

ACADEMICS, INC.

75 Ruby Lane
Manchester, CT 06040
860-647-9985
www.academicsinc.com

Scissors: Making the Cut

By Lori Willis

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Introduction

Scissors are a tool used for cutting ribbon, paper, and other thin materials of that nature. Made of two flat blades set into protective grips and held together with a hinge, scissors are an ideal solution for craft projects. Our scissors help you cut safely, cleanly, and comfortably.

Craft Project Cutting

For many projects you need to be able to cut shapes, like stars or triangles, out of paper accurately and without cutting yourself or gouging your table.

Additionally, you may need to cut cardboard or ribbon for your projects, which are considerably harder to cut than paper. Lastly, many projects, like scrapbooking, can require hours of cutting that can lead to discomfort.

Previous Cutting Options

Previously, there were several options available for creating paper shapes, cutting ribbons, etc. for your craft projects. Among them were: tearing, knives or razor blades, and other brands of scissors.

➤ *Tearing*

Tearing paper can be inaccurate. You may accidentally tear a point off a star or rip some other portion of the shape that you needed to remain whole. The edges would be ragged and uneven, giving a less professional look to the project.

You cannot tear ribbon. It can also be difficult to tear tougher materials like cardboard or photographs.

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➤ *Knives or Razor Blades*

Using a knife or razor blade can lead to injury because a knife or razor cuts by applying pressure to the material you need cut against a table or other hard surface. Since the blade is exposed, it is possible to slip when applying pressure and cut yourself. It is also possible to cut or gouge the surface beneath the paper or other material you are cutting if you apply too much pressure.

Additionally, the pressure needed to cut with a knife or razor can cause the handle to dig into the hand, causing pain during extended use.

➤ *Other Scissors*

Other scissors with metal grips, or plastic grips with corners, can cause pain in the hand after extended use, and may even leave temporary marks where the corners dig into the skin. Metal grips can also make scissors heavy.

Some other scissors have longer or shorter blades as well, which are less suitable for craft projects.

Cutting with Academics, Inc. Scissors

Academics, Inc. scissors allow you to cut any type of paper, ribbon, or other similar material, like thin cardboard. They accomplish this safely, with less possibility of harm to you or your table, or other cutting surface.

Our scissors are comprised of two 10cm long blades that are 1.5cm wide at the base and taper to 2mm wide at the tip set into plastic grips. The inside edges of the blades, those that face each other, are beveled and sharpened. The blades are

held together by a hinge that allows the blades to swing freely open and closed. When the blades close they slice paper or other thin materials placed between them.

The blades are long enough to allow you to cut a variety of shapes (or objects) with fewer cuts than smaller blades. However, they are still small enough not to be unwieldy.

➤ *Safer Cutting*

Scissors allow for safer cutting in two ways: the grips protect the fingers, and the blades are less exposed.

The grips on scissors contain holes for your fingers and thumb. This keeps them out of the way of the blades. It also provides you with more control over the blades. There is no slipping. It is therefore easier to avoid cutting your other hand, or any other part of your body.

The scissor blades face each other, making them less exposed than a knife or razor blade. Scissors operate by opening and closing your hand while fingers and thumb are in the grip holes. This causes the two blades to separate (open) and converge (close). When a piece of paper, or other material, is placed between the open blades, it is cut when they close. The blades don't touch the table, or other cutting surface, so there is no possibility of damage to it from the scissors.

➤ *Cleaner Cutting*

Unlike tearing, the scissors create a clean, straight cut. There are no ragged edges, which makes for a more

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professional appearance. You can cut shapes exactly with less chance of cutting into portions you want to leave whole.

Because scissors do not rely on pressure against a surface to cut, you can hold the paper or ribbon completely off the table, or other surface, while cutting. This allows for cleaner cutting of shapes like circles that require constant manipulation of the paper to cut.

➤ *More Comfortable Cutting*

Academics Inc. scissors allow more comfort while you cut. The hole in the thumb grip is an oblong that is 4cm long, 2.2cm wide, and 2.2cm deep. The hole in the finger grip is a distorted oblong that is 6cm long at the longest point, 2cm wide at the widest point, and 2.2cm deep.

Although the grips are made of hard plastic, the edges are all rounded so there are no corners digging into your hand while you use the scissors. Additionally, the texture of the grips is similar to the feel of rubber, which feels less abrasive on the skin. This design allows you to use the scissors longer without pain, and prevents the scissors from leaving marks on your hand.

Additionally, the plastic grips make the scissors more light-weight than scissors with metal grips. This also leads to the ability to cut longer without pain or cramping. This can be essential for scrapbooking or other craft projects that can take hours to complete.

Cutting with Scissors

To use scissors:

1. Have the material you want to cut ready.
2. Lift the material slightly off the surface with one hand, just enough to move one of the blades underneath it. If you prefer, you can lift the material completely off the surface.
3. Insert fingers and thumb of your other hand into the scissors' grip holes.
4. Open your hand to open the blades.
5. Position the scissors so that the material to be cut is between the open blades (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: Open scissors preparing to cut paper

6. Close your hand to close the blades.
7. Repeat steps 4-6 as necessary.

Summary

Academics, Inc. scissors are a tool that allows for fast, accurate, and safe cutting of paper, ribbon, and other materials. They are ideal for craft projects. Due to the design of the grips, they allow you to use them for long periods of time without causing pain or leaving marks on your hands.