

Cut + Step!

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them at your next team meeting.

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The Concept

Cut & Step is a simple activity to challenge your team and energise them at your next team meeting. We have used this activity many times ourselves when we have been exploring the subjects of problem solving, creativity, communication and teamwork with clients. It's fun, it's quick and it can deliver some real insights into how your team goes about problem solving and generating ideas.

The preparation involved is very straightforward and the items you need can be gathered from your office area.

Participants:

As many as you like!

Materials Needed:

You will need the following resources:

- A pair of scissors
- A stapler
- A roll of sticky tape or masking tape
- Selection of paper clips
- Selection of elastic bands
- 20 sheets of A4 copy paper

Objective:

The team must use the resources to create a 'loop' through which the team must all pass through without tearing the paper as they do so.

Time Needed:

- Brief In: 2 mins
- Preparation: 15 mins.
- Execution: 5 mins.
- De-Brief and Review: 30 mins. or longer depending upon how much depth you need to go into.

Rules & Guidelines:

- They have 15 minutes to prepare and 5 minutes to execute their solution.
- They must only use the resources provided.
- The loop can not be made solely of tape.
- They are not allowed to handle any of the materials during the preparation phase.
- If you can create competing teams of more between 4-5 people then the winning team is the one that completes the execution phase in the shortest time and using the least amount of resources.

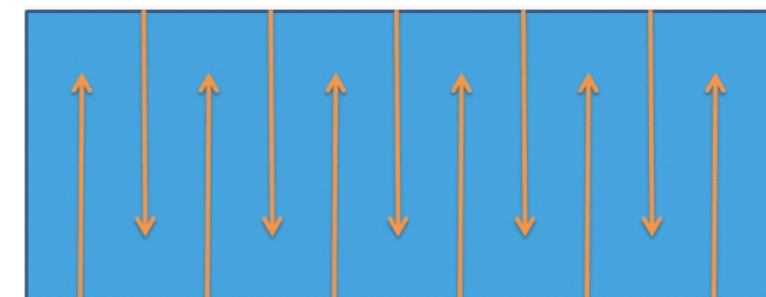
Solution:

Many teams will decide that the best method is to cut the sheets of paper into strips and then to either tape or staple the strips together to make a loop through which the team can pass through. Although this is perfectly functional they will normally use more than one sheet of paper and waste time sticking and stapling the pieces together.

However if you carefully cut a single sheet without actually cutting the sheet into strips then it avoids the use of staples and tape but generates a loop through which every team member can pass. The images below shows how the cuts are made.

Stage 1

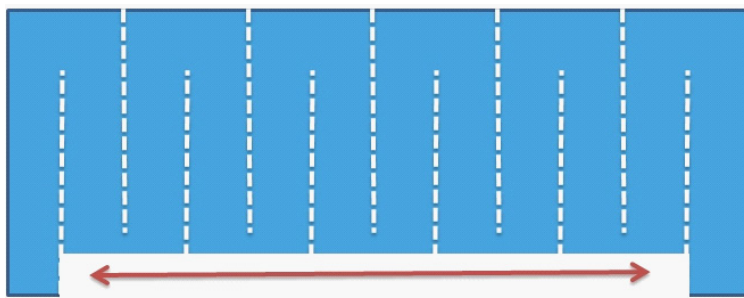
1. Take a single A4 sheet of paper and fold it in half length ways. In the image below the fold is at the bottom edge.
2. Then make cuts in the paper though both layers in opposite directions as shown in the image below.
3. It's important that you don't cut across the complete width of paper otherwise you'll end up with strips of paper so stop from either by around 1.5 cm. In the image the tip of the arrow head indicates where to stop cutting.



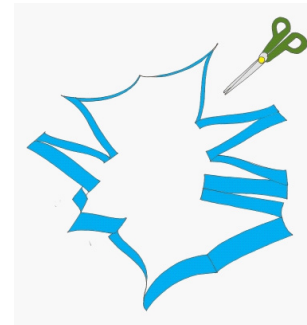
Folded Edge

Stage 2

1. Now make cuts across the folded edge so that you trim the length of the strips without trimming so short that you cut up into any of the previous cuts you made in stage 2. Do not trim the outer two strips. See the image below showing the trimmed inner strips and the outer two strips left and right that are still the original width of the paper. When you have finished the only two pieces that remain folded are the two outer strips, one on the left, one of the right.



Folded Edge



When finished just carefully unfold your paper and you will have a paper loop that all participants can pass through one by one. This solution can take under five minutes to complete and only uses one sheet of A4 and the scissors.

