

Bella Crafts Quarterly™

Your Inspiration for a Creative Life!™

Jo Pearson
Artist to Artist

In this issue

Fall in L-O-V-E Necklace
Vaseline Resist
Altered Drawer Unit
Mini Clipboards
Glamorous Cuff Bracelets
Fall Candle Lanterns
...and so much more!

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BellaCraftsQuarterly.com



Fall 2015

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Since 2012, we have brought you Bella Crafts Quarterly™, the digital magazine that is FREE to view online and download. It has been our greatest pleasure and is truly a labor of love.

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Fall 2015

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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.

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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 manufacturers: using their products in her work, creating projects, and teaching classes and workshops at tradeshow.

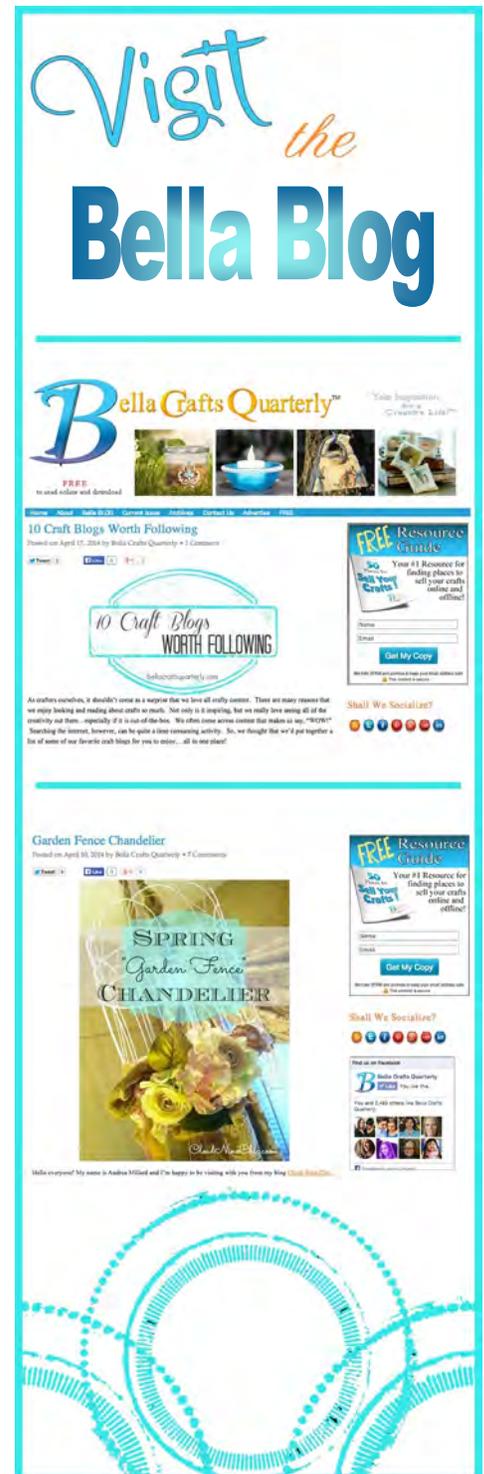


[Theresa Cifali:](#)

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.



Beaded Bookmarks

These beaded bookmarks are so quick and easy to make that you will have dozens made in one afternoon. The longest part of this project is selecting the beads to use!

Materials:

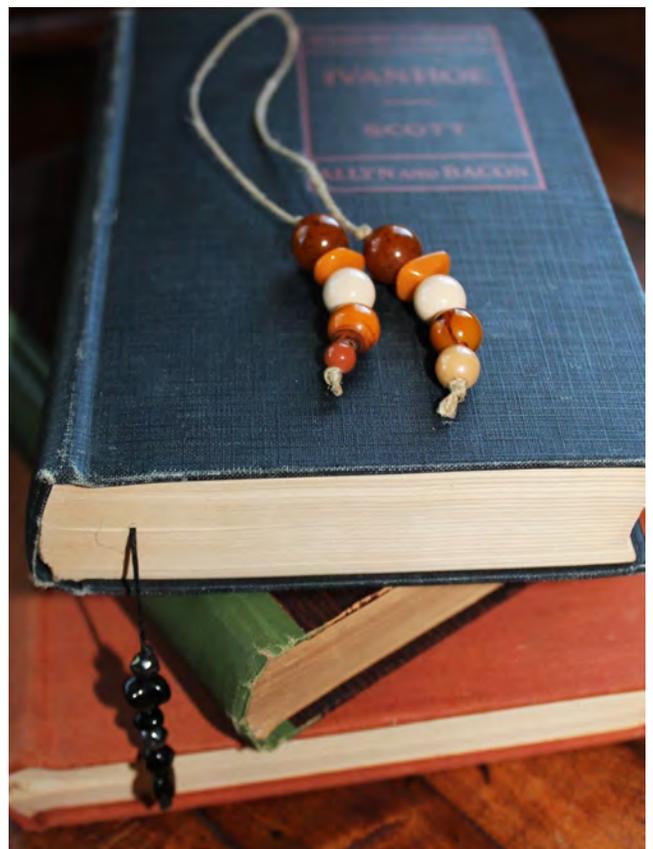
- Beads, assorted
- Waxed Linen, 14"
- ♦ [Aleene's® Easy Squeeze Original Tacky Glue](#)

Tools:

- ♦ Westcott® Brand Scissors
- ♦ Ruler

Instructions:

1. Tie a knot two and one half inches from each end.
2. Thread an inch to an inch and a half of beads on one end, the knot will stop the beads, then, tie a knot at the end.
3. Repeat step two on the other end.
4. Apply a drop of glue to the knots on the end.



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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.



[Lisa Fulmer](#) is an artist, crafter, writer, designer, teacher, 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 tutorials for

craft product manufacturers and she also writes and edits regularly for [FaveCrafts.com](#) and [CraftFoxes.com](#). She has authored two books, *Craft Your Stash*, and *Stylish Craft Foam Projects* – both are available online and in stores. Signed copies are available on her blog.



[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, stamp 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!



[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.

Notes

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Ann@BellaCraftsQuarterly.com

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Trending Thoughts™

with [Julie McGuffee](#)

A few years ago I read a book entitled “The Tipping Point: How Little things Can Make a Big Difference” by Malcom Gladwell. This is one of the quotes from the book that has always stayed with me:

“The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire.”

We live in a trend driven society, but don't always know, or even care where trends come from, or why they become so popular. It's not hard to recognize however, when it happens. There's never a doubt in anyone's mind about the popularity of a certain color, accessory, or image whether it's for the home, or personal use – we see it everywhere.

Minions top the list this year. Apart from starring in their own movie, they are selling everything from cereal to Tic-Tacs and who doesn't love to laugh at the Minion posters we see daily in our Facebook news feeds. Minion themed parties including cakes and invitations are all the rage and retail stores are creating lots of crafty goodness around these lovable little guys and gals with project sheets and in store classes for kids. Watch for “Minion” yellow and denim to grow in popularity for some fun accents for kids rooms.

Selfie Sticks are running a close second together with a plethora of apps and software to preserve and edit all those selfie photos in monthly mini albums. Not exactly a new idea though. Julie Stephani and I featured one, an X-Shot 2.0, on our TV Show, Scrapbook Memories in 2000. At that time they were developed for digital cameras, but the idea didn't really catch on. Selfies taken with Smart phones were the “tipping point” for this product.

Designers in the Arts & Crafts Industry are keenly aware of trends for fashion and Home

Dec, but there are also trends truly unique to our industry. With books on the art of Zentangle leading the way, there is now a large market for coloring books for adults. Doodling and coloring is fun at any age, but it is so much more relaxing when someone else has done the artwork for you. Just add color with the wide range of available markers and colored pencils on the market and the customer is good to go..... Yep, coloring books are all grown up. I'm wondering if at some point, we'll see “color by numbers” books too...



Monograms, lettering, text, etc are still popular to accent wall art, home dec items, soft furnishings, mixed media pieces and as stand alone decorative pieces. They now include the hashtag, ampersand and @ icons. You can find them in wood, paper, chipboard, fabric, vinyl, metal and more. And who doesn't want to see their name in lights! From tiny seed lights to large marquee letters and words, this category continues to evolve and gain in popularity. I don't think it will be long before holiday and basic, decorative shapes will re-appear.

Halloween is just round the corner and, as I said last year, "Day of the Dead" crafting is on the rise and you'll see even more of it this year. It's fun and colorful in direct contrast to the creepy, ghoulish monsters we're used to seeing, which reminds me, I wonder how many Minions will come knocking at our door for candy this year.....

Although it's July when I write this, there are no Christmas in July displays in the stores yet, but I fully expect to see more woodland themes in grey, light teal and white, as well as traditional red and green, with lots of woodland animals: owls, foxes, raccoons, etc as well as the ever popular deer and stag. Look for more of the slotted style of 3D heads too. I think snowmen will still rule the winter season and there'll be a little more emphasis in glitz and glam for ornaments for our trees. I'm sure we'll see Minions peeping thru our tree branches too. In the meantime,

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Yours truly,
Julie



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Show Off! Turn Photos into Art

I weep for the millions of wonderful photos that are stored, unloved and unappreciated in computers everywhere. In the interests of giving new life to your favorite photos I have some ideas to help you celebrate them and to share them with the world (or at least your loved ones).

Print photos on just about anything ~

There are lots of sites that will take your photos and print them on anything from cards to t-shirts and from mugs to tote bags. There is nothing quite as exciting as opening a package and seeing your images showcased on something you can actually use like a bag or wear like a T-shirt.

A quick Google search will turn up a range of sites to which you can upload your images for printing. Just make sure to read the instructions to understand the size image required for successful printing.

Photo Business Cards ~

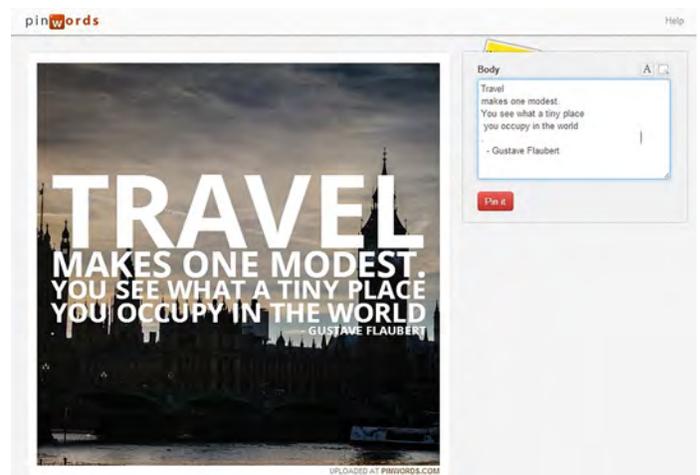
The quintessential site for turning photos into useable items is Moo.com. At Moo you can upload a hundred photos and they'll print one hundred high quality business cards each with a different photo. While a little pricey, there is nothing nicer than handing someone a card with your own photo on it.

