



## FOIL STAMPING TIPS

Foil Stamping is a method of printing on a letterpress using thin metallic or pigmented film and die. Rather than using plates, inks or magnetism, foil stamping uses dies, or sculpted metal stamps. Foil stamping can also be combined with dimensional embossing.

- Refrain from using thin serifs because they do not hold foil well unless stamped 2x.
- Prepare images slightly larger than desired size to compensate for dimensional effect that will occur.
- When stamping highly embossed papers, ensure the correct amount of pressure is applied against the foil and paper. In order to ensure a good transfer off the foil, extra pressure is needed to compress beyond the embossed ridges of the paper.
- To avoid wrinkling, it is best not to stamp too close to the edge of the paper.
- Be careful when stamping over paper that has been varnished, as the foil may not adhere well to the paper.

## SCORING TIPS

To score a print piece means to compress paper along a line so it will fold more easily. There are a number of ways to score paper by hand. Designers often use the dull edge of an Exacto blade and or the edge of a bone-folder to score by hand.

- Paper grade and weight may contribute to the quality of a score. It may be difficult to achieve a good score on thinner stock, such as 20 lb. bond; while a heavier stock, such as 110 lb. index, will have a more pronounced score. Lighter paper will also be more difficult to score properly as there is less tolerance in equipment settings required to achieve a proper score on thinner stock.
- Grain direction has much to do with score quality. Paper that is scored parallel with the paper's grain will score more clearly because the paper fibers run in the same basic direction as the score.
- When a score is applied perpendicular to the paper's grain, the result may have a ragged appearance as all of the fibers are being scored at one time—creating resistance to the scoring action. This ragged appearance is especially noticeable when scoring heavy stocks against their grain.
- Equipment settings will also affect the quality of the score. If too little pressure is applied, scores may not fold properly, if at all. If too much pressure is used, scoring wheels and rules may cut the paper instead of scoring it.
- Scores should be made with the ridge or bulge inside the fold to ensure flatter folding and greater strength.
- Score width should never be less than the caliper of the paper. In general, the thicker the paper, the wider the score.
- End use must be considered when determining score width. Score width must accommodate the bulk and caliper of the material inside the fold.
- Scoring should be performed separately from folding and other finishing operations.
- Scores should not be attempted on paper that has been dried out.