

Bella

CRAFTS™

2016 Volume 1 Issue 3

30+
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MEET

Heidi Borchers and
Angel Hickman Peterson

Plus...

more 20 Minute crafts and
articles for Craftpreneurs

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[Ann Butler](#) 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.



[Lisa Rojas](#) has been a mixed media artist and professional designer for the craft industry over 20 years. Her work has appeared in numerous craft magazines and books, on websites, national advertisements and tradeshow booths. Lisa has also filmed multiple television segments on Creative Living with Sheryl Borden. She works with many manufacturers using their products in her work, creating projects and teaching classes at tradeshow. Lisa is a member of the Craft and Hobby Association.



[Theresa Cifali](#) 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.

Bella Crafts Publishing
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Villard, MN 56385

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Marketing Director.....Ann Butler
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Please craft in a responsible and safe manner. Failure to do so can result in injury.

Bella Columnists



[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.



[Jo Pearson](#), AKA Glitter Queen, is the former 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!"



[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

Bella Contributors



[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!



[Rebekah Meier](#) is a self taught mixed media artist, teacher, author, and designer. She has a special interest in fabric and paper, combining both to create collage and fiber art. Rebekah has a freeform and relaxed design philosophy, believing that when creating art, there are no

mistakes, just happy accidents. She likes to incorporate many textures into her artwork which is represented in her best selling books, Fabric Art Collage, 40+ Mixed Media Techniques, and More Fabric Art Collage, Fabric Elements Product Line, and The Crafter’s Workshop Stencil designs.



[Cindy Shepard](#) is an experimental artist whose focus is on repurposed and mixed media art. She is an author and published designer. Cindy shares her love for recycling and

whimsical, colorful designs through classes she teaches at various venues.



[Madeline Arendt](#) is a freelance designer, published author and instructor. Something she has enjoyed for over 20 years. She is someone with the love and desire to create anything handmade from any materials on hand and to share it all with

those interested and like-minded.



[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.



[Chantal Johnson](#) has been the recipient of God’s great love and has been given creativity as one of her many gifts. Her heritage is one of Southern hospitality and European style but her heart is pure Texan!! Her home,

as well as her art, resounds with sentiments from a joyful, grateful spirit to that of faith and hope mixed with a touch of wonder. She loves all things that can inspire others to find joy in the everyday. Her work has been published in Somerset Studio, Somerset Home, Sew Somerset, Apronology, Haute Handbags, Belle Armoire and Green Craft. She is currently on the ICE Resin® 2016 Design Team.

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Why are My Photos Blurry?

Helen Bradley explains why your photos are blurry and what you can do about it.

Shooting photos that are blurry is disappointing and frustrating. Of all the problems you can have with your photos, an out of focus photo is something that even Photoshop experts are hard pressed to fix. I'll explain some of the reasons your photos might be blurry and how you can avoid this happening.

Not focusing correctly:

If your camera does not focus on what you are shooting, your photo won't be sharp. This can be caused by a number of factors. One is that your camera is too close to the subject. If you're shooting close up, make sure your camera is set to Macro mode (indicated by a flower icon). Of course, there is close and too close and even in Macro mode you can be too close to your subject for the camera to focus.

When you're shooting, make sure to press your camera shutter in two steps – one to allow the camera to focus and the second half to take the shot. If you don't pause with the camera shutter half pressed, you won't allow the camera time to focus and the result is likely to be a blurry image.

Of course, you also need to focus the camera on the element in the scene that you want to be sharp. Otherwise you will end up with the focus in the wrong place.

Movement:

Another cause of blurry images is movement – either you move or your subject moves. You will avoid moving the camera if you hold it steady and in both hands. Concentrate on holding yourself and the camera steady as you take the shot and immediately after taking the shot. If you're shooting in low light or with a slow shutter speed, place the camera on a tripod to keep it

steady. If you don't have a tripod, you can brace yourself by leaning against a wall or a tree.

If your subject is moving, there are a couple of things you can do to avoid a blurry image. One is to increase the camera shutter speed. On a point and shoot there will be a setting for capturing motion and on a dSLR you can use shutter priority mode and set the shutter to a fast speed. A fast shutter speed lets you capture the image very quickly so you essentially stop the movement. If a fast shutter speed is not possible – for example in low light – you can follow the moving object with your camera. This takes practice and involves following the subject with the camera. Start moving well before you take the shot and continue to move with the subject, even after you have taken the shot.

Being aware of what can cause blurry photos is a first step towards ensuring your photos are always sharp and in focus.



In this image, the focus is on the large beads at the front and the earrings at the back are out of focus and blurry. This works because something in the image needs to be in focus.

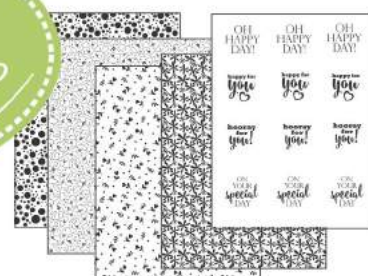
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Why You Should Use Twitter for your Creative Business

Whenever the topic of Twitter comes up amongst Craft and Hobby industry professionals, the number one thing I hear is, "Oh, I don't really use Twitter. I just don't get it." I completely understand this point of view. I once felt the exact same way. As a matter of fact, I created my first Twitter account back in January of 2011, used it for a week and then promptly abandoned it...for almost a year! I didn't think about it again until a friend and I were discussing the platform and my interest was renewed.

Fast forward to today and Twitter is one of my favorite platforms. If you are still not sure, maybe understanding the benefits will help change your mind. I just want to state emphatically....if you have a creative business, Twitter is someplace you will want to be!

What is Twitter, anyway?

Twitter began as, and still is, a microblogging platform. Yep...micro because you only have 140 characters to make your point! At first it can be difficult, but over time it really helps you to be more thoughtful about your posting. I've come to appreciate that. What this means for you is that you have to get your message across in a meaningful, enticing way in as few words as possible.

Even more exciting are the changes Twitter recently announced that will allow us to get even more out of 140 characters. First, the @names in replies will no longer count towards that 140 character limit. Second, media attachments, such as photos and videos, also will no longer cut into that count. This will allow you a lot more

space to share your message. This is AWESOME news!

How can Twitter help my crafty business?

Twitter is different from any other social network because users are looking for content to both consume and share. What it means for you is that users who come across your content, say a blog post of a craft tutorial, may very well click through to your website. That means traffic for you! It means that if they really like what they read, they are going to share that content with their audience, which means being exposed to more people.

To this day, Twitter is Bella's #1 source of website traffic compared to all of our other social networks. That's powerful.

