

Measuring and Cutting Liners for Soap Moulds

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Over the years I have been repeatedly asked how I line my divider or log moulds. I have finally made the move to create a tutorial in PDF form with text and photos. I suppose it would be easier to take a video eh? I'll think about that for the future.

Don't think this is a difficult method. All the lines I have marked on the liner are just to help you understand where to fold and where to cut. When you actually make these liners up you don't mark all these lines, simply mark the template size, fold along all the edges then cut the sections on the end to form the folding tabs. It's that easy.

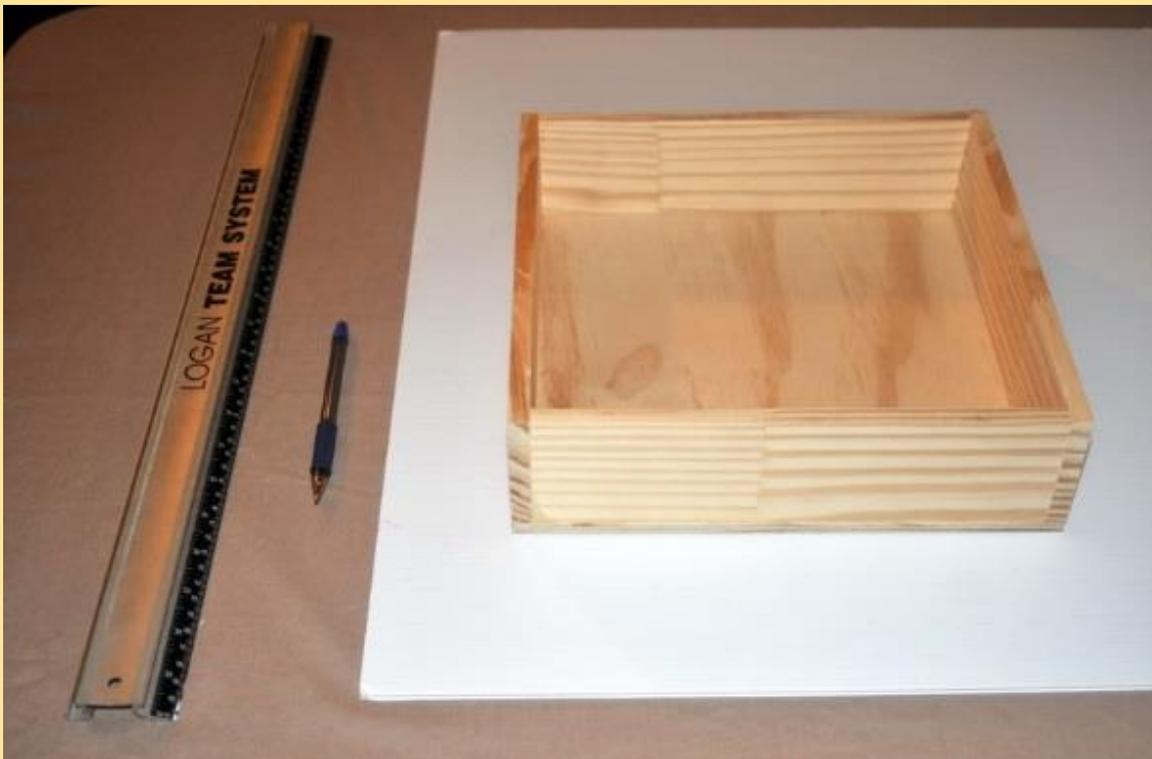
I'm using a spare piece of 'Corflute' for mine. It's stiff and will take a lot of handling. Corflute can be purchased at Bunnings in the timber department where the plywood sheets are. It's the same property as real estate agents use to advertise properties for sale.

For this tutorial I am using 'Reynolds' Freezer Paper or Laminating Plastic with anything laminated between the two layers. It's like heavy duty plastic after it comes through the heated rollers of my laminating machine. You can also use those thin plastic cutting boards which you can pick up in the \$2 shops.

