

Scrapbooks Forever March 2019 Project of the Month

How to straighten and clean Die cutting plates (Cuttlebug, Big Shot, etc.)

“Bake” Method

- 1) Wrap plate in aluminum foil.
- 2) Place on cookie sheet with the bowed side up. (like an arch)
- 3) Place a Pyrex baking dish on top of the plate. Use a large enough dish to cover the entire size of the cutting plate.
- 4) Fill the dish about 2/3 full of water for weight.
- 5) Place on center rack of a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes. (stay close and watch)
- 6) Check if straightened. If not, return to oven for 10 minutes and check again.

DO NOT LEAVE UNATTENDED! IF LEFT TOO LONG THE PLATE CAN BE DAMAGED. Do one plate at a time. For extremely bent plates, you can stack several Pyrex dishes for extra weight. You can heat a little longer or at a slightly higher temperature if you are not getting results. But again, I caution you to watch carefully and increase at small intervals!

“Hot Water” Method

- 1) Run plate under HOT water.
- 2) Add squirt of dish soap and scrub with an old toothbrush. You are getting the bits of lodged paper out of the grooves which is important to the results. Bits of embedded paper are part of the reason the plate warps. Do both sides.
- 3) Run under HOT water again. Water should be hot enough to produce steam rising up.
- 4) Immediately bend it backwards on the divider section of the sink. Backwards means trying to bend the arch out of it. Apply pressure, but be careful not to snap it in two! Doing the procedure over a few times is preferable to trying to use brute strength. Keep getting the plate hot again.
- 5) When you feel like you got it as straight as you can, dry it. Squirt some hand sanitizer on it and scrub with toothbrush again. Dry it with cloth.

Tips to keep plates from warping as quickly:

- 1) Turn and flip plates in between cuts.
- 2) Keep one plate that you NEVER cut into. This one will stay flat as your bottom sandwich plate next to your platform. Cut dies face up.
- 3) Move the die around, and don't cut the same die in the same place over and over again. Plates will definitely curl faster in this instance.
- 4) Make sure you are using the correct “sandwich”. Too much pressure will curl the plates faster and may damage your machine. Some brands of dies and embossing folders require you to take away a plate and fill in with thicknesses of cardstock or cardboard from a cereal box until the right pressure is achieved. Never proceed if the handle does not want to turn. Stop and rethink your sandwich.

There are lots of video tutorials on youtube as well, so check them out and happy cutting!