

MICHELLE WARD designs

How to Make Your Castle Shadow Box Card

A layered shadow box card from the Electric Screams collection by Michelle Ward Designs



What you're making.

Materials Needed

- Cardstock in six tones — the color key sheets in your download show exactly which pieces come from which color. On the card shown: a cream or neutral for the card base and three layer frames; a dark gray for the tower, battlement, and gatehouse bases; a medium gray for the covers that go over them and for the steps; a lighter gray for the cloud and the fog; a dark navy or black for the roofs, battlement covers, and door; and a warm yellow for the windows and lightning
- Your cutting machine — Silhouette, Cricut, or similar
- Paper glue and foam pop dots in at least two thicknesses
- A craft knife or scissors for trimming a pop dot down when it sits too high

Finished card size: 5" x 7". How far it stands off the card depends on the pop dots you use.

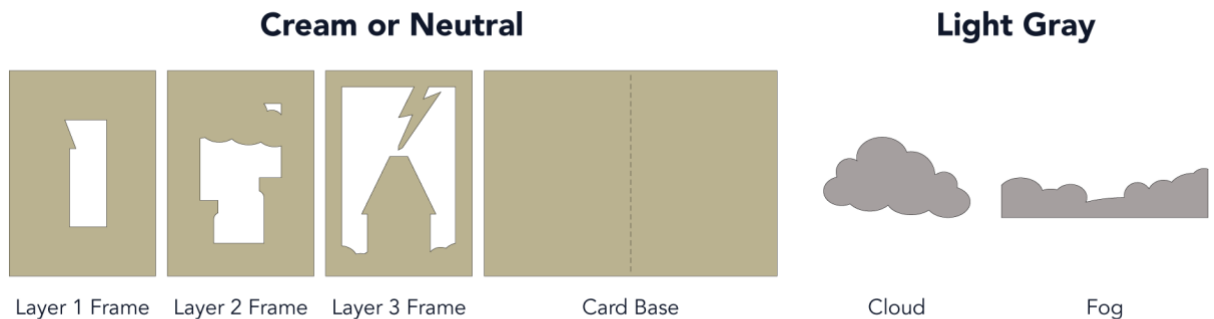
What's in Your Download

- Card template — an SVG and a DXF. They're the same template.
- Color key sheets — one image per cardstock color, showing which pieces to cut from what
- Read Me — how to open your files, plus where to find me
- Personal Use License Agreement — this design is licensed for your personal use

Understanding the Template

Which file do I use? If your software opens SVGs, use the SVG. If it doesn't — the free version of Silhouette Studio, for instance — use the DXF instead.

This card is built in layers. The Card Base folds in half, and three layers stack on the front of it. Each layer is a cream frame with an opening cut into it, and each opening is a different shape. The tower lives on the first, the cloud and the battlements on the second, the gatehouse and the lightning on the third. You build the scene pieces onto their own frame, then stack the finished layers on top of each other using pop dots. The depth comes from the gaps between them, and the frames show in the background and at the edges, so cut them from a color you're happy to see.