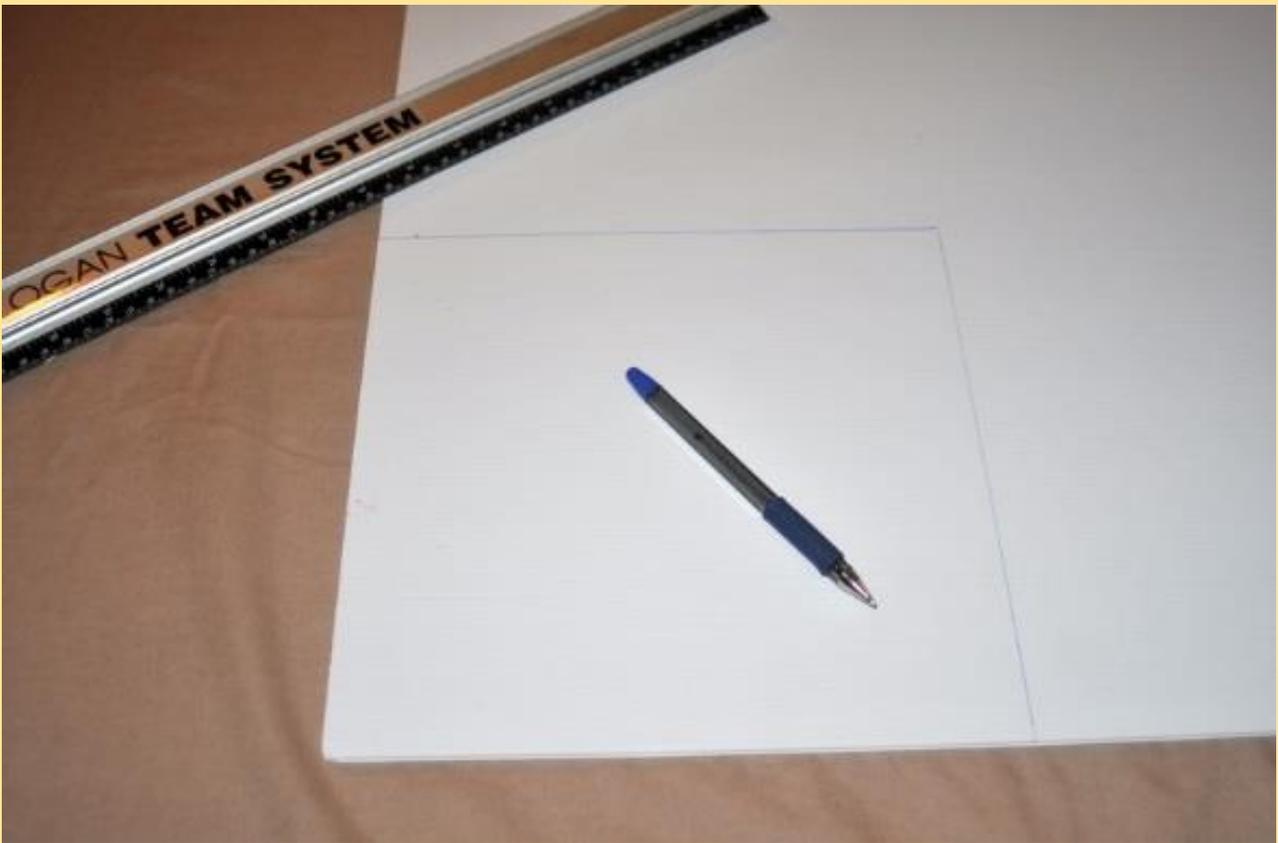
I'd like to mention here, that most of the time the soap just pulls away from the laminating plastic very cleanly, leaving a beautiful smooth, shiny finish. On some occasions over the years it sometimes wants to stick in places, I don't know if that's just me being too eager to un mould the soap or it has something to do with the Fragrant Oils I used in that particular batch? But even when it sticks a little I just run the flat side of a small vegetable knife over the edge and it smooths it off nicely.

