

Requirement 5. Stamp Hobby Tools

f. Glassine envelope



c. Magnifier



g. Watermark fluid

b. Water and tray

a. Stamp tongs



d. Hinges



e. Perforation gauge

Requirement 5. Stamp Hobby Tools

You will need to demonstrate the use of at least three of the following stamp collector's tools to fulfill Requirement 5.

To demonstrate, you will need to submit a series of photos or a brief video of you using the tools.

You have supplies for most, but not all, of these in your kit.

Requirement 5a. Stamp Tongs

- Made of metal
- They keep the stamp from getting damaged from dirt and oil from your skin
- Come in a variety of sizes and shapes



Requirement 5a: Stamp Tongs



Remove

The tongs in your kit looks like this. Remove the rubber band before using.

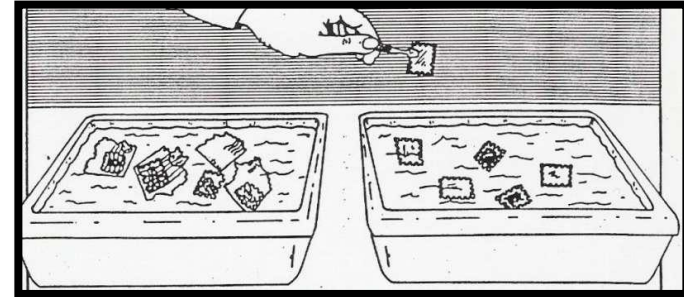
Requirement 5a: Stamp Tongs

You can demonstrate use of stamp tongs by removing a stamp from an envelope in your kit and putting it back.

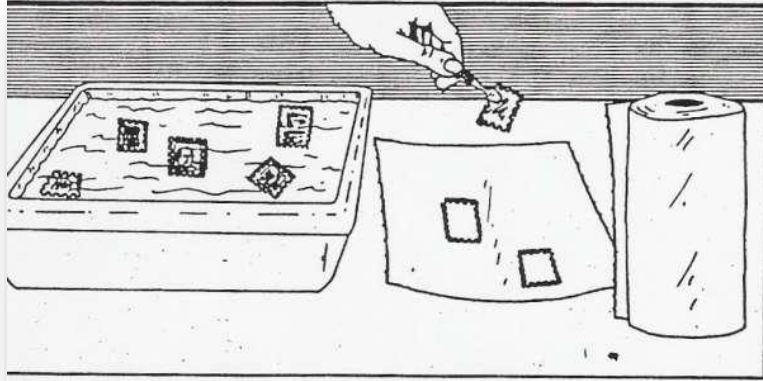
Remember to provide proof with a series of photos or a brief video.

Requirement 5b. Water and Tray

- Used for removing stamps from envelopes
- Separate paper colors before soaking-- stamps on colored paper may bleed
- Any shallow container will work
- Use lukewarm water
- Do just a few stamps at a time

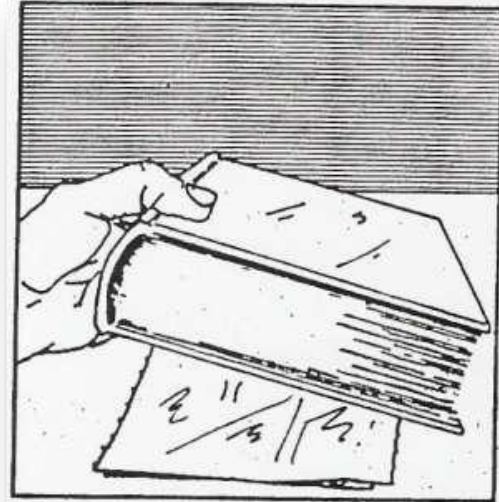


- Replace water when it becomes dirty
- Allow stamps to float free of backing. Do not pull them off!



After soaking, the stamps should be dried face-down on something absorbent, like paper towels or a bathroom towel.

When they are completely dry, place them under a heavy object, like a book, to flatten them. This may take a few days.



Requirement 5b. Water and Tray

You have a small envelope marked “TO SOAK” in your kits.

There are about five stamps on paper in that envelope.

Follow the instructions on the previous two slides to fulfill this requirement.

Remember to provide proof with a series of photos or a brief video.

