

# Bella Crafts Quarterly™

Your Inspiration for a Creative Life!™

## Top 20 Most Innovative Craft Products

Scrapbooking  
Made Easy

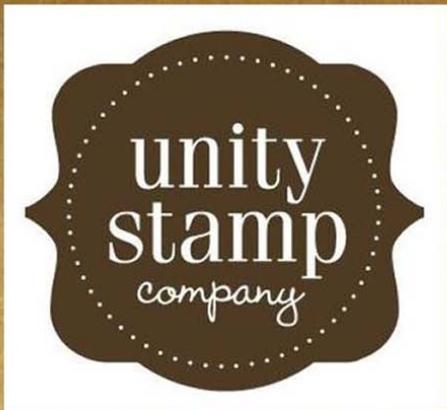
Mosaic Scrapbook

Canvas  
and more

5 top  
Craft Photography  
Mistakes

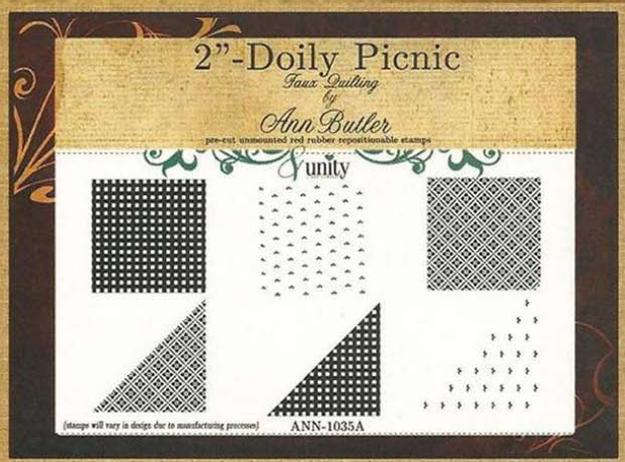
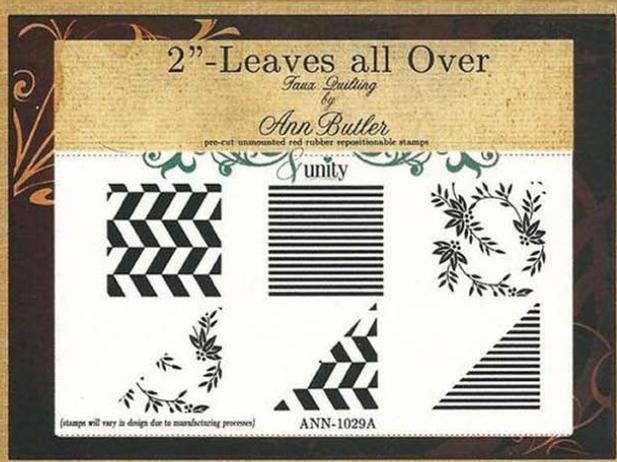
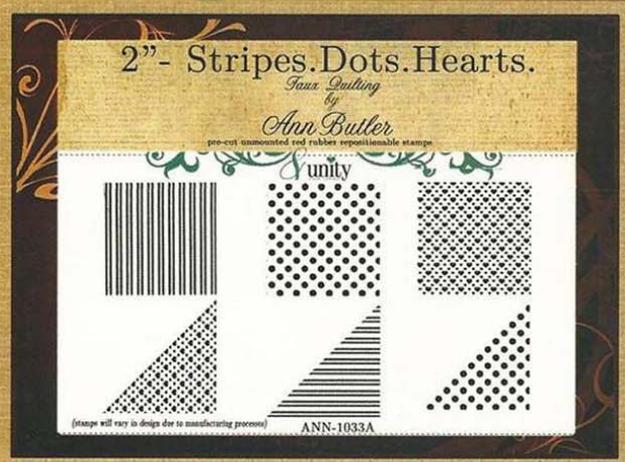
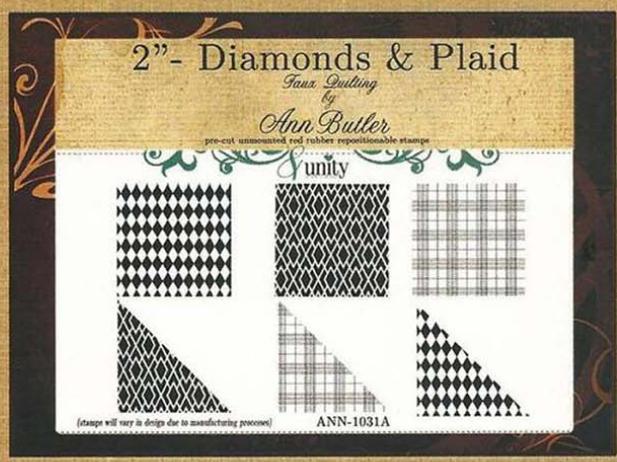
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Presents a NEW Stamp Line by:

Ann Butler Designs



Versatile Easy Design Elements in basic shapes....be creative and have fun. Available in 1'' and 2'' sets Patent Pending

Visit [Unity Stamp Company](http://UnityStampCompany.com) for more information

# This Issue: *Spring Treasures*

## Features

### Duetica

Bella Crafts Quarterly™ thanks [Duetica](#) for the use of their beautiful fonts in our publication.



[Cre8time](#) is a movement to recapture your time and devote that recovered time to your craft passion and creativity.

The [Cre8time](#) website went live in January and is filled with wonderful craft ideas and projects. Make sure to visit the website today!

Bella Crafts Quarterly™ will help to inspire you with quick crafts that you can create in minutes. Our Cre8time projects can always be found on page 5.



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**Note to readers: Bella Crafts Quarterly™ makes every effort to present information in a clear, complete and accurate manner. Please craft in a responsible and safe manner. Failure to do so can result in injury.**

# Bella Crafts Quarterly™ Publishers



*Ann Butler*



*Carol Heppner*



*Lisa Rojas*



*Theresa Cifali*

**Ann Butler** is a mixed media artist, designer, author and instructor for the creative industries. She works with a variety of mediums and loves testing new products. Her designs appear in multi-authored books, magazines, booklets, manufacturer tradeshow booths and websites.

Teaching others to craft is one of Ann's favorite things to do, which is why she has been teaching workshops locally and nationally for the past 20 years. She is currently teaching online classes at Creative Workshops and appears regularly on Cool2Craft Web TV. Ann has a featured column in Scrap and Stamp Arts Magazine called "Back to Basics" and writes a craft column for a local newspaper.

Ann designs for several manufacturers and is a craft industry consultant,

who specializes in social media, marketing and blogging needs.

She is an active member of the Craft and Hobby Association and serves on the Designer Council. She is the current Chair of the Designer Council.

**Carol Heppner** has over 15 years experience as a professional craft designer and is an active member of the Craft & Hobby Association. She is an author, mixed-media artist, photographer and craft industry consultant.

Her work includes craft design, writing, graphic art, photography and class development.

Her work has appeared in national publications, on product packaging and websites. Carol's artwork

and photographs have appeared in national art shows, galleries, magazines, books, products, tradeshow booths and advertisements. Her countless articles have been published in over 20 national craft magazines.

Carol is on the Editorial Advisory Board of Scrap and Stamp Arts, and has a featured column called, "Art Smarts!™".

Carol is an active member of the Craft and Hobby Association and serves on the of the Designer Council. She also is the lead of the Designer Standards Committee.

**Lisa Rojas** has been a rubber stamp artist and instructor since 1995. Lisa began designing for publications in 2000, with her work appearing on the web, national advertisements, tradeshow booths and in various craft and home decorating magazines including, Scrap and Stamp Arts, Crafts n' Things, PaperWorks, CardMaker, The Rubber Stamper, Stamp It!, Craft Home & Style and Aleene's Craft.

Her designs are published in seven multi-designer books. She has over 150 of her designs published to date. Lisa works with many manufacturers, using their products in her work, product development, teaching classes and workshops at tradeshow. Lisa is an active member of the Craft and Hobby Association and serves on the Designer Council.

**Theresa Cifali** hails from Westchester County, NY and is the sole proprietor of TheresaCifali™. She has nearly 20 years of experience working with consumers, manufacturers and retail businesses in the crafting industry. Theresa is a seasoned designer with her own private studio, where she maintains her business, instructs classes and continually experiments with new designs, techniques and class concepts.

Theresa is also well versed in social media and emerging digital platforms, actively using these platforms to build genuine, dynamic communities where she can interact with individuals and promote her business. Theresa consults for creative businesses on best practices in social media and provides management and social strategy services in addition to her already vast repertoire of business services.

Theresa is an active member of the Craft and Hobby Association and serves on the Designer Council. She also is the lead of the Design Section PR Committee

# Aluminum and Pearl Earrings

by [Carol Heppner](#)



on your earrings, you can tell them how fun they were to create.

#### Materials:

Aluminum Flashing, 5" x 7"  
Glass Pearls (2)  
Earring wire findings (2)  
Small jump rings (2)  
Headpin, 1/2" length (2)

Tools: Scissors, nail file, ruler, pencil, craft 1/16" hole punch, round-nose jewelry pliers, flat-nose jewelry pliers

#### Instructions:

1. Cut the aluminum flashing to measure  $\frac{3}{4}$  by  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, and then use the nail file to round the corners of the flashing.
2. Use the nail file to scratch the surface areas of the aluminum flashing  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch square.
3. Measure 1/16 inch from the top edge of the first  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch flashing square, and then mark the center of this square with a pencil. Using the pencil mark, punch a hole in the top of this square. Repeat this step for the second  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch square.
4. Create a pearl link by threading one pearl bead onto a headpin. Use the round-nose jewelry pliers to create a loop in the exposed wire in the top of the bead. Make sure the loop is fully closed. Repeat this step to create a second pearl link.
5. To assemble one earring, use a jump ring to attach together one pearl link, one aluminum flashing  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch square and one earring finding. Repeat this step to create the second earring.

