

Bella Crafts Quarterly™

Your Inspiration for a Creative Life!™

Mark Montano Artist to Artist

In this issue

How to Create Faux Opals
Quick & Easy Washer Necklace
Make a Fence Frame
Create a Beautiful Welcome Basket
Glam Leather Bracelet
...and so much more!

Learn. Make. Share.

BellaCraftsQuarterly.com

Winter 2014



Bella Crafts CONNECTIONS™

a Consumer Craft Retreat at the

Mall of America

September 24, 2015 through September 27, 2015



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Winter 2014

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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.

Duetica

Bella Crafts Quarterly™ thanks [Duetica](#) for the use of their beautiful fonts in our publication. Be sure to check their AD on the back cover of this issue.

Many of the products used in Bella Crafts Quarterly™ are from companies with which we have a professional relationship. Some of the companies have paid ads in this magazine in the way of advertisements, sponsored projects and clickable links. If you are interested in advertising with us, contact Ann at: Ann@BellaCraftsQuarterly.com

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Bella Crafts Quarterly™

Publishers



Ann Butler:

Editor/Director of Marketing

Ann is a licensed artist, author, instructor and consultant for the creative industries. Her designs appear in multi-authored books, magazines, booklets, manufacturer tradeshow booths and websites.

She has been teaching workshops locally and internationally for the past 20+ years and currently teaches online classes at Creative Workshops. She regularly is a guest artist on TV and Web TV Shows. Inspiring others through teaching is one of Ann's favorite things to do.



Lisa Rojas:

Editor/Director of Communications

Lisa 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 had hundreds of designs published to date. Lisa works with many manufacturers, using their products in her work, product development, teaching classes and workshops at tradeshow.



Theresa Cifali:

Editor/Director of Social Media

Theresa has nearly 20 years of experience working in the craft industry as a professional designer. Her work appears in books, magazines, trade show booths and websites.

Theresa is also well-versed in social media and emerging digital platforms. Her articles can be found on numerous websites and in trade magazines. She consults creative businesses on best practices in social media, provides management services and teaches social strategy.

The image shows a screenshot of the Bella Crafts Quarterly website. At the top, it says "Visit the Bella Blog". Below that, there's a navigation bar with links like Home, About, Info, Contact Us, Advertise, and Free. The main content area features a "10 Craft Blogs Worth Following" section with a list of blogs and a "FREE Resource Guide" offer. The resource guide is described as a "Your #1 Resource for finding places to sell your crafts online and offline!". There are also social media links and a "Get My Copy" button. The bottom of the page has a decorative graphic of overlapping circles.

Washer Necklace



Jewelry making does not have to be complicated. This washer necklace is super simple to create and even more fun to wear. The design possibilities are endless.

Materials:

- ◆ Darice® Hemp, Bright Colors
- ◆ Crafter's Workshop, Chevron stencil
- ◆ [3M™](#) Repositionable 75 Spray Adhesive
- ◆ [Delta Ceramcoat® Select](#), African Lily
- ◆ Washer 5/16" x 1 1/4"
- ◆ Ultrafine glitter

Tools: Scissors, acrylic paint brush, paper plate

Instructions:

1. Spray the back of the stencil with a light coat of the repositionable adhesive. Lay the stencil on top of the washer. Press firmly.
2. Paint a thick layer of paint across the stencil. Then, sprinkle with glitter. Let sit for 2 minutes, then, carefully peel off the stencil. Allow the paint to dry completely.
3. Cut a piece of hemp long enough so that you will be able to put it over your head once it is knotted.
4. Once the paint on the washer is completely dry, attach the cord by folding it in half and inserting the loop side into the washer hole. Then pull the two open ends over the top of the washer and insert them into the loop. Pull to tighten and then, knot the ends.

Why is it that when we get really busy,
the things we love to do most are
the first to go?

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Bella Columnists



[Julie McGuffee](#) is a crafter, an award winning designer, consultant and product developer. She has been professionally involved in the Arts & Crafts industry for almost 20 years. Julie has over 50 "How To" craft books as well as feature columns in national and international magazines. For the past 14 years she has been a host on

Scrapbook Memories (now Scrapbook Soup), a TV show which airs on Public Television stations nationwide.



[Helen Bradley](#) is an artist and lifestyle journalist who divides her time between the real and digital worlds, picking the best from both. She writes about Illustrator, Photoshop, Lightroom and digital photography for magazines and online providers world-wide. She has written four books on photo crafts and currently produces video training for [Skillfeed.com](#) and for her blogs at [Projectwoman.com](#). Helen owns more cameras

than she is willing to admit to, including a point and shoot converted to capture infra-red, a pinhole camera, a refurbished Polaroid land camera and her Pentax d-SLR.



[Courtney Chambers](#) is your average 16 year old girl with a passion for crafting and DIY. She loves transforming boring things into fabulous creations. Ever since she was a little girl she's loved to get crafty! Nowadays she enjoys creating DIY projects, such as decor for her room. She blogs alongside her best friend, Tanner Bell. Together they own [A Little Craft In Your Day](#), a website where they share DIY projects for teens and strive to inspire people of all ages to incorporate a little crafting into their day, every day!



[Tanner Bell](#) is one of the teen faces behind [A Little Craft In Your Day](#), a DIY Teen demographic blog, run by himself and his partner Courtney Chambers. He has been in the craft industry for 5 years doing a little of everything from video content, blogging, designing, consulting,

the list goes on! Tanner is very unique with his young age, personality, and him being a male in a mostly women industry. When Tanner isn't crafting, he finds himself by the pool, spending time with family, or just hanging with friends. Tanner gets inspired from simple day-to-day life and other creations! He hopes to become a spokesperson for a company one day.



[Ken Oliver](#) studied art and design in college, ultimately he followed a career path in sales and marketing that literally took him around the world working with clients and factories in Asia, Europe, Canada and the United States. His experience in sales, marketing and product development actually led him back to the arts and crafts industry. Ken is an

accomplished artist who specializes in watercolor, paper crafting, altered art, mixed media, book binding, craft projects and teaches workshops and classes worldwide. Ken makes his home in Southern Indiana on the banks of the Ohio River.



[Lisa Fulmer](#) is an artist, crafter, teacher, writer, on-air talent, as well as a marketing consultant. She has worked in the craft industry for many years and is an active member of the Craft & Hobby Association. Lisa designs projects and video tutorials for manufacturers and works regularly with the high-traffic craft websites such as Cool2Craft, FaveCrafts and

CraftFoxes. She volunteers for her local art organizations and writes a weekly news blog column about the creative scene where she lives in Concord, California. Her brand new book, *Craft Your Stash*, is available now!



[Susan Weckesser](#) is the founder and owner of Susan K. Weckesser Inc. She has been teaching, selling crafts and painting for twenty-eight years. Susan has designed paper lines, fabric, stamps sets, and stencils. She is a freelance writer/designer, editor, photographer, and poet. Her work has been published in a

variety of magazines. She is also a children's literature writer and illustrator. Susan attended the University of Alberta where she took the Bachelor of Arts program. She is a certified educator with Ice Resin, Ranger Ink, Premium Craft Brands/PanPastels, Helmar and a designer member of CHA. Susan has been married for twenty-four years and has four wonderful children, two feline friends & four gerbils. She lives in Alberta, Canada and has even been known to skydive just to say she did it!



[Tiffany Windsor](#) is a Craft TV Host, Designer, Author, Product Developer, Keynote Speaker. As the daughter of Aleene Jackson, America's beloved "Mother of Crafting" and inventor of Aleene's Tacky Glue, Tiffany's first love is expressing herself creatively. Tiffany is best known as

the founder of the Cool2Craft Network featuring the popular online Cool2Craft TV show and as producer/host of Aleene's Creative Living Television show. Tiffany has made regular appearances on QVC and HSN and has authored numerous books. Her extensive consulting experience covers all facets of the craft industry including design, product development, manufacturing, retail, publishing, packaging, consumer education, video production, TV production and more. Tiffany is also an active member of the Craft & Hobby Association.

Notes



We are building a
Crafting Community
on Facebook.

Join the movement!

[Join Now](#)

A promotional graphic for 'Bella Crafts CONNECTIONS™'. The text at the top reads 'Bella Crafts CONNECTIONS™ a Consumer Craft Retreat at the Mall of America' and 'September 24, 2015 through September 27, 2015'. Below the text are three photographs showing different areas of the event space: a lounge area with orange armchairs, a dining area with red round tables, and a meeting area with a long table and chairs. At the bottom right, there is a yellow button with the text 'Get Updates'.

#HASHTAG

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram... if there are hashtags, make sure to search for our personalized hashtag to keep up to date on Bella Crafts Quarterly news.



#BellaCraftsQ

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Advertising is important to a company's growth. **Small businesses, like yours, need an affordable way to get their products seen beyond the company's regular social reach.** Consumers cannot buy your products if they do not know you exist.

Because we understand the needs of the small business owner, we created a special place in our magazine just for small businesses. It is called *Connections*.

Connections is an affordable way for you to advertise and get your company seen by tens of thousands of readers who have the potential to buy. *Connections* is an attractive flat-fee-per-issue advertisement for small businesses. There are no hidden costs.

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Bella Crafts Quarterly averages over 120,000 downloads per issue. The *Connections* ad is a great way for your company or product to be seen by potential consumers.

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Trending Thoughts™

with [Julie McGuffee](#)

Spring 2015...So, what will we see trending in 2015? Which fads, if any, will have the staying power to become trends for next year and beyond? It's always the million dollar question for retailers, because frankly, it's all over the map. For the smaller stores, it's a question of knowing your customer while the big box stores have the resources to cover anything and everything that could be deemed as being trendy. Their success or failure will ultimately be decided on how their merchandise is displayed. Even the most awful looking item in the most hideous colors can become an instant winner when featured in an appealing setting.

In the arts & crafts industry, keeping up with the trends in jewelry, accessories, home dec, fabrics, popular images, etc is of the utmost importance. Customers are inspired to make what they see in magazines, on popular TV shows and in their Pinterest searches, so buyers must not only be aware of what may be coming, they also have the power to determine what their customers make by the supplies they purchase from both their domestic and international vendors. So where do the vendors find their inspiration, you may wonder? Who is leading the way and where does their inspiration come from.

For the most part, retailers rely on what is being sold at gift markets whereas designers have to be constantly on the lookout through magazines, catalogs and popular internet sites. DIY and home decorating shows on TV probably have the most impact when it comes to Home Dec, whereas you can identify the latest jewelry trends by noticing the type of jewelry popular TV show hosts are wearing. Have you noticed that they're definitely rocking large chunky jewelry collars this year?

Chalkboard, cork, metal, wood and canvas surfaces, plus tons of natural elements like bark and burlap, are still hot as we leave 2014 behind and will continue into 2015 with a possible introduction of denim as both a textured surface and color. Letters in all sizes, sayings on all kinds of wood surfaces: pallet wood, rustic, painted, distressed, natural, chalkboard finish, etc. are here to stay, together with chevron, moroccan, quatrefoil, argyle, trellis and fleur de lis patterns. If you want to know which are the most

popular, look for designs featured on throw rugs, pillows and wall accents on internet sites like Wayfair and Joss & Main and on scrapbook paper.



Large, Burlap covered letters displayed prominently in a local craft store.



Chalkboard remains hot, as both a blank canvas and pre-lettered sign.



Popular patterns seen on ceramic



and wood surfaces

Now that chalk paint has become even more accessible, upcycling old furniture items will continue to grow and glass etching is making a comeback as a way to customize pieces for celebrations, weddings and gift giving. Mason jars have become a staple decorative item, so be on the lookout for a new color next year.

“Day of the Dead” themed merchandise grew rapidly this year and with the popularity of the movie, “*The Book of Life*”, next year will see even more growth in items for this cultural celebration.

The Craft & Hobby Association (CHA) show is coming up at the beginning of January, so it will be interesting to see what the manufacturers have in store for us for 2015. Owls, foxes, tattoo art? Who knows? But check out our next issue and you’ll know for sure!

Here’s wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season and a blessed and prosperous New Year!

Yours truly,
Julie

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product
in front of
craft
consumers.**

for more information contact
Ann@bellacraftsquarterly.com



21 Social Media Conversation Starters

I have a special treat for you in this edition of Socially Sensible. Leading social media expert, [Kim Garst](#) is sharing her wisdom with us! I have personally worked with Kim and have learned so much from her. She is a wealth of information and is one of the most generous people I know. So, read carefully...

Do you need a social media jump start? Are your posts falling flat, or are you struggling to come up with new and interesting things to say?

