



Listen Up!

Customize Your Headphones

OVERVIEW

Far more than just for listening to music, headphones are a fashion accessory that make a bold statement. Design choices for headphones are vast these days, and I was drawn to this colorful, fun pair by UrbanEars, available in an array of fashionable colors. We decided to take things up a notch and customize these beauties. So listen up, here's how to do it!

MATERIALS

- ⦿ Newspaper
- ⦿ Blue painters tape
- ⦿ Stencil
- ⦿ Adhesive spray
- ⦿ Stencil brush (optional)
- ⦿ Spray paint or fabric brush paint

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare yourself

Lay some newspaper on a table in a well-ventilated area. If spray-painting, first isolate the area you are painting. Since you will be painting the flat circular earpiece, cover the other areas with paper and blue painter's tape, or even use a plastic bag.

2. Stick it

Choose a small stencil design that fits on the circular area. Spray some adhesive on the back of the stencil, let it dry 30 seconds or until tacky, then place it on the earpiece where you want the design to appear. Tape areas around the stencil so no over-spray occurs.

3. Spray it

Since the surface area is so small, you will need very little paint. Lay the headphones flat on a protected surface in a well-ventilated area.

Holding the paint can 8 to 12 in/20 to 30 cm from the stencil, lightly spray the paint into the open areas of the design in a sweeping motion. If brush-painting, using very little paint on the brush, paint in the open areas in an up-and-down motion until the stencil is filled.

4. Repeat

5. Reveal

Remove the stencil. Clean away any excess adhesive.

6. Hold up, wait a minute

Let them dry a few hours. Put them on and walk to the beat in your new custom accessory!



Tip Your Cap

Tag a Messenger Cap with Stained by Sharpie Fabric Markers

OVERVIEW

Bike messengers are part of a unique subculture with a style that many in the mainstream appreciate. You, too, can serve this look, even if you don't risk your life every day riding through city traffic, delivering stuff for crappy tips. The essential accessory of this look is the messenger cap with a flipped-up brim. Spike Lee made this look truly iconic in *She's Gotta Have It*, when Mars Blackmon sported his BROOKLYN lid. Now you can make it your own. Here's how.

MATERIALS

- Messenger cap
- Stencil
- Spray adhesive or masking tape
- Stained by Sharpie Fabric Markers
- Hair dryer

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose your cap

It really can be any hat, but we are using a messenger cap with a cotton brim. The brim is usually easy to work with since it is firm, providing an easy surface to stencil on.

2. Choose your stencil

Pick your stencil and spray a light mist of adhesive on the back. Let the adhesive dry 30 to 60 seconds, and then place the stencil on the brim where you would like the design to appear. If you prefer, you can position the stencil with masking tape.

3. Color

Using a Stained by Sharpie Fabric Marker in the color of your choice, color in the open areas of the stencil until all areas are filled.

4. Clean and seal

Remove the stencil carefully from the brim, and wipe it clean. Now, heat-seal your design. Using a hair dryer on medium heat, dry the painted areas for 1 to 2 minutes.

5. Make your statement

Don your hat, jump on your bike, and ride!



Travel in Style

Stencil Your Suitcase

OVERVIEW

While traveling abroad, you can make a statement as you go about your business by carrying a customized suitcase. Plus, when your luggage is spit out onto the conveyor belt, you will instantly recognize your one-of-a-kind carrier.

MATERIALS

- Leather suitcase
- Rubber gloves
- Cotton ball or small rag
- Rubbing alcohol or acetone
- Sandpaper
- Water-based acrylics or specialty leather paint (such as Flashe brand)*
- Paintbrush

- Stencil
- Spray adhesive or blue painter's tape
- Stencil brush, foam brush, or pouncer foam brush
- Paper towels
- Fabric glue

*Alternatively, you can use spray paint.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare the leather

First, clean the leather surface area you will be painting with a slightly damp cloth and warm, soapy water.

2. Take off the shine

Some leather, especially if brand new, is waxy or shiny. The sheen prevents paint from adhering to the surface and must be removed. Wearing rubber gloves, wipe the areas with a cotton ball or small rag dipped in rubbing alcohol to remove this wax and oil. Acetone is another option. Then lightly sand the area with sandpaper. This makes the leather more porous so the paint will adhere and gives the leather a slightly distressed look.

3. Paint a prep layer

Before stenciling your design on the leather, you will need to paint the area with a prep layer. Mix one part water with one part paint, and brush the leather's surface using a paintbrush. You can match the color of this layer to the leather's color if you'd like. Apply two coats and let dry just until damp.