Working with metal can be easy and quick. It takes only minutes to make a great pair of earrings to wear this spring when you use this surprising secret material -- aluminum flashing. That is right; the same material that is found in home supply stores can also be used in crafting.

Aluminum flashing is one of my favorite mediums to use.

Made in five simple steps, these earrings will let you show the world that you can create beautiful jewelry in minutes. When everyone compliments you

# Page Six Notes

## Craft and Hobby Association

### Exciting 20 Innovations

The Craft and Hobby Association held its annual winter trade show in January 2013. One of the highlights of the show was the Innovations Showcase.

Exhibiting manufacturers were able to submit new products that had been sent to market after the summer trade show. These are products that you will be seeing in stores later this year. But, we have a sneak peek.

Find out more about this event and discover which products earned the honor of Hot 20 best innovations on Page 36.

### New Issue E-Alert

Never miss an issue of Bella Crafts Quarterly™. To be alerted when a new issue is available, sign up at

[www.bellacraftsquarterly.com](http://www.bellacraftsquarterly.com)

Our summer issue is filled with craft projects and great craft advice to make your summer a bit more creative. And the best part of Bella Crafts Quarterly™ is you can read it or download it free.

Make sure to tell your crafting family and friends about Bella Crafts Quarterly™ and encourage them to pick up their own copy.

## Cricut™ Mini Winner



### Congratulations to Jane Chang the winner of the Cricut™ Mini!

Thank you to everyone who entered the Cricut™ Mini giveaway in our Winter Journey Issue of Bella Crafts Quarterly™. We received many great comments.

We used an online number generator to select the winner of the giveaway and it was Jane Chang. Jane told me that this is the first die cutter she has used and finds it addictive.

Jane is a wonderful artist so make sure to visit her blog.

<http://paperarts-jane-chang.blogspot.com/>

## National Craft Month

March is National Craft Month and to celebrate, CRE8TIME.ORG is having a photograph contest.

[Read](#) all about the contest and [enter to win](#) \$500 in the National Craft Month CRE8TIME Photo Contest.

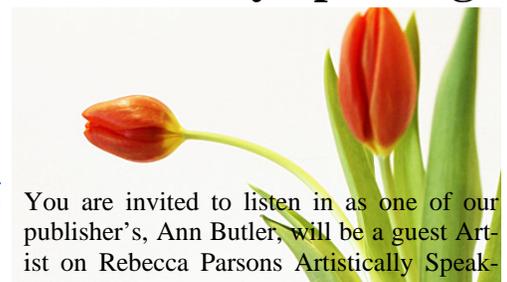
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 <https://www.facebook.com/BellaCraftsQuarterly>

 <http://pinterest.com/bellacraftsq/>

 <http://twitter.com/BellaCraftsQ>

## Artistically Speaking



You are invited to listen in as one of our publisher's, Ann Butler, will be a guest Artist on Rebecca Parsons Artistically Speaking Talk Show.

Sunday March 17, 2013.

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/artisticallyspeaking>

6:30 PM (ET)  
5:30 PM (CT)  
4:30 PM (MT)  
3:30 PM (PT)

# Artist to Artist

by [Ann Butler](#)



## Claudine Hellmuth

Claudine Hellmuth is an artist & illustrator who enjoys combining her drawings with happy patterns to create quirky, [retro-whimsical artworks](#) that she can then license to the gift, home and craft markets.

In her 12 years as a full-time illustrator, she has been featured in [The New York Times](#), appeared on [The Martha Stewart Show](#), HGTV and The DIY Network. Her client list includes projects with major companies like [Smart Car](#), Capitol Records and national publications such as The Saturday Evening Post.

Claudine recently launched an exclusive paper crafting line with [The Home Shopping Network](#) and continues to make live appearances on air with each new product release. In 2008, she developed a product line, with Ranger Industries called [Claudine Hellmuth Studio](#), of high-quality craft paints, mediums and canvas. She has written

three [books](#) and produced three [DVDs](#), all centering on art and collage techniques that she teaches in her workshops.

Claudine is originally from Orlando Florida. She now lives in Washington, DC with her husband Paul and their very spoiled pets.

A: What was your first experience with crafting?

C: I have made art all my life! My mom tells me stories of when I was a little baby and she would put me on the floor in my diaper on a giant roll of paper so I could play with finger paints until my heart's content! When I was about 6 years old, I started my own craft club where I would have projects for my friends to do when they came over. I distinctly remember making a glitter pinecone Christmas tree project! I took years and years of private art school lessons and then finished my schooling, getting my BFA in fine arts at the Corcoran College of Art and Design.

A: When did you first know you wanted to be an Artist?

C: There never was a moment of realization. I have been creative and making things since the time I could hold a crayon, so there was never any thought that I would do anything else!

A: What was the turning point of going from a hobbyist to a professional?

C: I graduated in 1997 from the Corcoran College of Art and Design. I worked in web design while I was growing an art business on the side. The real leap from it being a side business to my full time job was when I was laid off in 2001. I took that as my opportunity to really go for it and I have never looked back!

A: We are happy that you took the opportunity and did not look back, as

you have amazing talent. Do you have a favorite craft technique?

C: I love to do paper constructions. I also really enjoy miniatures, embroidery, as well as creating work on my computer for my illustration clients!

A: Is there a craft technique you have not tried that you would like to learn?

C: I am always up for trying new things! I would love to get better at photography so that when I take blog photos or pictures for my Etsy store, it would be less of a stressful process!

A: I think many artists can relate to that. We have a column here in the magazine called Photo Talk, which has excellent tips for taking photos. What inspires you?

C: I am always inspired by retro 1940s and 50's advertisements. I love how over-the-top the women are depicted getting excited about their washing machines!

A: Yes, they are too funny! A: Describe your studio or crafting area.

C: My studio is the second bedroom of our 800sq ft apartment where we live in Washington DC.

It's teeny-weeny, but it works great and the best part is I can work from home in my PJs!

A: Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?

C: My big love right now is working on paper printables for my Etsy store. I love that I can create something digitally, and then someone can buy it and construct it at home. It is like magic!

A: Thank you so much for sharing with us Claudine!

<http://www.etsy.com/shop/claudinehellmuth>  
web: <http://www.collageartist.com>  
blog: <http://claudinehellmuth.blogspot.com>

# Trending Thoughts

by [Carol Heppner](#)

Inspiration can come from the color of tulips blooming in your front garden or from a movie you just saw.

**We** all find inspiration in many different **places and sources.**

This issue we asked the craft-industry's top designers where they find their inspiration. Like you, they are inspired by many different things and experiences.



[www.cherylswindow.com](http://www.cherylswindow.com)

Cheryl Boglioli is a mixed media artist and educator who loves to share her passion with others. Cheryl teaches mixed media workshops across the country and works with various manufacturers in the Craft & Hobby Industry.

## Cheryl Boglioli

Finding Spring inspiration seems to be a challenge for me here in Florida. I look around and find lots of summer color inspiration, but we do not have many spring colors in our natural environment, at least not those I consider spring colors. There are no beautiful new spring flowers blooming out of the ground or colorful little birds flying back to roost -- what people in the cooler climates seem to experience -- so I look for other sources of inspiration.

One of the places I am inspired by spring colors is in the magazines and brochures delivered in my mail. Of course, we have our favorite art and craft magazines that always delight, but I also find inspiration for color coming from the cosmetic industry magazines delivered to my make-up loving daughter.

For project inspiration, the Lowe's Creative Ideas newsletter always inspires me to create not only home décor projects, but also various craft projects from mixed media canvases to fabric art. The color palette for the season is always evident in the beautiful blooming flowers being advertised and in the gorgeous new paint colors and combos. I will admit that I also love to look at materials to use in unintended ways, and the hardware store is a great place to look and play. Even though I do not have a traditional Spring season in my backyard, spring comes to me in my mailbox. Inspiration is where you find it.

## Cherish Flieder

Observing nature is a wonderful way to start imagining my next project or dreaming about future possibilities. In the spring, I wake up everyday to a host of birds and a lawn full of cute, little bunny rabbits that love to nibble on anything I am struggling to grow. There is also a reservoir I can see from my studio that draws in flocks of waterfowl from all over. Playing in the garden is also a wonderful source of inspiration. I plant and water my little seeds, nurture them through the season, protect them from the elements and watch them bear fruit.

Getting away from the studio and the Internet to take walks is a necessity to rejuvenate my creativity. With camera and sketchbook in hand, I get lost for hours by the creek or in the nearby foothills. I look closely to see patterns in the water, in the budding leaves and in the winter, grasses crushed flat by the melted snow. I take my time to be present and be in awe of each little treasure nature has to offer. Then, when I get back to my studio, I weave the joy of my discoveries into new creations.

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[SomethingToCherish.com](http://SomethingToCherish.com)



[www.lorinemason.com](http://www.lorinemason.com)

## Lorine Mason

The great outdoors and all of the possibilities that spring offers are reflected in my choices of fabric and trims for all of my spring-sewn projects. I tend to stay away from muted tones in spring because I love the idea of budding trees, flowers poking through the ground and spring rain washing away the dullness of winter. I am personally drawn to clear, bright color combinations that can be found in nature. When choosing fabrics for spring projects, I choose fabrics that fit into my vision of spring. When looking for specific fabrics for an upcoming project, I have found that I am drawn to color first, then pattern or texture second. Therefore, I start my search for that perfect fabric combination by choosing a color palette from those available. Depending on the project, I then choose a mix of patterned icons and textures of varying sizes, staying true to the color palette. I have found that working with colors and/or patterned icons that I am excited about always makes a project run smoother from start to finish. I am thrilled that Emerald is the 2013 Pantone Spring color because green is my absolute favorite color.