The template I have marked out with black felt tip for the 'fold lines'. This is for the tutorial demonstration only. When you are actually making the liner all you need to do is trace around your 'template. The rest is just folding along the lines and you can just 'eyeball' the cut-out sections.

The end pieces I have marked with blue need to be cut out so when the folding tabs on the ends are formed they will fit on the ends suitably to make it watertight.



The first thing I do is measure the inside measurement of the box or log mould.



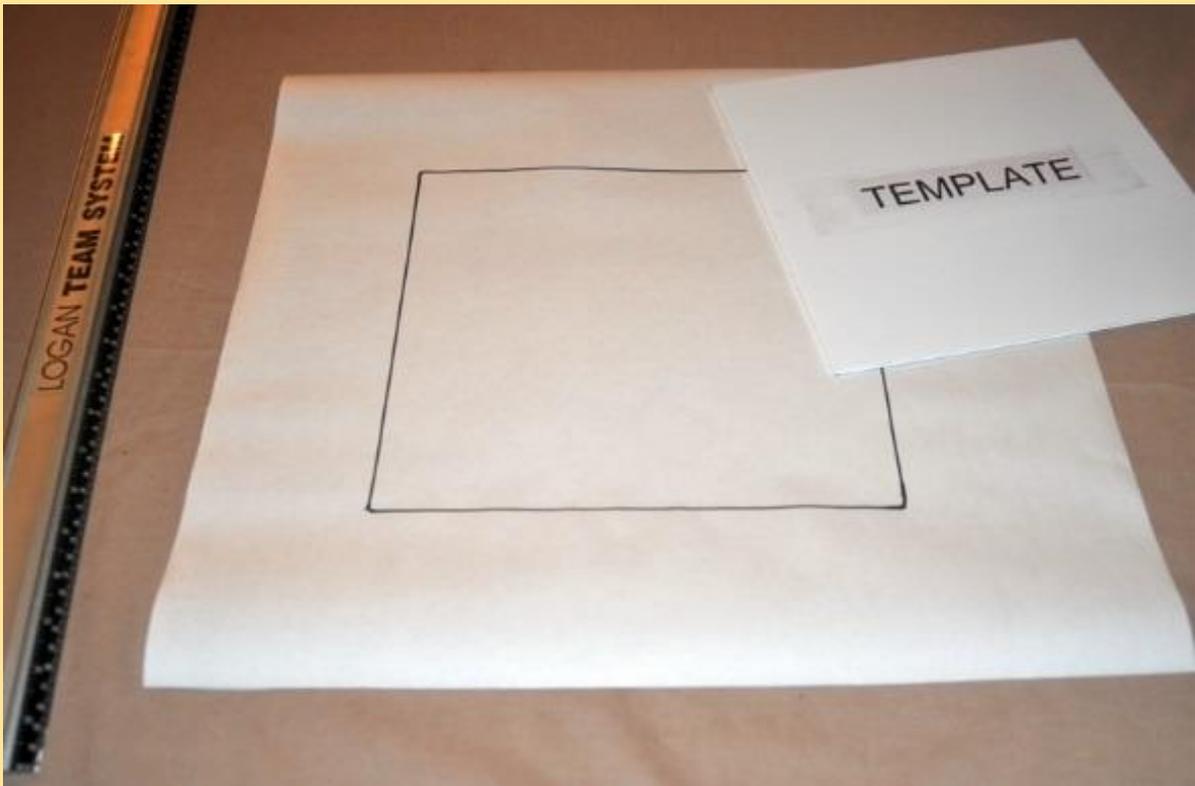
Cut out a firm piece of cardboard or similar of that exact inside size. This will be the template you use to draw in the lines with. You can be a 1mm or 2mm out but no more. If you do cut a little short you can make the adjustment when you lay the template on whatever you're using for the liner.