Following are 21 social media conversation starters you can use to get your fans and followers to start talking!

1. **Request feedback**

Ask for feedback on your products, services or website. Example: "Are there any products you wish we would carry?"

2. **Be funny**

Jokes, memes, funny stories and humorous videos all grab attention and encourage your followers to be part of the conversation.

3. **Give the inside scoop**

Your fans will appreciate being let in on a little-known fact or a behind-the-scenes story. Example: "Did you know that our CEO recently learned to ride a bike...at the age of 53!"

4. **Share a personal story**

Showing your personal side is one of the best ways to get people to share their own personal experiences!

5. **Cite an industry statistic**

Sharing a relevant statistic shows you're on top of the latest research in your niche; and these types of posts

are great for getting shares and retweets.

6. **An unexpected photo**

Funny, controversial or unexpected images are great for getting likes, comments, shares and retweets. Just be careful not to cross the line: think unexpected, NOT crude!

7. **A quote**

Funny, inspirational, and motivational all work well to illicit comments and shares. This is especially true for image quotes.

8. **Breaking news**

Keep in mind that you may be the only business or person in your industry that some of your fans are following. Share breaking industry news as it happens.

9. **Polls or surveys**

Asking your fans to participate in a survey or poll not only gets them talking, it gets them invested in finding out the results. This is great for getting people to contribute their answer, and then coming back to see what others have to say.

10. **Your opinion on a topic**

Your fans and followers love knowing you're a real person with real opinions. Share your opinion on a hot topic, and ask your fans to share theirs.

11. **Share a blog comment**

Sharing a particularly interesting or controversial blog comment can really get a conversation going. Bonus: It can also mean increased traffic to your blog!

12. **'What would you do' questions**

Share an experience and then ask your followers what they would do in that situation.

13. Share a relevant infographic

Your audience will not only love industry infographics, but will love to share them with THEIR audience as well!

14. Request help for a fan or follower

If you have received a particularly interesting question from a fan, why not crowdsource it and ask your audience for help? Example: “One of our fans has a question: What’s the best way to wash a cast iron pan?”.

15. Before and after pictures

People LOVE before and after pictures. Share your own, or ask your fans to contribute theirs.

16. Ask for a recommendation

Give your fans a chance to recommend a favorite product or service provider. Example: “I’m looking for someone to help with my website redesign...any suggestions?”.

17. A useful tip

Share a tip you’ve learned that your audience would

find useful. Example: “Did you know the best way to increase engagement on Facebook is through images?”.

18. Fill in the blank

An oldie but a goodie. Make a statement but let your fans fill in the blank. Example: “My favorite free tool for keyword research is _____”.

19. Ask for help with a problem

Your followers will love helping you solve a problem by offering advice or opinions. Example: “Our restaurant is having trouble deciding on a new entrée for our menu. Any ideas?”.

20. Favorite memory

Share your own favorite memory, or ask your fans to share theirs!

21. Ask a random question

Believe it or not, some of my most popular posts and tweets have been when I asked a completely random question. Example: “Are you a morning person or a night owl?”.

[Kim Garst](#) is author of the forthcoming new book *Will the Real You Please Stand Up: Show Up, Be Authentic and Prosper in Social Media*, as well as *The Quick and Easy Guide to Branding Your Business and Creating Massive Sales with Pinterest*. Kim is a marketing strategist, speaker and the co-founder and CEO of Boom! Social, a social “selling” consultancy agency that works with businesses of all sizes. Forbes has listed her as a Top 10 Social Media Woman Influencer and she has been featured by Fox News, CBS News, The Huffington Post, Business Week and Social Media Examiner .



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Lessons with Lisa

It's in the Details



with [Lisa Rojas](#)

Watercoloring with Inkpads

Designers, Crafters, Artists, whatever term you decide to call yourself (I prefer Designer) and others with the like-minded attitude towards creating things, one thing is for sure, we all have our own way of doing things. You could put 10 Designers in one room with the same exact supplies and you'll have 10 completely different projects! Why is that? It's because even though we might like the same things, we all have our own style, our own way of doing things.

For me, my style is the same as the title of my column; it's in the details. I love creating a project that has a lot of details, something that I can spend my time on. And that's why I love to watercolor my stamped images. While watercoloring does take more time than, let's say, simple stamping, you can achieve a depth that you can't get with other types of color mediums.

There are a few ways that I like to get a watercolor look on my projects. There are, of course, watercolor pencils, watercolors in pallets, watercolors in tubes, etc., but my favorite is to watercolor with inkpads. By using this method, I have found that I have much better control over how soft or vibrant I want my colors to be.

Another added plus to this method is that it's fairly simple to do, but the results are beautiful.



The tools you need are inkpads, a paintbrush, a small container of water, and an old cd. The type of inkpads are important. Although you can use a dye-based inkpad, I have learned if I want my colors to "pop," I use a pigment inkpad. Pigment inkpads are "juicier" than the dye-based inkpads. For my sample card project I used Ann Butler's Crafter's inkpads from Clearsnap®. These inkpads are simply the best because they're "juicier" than most pigment inkpads and the colors are stunning!

Now, let me explain how to use this method in your projects. Press the corner of the inkpad onto the cd so that the ink is now on the cd. You don't need a lot of ink because a little bit goes a long way. Next, dip the paintbrush in

the water then pick up the ink on the cd with the paintbrush. Apply the color to your stamped image. **Note:** Use a permanent inkpad to stamp your images so they won't run when you add water to the image. That's it!

By following these simple instructions, you will soon be on your way to creating beautiful projects! And if you do use this method, I would love to see the results. You can share them with me on our Facebook page or email me a photo at Lisa@bellacraftsquarterly.com. You just might see your project on our blog!



Five photo blunders and how to avoid them

What sets good photographers apart from the rest is understanding what not to do. This month, I'll explain five typical photographic mistakes and how to avoid them in the future.

Master the Flash

Faces in shadow, even when captured in full sunlight, is a mistake that's easy to make and to avoid. Bright sunlight fools the camera into thinking there's plenty of light around and there is – it's just not where you need it to be. In bright sunlight, either move your subject into the shade, or use the camera's flash to throw some extra light into your subject's face to light their features.

Kill the blur

One cause of blurry photos is camera movement. To avoid this, stand still, hold the camera in two hands close to you, breathe in, and exhale. Take the photo before inhaling and stay still for a couple of seconds after taking the shot.

Know when to use Macro

If your close ups are soft and out of focus, it's generally because the camera can't focus properly. If using a point and shoot camera, set it to macro (indicated by a flower) and it will focus within inches of your subject. Most dSLRs don't have a macro setting so you'll need a special macro lens or move back and zoom to get in close. Check the viewfinder as you press the shutter half way to make sure the subject is in focus. If not, move back and try again.

Photoshop is not Photography

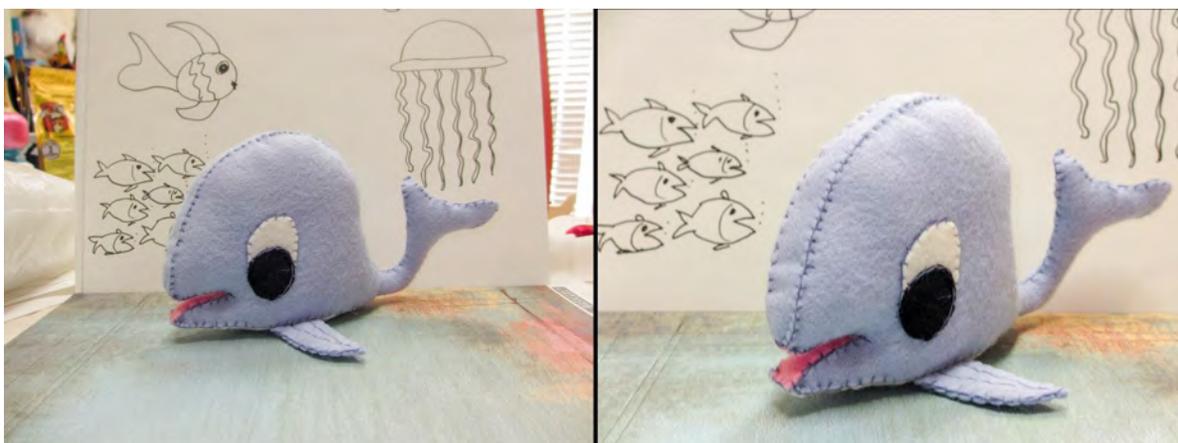
If you take photos with the attitude that you'll "fix them in Photoshop" you're unlikely to ever improve your photography skills. Instead, learn from good photographers who always try to get the picture right in the camera. To do this, identify what you'll be "fixing later in Photoshop" before you shoot and fix the problem now! Bad light, poor composition, messy backgrounds

and other issues can usually be solved by moving yourself or the subject - saving you hours of postproduction time.

Look Around and Behind the Subject

Photos that show a light pole coming out of someone's head or which have messy backgrounds are distracting and yet very easy to avoid. Instead of concentrating only on your subject, look behind them and around them. If there are distracting elements or if the background is messy, then move the subject or move yourself to avoid them.

So, always, before picking up the camera, take a look at the scene. Check the background, check the light, ask yourself if this is the best place to photograph from and, if not, move! Only when everything is looking good, pick up the camera and then check everything all over again.



Zooming in close using the camera's macro setting – as on the right - removes the messy background, sends the hand drawn background nicely out of focus and ensures the final image doesn't need "fixing" in Photoshop.



Mark Montano

tuxedo for his prom. Mark opened his first boutique in the East Village of New York City in his early 20's. He became the youngest member to be inducted into the Council of Fashion Designers of America....what an incredible honor!

When just working with fabric and designing wasn't enough Mark found himself with a niche as an interior designer. It all started with an editor position at CosmoGirl Magazine with an article he wrote monthly for 10 years called "Cool Room". That article turned into a book, and from the book, he landed on television. Over the last ten years, Mark has hosted and co-hosted 5 television shows, written 10 books and has worked hard to make a name for himself in the world of crafts and DIY.

Mark Montano is the author of 10 books and has starred in several television series. He started his career in fashion as an intern for Oscar de la Renta while attending FIT in New York City. After he graduated from FIT, he branched out with his own collection. The first store to carry his clothes was Patricia Field, the costume designer responsible for Sex in

the City!

Mark's passion for fashion started when he received a sewing machine for his 13th birthday, and the rest, as they say is history. He started out by simply designing shirts for himself and blouses for his mom, but that quickly progressed to cocktail dresses, sports coats and even his own

A: *What was your first experience with crafting?*

M: Grabbing the pen from my mother's hand and almost poking my eye out as a toddler.....I wore a patch for quite a while actually! After that it was sewing with my grandmother. She is the best!

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

M: I always knew. I have a book that my parents helped me fill out when I was 4 and it asked what do you want to be when you grow up? I said "artist" I'm pretty sure puppy was my 2nd choice.

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

M: Well, I've always sewn, so in high school my teachers would ask me to fix their clothes and pay me. That's when I knew that being creative was a viable option for a career.

A: *What inspired your first book?*

M: I was writing for Hearst Publications (a magazine called Cosmo Girl!) and I realized that my article would make a terrific book so I started hunting for publishers and Rizzoli actually published my first book. It's an accomplishment I am most proud of.

A: *You have 10 books out, which is AWESOME....do you have plans for another book? If so, when is it coming out?*

M: That I'm not sure of. With social media being so quick, I think publishing has turned a corner. I'm trying to figure out (with everyone else) what the next step is for me.

A: *Do you have a favorite craft technique?*

M: Great question.....NO. I fear I am addicted to almost everything creative except cooking.

A: I think that is true of many creative people!

A: *Describe your studio or crafting area...*

M: Probably my kitchen counter. I have an entire cottage just for crafting but I always end up in the kitchen for some reason.

A: *You have your own YouTube Channel, how often do you create new videos?*

M: I do have a YouTube Channel and I LOVE it! I make two videos per week and pour my heart and soul into them.

A: *Do you ever ask viewers what they want you to create for a video?*

M: I never have to ask.....They tell me!

A: *You also have a brand new Television Show on PBS which started this past fall...tell us a little about it...*

M: It is a do-it-yourself series called "Make Your Mark". I will have guest experts on the show and together we will create affordable, assessable, customizable yet stylish, projects for the whole family.

Each episode will explore a fun theme, from Halloween and Downtown Abbey to Fashion Week and more.

Be sure to check your local listing to see if it is available in your area.

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

M: Yes, never ever.....ever use a craft knife in your boxer shorts.....It's a dangerous situation! Long story, another time perhaps!

