

How to Create a Mandala From Used Postage Stamps

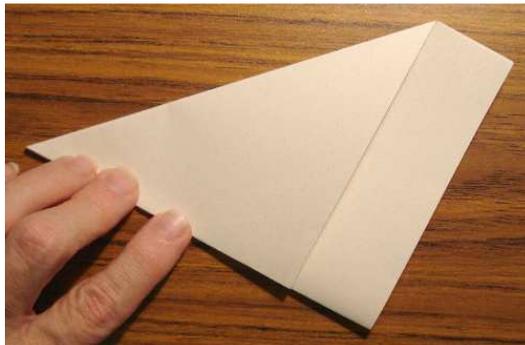
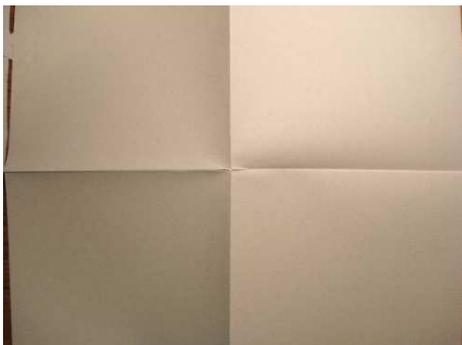
Materials:

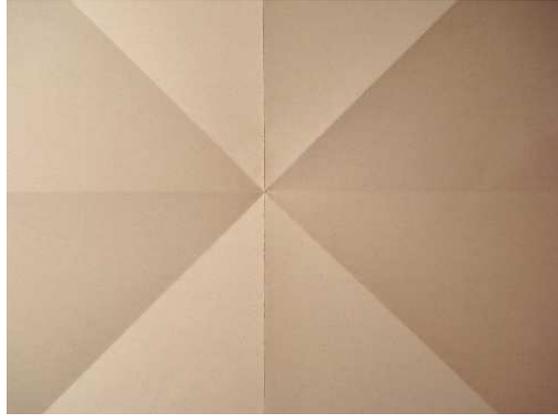
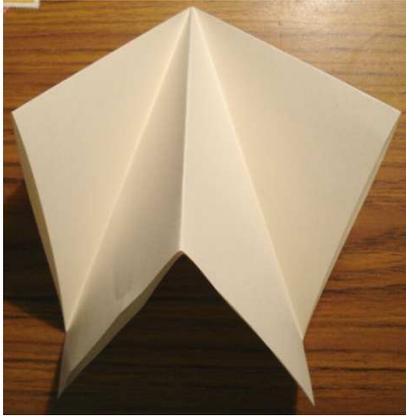
- 8 identical used postage stamps, small ones work best for ATCs
- Glue stick
- Blank 8.5" X 11" piece of paper
- Mod Podge
- Small paint brush



Step 1: Soak stamps in warm water to remove them from the paper. Lay upside down on a paper towel to air dry. If they start to curl up as they dry, carefully place another paper towel on top, making sure not to bend or crease the stamps, and put a book on top of them until they are completely dry.

Step 2: Take the piece of paper and fold in half lengthwise, then fold in half lengthwise again. Fold back the two open sides to line up with the main fold. See photos for clarification.





Step 3: Touch the top left hand corner of the first stamp on the glue stick, just the very corner, don't go overboard. Line the stamp up to one of the lines on the paper. You don't want your mandala to stick permanently to the paper, you are just using it as a guide. The corner of the stamp should be close to but not touching the centre point.



Step 4: Take the second stamp now. You are going to line it up with the next line on the paper. Only use the glue stick sparingly, just where the second stamp will stick to the first stamp.



Step 5: Continue with the third stamp. Line it up with the next line on the paper, using the glue stick only where the third stamp will touch the second stamp.



Step 6: Keep going in this manner until you reach the eighth stamp. You will tuck this stamp under the first stamp to complete your mandala.



Step 7: Carefully remove your mandala from the paper, so that it keeps its shape. Make any minor adjustments at this time. You want it as symmetrical as possible. Put away your perfectionism though, this is not an exact science. It will never be 'perfect'. Each sheet of stamps the post office generates is slightly different when it comes off the printer.

Step 8: Use the small paint brush and Mod Podge (or other glue of choice) to finish gluing the stamps together. Let it dry thoroughly. Glue a paper or cardstock circle, small or large, to the centre of your mandala.



Step 9: Choose a background for your ATC, and glue your mandala onto the card. Add words and/or embellishments, as desired, to complete your ATC.

That's it, you're finished! Wasn't that fun and easy?

