

Cutting Foam

This video will provide information on cutting extruded polystyrene foam. Extruded polystyrene foam can be cut and shaped by a number of different methods. Though it works very well, we will not address cutting foam with a hot wire or hot knife.

(Scene 2 cutting mat, straight edge, #11 knife, foam pieces)

While foam is soft, it is very abrasive and dulls cutting tools quickly. The most important thing to remember is to allow the cutting tool to slice the foam. Hold the cutting tool at an angle of approximately 30 degrees to the horizontal surface and pull the blade gently through the material. If the cutting edge is held too upright it tends to break and tear the foam.

(Scene 3 cutting mat, razor blade #11 knife, sanding block foam pieces)

If you are cutting curved outlines it might be necessary to make a series of straight cuts around the template. Once the foam blank is cut, it can then be sanded to the outline using the template as a guide.