Lorine Mason is a licensed product designer, an accomplished project designer, the author of 11 'how to' sewing books and two pattern lines. It's Sew Lorine®, is a brand, a [blog](#) and a lifestyle. As an avid sewer, she loves to inspire others to create unique home made sewn items with a creative twist.

# Blog Star

by [Ann Butler](#)



*Angela Daniels*

Angela Daniels is our Blog Star for this issue; some of you may know her as the “Guilty Crafter” or for her appearance on the TV Show “Craft Wars”.

A: How long have you been blogging?  
AD: I have been blogging for over 6 years.

A: What inspired you to start blogging?  
AD: I have a personality that is attracted to new, shiny things. “You have a blog? Oooo. Maybe I should have one!” was most likely a big motivator for me to originally start my personal blog. I remember trying out many different blogging sites before deciding that Rhonna Ferrar, digital crafting guru, had the most beautiful blog template I had seen at the time. So, I ended up using [Squarespace.com](#) and have never looked back. A more in-depth answer would be even more simple: I like to write. I tended to win the creative writing awards when I was a kid in school and I even kept extensive journals in junior high... right up to the day I was confronted by my mom who had read every single page one day while I was at school. That put me on hiatus with my personal writing for many years, but finding the outlet of blog writing in my adult years has been like a homecoming for me.

A: What if anything is the most exciting thing that happened because of your blog?  
AD: I have gotten many interesting offers to try products and write for crafting blogs through the

writing I’ve done on my own blog. I am currently talking with a popular TV talk show about being a guest based on a blog post one of the show’s producer’s happened to come across while looking up topics for the show. I think the most exciting thing for me (and my kids) is watching the interactive world map I added to my sidebar years ago. It always amazes us to see dots show up all over the world. I hate to admit to it but I’ve asked more than one world traveling friend to read my blog when they’re in a country I don’t think I have enough dots for!

A: What an awesome opportunity that would be to be on a TV Talk Show. Let us know when and where so we can cheer you on!

A: You mix video tutorials in with your blog posts, do you have any tips for doing videos?

AD: The very best tip I can give for creating videos is to find a location to film that has nice, big windows. Natural light is so nice for videos and photos although I do supplement with an inexpensive set of studio lights when I need to. Also, I like to create “kits” for each project I want to film. It’s a much faster video process if I have every single item I could possibly need at my fingertips before I start filming.

A: I have to agree with you there, having Kits or Step-outs prepared makes the video process so much easier.

A: What advice could you give to our readers who want to start blogging?

AD: What I have told many people is very simple: just start one! Yes, right now. Don’t worry about who will read it. If you’re nervous about that, research a blog service that will allow you to make your blog private (and almost all of them have this option). Write as much as you want, when you want about what you want. You will eventually find a natural stride and tone and then, if you feel comfortable, open your blog to the public or share it with a select group of friends. Blogs are not meant to be the next Great American Novel. You don’t have to be perfect, punctual (although updating with frequent blog posts does help keep your readers engaged) or amazing prolific. I do have a personal requirement of at least one eye-catching photo per post after a good friend of mine admitted that she didn’t like to READ my blog -- she only liked the pictures. How can I argue

with the idea that visuals are a great idea on a creative blog?

A: What are some of the challenges of starting a new blog?

AD: Many of my friends seem daunted by having enough content at first. A brand new blog can look pretty empty with just a few entries posted but that’s okay. I think it’s important to give yourself permission to have just a few blog entries when you first start a blog. One friend of mine planned to write a whole series of posts offline and then add them to her new blog so she would start with a lot of content. She was putting a lot of unnecessary pressure on herself. I encouraged her to allow herself enjoy the process of blogging and just put her writing out there as it came to her. As for a graphically appealing blog, you can change the look and colors of your blog whenever the mood strikes you- don’t think you have to be locked into the perfect graphic design on day one. Your style and writing will naturally evolve.

A: What is the most important thing to building a following for a blog?

AD: Be yourself. I can’t stress that enough. Your own, unique voice is what will draw people to you. I have a little mantra for myself which is, “I am not universally appealing and that’s okay” which has been a good reminder to me personally. I had to get over my schoolgirl desire to have everyone like me. It’s not going to happen. And if I tried to appeal to everyone, my blog would be pretty bland. So I joke, I talk about drinking cocktails, I brag about my successes with the most basic four-ingredient food recipes and I post about my “craftastrophes” because that’s what really happens in my life. Martha Stewart’s website is a whole other world and she’s already got the whole perfection angle covered anyway. Another tip is to seek out kindred spirits writing similar blogs. Reach out to these authors, comment on what they write and form a network of blogger friends. Blogging conventions are another great way to get more serious about blogs. You will learn real world tips, facts about statistics and blogging, but mostly you’ll meet some amazing people and be inspired to learn that we’re not “just” blogging. We’re sharing about ourselves and we’re making connections with people we most likely would never engage with otherwise. It’s a pretty awesome thing.

## 5 Top Craft Photography Mistakes



There are many reasons why those in the craft industry need to photograph their work. Professional crafters want to sell their work, craft-designers may need to photograph their projects for magazines or product packaging, and others may simply want to share their work with the world. No matter the reason, you want great-looking photographs of your work.

You want to take photographs that show the beauty and detail of your work. The photographs need to capture the viewer's eyes. How do you achieve the best craft photographs? You can achieve better photographs of your work by avoiding these Top 5 Craft Photography Mistakes.

### Mistake #1: Poor Composition

Many craft photographs have the artwork placed in the center of the photograph. This produces a balanced photograph, which is

pleasing to the eyes. However, if you want to draw a viewer's eyes to your work, you want to create a little disharmony.

Our brains seek and expect harmony and balance. When we break the balance, the photograph becomes more interesting to our brains. That is when we take a second look. We look at the unexpected -- the slightly unbalanced. Placing your artwork slightly off center creates a photograph that is not equally balanced and is just enough to say to the viewer -- I am interesting.

### Mistake #2: Unimaginative Staging

This is a common mistake by many crafters. There are times when you have to photograph your work against a white background. Most of the time, however, you want to show your craft work in a setting that flatters the artwork.

Your artwork tells a story and your photograph should complete the story. Showing your work in use will help sell the artwork or product, if that is your intent. Otherwise, think of your work as part of a still-life photograph. Use other objects to visually support in the photograph of your artwork.

### Mistake #3: Artwork is Too Far

The main goal of photographing your work is to showcase it. If your artwork is too far away, it will look small and uninviting. The focus of your photograph is your artwork and your artwork needs to be seen prominently by the viewer.

When taking your photographs, move in closer so your artwork fills more of the frame. Let the viewer really see the beautiful detail of your work.

### Mistake #4: Harsh Light

Indoor flash photography will produce too harsh a light for your artwork. Instead, use the natural light from a window, open door or skylights when setting up your craft

photo shoot. A soft, diffused light will flatter your artwork.

Avoiding the use of the camera's flash indoors and avoiding direct sunlight on your artwork will reduce the chances of a harsh shadow.

Do not be afraid of shadows, however. Shadows help to define an object's shape and depth. Shadows also help to anchor the artwork and avoid a "floating" effect. Some shadows can add mystery and interest. Halloween and dark-themed crafts can benefit from harsh shadows. You need to determine if harsh shadows are part of your photograph's design or if you need a softer shadow in your photograph.

### Mistake #5: Forgetting About Macro

For your artwork to be the focus of your photograph, you may need to get in closer. Using the macro setting on your camera will help you get closer than normal settings. If you are not sure where this setting is on your camera, check the booklet that came with your camera.

When using the macro setting, a tripod can come in handy to help steady the shot. If you do not have a tripod, you can always try resting the camera on a close surface. Using the automatic self-timer to release the shutter will also help reduce camera shake.

If you avoid these five top craft photography mistakes, you can produce better photographs. That way, when you share your photographs with others, you can be sure they are looking at your work the way it deserves to be seen.

Join my Facebook group Photo Talk with Carol Heppner at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PhotoT/>

# SociallySensible™

by [Theresa Cifali](#)



## Three Social Networks You Should be Using for Your Creative Business

are pros and cons to Facebook, for sure. First, Facebook's network is huge with over one billion users. However, only about 163 million Facebook users live in the United States. So, if you do not conduct business outside of the U.S., then that Facebook network just got a lot smaller.

Facebook is both a visual and conversational platform, which is a wonderful thing. Being a crafter, sharing great photos of our creations and talking with others about our art is part of what we do. Facebook is perfect for these activities.

Sharing links to blog posts and other information do not convert as well on Facebook as they do on other social networks. Facebook users prefer to stay on Facebook. So keep that in mind.

Finally, the organizational nature of posting makes Facebook a great place to start conversations and keep them organized. Ask your fans a question and discover what they are thinking, all in one organized feed.

Pinterest <http://pinterest.com/>  
Pinterest is a virtual pin board that allows you to organize and share visual content that you upload and/or "pin" from the web. This is the perfect vehicle for crafters to share images, but the real value is what happens beneath the image. This is really where the value lies.

When you or someone else pins an image from your website, the URL to that image, and therefore your website, attaches to that image. When you upload a photo, you can

add the URL to your website to the image. In addition, using keywords in your descriptions makes your pins searchable. Being found on social media is really what it is all about.

Twitter <https://www.twitter.com>  
Twitter offers a lot of value to a social media-marketing plan, but in a vastly different way than some of the others. Content is what matters here because Twitter is not a visual platform. Not only will users click through to the content connected to your links, but they will also share in the way of retweets. Why is this important? Well, it means that Twitter is a great platform for driving traffic back to your blog. Share the Twitter link to a current post and it will drive traffic back to your website.

It is important to note that Twitter is the 3rd largest social network in the world with a great crafting community. Your audience is here! It is also easy to connect with that craft audience because you have the ability to actively follow users. Oh, let us not forget this important point...you can use Twitter to gain more followers on your other social networks.