Dorm Room Art ~

If you have a great photo, a spare wall, lots of printer ink, and tape you can turn a photo into wall art. Using a site like Blockposters.com or rasterbator.net you can upload your photo, chose the size to print it at, and then download a file containing a series of pages ready for printing. Simply print the pages, assemble, and you're done – instant wall art.

Sew your Photos ~

Sites like Spoonflower.com will print fabric, wall paper or gift wrap from uploaded images. You can buy anything from an 8x8" fabric swatch to a fat quarter or yardage. A fat quarter is large enough for a good size pillow or turn fabric printed with your photos into an apron. It's a great way to combine your creativity as a photographer and as a crafter.



No Cost Daily Inspiration ~

Inspirational quotes and photos are a match made in Heaven. Find your favorite quotes, team them with photos from your collection, and then share on Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram or Twitter. I love Canva.com as a place to upload images and to add quotes to them and Pinwords.com is good too. The plus is that you get to showcase your photos to the world in an inspiring way and you might be surprised how far they travel.

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Ann Butler

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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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Socially Sensible™

with [Theresa Cifali](#)

The 12 “C’s” of Building Authentic Conversations on Social Media

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 and enjoy...

Social media is a phenomenal way to communicate and ultimately, conduct business, with people that you would never in the ordinary course of life meet, much less be able to do business with!

It can open the door to conversations, relationships and community around your brand in ways that have previously been very difficult for the business owner.

Through the power of social media, business owners can share their product and services in real-time with those that they connect with. Very powerful! But how do you open up the lines of communication on social media in a way that is authentic and will help you build relationships with your audience?

Below are my 12 C’s of building authentic conversations on social media to get you started on your journey!

1. **Caring**

There is an old saying that goes like this, “people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” The word “caring” and the connotation in that sentence is referring

to caring about others and NOT yourself.

When you truly care about serving others, it shows up in everything that you share on social media and it will return to you tenfold!

2. **Curiosity**

Who do **YOU** find interesting?

1. Someone who is interesting?
2. Someone who is interested in you?
3. Someone who is interested in you AND is interesting?

It can be #2 or #3 but it is rarely #1, at least not for long.

When you are NOT curious about others, you STOP listening to what others care about (as you are mostly focused on yourself). When you don’t listen to what others care about, you simply can’t care about what they care about. So it starts with curiosity. That is the first step.

3. **Contribute**

You need to bring something to the party. And it better be valuable. Participation in social media is great but participation with real contribution makes it even better. There are people who shy away from social media citing there is “too much noise”. They are right and wrong. Yes, there is too much noise. But that is not the reason to shy away from social media. In fact, that may be the reason for you to jump right in – make valuable contributions and increase the signal-to-noise ratio out there. Stand out by doing what others won’t!

4. **Content**

Content is the bedrock of any social media

participation – be it a blog post, a podcast, a video or a tweet – all you are doing is creating content. If you consistently produce compelling content that takes care of the pain points of your audience, you have a winning combination!

Producing great content takes time and producing great content that is entirely focused on your audience takes MORE time. You can treat that as “work” or you can treat that as an “investment”. The latter will give you better return on your time.

5. Clarity

Clarity goes both ways. It is implied that great content already means that it is clear. I was looking at clarity from the viewpoint of your audience. Right now in the areas that matter to them, they are looking for “clarity”. Whatever they want to do, there are multiple options or choices and if your content helps them clarify things, they will love it!

Your content is valuable if it moves someone from “confusion” to “clarity”.

Confusion eats away someone’s MOST valuable resource – TIME. If your content helps clear that confusion, you have given them a gift.

6. Conversation

In social media, you win with engagement. Engagement is a higher level of emotional connection. It starts with conversation. A conversation is where two or more people are listening and talking. Both listening and talking are important to fully participate in social media. The more you are engaged in conversations that will increase the collective capacity of the participants, higher your own return in this investment. Every conversation is important. As author **Susan Scott** says in her insightful book **“Fierce Conversations”** – “The conversation is the relationship, and – while no single conversation is guaranteed to change the trajectory of a career, a company, a relationship, or a life – any single conversation can.”

7. Creativity

The barrier to entry for social media is almost nothing – meaning anybody can get into social media anytime. So you need to do SOMETHING

to set yourself apart from the crowd. That’s where your creativity comes in.

Stretch your imagination and get your creative juices flowing. Spend a few extra minutes to see if there is another angle to saying the exact thing that you were going to say. What can you do to make what you are saying more interesting? Make that “extra” investment to get those “extra” rewards.

8. Character

Character here is your personality and your personal brand. Who you are comes across more strongly than what you say and who you are seriously influences how what you say is perceived by others. The stronger your personal brand, the more weight what you have to say has – this means not only you have to invest in social media, you have to invest on yourself to grow and be better.

9. Community

You can’t scale great heights alone. You need the community to help you. If you look at it another way, the community needs you – as others in the community also can’t scale great heights alone. Whatever you can do to help make the community stronger will benefit everyone in the community.

Things are interconnected when it comes to how you work within a community. Your level of influence goes up with the level of your caring and contribution. As the level of your contribution goes up, it becomes easier to make more valuable contributions. It’s a virtuous cycle. If you want to do a quick test about your level of engagement with the community, ask yourself this question:

If I disappear from the community today, how big of a VOID will I create in the community?

There is no right or wrong answer to this question but whatever that answer is, it should give you a pretty good indication of the value that you bring to the community.

10. Courage

There are two distinct ways to participate in social media – one on the stands and one on the playground. Things get more interesting when you are on the playground than when you are on

the stands. The way to get on the playground is to take a stand on something meaningful. That requires confidence and courage. Taking a stand is a package deal. You automatically belong to a tribe that has a stand similar to yours on one end. On the other end, you alienate people who don't take a stand similar to yours. You need the courage to deal with it and remember, you cannot please everyone.

11. Change

If the world is changing fast, the sub-system of social media is changing super-fast. The only constant in social media is change!

What was super-cool yesterday is commodity today and history tomorrow. Tools, practices and engagement models all change. The philosophy and principles may remain but the way they manifest changes quickly. If you want to succeed with social media, you don't adapt to change, you embrace it, live with it and if you are good, you will probably influence change with your ideas and contributions.

[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 .



12. Commitment

Beverly Sills said it right – “There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.” Because there are few barriers to entry for social media, it seems like you can easily succeed with social media. Unfortunately, what you see is only the tip of the iceberg. Social Media does not make anything easy. It may make things faster but not easy.

Think of social media as an “amplifier” of what you do. If you have a significant contribution to make, social media can amplify that contribution. However, you need to set yourself up for making that significant contribution. That requires a serious commitment. You are also MORE exposed once you are a player in social media – meaning you need a higher level of commitment to keep living up to the implicit promises that you are making with your new personal brand. If you disappear for days on end with no “value” to your friend base, you are seriously weakening your brand viability.

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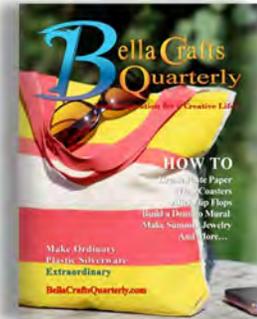
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Simple Pleasures
2013



Spring Refresh
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Summer 2014



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Lessons with Lisa

It's in the Details



with [Lisa Rojas](#)

Let's Talk Tools part 2

In the summer issue of [Bella Crafts Quarterly](#), I talked about my love of craft tools and announced that I wanted to write a three part series on the topic. This is part two of the "Let's Talk Tools" series.

As crafters, we have a multitude of tools on the market at our disposal. There are so many different ones that I could write a whole book on the topic! Unless you're a millionaire you can't afford to buy each tool that comes out and that leaves us with the question, "Which tools should I buy?" In your crafty toolbox, you definitely need the basics; scissors, a ruler, adhesives, etc. But, what about those other tools that are out there? You know, those very cool ones that you see and immediately know you have to buy it! I'm a little embarrassed to say that for me, it's almost every single tool that comes out! Never the less, as hard as it may be to choose just a few, I still have my favorites, so let's talk about some of those.



Tool'n One™ by Spellbinders®- I am very fond of die cuts and I really do love them all. Each company that manufacturers die cuts brings a unique product to craft consumers.

Spellbinders® is known for their very intricate die cuts and that is what I love most about them. The details are amazing, but I would often find myself wanting to tear my hair out. No matter what I did I couldn't always get my finished piece out of the die without tearing the paper and leaving all those tiny specks of paper stuck in the die cut. Until now...When Spellbinders first introduced the Tool 'n One™, I thought I was going to cry with joy! It serves as a multiple tool all wrapped up in one. The portable tool has three different attachments that allows you to remove your finished piece from the die cut with ease. Then by changing to the piercing attachment, you can remove any paper pieces left in the die cut. When you're done, the attachments fit inside the handle so you never lose anything! I cannot say enough about this fabulous tool. I absolutely love it!!!



Paper Blossoms by McGill Inc.®- Being a mixed media artist means I have the opportunity to work with many different medias and

embellishments. There are so many different products that you can add to your projects to enhance them and take them to the next level of crafty awesomeness! One item that I love to add to many of my projects is paper flowers. There are numerous companies that produce paper flowers and believe me, I think I own half of them! But sometimes I can't find the right color or shape and that's when this kit comes in handy. I can use the same papers that I'm using in my project to create my own paper flowers. The kit comes with a rubber mat, tweezers and three different sized tools that allow you to shape your stamped or die cut flowers into beautiful sculpted embellishments. If you'd like to see how this kit works, you can check out the [2014 spring issue](#) of Bella Crafts Quarterly where you'll find a demonstration of this technique that I shared for that issue.

That's all for now. If you have any questions or comments about this article or you would like to share with our readers your favorite tool, please email me at lisa@bellacraftsquarterly.com. If I use them in my column, I'll send you a small gift and list your name in the magazine!



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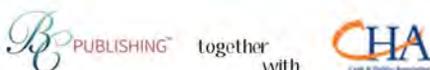
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8 Quick and Easy Candle Projects

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Jo Pearson

Jo Pearson, AKA Glitter Queen, is the Manager of Where Creativity Happens for Michaels Stores. Starting with Michaels in 1987 was just the catalyst of her creative career.

Jo is a designer, teacher, author, and was one of the judges on TLC's Craft Wars with host Tori Spelling. She has hosted cruises, was teacher on Michaels 18 wheeler craft truck, and even got to throw out first pitch at Cardinals baseball game!

Glitter is her craft material of choice but she does admit that "If you can't glue it, don't do it". Beading is one of her favorite crafting venues and she will tell you she has her own bead store in her design room!

An avid mixed media artist, Jo loves to "JUNK" thus her up and coming video series "Junkin with Jo".