Lay the template on the freezer paper and mark around it. You will fold along all four sides. These will be your guides. A more in depth explanation is below.



Test the template so it fits snugly inside your mould box. If your satisfied then proceed to mark out the liner.

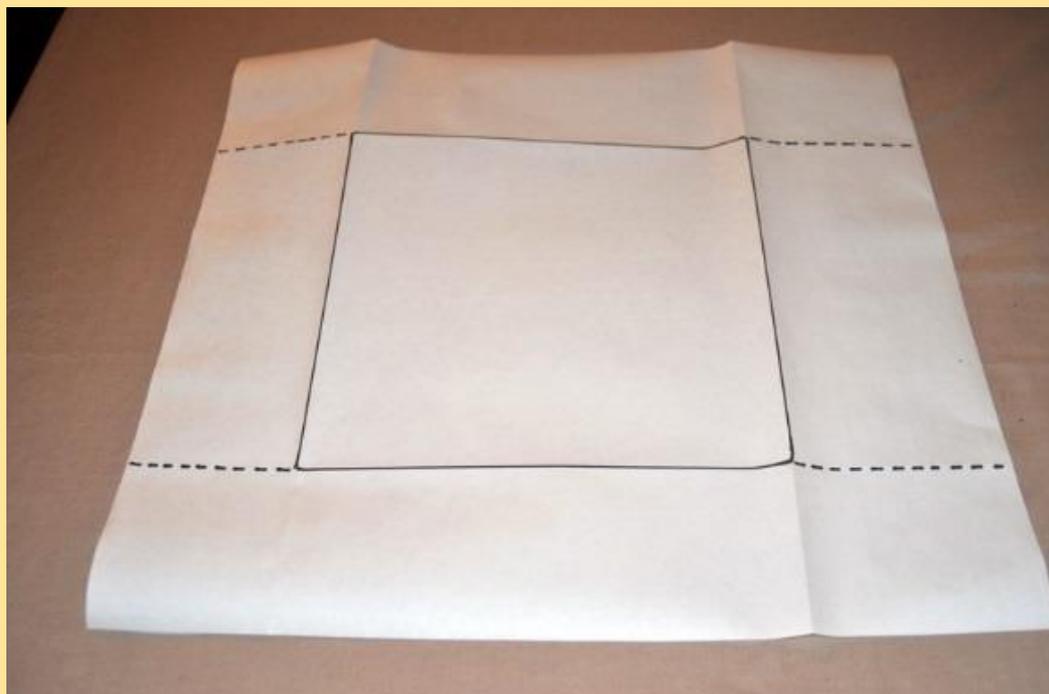


The paper has been marked out.

Using a fine point writing pen or fibre tipped marker and mark around the outside of the template. For this tutorial I am using a thicker marker so the lines show up clearly in the photographs.

Using the lines you just marked out, fold the paper along the inside of the marked line. This will make sure it fits snugly into the mould.

Once you have marked around the edges of the template. Crease along all four lines. I have drawn a dotted line on the paper only for you to understand that you need to cut these four ends into the line where you marked using the template. Normally I just fold on all four sides then using a large chef's knife I cut into the template line.



These four cuts form flaps which are folded inwards and behind the paper which forms the sides. This effectively makes a reasonable watertight seal when the soap batter is poured into the mould box.