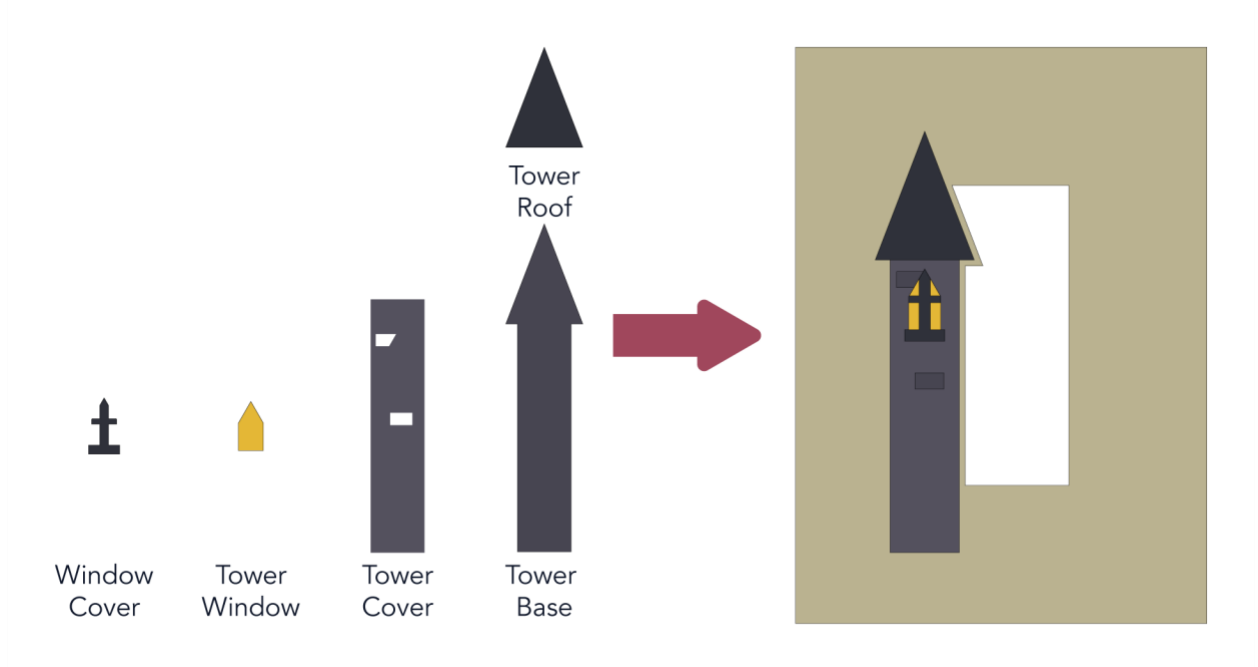




Cut and Sort

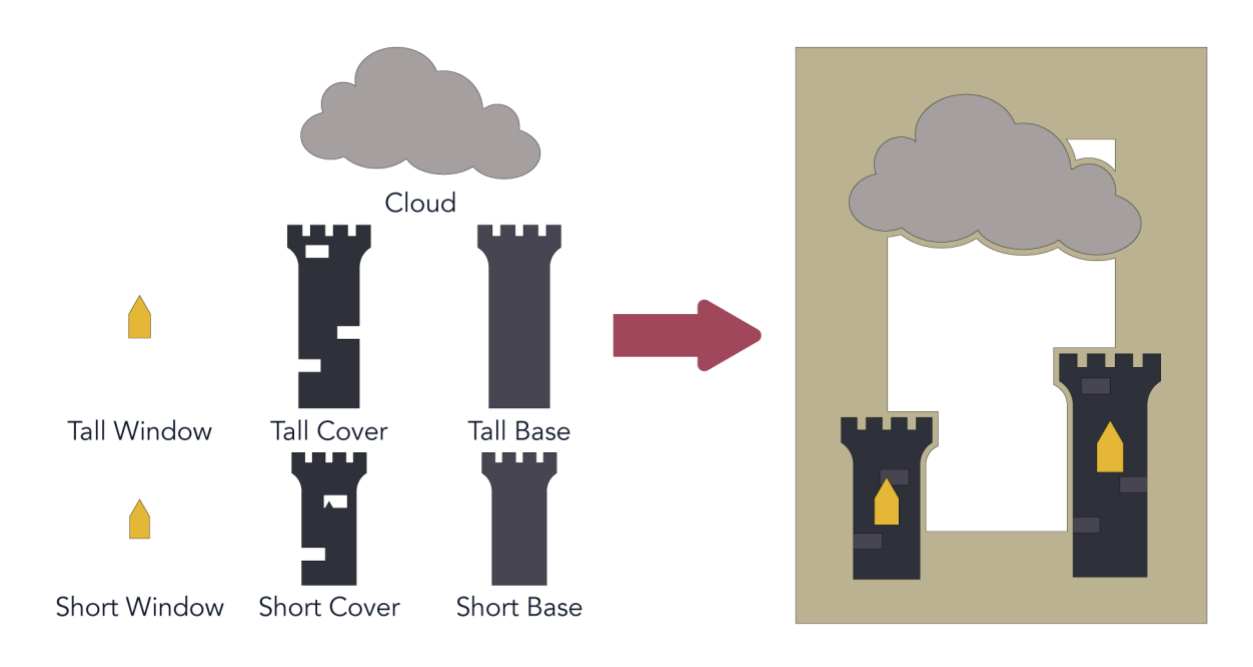
1. Cut every piece, working from the color key sheets.
2. Lay the pieces out in the order they will go down before you glue anything. It's worth the five minutes. I did the first layer without doing this and had to peel a window back off.

Layer 1 — the Tower



3. Glue the Tower Window, which is the largest of the three windows, onto the Tower Cover. There is a slant in the top cutout on the cover that shows you where the top of the window sits — line it up to that.
4. Add the Tower Window Cover on top of it.
5. Affix the Tower Cover to the Tower Base using small pop dots rather than glue. The pop dots lift the stones a fraction and give the stonework real dimension.
6. Glue the finished tower down onto the Layer 1 Frame. Once it's in place, glue on the Tower Roof.