Going to flea markets, garage sales and antique shops is a passion and the results are nothing less than unique to

say the least.

“Everyone has some creativity in them, they just need to embrace it and not be afraid” says Jo. “Try several mediums and find what is comfortable for you and then just GO! Don’t let someone tell you, you can’t...there is no such word in crafting. Not everything turns out like you want...but you tried!”

A: What was your first experience with crafting?

J: When I was a little girl I use to make pot holders and huck towels, which I in turn sold to my Aunties. Yeah, so now I had money to buy more supplies!!!!

A: Creative and smart from a young age...I like that!

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

J: After I got married, which was really young (18) and had my girls I wanted to stay home, but make things and money. So I set up my workroom in the living room, which we were not using, I put up french doors and created my first at home studio. I would get the girls settled and spend the rest of the day working. I did craft shows every weekend and had numerous wholesale accounts. It did become a business I was proud of.

A: I honestly think that many of us in the business started out in a similar way, and doing craft shows.

A: Do you have a favorite craft technique?

J: I'm not sure I have a favorite technique--I do believe "If you can't glue it, don't do it!"

A: What inspires you?

J: People and life inspire me----I love to people watch and love to look in junk shops! It's amazing what you can find among the "JUNK" that someone has discarded. I love to do ODD art--I have baby doll heads in gum ball machines and I made a gypsy fortune teller machine out of an old theater popcorn machine and a feminine hygiene machine that spits out fortunes for a quarter!

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

J: OH my! Well I moved from Grapevine Texas to St Louis last October so I had to start all

over. BUT we have basements here and the whole basement is my new canvas. My daughter and I put together lots of cubes storage and drawers. I had tile put where carpet was. I just painted and glittered the counter top area, and painted all the tables black. I covered the walls in all of my "STUFF". I covered the walls in the bathroom with game boards, covered the mirror with baby dominoes and made a tissue paper holder out of tinker toys! We have an embroidery machine, a serger, felting machines, cricuts, sewing machines and tee shirt press. I also have professional lighting so that I can tape video.

A: I think you had me at glittered counter top, I may just have to try that!

A: You have been featured on tv shows, authored books and been a spokesperson for a major craft retailer....what's next?

J: I am still employed by Michael's stores and I do PR appearances...BUT, I want to do TV. We need a good crafting show on for all the new crafters out there. I get DIY but, learning how to use products, what's new and just craft common sense is a must!

A: I do agree that good craft shows are needed to be back on the air, and you would make a great tv host...count me in to be a guest on your show!

A: We are excited to have you teaching at Bella Crafts Connections this month...tell our readers a little about your workshop...

J: My class at the show is pretty down to earth. We are going to make a 12x12 painted canvas, gather the new fabric strips Michaels carries to create a large flower. It so easy, but looks great in any room.

A: An easy class is sometimes exactly what we need and a home dec project makes it a bonus!!

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

J: Love what you do! Share what you do! Spread glitter! We are given talents for a reason. God has blessed me with an abundant life full of great friends, wonderful family, and my talent--I am thankful everyday!!! I do sweat glitter!!!!

You can follow Jo on:

[Facebook](#) and [Pinterest](#)

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Recycling Old Supplies

Did you know that?

The average person generates over 4 pounds of trash every day and about 1.5 tons of solid waste per year.

and that...

One recycled aluminum can save enough energy to listen to a full album on your iPod.

dosomething.org

In our home we love to recycle. Everything gets reused and if it can't, it is put into bins and taken off to get recycled. I like the challenge of taking a box, a pair of old jeans or an old book and seeing what I can do with it. With a little glue, paint, bling & glitter it is amazing what you can come up with!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We always have a surplus of old school supplies around the house and instead of throwing them away, I like to recycle and reuse them. You can use old school notes and books in mixed media projects. Other old supplies like rulers, protractors, and algebra kits can be up-crafted into gifts to give people. Carving old erasers for stamp making is always fun too!

RECYCLED PENCIL CASE

Supplies:

American Crafts Ribbon
Helmar Craft & Hobby Glue
Prima Marketing Resin flowers
Assorted fabric scraps
Fabric Patches (letters)
Scissors
Pencil case, clean out the inside



If your child has drawn `graffiti` on the outside of the case, leave it on because it will just add to the finished look. Cut off any front pocket zippers. **Note; do not cut off the top closure zipper.



With scraps of fabric, have fun decorating up the front of the pencil case using glue. I used a piece of fabric to cover the front pocket and then I glued down little strips of another type of fabric on the top of the case. Using a piece of ribbon I then finished off the top of the pocket and then glued two resin flowers on. I also tied some ribbon to the top zipper to add a little whimsy.



To finish off the project I glued some letter patches to the front. The pencil case now looks brand new.



“Thanks to my mother, not a single cardboard box has found its way back into society. We receive gifts in boxes from stores that went out of business twenty years ago.”
— Erma Bombeck

This can be a super fun family project to do because children love to recycle to. Just have fun!

2016 Fabric Trend Alert!

Denim is coming again! Personally, I don't think it ever really left, and I don't know about you but I LOVE crafting with it and using it in my mixed media pieces. PLUS, we always have LOTS of jeans around the house with holes in the knees that are begging to be recycled! So why not recycle those jeans and use the fabric to create your next great masterpiece. Cover a journal cover or create a mixed media canvas; just get creative. The earth will thank you for it and you will have a lot of fun doing it too!

Keep on Creating!
 Susan

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with [Lisa Fulmer](#)

What makes a space become a sanctuary?

Technically defined as a place of refuge, a sanctuary is almost holy to most of us creative types. The studio or craft corner is our port in a storm, providing shelter from the chaos of everyday life.

There are many aspects of a creative space that lend themselves well to the sanctity we seek - from computers and containers to stash and panache. For me, it's about storage and eye candy. I love all my shelves and cabinets and I can't get enough of gazing at my vast collection of artist trading cards on the walls.

I asked several designers what makes their creative space a sanctuary. I hope you find their comments as inspiring as I did – read on!

“After years of working in a large space (and all the clean-up it entailed), I'm currently embracing an unbelievably small space tucked away in an attic eave, which I have to enter through a small half-door. I always imagine I'm Alice about to enter my miniature crafty wonderland.”

- [Angela Daniels](#)

“I love that everything in my space is organized. I've trained myself to clean up regularly, so I can start fresh on a new project every day!”

- [Kathy Cano-Murillo](#)

“My space reflects my personality - bohemian, free-spirited and funky. No matter what is going on in the rest of my world, I know I can relax and be myself there. It is my oasis.”

- [Vicki O'Dell](#)

“No matter how big the space I work in, you'll always find me in a nook on the floor next to the biggest window, with a cup of coffee.”

- [Suzi Blu](#)

“I have one full wall of industrial shelving and my work surfaces are old, heavy, brown folding tables - perfect for all kinds of crafty madness. It's not pretty, but totally functional and I don't have a problem messing it up. I love it because it's mine, and at the end of the day, I can just close the door.”

- [Julie McGuffee](#)

“What I love most about my space is that it has everything I could ever need - all of my supplies, my tv, and a comfortable recliner for those much-needed naps after working 'til the wee hours of the morning!”

- [Lisa Rojas](#)

“Although my space may best be described as a disaster at this moment, I love that I have a place where I can let my creative spirit run free...and hope that it doesn't trip over that big stack of dies! There is lots of my favorite color, aqua, in my studio. I also love my clear storage containers so I can see at a glance what I have on hand.”

- [Eileen Hull](#)

“I especially love the two shelves my son made for me on either side of my craft table, which hold all the stamps, inks and things I use most often. Also I spend much of my time at a wonderful L-shaped desk that holds all my computer equipment in one place, making it easy to multi-task and stay organized.”

- [Ann Butler](#)

“When I was redesigning my studio, the one thing I had to have was a comfy sofa. I've logged in some good naps on that sofa!”

- [Jonathan Fong](#)

“I moved my craft studio out of my house and into a nearby two-room office space. I love it

because I can create without distraction or interruptions. Having two rooms really helps with my focus, as one room is strictly for creating and the other is for business.”

- [Theresa Cifali](#)

“I love my ginormous table because I have room to lay out several different jewelry projects. Nothing like having all of your deliciousness staring at you all at once! It’s inspiration overload in a good way.”

- [Julianna Hudgins](#)

“The view from my window charges my creative batteries every day! My studio is right on the river in a historic 150+ year old building that has been a stable, a theater, a saloon, and now an artist loft. The view is inspiring every single day - I could not be in a more perfect spot.”

- [Ken Oliver](#)

“Having my carriage house studio in the backyard has been a huge boost for me creatively. When I worked in the house, it felt like work never left me alone. Now I can plug in (or unplug!) just by walking across the yard. Virginia Woolf was right,

women really do need a room of their own!”

- [Margot Potter](#)

“I know space is a luxury, but one of the things I love about mine is all the open shelving. I can see all of my stash - fabric, paper, markers, fibers - everything is easy to grab because I can see it. Shelving is my best friend.”

- [Carmi Cimicata](#)

“My craft room is so messy right now - I really want to organize it, but I’m afraid I’ll get buried under an avalanche of dollar store inspirations. So today I’m going to grab what I need and try to escape before a giant boulder of ribbon rolls down and tries to take me out. I’m off to work at my local Temple of Java instead!”

- [Heather Mann](#)

“I can totally lose all sense of time while I’m working in my studio, I even forget to eat. I love my organization style too - vintage, girly, and handmade. My baby grandson is just about the only thing that will happily pull me out of my “sanctuary zone!”

- [Donna Salazar](#)

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Color Burst Watercolor Art Journal Japanese Stab Binding

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

Lately, I've been water coloring with Color Burst...a lot. And, I love working in little journals. Working inside a little journal lets you practice new techniques and keeps all your "study" work as a handy reference log.



Of course, it's very easy to find commercially bound journals, but creating your own journal lets you include a variety of paper substrates, and lets you create a journal that can be extremely personal. This journal is bound with a Japanese Stab style binding... it's beautiful, sturdy and works perfectly for an art journal.

Start with a variety of substrates, I used watercolor paper, Bristol board, and glossy photo paper. It's important to use papers or substrates that

can support your techniques. For this journal, I used 2 pieces of Kraft*Tex for the front and back covers.

Cut them to size. I trimmed all pieces to 5 1/2" x 8 1/2".



Then, using a corner rounding punch, round the corners of all papers and cover stock on the right side.



Score each journal cover and each journal page 1" from the left side.

Then, collage the front cover with ephemera. Affix collage pieces with a glue stick, then seal with matte Mod Podge. I used vintage leger pages, a butterfly, wood grained paper and then stamped the words Art Studio on the front of my cover.

Align each sheet, and covers, and hold together with binding clips or clothes pins.

Mark binding stations on the left side of the book block within the 1" scored section.



You may use an awl to create holes for binding, but I used a drill, it's just faster for me.