So, how do you get people to click your link? It's easy. SHARE GREAT CONTENT! Here are some examples of great content:

- links to your blog posts
- links to articles or craft tutorials that you think are awesome
- links to information about how to run a craft business
- craft tips
- quotes by artists
- motivational quotes to inspire
- humor

Just a quick note about links...never share a link by itself. It comes across as spam and may get ignored. Show your community that you value their time by letting them know to what content that link leads.

Twitter is also a wonderful platform to build out your authority in your niche. It's easy to demonstrate your knowledge and skill through short, powerful tweets. Be sure to hashtag keywords to make sure that those you are not connected to yet can find you. Don't go crazy with the hashtags, though. Limit them to 3 per tweet, otherwise they are difficult to read.

Another great reason to harness the power of Twitter...

In a simple statement.....It's easy to build a targeted, engaged community on this platform

because you can actively follow people who are relative to your niche. Find like-minded users by doing a hashtag search or use tools to help you. There are tons of tools to help you find targeted followers on Twitter. We'll save that for another time though.

I hope this article has shown you how valuable Twitter can be for your crafty business. Give it a try and I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. We'd love to connect with you, too! So, be sure to come follow us on Twitter [@bellacraftp](https://twitter.com/bellacraftp)



Readers SPOTLIGHT

**We want to feature YOU
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As crafters, we are always looking for tools that not only make our creative lives easier, but also help make our projects appealing. This is especially true when we want to add color to our work.

Since I'm a mixed media artist, I love to use different sources for coloring my projects. For example, I love to use color pencils, watercolors and markers. But, my favorite coloring tool through the years has been chalks, or more precisely, chalk pencils. With chalk pencils you can achieve different looks, from soft and subtle to bright and bold, depending on how you use them. The versatility I can get from using them is the main reason they have been my favorite for a long time...until now. I can't believe that I'm even saying this, but I may have found a new favorite coloring tool in Gelatos from Faber-Castell.

Gelatos are not new to the craft industry. They have been around for a while, but although I love finding and trying new tools, I can be a little stuck in my ways when it comes to my coloring tools. I recently decided that I needed to step out of my comfort zone and try this product out. How else can I share this information with my readers, right? So, let's jump right in!

Gelatos come in small tubes that remind me of Chapstick and they have a creamy consistency. One of the great things about them is they can be used with or without water. One of the techniques you can achieve by applying them dry is to add the color directly to the project and use your finger or a blending tool to blend the colors together. Or, try edging your cards and scrapbook pages by drawing a line around the edges of your paper and again use your finger or blending tool to spread the colors around.

If you want to use them with water, here are a couple techniques to try. Use a palette knife to cut a small piece of the Gelatos off, place it in a small bowl and add some water to dilute it. Then, add the mixture to a small spray bottle to spray it on your project or use an eyedropper to drip it onto your project. My favorite way to use this awesome product is by watercoloring with them. Simply mix them with water and use a paintbrush to apply it directly to the paper. You can also apply the Gelatos directly onto your rubber stamps and either mist the stamp or the paper with a spray bottle and then, stamp.

Gelatos can be used on multiple surfaces such as paper, cloth, canvas and wood. It can also be used with other mediums like, Gesso, Glaze, Gel Medium, Whipped Spackle, Glass Bead Glitter Gel and Chalkboard Paint, just to name a few. By using them with these different mediums, you can create all different kinds of textures to use in your projects. Faber-Castell has put together some wonderful kits for you to try out this great product that offer additional tips and techniques to try.

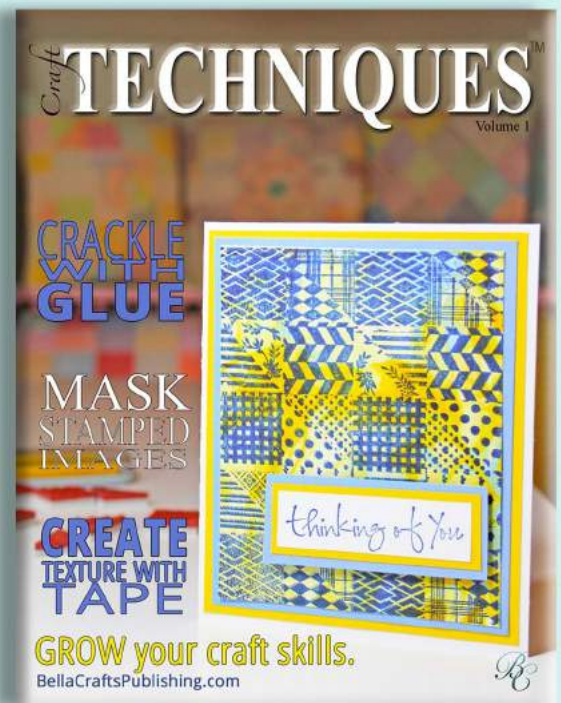
This product can give you a multitude of different effects, from soft and subtle to bold and bright, making it the perfect coloring tool to add to your toolkit. My advice would be to try them all. You'll be thrilled with the results!!!



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An Artist's View

with Ann Butler

In depth with ...

Heidi Borchers



[Heidi Borchers](#) was born into the crafting industry, Heidi's mother is Aleene Jackson, the inventor of Aleene's Tacky Glue. Heidi spent many of her childhood leisure hours in her mother's shop, gluing, creating, and learning. By the time she was a teenager, Heidi had become an accomplished artist as well as an inventive designer.

She launched her national cable television career as co-host and designer of her mother's show "Aleene's Creative Living" which aired on 'The Learning Channel', 'Lifetime' and 'TNN', and remained a staple TV crafting personality for 15 years. Over the years, Heidi has published dozens of Craft How-to books, thousands of Craft Idea Sheets and several very successful Craft Continuity programs. In recent years, Heidi's designs have been featured on [FaveCrafts.com](#), [Cool2Craft.com](#),

[ILove2Create.com](#), Pinterest, Facebook, etc

Her studio, now in the seaside town of Los Osos, California, is home to a sea of materials, finished designs, and works in progress. Whimsical faces, and original characters hang on the walls and peak out from behind hundreds of jars full of buttons, beads, mosaic pieces, fasteners, yarns and glues. Machines, tools, and equipment stand sentinel on long, sturdy tables ready to be put into service. The studio is also a classroom, where Heidi holds regular creativity classes in collage, mixed media, canvas art, clay, aluminum soda can jewelry, and her latest passion...mosaics.

Heidi raised three children, three step children and now entertains a gorgeous gaggle of eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A: What was your first experience with crafting?

H: LOL...I have to laugh on this one. I've been into 'crafting' since I was born. It wasn't called 'crafting' then. My mom, Aleene, was a florist when I was born and was just starting to launch her 'Make your own Corsage Kit'. This was a kit, with supplies to create corsages from flowers in your garden, that launched her business...Aleene's.

