

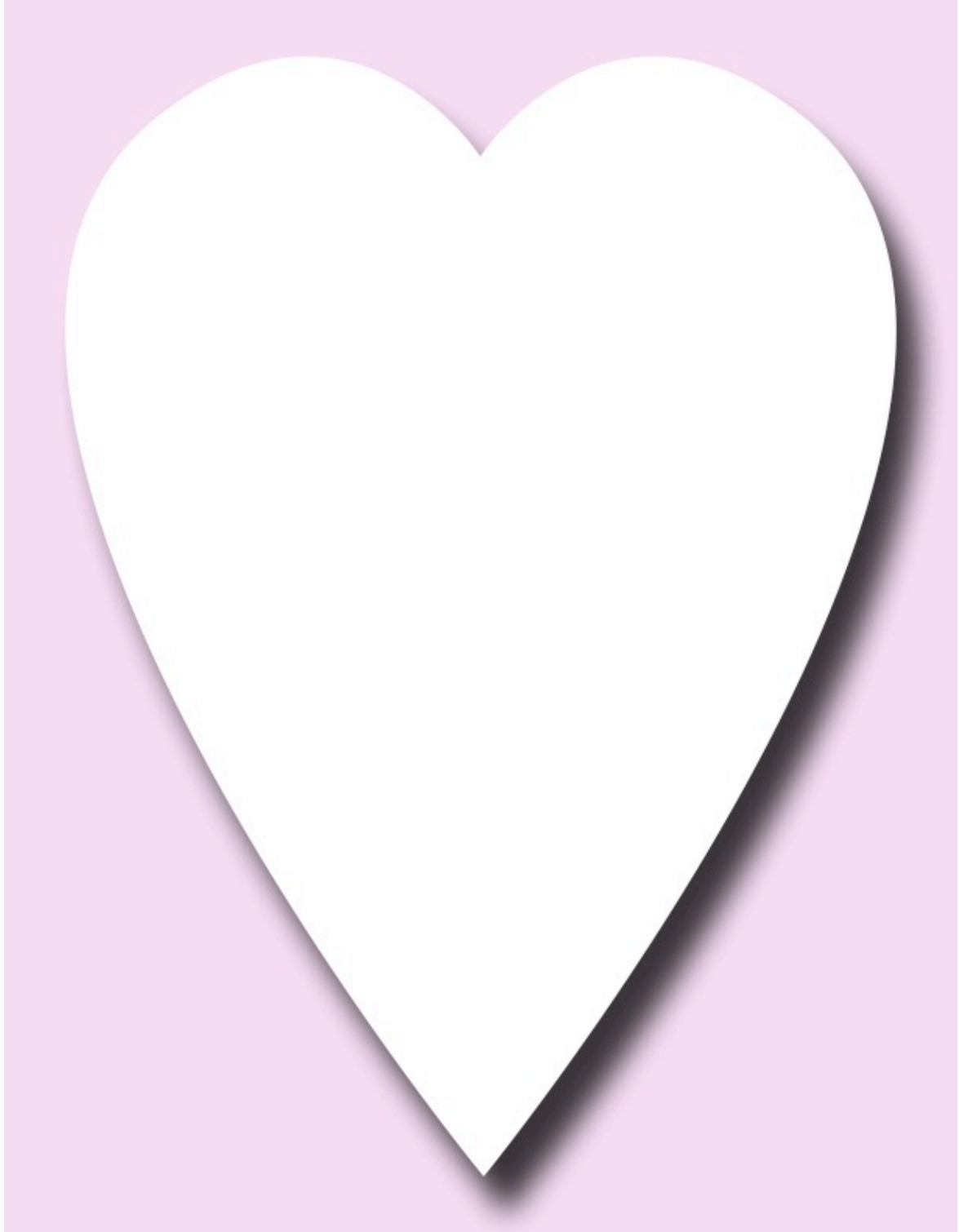


Happy Valentine's Day - Makers!

It might seem **really early** for a February holiday but Makers take their time. Plus you might want to mail them *in time* for the holiday.

Disclaimer: The heart is a simple shape. Certainly we did not invent anything here. You may try this lesson AND we encourage you to go to Pinterest to see the billions of other ideas for your holiday activity.

But here goes! We begin with the shape of a heart. It's simple and blank for you to color as you choose. The pattern is available under free downloads.



Then... as you already know, we really love papers: fancy, textured papers.
The next project is more complicated than the holiday tree.



Squares, squares and more squares...

Here are the steps/instructions.

Step 1. Cut out a simple heart shape. Use an 8.5 x 11 inch paper and fold it in half (they call this hotdog) to cut out your heart shape. Of course, you can use the pattern provided. Collect fancy, textured papers that have red and pink included. Cut them into 1/2 inch and 1 inch squares from strips. Your local craft store has papers (watch for sales) plus, wrapping paper and magazines work here too.



Step 2. Start cutting your solid colors first. Place them on the front of the heart. Begin to add more paper squares. It's ok if they hang over the edge.



Step 3. For now just place the papers on top of each other – layering. You will use a lot of paper squares.



Step 4. Layering, up close, looks like this. We used many, many colors.



Step 5. Cover the entire heart; gluing all the squares. Then flip it over to cut off the pieces that are hanging over.



Step 6. Add the black and white X and O and Heart from paper or a magazine.



Step 7. Finish your work by gluing the heart to a coordinating color then place a frame around it. However you can always punch a hole in the corner and hang with a ribbon using no background paper or frame. Write on the back and give to friends and family.



To go even farther – Find a background paper that is muted or organic, or looks like a batik. Attach your heart to this found paper. Photograph your finished project. Upload your image from your phone to your computer. Print it from your computer and give as a valentine card. The red paper is just a background to photograph against. We are sure your friends and family will love your own original work.

Actual size is 4 x 6 inch card.



Happy Valentine's Day.