4. Stenciling time

Lay your case's surface area flat and place the stencil where you want your design to appear. Secure the stencil firmly in place using spray adhesive or painter's tape. If you use spray adhesive, apply a light layer to the back of the stencil. Allow the adhesive to dry until the surface becomes tacky, and then position your stencil.

Load a very small amount of paint onto your stencil brush, and dab some off on a paper towel. Now, in an up-and-down motion, paint in the open areas of the stencil. (Alternatively, you can use spray paint, but it may not have lasting results.) Lift your stencil, and wipe clean of paint. Once the design dries, realign the stencil in the same place as last time and apply another layer. Applying additional layers beyond the second one is up to you. Let it dry.

5. Hit the road, Jack(ie)

Book that trip and pack that designer luggage!

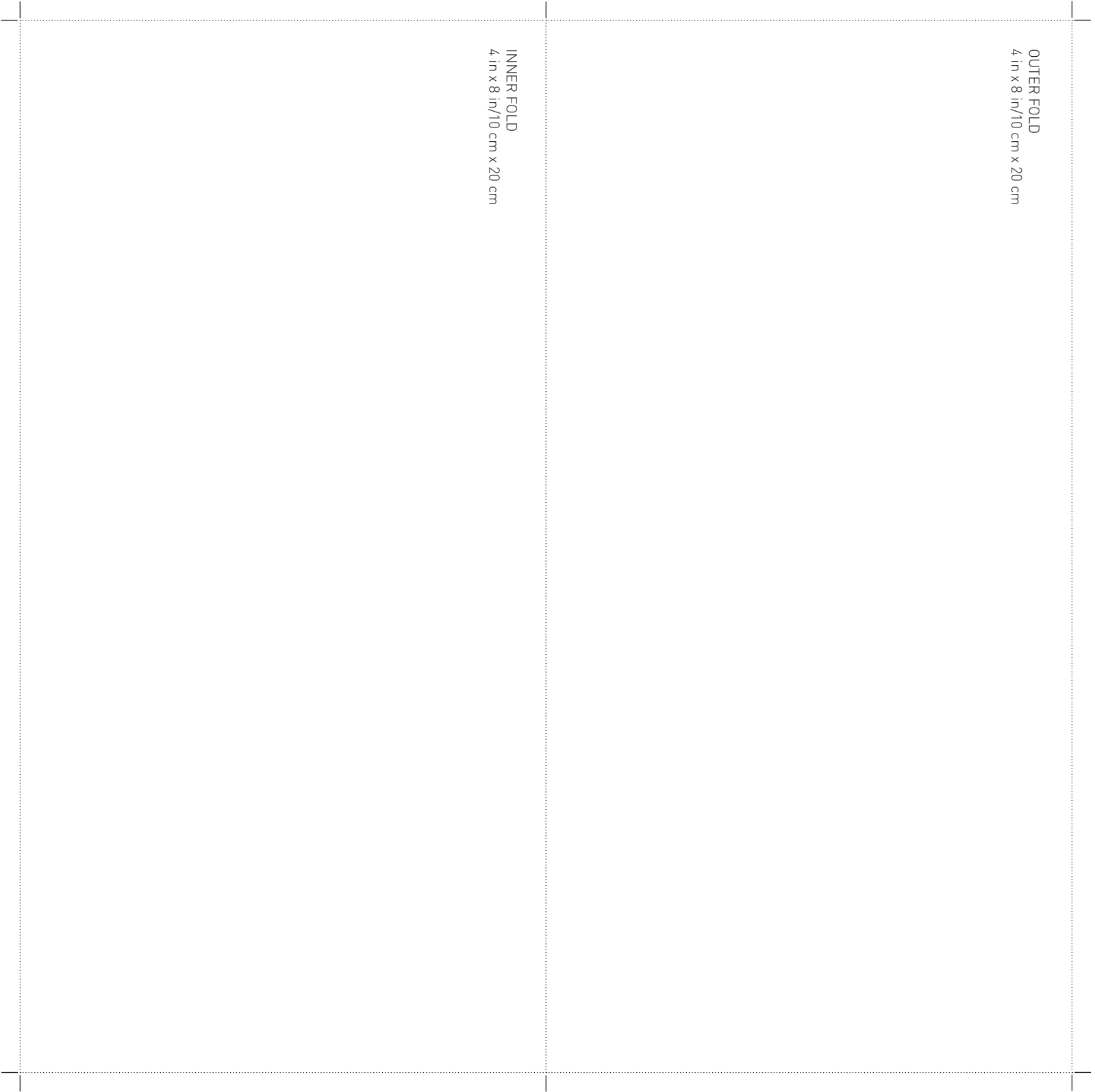
CHERRY POP FINGERLESS GLOVE INTARSIA CHART