The early years: My sister Candace, my brother Fred and I went with her everywhere. From fairs, to shows, to TV stations (because television was so new they were barely broadcasting anything)...to promote her product. She also taught classes in her retail store in Temple City, California on making flowers, floral decor, holiday decorations etc. When we were little she would put us at the table as she was teaching so she could watch us at the same time...she would give us supplies to 'play' with. We 'took' every class she or any of her other teachers offered. Then when we learned to count, we were packaging floral supplies for her floral supply company. In the early 1950's we helped fill glue bottles (yes, Aleene's Tacky Glue) with a hand pump machine my grandfather Frank M. Jackson designed. We learned how to run the register (from a step stool) and eventually even taught some of the classes ourselves. She also had a 'wholesale' department, where she sold supplies to stores. Keep in mind, there still weren't any 'Craft' stores...there were only hobby shops, where men would have model airplanes, trains etc. and their wives would have a little corner in the store where they taught flower making or their 'hobby'. By the mid 1950's our entire family worked at Aleene's Fibre and Floral Supply Company...grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and mom sold supplies all over the country. We worked in any department that needed help...filling orders, helping customers, packaging and even stuffing mail from mom's appearances on TV. There was hundreds of thousands of envelopes with requests for free instruction sheets she offered on TV. We went everywhere with mom, as she sold her products...and even were on TV with her.

A: That was truly the beginning of it all. You and your family were making history.

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

H: At this point, crafting, designing or being an

Artist was the furthest thing from my mind, but I was always watching the Aleene's designers as they worked. My mom had a very creative mind. She would inspire her designers with ideas. In the 50's there were probably 6 or 8 full time designers that made samples that were for sale or for samples for customers to copy. In the early 60's, they started designing with what we would now call recyclables, but then we just called it discards or trash. The substrates we have today weren't available then, my mom saw the creative use for everything. In the early 60's I was inspired by one of mom's designers, Katie Ogle. She was so creative and the quality of her work was amazing. I would take my lunch breaks and just watch her and ask her questions. By this time, when I was a teenager, I was working part-time after school and on weekends managing the retail store, making samples, merchandising, creating floral arrangements, teaching, traveling to shows and demo-ing, etc. Funny thing, at this point, I really wanted to be a fashion designer, as I sewed all of my own clothes. When I graduated high school I went to community college to take retailing and merchandising, but after a couple of semesters, I dropped out. I felt I knew more than the professors since I had spent so much time in my mom's store. I then started working full time at Aleene's. It was at that time mom did the 'Aleene's Craft Caravan' with Hazel Pearson of HazelPearson Handicrafts and Carl Gustafson of Natcol Resin Products in 48 cities across the US...and the Craft industry was born...that was 1968.

Even though I designed in the retail store and made some designs for the Aleene's books and publications, I was not published in a magazine until 1972...and unfortunately it was the tragedy of designer Katie Ogle death in an airplane crash that gave me that first opportunity. The magazine was 'PCM-Profitable Craft Merchandiser'. I made several designs from plastic margarine containers. They were published in black and white.

Fast forward...I married, had two sons and a daughter. I also opened my own store called 'Craft Source', a mail order company, from 1969 to 1989. I specialized in floral supplies and wedding supplies, along with the Aleene's craft and glue products. As a mail order company, I worked from 9 to 2 so I could be home with my kids after school. Then did my designing at

home on my kitchen table and later in my basement.

The Craft TV show-'Aleene's Creative Living' 1985 -2000. (I had been on TV many times with mom over the years and she even had a show on a cable channel in Los Angeles in the 1970's where I was a guest every week.)

The ACL show started on the Learning Channel, once a week, then after a year or so the show moved to the Lifetime Channel, then ended up for about 12 years on TNN-The Nashville Network. On TNN, we first were on once a week, then twice a week, then 5 days a week. When the show went to 5 days a week, I was designing as many as 100 designs a month...yes that number is correct 100 designs a month!

A: I believe that number, because I watched the show and/or taped it everyday.

Not only was I designing for 2 to 3 segments a day that had free instructions available to viewers, I was also designing for "Aleene's Big Book of Crafts" (a craft continuity), and hard bound books for 'Oxmoor House' (one of our sponsors), creating new products and techniques for Aleene's and designing for other manufacturers.

In 2000, when TNN sold to CBS/Viacom, within 30 days, all women's programming was cancelled and changed to men's shows. With few cable channels at that time and ACL considered to be an infomercial, we couldn't find any placement for it. Aleene's, the company, suffered and eventually filed bankruptcy and had to close. Duncan/ILove2Create then took over manufacturing the Aleene's products.

Sometimes, when you do something for so long, you don't think about the time it took, the energy you put out or what you did until after its gone...it was our life (our whole life) until then. I then realized just how much I had put into it and what I actually did. What made it worth it was our fans. We have had amazing fans. We touched their lives as much as they touched our lives. When you get a random letter from a fan that tells you how you changed their life...that melts your heart and you know it was all worth it.

A: Did I have a favorite technique?

H: I love all of the Aleene's techniques. The bread and glue roses, the embossing with glue, the look of copper enameling, the look of forged foil with aluminum foil, the look of wood with brown bag, etc., etc. The list goes on. I love everything I ever made over the years.

A: I remember when I met your mom for the very first time, she had on a beautiful necklace filled with roses that you created from bread dough. It was simply stunning.

A: Do you have a preference of projects you create?

H: There is one category that picked me...and that was Recycled Crafts. I guess since I was around it for so many years, I always (and probably still do) look at things you would normally throw away, differently. I was always trying to figure out how to make something from nothing. Our home trash can didn't have much trash. I was always trying to figure out what I could make.

One of my favorite memories was the 'Heidi Challenge' on Aleene's Creative Living' TV show. It was created where viewers could send their trash/recycles to the TV studio for me to be 'challenged' to make something from their 'package'. Rules were to send 3 of the same item, so I could make a sample design, have one to show how I made it and one to show what it looked like before. The only thing they could not send was anything medical.

The first week of the 'Challenge Heidi', over 2,500 parcels from our viewers arrived at the studio with people's 'trash'. Some viewers paid \$20.00 to ship their parcel with lots of stuff. Even though they had to hire someone just to open the boxes, the challenge segment became the most popular part of ACL show.

A: I remember those segments and it truly fascinated me what you could come up with for some of those items.

A: What inspires you?

H: I'm not sure there is any one thing that 'inspires' me. I'm always inspired and thinking "oh I can make that and I can make that".