For binding this journal, I'm using vintage sari silk from India. It makes a beautiful binding, you may use twine or waxed linen thread if you like.

To create the binding, I am going to refer you to [Design Sponge](#), they have a great [step-by-step tutorial](#), complete with easy to follow diagrams and instructions.

Once you've practiced Japanese Stab Binding a few times, you will love the method, it can be very decorative and is very durable for an art journal like this. You'll want to use this binding method in other projects like photobooks and scrapbooks.



With the binding complete, I am all set to water color, stencil, paint and practice new techniques. Here's another tip,

use old paint palette pages, water color blotting sheets or any papers that may already have paint and ink on them... they make great backgrounds for techniques and art journaling.



Thank you for stopping by my little corner of the world today... and I hope you'll try making your own journal...you'll love the process.

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Fall In L-O-V-E Necklace

By [Lisa Marie Jimenez](#)

Fall is one of my favorite seasons of the year. I enjoy watching the leaves turn from green to pretty yellow and reds. This necklace was inspired by the early part of fall when the leaves slowly turning from green to yellow. As they say romance is in the air, and it sure is with this Fall In L-O-V-E necklace.

Materials:

- ◆ Grand Leaf Brass Pendant
- ◆ Tim Holtz® idea-ology® Wallflower Vellum Paper
- ◆ Tim Holtz® idea-ology® Label Letters (L-O-V-E)
- ◆ Paper House Productions® Butterfly Stickers, green
- ◆ Swirl Pattern Rubber Stamp
- ◆ Ranger Archival Ink™, jet black
- ◆ Glitter Glue, gold, green
- ◆ [ETI Jewelry Resin](#)
- ◆ [Mod Podge Decoupage](#)
- ◆ Ranger Multi Medium Gloss
- ◆ Acrylic Craft Paint, white
- ◆ Vintage Bronze Wire, 22ga, 16"
- ◆ Crystal Rondelle Beads, 6x8mm, topaz ab(4)
- ◆ Glass Rice Beads, 10x5mm, mint ab(2)
- ◆ Glass Chip Beads, small, green & yellow assorted(8)
- ◆ Brass Eyelet (1)
- ◆ Fairy Ribbon, green, 22"

Tools:

- ◆ Flat nose pliers (2 sets)
- ◆ Round nose pliers
- ◆ Cutters
- ◆ Chain nose pliers
- ◆ Bead reamer
- ◆ Eyelet setting tool
- ◆ Xacto knife
- ◆ Jewelry hammer
- ◆ Steel bench block
- ◆ Mixing cups
- ◆ Wood stir stick
- ◆ Small paint brush

- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Parchment paper

Instructions:

1. Wash the raw brass leaf pendant with warm water and dish soap to remove all traces of machine oil and dirt. Dry the piece completely. Lay the brass leaf pendant on a steel bench block then flatten with hammer.
2. Paint the front of the leaf with white acrylic paint. Let dry and apply a second coat.
3. Tear the vellum paper into small random pieces, enough to cover the front of the leaf. Using a paint brush apply a coat of decoupage to the leaf. Next apply the vellum pieces to the leaf in random order; it is ok to have the pieces overlap each other. Apply a coat of decoupage over the entire piece; smoothing out any bubbles or wrinkles in the paper. If needed apply more decoupage. It is ok if the paper extends past the edges of the leaf, we will take care of that in the next step. Set aside to dry. Apply a second coat of decoupage if needed.
4. When the decoupage is completely dry, place the leaf face down on a surface that can be cut on. Use the Xacto knife to carefully trace the edges of the leaf cutting away the excess paper.
5. Apply the butterfly and "L-O-V-E" stickers, as shown in the picture, to the leaf. Add swirls to the leaf using the rubber stamp and archival black ink. Next, add gold glitter glue to the edges of the leaf. Use the green glitter glue to add accents to the design as you choose.
6. Mix the resin according to the manufacturer's directions. Place the leaf on a piece of parchment paper and using a brush, brush on the resin. Do not pour the resin onto the piece, as it will flow over the edges. Set the piece aside to dry according to manufacturer's instructions. If needed add a second coat of resin.
7. Use the bead reamer to re-open the top hole on the leaf pendant, as it will be covered by resin. Insert the brass eyelet and secure

- using the eyelet setting tool.
8. Using a paint brush, paint on a coat of the medium gloss onto the back of the leaf pendant. Set aside to dry. This step is necessary only if you are using a raw brass piece.
 9. Cut a 2 inch strip of wire and run the end through the eyelet. Bend wire and make the first of a double wrapped loop. Trim and tuck the small end of the wire. Load two chip beads onto the wire. Make a wrapped loop. Trim and tuck the end of the wire.
 10. Cut a 1 ½ inch strip of wire. Run the end of the wire through the end loop in the previous step. Bend the wire, and make the first of a double wrapped loop. Trim the small end of wire and tuck. Load a rondelle bead onto the wire, make a wrapped loop. Trim and tuck the end. Repeat this step for the opposite side. Continue to make the beaded chain, using the main picture as reference.
 11. Take the fairy ribbon and cut it into two separate pieces. Tie the end of the ribbon to the end loop on the beaded chain. Repeat this step for the opposite side. Tie the fairy ribbon around your neck for a flowing look, or you can add a clasp to the ends of the ribbon if you want a more finished look.

[Lisa Marie Jimenez](#) is a professional jewelry designer with 24 years of experience in the industry. She designed her own line of jewelry which sold to gift/clothing boutiques for 10+ years. Her designs have been published in US and International bead/jewelry magazines, along with several front cover features. Lisa's designs have also graced the covers of four romance novels. She shares her jewelry designing techniques with others through her personal blog and currently writes a column for an international bead magazine.



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Upcycled Tabletop Jewelry Tray

By [Roberta Birnbaum](#)

Turn a Dollar Store wood frame into a beautiful jewelry tray for your dresser. It just goes to show you why it's important to keep your mind open and eyes wide open when you shop at a Dollar or Thrift store. So grab some paint and a few sentimental objects and let's get started!

Materials:

- ◆ Frame
- ◆ Americana® Multi-Surface METALLIC™: Chocolate, Champagne
- ◆ DecoArt® Metallic Lustre™, Brilliant Turquoise
- ◆ DecoArt® Decou-Page™ paper, Gold Stag
- ◆ DecoArt® Decou-Page™, matte
- ◆ Goose feather
- ◆ Burlap
- ◆ Metal embellishment
- ◆ USArtquest PPA™

Tools:

- ◆ Westcott Craft Titanium Bonded Spring Assisted Scissors
- ◆ Paint brush
- ◆ Foam brushes
- ◆ Pencil
- ◆ Hair dryer

Instructions:

1. Remove the back, inserts and glass from the frame. Set them aside.
2. Paint the frame with Chocolate and Champagne. It will need 2-3 coats. Let dry.
3. Use the stock photo your frame came with as a template to trace the shape on the Decou-Page™ paper. I like to work on the back side so I don't get any markings on the 'right side'. Cut out the shape.
4. Spread the Decou-Page™ medium on the surface of the insert of the frame and place the shape onto the wet medium. Try to remove all air pockets while smoothing it out.
5. Brush a layer of the Decou-Page™ medium on the surface of your paper.
6. Use PPA to attach the metal embellishment and some pieces of burlap
7. Cut a second piece of Decou-Page™ paper for the center. Use the Decou-Page™ medium to adhere in place.
8. Put goose feather in place. Don't try to glue it down.
9. Add highlights to the frame with Brilliant Turquoise, and then buff with a soft cloth.
10. Put the frame back together and voilà, you have a beautiful jewelry tray!

[Roberta Birnbaum](#) lives beside one of the world's most beautiful natural wonders – Niagara Falls. She works in many disciplines including mixed media art and fabric sculpting with Powertex. She creates projects for Ann Butler Designs, Earth Safe Finishes, ETI Resin, and is the Design Team Lead for Bella Crafts Publishing. Roberta is an art instructor and teaches from her home studio. She also provides Classes2Go, where she will bring a 2 hour workshop including all supplies and tools, to groups of 6 or more.



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Mini Clipboards

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

These mini clipboards are a fun and easy way to dress up your Post-it® Notes! They're much smaller than the regular size clipboards, so they're perfect for using up all those paper scraps you have laying around.

Materials:

- ◆ Mini clipboards, (2)
- ◆ Various pattern papers
- ◆ Various stickers
- ◆ [Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry™ Paper Glue](#)
- ◆ [Ann Butler ColorBox® Crafter's Inkpads](#), Canyon, Ocean Breeze
- ◆ [Post-it® Notes](#) (2)

Tools:

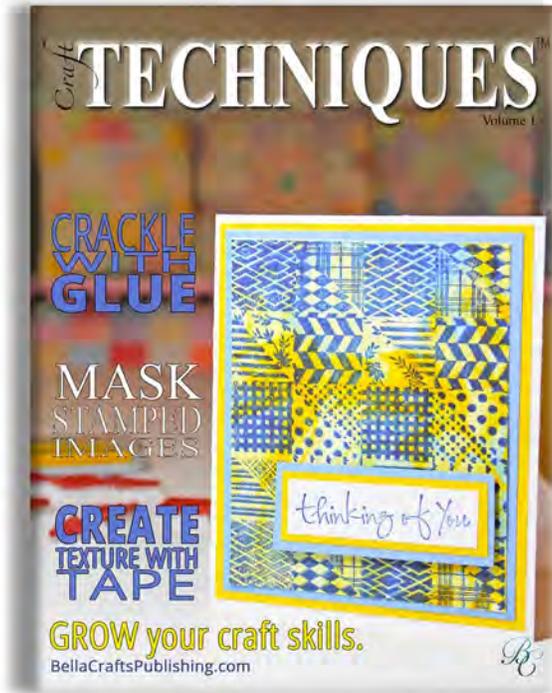
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Heat tool

Instructions:

1. Lay the mini clipboards on the wrong side of the pattern paper and trace them with a pencil. Cut the papers out with scissors.
2. Cover the clipboards with the pattern papers and adhere them with the glue.
3. Ink the edges of the clipboards with the inkpads. Use the heat tool to dry the ink.
4. Adhere the stickers to the clipboards.
5. Place Post-it® Notes onto the clipboards.

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Butterfly Gift Card Set

By [Martha Lucia Gomez](#)

Birthday's and celebrations are always a lot of fun, but you're so often caught up in the preparations that you find yourself searching for a card to put with the gift. If only you had a stash of beautiful gift cards you could use at any time...

Or you could even give the set as a gift. The best part? This set is fun and easy to make, resulting in personalized, one-of-a-kind cards.