Requirement 5c. Magnifiers

Used to enlarge details on stamps.



Requirement 5c. Magnifiers

Any magnifier will magnify details of a stamp.

Magnifiers come in different shapes and powers (for example, a 10X magnifier will magnify the object ten times its original size).

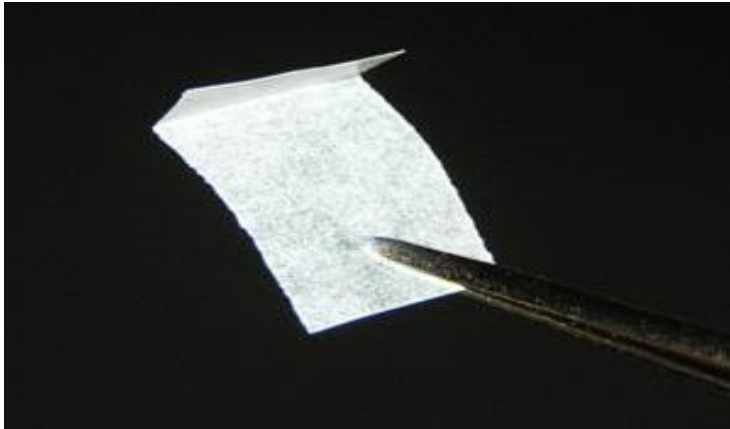
Some magnifiers have a scale etched into them so you can magnify an object and measure it at the same time.

You may use any magnifier to fulfill this requirement.

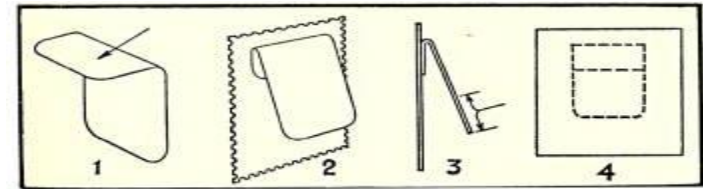
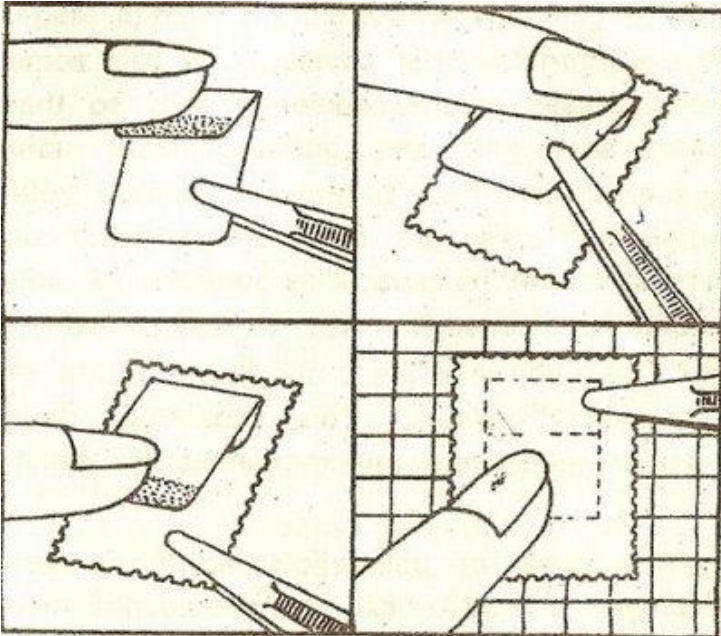
Remember to provide proof with a series of photos or a brief video.

Requirement 5d. Hinges

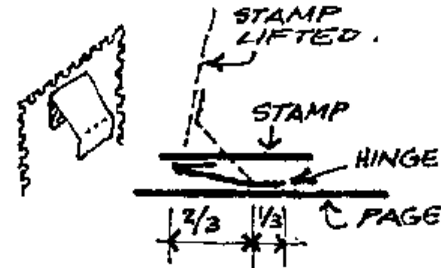
- Small, thin, folded pieces of translucent paper with special gum on the one side.
- Good for used stamps.



Requirement 5d. How To Hinge a Stamp



Four steps in mounting postage stamps



Requirement 5d. Hinges

Here is a YouTube video on how to apply stamp hinges:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IURihwK2o6U>

Be sure to get a parent or guardian's permission before clicking an external link

Requirement 5d. Hinges

You have an envelope with hinges in your kit.