What I love right now is Mosaics. There is something about mosaics that soothes my creative soul. I can't get enough tiles, plates

and other supplies. I also have a kiln so I roll out clay and use cookie cutters to create shapes, then glaze and fire them. It adds a bit of whimsy to my projects. I've had so many requests for these pieces, which I call 'Ceramic Cookies', that I'm working on an Etsy shop to sell them and some of the pieces of wood I cut myself.

My classes: My sister, Tiffany, and I were doing videos for her Cool2Craft YouTube channel for several years. We had also started a Meetup Group, in Los Osos, California, to use as a focal group (at the time). LOL ...When Tif moved to take care of mom (and with her video camera), I decided I needed something to keep me busy and a small income would be nice to help fund my tile obsession. I started teaching Mosaic classes here and there with the Los Osos/SLO Crafters Meetup Group and a lot of my students heard from word of mouth.

I usually teach my mosaics classes in my studio on Saturdays and Sundays. I started with specific classes, then realized my students schedule and my schedule were different, so now I offer 'choose your project' mosaic classes. I also have '4 or more classes' where if someone wants to create their own class on their schedule for friends or family, they just need 4 or more people and I create the class for them. They can all do the same project or everyone can create something different. A lot of these special classes are scheduled during the week days. I have just started teaching in my studio one night a week. My monthly schedule of classes are on my website, www.HeidiBorchers.com. My studio seats 10 to 12, but 8 comfortably. Then, on the existing patio I now have, 'Studio B'. My friend, Joan Fee (from TV), sometimes teaches jewelry making classes and succulent classes in there and I keep my regular craft supplies there.

My sister, Candace, has a (brick and mortar) mosaic studio, 'Wye River Designs', in Grasonville, MD. I visit her for a month in the Spring and a month in the Fall, and teach in her studio. I can do this there because she has a huge selection of tiles like I do. I only have to ship my wood pieces and my 'Ceramic Cookies' to her.

My mosaic designs/samples in the studio have prices on them, but most students that come in

make their own projects using my samples. I hope to put some of my mosaic designs also on my new Etsy store. I also sell my tiles and Ceramic Cookies to students.

My studio: When I was filming TV, we lived about 1-1/2 hours from the TV studio. I had a 1200 sq ft studio over looking the ocean in Cambria, CA, near Hearst Castle.

When we moved to Los Osos 9 years ago, we bought an acre. I had hoped to have a metal building built on the back 1/2 acre, but we built a studio onto the back of the house instead. The studio (500 sq. ft. plus) was originally just built for my designing and was never designed to have students in it, so when I decided to teach in the studio, I had to do some major renovations of taking out walls and shelves and open up the space and expand into the existing 500 sq. foot patio area. I have had to down size (a few times) my regular studio 'craft' supplies. I am constantly changing everything around to accommodate new tiles, supplies and samples.

Starting this next month, I've added (lol) 'non mosaic' classes. New classes I will be teaching in both locations are Painting with Paper Napkins (a bird house), a Collage Technique Workshop (I've been collaging before it was cool), a Soda Can Jewelry class (I had a line of Soda Can jewelry in galleries a few years ago across the US. This will be the first time I'm teaching it.) and a few other miscellaneous classes.

With these, I'm bringing back some of the creativity from my crafting 'roots' and celebrating my mom, Aleene, who passed away last November at 91. She truly instilled inspiration and creativity into my life.

Check out Heidi's awesome studio, supplies and projects on the next 2 pages...



Studio teaching area



Mosaic projects



Mosaic tiles



Basic craft supplies



Ceramics for mosaics



Mosaic studio sink



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BLOG SUPER STAR

with Ann Butler

An Interview with...

Angel Hickman Peterson



With a bachelor's degree in Film Studies from the University of Utah, Angel's professional background is in film, television, radio and ad production. In 2011 she started FleeceFun.com a sewing and craft blog and began to love all things blogging. Angel currently divides her time between her online video training blog: DIYVideoForBloggers.com, her online sewing and crafting blog: www.FleeceFun.com, her two girls, little boy, husband and on very good days also manages to get the dishes done

AB: What made you start blogging?

AP: I read a "blogging for dummies" book and thought I could do that! It seemed like a good fit - I could be home with my little kids, make a little extra money and be creative.

AB: How long have you been blogging?

AP: I started blogging in January of 2011 - so five and half years of craziness.

AB: What are some of the challenges of blogging?

AP: I have really high standards for myself - I'm my harshest critic. If my blog isn't growing as

fast as it should or my page views go down I'm really hard on myself. It's also hard to stop thinking about work. It's hard to "leave the office" when it's just down the hall.

AB: How often do you post? Do you have firm schedule?

AP: During the fall and winter months I try to post at least 3 times a week. During spring and summer I only post a few times a month. Fleece isn't very popular during those seasons - although I find it fun all year long. Because I'm a mom first I have to be flexible, if a kiddo gets sick or has special needs - I let the blog slide.

AB: Is your blog everything you thought it would be or more?

AP: When I started blogging I had no idea the places it would take me. I've worked with major brands, been published in magazines and been able to make a full time income from home. My original goal was just to be able afford preschool for my little girl and now it's a business that contributes to our household and employs other women as well.

AB: *Let's talk about followers: How do you go about getting followers and keeping them coming back to your blog?*

AP: I learned a lesson that hard way last year: You can't force followers. I had tried making my patterns available contingent on an email sign up - sounds smart right? But it actually made people upset. While my email list grew quickly to a large number the open rate and click through rate were terrible. I was paying for a huge email list that no one was reading! I've since switched back to just having my patterns easily downloadable and have a newsletter sign up easy to spot - but non intrusive. While my list is smaller the open and click through rate is much higher. It's better to have a smaller list of people who are genuinely interested in your blog.

AB: What is the most important thing to building a loyal fan base for your blog?

AP: I keep my followers interested by being generous with my content. Meaning I try to make my tutorials easy to duplicate - I don't hold information back or force a sale. I think if you are generous with your content you will get a loyal readership.

AB: *What is the most exciting thing that has happened to you because of your blog?*

AP: This year I'm a Craft and Hobby Association influencer and am speaking at Creativation next year. It's pretty awesome to get to represent CHA. To take your blog up a level I highly recommend attending a trade show in your niche. It's a great way to make contacts in your industry and get new and different opportunities.

AB: *What advice could you give our readers who want to start blogging, or want to become better bloggers?*

AP: If you want to start blogging - start! Don't worry about making a mistake, I've made thousands of them. I still blog. I still try. If you have something amazing/fun/informative to share people will find you.

If you want to become a better blogger, learn photography. That beauty shot is key for success on social media and getting people to click through. If you have your photography skills down take it up a notch by adding video tutorials to your blog. Video continues to grow and is a great way to boost interest in your blog.