These are only three of many social networks that will work for your creative business. Again, if you are new to social media, do not feel pressured to be everywhere all at once. Use the information shared in this article to help you make a decision as to where you would like to start.

Owning a crafty business is a lot of work. When we refer to DIY, it means much more than Do-it-Yourself craft projects! We literally do EVERYTHING ourselves. We set our own schedules, find our own business opportunities, do our own bookkeeping, keep track of our own inventory and the list goes on from there. As "solopreneurs", our marketing strategy falls in our laps as well. However, with all of the social networks to choose from, how does one know where to be?

We are going to explore four social networks worth investing time in if you own a creative business. If you are a seasoned social networker, you may be using these platforms already. However, you may find one that you have not tackled yet. If you are a "newbie", don't stress! Start with one or two and grow from there. Use this as a guide to make your final decisions.

Facebook (Fan Page, that is) <https://www.facebook.com>  
Ok...let's face it...everyone knows about Facebook. Should you be using it for your creative business, though? There

With all of the cool stuff out there to make great scrapbooking pages, which products do you choose to create your very first scrapbook page? When you are a newbie to the scrapbooking world, how can you walk into a scrapbook store and not suffer from what I call "Product Overload?" I can spot a newbie a mile away. They are always the ones you see walking aimlessly around the store looking like their heads are going to explode! In addition, how do I know this, you ask? I was one of those people. Only it was not nearly as bad back then as it is now. So much stuff these days! I thought I would write this article for all the newbies out there so that I can save you from your head exploding. If you are going to have your head explode, I would much rather it be due to all the great ideas you have for your scrapbook pages.



## *Lessons with Lisa*

### *It's in the Details*



## Scrapbooking Made Easy! by [Lisa Rojas](#)

To begin, you are going to want to try to organize your photos. If you are like most people, your pictures are probably thrown into boxes somewhere in the back of your closet. Or, due to the digital world, your digital pictures are in a virtual file folder somewhere on your computer waiting to be printed. Either way, getting your photos organized is the first step in scrapbooking. In my opinion, the best way to do that is to sort them by year. Go through them again and decide on a theme for your first scrapbook page/album. Once that task is completed, with your photos in hand, you are ready for your trip to the scrapbook store.

O.K, let's talk about Acid and Lignin Free papers. Acid Free relates to the PH balance in the paper. Papers and products that you use in your albums should also contain alkaline which will stop the acid from your pictures transferring to your papers. Lignin is a natural material present in plants that is

removed when making paper to ensure the papers are safe for your pictures. Nowadays, almost all of your scrapbooking products are Acid Free and Lignin Free, but it is always best to double check. If you are going to spend a lot of time with your pages, you want to be sure that your pictures are safe and will be around for generations to come.

The next step is to pick an album in which to store all your beautiful pages. Albums come in all shapes, sizes and colors. I prefer to use a 12"x12" album that is refillable. That way, I can add many embellishments to my pages and I am not limited to the number of pages I can put in my album. I think that picking an album is a personal choice. So, browse through your scrapbook store, look at all the different ones they have, and pick one that will suit your needs the best.

a good time for me to reiterate the fact that I mentioned above about picking your theme before you walk into the store. This is still the best way I know of to avoid "Product Overload!" Most scrapbook stores have their products arranged by themes, making it so much easier to choose the papers and embellishments you really want.

You have your pictures, your papers and embellishments. So, how do you stick it all together? Adhesives! There is a huge array of adhesives on the market today. Which ones are best? Again, if you ask 5 different people, you are likely to get 5 different answers. But here are my favorites. Zip Dry Paper Glue™ by Beacon Adhesives® is my all time favorite. It dries clear and does not wrinkle your papers. My next

Next -- papers! With all of the wonderful companies out there that produce hundreds of different papers, you could spend all day long just looking at papers. I happen to LOVE papers. I always say that I could use 10 papers a day from my stash from now until the day I die and I would still have enough left over for two more generations of my family to be able to use! I may not be the best person to ask about papers because my advice would be "Buy it All!" However, because I do not want to be responsible for the rising divorce rate, let me give you a few guidelines. Take your pictures with you to the store. It makes it so much easier to match the colors. I recommend that you mat your pictures with a color card stock instead of a pattern paper. Pattern paper can overwhelm your pictures if you don't choose the right patterns. With your card stock colors picked, now you can play with the pattern papers. Choose your pattern papers to match the theme you have picked out for your scrapbook page/album. Now, you are ready to move onto the embellishments. This would be

choice would be the E-Z Runner™ Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L®. It is quick and easy to use. In addition, I love Terrifically Tacky Tape™ by Provo Craft®. This red liner tape will stick to any and everything, so make sure your papers, etc. are exactly where you want them before applying this tape!

Now that I have given you the basics, you are ready to create your own beautiful scrapbook pages. The main thing to remember is that even though there are tons of products to choose from, start easy. Scrapbooking is all about cherishing those special moments with your family and having a great time doing it.



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# Cup-Sleeve Mini Album

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by Carol Heppner

Romance copy: I love the iced tea from Starbucks and so does my husband. The quick way we can tell our drinks apart is by the sleeve wrapped around the cup – I wrap mine and he does not. Instead of tossing away the paper sleeve, I made this spring mini scrapbook album.

You can spend hours embellishing these little gems, but who has all that time? I use patterned papers that coordinate.

Another trick for a quick embellishment is to use texture on the pages. US Artquest, Inc. has Mica Flakes, Mini Prills and Mica d’Lights, which you use with their matte Perfect Paper Adhesive™. You just spread a little of the Perfect Paper Adhesive™ and apply the different textures onto the cover and pages. A little of these products goes a long way.

The tiny size of the sleeve makes this a good project to use all those leftover scrapbook papers from past projects. One 6 by 6-inch scrapbook paper will cover both sides of the sleeve. The spring-time, shabby chic look allows you to mix and match leftovers into a pretty scrapbook that speaks to the heart.

To make the scrapbook pages that go inside the sleeves, just cut a slightly smaller pattern from one of the sleeves. The front cover does not have a scrapbook page inside it. The cover is glued

closed so it can provide a stronger base for the cover’s embellishments.

#### Materials:

Recycled cup-sleeves (5)  
Multi-colored scrapbook papers, 6” x 6” (5 for sleeves, 2 for inside pages)  
Mica Flakes, Mini Prills and Mica d’Lights, US Artquest  
Tiny Text, Love, Cosmo Cricket  
Canvas Brads, Cosmo Cricket  
Green and white twine, 10”  
Pink ribbon, 5”  
Beadlanding™ Shortcuts™ Bird Connector  
Leaf-beaded embellishment  
Green-glass pearls  
Paper ribbon, pink  
Flat-backed crystals: Pink, green  
Photographs, 1 ½” x 1 ½” (4)  
Glue

Tools: Scissors, pencil, 1” foam paint brush, waxed paper, heavy book, 1/8” hole punch

#### Instructions:

1. Use a pencil to trace the cup sleeve onto the back of the first scrapbook paper. Cut out the pattern. Apply a thin layer of glue to the back of the scrapbook paper, adhere it to the cup sleeve and then place a piece of waxed paper around the sleeve. Place a heavy book on the sleeve, leaving it in place until the glue dries. Once dry, trim any excess paper that extends beyond the card sleeve. Cut out a second scrapbook paper to fit the sleeve and then glue it to the opposite side of the sleeve. Wrap the sleeve with waxed paper, let the glue dry and then trim any excess paper. Repeat this step for all five sleeves.

2. Punch a hole in the upper-left and lower-left corners of each page. These holes are where you will thread the

twine to secure the sleeves together.

3. Decide which sleeve will be your cover and glue the sleeve shut. Embellish the sleeves with the Mica Flakes, Mini Prills and Mica d’Lights. Use the pink ribbon to secure the bird embellishment to the front cover and then glue the rose below the bird. Let the glue dry. Add the green crystals to the sleeves.
4. Thread the twine through the holes in the sleeves to secure them together. Place the canvas brads in the top and bottom holes on the front cover. Tie a knot in each twine end. Attach a pink crystal over each brad.
5. Curl the wire tails of the beaded leaf embellishment, and then secure a green-glass pearl on the ends of the wire. Wrap the wire tails of the beaded leaf embellishment around the top brad.
6. Make the four inserts by cutting a slightly smaller sleeve shape from scrapbook paper. Embellish the inserts with additional scrapbook papers, green crystals and Tiny Text sentiment stickers. Glue the 1 ½-inch photographs to the embellished scrapbook page. Let the glue dry

# Birds & Butterflies Shadowbox

by Theresa Cifali



When I think of **Spring**, lush green grass, birds, butterflies, picket fences and gardens come to mind.

This springtime shadow box embodies all of those elements and makes a wonderful home décor piece. What reminds you

of **Spring**?

## Materials:

7 Gypsies® Solo Shadowbox Tray-White  
Darice®, Craftwood, Unpainted Plywood Fence, 3-piece set (2)  
Aleene's® Fast Grab™ Tacky Glue  
K&Company™/MC , Grand Adhesions®/MD Dimensional Stickers, SW Botanical Butterflies  
K&Company™/MC , Grand Adhesions®/MD Dimensional Stickers, SW Botanical Blue Floral  
[KOOL TAK™ Foam, 1/4"x1/4"x 1/16"](#)  
Ashland™, Nature Center™, Bird #309953  
Ashland™, Nature Center™, Birds #128788  
Burlap  
Spanish Moss  
Acrylic paint, pale yellow

Tools: Scissors, Acrylic paint brush

## Instructions:

1. Remove two pieces of the unpainted, plywood fence from the packaging and paint them pale yellow. Let dry. Paint a second coat. Set aside to dry.
2. Take the shadowbox tray and turn it so that the large section of this tray is at the bottom.
3. Cut a piece of burlap 5 7/8 by x 3-inches, and then cut a wavy pattern across one of the long edges.
4. Adhere the burlap to the large section of the tray with Aleene's® Fast Grab™ Tacky Glue.
5. Add more Tacky Glue to the bottom inch of the burlap and to the bottom lip of the tray. Be sure to spread the glue around.
6. Pull some of the Spanish moss from the packaging and stick it to the Tacky Glue.
7. Add Tacky Glue to each of the three small sections of the shadowbox tray,

and then press some Spanish moss into the glue. Let dry.