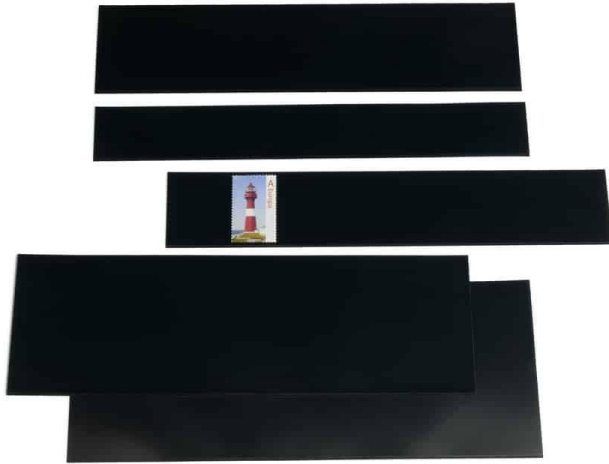
The work you do toward fulfilling Requirement 6a or Requirement 8 can also count toward this requirement.

If you prefer, you can also use hinges to mount a few stamps onto a separate piece of paper.

As part of this requirement, you will also need to demonstrate use of stamp mounts. See the next two slides.

Remember to provide proof with a series of photos or a brief video.

Requirement 5d. Mounts



Stamp mounts come in a wide variety of sizes to fit different sizes of stamps. They come in pre-cut lengths or as longer strips to be cut.

Mounts are also available with a black background (as shown here) or clear.

Mounts can be cut with scissors, a paper cutter, or with a special tool.

Requirement 5d. Mounts

Here is a YouTube video on how to use stamp mounts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3-dSqF7qVM>

Be sure to get a parent or guardian's permission before clicking an external link

In your kits, you have two strips of stamp mounts and small envelope labeled "STAMPS TO FIT MOUNTS". To fulfill this requirement, use the mounts (cut to the proper width) to mount the stamps to a piece of paper.

Remember to provide proof with a series of photos or a brief video.

Requirement 5e. Perforation Gauge

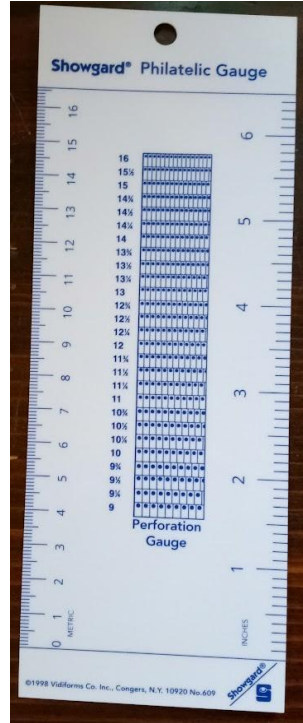


Move the stamp up and down until the perforations on the stamp exactly line up with the pattern on the gauge.

The pictured stamp is perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$ across the top. It may have a different value of perforation on the sides. In such a case, the perforation would be listed as, for example, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

The perforation size can make a big difference between a stamp being an inexpensive version to a very

Requirement 5e. Perforation Gauge



The perforation gauge in your kit looks like this.

Measure the perforations across the top of the stamp and then the side.

For example, the perforation of a stamp may be $11 \frac{1}{2} \times 13$

To fulfill this requirement, measure the perforations on a stamp from your kit.

Remember to provide proof with a series of photos or a brief video.

Requirement 5f. Envelopes & Sleeves

GLASSINE ENVELOPES:

- Very thin and translucent
- Protect stamps from air and moisture
- Available in many different sizes



PLASTIC SLEEVES:

- Made of thin plastic
- Used for envelopes (covers)



Requirement 5g. Watermark Fluid

- Watermarks are designs made into the paper during the manufacturing process while the paper is still wet.
- Where the image is impressed, the paper is thinner and the image can be seen by holding the paper up to a light (or setting it against a dark background).
- When the watermark can't be seen by the naked eye, a special fluid is used.

Only use fluid intended for this purpose! Do not use lighter fluid or any other flammable/hazardous substance!



Requirement 5g. Watermarks