Studio space



Sewing project



How to Get Started with a Marketing Plan

In the [last issue](#), I talked about the importance of crafting your intent for your business - the who, what, where, when and why of things - in order to develop stronger messaging within your promotional efforts.

So now let's talk about creating a marketing plan. It's easy (and kinda fun!) to just fly by the seat of your pants and bounce from one idea to the next, but the downside is that makes it harder to figure out what's working and what's not.



I have found that maintaining a running list of ideas for promoting yourself and your business is a great place to start. Keep your list with you, online or in a notebook. Whether you're sitting down to formally map out your plans for the next year or you just happen to hear about a new opportunity, put it on the list. Over time, you can organize and track your ideas by type of effort, such as:

- Your online presence: website, blog, social media, etc.
- Content development and graphics
- Publicity and advertising
- Word-of-mouth and referrals

- Special events and networking
- Directory listings and reviews
- Printed collateral: business cards, brochures, etc.

Your marketing plan should be created to work hard for you. [Every part of your plan](#) should reinforce your brand and raise awareness of your product or service. It should define who's in your marketplace and how you will reach them. It should nurture your existing customers and generate new sales. And above all, every effort you make should be **measurable**.

It's also important to keep your plan realistic and doable, so you need to first [establish your budget](#) for both time and money. How many hours per week or month can you commit to working on marketing efforts? How much money per month or quarter can you spend?

Most of us who are starting out have more time than money, so your plan needs to reflect that. If you have just a few hours per week to put down the paintbrush or knitting needles and work on promoting yourself, then the trick is figuring out which efforts will give you the widest reach and the best results from investing that amount of your time.



Start small – try dedicating 10% of your working hours to marketing. For example, if you still have a day job and you are spending just 10 hours per week developing your new business, spend at least one of those hours on marketing. To calculate how much money to spend on it, try allocating 5-10% of your anticipated sales. Yes, that means you need to set sales goals – by month, by year, by event – whatever works best for your business. For example, if your goal is to sell \$500 worth of handmade goods by vending at a craft fair in December, then plan to spend \$25-\$50 promoting it.

Finding the right balance of time and money for your marketing plan that works best for YOU is key. Otherwise, you're likely to keep pushing marketing further down on your to-do list or you might end up feeling totally trapped by your own clock and wallet...which means your sales (not to mention your stress level) may very well suffer the consequences. Make a good plan and you'll enjoy working it!

Creative Solopreneurs are those of us who are working to turn our passions into profits. [Visit my blog](#) to contact me for marketing consultation – I'd love to help you with your solopreneurial adventure!



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Junkin' with Jo

with Jo Pearson

Ah, the smells of Fall! Leaves burning, Smore's made over an open fire and, of course, homemade pies. Grandma's fresh baked cherry pie cooling by the window. Doesn't get much better than that!

So, I decided to make "Cherry" window curtains from the great pieces of silverware I have collected over the years. When searching for silverware, I try to look for unusual pieces, like baby spoons, small forks, intricate serving pieces and that fabulous show piece. I also like to find different sizes that will make the curtain fun to look at. Think of the fun stories these pieces could tell us about the places they have been and the families they have served.

I chose large red beads (cherries), acrylic leaves and assorted red crystals. You will need to have holes drilled at one end of your silverware for hanging. A small bit and high powered drill is your best bet. Wear safety glasses when drilling your pieces.

So, let's get started making your conversational window treatment!



Materials:

- ♦ Drilled silverware
- ♦ Transite (fishing line)
- ♦ Crimping beads, silver
- ♦ Beads, red, large
- ♦ Beads, red, seed
- ♦ E-bead, red
- ♦ Crystals, red, assorted sizes
- ♦ Tension rod (optional)

Tools: Wire cutters, flat nose pliers

I chose to make my curtain on a tension rod that I could add under my valance.

Instructions:

1. Cut a length of transite longer than you want your first hanging of silverware.
2. Add 2 crimp beads to one end of transite, loop it over the rod and bring it back through the crimp beads. Crimp with pliers.
3. Add beads, as desired, to the strand you created in step 2. Add a crimp bead to the end of each bead to hold them in place.
4. When adding the silverware, thread on an E-bead, a piece of silverware, an E-bead and then, a crimp bead. Crimp with pliers.
5. Make your cherries by adding a leaf, a large bead, an E-bead and a crimp bead. Crimp with pliers.
6. Build your curtain as long as desired.





20 Minute CRAFTS

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Cutie

Ear Bud Carrier

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

If you love listening to music and your tired of always searching for your ear buds, then this is the project for you! It's not only a simple project to create, it will also add a little class to your purse.

Materials:

- ♦ Plastic container
- ♦ Patterned paper
- ♦ Ribbon
- ♦ Trim
- ♦ Embroidery thread, green
- ♦ Decorative button
- ♦ Eye screw
- ♦ Key ring clip

Tools:

- ♦ Tape runner
- ♦ Glue gun
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Round nosed pliers

Instructions:

1. Cut the patterned paper to fit around the container and lid.
2. Apply paper to the container with a tape runner.
3. Adhere the ribbon and the trim to the top and bottom of the container with hot glue.
4. Attach the eye screw to the lid. Use the pliers to attach the key ring clip to the eye screw.
5. Thread embroidery thread through button holes. Wrap the thread and button around the container and tie it into a bow.

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Textured Note Cards

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

I always keep a stack of generic, handmade cards around for sending. Blank cards are perfect for sending a thank you or simply just to say hi! Of course, sending a pretty card is important! This textured note card takes minutes to make, but will look like it took hours.

Materials:

- ♦ Cardstock: grey, teal
- ♦ Patterned paper
- ♦ Corrugated paper
- ♦ Burlap, self-adhesive
- ♦ Burlap flower
- ♦ Jute, thin
- ♦ Fabric glue
- ♦ Double-sided tape

Tools:

- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Paper trimmer

Instructions:

1. Cut the grey cardstock 5" x 10" and score halfway to create the card-base and then, crease.
2. Cut the teal cardstock 3 3/4" x 6 3/4", patterned paper 3 1/2" x 6 3/4", corrugated paper 4 3/4" x 6 3/4" and burlap 3" x 6 3/4".
3. Tape the corrugated paper to the card front.
4. Mat the remaining papers as follows from bottom to top: cardstock, patterned paper, burlap.
5. Tape the matted papers to the corrugated paper, slightly to the right.
6. Attach the flowers to the burlap with fabric glue.
7. Wrap a piece of jute around the fold of the card and tie a knot to finish.