Materials:

- ◆ Very Vanilla Cardstock, 12"x12"
- ◆ Island Indigo Cardstock, 1-1/2" x 6"
- ◆ Very Vanilla Envelopes, 3-1/8"x3-1/8" - Optional
- ◆ Classic Stampin Pad™: Lost Lagoon, Island Indigo, Rich Razzleberry, Tangerine Tango.
- ◆ Baker's Twine: Island Indigo, Tangerine Tango
- ◆ [Mini Glue Dots®](#)
- ◆ Medium craft gift bag
- ◆ Small doily

Tools:

- ◆ Stampin' Up Stamp Sets: Kinda Eclectic, Dotty Angles
- ◆ Stampin' Up Punches: Bitty Butterfly, Elegant Butterfly
- ◆ Simply Scored Scoring Tool
- ◆ Stampin' Trimmer
- ◆ Crop-a-dile or 1/8" circle punch
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Bone folder
- ◆ Rubber stamp cleaner.

Instructions:

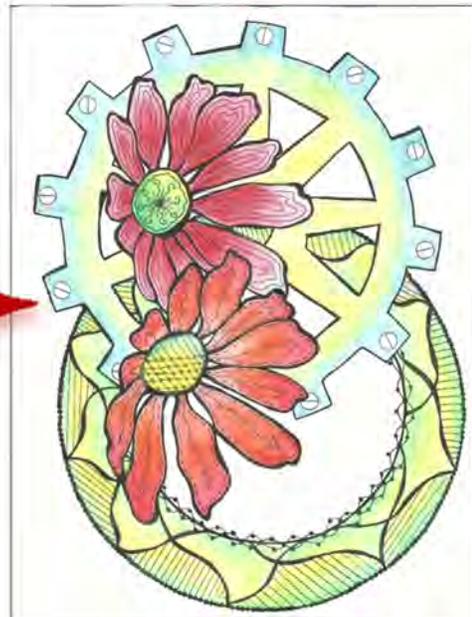
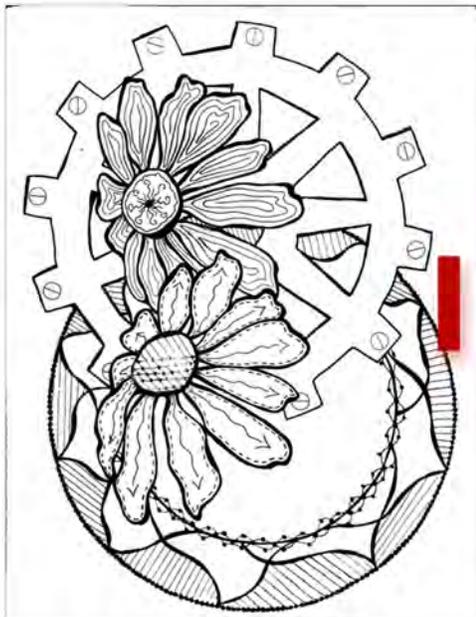
1. Take one sheet of 12 inches by 12 inches of cardstock to use as a base for the cards. Always keep the paper in the same position.
2. Score at 3 inches and 9 inches.
3. Choose a stamp border and stamp it on both the left and right sides of the cardstock, making sure that the design takes up about half of the space between the border of the paper and the score lines that were made.
4. Cut the paper at 6 inches.
5. Turn the paper 90 degrees so that the design is facing away from you and cut this every 3 inches. Now you will have 8 different cards from that one sheet.
6. Fold the cards down the score line you made in step 2.
7. Use other stamps and embellishments to decorate as desired.
8. Use the same stamps to decorate the envelopes.
9. To turn this project into a gift set, take a medium craft gift bag, fold the top over, and decorate using a folded small doily and a piece of cardstock to simulate a banner.
10. Stamp the main image on the banner or on another piece of paper. Cut it out and paste it on the banner to add dimension.
11. Punch two holes across the top of the bag, and tie it together using the Baker's Twine.

[Martha Lucia Gomez](#) lives in the beautiful, sunny city of Miami, Florida, although she was born and raised in Colombia. She is the owner and creator of El Atelier de Stampartapel, the only online stamping school with video tutorials, written tutorials and PDFs all in Spanish. She also designs for Quick Quotes Scrapbook Company, KellyCraft Innovations, So Suzy Stamps, Rebecca Baer, Inc, Die-Namies Dies, a2z Scrapbooking, Makin's Clay®, and Earth Safe Finishes®. She started out by working with paper crafts, but has since incorporated all types of other materials. She finds total and complete happiness working with her hands and creating new and exciting projects.



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Fall Candle Lanterns

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

Early Fall is such a beautiful time for an outdoor dinner party and these candle lanterns are perfect for just that. I purchased the lanterns at a dollar store, but by adding a little bling and fibers they look like they were bought at a high-end store!

Materials:

- ◆ Glass lanterns (3)
- ◆ Assorted flowers
- ◆ Fibers, tan
- ◆ Assorted adhesive ribbons, green, yellow, orange
- ◆ Adhesive crystal stickers

Tools:

- ◆ [Westcott® Brand Scissors](#)
- ◆ Glue gun

Instructions:

1. Wrap adhesive ribbons around the top of the glass lanterns.
2. Adhere the crystal stickers to the front of the lanterns.
3. Tie the fibers around the handles.
4. Add flowers to the ribbons with the glue gun.

Fall Fringe Necklace



By [Molly Alexander](#)

It's beautifully bohemian, colorful, hip and has been on the runways for three seasons now. What is it you ask? Fringe! Whether accenting outerwear, formal wear everyday wear or accessories, fringe is the hottest trend in fashion right now.

You can have your own bit of this fashion forward look with this Fall Fringe Necklace that looks equally at home with your work clothes and your weekend wear.

Materials:

- ◆ Waxed Irish linen, 2 ply: 3 colors (11.5' of each color)
- ◆ Seed beads: 8 various colors and sizes (102 each)
- ◆ Antiqued copper jump rings, 6mm (3)
- ◆ Small link copper chain, 4.5"
- ◆ Round antiqued copper or leather necklace, 18" (1)
- ◆ Oval domed copper pendant, 40mm x 30mm (1)

Tools:

- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Chain nose jewelry pliers
- ◆ Ruler

Instructions:

1. Cut seventeen 8" lengths of each color of waxed Irish linen, for a total of 51 lengths of thread
2. Alternating your colors, attach 50 lengths of thread to your 18" necklace using a Lark's head knot. Make sure you have all of the knots going the same direction. You will now have 100 4-inch lengths of thread hanging from your necklace.
3. String 8 seed beads onto the first length of thread and tie simple knot near the bottom of the thread. Repeat with the other 99 threads, keeping the beads in the same color order and knotting the bottom of the threads at approximately the same place to keep them as close to identical as possible.
4. Use the pliers to attach the jump rings to each end of the copper chain. Attach the chain to the necklace on either side of the fringe.
5. Add the copper pendant to the middle of the chain using the third jump ring.
6. Tie the extra length of waxed Irish linen to the pendant's jump ring.
7. String 4 beads to each end of the thread hanging from the pendant and tie the ends, making sure the beads hang in the approximate center of the pendant.

[Molly Alexander](#) is a self-taught jewelry, mixed-media and mosaic artist, and is the owner and lead designer of Miss Molly's Designs. Her designs have been published in numerous books and magazines, and can be found in public and private collections around the world. As an artist, she pushes herself artistically, learning new techniques and working with exciting new materials whenever she can to keep her designs distinctive and current. Molly lives with her husband and little dog just outside of Boston, MA, volunteers as a mentor through her church, and leads a full and blessed life that she is grateful for every day.



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Light Up Your Life

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

If you're looking for a little bit of glam to add to your home décor, then this project is definitely for you! The trend started with adding "word art" to walls, like "family" or "hope." The Marquee letters are a take-off of that, but these letters are much more fun & funky! You can decorate one like I have done here or go all out with a whole word. Either way, you're going to have a super fun time playing with these letters!

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Materials:

- ◆ Heidi Swapp™ Marquee Kit, "L"
- ◆ Heidi Swapp™ Washi Tape, black & white stripes
- ◆ Corrugated glitter paper, silver
- ◆ Prima Marketing® paper flowers
- ◆ Ribbon, white & black
- ◆ Chalkboard clothespin memo holder
- ◆ Cardstock, white

Tools:

- ◆ Glue gun,
- ◆ Computer
- ◆ [Duetica® Piper font](#)
- ◆ Printer

Instructions:

1. Adhere the washi tape along the outside edges of the letter.
2. Using the pattern that comes in the kit, trace the letter to the back of the glitter paper and cut the letter out.
3. Adhere the glitter paper and ribbon to the inside of the letter.
4. Create the "is for Love" banner on the computer using Duetica Piper font, print on cardstock and cut it out.
5. Glue the banner to the chalkboard memo holder. Next, glue the memo holder and the flowers to the letter. Make a bow and adhere it to the letter.
6. Assemble the lights to the letter following the manufacturer's directions.



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Autumn Sunrise



By [Roberta Birnbaum](#)

Can you imagine creating a beautiful wood canvas from Styrofoam™? With the magic of Powertex you can make a stunning home décor statement piece in one afternoon.

Materials:

- ◆ STYROFOAM™ sheet, 18" x 24"
- ◆ Powertex® Liquid Sculpting Medium: Bronze, Ivory, Red, Yellow, Blue
- ◆ Powertex® Bister
- ◆ Powertex® Colortrix Pigments: Bronze Gold, Rich Gold
- ◆ Powertex® Powercolors: Turquoise, Yellow
- ◆ Powertex® Paper Decoration – White
- ◆ T-shirt, 100% cotton
- ◆ Lace
- ◆ Varnish, water-based
- ◆ Laser printed image

Tools:

- ◆ [FloraCraft StyroCutter® Plus](#)
- ◆ Heat gun
- ◆ Paintbrush
- ◆ Foam brushes
- ◆ Disposable gloves
- ◆ Dowels
- ◆ Hair dryer

Instructions:

1. Create texture in STYROFOAM™ with StyroCutter® by cutting into the surface, making layers, cracks and crevices.
2. Take your heat gun, on low, and quickly dissolve the strings left behind by the cutter. You will also notice that the heat gun will melt the Styrofoam™. This you can use to your advantage by adding some depth and softening some hard edges. CAUTION – make sure you are in a well-ventilated room when melting STYROFOAM™.
3. Paint the entire surface, including the sides, with Bronze.
4. Let the paint mostly dry, and then smear the Ivory randomly, but horizontally, on the STYROFOAM™. The bronze will show through and create a faux-wood effect.
5. Mix Ivory and Yellow and apply a few streaks on the STYROFOAM™.
6. Mix Yellow and Red and apply randomly to the STYROFOAM™.
7. Add Blue and adjust the tint with Ivory, or deepen the shade with Red (or make a yellow/red mix).
8. Spray Bister where you want to create 'shadows' or a deeper contrast, then use a brush to blend it in.
9. Add an even layer of pure Ivory to your STYROFOAM™ where you plan to place your image. Place the image face down into the paint and gently burnish to ensure it is evenly attached to the STYROFOAM™. Let dry for 3 hours.
10. Spray the image with water and allow it to soak in for 20 seconds, then begin to rub off the pulp. Continue until your image is exposed.
11. Saturate the t-shirt, lace and Paper Decoration with paint. Wring out the excess paint. Arrange items on your STYROFOAM™, trying to create rolls, creases, and dimension wherever possible. Use the wood dowels (like chopsticks) to help sculpt the items. Let dry.
12. Add Turquoise and Yellow Powercolor with varnish, then enhance the items with the varnish and Colortrix by dipping the bristles of your brush into the varnish, then dipping them into a pot of Colortrix.