for Project 18 in *Stencil Style 101*

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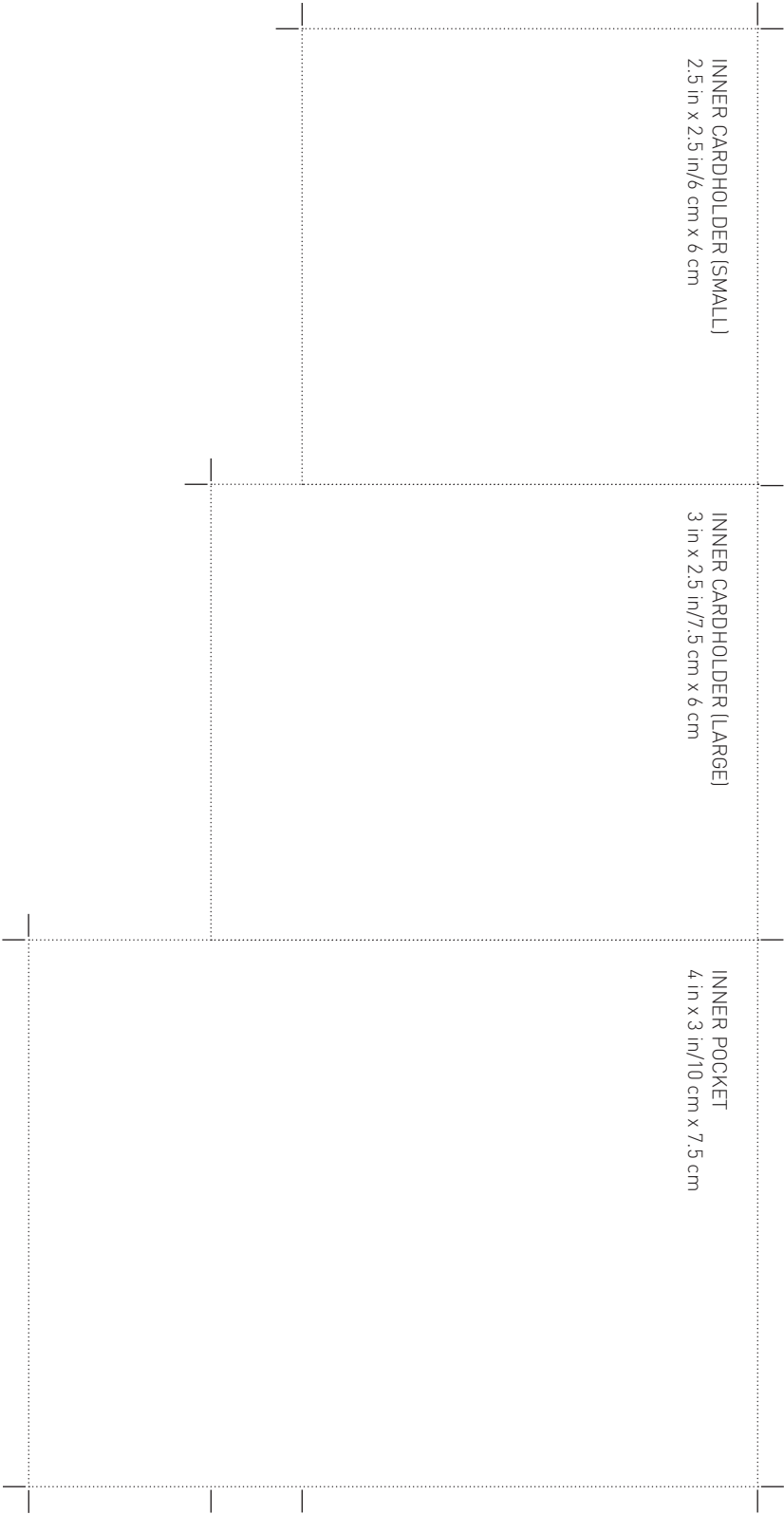
WALLET TEMPLATE

for Project 16 in *Stencil Style 101*
Use the template below to cut your leather (1 of 2)



WALLET TEMPLATE

for Project 16 in *Stencil Style 101*
Use the templates below to cut your leather (2 of 2)



WALLET TEMPLATE

for Project 16 in *Stencil Style 101*