Layer 2 — the Cloud and the Battlements



7. Build the battlements first. Start by gluing the windows onto the Battlement Covers. The Short Window goes on the Short Battlement Cover — there's a small notch that the top of its window seats into. Center the Tall Window on the upper part of the Tall Battlement Cover. Then use small pop dots to place the Battlement Covers onto the Battlement Bases.
8. Glue the two battlements to the Layer 2 Frame, the Tall Battlement on the right side and the Short Battlement on the left.
9. Set the Cloud in place at the top and mount it on pop dots. Use the thicker ones — the Cloud wants to stand well off the layer behind it.

Layer 3 — the Gatehouse, the Fog, and the Lightning

Door Frame
& Doorknob



Door



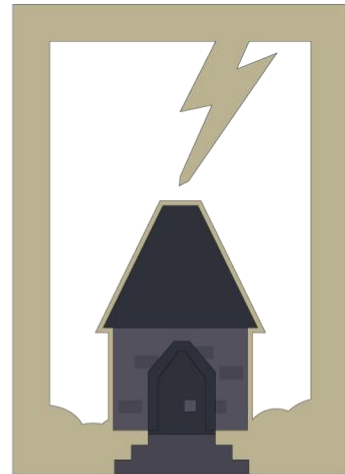
Gatehouse
Cover



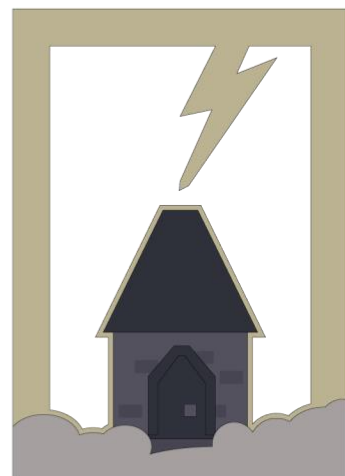
Gatehouse
Base



Gatehouse
Roof



Fog



Lightning



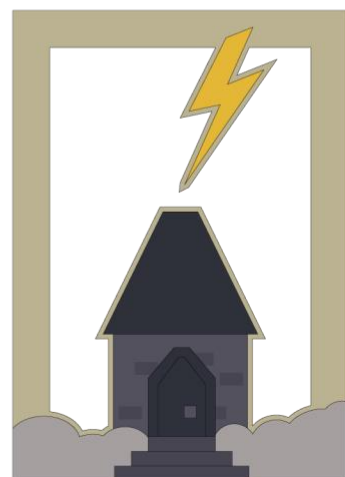
One-Step



Two-Step



Three-Step



10. Glue the Door Frame over the Door. The Door Frame is the same color as the Door on purpose — just enough dimension to read as a frame, not enough to shout. Glue the Doorknob in place.
11. Assemble the gatehouse before you attach it: put the Gatehouse Cover on the Gatehouse Base with small pop dots.
12. Add the Door. Glue it flat for a recessed door or lift it on the same small pop dots to sit even with the stone facade.
13. Finally, add the Gatehouse Roof using larger pop dots.
14. Glue the Gatehouse to the Layer 3 Frame, squaring the bottom of the Gatehouse Base with the frame's bottom edge.
15. Put the Fog down next, along the bottom. It goes on pop dots. It's fine that the Fog covers the step built into the Gatehouse Base — the loose Gatehouse Steps go on top of it next.
16. Add the Gatehouse Steps, which come as three pieces. Glue the Three-Step piece straight onto the Fog rather than on pop dots. Center it below the Door.
17. Use tiny pop dots for the Two-Step piece on top of that, then the One-Step on top of that.
18. Add the Lightning last, so you can judge how far you want it to stand out before it's stuck.

Assemble the Card

19. Fold the Card Base in half.
20. Glue Layer 1 directly to the front of the Card Base. Pop dots work here too if you want even more dimension — I glued mine flat.
21. Add Layer 2 on top of Layer 1 using pop dots.
22. Add Layer 3 on top of Layer 2 using pop dots. That's it!

Make It Yours

- Pop dots come in different thicknesses, and you can slice one thinner with a craft knife when even the small one is too much. Use the thick ones where you want something to jump forward, like the lightning and the cloud.

- Some pieces look better glued flat and some look better lifted. Try one of each on the two battlements and keep whichever you like — they don't have to match.
- If you glue a piece down on the wrong side and the texture faces the wrong way, that's a happy accident and you're allowed to keep it.

Enjoy your finished Castle Shadow Box Card.

Find more designs in the [Michelle Ward Designs Etsy shop](#) or at michellewarddesigns.com. For project tutorials, join me for Crafting with Chaos on the [Michelle Ward Designs YouTube channel](#). Happy crafting!