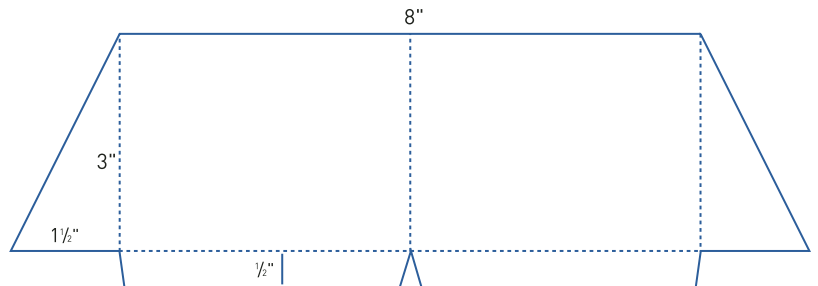




## 4 SHARPER IMAGE

by Andrea Tomkins

**It's always** the same story: First the business cards get stashed in the wallet, exposing potential clients to photos of your children, wads of crumpled ATM slips, and the details of your organ donor card. Then they get relegated to the back pocket, from whence they emerge dog-eared and unsettlingly warm. I, too, have done these things, then searched my local Big-Box Office Supply for an alternative. But everything I found there fit squarely inside the corporate gray-black color scheme. Ordinary. Pleather. Yawn. Left with no recourse but to strike out on my own, I came up with this fold-it-yourself solution. It worked so well, I made a bunch as stocking stuffers for coworkers and friends.



### BUSINESS CARD WALLET



\$5



#### INGREDIENTS:

- 11" x 3 1/2" magazine cutout, comic book, or photograph
- Clear adhesive paper (sold at office-supply stores)

#### TOOLS:

- Ruler
- Pencil
- Bone folder or butter knife
- X-acto knife or scissors
- Regular white glue or other binding device (stapler, sewing machine, eyelets)
- Metal binder clips (or something heavy to help the glue set)

### MAKE IT

1. Carefully measure and cut out the shape of the wallet from your chosen stock. If you're using a plain paper photocopy, glue it to slightly heavier stock, such as the cover of a magazine or one of those cardboard inserts that come tucked in dress shirts.
2. Pencil in and use your bone folder or a butter knife to gently score the outside of the wallet where indicated (the outside of the wallet is the side with the picture on it).
3. Apply clear adhesive paper to the image, except for the bottom 1/2" (under the score line). Smooth out any air pockets with your fingers. Don't bother cutting a piece of adhesive paper in the exact dimensions as your wallet. Expose a large piece of it and just lay the wallet on it, image side down, then trim the excess.
4. With the inside of the wallet facing up, fold the bottom part upward along the score lines. Fold the triangular flaps inward and glue them down—just on the bottom.
5. Use the binder clips to clamp the flaps or place a heavy object on top and allow to dry. Cut out smaller images and paste them on the inside of your wallet. Go on ... let 'em see how creative you are. Use one side of the wallet for your own cards, and the other for those you collect along the way.