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Zoey's Funny Faces

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

My granddaughter is always making funny faces and posing for the camera. She reminds me so much of her mother, who used to do the same exact thing at Zoey's age. I decided to take a few of these photos of her to create this collage so, not only do I see my grandbaby, I can also reminisce about my beautiful daughter at this very same age.

Materials:

- ◆ ArtMinds™ Parenthesis Plaque
- ◆ Pattern paper
- ◆ Cardstock, dark red, white
- ◆ Trim, black
- ◆ Mini clothespins, (4)
- ◆ Various paper flowers
- ◆ Butterfly embellishment
- ◆ [Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry™ Paper Glue](#)
- ◆ Tim Holtz® idea-ology® Clipboard Clip
- ◆ Ranger® Inkssentials™ Pop it! Shapes
- ◆ Photos

Tools:

- ◆ Glue gun
- ◆ Computer
- ◆ [Duetica® Piper font](#)
- ◆ Printer
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Pencil

Instructions:

1. Lay the plaque onto pattern paper and trace with a pencil.
2. Cut the paper out and adhere to the front of the plaque.
3. Cut the red cardstock slightly larger than your photos.
4. Adhere the photos to the red cardstock and attach the mini clothespins to the top of the photos.
5. Create the title using a computer and print it out. Next, cut it out, layer it with the red cardstock and adhere it to the cardstock.
6. Using a glue gun, glue the trim around the edge of the plaque.

7. Adhere the clipboard clip and four of the photos to the plaque.
8. Apply Pop it! Shapes to the back of the center photo and the title. Adhere them to the plaque.
9. Add flowers and butterfly to the plaque with the glue gun.





Beautiful Belt for Your Baby Bump

By [Richelle Rojas](#)

I created this beautiful belt for my very pregnant friend to wear at her baby shower. She had purchased a really pretty dress to wear and although the dress was really nice, it lacked a little in the WOW department. The belt took very little time to create and it added just the right touch to the dress. My friend looked beautiful on her special day and I was so happy to be part of it!

Materials:

- ◆ Ribbon, tan 2"wide, 80" long
- ◆ Large flowers, tan (1)
- ◆ Medium flowers, orange (2)
- ◆ Medium flowers, blue (2)
- ◆ Small flowers, blue (4)
- ◆ Small flowers, tan (2)
- ◆ Pearl strands, (2) 12" long

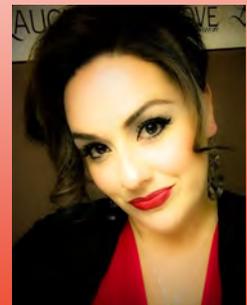
Tools:

- ◆ Glue gun

Instructions:

1. Find the center of the ribbon after you measure it. **Note:** Because this belt is for a pregnant woman, the length of the ribbon will vary. Leave enough ribbon to tie a bow in the back.
2. Adhere the large flower in the center of the ribbon. Measure approximately 3 inches on either side of the center flower and adhere pearl strands to each side.
3. Next, measure approximately 2 inches from each side of the first pearl strand and glue the second strand in place.
4. Arrange the flowers on the ribbon as desired and adhere to the ribbon. See photo for placement if needed.

[Richelle Rojas](#) has worked in the health care industry, first as a medical assistant and then as a college instructor teaching classes on medical assisting. She left the professional world after the birth of her daughter to be a stay-at-home mom for her new baby and two step-children. Richelle has always been creative and began crafting with her mom as a small child. Once home with her children, she soon found herself with a little free time and decided to return to her creative roots. She enjoys all types of crafting and is extremely excited to have one of her projects published in Bella Crafts Quarterly!



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These bracelets were so simple and fun to create that I wanted to make a bunch of them to match with different outfits.

With the cuffs being pre-made, all you need to do is add some beautiful embellishments to make a bold fashion statement!



Glamorous Cuff Bracelets

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

Materials:

- ◆ Fashion Tidbits™ Cuff Bracelets, tan, black
- ◆ Lace trim, tan
- ◆ Doily, tan
- ◆ Lace applique, white
- ◆ Prima Marketing® Vintage Trinket
- ◆ Prima Marketing® Prima Flowers, red
- ◆ Various charms, bronze (3)
- ◆ Jump rings, bronze (3)
- ◆ Mini clip art, crown
- ◆ [Connie Crystal® Crystal Sheet](#)

Tools:

- ◆ Westcott® Brand Scissors
- ◆ Glue gun
- ◆ Round nosed pliers

Instructions:

Crown Cuff Bracelet

1. Adhere the lace trim to the cuff with glue gun.
2. Cut out the crown mini clip art and adhere it to the center of the trinket.
3. Glue the trinket to the tan doily and then glue them both to the cuff.
4. Attach the jump rings to the three charms.
5. Attach the charms to the doily with the round nosed pliers.

Flower & Lace Cuff Bracelet

1. Adhere the lace applique to the cuff with glue gun.
2. Cut the crystal sheet into single strips and glue to the lace applique.
3. Cut a few single crystals from the strips and adhere them to the lace applique.

- Note:** See photo for placement if needed.
4. Glue the rose to the cuff.



Grapevine Wine Wrap

By [Ann Butler](#)

Add just the right touch to a bottle of wine that you may be giving as a gift or have on display, with this quick grapevine wine wrap.

Materials:

- Grape cluster with leaves
- Grapevine wreath, 1 1/2"
- Tulip® Fashion Glitter, Multi Ultra Fine
- [Aleene's® The Ultimate Multi-Surface Adhesive](#)
- Collage Pauge® Instant Decoupage

Instructions:

1. Sparingly apply Collage Pauge® to some of the grapes and leaves then, sprinkle with glitter.
2. Put the stem of the grape cluster through an open area of the wreath then, glue into place.
3. Set aside to dry completely.

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Altered Drawer Unit

By [Marjolaine Walker](#)

For years now I have been collecting different organizational pieces that I find in thrift stores or yard sales. The goal has always been to alter them and make them look pretty for my art studio. Although each piece has been extremely functional in organizing my craft supplies, my good intentions about altering them hadn't happened. The main reason for this is that the thought of prepping these pieces before painting them was overwhelming to me. All that has changed now that I have discovered chalk paint. No more complicated prep work to think about. Chalk paint easily covers unfinished or outdated pieces of furniture without all the effort of traditional paint. If I'm not careful, I might just spend the next few months chalk painting everything in sight!

Materials:

- ◆ IKEA Drawer Unit
- ◆ Fine Grit Sand Paper
- ◆ Plaid® FolkArt® Home Decor™ Chalk Ultra Matte Paint, Turkish Tile, Nantucket Blue
- ◆ Plaid® FolkArt® Home Decor™ White Wax
- ◆ [Plaid® Mod Podge](#)
- ◆ Graphic® 45 Patterned Paper
- ◆ Beacon Adhesives Quick Grip™
- ◆ Metal Label Plates
- ◆ Ranger Archival Ink, Jet Black
- ◆ Hampton Art™ Studio G Letter Stamps
- ◆ Faber-Castell Design Memory Craft® Stamper's Big Brush Pens

Tools:

- ◆ [Fiskars® paper trimmer](#)
- ◆ Damp rag
- ◆ Paint brush

Instructions:

1. Wipe down the drawer unit and make sure it's completely clean
2. Paint the drawer unit with one coat of chalk paint and allow it to dry.
3. Paint the drawer unit with a different color of chalk paint and allow it to dry.
4. Sand the drawer unit with the sand paper in areas where you would like it to look distressed. Removing some of the second layer of paint will allow the first layer to peak through. Clean off the unit with a damp rag to remove any dust.
5. Cover the entire piece with a layer of white wax and allow it to dry for a few hours.
6. Sand the piece again if you would like it to look more distressed. This step is optional. If you have sanded again, wipe the piece with a damp rag.
7. Measure and trim the pattern paper to fit on the front of the drawers.
8. Adhere the cut patterned paper to the surface of the drawers using Mod Podge under and over the paper.
9. Add a splash of color to the patterned paper by coloring some areas with some Stamper's Big Brush Pens.
10. Adhere the label metal plates to the front of the drawers with a strong liquid adhesive. Make sure not to get any glue at the top where the labels will be slipped in.
11. Make some labels to fit inside the metal plates with paper, ink and letter stamps.
12. Insert the labels inside the metal plates.

[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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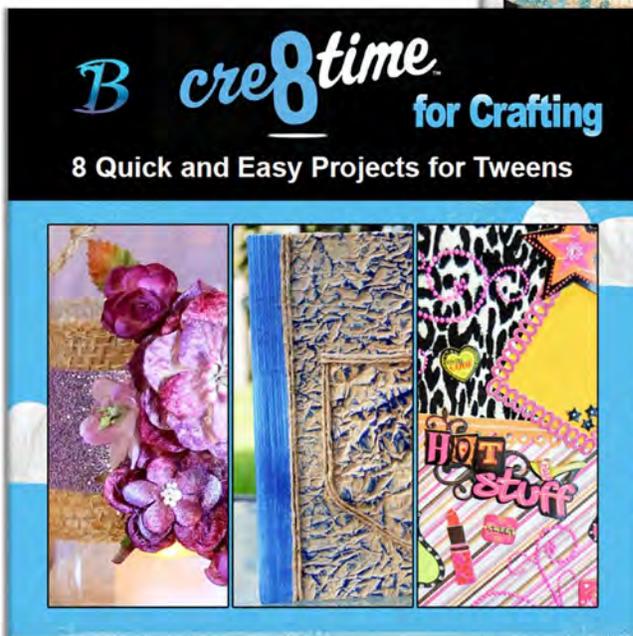
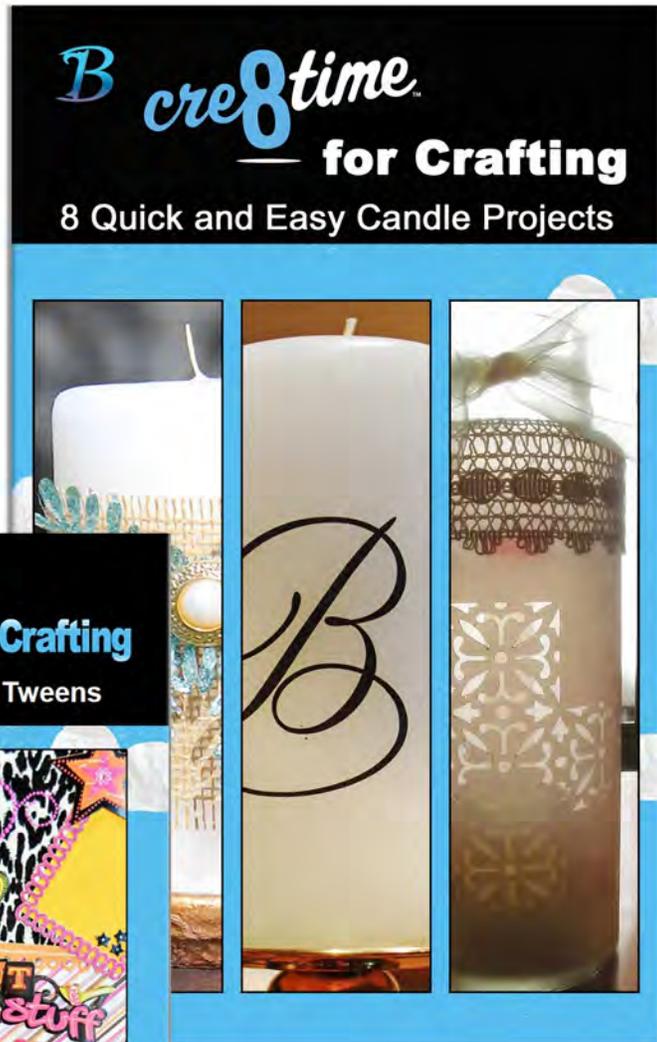
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By [Sara Naumann](#)