Doily Candle Holder

Candles are a perfect accent to have all year around and nice to change out often. Most of the candle holders I create are quick and easy to make and nice on the budget. This one is no exception and it would look great grouped with several in varying sizes together on a mantel or dining table.

Materials:

- ♦ Mason jar
- ♦ Doily
- ♦ Mod Podge® Matte
- ♦ Twine
- ♦ Battery operated candle

Tools: Scissors, paintbrush

Instructions:

1. Cover the entire jar with a coat of Mod Podge® and then, center the doily onto the front of the jar.
2. Apply Mod Podge® over the top of the doily. Let dry.
3. Tie a piece of twine around the neck of the jar.
4. Place the candle in the jar.

By [Ann Butler](#)



Nail Polish Holders

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

These little nail polish holders are the perfect touch as favors for parties, bridal showers, etc. They would also make a nice gift for a manicurist to give to her clients.

Materials:

- ♦ Patterned papers, assorted
- ♦ Gem stickers
- ♦ Ribbon, assorted colors, 14"
- ♦ Wired ribbon, silver, 5"
- ♦ Double-sided tape
- ♦ Charms, assorted

Tools:

- ♦ Paper trimmer
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Hole punch

Instructions:

1. Cut the patterned paper 8 ½" x 2 ½".
2. Score the paper 3 ¾" from each side.
3. Fold along the score lines.
4. Apply the gem stickers along the top and bottom.
5. Punch two holes into the top and thread ribbon through
6. Attach the charm to the wired ribbon and then, attach it to the ribbon.



Ribbon Flower Earrings

Not a jewelry maker? No problem. You don't have to have any jewelry making skills to master these adorable earrings. They take minutes to make and would be adorable on any little girl.

Materials:

- ♦ Ear wire, fish hook
- ♦ Ribbon flowers, mini
- ♦ Beacon Adhesive, Power-Tac

Tools:

- ♦ Toothpick
- ♦ Scrap paper
- ♦ Tweezers (optional)

Instructions:

1. Squeeze a small amount of glue onto a piece of scrap paper.
2. Using a toothpick, apply a small amount of glue onto the back of the flower and then, center an ear wire into the glue. Use tweezers, if needed.
3. Let the glue dry completely, as per the manufacturer's directions.

By [Theresa Cifali](#)



Up-cycled Vase

By [Ann Butler](#)

I have several vases that are clear and to tell the truth...boring. I thought they would be the perfect canvas for up-cycling. This project is so quick and easy with fabulous results!

Materials:

- ♦ Chalk It Up, Avocado Pie
- ♦ Earth Safe Finishes Wax
- ♦ Varnish
- ♦ Vase
- ♦ Jute
- ♦ Flowers

Tools:

- ♦ Paintbrush
- ♦ Heat gun
- ♦ Sandpaper, fine

Instructions:

1. Paint the vase and then, heat set to dry. Repeat if needed.
2. Gently remove a bit of the paint with sandpaper if desired.
3. Mix together equal parts of the wax and varnish. Apply a light coat to the vase.
4. Tie a piece of jute around the vase.
5. Fill with flowers.

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Mini Pocket Cards

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

These mini tags and pocket cards are a blast to make. They're perfect for all kinds of occasions. They'd be perfect for kids to make for Valentine's Day. By using your paper scraps, you can also cut down on the cost of making them. The hardest thing about making them is deciding on the papers you want to use!

Materials:

- ♦ Patterned papers, double-sided, assorted
- ♦ Paper Wishes® Envelope Templates
- ♦ Paper glue
- ♦ Inkpad, black
- ♦ Markers
- ♦ Rubber stamps
- ♦ Fibers, assorted
- ♦ Mini flowers

Tools: Scissors, hole punch, pencil

Instructions:

1. Lay templates on the paper. Trace, score and cut them out following the manufacturer's instructions.

2. Assemble the pockets and secure with glue following the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Apply markers to the edges of the pockets and tags.
4. Stamp the tags with word stamps in black ink.
5. Punch holes in the tops of the tags and add the fibers.
6. Adhere the flowers to the front of the pockets.

Designer Tip: If you don't have any 12" x 12" double-sided patterned paper, fold the paper in half and glue it together. You can get approximately three envelopes out of the 6" x 12" papers.



Memo, Chalk, Cork Board

By [Ann Butler](#)

Looking to keep notes, reminders and list together? This Memo, Chalk, Cork Board should do the trick. The best part is that it only takes a few minutes to make!

Materials:

- ♦ Frame, 20 1/2" x 10", 3 panels with a wood backing
- ♦ Burlap, 6 1/2" x 9 1/2"
- ♦ Chalkboard paper, 6 1/2" x 9 1/2"
- ♦ Cork, 6 1/2" x 9 1/2" x 1/4"
- ♦ Craft glue
- ♦ Metal clip, black
- ♦ Push pins

Instructions:

1. Take the frame apart. Set the glass aside for another project.
2. Adhere the burlap, cork and chalkboard paper to the wood backing.
3. Reassemble the frame with the backing.
4. Glue clip onto the burlap. See photo.

Designer Tips:

- ⇒ This project can be done with any size frame. Just measure the frame openings and add a 1/2" on both sides to determine the size you will need for the inserts.
- ⇒ If you cannot find a frame with panels, you can create your own by adding a bit of wood trim between the inserts.
- ⇒ Buy a good quality frame for this project and it will last for years.
- ⇒ For another option, insert a piece of white board into one of the spaces.



Rustic Monogram

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

Add a little rustic charm to your home by altering a wooden monogram with some simple silk flowers and tulle. It's so easy to make that you'll find yourself making them for family and friends, too.

Materials:

- ♦ Wood letter
- ♦ Silk flowers
- ♦ Tulle, 6" wide
- ♦ Rubber band

Tools:

- ♦ Glue gun
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Wire cutters

Instructions:

1. Group together the silk flowers and secure them with a rubber band
2. Trim the stems with wire cutters, so that the flower bunch is the same height as the letter.
3. Wrap the stems with tulle until you can no longer see them. Secure with hot glue.
4. With another piece of tulle, tie a bow over the wrapped stems.
5. Attach the stems to the letter.



Materials:

- ♦ Ribbon, assorted, 18"
- ♦ Elastic thread, gold, 6"
- ♦ Decorative buttons
- ♦ Fabric glue

Ribbon Bookmarks

By [Lisa Rojas](#)

With a little bit of ribbon and a couple of cute buttons, you can create these bookmarks in just a few minutes. They would make a great item to sell at craft fairs too, because they're time efficient and inexpensive to make.

