



## On the Cutting Edge: How to Create Hand-Cut Titles for Your Layouts

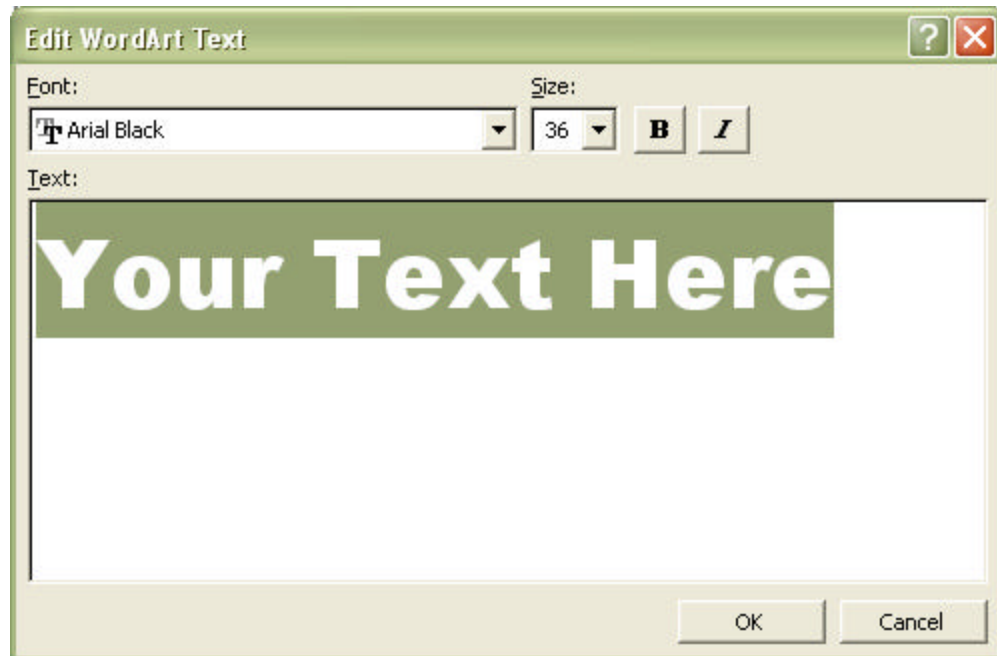
Hand-cut titles can be beautiful additions to your scrapbook pages. If you don't want to invest in a bunch of lettering templates, or want to experiment with a title done in cursive writing, this is a technique you will have to try. Even though hand-cut titles look difficult to make, they are easily created with a few simple tools! You will need a computer with Microsoft Word, a printer, cardstock, an Exacto knife, and a glass cutting mat.

### Part 1: Creating Backwards Text in Microsoft Word

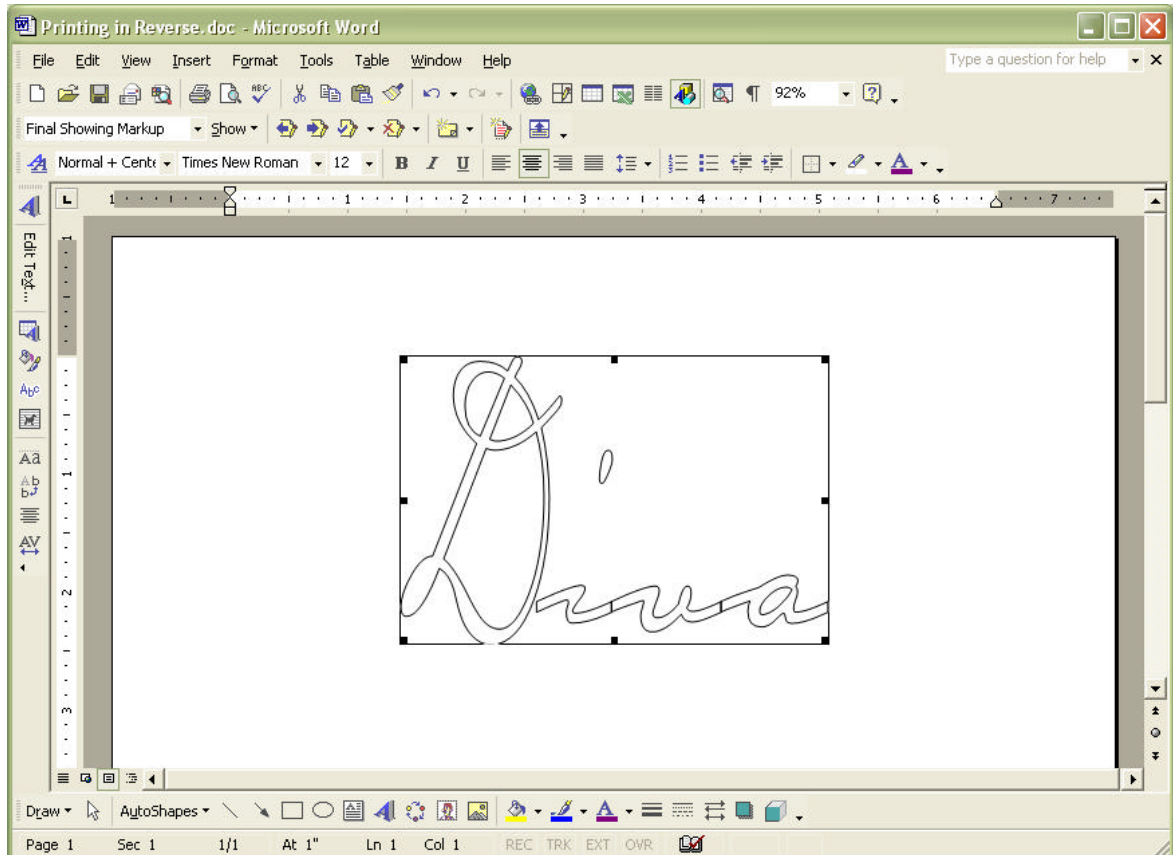
- a) Before you begin, it is important to make sure that you have access to the Drawing Toolbar. Normally, this toolbar is located along the bottom of the Microsoft Word program screen. If you do not see it there, go to the "View" pull-down menu, select "Toolbars", and check the Drawing toolbar.
- b) The first step in creating a title to cut out is to select the perfect font for your layout. Some of the cursive fonts, like Scriptina, for example, look especially beautiful when cut out.
- c) Once you have a font in mind, click on the WordArt icon – a Blue letter "A". This button can be found in the Drawing toolbar. The WordArt Gallery should appear. Select the top left choice, basic outlined text.



