close card onto glued end.

12 Open card. The turtle should be "floating" over the water.

Floating Platforms

Assembling the Platform

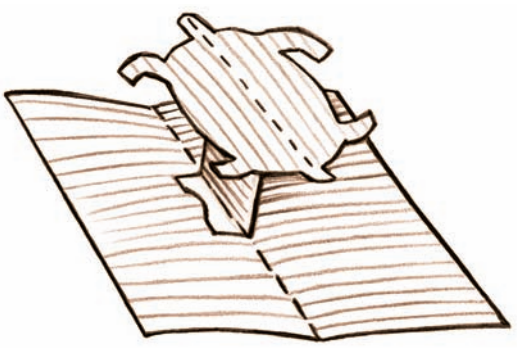


❶ Glue light red end #1 of Tab A to area #1 on back side of turtle.

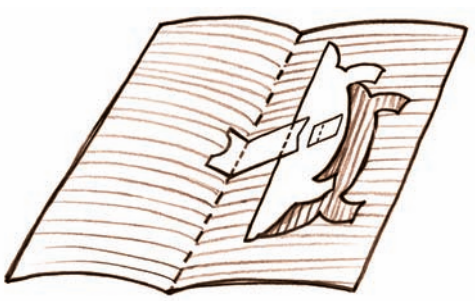
❷ Glue yellow end #2 of Tab B to area #2 on back side of turtle.

❸ Glue light blue end #3 of Tab C to area #3 on back side of turtle.

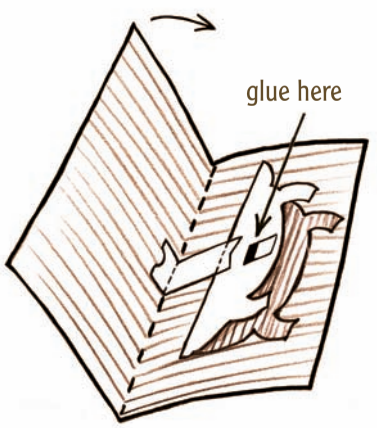
Gluing Platform to Card



❹ Glue light green end #4 of Tab A to area #4 on project card.



❺ Fold turtle and flatten against side of card with two fish. Pull Tab B back toward centerfold.



❻ Apply glue to purple end #5 of Tab B. Close card onto glue.

Repeat gluing procedure on other side of card for #6, Tab C.

Platform Ideas

Illustrations by Eleni Smitham

Sunny Side Up

Spiral au Coeur

Ice Cream Sundae on a Hot Summer Day