We're raiding the medicine cabinet for this fun and easy resist technique!

A simple jar of Vaseline (or pharmacy store-brand petroleum jelly) creates a waterproof layer on cardstock; add a watery wash of paint on top and you've got a beautifully weathered-look background for cards, scrapbook pages and other paper crafts.

(It's also a great way to put those acrylic paints to work!)

One tip: You only need a thin layer of Vaseline® to create this effect. Think of the application in terms applying lip balm to your lips. After you apply the paint, you'll need to remove the Vaseline®, so a light touch is better than too much.

Want to take the technique a step further? Paint your cardstock with one color, apply the Vaseline® resist on top, then add a second paint on top for a dual-color effect. Go for high-contrast or tone-on-tone—there are so many possibilities with this technique!

Believe Birdie Card

Materials:

- ◆ Vaseline® Petroleum Jelly
- ◆ Ranger Archival Ink, Jet Black
- ◆ Ranger Cut n' Dry Foam
- ◆ PaperArtsy™ Fresco Finish Chalk Acrylic Paint, Bora Bora
- ◆ White matte cardstock, 5 1/2" x 4 1/8", 4" x 6", 3 1/8" x 2 1/8"
- ◆ Black matte cardstock, 5 3/4" x 4 3/8", 3 1/2" x 2 1/2"
- ◆ Red matte cardstock, 5" x 6 1/2", 3 3/8" x 2 1/4"
- ◆ Natural twine, 5"
- ◆ Foam tape
- ◆ Blank white card, 4 1/2" x 6"
- ◆ Tissue or paper towel
- ◆ Clear tape
- ◆ Craft glue
- ◆ Black brads (4)

Tools:

- ◆ [Eclectica³ {Sara Naumann}](#) ESN15 stamps
- ◆ Acrylic block
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Flat paint brush
- ◆ 1/16" hole pinch or piercing tool

Instructions:

1. Cut a 2 inch piece of Cut n' Dry. Use it to apply streaks of Vaseline® horizontally across the 5 1/2 inches by 4 1/8 inches piece of white cardstock. The more areas you cover with Vaseline®, the more white will show on the cardstock.
2. Use a wet paintbrush to paint watery Bora Bora over the Vaseline®. Apply the paint in the same horizontal direction as you applied the Vaseline® to minimize smearing. Let the cardstock air-dry thoroughly.
3. When dry, use a tissue to wipe off the Vaseline®. Use another tissue to gently buff the cardstock to ensure all petroleum jelly is removed.
4. Use black ink to stamp the script in each corner of the painted piece. Stamp the circular image once at the top and once at the bottom, stamping the image both horizontally and vertically. Mat on black cardstock.
5. Cover the card front with red cardstock, trimming the excess from the bottom and side. Glue the matted resist piece in the center. Punch or poke a hole at each corner and add brads.
6. Use black ink to stamp the bird body (not the legs) twice on the 4 inches by 6 inches piece of white cardstock. Cut out the body from one image, and then cut out only the wing from the second image. Use foam tape to attach the single wing to the stamped bird body at an angle.
7. Place the "believe" quote stamp on an acrylic block. Because the stamp is a quote, you'll mask off all words except for "believe". Place clear tape over all the words in the quote except "believe". Ink the word "believe". Remove the tape, and then stamp the word at the top right of the 3 1/8" x 2 1/8" piece of white cardstock.
8. Mat the piece on red, and then black cardstock. Use foam tape to adhere the stamped bird. Tie a bow in the twine and glue above the bird's wings.
9. Use foam tape to adhere the matted bird focal to the card front, slightly left of center.

[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!



How to Make a Rainbow Inkpads

By [Lisa Rojas](#)



Rainbow inkpads have been around for quite some time now, but I never get tired of using them.

You can add a multitude of colors to a rubber stamped image, by only stamping one time!

And by creating your own inkpads, you can mix and match whatever colors that you choose.
How fun is that!

Materials:

- ◆ Baby wipes
- ◆ Glossy cardstock, white
- ◆ ColorBox® Premium Dye Re-inkers, Guava, Sky, Grape
- ◆ Rubber stamps of choice

Tools:

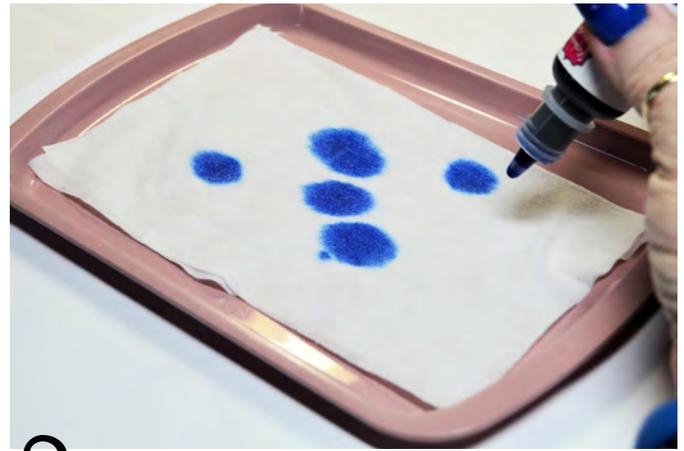
- ◆ Plastic tray

Tip:

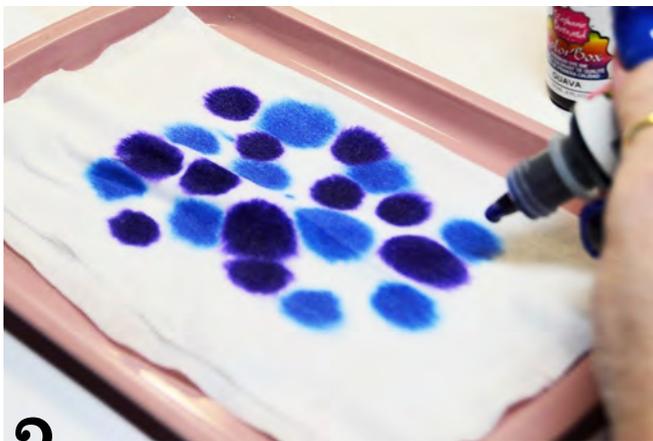
- ◆ For this technique, glossy paper works best. If you're using a matte paper, be sure to work quickly so the ink won't dry on the stamp.



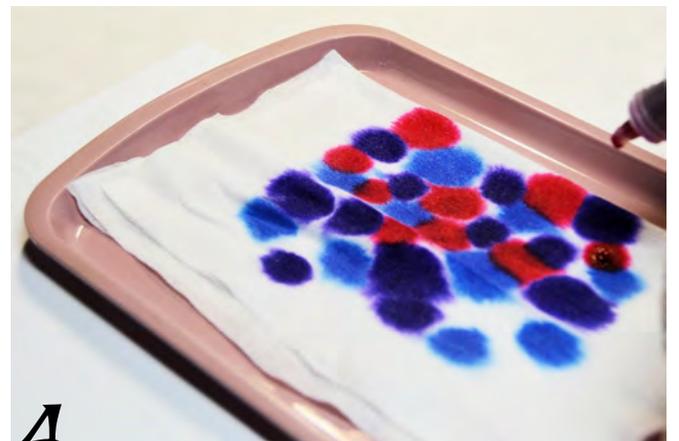
1 Fold two baby wipes in half and place in tray.



2 Add drops of Sky re-inker onto baby wipes.



3 Repeat with the Grape re-inker.



4 Repeat with the Gauva re-inker. Be careful not to mix the Colors too much.



5 Press rubber stamp onto the baby Wipes. Make sure the entire stamp is covered with the ink.



6 Stamp the image onto the glossy cardstock as desired.



Stenciled Burlap Coasters

By [Ann Butler](#)

I found this awesome set of four wooden coasters with a box for \$2 at a local craft store. I also knew it was a great base for a project. So I grabbed some stencils, ink, paint and burlap and created a cute little gift item.

Materials:

- ◆ Wooden coaster set
- ◆ Burlap, 4" x 4" (4), 4 1/2" x 4 1/2", 1 1/2" x 15"
- ◆ Ann Butler ColorBox Crafter's® Ink, Canyon
- ◆ [Chalk It Up! by Earth Safe Finishes](#), Root Beer Float
- ◆ [Aleene's Easy Squeeze Original Tacky Glue](#)
- ◆ Button

Tools:

- ◆ [Ann Butler ColorBox® ART Screen](#), Lattice
- ◆ ColorBox® ART Dauber
- ◆ Westcott® Brand Scissors
- ◆ Paint brush

Instructions:

1. Paint the coasters and box with Root Beer Float. Let dry.
2. Glue the 4" pieces of burlap onto the coasters. Glue the 4 1/2" piece of burlap to the top of the box. Let dry.
3. Place the stencil onto of a coaster. Apply the Canyon ink over the stencil with a Dauber. Repeat for the 3 remaining coasters.
4. Apply Canyon ink around the edges of the coasters using the Dauber.
5. Ink all of the edges of the box using the Dauber and canyon ink.
6. Place the stencil onto the 15" strip of burlap. Apply the Canyon ink over the stencil with a Dauber. Repeat over the entire length of the strip.
7. Tie the strip of burlap into a bow, then glue to the top center of the box.
8. Glue button to the center of the bow.