A: *And an interesting story I am sure!*

You can keep up with Mark on his [website](#) and follow him on his [YouTube Channel](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Bella
CRAFTS!
Google Hangouts
On Air
Join us...
Every Wednesday
1-4:30PM EST

SEW Everything™

with [Susan Weckesser](#)

The Joy of Fabric at Christmas

“I am certain that a Sewing Machine would relieve as much human suffering as a hundred Lunatic Asylums, and possibly a good deal more.”

— Margaret Atwood



There is something SO relaxing about picking up a piece of new or old pretty fabric and just doing something with it! Cutting it, stitching it, folding it, ironing it, gluing it, quilting it..... it relaxes my mind and puts a smile on my face. Often, it immediately transports me to another place, be it to my mother's sewing room where she often sewed teddy bears, dolls, and clothes, or to my Baba's or Grandmother's homes where they were always sewing, knitting, weaving or tatting, or even to my own home where through the years I have embraced the love of all things that deals with fabric. Now I love watching my own sons and daughters as they find their own creativeness as they explore in my studio.

‘Sewing Mends the Soul.’

The wonderful thing about using fabric with your projects is that there really aren't any 'rules' that you have to follow. How cool is that?! I remember when my mom used to sew and craft in the 70's and 80's; she was always worried about proper sewing and fabric etiquette. What colour went with what colour, what fabric type was suppose to go with what fabric type, the zippers, the threads, the buttons. We would be in a sewing stores for hours until she would be satisfied that everything matched and was "proper." I have to admit, but as a little girl I really wasn't that patient at times as I waited for my mother in the fabric stores! For 2014-2015, the sky is the limit for colours, textures, patterns and styles in fabrics. That is so exciting when you are not only a seamstress, but you are a quilter, a crafter, or even a mixed media artist. With the new Pantone 2015 colours, we are even seeing whites and lights in winter. I love that. Growing up, I always wanted to wear white and cream in Autumn & Winter, but I was always sternly corrected by my mother and my grandmother and told that that was just not done. Being the creative soul that I am, I truly didn't understand that!

‘Be proud to wear the colour that you call your own.’ – cheena mae oralde

Christmas & Fabric

So many ideas and so little time!

What can you do with fabric during the holidays?

Here are a few fun ideas.

- ◆ Use fabric to adorn tags, wrap gifts & cookie boxes, or cover homemade preserves.



- ◆ Create festive banners and garland.
- ◆ Sew homemade dolls, toys, softies, or teddy bears to give as gifts.



- ◆ Have fun crafting up some cute festive cards using some fabric embellishments.
- ◆ Create fabric envelopes.
- ◆ Sew up a quick, new party skirt.
- ◆ Quilt up a fun winter quilt to wrap yourself up in.



- ◆ Craft up some new whimsical ornaments. You can even do this together as a family.



- ◆ Use some new fabric and upcycle some old ornaments into some brand new ornaments for your tree or to give away to someone. Here is how:

What you need is:

- Old ornament
- good fast drying tacky glue
- fabric torn into 1/2" strips
- 5" piece of ribbon



Dab a bit of glue onto the ornament as needed and slowly wind the fabric around. Switch the colors as you go. Just have fun with it!

Have fun being creative and remember,
 Being Creative is not a Hobby,
 It is a Way of Life!
 Susan K. Weckesser
 Susan K. Weckesser Inc.

SOUL CREATIVE

HANDMADE FROM THE HEART with [Tiffany Windsor](#)

Holiday Handmade

Our creative family made the decision over 30 years ago to stop buying ready-made gifts for the holidays. Like many families, it became impossible to keep up with the ever-growing shopping list for four generations of family members. The first year that we invited all the family members to a full handmade holiday has left a lasting impression in my mind and in my heart. Growing up in a family business left us little time to actually create crafty things for ourselves or for our families. Creativity for us was all about creating Christmas in July because of deadlines for my Mom's publications and events.



This particular holiday, I was stunned to receive a precious hand-painted bell from Momma Aleene. This crafting icon rarely had the time to craft and this particular holiday we found out she had actually been sneaking out to take a porcelain painting class. For a woman who had a team of full time designers, a company of over 150 employees

and little time for anything but running a mega craft business, there was nothing that could have surprised me more than receiving my own personalized bell.



When you are thinking about a handmade holiday, here are some important things to keep in mind:

- Don't stress. The holidays should be a time of celebration, not stress.
- If you can't go handmade for everyone, make a short list.
- Bigger is not necessarily better. Don't think that you have to craft some big elaborate gift. A small handmade token can sometimes be the most treasured.
- Running out of time? If your recipient is a crafter, put all the supplies into a pretty basket and add a coupon that says, "Let's craft together." What wonderful bonding time for the two of you to share craft time together.
- Don't stress. Did I mention that already?

This holiday, I invite you to make the move to a handmade holiday. Who knows what memories you will create.

Missed an issue? Get caught up...

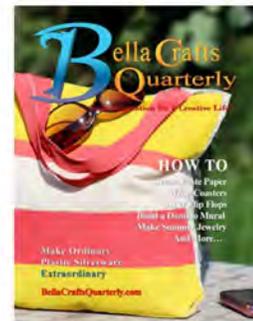
Find all of these issues in our Archives!



Winter Journey
2012



Spring Treasures
2013



Bella Summer
2013



Fall Chic
2013



Simple Pleasures
2013



Spring Refresh
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Summer 2014



Fall 2014



Valentine's 2013



with [Lisa Fulmer](#)

The 20-Day Inspiration Challenge

Inspiration is such a huge part of our creative space, isn't it? It nurtures our crafty souls and feeds our creative process.

What inspires us? Of course, we're all riveted by engaging tutorials and colorful project photos, but what about the muse and artistry that's outside of social media and the blogosphere? (Wait, what? There's inspiration IRL?)



Some of the most conspicuous sources of inspiration include the flower garden, the hardware store paint chip display, and the beachcomber's sunset...but when was the last time you really explored your neighborhood, your yard, or even your junk drawers? How about the inspiring

characteristics of your mood and your relationships? Looking for the extraordinary aspects of ordinary, everyday things can be a great jump-starter to all kinds of creativity.

So I'm issuing a 20-Day Inspiration Challenge to everyone, myself included. There are no rules, no requirements to post your progress* anywhere – you don't even have to do all 20 days in a row. Just keep this list of everyday inspiration prompts handy somewhere and pull it out when your creative mojo is running low. No matter what you're creating – a scrapbook page, a quilt, a centerpiece, a mixed media collage, a greeting card, a wall hanging – inspiration for your design can come from totally unlikely places if you're open to it!

1. Go to your local market and take pictures of the produce. Take note of the colors, contrasting textures, and repeat patterns created by the rows of fruits and piles of veggies.

2. Pull out three little random things from one of your junk drawers and incorporate them into a project. Think about each thing and what you can do with it – can it attach something? Can you stamp with it? Can you paint it or cut it into pieces?



3. Line up 10-20 bottles of paint

(or stamp pads, yarn skeins, thread spools) so you can see the colors and put them in any order that's pleasing to you – light to dark, rainbow stripes, alternating hues, etc. Ask someone else to pick one color, then use it in a project along with the two colors on either side of it.

4. Think about a time when you really felt extra special, like a party celebration, a career milestone, or a romantic gesture. Make a list of as many specific things you can remember from that time – what you wore, what you held, what you looked at, what you listened to.

5. Pull out one really ugly thing from your stash – paper, fabric, ribbon, embellishment – and force yourself to transform it and use it in a project. If that doesn't work, throw it out – why are you keeping ugly stuff, anyway?



6. Take a walk around the block with your head down and your camera ready. Shoot the imperfections in the pavement, weeds pushing up through the cracks, litter in the gutter. Look for interesting lines and textures anywhere and everywhere.



7. Take that same walk with your head back and eyes pointing up shoot the spaces between tree branches, clouds, rooftops, treetops and chimney stacks.



8. Open your closet doors and arrange your hanging shirts, tops and dresses in whatever order you like – by color, pattern, texture, season. Take a picture and crop a long narrow strip across the width of the shot and see what kind of linear pattern you get.

9. Next time you're feeling really frustrated or angry, write down the first 5 words you think of (even the four-letter kind!), fold it up and put it away. Pull it out when you're feeling better and assign a color that you think relates to each word. How might those colors look together?

10. Find the last craft supply you bought and use it. Right. Now.

11. Decorate something like a jar, a box or a pillow using at least 25

tiny little things from your stash, like buttons, charms, beads, flowers or rhinestones.

12. Pull out your most favorite paper punch and punch shapes out of your paper scraps.

13. Sit outside somewhere and close your eyes. Listen to every single little sound and write down what you hear. Use at least three adjectives to describe each sound.

14. Go out into the garage and walk around the perimeter of your house and take pictures of the rustiest, dirtiest, grungiest things – vents, grates, cobwebby corners, hinges, broken plaster, weedy fence posts. Crop in close on the most interesting patterns or textures.

15. Open your junk mail and cut it into 1" strips. Cut the strips into 1" squares. Mix up the squares and lay out a random mosaic.

16. Stamp a colorful pattern or flower bouquet with just your fingerprints.

17. Take the glossy paper sleeves off of 10-20 books. Make three stacks of books and set the stacks right beside each other so you see all the spines and take a picture. Crop out the largest square of just spines filling the frame.



18. Spread out a map of your town on the floor or table. Close your eyes, spin around a few times, then drop a mason jar lid on to the map. Trace around it and take a walk or a drive through that area and jot down what catches your eye and why you like it plants, houses, signs, cars, etc.

19. Pull out the oldest sheet from your linen closet and make something with it. Dye it, paint it, rip it, strip it, weave it, sew it, wrap it.

20. Think about someone you love and write down 10 things you like the most about them – what they say, how they behave, how they dress or wear their hair, their ethics, their style, etc.

* If you want to join me for a bit of communal fun with this challenge, use the hashtag #20waystoinpire whenever you post about your experiences with the list so I can find you on social media – let's see what we can create!

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Ken's Corner™

Trying Something New: Art at the Edge

Crafting in a man's world. with [Ken Oliver](#)

You know you're always hearing the expressions, "try something new," "step out of your comfort zone," or, "think outside the box." And while it seems like good advice to follow, one might not be sure of exactly how to "think outside the box." Last year was a real "outside the box" for me.



Early in the year, I moved back to my hometown in Indiana so I could live close to my family... that, in itself was a real "outside the comfort zone" experience. For the last few years, I've lived in major U.S. cities like Dallas, Atlanta, and Phoenix and the idea of moving back to a small town in the Midwest really got me "outside the box."



When I landed in Newburgh, Indiana, a historic river town in Southern Indiana, I didn't know exactly what I was going to do, but I knew I wanted to spend more time teaching art and pursuing creative endeavors. And it hit me one day, shortly after I'd moved home..."



this little historic town would make a great place for an art retreat." It was like a little voice inside me.



The town has everything that anyone could ask for in an event destination, antiques, picturesque water views, historic homes, trendy boutiques and great places to eat.

So, I set out to create a little art event. I invited a few friends to come down to the river to craft with me for the day. And since I was holding the event at the water's edge at a place called the Edgewater Grill, I decided to name the event *Art at the Edge*... I thought I'd get 15 or 20 locals to attend the event. Instead, almost 50 people came from all over the US. Was I ever surprised! I even had people from Europe and from

the U.K. asking for information about coming to Indiana. I never would have imagined it.

I could not have been happier... folks from all over the US came to visit our little town, perched on the banks of the Ohio River.

This was really “outside the box” for me. Although, I’ve attended countless trade shows and art events, I’ve never really organized the whole thing, soup to nuts...but somehow, everything was planned, and put in place. And on the days of the event, folks raved about how much they enjoyed the event, and enjoyed exploring the historic town where I live.



Our projects turned out beautifully and it turned out to be a really amazing art event...it was intimate and very personal...



my family ended up getting in on the action, my parents helped me pack kits and keep things organized, my brother and his family pitched in with a helping hand when needed... I was incredibly happy that I was able to include my family in the

event; they’re the reason I moved back.

And this is where my “outside the box” thinking is leading me...we have events planned for April of 2015 and for October of 2015 and possibly more... and *Art at the Edge* was so successful,



that I was able to take the event to Aberdeen Scotland in November, 2014!

I am really looking forward to 2015 and to the events that are already in the works...something tells me it’s going to be a really fun year as I hope to take the 2015 events “on the road” too. So when you hear that little voice inside telling you to try something new, or urges you to explore some crazy idea that you’ve just had...LISTEN. You never know where a little creative thinking will take you! For a list of events and places I’ll be teaching in 2015, you can visit [Ken’s World in Progress](http://Ken's World in Progress). I hope to see you in an art class this year!