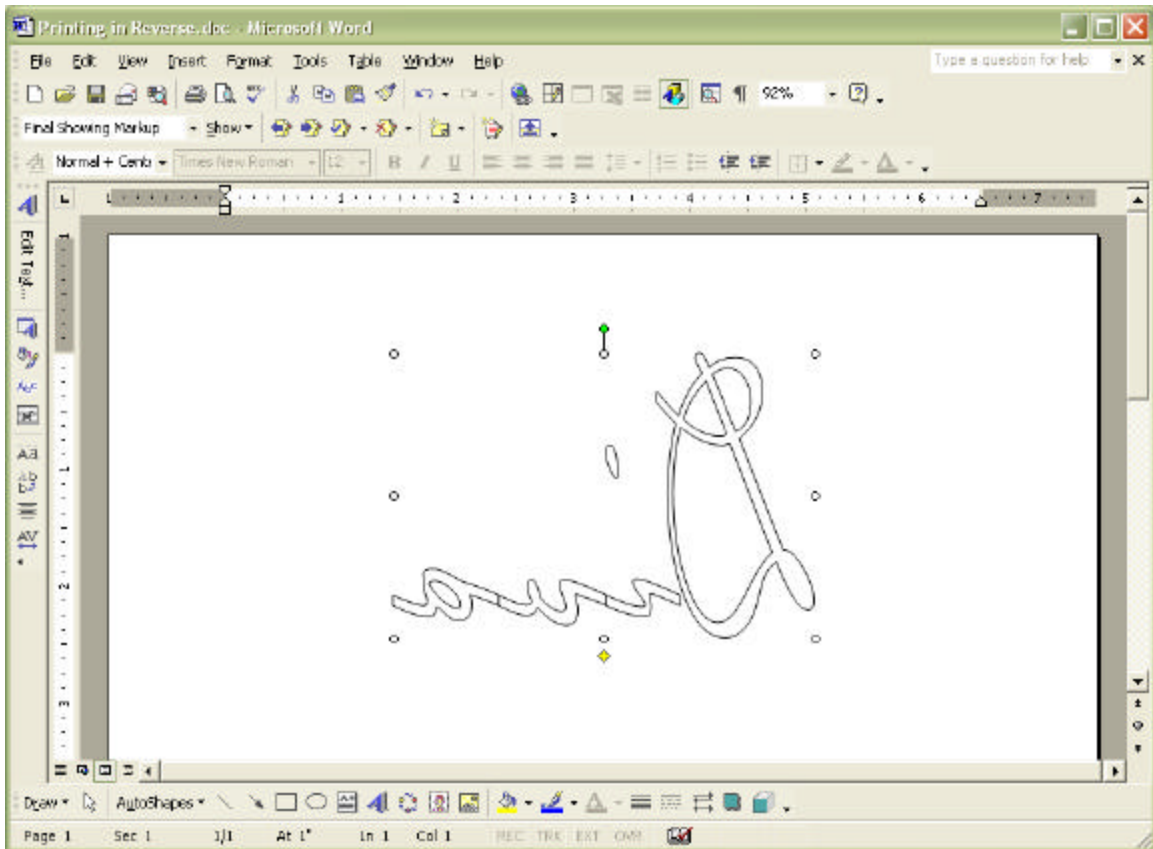
- d) A text box will now appear. Type in the text you want for your title, select the chosen font from the font list, and adjust the font size. Click on “OK” when you’re done.



- e) Your title will now appear in your Word Document, as shown.



The final step before printing is to flip the text over. To do this, go to the Drawing toolbar again, and click on the word “Draw”. A list of options will pop up. Select “Rotate or Flip” and then choose “Flip Horizontal”. The text on the screen should now appear backwards. Flipping the text allows you to cut out the text without any black lines showing.