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Altered Gift Box

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

I love to repurpose things. One of my favorite things to do is save great quality gift boxes...the ones that soaps and chocolates come in...and alter them into treasure boxes. It's really simple to do. Plus, they make wonderful vessels for keepsakes or for gifts. The next time you or a family member receive a cool box, don't pitch it. Alter it!

Materials:

- ◆ Gift box
- ◆ Decorative paper, large sheet
- ◆ Golden® Matte Medium
- ◆ Cord, Gold
- ◆ Ribbon, purple, 1/2"
- ◆ Dried flowers

Tools:

- ◆ Foam brush
- ◆ Paper plate
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Pencil
- ◆ Bone folder
- ◆ Glue gun

Instructions:

1. Measure a piece of decorative paper the size of the box lid, plus enough to wrap over the sides and fold over the lip of the lid.
2. Lay the box lid top side down on the reverse side of the decorative paper. Make sure it is centered and trace around the lid with the pencil.
3. Remove the lid and add a generous amount of Matte Medium to the paper. Then, place the lid on top of the glue. Flip it over and gently, but firmly, press the paper into the lid for good adhesion.
4. Turn the lid back over and cut each corner at an angle. Do not cut too close to the lid, otherwise you will have a gap.
5. Starting at one of the long ends, add Matte Medium to the paper and fold it up and over the lip of the box lid. Use a bone folder to help push the paper into the corners. Repeat on the other side.
6. Next, before adding any glue, fold the paper on one of the shorter ends up and over the box lid. Use the bone folder to tuck in any excess paper at the corners. Then, unfold it, add glue and refold. Use a bone folder to help push the paper into the corners. Repeat on the other side. Let it dry for about 20 minutes.
7. Cut one piece of the 1/2-inch ribbon long enough to fit across the short length of the box with enough to wrap around the lip of the lid. Glue it to the box lid.
8. Cut one piece of the 1/2-inch ribbon long enough to fit across the long length of the box with enough to wrap around the lip of the lid. Glue it to the box lid.
9. Cut a few pieces of dried flowers and tie them together with the gold cord. Trim the cord and tie a knot in each end. Then, glue the bundle to the box where the 1/2-inch ribbon intersects.
10. Cut a piece of 1/2-inch ribbon and create a bow. Trim the edges and glue it to the center of the dried flower bundle.



Jean Pocket Note Holder

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

This project is a super fun way to create a note holder and recycle some of those old pairs of jeans that you have lying around the house! And, since there is absolutely no sewing involved, it's a wonderful project to create with your teens.

Materials:

- ◆ Jean pocket from old pair of jeans
- ◆ Cardstock, white
- ◆ Prismacolor® Color Pencils
- ◆ Gamsol Mineral Spirits
- ◆ ColorBox® Archival Dye Inkpad, Wicked Black
- ◆ Wire, silver 20 gauge, 15" long
- ◆ Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry™ Paper Glue
- ◆ Flowers
- ◆ Butterfly embellishment

Tools:

- ◆ [Westcott® Brand Scissors](#)
- ◆ Blending stump
- ◆ Computer with Wide Latin font
- ◆ Printer
- ◆ Wire cutters

Instructions:

1. Cut the pocket from an old pair of jeans and set aside.
2. Stamp flowers and jar on white cardstock with black inkpad.
3. Color the images with color pencils, using the Gamsol and blending stump to blend the colors together. Cut out.
4. Using a computer with Wide Latin font, print out the word "notes" on white cardstock. Cut the letters out.
5. Adhere the flowers, jar and "notes" to the front of the jeans pocket.
6. Cut wire 15 inches long and wrap the wire around a pencil to form curls. Punch the wire through the pocket to create the hanger.
7. Place the flowers inside the pocket and attach the butterfly to the wire.



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Easy Sunflower Shaker Card

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

I absolutely love making shaker cards! There is just something silly and fun about them that reminds me of my childhood. But, shaker cards can be difficult and time consuming to create. Well, not anymore! With these clear shaker pouches, you can make this card in under an hour.

Materials:

- ◆ Cardstock, white, pumpkin, 10 ½"W x 6 ½"H folded in half
- ◆ Heartfelt Creations® Classic Sunflower Collection, red pattern, 4 ½"W x 5 ½"H
- ◆ Heartfelt Creations® Classic Sunflower Collection, sunflower frames (2), 3 ¾"W x 5"H
- ◆ Heartfelt Creations® Classic Sunflower Collection, word border
- ◆ Impression Obsession® Shake it™ shaker card pouches, clear (1)
- ◆ Stampendous® Clear Stamp Set Bouquet for You
- ◆ Chunky glitter, bronze, gold
- ◆ ColorBox® Archival Dye Inkpad, Pumpkin
- ◆ [Beacon Adhesives® Zip Dry™ Paper Glue](#)
- ◆ Foam tape

Tools:

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

Instructions:

1. Cut a 2-inch border all around both of the bandanas in one cut.
2. Place bandanas wrong sides together. Use pins to hold in place.
3. Starting in one corner, make cuts 3-inches long and ¾-inches apart.
4. Continue cutting along 3 sides of the bandana, leaving one side open for the top.
5. Take one strip from the bottom and one strip from the top and tie them together. Continue tying the strips until completed.
6. Turn the top sides under 1 ¼-inches and 1 ¼-inches again and adhere together.

7. Using the border pieces from step 1, cut them into 6 strips 15-inches long.
8. Sew the strips together creating 3 strips that are 30-inches long. Braid the 3 strips together to create the handle.
9. Adhere the daisy trim around the top of the purse. Adhere the handle to the inside of the purse and finish by adhering the bow to the front center of the purse.

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Chip Clips

By Ann Butler

I am always searching for something to keep bags closed. When I was shopping the other day, I saw some Chip Clips and placed them in my cart. Before I got to the checkout I also passed an aisle which had clothespins so I grabbed them also. My thought was that I would always have clips on hand if I bought the clothespins which had 50 to a package, rather than the 3 actual Chip Clips.

But who wants boring clothespins, even if they are just in the cupboard keeping bags closed?

I found some great napkins and decided to up-cycle the clothespins into fun Chip Clips of their own. These were so quick to make and I love the result!

Materials:

- ◆ [Earth Safe Finishes Decoupage](#)
- ◆ Clothespins
- ◆ Napkins

Tools:

- ◆ Paint brush
- ◆ [Westcott® Brand Scissors](#)

Instructions:

1. Separate the napkin to a single layer.
2. Cut the napkin to fit the clothespin front and sides.
3. Apply the decoupage to a clothespin and place the napkin onto the clothespin. Add a thin layer of decoupage to the top of side of the napkin. Let dry.
4. Repeat step 3 to the back side of the clothespin.

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Project Created by Rebekah Meier



Altered Liquor Container Vase

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

I don't know about you, but around the holidays we tend to get a lot of gifts in the form of liquid...if you know what I mean. Honestly, I get more excited about the containers they come in more than anything else. This vase was created from one such container.

Materials:

- ◆ Round or square liquor box
- ◆ Graphic 45 Curtain Call Paper Pack
- ◆ [Tombow Xtreme Paper Adhesive](#)
- ◆ Beacon Adhesive Quick Grip™
- ◆ Mini-letters

Tools:

- ◆ Scissors or paper trimmer

Instructions:

1. Wrap a piece of the Leading Ladies paper around the container with the dot side facing out. Trim it so that there is about a ½-inch of overlap. Then, add the tape to the back side of the paper and adhere it to the container.
2. Cut the Applause paper so that you have two rows of tickets. Add tape to the back side of the paper and stick it to the container, around the top edge.
3. Cut out one of the squares on the All That Jazz paper. Tape that to the darker side of a piece of the Top Billing paper. Trim that so there is about a ¼-inch border. Tape this panel to the container.
4. Next, select two words to spell out with the mini letters. Jazz and Music were used in this project. Glue them on top of the panel with Quick Grip™.
5. Add dried or silk flowers.

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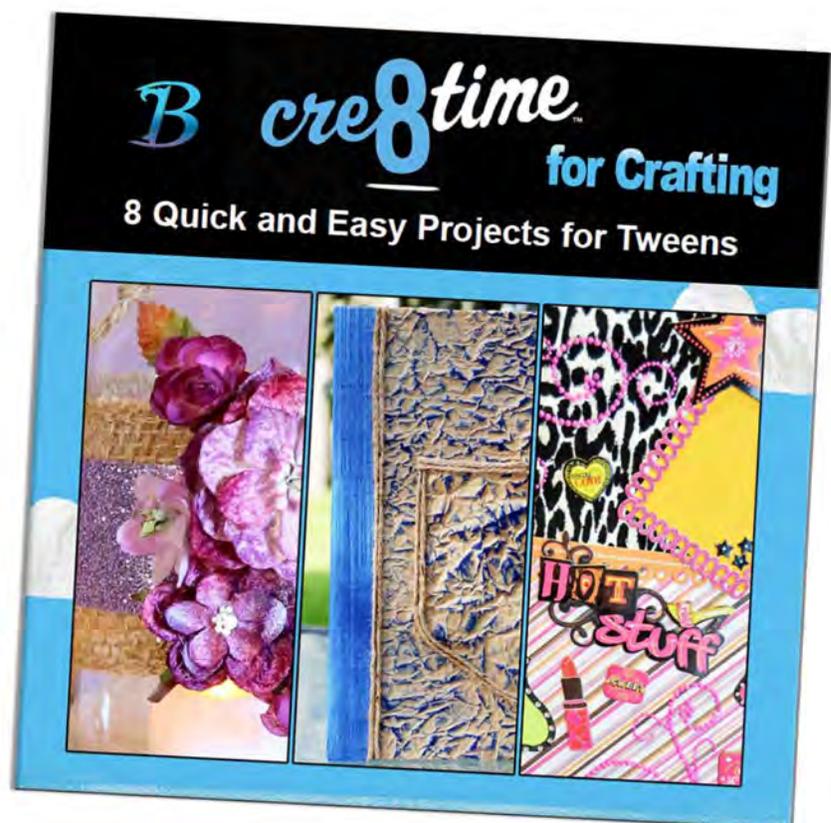
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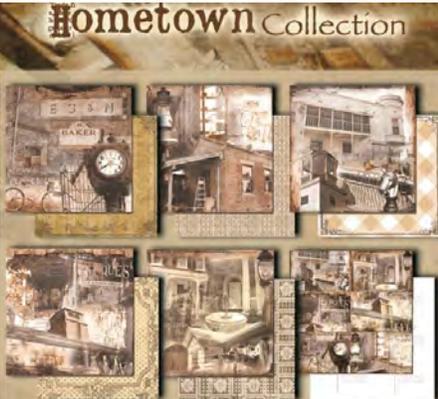
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