8. Next, arrange some of the K&Company™/MC , Grand Adhesions®/MD SW Botanical Blue Floral stickers in the large section of the shadowbox tray above the Spanish moss so that they partially cover the leftover white area, as well as overlap the burlap.
9. Apply the larger floral stickers and then place smaller stickers on top of the larger stickers in order to build dimension.
10. Select three medium size butterflies from K&Company™/MC , Grand Adhesions®/MD Dimensional Stickers, SW Botanical Butterflies.
11. For extra support, add some Tacky Glue to the back side of one butterfly and then press it into one of the smaller sections of the shadowbox tray.
12. Repeat the process with the remaining two butterflies.
13. Use the foam squares to attach the fence pieces to the outside edge of the shadowbox.
14. Place more of the blue floral stickers to the bottom of the fence.
15. Next, add some of the smaller butterfly stickers on top of the blue floral stickers that are already placed in the larger shadowbox tray.
16. Press the larger bird onto the top, left side of the fence so that the pickets pierce the bird.
17. Remove the bird, squeeze a small amount of Tacky Glue into the pierce marks and then reattach the bird on top of the fence.
18. Finally, take two of the smaller birds, bend the wires that are attached and embed them into the Spanish moss near the right side of the fence.

# Floral Memo Board

by Lisa Rojas



Tools: Sizzix® Big Shot™ machine, Sizzix® Clay Pot 3-D by Eileen Hull, Sizzix® Window Box by Eileen Hull, Sizzix® Sizzlits™ Decorative Strip die by Eileen Hull, Glue gun

## Instructions:

1. Cover the canvas with pattern paper using Zip Dry glue. Run the mat board with the window box and flower pot diecuts through the Big Shot machine. Adhere the purple cardstock to the windowpane and the top of the flowerpot.
2. Adhere the pattern paper to the box part of the window and flower pot. Cut the matboard pieces out. Assemble both diecuts, following the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Stamp the images on the window box with the grape inkpads, and then ink all of the edges. Next, ink the edges of the flowerpot with the mermaid inkpads. Use the glue gun to secure the window box and flower pot to the canvas.
4. Wrap floral tape around both of the pens. Attach the stickers to the end of the pens. Place the blue confetti and pens inside the flowerpot.
5. Run the green cardstock with ivy diecut through the Big Shot. Stick the cardstock to the canvas with Zip Dry. Glue the flower stickers to the canvas, using the picture for placement, if needed.
6. With the glue gun, paste white trim around edge of the canvas and rose trim to the top of clay pot. Make a bow and hanger with lavender ribbon and adhere to the canvas.

You know, we all come to a point in our lives when we begin to forget the little things that we need to do. With my busy schedule, I am always writing myself little memos so I do not forget anything. With that in mind, I created a very pretty memo board that will hold my Post-It notes and pens all in one place. For this project, I wanted to use my friend, Eileen Hull's new diecuts from Sizzix, but I wanted to use them in a different way than they would normally be used. I really love this new line of diecuts from Eileen and I know that you are going to want to run out right away to purchase the whole collection. However, you will have to be patient. Sizzix will be releasing Eileen's new collection of diecuts called "Picket Fence" in June 2013.

## Materials:

Canvas, 8"x10"

Pattern paper

Cardstock: green, purple and lavender

Matboard

[Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry Paper Glue™](#)

Just Rite® Clear Grand Sentiments rubber stamp set

Clearsnap ColorBox® Stylist and tips

Clearsnap ColorBox® dye inkpads- grape & mermaid

K & Company® Floral stickers and chipboard stickers

Mini rose trim

White trim

Floral tape

Paper confetti, blue

Lavender ribbon

Pens (2)

# Shabby Spring Card

by Carol Heppner



In this issue, we asked our Trending Thoughts designers where they find their inspiration for their work. My inspiration for this card comes from paint chips that some companies use to show how their paints work together. Yes, this layout uses a “paint chip” card for inspiration.

This card is a wonderful card for birthdays or Mother’s day too. If you are looking for a quick card with a lot of class, this one is for you.

## Materials:

Cardstock: White, 5” x 7” folded; blue/white floral, 5” x 4 ½”; blue/white, 1” x 2 ¾”; pink/white polka dot, 1” x 2 ¾”; green, 1” x 2 ¾”; pink, 1” x 2 ¾”; green/white polka dot, 1” x 2 ¾”  
Blue and green polka dot ribbon, ¼” x 5”  
Green paper heart, 2” x 3”  
Heart made from an old book page, 1 ½” x 2” (2)  
Pink paper flower  
Flat-backed crystals: Pink, green (4)

Tools: Paper cutter, scissors

## Instructions:

Glue the 1 by 2 ¾-inch pieces vertically to the bottom of the white-folded cardstock. Glue the blue and white floral cardstock to the top of the white-folded cardstock. Secure the ribbon over the end of the blue and white floral cardstock.

Attach the rose over the right side of the ribbon.

Glue the green heart to the left side of the blue and white floral cardstock. Glue the hearts made from an old book page together and then attach the hearts to the center of the green heart.

Place the three green crystals above the heart and one below the heart.

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# B is for Birdhouse

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by Theresa Cifali

I remember, way back when I was in middle school, building a handmade birdhouse in wood shop. That's right, I took wood shop! Even back then, I enjoyed working with tools. However, what I produced back then, well...it left a lot to be desired. I always found mitering a challenge. Plus, I am not too proud to admit it...it was kinda, sorta crooked. It certainly looked nothing like the decorative wooden birdhouses you can find in the craft stores these days. I just love them. You can find birdhouses in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, ranging in styles from very plain to extremely ornate. Whatever your preference, I highly recommend decorating one of your own.

In this particular project, I give tribute to the birdhouse as well as to spring. The soft pastel colors and mini birdhouse accompanied by cheerful flowers make this a wonderful mantle piece that can be enjoyed by all. You can make this project or select a different letter and change it up.

**Materials:**  
Paper mache letter, 8 1/2"x11 1/2"  
Woodline Works Corp., Sm. Birdhouse Double "A" Roof  
Scrapbook paper, patterned, assorted spring colors  
Cardstock, purple or solid coordinating color of your choice  
Plaid®, Mod Podge®, matte  
Aleene's® Fast Grab™ Tacky Glue  
Acrylic paint: purple, blue, green, white  
Buttons, pastel colors  
Embroidery thread, pastel colors  
[KOOL TAK™, Strips Variety Pack 1](#)  
[KOOL TAK Clear foam roll 3/16" x 1/16" thick](#)  
Glue stick

**Tools:** Foam brush, Acrylic paint brushes, flat; Scissors, Craft knife, Sizzix® Big Shot, Sizzix® Sizzlits Alphabet Set 12 Dies, Go Go Boots, Sizzix® Bigz™ Die Flower Layers & Leaves, Embroidery needle

#### Instructions:

1. With a foam brush, paint the edge of the paper mache "B" blue. Set aside to dry.
2. Paint the walls of the birdhouse purple, the roof white, the base green and the perch white, letting each section dry in-between. Give a second coat, if needed, and then set aside to dry.
3. Next, glue down one of the printed papers to the entire front of the paper mache "B" with Mod Podge® and then trim off the excess with a craft knife.
4. Next, tear pieces of coordinating printed paper and collage them over the base paper with Mod



5. With the Sizzix® Big Shot, cut out the letters for the words "is for" with the Go Go Boots die, lowercase letters.
6. Then cut out the word "BIRDHOUSE" with the same font in uppercase letters.
7. Use the Sizzix®, Bigz™ Flower Layers & Leaves die to cut an assortment of flowers in printed and solid color papers.
8. Once the paper mache "B" is completely dry, attach the painted birdhouse to the bottom, left corner with KOOL TAK™ strips.
9. With glue stick, glue down the words "is for" above the birdhouse and the word "BIRDHOUSE" across the bottom of the "B" and to the right of the birdhouse.
10. Finally, arrange the paper flowers and leaves on the surface of the "B" until you have a

design you like, being sure to layer the flowers.

11. Use glue stick to adhere the leaves and bottom flower to the surface. Attach the top flowers to the bottom with KOOL TAK™ foam from the roll.
12. Select buttons that will be used for the flower center and thread embroidery floss through the button holes with an embroidery needle. Tie the buttons off in a variety of ways, such as a bow or in a knot.
13. Attach the buttons to the center of the flowers with Tacky Glue.
14. Add other button elements to the front of the "B" with Tacky Glue.
15. Finally, bend up the petals of the top flowers to add some dimension.



This wall hanging is not only *easy* to make,  
but it's *fun* to look at as well.  
The bright, shimmery butterflies  
are a cheerful addition to the stained wood frames.  
Change it up by using different shapes or colors.

