



MAKE YOUR OWN ATC's!!

and what an ATC is, for the mostly clueless.

Simply put, an ATC is an "Artist's Trading Card". It is a piece of work, created by an artist (of any media), with specific dimensions (we'll get to that in a bit), that is (generally) 2-Dimensional and made to trade with other artists.

If you've ever watched a gaggle of pre-teen boys trading sports cards, (or Yu-Gi-Oh cards or whatever's hot right now, since I'm blissfully clueless on that side of things!) you'll know the kind of thing that ATCs are about. According to several websites (see resources at the end), an artist was at one of these frenzied sports card swaps and had the idea of making small, card-sized bits of artwork to trade with his friends. He got a few friends involved, who started trading these at various locations around his sicity and eventually, around the world. Mail artists got involved by trading via the post, and the rest,

as they say, is history. :)

Plenty of resources are out there to help you with your ATC obsession, once you find it. (And if you make a few, you WILL find it. Trust me.) Let me give you the basics of making these here:

1. Get a piece of cardstock, watercolor paper, or pull up your favorite digital program.

2. Cut or select a piece that's exactly 2.5" x 3.5". (I'm not sure what that is in metric, because I'm a giant amerocentric freak, but I'm sure you can find the conversion charts if you need them. :>)

3. Put art on that piece of paper or digital canvas. Use whatever medium, subject matter, theme, or items you'd like, but remember that most people like them relatively flat, for reasons I'll give in a moment here.

4. Sign and date the back, and, if you've created it digitally or with a photocopier, note what number out of an edition it is. ex: 1 of 10 or 1/10 will suffice. Put your contact info, inasmuch as you want people to get in touch with you. Email address or PO Box is fine.

5. Trade them with other artists! Collect a bunch and put them in binders and show them off to all your artsy friends (and non-artsy ones, too, to entice them.)





artist's trading cards..continued..

SOME RULES, you say?

Not really. Though there will always be people who want to impose them.

The general guidelines are that you trade in the same number as you received, of your OWN cards, unless specified that it can be other artists' cards you can substitute, and that you keep the size as uniform as possible.

Follow those, and you're good to go.

WHAT do I DO with them?

Anything you want, really. Keep them in a special box for inspiration, or tack them to your wall, whatever you want.

Most people seem to buy those binders made for sports cards, and slide each into its own little niche for proper viewing. That's why most people like them to be flat -- so they fit in the little pockets. :)

ATC's on the web:

My own gallery isn't up until later, but it'll be here:
<http://modernghypsy.com/green/atc>

<http://www.artist-trading-cards.ch/>
the granddaddy of all sites.

<http://www.alternatorgallery.com/alternator/atc.html>
another faboo site

<http://www.lynnewart.com/projects/atcs.html>
a WHOLE LOT of cards to look at and oogle.





HOW TO get TEN (yes, count 'em, TEN!) ATC's from ONE piece of cardstock!



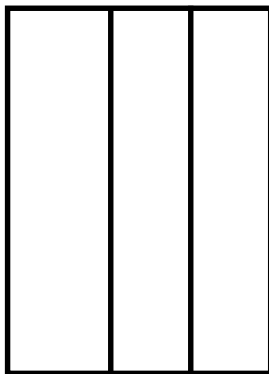
This is your
piece of stock.

Any plain ol'
stock will do.

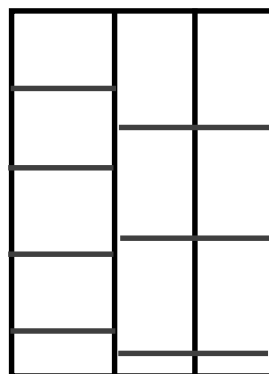
It is, in fact, mathematically possible to get ten whole cards out of one piece of cardstock. However, it takes loads of measuring, so be prepared, and if you have a papercutter or rotary cutter, it'd be advisable to use it here.

Because, hey....cardstock and other art supplies aren't cheap. (Well, okay, they are individually, but over time, that stuff adds up.), so you might as well get the most of it.

This diagram is not to scale. Don't sue me.



1. Make three cuts lengthwise. The first is 3.5", the remaining two should make 2.5" strips if you've measured the first correctly. :)



2. Cut four 2.5" sections from the 3.5" strip, and three 3.5" sections from the 2.5" strips. You'll have a little bit left over at the end, but not as much as you'd think.

V O I L A !
You have
ten whole
cards from
one piece
of stock!

Now send me one:

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