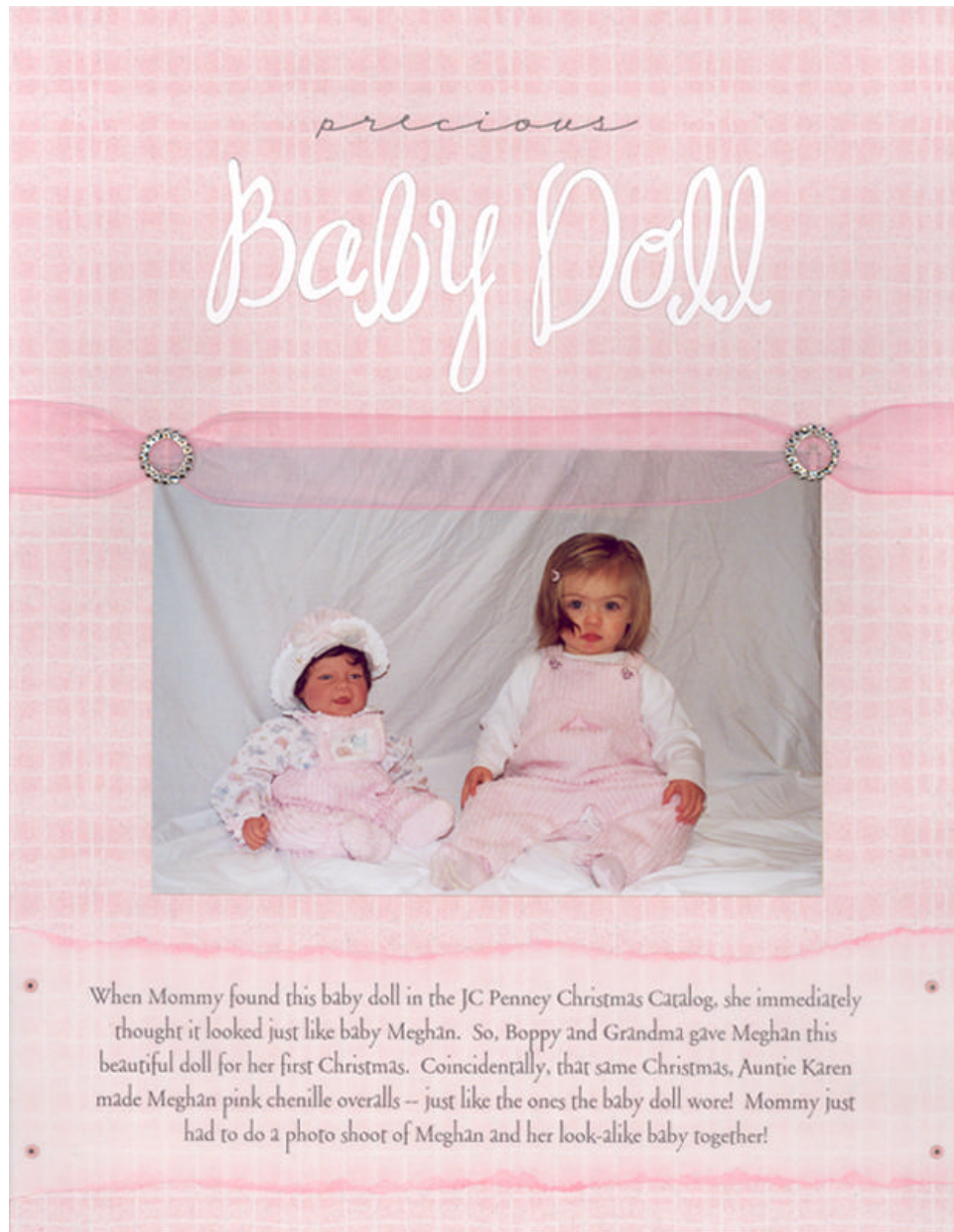


f) Now you're all set to print! Select the “Print” option from the standard Word toolbar.

## Part 2: Cutting out your Title

- Once you have printed out your title, you're ready to cut out your title. I have found that using an Exacto knife with a new blade and a glass cutting mat for a work surface will give you the best results.
- Place your printed paper on the glass mat, and begin to cut out the centers of the round letters (A, B, D, O, P, Q, R, a, b, d, e, g, o, p, q . . .) first. Remember to turn the paper, rather than the knife for the smoothest cut.
- Once you've cut the insides of the letters, carefully cut the outsides. Take your time!
- When you're all done cutting, flip over your cut out title, and admire your handiwork!

Have fun experimenting with this technique. Remember -- since you choose the cardstock and the font to use, the possibilities are endless!



When Mommy found this baby doll in the JC Penney Christmas Catalog, she immediately thought it looked just like baby Meghan. So, Boppy and Grandma gave Meghan this beautiful doll for her first Christmas. Coincidentally, that same Christmas, Auntie Karen made Meghan pink chenille overalls -- just like the ones the baby doll wore! Mommy just had to do a photo shoot of Meghan and her look-alike baby together!

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