Tools:

- ♦ Glue gun
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Wire cutters

Instructions:

1. Cut the ribbon 18" long. Fold over each end of the ribbon $\frac{1}{2}$ " and glue.
2. Cut the elastic thread 6" long. Attach through one end of the ribbon and tie a knot.
3. Attach the buttons to each end of the ribbon with the needle and thread.



Puppy Training Bells

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

If you've ever had a puppy, you know that the first order of business is potty training! Our puppy is bell trained. She rings bells that hang from our front door to let us know that she needs to go out. Instead of purchasing a set, why not create your own? You can make them as plain or as pretty as you'd like.

Materials:

- ♦ Leash, 4'
- ♦ Ribbon, satin, 3/8"
- ♦ Bells, 30mm (5)
- ♦ Beacon Adhesives Power-Tac
- ♦ Sharpie, black

Tools:

- ♦ Glue gun
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Ruler
- ♦ Bull or bookbinding clip
- ♦ Tweezers (optional)

Instructions:

1. Mark 12" up from the hook of the leash and cut. Then, fold the cut end up approximately 2 1/2" and glue at the top of the fold with Power-Tac, leaving a small loop open. Hold closed with a clip until dry.
2. Cut five 5" pieces of ribbon. Attach each piece to a bell by folding in half, threading the folded end through the bell hole and then pulling the loose ends through the loop.
3. Starting from the bottom loop working up to the handle, measure and mark out even increments for the bells.
4. Starting from the top of the leash, attach the first bell by crossing the ribbon around to the back of the leash, to the front. Secure with hot glue.

5. Repeat step 4 for 3 more bells.
6. For the bottom loop, cross the ribbon through the loop and bring around to the front. Secure with hot glue.
7. Tie 5 bows and attach them over the crossed ribbon, just above each bell with hot glue.

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Faux Quilted Mason Jar Pin Cushion

By [Ann Butler](#)

I have been sewing and creating things for as long as I can remember. Believe it or not, I went to school for fashion design and have designed and sewn everything from wedding dresses to winter coats to bathing suits to curtains and more. Thus, I do have a love for pin cushions. This one uses my Faux Quilting stamps to create the pattern on the fabric, although you could just use any piece of fabric you happen to have.

Materials:

- ♦ Faux Quilting Stamps from Unity Stamp Company, assorted
- ♦ Ann Butler Crafter's Ink: Sunshine, Limelight, Ocean Breeze
- ♦ Fabric, 6" x 6"
- ♦ Batting
- ♦ Mason jar with lid and ring
- ♦ Fabri-Tac
- ♦ Warm batting, 3" x 3"
- ♦ Buttons (optional)

Tools:

- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Iron
- ♦ Marker
- ♦ Acrylic block (optional)

1. Using the lid as a guide, trace a circle onto the batting. Cut the circle out just inside the line. Set aside.
2. Stamp a 4" quilt pattern onto the fabric. Iron to heat set.
3. Glue a small amount of batting onto the lid.
4. Place the stamped fabric on top of the lid and then, wrap the excess fabric to the back side of the lid. Trim the fabric as needed and glue.
5. Attach the Warm batting circle to the bottom of the lid.
6. Fill the jar with buttons.
7. Carefully place the ring over the lid and screw onto the jar.

Designer Tip: The height of the pin cushion will depend upon how much batting you use.

Instructions:

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By [Mylène Hillam](#) for ETI

Green Marble Votive Holder

Materials:

- ◆ EnviroTex Lite®
- ◆ Acrylic paint: Warm White: Hookers Green, Moss Green, Black
- ◆ Wooden votive holder

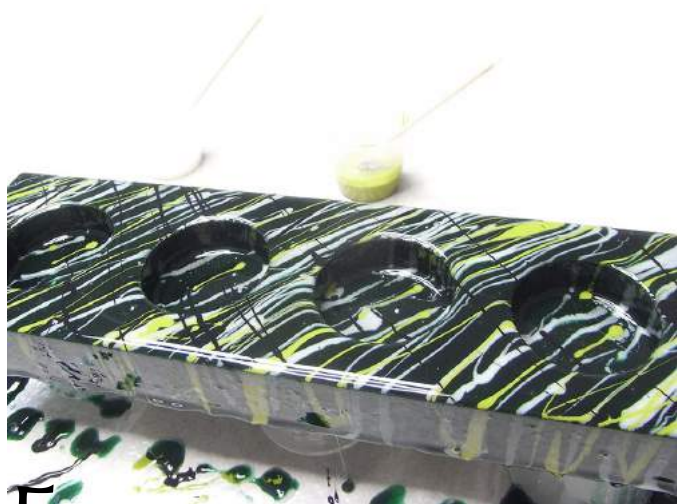
Tools:

- ◆ ETI Mixing Cup Set
- ◆ Measuring cups, 1 oz (3)
- ◆ Wooden stir sticks (3)
- ◆ Foam paintbrush
- ◆ Butane torch
- ◆ Latex gloves
- ◆ Painters drop sheet (polyethylene)
- ◆ Denatured Alcohol or Rubbing alcohol for clean-up
- ◆ Painter's tape

Note: Before beginning, put on your gloves to avoid getting sticky while working with the resin. Protect your workspace with the painter's drop sheet.

Instructions:

1. Paint all surfaces of the votive holder with Hookers Green paint. Allow it to dry several hours before continuing. Mask the bottom of the votive holder with painter's tape and burnish the edges.
2. Follow the package instructions to mix up 2 oz. EnviroTex Lite®. Pour ¼ oz into each of the three small cups. Color one with black paint, one with Moss Green and one with Warm White paint, using only enough paint to make the resin opaque and stirring until it is mixed inthoroughly. Color the remaining resin with only enough Hookers Green paint to make it opaque.
3. Place the votive holder on some upturned cups to elevate it from the work surface. Pour the green resin over the surface of the votive holder.
4. Use a paintbrush from the cup set to coat the inside of the cavities.



5

Pinch the top of the cup of Moss Green resin and pour it in a thin stream across the votive holder at an angle. Repeat with the Warm White resin. Dip the wooden stir stick into the black paint and drizzle it thinly across the votive holder in the opposite direction. Use a paint brush to swirl the colors lightly. Take care not to over mix them or they will become muddled.



6

Hold the votive holder vertically to allow the colors to run and blend into each other. Turn it in another direction to create some more movement.



7

Use the stir stick to drizzle some more white resin across the votive holder and then, hold it vertically until the colors mix. Once you are satisfied with the look of your marbling, pop any bubbles with a butane torch. Allow to cure for 24 hours.



8

Mix up 1oz of clear EnviroTex Lite® and pour it onto the votive holder. Spread it evenly over the surface and remove any excess from the cavities. Pop the bubbles and set it aside to cure.

Carefully remove the tape and touch up any spots where the paint has lifted.