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Blog Stars™

with [Ann Butler](#)

There are so many awesome blogs out on the Internet that I want to share with you. Make sure to check what these Blog Stars have on their blogs today. Just click on their name to go to their blog. If you have a great blog or know of one that I should share, email me at: Ann@BellaCraftsQuarterly.com. We will check them out. Who knows, it could be one of our next Blog Stars!

[Abby Glassenberg](#) creates unique patterns for stuffed animals from her home studio in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Since 2005, she has shared her creations and her ideas on design, technique and the online culture of craft through her blog While She Naps and the While She Naps podcast.

Abby has a master's degree in education from Harvard and taught middle school social studies in Mississippi and Massachusetts before becoming a textile artist and the mother of three girls. Today Abby enjoys teaching people to sew and opening their eyes to the joy of designing their own stuffed animals.

Abby's new book, [Stuffed Animals: From Concept to Construction](#) was published by Lark Crafts in 2013 and named an Amazon Best Book of the Year. Her first book, [The Artful Bird: Feathered Friends To Make and Sew](#), was an ALA Booklist top ten craft book of 2011. Abby has also licensed toy designs to Simplicity.



[Heather Mann](#) is the founding editor of DollarStoreCrafts.com and CraftFail.com, and specializes in transforming inexpensive materials into stylish and simple craft projects. She has appeared on the Martha Stewart Show, in Reader's Digest and the New York Times. Her work has been viewed by millions on the cover of FamilyFun magazine and on top websites such as RealSimple, Huffington Post, [ABCNews.com](#), and others.

[Dana Joy](#) lives in Georgia, USA and has been married to her high school sweetheart for over 21 years. She has two amazing grown children and one adorable toy fox terrier. Dana started card marking when a friend invited her to a Stampin' Up party in 2000 and she haven't looked back since. While recovering from colon cancer in 2009 a friend convinced Dana to start a blog. The idea was pretty scary but she took the leap and feel in love. She's had the pleasure of sharing her joy of paper crafting with so many people all over the world. Blogging has given Dana the opportunity to be on several design teams including Ann Butler Designs. She loves creating projects that bring a bit for inspiration to her followers. Sharing new techniques and her creative process brings her enjoyment.



In April 2014 Dana started her own [YouTube channel](#). She loves being able to reach out to other crafters through her videos and share latest crafty hauls, techniques and giveaways. When she's not working on design projects, Dana loves browsing Pinterest, watching craft videos and spending time with her hubby.



Refashion. Faith and Family. That sums up Brassy Apple. Megan is the creative mind behind the [BrassyApple blog](#) and instablog on Instagram. She has passion for Real Mom fashion, DIY'ing, upcycling, refashioning, and attempting to be fun, cool and engaging mom!

She likes to take things that might look hard and show how simply they can be created. Her love for Refashion led to her own show, Refashion it on [My Craft Channel Network](#). For the 2013 year, she took Refashion a step further. **Why just your wardrobe..?? Why not your life?** Revamp, Restyle and REfashion your life with Chalyce and Megan was a weekly video series to become the better YOU!

What's in store for 2015? Finishing and publishing a book, being a foster parent, launching a new business, running the Snail Mail Society, more instablogging and living each day to find joy, create memories and be a little better than the day before.

How to Create Faux Opals with Resin

By [Ann Butler](#)



*Resin is a fabulous product that has so many possibilities...
It is a product that is easy to use and if you follow the manufacturer's directions you should have excellent results every time.*

Here is a technique I think is incredible...I hope you give it a try!

Materials:

- ◆ [Envirotext™ Jewelry Resin Kit](#)
- ◆ Envirotext™ Casting Color
- ◆ Envirotext™ Release Spray
- ◆ Fantasy Film, assorted

Tools:

- ◆ [Envirotext™ Castin Mold](#)
- ◆ Westcott® Non Stick Scissors

In two cups measure out equal parts of the resin and hardener.

1



Pour the resin into the hardener.

2



Stir slowly for two full minutes, it is a good idea to set a timer for this step.

3



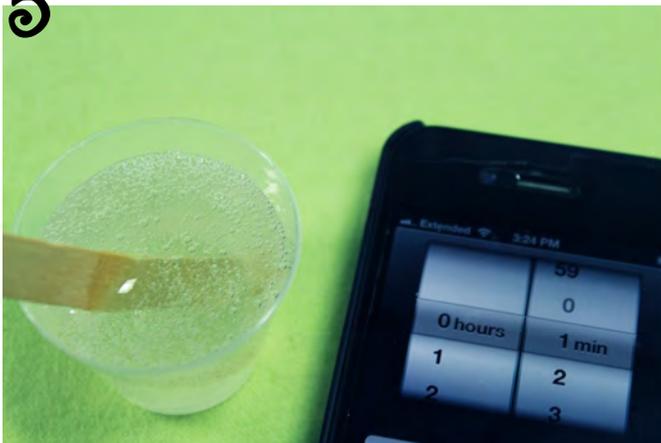
Pout the resin into the second cup.

4



Stir the resin slowly for one full minute.

5



Spray the mold with the mold release. This will help to release the resin pieces from the mold.

6



Pour the resin halfway into desired molds.



Cut the Fantasy Film into tiny pieces and place on top of the resin. Set aside for four hours.



Mix another batch of resin as you did previously. Add a couple drops of color.



Mix thoroughly until the color is blended into the resin. Add more color for a deeper shade of black if needed.



Pour the black resin on top of the molds you set aside.



Set aside for twelve hours. Then, pop them out of the molds.



Trim around resin pieces with a scissors, if needed.

13



There are a variety of things you can create with these Faux Opals. Shown in the picture to the right is a necklace and a couple of rings. Give this technique a try and you will be hooked on Resin!



Environmental Technology Inc has been helping creative people make beautiful projects for over 40 years! Visit www.eti-usa.com or resincrafts.blogspot.com today for free projects, creative ideas, the latest techniques and trends.

Creating Faux Watercolor

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

Watercolor is so beautiful, but you do not need to be a fine artist to create the effect.

With a few rubber stamps, water-based markers and some water you can create your own little masterpieces. It's very simple to do and the end result is stunning.

Materials:

- ◆ [Marvy® Uchida](#) Brush Markers: Brilliant Yellow, Magenta, Olive Green, Pine Green, Prussian Blue, Sepia, Ultramarine
- ◆ Watercolor paper
- ◆ [3M™ Post-it® Notes](#)

Tools:

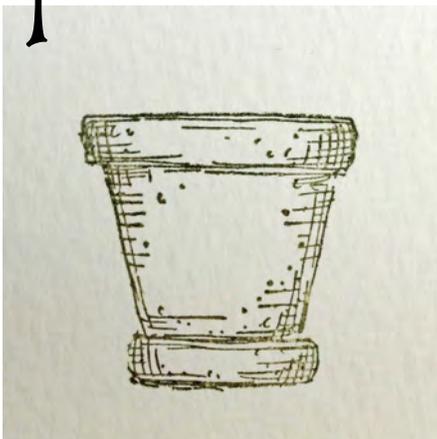
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Paper towel,
- ◆ Round brush and water or water-brush
- ◆ Wax paper or old CD
- ◆ [Art Impressions Stamps](#): Flower Pot, Foliage, Large Ivy Vine, Ornamental Grass, Small Ivy Vine, Tall Flower



Stamp the Foliage image onto a piece of Post-it®, making sure that the top of the image will have the sticky part underneath it. Then, trim around the top edge of the Foliage and stick it over the stamped image on the watercolor paper.

Color the Flower Pot stamp with Sepia and stamp onto the watercolor paper.

1



Color the Foliage stamp with Olive Green and stamp it at the top of the Flower Pot.

2



3



Color the Ornamental Grass with Pine Green and stamp it over the Post-It®, so that it sticks out slightly over the top of the Foliage image.

4



Using a water brush or a damp acrylic brush, lightly blur the lines of the Flower Pot, pulling the color towards the center, but not fully filling it in.

7



10

Swipe the water brush onto a scrap piece of water color paper to remove some of the ink. Then color around the top and sides of the Flower Pot, adding more color as needed.

Color the Large Ivy Vine with Pine Green and stamp it so that it hangs off of the left side of the Flower Pot. Then, in the same color, stamp the Small Ivy Vine so that it hangs off of the right side of the Flower Pot.

5



Cleaning the tip of the brush between colors, use it to blur all the foliage and then, the flowers.

8



In the same manner as in the step above, add some Pine Green underneath the Flower Pot.

11



Color the Tall Flower with Brilliant Yellow and stamp two of them over the Foliage. Repeat this process with the Magenta and then, the Ultramarine.

6



Scribble a dot of Prussian Blue onto a piece of wax paper or an old CD. Pick up some of the color onto the tip of the water brush.

9



12

Place your finished piece in a frame or attach it to the front of a card.

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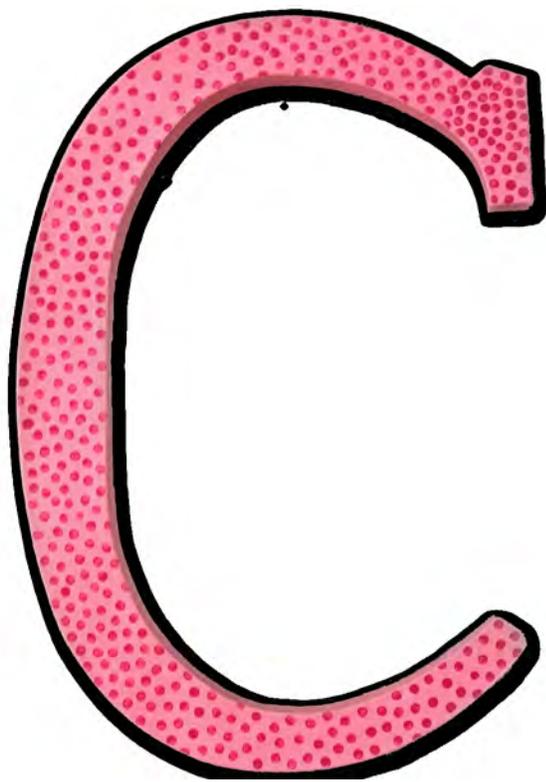
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Decorating with Initials



Courtney Chambers *and* Tanner Bell

Monograms and initials have been so popular lately. They are a great way to customize your belongings. There are lots of ways to incorporate your initials into your room as well. Here are two!

Materials:

- ◆ Paper Mache/ Wooden Letter of Any Size
- ◆ Acrylic Paints

Tools:

- ◆ Foam Brush
- ◆ Pencil

Instructions:

1. Using the foam brush, paint the letter with the base color paint.
2. Dip the eraser side of your pencil into the second color of paint. Once the base coat has dried, use the pencil to add perfect polka dots to the letter.
3. Allow the project to dry.
4. Either hang the letter on the wall or glue it to a wooden picture frame.



Photograph Courtesy Stephanie Thompson Photography

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Wedded Bliss

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

This project was definitely a labor of pure love. My son's wedding was a very special day. I can still remember the feeling I had watching my baby boy give his heart over to this beautiful young woman. I felt such love and hope as they promised to spend their lives together as husband and wife, so I knew that this project had to be just as special. I wanted them to remember that day and everything they had promised to each other each and every time they saw it.

Materials:

- ◆ Picture frame, 11" x 13"
- ◆ Cardboard, 8" x 10"
- ◆ [Prima® Marketing](#) Pattern Papers, Fairy Rhymes Collection
- ◆ Prima® Marketing Resin Embellishments
- ◆ Prima® Marketing Paper Flowers
- ◆ Glitter paper, red
- ◆ Cardstock, black
- ◆ Metal frame embellishment
- ◆ Want 2 Scrap® Bling embellishments, black
- ◆ Flower, red
- ◆ Braided trim, black
- ◆ [Aleene's® Fast Grab™ Tacky Glue®](#)
- ◆ [Earth Safe Finishes Ann Butler Designs Iridescent, Sheer Bronze](#)

Tools:

- ◆ Zutter™ Distrezz-it-All,
- ◆ [Westcott® Personal Paper Trimmer](#)
- ◆ Small sponge
- ◆ Old cd
- ◆ Printer
- ◆ Computer

Instructions:

1. Cut the pattern paper 8 inches by 10 inches and adhere it to the cardboard. Cut two pieces of the glitter paper, one 4 ¾ inches by 5 ¾ inches and one 1 inch by 7 inches. Cut the black cardstock 4 inches by 2 ¼ inches. Use the Distrezz-it-All to distress the paper edges.
2. To "antique" the large and the small frames, apply a small amount of the shimmer to a cd, dab a sponge in the Iridescent and wipe it over the edges.
3. Use a computer to write out the names and the date, then print them out. Cut and adhere the paper to the small frame and metal embellishment.
4. Layer the papers. Adhere the glitter papers and the black cardstock to the large pattern paper base. Next, layer the black sticker bling embellishments. Then, layer the flowers, small frame and metal frame to the long piece of glitter paper.
5. Put the photo behind the large frame embellishment and adhere it to the larger piece of glitter paper. Adhere the bridge embellishment to the black cardstock.
6. Place the completed piece into the large frame. Adhere the black trim along inside edges and the red flower on the corner.