#### Materials:

Laser cut wood butterflies (3)  
Laser cut wood frames, square (2)  
Plaid®, Mod Podge®, matte  
Acrylic paint, pale orange, pale green, pale yellow  
Minwax® Wood Finish, Early American  
Glitter, ultra fine, orange, green and yellow  
Double-stick tape runner  
Photo paper

Tools: Foam brushes, Scissors, Computer, Hot glue gun, Extra glue sticks

#### Instructions:

1. Stain the square laser cut wood
2. Paint each butterfly a different color and then set aside to dry.
3. Once the butterflies are completely dry, brush on a thin layer of Mod Podge® with a foam brush and sprinkle with coordinating color glitter.
4. Print two pictures of your choice
5. Attach the photos to the back side of the frame with double-stick tape.
6. Lay out the elements so that the two frames are in-between the butterflies and so that the butterflies overlap the top corners of the frames.

frames with Early American stain. Set aside and let dry completely.

onto photo paper and then trim the photos to fit the frame opening.

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# Decoupage Flower Pot

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by Ann Butler



With spring right around the corner, I thought I would get out some of my clay pots and clean them off. Then, I decided they needed more than just a cleaning; they needed a whole new look. Decoupage is so quick and easy and a great way to give worn out things a new life.

#### Materials:

Clay Pot and Saucer, 4"

[Unity Stamp Company](#), 1" Leaves All

Over stamp set

[Beacon™ Fast Finish Decoupage](#)

Color Box® Archival Dye Ink, Tree Frog

Decorative Paper, 12" x 12" (1)

Acrylic Paint, Cream

#### Tools:

Paint brush, scissor, pot pattern

#### Instructions:

1. Paint the rim, inside and bottom of the clay pot. Let dry. Paint the saucer. Let dry.
2. Use the pattern to cut the decorative paper. Apply decoupage to the bottom of the pot and the 'wrong side' of the paper, then adhere and smooth out with your fingers. Let dry.
3. Apply decoupage on top of the paper and then smooth out with your fingers. Let dry.
4. Stamp leaf triangles around the rim of the pot.
5. Apply decoupage to the entire pot and saucer. Let dry. Repeat the application three or four times, letting the decoupage dry between coats.

[Click here for pattern](#)

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# Imagine Spring Sign

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by Carol Heppner

Invite *Spring* into your home with a fresh home décor project. This canvas project is unique because it uses spring-type clothespins as legs. The clothespins give the canvas a fun and unexpected look.

The canvas assemblage is quick and easy to make. Are you worried about having to paint the lettering on the canvas? Do not fret. Place alphabet stickers on the canvas before painting the canvas -- the stickers act as a resist.

The bead embellishment on the word “Imagine” came from the bridal department of my local A.C. Moore Arts and Craft Store. There are many great floral embellishments in the bridal departments, so make sure to visit that department when creating your home décor projects.



## Materials:

Alphabet stickers  
Craft paint: spring green, dark green  
Pearl Ex Powdered Pigments: Antique Bronze 660  
Ribbon, plaid ½” wide x 12 ½”  
Pink paper roses (3)  
Bead embellishment  
Wooden word “Imagine”  
Beaded embellishment  
Green flat-back 6mm crystals with adhesive backing (5)  
Bird embellishment  
Spring-type clothespins

Tools: Craft brush, terry-cloth washcloth, craft knife, glue, low-tack masking tape

## Instructions:

1. Use the alphabet stickers to spell out “Spring” on the upper-right side of the canvas. Burnish the stickers so they are secure on the canvas. Making sure they are secure will keep the paint from seeping under the stickers.
2. Paint the canvas with the spring-green paint and then randomly apply the dark green paint over the wet spring-green paint. While the paint is still wet, dab a clean terry cloth washcloth over the wet paint to give the canvas a mottled look. Let the

paint dry.

3. Remove the stickers from the canvas. Use a craft knife to scrape away any paint that has seeped under the stickers.
4. Glue the ribbon to the lower half of the canvas, making sure the ends of the ribbon are wrapped to the back of the canvas. Let the glue dry.
5. Glue the word “Imagine” to the lower-left side of the canvas. Make sure the tail of the “g” extends below the canvas. Glue the beaded embellishment and two roses onto the word, “Imagine”. Glue the last rose on the canvas at the end of the “e” in “Imagine”. Let the glue dry.
6. Apply the five crystals to the upper-left area of the painted canvas.
7. Position the spring-type clothespins to the back of the canvas with the low-tack masking tape. The clothespins work with the tail of the “g” to help the canvas stand. Once you are happy with the position of the clothespins, glue the clothespins in place. Let the glue dry.
8. Glue the bird embellishment over the “I” in the word “Imagine”.

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A

# Beautiful Birdcage

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by Lisa Rojas

I just love birdcages! They are so popular now and you can get them in a variety of styles and colors. When I first saw this birdcage in a craft store, my mind started seeing all of the different things I could do with it. I finally settled on something that is a little more elegant with the beautiful crystals and lace that I added to it. What type of birdcage would you create?

**Materials:**

Wire birdcage  
Jewelry wire  
Crystal candy bowl  
Flowers  
Ivy  
Ribbon, 2 1/2" wide, ivory  
Lace, ivory  
Doily, ivory  
Bird  
Ribbon, 1/8" wide, aqua  
Crimp tube beads, 2mm, silver  
Connie Crystal® Beads and Crystals  
Aleene's® Glass and Bead Glue  
Straight pin

**Tools:** Wire cutters, Glue gun

**Instructions:**

1. Cut the jewelry wire into two pieces that are 4 inches and 6 inches long. On the 6-inch wire, string crystals and beads, leaving a small loop at the top. Place crimp tubes on each end of the wire to hold the beads in place. For the 4-inch wire, string four small crystals onto the wire, leaving a small loop on each end and crimp tubes to hold the crystals on the wire.
2. On the large beaded wire, wrap a loop around a straight pin and push this pin into the bottom of the bird. Use a small dot of hot glue to hold everything in place.
3. Tie a small bow onto the smaller piece of wire and adhere to the top of the bird with hot glue. Add a small piece of ribbon to the top loop on the beaded wire and tie the bird to the top of the birdcage.
4. Turn a glass candy dish over and adhere the dish to the bottom of the birdcage with Aleene's® Glass and Bead glue. With the glue gun, adhere a small doily to the inside bottom of the birdcage, then add lace and trim around the bottom of the birdcage.
5. Wrap ivy around birdcage. Make a large bow, and then glue this bow and large flower to the top of the birdcage.



# Key Holder Frame

by Ann Butler



Turn a dollar store shadow box into a place to keep your keys. This cute little “Key Holder Frame” is perfect to place right beside the doorway so you will never forget your keys. I chose to use spring colors and might make several to change out with the seasons.

#### Materials:

Wood Framed Shadow Box, 7” x 9”

[Earth Safe Finishes™ Crackle](#)

Earth Safe Finishes™ Shimmer Opaque, white

Earth Safe Finishes™ Colorant, rose

Printed Cardstock, 5” x 7”

[Beacon™ 527 Multi-Use Glue](#)

Wood Knobs (3)

Cup Hooks, white (3)

Picture Hanging Hooks (if there are none on your shadow box).

#### Tools:

Paint brush, drill, plastic lid, ruler, hammer

#### Instructions:

1. Paint the inside and outside of shadow box with white shimmer. Let dry. Repeat, if needed.
2. Paint the wood knobs with white shimmer. Let dry. Re-

peat, if needed.

3. Apply the crackle according to manufacturer’s instructions to the frame top and edges.
4. Mix about a half dollar size amount of shimmer with one drop colorant onto plastic lid. You can always add more colorant for a deeper pink or more shimmer to lighten, if desired.
5. Paint the frame top and edges with shimmer over the crackle. Let dry.
6. Mark the top center of the shadow box on the inside, and then measure and mark two inches to the left and right. Drill small starter holes, and then screw in the cup hooks.
7. Mark the center bottom of the frame. Measure and place a pencil mark two-inches to the left and two-inches from the right of the pencil mark. Glue the knobs where marked. Let dry.
8. Glue the cardstock to the inside back.
9. If needed, mark and attach the picture hanging hooks.

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# Colorful Floral Centerpiece

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by Lisa Rojas



Everyone who knows me will tell you how much I love bright colors! Every time I see anything that has a lot of color, it makes me smile. This gorgeous centerpiece is a perfect example of that. Even as I was creating this centerpiece, I could not help myself from smiling. Beautiful colors always make me very happy and I know if you gave this centerpiece to someone you love, you will make them smile too! What could be better than that?

**Materials:**

Paper mache box

The Paper Studio® Pattern paper

The Paper Studio® La Petites 3-D stickers

Lace trim, white pearl

Floral foam

Spanish moss

Flowers

Butterfly

Small garden tools

[Beacon Adhesive® Zip Dry Paper Glue](#)

**Tools:** Glue gun

**Instructions:**

1. Cover the box and lid with pattern paper using Zip Dry. Glue the lace trim to both the box and lid.
2. Place floral foam inside the box and then glue in place. Add Spanish moss on top. Arrange flowers, garden tools and the butterfly in the box, as desired.
3. Glue the lid to back of the box. Apply a floral sticker strip to the bottom of the box.

# Spring Flight

by Carol Heppner

This card is dimensional, which creates beauty and interest. The flowing ribbon adds movement and excitement to the card, while the embossed texture of the bird adds richness. Yes, the card looks like it took a long time to make, but the die cut makes it a snap to create. This is the perfect spring card for every occasion.

#### Materials:

Cardstock: White, 5" x 7" folded; multi-colored pink, 5" x 7"; white, 5" x 5"; blue, 6" x 6" (2); yellow/pink 6" x 6"  
Blue and green polka dot ribbon, 1/4" x 5"  
Flat-backed crystals: Pink, blue (3)  
Glue

Tools: Sizzix® Bigz Die w/Bonus Textured Impressions - Bird #2, Sizzix® Bigz Die - Tattered Florals, Sizzix® Big Shot Machine, craft knife

#### Instructions:

1. Glue the multi-colored pink cardstock to the white folded the cardstock.
2. Use the Sizzix® Bigz Die w/Bonus Textured Impressions - Bird #2 die to cut and emboss the 5 by 5-inch white cardstock in order to create the bird. Use the craft knife to cut a slit on the bird where its wing meets its body. Glue the bird to the multi-colored pink cardstock. Glue a pink crystal to the eye of the bird.
3. Create three flowers with the Sizzix® Bigz Die - Tattered Florals die. Assemble the flowers and secure them to the upper-left side of the bird. Make sure part of the flower goes between the card base and the slit you made near the bird's wing. Glue a blue flat-backed crystal to the center of each flower.
4. Fold the ribbon in half and then attach it to the bird's beak. Secure the ends of the ribbon on the lower-left corner of the card.



