

Cutting Mats (Self-Healing A1/A2)

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Design & Documentation



Photo: Gaurav Dhawaj Khadka — CC BY-SA 4.0 — via Wikimedia Commons (Cutting_Board.jpg)

Self-healing cutting mats protect the bench surface while letting craft knives cut cleanly into the mat, whose surface closes back over the cuts. Grid lines and A1 or A2 sizes make them the perfect base for model making, cutting and measuring.

Key Features

- Sizes from A4 to A1
- Printed grids in metric and imperial
- Self-healing PVC surfaces
- Double-sided versions
- Cut-resistant and flat lay-flat

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut card, paper and model materials safely
- Protect benches from knife damage
- Measure and cut with the printed grid
- Use as a work surface for small assemblies

Safe Operation

1. Lay the mat flat on the bench
2. Cut on the mat with a sharp blade and ruler
3. Rotate the mat to equalise wear
4. Clean the surface with a damp cloth
5. Keep the mat stored flat

SAFETY NOTES

- Never cut toward your body
- Keep the mat clear of solvent spills that soften it
- Replace mats that no longer heal
- Do not use the mat with heated tools
- Store flat to prevent curling

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean the mat regularly
- Rotate it to spread the cuts
- Replace heavily scarred mats
- Keep a spare mat for sanding work
- Do not fold the mat

Specification & Buying Notes

A2 self-healing mats with grids suit most school model work; A1 adds space for posters. Buy mats with a lay-flat guarantee and replace them when surfaces stop healing.