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Simply Elegant Gift Box

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

Sometimes, the gift wrapping can be just as special as the gift inside and that is exactly the case with this elegant tin box. By simply adding a beautiful stamped image, some fabulous stickers, bling and a nice big bow, you can turn an ugly old tin into something absolutely spectacular!

Materials:

- ◆ Tin box
- ◆ Cardstock: black, light gray
- ◆ Pattern paper
- ◆ [Clearsnap® ColorBox®](#) Archival Inkpad, Wicked Black
- ◆ Heartfelt Creations Stamp Set,

- ◆ Keys and Roses
- ◆ [Prima Marketing®](#) Say it in Crystals. stickers
- ◆ [EK Success®](#) Jolee's Boutique®, stickers
- ◆ [Aleene's® Fast Grab™ Tacky Glue®](#)
- ◆ Braided trim, black
- ◆ Ribbon

Tools:

- ◆ [Westcott® Personal Paper Trimmer](#)
- ◆ Corner Rounder

Instructions:

1. Cut the papers as follows: light gray 6 inches by 3 ¾ inches,

2. Stamp the Keys and Roses on the gray cardstock with the inkpad. Adhere all three papers together and then, to front of the tin box.
3. Add the crystal stickers and dimensional stickers to the front of the tin box. Adhere the black trim around the edges of the tin box. Tie a bow around the handle.

Changeable Floral Hat

By Lisa Rojas for [VELCRO® Brand](#)

VELCRO® Brand Sticky Back for Fabrics™ is one of my very favorite products on the market!

I love creating fabric projects, but I hate the idea of having to sew. This product has taken sewing out of the equation.

By attaching a few pieces of the Velcro® Sticky Back for Fabrics™ to this hat and to a variety of embellishments, you will have a hat that you can wear with any outfit.

Materials:

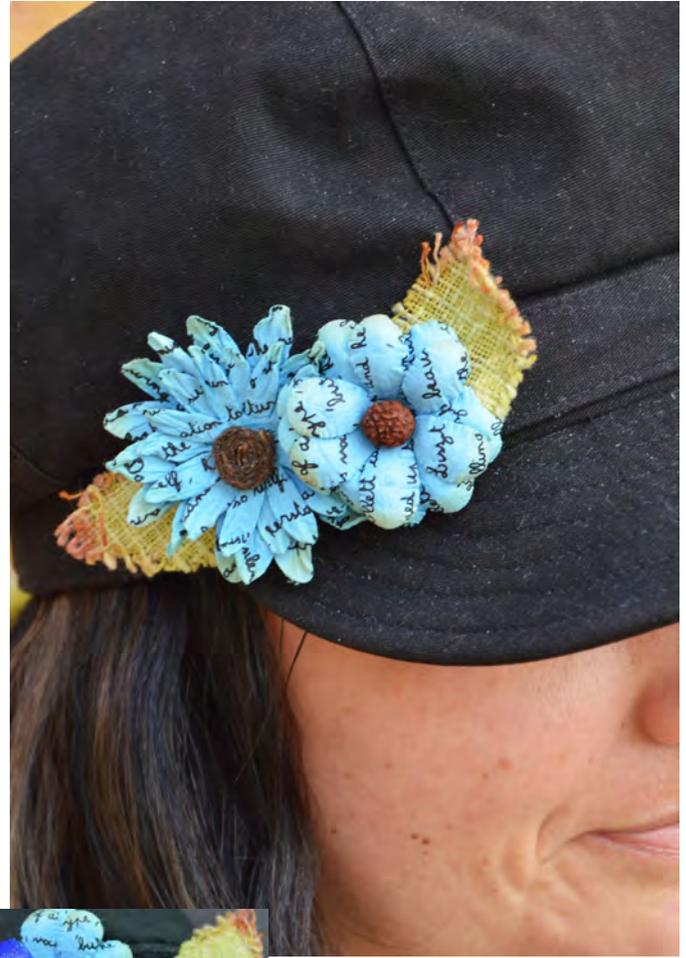
- ◆ [VELCRO® Brand Sticky Back for Fabrics™, strips \(1\), ovals \(4\), black](#)
- ◆ Black hat
- ◆ The Paper Studio® Flowers, blue (2)
- ◆ Burlap fabric leaves (2)

Tools:

Westcott® Brand Titanium Scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut the hook side of the VELCRO® Sticky Back for Fabrics™ strip 3 inches long. Attach the strip to the side of the hat.
2. Attach the loop side of the ovals to the back of each flower and leaf.
3. Attach the flower and leaf to the hat.



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TintIT.™ Studio Set

By [Craft Marketing Connections](#)

So many times, desk accessories look like... well, desk accessories! Our team wanted to brighten our studio desks with lovely color! What better way to do that than by quickly and easily spraying various glass pieces with beautiful translucent color! Design Master® has just launched TintIT.™ in ten trendy colors that work great on every surface... including glass! Simply apply as many layers of the spray dye onto the surface to achieve the look you want, from delightfully transparent to completely opaque. And for the artistic, mix and shift colors by applying different colors in layers that will create any color hue desired! Add a touch of ColorTool® Super Silver to achieve the rich look of metal on the glassware.

Also, spray a wood frame and metal handles to cleverly create a handy tray.

So gather up all your glassware and spray away! Hmm... pretty and useful! Who knew?

Materials:

- ◆ [Design Master® TintIT.™ Spray Dye in Strawberry, Chartreuse, Plum, Pinkalicious](#)
- ◆ Design Master® - ColorTool® Spray Color, Super Silver
- ◆ Design Master® - Primer Spray
- ◆ Design Master® - Mess Master Spray Solvent
- ◆ Assorted sizes and shapes of clear glassware
- ◆ Wood frame with glass, approx. 13" x 16" (outside dimensions)
- ◆ 12" x 12" white linen-textured cardstock
- ◆ Two 5" long metal drawer handles, any color
- ◆ Cherry blossom branch with white flowers

Tools:

- ◆ [FloraCraft® Design It:® - Wire Cutter](#)
- ◆ FloraCraft® - Floral Shears
- ◆ Blue painter's tape (with least sticky adhesive)
- ◆ Copy paper
- ◆ Old newspapers

- ◆ Large cardboard box
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Dishcloth
- ◆ Glue gun and glue sticks

Instructions:

1. Plan which glassware pieces will be which colors. Use a dishcloth to remove dust. In a well-ventilated, newspaper-covered area (inside box), lightly mist outside of one glass piece with TintIT.™ color of your choice. Notice the amount of translucency there is with the light coat. Apply additional coats as desired for greater opacity. (Optional: On taller glassware, apply more spray to bottom and less as you go up by gradually pulling can farther away as you spray. This creates a light airy look at the top.)
2. Similarly spray other glass pieces with other colors or combinations of colors. (Note: If you don't like the look, simply spray Mess Master on glassware and wipe off with paper towels. Let dry and start again.)
3. To apply Super Silver to bottom of glassware, you'll need to mask with tape and paper as follows: When glassware is thoroughly dry, carefully apply painter's tape approx. 1" above bottom of each piece. Do not press tape against glassware too firmly – just enough to hold. (Note: If tape seems sticky, press it against clothes or towel to pick up enough lint to make it less sticky.) Wrap top of glassware with copy paper and tape to itself to hold.
4. Lightly spray bottoms of glassware with Super Silver. As soon as they are dry to the touch, carefully remove paper and tape. Then, let completely dry.
5. Remove glass from frame and set aside. Wipe off frame with dishcloth to remove any dust. In same spraying area, spray frame and handles with Primer. Let dry. Then, spray with two light coats of Super Silver and let dry. Also, spray 12" x 12" paper and let dry.
6. Lightly spray cherry blossoms with short bursts of Strawberry and Pinkalicious. (Note: Hold can nozzle away from flowers so that color is light.) Use Wire Cutters to cut apart stem into shorter lengths and arrange inside one of taller glass pieces.
7. Reassemble frame with glass and silver-sprayed paper inside. (Note: Use Floral Shears to trim paper as needed.) Hot glue handles to short sides of frame. (Note: handles are decorative only.)
8. Arrange glassware on frame-tray and fill with desk and studio tools.

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Burlap Gift Card Holder Tag

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

Gift cards have become a popular gift item... and not just for the holidays. Instead of placing the gift card inside of a card, create this unique gift card holder that can then become a tree ornament or reused

Materials:

- ◆ [DCWV® Mat Stack®](#) Burlap Colors
- ◆ Sizzix® Bigz™ Dies: Tag, Super Scallop Crescent and Flower Layers & Leaves
- ◆ [Aleene's® Fabric Fusion®](#)
- ◆ Aleene's® Tacky Dot Singles™
- ◆ Ranger Stickles™, Lavendar
- ◆ Gems, assorted
- ◆ Cardstock, purples and green
- ◆ Ribbon, purple
- ◆ Paper flower, purple (1)

Tools:

- ◆ [Westcott® Brand Non-Stick Scissors](#)
- ◆ [Sizzix® BigShot®](#)
- ◆ Wax paper

Instructions:

1. Cut out two Super Scallop Crescent tags. Add a line of glue to both sides and the bottom of one tag and then, place the second tag on top to form a pouch. Let dry.
2. Cut out the Flower Layers & Leaves in both shades of purple and green for the leaves.
3. Place a small piece of wax paper inside the tag pouch. Then, glue two leaves and the largest flower to the front of the tag pouch with Fabric Fusion™.
4. Layer the rest of the flowers, attaching them with the Tacky

Dot Singles™. Then, add one paper flower to the center of the die cut flower.

5. Add some squiggles of Stickles™ to the petals of the flower and add some assorted gems to the front of the burlap pouch.
6. Cut a 6" piece of ribbon and form it into a bow. Adjust it to the size you need and trim off any excess. Then, glue it just under the tag hole. Let dry.
7. Once the glue is completely dry, remove the wax paper from the inside of the pouch. Cut a 10" piece of ribbon and lace it through the tag holes. Make a knot at the top ends of the ribbon, so that you can still pull the pouch open and closed.

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My Garden of Grandkids

By [Lisa Rojas](#)



I created this project for my daughter. She was in the process of moving into her new home and I wanted to do something special for her. With her children being the loves of her life, I knew this would be something she would cherish. I wanted to create a photo project, but wanted something different than just a frame. When I found these wood pallets from Walnut Hollow® my creative juices began to flow! I knew that they would make a perfect background for the framed photos of my grandkids. Of course, being the stamper that I am, I had to add stamped images, but with the color of the pallets being so bold, I wanted the images to be softer. By painting the photo frames with the silver glitter paint, the photos were sure to be the main focus of the project. After all, those beautiful faces were what I wanted my daughter to see the most. Mission accomplished.

Materials:

- ◆ [Walnut Hollow®](#) Rustic Arrow Pallet (3)
- ◆ Wood picture frames (3)
- ◆ [Krylon® ColorMaster™](#) Paint & Primer, burgundy
- ◆ [Plaid® folkArt®](#) Chunky Glitter Acrylic Paint, Silver
- ◆ Cardstock, light gray
- ◆ [JustRite®](#) Cling Stamp Set, You Inspire Me
- ◆ [Hot Off The Press™](#) Stamp Set, Serendipity Flowers
- ◆ [Clearsnap® ColorBox®](#) Mix'd Media Inkpad: pewter
- ◆ [Clearsnap®](#) Clear Embossing Powder
- ◆ [Aleene's® Clear Gel Tacky Glue®](#)
- ◆ [VELCRO® Brand Removable Picture Hangers](#)

Tools:

- ◆ [Westcott® Titanium Scissors](#)
- ◆ Sandpaper
- ◆ Heat tool
- ◆ Paintbrush
- ◆ Computer

Instructions:

1. Spray the three rustic arrow pallets with the spray paint, Let dry then, apply a second coat. Once dry, use the sandpaper to distress the edges.
2. Stamp the floral and butterfly images on the wood pallets with the inkpad. Sprinkle the embossing powder over the images and shake off the excess powder. Set the images with the heat tool. Set aside.
3. Paint the three small picture frames with the silver glitter paint. Let dry. Stamp the

frame image three times on the light gray cardstock with the inkpad. Sprinkle the embossing powder over images and shake off excess. Set the image with the heat tool. Cut images out.