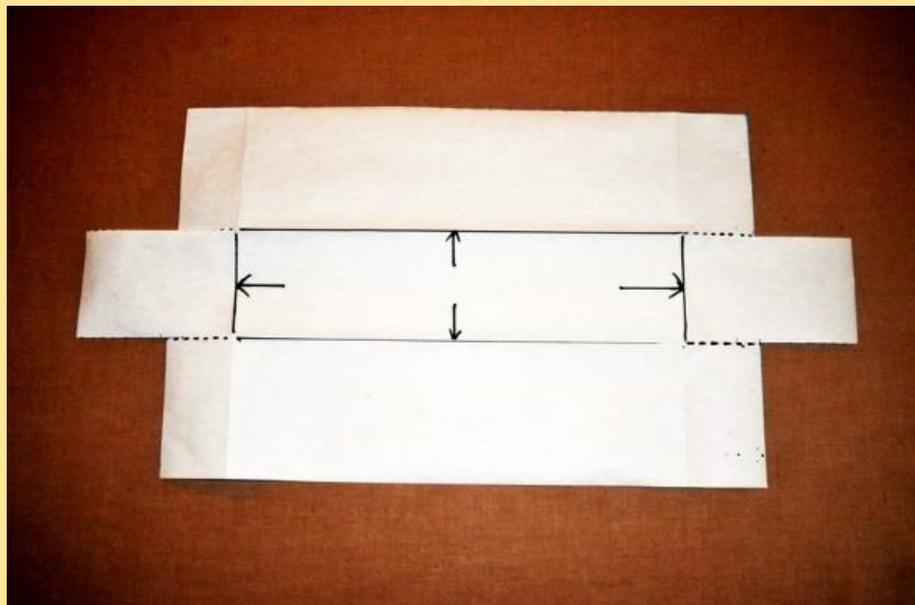
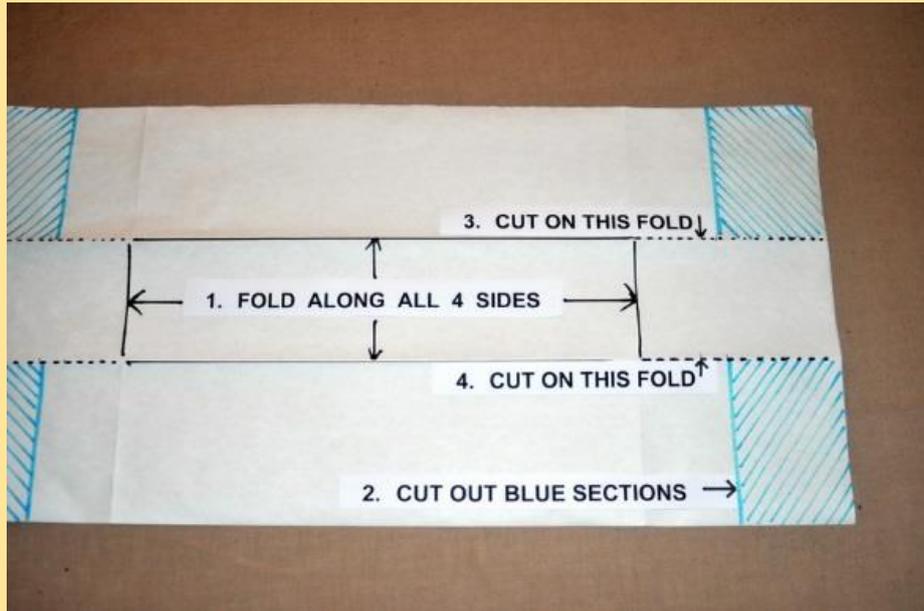
Freezer paper is very thin and it curls so I used a piece of tape on all four sides to hold the paper in position. I always cut the paper a little higher than the sides of the boxes. This is so the soap doesn't run down into the mould box itself.



Believe me once you master one you can just about do it with your eyes shut. It's so much easier if you have the paper liners cut in advance instead of cutting them for every soaping session.



It's a similar procedure for log moulds except you need to cut away some of the excess paper on the ends so that the fold in flaps fit neater.



Tips & Hints:

1. A good idea it to write any extra instructions on the template so you remember it next time. Also write down somewhere the size of the piece of freezer paper then you don't need to keep measuring them for every lining.
2. Don't throw away any freezer paper off-cuts. They can be taped together, then using the template you can cut extra liners from the leftover pieces. Place the tape on the paper side of the freezer paper not the plastic side.
3. Laminating plastic is firmer and sits up without the need of any tape.