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A  
Flower  
Grows

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by Carol Heppner

Spring is a time of rebirth and simplicity. It is a time to celebrate warmer weather. Although this quick card is created with Sizzix® Bigz Die - Tattered Florals, you can cut your own flower from paper or use a fabric flower on the card.

Materials:

Cardstock: White 5" x 7" (folded), dark pink 5" x 6", light pink 5" x 3", light blue 6" x 6", yellow/pink 3" x 3"  
Plaid ribbon, ¼"  
Flat-backed crystal, blue  
Glue

Tools: Scissors, Sizzix® Bigz Die - Tattered Florals, Sizzix® Big Shot Machine, rounded-barrel ink pen

Instructions:

1. Glue the light pink cardstock to the bottom of the white cardstock and then glue the dark pink cardstock to the top of the white cardstock. Glue the plaid ribbon where the light-pink and dark-pink cardstocks meet. Cut a 3-inch piece of the ribbon and place it vertically in the center of the card to use as the stem for the flower.
2. Cut out two large blue flowers and 1 yellow/pink flower with the Tattered Florals die. Place a large blue flower under the large yellow/pink flower and then glue them onto the card. Glue a small blue flower in the center of the yellow/pink flower. Glue the flat-backed crystal in the center of the small flower. Let the glue dry. Use the rounded-barrel ink pen to shape the flower petals so they have some dimension and will lift off the base of the card. Glue the flower to the top of the ribbon stem.
3. Cut two petals from the remaining blue flower and glue the petals to the stem of the flower.



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# The Unexpected Necklace

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by Ann Butler



While looking for some *different* surfaces on which to try my stamps, I found a package of wooden-domed pendants in my stash. I painted several and stamped away. I liked the results so much I created this *necklace*.

#### Materials:

[Unity Stamp Company](#) 2" Diamonds/Plaid stamp set

Color Box® Archival Dye Ink, mudslide

[Earth Safe Finishes™ Eco Epoxy](#)

Earth Safe Finishes™ Shimmer Opaque, white

Earth Safe Finishes™ Colorant, rose

Connie Crystal 8mm Faceted Crystal, brown

[DIY Bangles 1 ½" Pendant](#)

Darice Multi Strand Ribbon Necklace, brown

Jump Ring, silver

Head Pin, silver

#### Tools:

Paint brush, needle nose pliers, round nose pliers, toothpick, plastic cup, plastic lid

#### Instructions:

1. Mix about a quarter-size amount of shimmer with ½-drop colorant onto plastic lid. You can always add more colorant for a deeper pink or more shimmer to lighten, if desired.
2. Paint the front of the pendant with shimmer. Let dry. Paint back of pendant. Let dry. Repeat, if needed.
3. Ink up a square plaid stamp (if you do not use a block, the stamp will form easily with the dome shape) and stamp the pendant.
4. Mix eco epoxy in a plastic cup according to the directions on the package.

Use a paintbrush to apply the epoxy to the top of the pendant. Let dry completely (overnight is usually good, depending upon how thick you apply the epoxy).

5. Place a crystal onto the head pin, and then bend the head pin wire at 90 degrees. Trim any excess wire to ¼-inch. Grasp the end of the wire with round nose pliers and wrap the wire around back to the bead to form a loop.
6. Open a jump ring, place a pendant and crystal on this jump ring, and then close it. Thread this jump ring onto the ribbon necklace.

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# Hand-Painted Flowerpot

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by Theresa Cifali

I love planting fresh herbs and flowers in celebration of spring. Bringing even more joy is seeing nature's beauty in newly hand-painted flowerpots. Not only will these flowerpots look gorgeous in your home, but they will also make a wonderful gift for Mother's Day.

What I really love about this particular project is the chocolate-colored terra cotta flowerpot I found. The contrast of the paint against the chocolate, brown colored pot is just delicious! Check your local craft stores and garden centers to see if they carry this unique color. If not, any terra cotta pot will work just as well.

#### Materials:

Terra cotta flowerpot, chocolate  
DecoArt®, Patio Paint: Blue Bahama, Carnation Pink, Cloud White, Deep Buttercup, Summer Lilac, Sweet Pea

Tools: Acrylic paintbrushes, flat and liner in a range of sizes

#### Instructions:

1. With a flat brush, paint the rim of the saucer Blue Bahama. Set aside to dry.
2. With a smaller flat brush, paint the rim of the flowerpot Blue Bahama.
3. Next, use a medium sized liner brush and white paint to "stamp" five petals in the form of a flower. To do this, load the brush with paint and then touch the side of the bristles down onto the surface and lift back up.
4. Add white flowers around the entire rim of the flowerpot, leaving about 1 ¼-inch between each of them.
5. Build a design by adding more flowers in different colors and sizes. TIP: Use different size liner brushes to help you achieve different size flowers.
6. Once you have a floral design you like, add details like flower centers, squiggles, leaves, dots or whatever else you like.
7. Plant a flower or some fresh herbs in your hand-painted flowerpot.



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## Layered Floral Napkin Ring

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by Ann Butler for [Velcro® Brand](#)



Whip up these beautiful floral napkin rings for your next dinner party quickly and easily using Velcro® Brand One-Wrap® Tie Roll and some decorative papers. I use two sheets of

decorative paper for each napkin ring for the extra fullness, you can use one if desired. You can see how to create the layered flower in fabric with this [link](#).

### Materials for each:

[Velcro® Brand One-Wrap®](#): 5"

[Velcro® Brand 5/8" Clear Coins](#): (1)

Decorative Paper: 12" x 12" (2)

Brad

### Tools:

Sizzix® Big Shot, Sizzix® die: circles scallop #2, scissor, ruler, piercing tool

### Instructions:

1. Cut the paper into 4 by 4-inch pieces and then place 6 pieces onto the die over the larger scallop circle and the die cut using the big shot. Repeat this step until you have 18 pieces.
2. Pierce through the center of each of the circles and then place onto the circles on the brad. Close brad in the back.
3. Working from the top, fold and crumple each layer creating a flower; place Velcro® Clear Coin on the back of flower and attach it to the Velcro® One-Wrap. Wrap Velcro® One-Wrap into a circle to form napkin ring and then place the napkin inside the napkin ring.



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## Quick & Easy Tile Coasters

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by Ann Butler

Looking for a "Quick and Easy" gift to make that is also inexpensive? Then these coasters are perfect because you can make several sets in an evening. Pick out some great scrapbook papers and get started.

### Materials:

Ceramic tiles, 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" (4)

[Beacon™ Fast Finish Decoupage](#)

Decorative Paper, 12" x 12" (1)

Beacon™ Felt Glue

Felt, white (1)

Ribbon (optional)

### Tools:

Westcott Paper Trimmer, Westcott Scissor, foam paint brush, toothpick

### Instructions:

1. Cut four 4 by 4-inch squares from the decorative paper.
2. For each coaster, apply decoupage to the tile and to the back of the paper. Then, place paper on top of the tile, centering it to leave 1/8-inch of tile showing around the edge. Smooth the paper out with your fingers in order remove any air bubbles. Let dry completely.
3. Apply decoupage on top of the paper with the brush and then smooth out with your fingers. Make sure to smooth out all the way to the edges. Let dry and repeat three or four times.
4. Cut four pieces of 4 by 4-inch felt. With felt glue, apply the felt piece to the bottom of the tile. Repeat for all four coasters.
5. Optionally tie with ribbon the set of four coasters.

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A  
Spring  
Pencil Holder

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by Carol Heppner



A recycled jelly jar and vintage lace are married with a picket fence to bring springtime to your desk. This fun spring project will bring a smile to your face.

This is a great way to use older bracelets to hide the threaded tops of the jelly jar. If the bracelet is not long enough to fit the circumference of the jar, just use a pretty ribbon to attach the ends.

Instructions:

1. Measure the pickets of the fence and then cut the pink and blue scrapbooking papers to fit the pickets. Glue the cut papers to the pickets.
2. Use the craft brush to apply the glue to the outside of the jelly jar and then apply the pages from an old book over the glue. Let the glue dry. Glue the vintage lace over the book pages and then let the glue dry.
3. If your picket fence has a base, the jar will not fit on the entire base. This means that the jar will be uneven. You will have to cut and then glue a craft stick to go under the side of the jar that does not fit on the fence base.
4. Attach the bracelets to the top of the jelly jar.
5. Use the ribbon to tie the jar to the picket fence. Glue the paper flowers over the ribbon bow.
6. Fill the jar with pens and pencils.

Materials:  
Miniature wooden picket fence  
My Mind's Eye™ Scrapbooking paper, Lost & Found Item 3MAR6x6: pink, blue  
Craft glue  
Off-white paper roses (3)  
Jelly jar  
Pages from an old book  
Vintage lace  
Bracelets (2)  
Craft stick

Tools: Scissors, craft brush

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# Beaded-Lid Jar

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by Carol Heppner



This easy project is a great way to add a little glamour into your life without breaking the bank. You can fill the jar with many different items for your home or as a gift. Fill the jar with mints and place it on an office desk. Or, fill it with assorted buttons or other craft goodies for the crafterista in your life. You can even fill the jar with Epsom salt and a few drops of your favorite Essential oils to make a wonderful gift for the bath.