4. Print the names on the light gray cardstock,. Cut out and adhere them to the back of the stamped frame image.
5. Glue the stamped frame images to the wood pallets. Adhere the [Velcro® Removable Picture Hangers](#) to the back of the wood frames and the front of the wood pallets, following the manufacturer's instructions. Press to hold the picture frames in place.

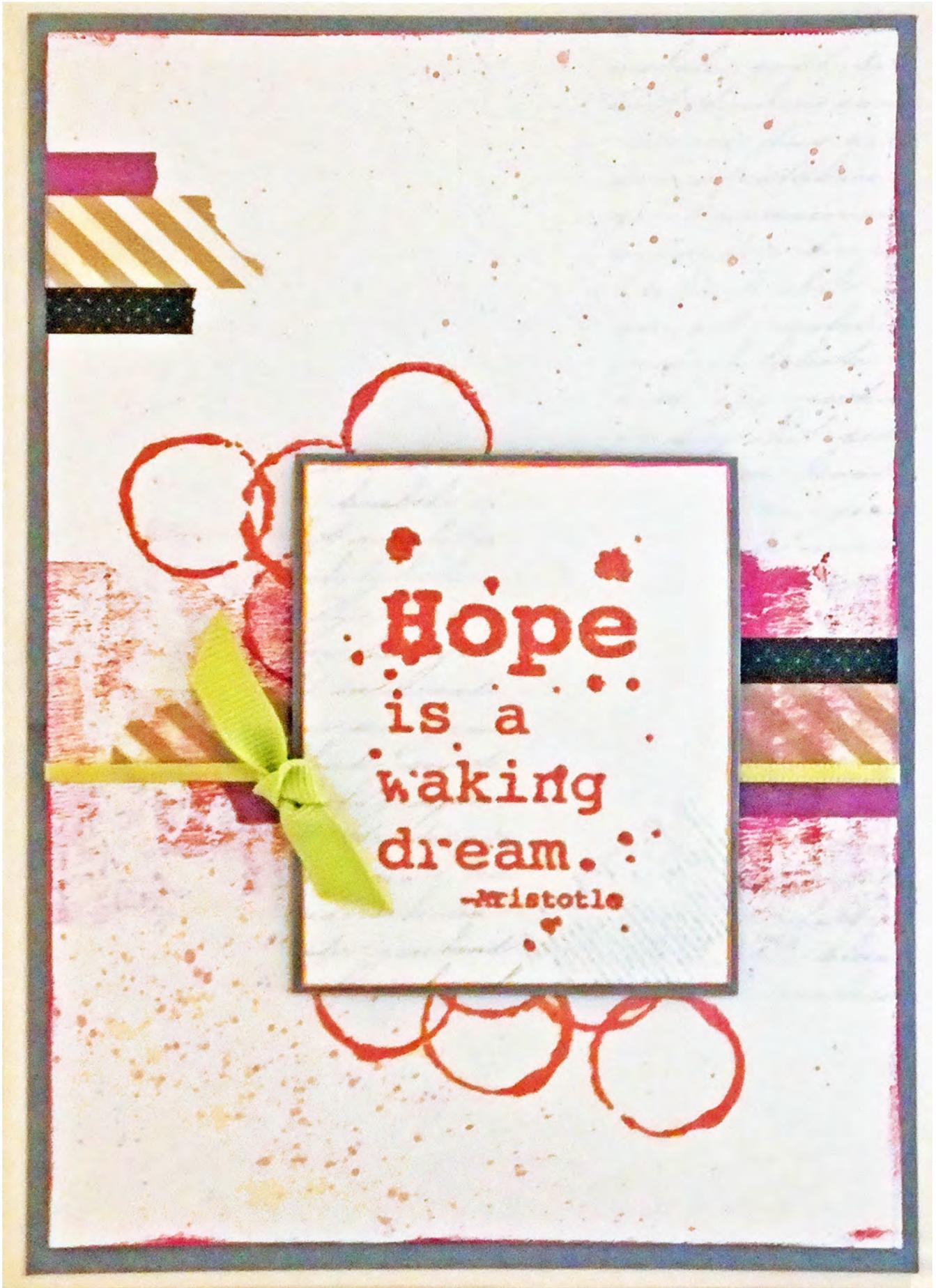
Note: See the picture of the project for placement if needed.

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Hope is a Waking Dream Mixed Media Card

By [Sara Naumann](#)

Minimalist mixed media? Yes, it *is* possible to create clean and simple designs incorporating mixed media techniques!

Mixed media is all about combining different types of materials, like paint, paper and ink. It's also about mixing textures, like matte cardstock, slick washi tape and the dimension of heat-embossing. If this starts to feel overwhelming, never fear; it's actually very easy to mix media on a card that's clean, simple and can be made quickly and easily.

My tricks? First, embrace the idea of white space—those empty areas on your surface—rather than feeling you need to fill every inch. Then choose a focal, like a stamped quote. And third, use repetition in your design. I've repeated elements like washi tape and the stamped circles. Even the paint spatters on my background echo the spatters on my stamped focal. All these design tricks result in a simple, easy design with plenty of mixed media fun!

Materials:

- ◆ [Colorbox® Crafter's Ink](#), Spiced Plum
- ◆ Memories™ Dye Ink, Baby Blue
- ◆ PaperArtsy™ Fresco Finish Chalk Acrylic Paint, Spanish Mulberry
- ◆ WOW! Embossing Powder, Gold Satin Pearl Regular
- ◆ White matte cardstock, 7 3/4" x 5 1/4", 2 1/2" x 3 1/4",
- ◆ Blue matte cardstock, 8" x 5 1/2", 2 3/4" x 3 1/2"
- ◆ Washi tape, narrow purple, tan stripe, black with dots
- ◆ Ribbons: narrow green satin, 6 1/2", green grosgrain, 4"
- ◆ Foam tape
- ◆ Blank white card, 8 1/4" x 5 3/4"
- ◆ Craft glue

Tools:

Eclectica³ {Sara Naumann} ESN10 stamps, scissors, brayer, craft sheet, water spritzer, stipple brush, heat tool

Instructions:

1. Squeeze a bit of Spanish Mulberry paint onto the craft sheet. Use the brayer to apply a border of paint across the large piece of white cardstock.
2. Use your finger to apply paint along all four sides of the cardstock.
3. Spritz water into the paint remaining on the craft sheet. Pick up watery paint on the stipple brush, then run your thumb across the bristles to spatter the color onto the cardstock.
4. Let the cardstock dry. Use Baby Blue ink to stamp the script border along the right side. Adhere three pieces of washi tape horizontally as shown, overlapping the painted border. Apply three small pieces of washi tape at the top left side of the cardstock.
5. Ink the circles stamp with Spiced Plum, and stamp twice on the cardstock. Sprinkle with Gold Satin Pearl embossing powder.
6. Tap off the excess powder, then heat set.
6. Wrap the cardstock with green satin ribbon, securing the ends to the back of the piece. Mat on blue cardstock, then glue to the card front.
7. Use Baby Blue ink to stamp the script border on the left side of the small piece of white cardstock. Stamp the corrugated stripe stamp in Baby Blue along the bottom right corner. Use Spiced Plum to stamp "hope is a waking dream", then heat-emboss with Gold Satin Pearl embossing powder.
8. Use Spiced Plum to ink the edges of the white cardstock. Add embossing powder and heat-set. Mat on the small piece of blue cardstock. Adhere to the card front with foam tape.
9. Tie a knot in green grosgrain ribbon, then use craft glue to adhere to the front of the card as shown.

[Sara Naumann](#) is an American papercraft author, designer and instructor currently living in a seaside town in Poland. Sara is well-known for her "make it easy" approach to mixed media techniques—she recently released a DVD called [Mixed Media Made Easy](#). Her latest creative project is a series of Eclectica³ stamps designed for the UK stamp company [PaperArtsy](#). You can catch up with Sara's work in various stamping magazines, drop by her blog, or pop by her [You Tube channel](#) (Studio SN) for a weekly online papercrafting video tutorial!





Just Because Manicure Gift Set

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

We are all so busy in our lives nowadays, that sometimes we're lucky if we even get the chance to take a shower, let alone get a manicure for ourselves! That's one reason this manicure in a jar is such a great gift idea. With the holidays right around the corner, we can use all the help we can get. This project is also a very simple one to make. So, if you have more than one busy person in your life, you can make a few of them in no time at all. If you're on a budget, you can head over to your local dollar store and pick up all of the items that you will need to fill the jars. Wow! A quick and easy project that's inexpensive to make? What a great idea!!!

Materials:

- ◆ Glass jar
- ◆ Cardstock, lavender
- ◆ JustRite® Clear Stamp Sets: Bracket Borders One, Grand Sentiment
- ◆ [Clearsnap® ColorBox®](#) Archival Inkpad, grape
- ◆ Ribbon: lavender
- ◆ Crystal stickers
- ◆ Mini paper flowers. Lavender
- ◆ Manicure items
- ◆ Iridescent raffia

Tools:

- ◆ Glue Arts® Glue Glider Pro PermaTac

Instructions:

1. On the lavender cardstock, stamp the border twice and the label once with the grape inkpad. Stamp the word images in the middle of the label. Cut out all of the stamped images.
2. Adhere the ribbon onto the lid of the jar with the tape runner and tie in a bow. Attach the crystal stickers to the lid.
3. With the tape runner, adhere the borders to the bottom of the jar and the label to the front center of the jar. Adhere the two mini flowers to the label.
4. Fill the bottom of the jar with iridescent raffia and place the manicure items inside.

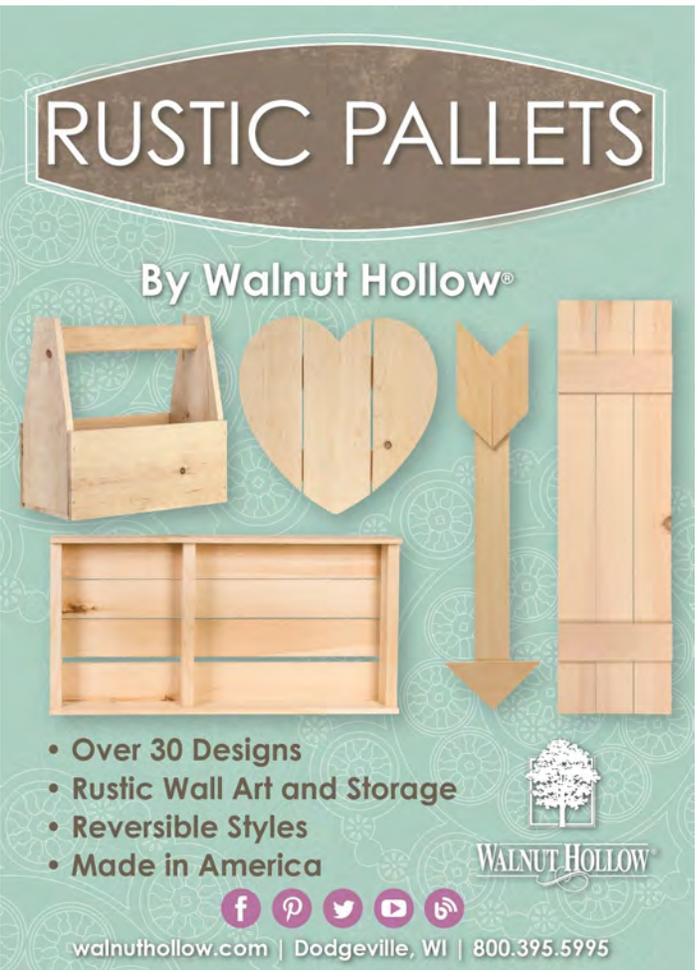
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Guest Welcome Basket

By [Marjolaine Walker](#)



A chocolate on my pillow, a card on the nightstand, simple things that make me feel so welcomed when I'm away from home. A welcome basket takes this simple gesture even further by making sure that my guests have everything they need. Drinks, snacks and toiletries displayed in an elegant basket shows your guests that you really care. This project not only brings beauty to your guest room but it's inexpensive and will allow you to use your least favorite flowers from your stash. With a few different medias you can modify some of your less desirable flowers and create gorgeous ones that will make the perfect embellishments for your next project.

Materials:

- ♦ Paper or satin flowers in various sizes
- ♦ DecoArt® Americana® Paint: dark pink, light pink, green
- ♦ [DecoArt® Media™ Gesso](#)
- ♦ DecoArt® Media™ Texture Sand Paste
- ♦ DecoArt® Media™ Modeling Paste
- ♦ DecoArt® Media™ Crackle Glaze
- ♦ [Dynasty®](#) paint brushes
- ♦ Aleene's® Quick Dry Tacky Glue®
- ♦ Déjà Views® pattern paper
- ♦ American Craft® Thickers™ Printed Chipboard Stickers
- ♦ Basket
- ♦ Bamboo skewers

Tools:

- ♦ [Fiskars® Amplify®](#) Mixed Media Shears
- ♦ Punch Bunch butterfly punch

Instructions:

1. Use a paintbrush to apply a coat of gesso on each flower and then allow them to dry completely.
2. Use a paintbrush to cover the tips of each petal with texture sand paste and then set them aside to dry.
3. Paint each flower with pink paint. Once they are dry use a fan brush to add a darker shade of pink paint to the tips of each petal. Allow the flowers to dry completely. You can also paint your letters to match the flowers.
4. Adhere the smaller flowers to the bigger ones with the glue.
5. Mix a quarter size amount of modeling paste with some green paint and fill the centers of the flowers with the mixture. Allow the modeling paste to dry fully before moving on to the next step.
6. Cover the surface of the flowers and the letters with

crackle glaze and then allow it to dry.

7. Cut seven rectangles that measure 2 inches by 1.5 inches from the pattern paper and then trim off a triangle shape at the bottom to form the banner. Adhere the letters on each piece with the glue.
8. Attach the banner pieces to the bamboo skewers with the glue.
9. Wrap the shear ribbon around the basket and tie it in a bow.
10. Cut out some butterflies with the punch. Embellish the basket as desired.

[Marjolaine Walker](#) is a mixed media artist and designer. She teaches paper crafting and mixed media classes at events and charity crops as well as in her own studio, Twelve Stones Scrapbooking, which is a travelling store in Ottawa, Canada. Marjolaine is passionate about sharing her knowledge and teaching others. She especially loves to encourage people to make time for what they love to do or what they dream of doing. She loves to dabble in all kinds of art, but prefers mixed media and collage. She loves trying new things and enjoys the learning aspect of it tremendously.



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Just A Note Journal

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

This journal is the perfect gift for anyone in your family. An added bonus is it's very easy to create. I used one of my favorite techniques for adding color to my stamped images, watercoloring. There are different methods when it comes to watercoloring. I like to do it with an inkpad and paintbrush. The Ann Butler line of inkpads from inkpads Clearsnap® are fabulous for this technique. The colors just pop off the page.

Materials:

- ◆ Notepad 6" x 8"
- ◆ Mulberry paper 6 ¼" x 8 ¼", green
- ◆ Cardstock 6" x 6" for lattice piece, 4" x 1 ½" for wording, 3 ½" x 4 ½" for flower, tan
- ◆ [Clearsnap® ColorBox Crafters® Inkpads by Ann Butler](#): Canyon, Deep Woods, Limelight
- ◆ Clearsnap® ColorBox® Archival Dye Inkpad, Wicked Black
- ◆ [Clearsnap® ColorBox® Art Screens by Ann Butler, Lattice](#)
- ◆ Heartfelt Creations Stamp Set, Sunflower Stem Pre Cut
- ◆ JustRite® Clear Stamp Set, Just a Note Vintage Sentiments
- ◆ Flower Soft®, Summer
- ◆ Flower Soft® Glue (use on Flower Soft® only)
- ◆ [Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry Paper Glue™](#)
- ◆ Copic® Sketch Marker, Mustard
- ◆ Various Ribbons

Tools:

- ◆ Zutter™ Distrezz-it-All,
- ◆ [Westcott® Personal Paper Cutter](#)
- ◆ Copic® Air Brush System
- ◆ Paintbrush
- ◆ Old cd

Instructions:

1. Cut all the papers to the sizes listed above. On the large piece of tan cardstock, lay the lattice stencil down and secure with tape. Following the manufacturer's directions, use the Copic® Air Brush System to apply the color to the stencil.
2. Stamp the flower image on the medium piece of cardstock, using Wicked Black inkpad. Color the image by pressing the inkpads onto an old cd. Use the paintbrush and a small amount of water to watercolor the image.
3. Apply the Flower Soft® to the center of the flowers using the Flower Soft® glue.
4. On the small piece of tan cardstock, stamp the words in Wicked Black.
5. Color the words as in step 2.
6. Using the Distrezz-it-All, distress the edges of each piece of cardstock. Then, apply Canyon ink to the edges.
7. Glue the cardstock pieces together and then, attach them to the front of the notepad.
8. Tie the ribbons to the top of the journal.

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Good Things Come In Small Packages

By [Madeline Arendt](#)

Who hasn't been caught with a small gift to give and nothing to package it in? From two sheets of paper, create a small gift box to fit the occasion by folding and making four simple cuts to form a top and bottom. Make them for small gifts, for party favors, to hold small homemade morsels or for pretty storage boxes for your personal use. Coordinate papers for holidays or different celebrations. Easily vary the size to create a set of nesting boxes.

Materials:

- ◆ Cardstock, 12" x 12", solid (#67 or #80)
- ◆ Cardstock, 12" x 12", patterned
- ◆ [Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry Paper Glue™](#) or double-sided tape

Tools:

- ◆ Paper trimmer
- ◆ Ruler
- ◆ Pencil
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Bone folder

Instructions:

Any weight of paper can be used, but I find it best to use a cardstock weight for the bottom of the boxes. Very heavy weights could be difficult to make crisp folds.

1. Trim 1/4 inch from two adjacent sides of the sheet used for the bottom of the box so the paper measures 11 3/4 inches x 11 3/4 inches.
2. On the wrong sides of both papers, draw a light line from corner to corner with a pencil to form an "X".
3. When making all the folds, work opposite corners, turn and work the other two opposite corners.
4. The first fold will be from the corner points to the center point of the "X" mark. Unfold.
5. The second fold takes the corner points up to the crease of the first folds, above the center point of the "X" mark. Unfold.
6. The third fold will be from the corner points up only to the crease of the first folds, below the center point of the "X" mark. Unfold.
7. Make two cuts on the papers along the crease that is made from the second fold, ONLY to the second crease lines in the opposite direction. Repeat the two cuts on the opposite side. **NOTE:** *The four cuts will form a center strip that looks like a double ended arrow.*
8. The two triangular sides will now be folded in, so the two corner points will meet the center point.
9. Fold the two narrow cut ends up, bring them together to form a side of the box. If needed,, glue or tape the two ends together with a small piece of tape on the outer side.
10. Bring the "arrow" end up and fold it over the joined flaps. The corner point will meet the other points at the center point.
11. Repeat steps #9 and #10 to form the other remaining side of the box.
12. Follow the same directions to form the other half of the box.
13. Embellish as desired.

[Madeline Arendt](#) has been a crafty girl from an early age to the present. She's a woman who always enjoys the creative process no matter what medium is being used, be it fabric, paper or recyclables. Madeline is an author, contributing designer to books and magazines, a demonstrator, teacher/instructor and blogger.



Crystal Candle Holder

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

Like any Nana, I love being surrounded by my grandkids, but they do have to go home eventually. I found a quick and easy project that I could create and see their beautiful, smiling faces anytime I want. This project is a great way to preserve those precious moments of their lives!

Materials:

- ◆ [Connie Crystal® Crystal Sheet, white](#)
- ◆ [Aleene's® Clear Gel Tacky Glue®](#)
- ◆ Glass container
- ◆ Vellum paper
- ◆ Vellum tape
- ◆ Trim, black

Tools:

- ◆ Westcott® Personal Paper Trimmer
- ◆ Printer
- ◆ Computer

Instructions:

1. Print out your photos on the vellum paper, either in color or black and white.
2. Cut your photos out to fit the size of the container then, adhere with vellum tape.
3. Cut a row from the crystal sheet and glue to the edges of the photos.
4. Glue the black trim to the top of the container.



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Ann Butler is a well-known artist who recently has introduced two lines of stamps designed for quilting and other craft projects. Crafter's ink works perfectly (as shown here) for quilt projects. For project directions visit clearsnap.com



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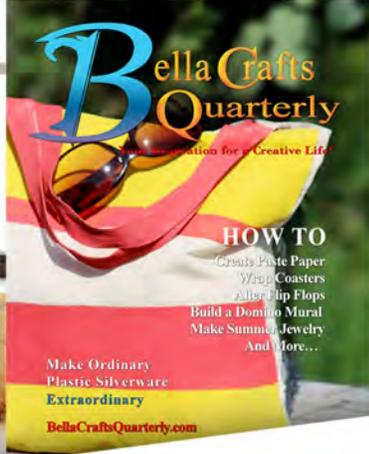
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Winter Magic Necklace

By [Vicki O'Dell](#)

Winter is a time of magic: frost on the windows, the crunch of snow under your feet, holidays, family, friends and dancing the night away. Create this necklace to add sparkle to all of the special moments this winter.

Materials:

- ◆ [Beadalon®](#) small curb chain, silver
- ◆ Beadalon® headpins, silver
- ◆ Beadalon® jump rings, silver
- ◆ Variety of clear crystal or crystal AB beads - On hand if available
- ◆ Lobster clasp
- ◆ Double jump ring

Tools:

- ◆ Wire cutters
- ◆ Round nose pliers

- ◆ Flat nose pliers
- ◆ [Beadalon®](#) One-Step Looper - optional

Instructions:

1. Cut the chain to the desired length for your necklace and add the lobster clasp and double jump ring closure. Keep in mind that the hanging bits of chain will also add length to your necklace.
2. Cut 1 piece of chain 3 inches, cut 2 pieces to 2 3/4 inches, cut 2 pieces to 2 1/2 inches and cut 2 pieces to 2 inches.
3. Attach the 3 inch cut chain to the very center of the necklace with a jump ring.
4. Add the 2 3/4 inch pieces to either side of the 3 inch piece using jump rings. Skip one or two chain links in between the jump rings.
5. Add the two 2 1/2 inch pieces to either side of the 2 3/4 inch pieces. Again, skipping a link or two in the chain.
6. Add the two 2 1/2 inch pieces to either side of the 2 3/4 inch pieces skipping a link or two.
7. Finally, add the two 2 inch pieces to either side of the 2 1/2 inch pieces skipping a link or two.
8. Begin adding the crystal beads to the hanging lengths of chain with simple loops. Add the larger crystals to the bottom and the smaller ones at the top. Fill in the hanging chains as full as you like. Add a few crystals to the top where the jump rings connect to the main necklace to cover up the jump rings.

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Stamps sold in 1" and 2" Squares - More shapes COMING SOON!
Pillow Created by: Rebekah Meier

Glam Leather Bracelet

By [Mylène Hillam](#)



Mylène is a designer, teacher, demonstrator and author who works out of her studio in Brisbane, Australia. She creates with a variety of different mediums and has tried her hand at numerous crafts over the years, but her first love is jewelry making. Myléne's designs often have a unique or different flavor and pair together unusual materials or color combinations. Her work is featured in many print and online magazines and her project tutorials can be found far and wide on the internet. She has recently written two jewelry making books, "*Stylish Leather Jewelry*" and the soon to be published, "*Findings Made Fabulous*", with a third title already underway.

Give Winter the flick with this sparkly crystal leather cuff bracelet – it will lift your wardrobe out of the winter doldrums and help you sparkle your way through the cold winter days ahead. This is an easy project to complete using the pattern provided, although a little patience is needed to mark out the placement before you get started.