#### Materials:

Jar with lid

Green ribbon

Glass pearls\*: green (14 large, six medium), pink (9 medium)

\*Each lid will require a different number of beads, so adjust these instructions to fit your jar's needs.

Glue

Wire, 22 gauge

Tools: wire cutters, quart-size

#### Instructions:

1. Glue the ribbon to the side of the lid. All lids have different widths, so you will need to match the width of your ribbon to the width of the lid.
2. Create the first pearl circle\* with the large green pearls. Cut a piece of wire to measure seven inches. Thread 14 large green pearls onto the wire and then bring the two end beads together to form a circle. Twist the wire ends together to secure the beads in place.
3. Create a second pearl circle with eight pink pearls and a third pearl circle with five medium glass pearls following the instructions in step 2.
4. Glue the large green pearl circle and then the pink pearl circle to the lid. Glue the medium green pearl circle to the top of the pink pearl circle and then glue one pink pearl to fill the empty hole in the center of the medium green pearl circle.
5. Fill the jar with goodies and close the lid.

## Spring is Blooming! Watering Can

by Lisa Rojas



Out of all of the seasons, spring is my favorite for creating projects. When I went to CHA in January, I saw my friend, Eileen Hull and her new collection of dies for Sizzix. I flipped out! Immediately, I knew that I had to create some projects with these diecuts for the spring issue of Bella Crafts Quarterly. This watering can is just one of many new dies from Eileen that Sizzix will release in June 2013. Believe me, they are worth the wait!

**Materials:**  
Clearsnap ColorBox® Dye inkpad, artichoke  
Floral foam  
Wood base  
Spanish moss  
Flower Soft®: autumn, spring, nut brown  
Flower Soft® white glue  
Flower Soft® Paper Flowers  
Acrylic paint, pink  
Wire, 24 gauge, green  
Spray adhesive

Pattern paper  
Mat board  
Butterfly  
Foam tape

**Tools:** Sizzix Big Shot®, Sizzix® Watering Can 3-D by Eileen Hull, Sizzix® Phrase, Bloom & Plant Markers by Eileen Hull, Glue gun

### Instructions:

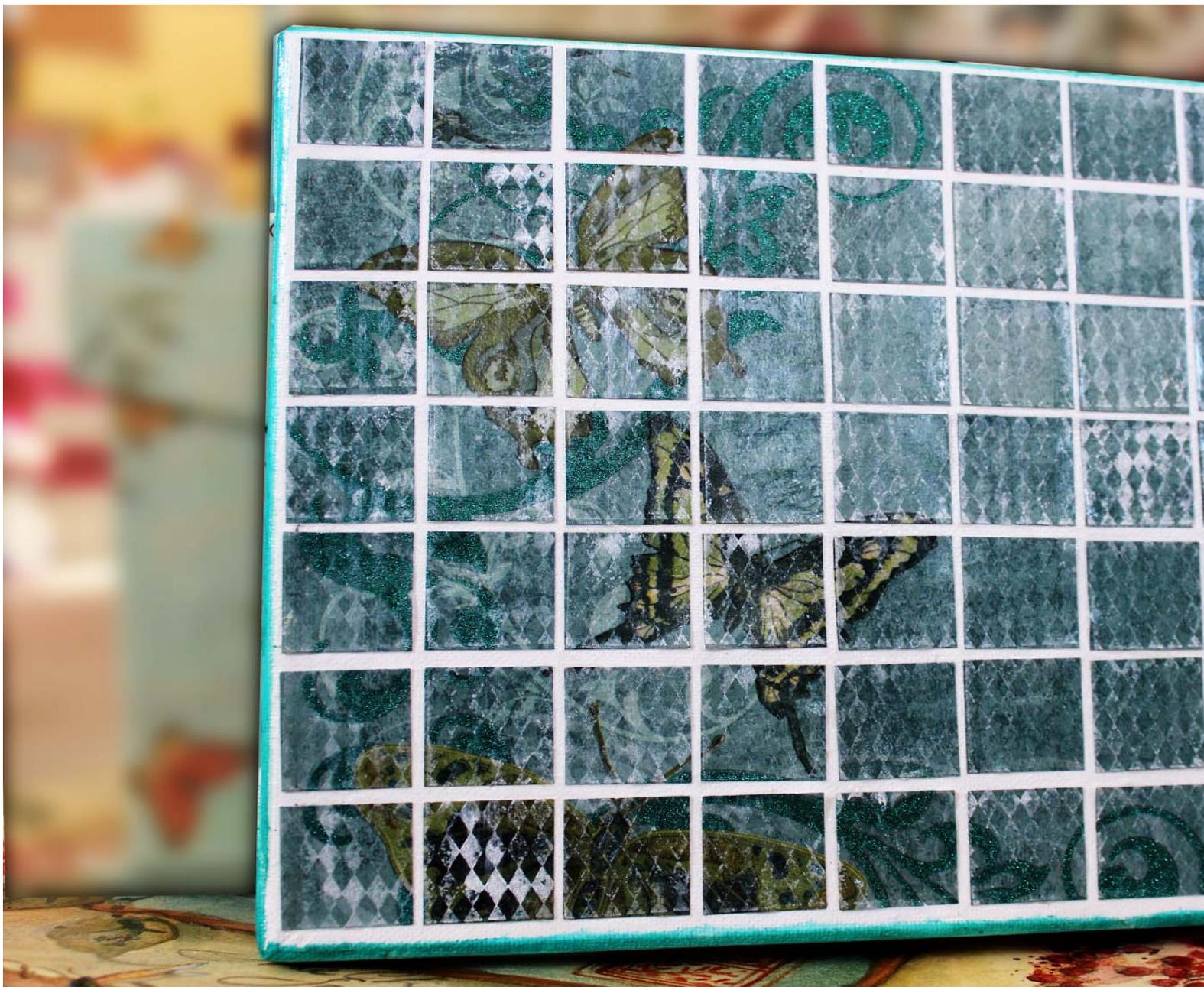
1. Paint the wood base with pink paint. Adhere the pattern paper to the mat board with spray adhesive. Run the mat board through the Big Shot with the watering can diecut. Assemble the watering can. Ink the edges of the watering can with the artichoke inkpad.
2. Punch out paper flowers and assemble them with foam tape, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Attach Flower Soft® to the center of the flowers with white glue. Use the glue gun to adhere the wire to the back of flowers.
3. Cover the wood base with floral foam and Spanish moss. Add a small piece of floral foam inside the watering can. Place Spanish moss inside and flowers inside the watering can.
4. Add the ivy to the wood base, and then arrange more flowers and butterflies on the base. Glue the large butterfly to the front of the watering can and then glue the watering can to the base.
5. Run the mat board with the "bloom" diecut through the Big Shot machine. Secure the wire to "bloom" word. Place this word into the base.

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# Mosaic Scrapbook Canvas

by Ann Butler

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Last summer I discovered a new tool by KellyCraft™ Innovations called the Get-It-Straight™ Laser Square . This is an easy alignment tool that works amazing. It has a laser beam built right into it which you are able to move along the 12” ruler at the top. You place the laser beam exactly where you want on your project and the laser shoots across your project so you are able to line everything up easily and quickly.

For this project I was applying the squares right onto the canvas so I added height to my laser square with some acrylic stamping blocks (but you could use books or anything the same height as my canvas) so the beam would go right across the canvas for easy alignment of my squares. It also works great for aligning buttons, brands, ribbons, handwriting, quilting, lettering, matting and so much more. You can check out this great new tool at [www.kellycraftinnovations.com](http://www.kellycraftinnovations.com).



There are so many beautiful decorative scrapbooking papers on the market these days it is a shame to hide them all away inside photo albums. This is why I tend to use decorative papers for things that are to be displayed. For this project you will want a decorative paper with a noticeable design. With a light background paper use a medium colored ink that coordinates well with the paper, for a medium to darker background (as I used here) use a light colored ink.

**Materials:**

[Unity Stamp Company](#), 1" Diamonds & Plaid stamp set  
 Color Box® Crafter's Ink: snow, sweet pea  
 Beacon™ Fast Finish Decoupage  
 Primed Canvas, 8" x 10"  
 Decorative Paper, 12" x 12" (1)

**Tools:**

[KellyCraft Get-It-Straight Laser Square](#), Westcott Paper Trimmer, old paint brush, 2 – 4 blocks the height of canvas, 12" x 12" tray, hot gun

**Instructions:**

1. Cut the paper to 7 by 9-inches (being sure to keep in mind the area you want to use for your mosaic) and then cut this into seven 1 by 9-inch strips. Be sure to keep these in the correct order. Cut each strip into nine 1-inch squares. Lay each strip out onto the tray keeping them in order.
2. Stamp the diamond pattern onto each square with the snow ink -- this will help give dimension. Some squares have more ink than the others.
3. Put the laser square onto the blocks and place the canvas in the corner (see photo). Evenly space all of the mosaic pieces onto the canvas using the laser square as a guide. Apply the decoupage to the back of each 1-inch square using an old paint brush. Add a small amount of the decoupage to the canvas and place the squares to the canvas. Let dry.
4. Stamp around edges of canvas with the 1-inch plaid-pattern stamp and sweet-pea ink. Apply the ink directly to the edges of the canvas. Heat set the entire canvas.
5. Apply the decoupage on the top of the squares with the paint brush. Let dry. Repeat twice.



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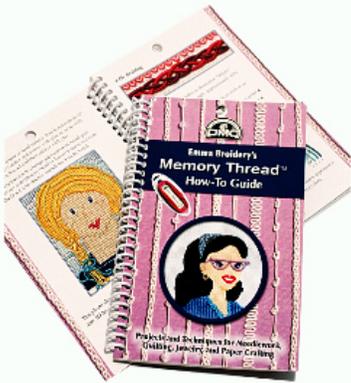
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