Materials:

- ◆ Silver Creek Leather Realeather® Wristband, Black (1 3/8" wide) (choose the length that best fits your wrist)
- ◆ Swarovski flat back crystals, Clear: 4.5mm (9), 3.5mm (16), 2.5mm (27), 2.0mm (5); Fuchsia: 4.5mm (6), 2.5mm (7); Rose: 4.5mm (2), 4.0mm (1), 2.5mm (9), 2.25mm (5)
- ◆ Beacon Adhesives™ Gem-Tac™

Tools:

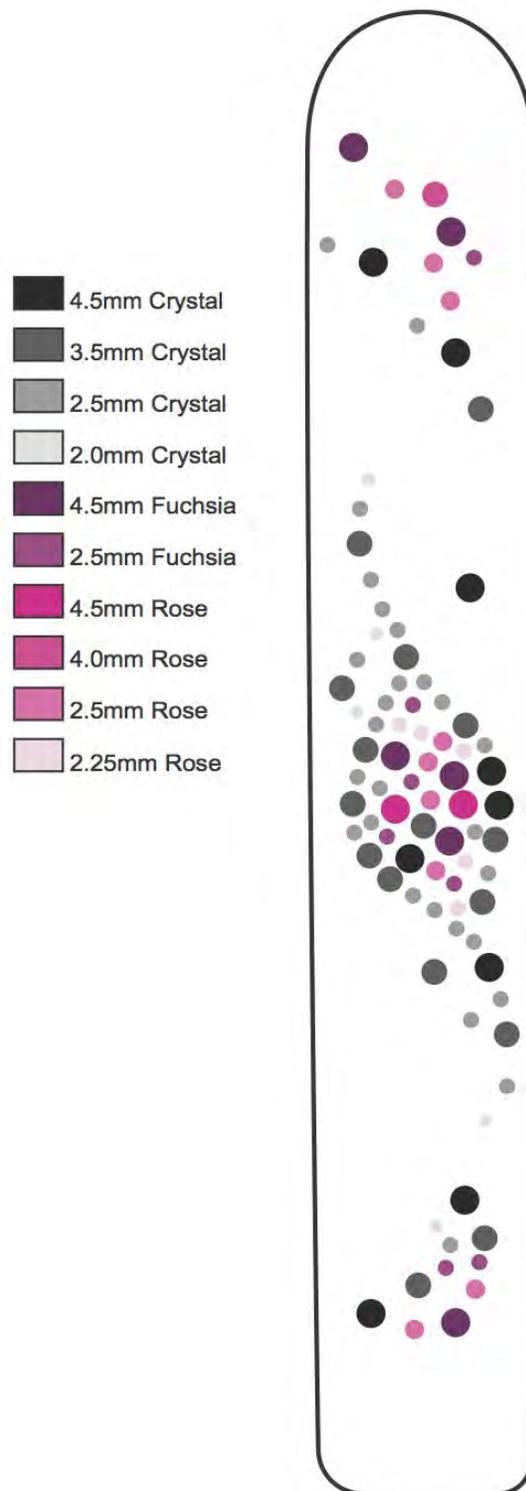
- ◆ Embellie Gellie, toothpick, needle tool or pin for pricking the pattern, white marker, scissors

Instructions:

1. Photocopy the crystal placement template and cut it out. Place the template on the front of the wrist band, lining up the edges. Tip: To keep the template from moving whilst pricking the pattern, apply a removable adhesive to the back of the template and allow it to dry until it is tacky. Tip: The template is sized for a medium wristband. If you are using a small or large wristband, center the template over the leather.
2. Using the pin and beginning with the central motif, pierce the center of each of the dots, making sure it marks the surface of the leather. Note: If using a small or large wristband, make any adjustments necessary to position the end flourishes. Try to keep the flourishes between the two parts of the snap to allow for easy closing. With the template still in place, lift one end and mark each prick mark with the white pen. Once all the marks have been placed, remove the template.
3. Before applying adhesive to the wristband, use the template as a guide to place the clear crystals in the flourish outline of the central motif. Pick up one crystal at a time with the Embellie Gellie tool and use the tip of the toothpick to apply a small amount of Gem-Tac to the white mark. Return the crystal to its position by gently

placing it on the adhesive. Do not press hard or the adhesive will ooze out and weaken the bond. Attach each crystal in the outline in the same way. Next, fill in the center of the motif with the Fuchsia and Rose crystals.

4. Position the rest of the crystals in the end flourishes and glue them in place. Allow the adhesive to dry for 24 hours before wearing your new sparkly leather bracelet!



Embossed Clay Cuff

By [Ann Butler](#)



I love the look of tool dyed leather cuffs, so I decided I would try and create a Faux Leather Cuff with Makin's Clay. The results are stunning and best of all so quick and easy.

Materials:

- ◆ Makin's Clay®, black
- ◆ [Ann Butler Designs Iridescent Powders, Earth Safe Finishes, assorted colors](#)
- ◆ Ann Butler's Faux Quilting Stamps, Unity Stamp Company, Assorted 1" Squares
- ◆ Rhinestone sticker sheets, The Buckle Boutique

Tools:

- ◆ Makin's Clay® Roller
- ◆ Makin's Clay® Cutter
- ◆ [Westcott® Non Stick Scissors](#)
- ◆ Ruler
- ◆ Paintbrush

Instructions:

1. Roll out the clay to 9 inches long by 3 inches wide by 1/2 inch thick.
2. Press the stamps into the clay to create an embossed pattern.
3. Brush the powders onto the clay.
4. Cut the clay 1 1/4 inches wide by the length of your wrist plus two inches. Let dry.
5. Add the rhinestone stickers as desired.

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Floral Stationery Set

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

Stationery sets are one of my favorite projects to create. I love to find different ideas on making them and also the different items that make up a set, like cards or journals, etc. I realize that handwritten letters are almost obsolete nowadays, but I also know that people do still enjoy getting a card from their loved ones and jotting down their thoughts in journals. Maybe in a few more years, cards and journals will be a thing of the past, but until that happens, I'll continue to make them for myself and the people I love.

Materials: Note Box

- ◆ [Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry Paper Glue™](#)
- ◆ My Mind's Eyes™ pattern papers
- ◆ Cardstock, grape
- ◆ Pearl sticker trim
- ◆ Decorative brads (2)
- ◆ Paper clamp, green
- ◆ Paper flowers, green
- ◆ Lightweight cardboard

Tools:

- ◆ Westcott® Personal Paper Trimmer
- ◆ We R Memory Keepers® Croc-A-Dile

Instructions:

1. For the box bottom, cut the cardboard and grape cardstock 8 inches by 5 ½ inches. Glue both pieces together. Score 3 ½ inches and 4 ½ inches along the width, then 1 inch along the top and bottom of the length. Cut a slit on each score line. Glue the box bottom together.
2. For the box top, cut the cardboard and grape cardstock 5 ½ inches by 4 ½ inches. Glue the pieces together. Score 1 inch along 3 edges of the cardstock. Glue the top of the box to the bottom.
3. Cut 3 pieces of the pattern paper ¾ inches by 3 ½ inches. Glue the pieces to the sides of the box bottom.
4. For the box drawer, cut the cardboard and grape cardstock 5 ¼ inches by 5 ½ inches. Glue the pieces together. Score ¾ inches along 3 sides and 1 inch on the front of the drawer. Glue the edges together to form the drawer. Cut the patterned paper 3 ¼ inches by ¾ inches. Glue to the drawer front. Punch a hole in the center and place brad.
5. For the easel, cut the cardboard and grape cardstock 3 ½ inches by 10 inches. Glue both pieces together. Cut the green patterned paper 3 ¼ inches by 9 ¾ inches. Glue the paper to the cardstock. Score at 4 ½ inches. Glue the longer side of the easel to the back of the box.
6. Punch a hole ½ inch from the top and add paper clamp and the brad. Decorate the front of the easel with the pearl stickers and flowers. Clip the calendar to paper clamp.

Materials: Journal

- ◆ [Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry Paper Glue™](#)
- ◆ [Clearsnap® ColorBox®](#) Archival Inkpad: Frosted Plum, Wicked Black
- ◆ JustRite® Clear Stamp Set. Just a Note Vintage Sentiment Tags

- ◆ My Mind's Eye™ pattern paper
- ◆ My Mind's Eye™ Chalkboard frame
- ◆ Cardstock, vanilla
- ◆ Pearl trim
- ◆ Flowers, purple

Tools:

- ◆ [Westcott® Personal Paper Trimmer](#)
- ◆ Westcott® Titanium Scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut the purple patterned paper 2 ½ inches by 9 ¾ inches. Cut the striped paper 6 ¾ inches by 9 ¾ inches. Glue the purple patterned paper to the spine of the journal and the striped paper to the front of the journal.
2. Stamp "journal" with the Frosted Plum ink on the vanilla cardstock, cut the paper slightly larger then the opening of the chalkboard frame. Glue to the backside of the frame.
3. On the vanilla cardstock stamp two pens; one in Frosted Plum and one in Wicked Black. Cut them out.
4. Attach the flowers, pearl trim, pens and chalkboard frame to the front of the journal. Note: See picture for placement if needed.

Materials: Pencil Holder

- ◆ [Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry Paper Glue™](#)
- ◆ [Clearsnap® ColorBox®](#) Archival Inkpad, Frosted Plum
- ◆ My Mind's Eye™ pattern paper
- ◆ Wooden spool, ¼"
- ◆ Pearl trim
- ◆ Flower, green
- ◆ Pencil, green

Tools:

- ◆ [Clearsnap® ColorBox®](#) Stylus & Tips
- ◆ Westcott® Titanium Scissors

Instructions:

1. Glue the patterned papers to the spool. Use the stylus to apply the Frosted Plum ink to the edges of the spool.
2. Glue the pearl trim around the center of spool.
3. Attach the pearl trim around the pencil. Then, glue the flower to the pencil.

Monogrammed Mantelpiece

By [Theresa Cifali](#)



Making a monogrammed statement piece does not have to take a ton of work or be elaborate.

Sometimes, the simplicity in a piece is what makes it so elegant. Create this simple monogrammed plaque to place on your mantle or even hang on the wall.

Materials:

- ♦ Walnut Hollow, Rectangle Basswood Plaque
- ♦ Delta Ceramcoat®: White, Sweetpea, Eggplant, Glitter Gold
- ♦ EK Success® Jolee's Boutique®, Duel Tone Prizm stickers: Spinel and Citrine
- ♦ [Aleene's® Fast Grab™ Tacky Glue®](#)
- ♦ Chunky wood letter

Tools:

Paper towel, foam brushes, acrylic flat brush, paper plate, 220 grit sand paper

Instructions:

1. Lightly sand the wood plaque and letter. Wipe away any saw dust with a damp paper towel.
2. Paint the plaque and the letter white. Let dry and then, add a second coat. Let dry.
3. Paint the chunky wooden letter and the edges of the plaque with a generous coat of

Eggplant. Let dry and add a second coat if needed.

4. Paint the front panel of the plaque with a generous coat of Sweetpea. Let dry and add a second coat if needed.
5. Next, paint the edges of the plaque and the chunky wooden letter with one coat of Glitter Gold. Let dry.
6. Once the pieces are dry, glue the chunky wooden letter to the face of the plaque. Let dry.
7. Embellish the front edges of the plaque with gems.



Theresa Cifali

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Altered Tin Vase

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

Looking for a great gift idea? This altered tin vase makes a wonderful holiday gift for family, friends, co-workers and teachers. You can give it as is or fill it with dried flowers or candy.

Materials:

- ◆ Delta Ceramcoat® Select, Foliage
- ◆ Delta Ceramcoat®, Eggplant
- ◆ Darice® Burlap Accents 2 ½”
- ◆ [Petaloo Botanica Collections Blooms, lavender/purple](#)
- ◆ <http://bit.ly/1vYssEF>
- ◆ Ribbon, organza 1 ½”
- ◆ Tin vase

Tools:

- ◆ Hot glue gun
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Round foam brush
- ◆ Small round acrylic brush
- ◆ Paper plate

Instructions:

1. Squeeze out a good amount of Foliage paint onto a paper plate. Using the round foam brush, stamp small circles along the top and bottom edges of the tin vase. Let dry.
2. Cut a piece of burlap the circumference of the tin vase plus ½ inch for overlap. Then, wrap the burlap around the vase and attach with hot glue.
3. Cut a piece of the green organza

ribbon the circumference of the tin vase plus ½ inch for overlap. Then, wrap the ribbon over the burlap and attach with hot glue.

4. Arrange the flowers on top of the ribbon and attach with hot glue.
5. Finally, with a small round brush, paint smaller dots on top of each green dot in Eggplant. Let dry.
6. Fill with dried flowers, candy or other gift items.

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Oh So Simple Beaded Bracelet

By [Ann Butler](#)



Here is a bracelet that is quick and easy to make and looks stunning too!

Materials:

- ◆ [Bracelet Memory Wire, Beadalon®](#)
- ◆ Beads, assorted

Tools:

- ◆ Round nose pliers
- ◆ Ruler

Instructions:

1. Cut one yard of the wire and then, form a small loop in one end.
2. Thread the beads onto the wire.
3. Trim the excess wire and then, loop the end close to the last bead.

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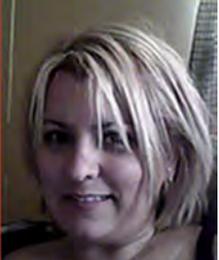
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