Shabby Rose Collection Ferris Wheel

By [Tanya Cloete for FabScraps](#)

Everyone loves a Ferris wheel! It brings up memories of fun times at the local amusement park when life was just a little simpler. Now you can create one of your own, with our beautiful papers, to sit on your table and cherish those memories even more.

Materials:

- ♦ FabScraps Shabby Rose Collection paper range: C85 001, 002, 007 & 008
- ♦ FabScraps Chipboard Pieces: DC85 006
- ♦ FabScraps Sticker Sheet ST85 002, Wonderful
- ♦ Cardstock: pink, white
- ♦ Tim Holtz Distress Ink, Gathered Twigs
- ♦ Lindy's Stamp Gang Embossing Powder, Café au Lait
- ♦ Flat pearls, pink
- ♦ Rhinestones, pink
- ♦ Straws, polka dot: pink, white
- ♦ Lace

Tools:

- ♦ Silhouette Cameo die cut machine

Instructions:

1. Using the Silhouette die cut machine, cut the Ferris Wheel from sheets 001, 002, 007 & 008. Ink the edges of all the pieces with Gathered Twigs ink (except the pink cardstock pieces). Add lace between the sheets of the wheels.
2. Cut the 'cars' and 2 scallop accents from pink cardstock.
3. Cut 2 large and 14 small bows from the remaining sheets. Fold and glue. Then, add the flat pearls and rhinestones, as per the picture. Assemble accordingly.
4. Snip out the word (Sweet) from chipboard piece 006 and emboss with Café au Lait.
5. Place sticker 002 (Wonderful) onto white cardstock and then matt onto white and repeat using pink and white.
6. Arrange the rest of the embellishments, as per the picture, and glue.





Oregano

Basil

Sage

Herb Wraps

By [Ann Butler for Velcro® Brand](#)

Fall is fast approaching and my herb garden is ready to harvest. I created these herb wraps with a bit of Velcro® Brand Sticky Back for Fabrics and burlap for a trendy, quick and easy way to keep track of which herb is which.

Materials:

- ♦ Velcro® Brand Sticky Back for Fabrics, tape
- ♦ Burlap
- ♦ Neeneh EPC Film
- ♦ Jars with lids

Tools:

- ♦ Electronic die cutting machine
- ♦ Iron
- ♦ Ruler
- ♦ Scissors

Instructions:

1. Following the manufacturer's instructions, die cut the names of the herbs with the EPC film.
2. Measure around the jars to determine the circumference and then, add 1". Measure the jar to determine the height. Cut the burlap to those sizes.
3. Pull a couple threads from the long edges of the burlap.
4. Iron the names onto the burlap, following the manufacture's instructions for the EPC film.
5. Cut the Sticky Back for Fabrics to fit the short sides of the wraps.
6. Attach the loop side of the Sticky Back to the front-side of one of the burlap's short ends and the hook side to the back-side. See photo.
7. Place wraps on the jars and fill with dried herbs.





Friends Gift Box

By [May Flaum for Buttons Galore and More](#)

When it comes to gift giving, nothing delights me more than presenting a dear friend with a container that they can reuse and treasure. These kinds of projects are so simple as well – the key is to have a lovely color palette and good embellishments to work with. The bottles and kits in the 28 Lilac Lane line with Buttons Galore and More are color coordinated to work together, but they also combine a variety of sizes which is perfect for a project like this.

Materials:

- ♦ Decorative Embellishment Bottle, Hello Sunshine
- ♦ Embellishment Kit, Adventure at Sea
- ♦ Acrylic paint, blue
- ♦ Inkpad, white
- ♦ Ranger® Mica spray
- ♦ US Art Quest® Perfect Paper Adhesive
- ♦ Medium, clear, glossy
- ♦ Flower
- ♦ Paper-mache box

Tools:

- ♦ Paintbrush

Instructions:

1. Paint a paper-mache box with acrylic paint and allow it to dry. Use a color that will contrast with the embellishments you intend to use.
2. Stamp the word 'friends' on the lid in white ink and then, coat with medium. Once dry, add a second coat of paint and wipe off any excess. This creates the subtle look shown on this project.
3. Apply liquid adhesive in a line around the lid and attach the buttons, beads, and other embellishments. Start with the larger pieces and add in smaller things such as beads, as space allows.
4. Apply a line of liquid adhesive in a line around the bottom portion of box, working ½ at a time. Add buttons and beads. Allow it to fully dry before working on the other side.
5. Finish the project by misting with a sparkling mica spray, if desired. This will add sparkle and shine to the project, as well as make the flat acrylic paint background more dynamic.



Harvest Owl

By [Dondi Richardson for FloraCraft®](#)

Greet your guests with a charming harvest owl! This project is easy to create...and there is no sewing involved! Using FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam, feather boas and a few other craft supplies, you can create your own one-of-a-kind, furry friend.

Materials:

- ♦ FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Discs: 8" and 10"
- ♦ Feather boas: brown/multi (2), white (1)
- ♦ Faux fur, white, 9" x 4"
- ♦ Silk mums, white, large (2)
- ♦ Buttons, orange 1 ½" (2)
- ♦ Half round eyes, black 25mm (2)
- ♦ Acrylic paint, yellow/orange
- ♦ Sequin pins, ¾"
- ♦ [Pattern](#)

Tools:

- ♦ Low-Temp glue gun
- ♦ Serrated knife

Instructions:

1. Cut out the face template and pin it to the 8" disc. Use the knife to cut out the template from the foam.
2. Cut a small, flat spot off one side of the 10" disc, this is the bottom of the body. Glue the head to the front of the body slightly tilted to one side.
3. Glue the orange buttons into the center of the mums. Glue the black eyes into the center of the orange buttons. Glue the mums snug against the foam, centered side-by-side, on the face.
4. Use the knife to cut the beak and the feet templates from the scrap piece of foam. Use scrap pieces of foam as sanding blocks to "sand" the edges of the beak and feet smooth. Paint the parts orange/yellow and let dry.
5. Glue the beak to the face, centered below the eyes. Glue the feet to the front of the body about 1" apart.
6. Pin the faux fur centered down the front of the body draping over the feet.
7. Pin a length of white boa, outlining the owl's eyes and under the beak.
8. Pin lengths of brown boa to cover each side of the body and the top and sides of the head.
9. Pin two small loops of white boa in a "V" shape to the top of the head for the owl's horns.



Autumn

I
AUTUMN
is a second spring
when every leaf is a
flower

canva

Autumn is a Second Spring: Vase Embellishment

By [Suzanne Cannon for Quietfire Design](#)

It's autumn and you want to cheer up the house with some fresh flowers. Perhaps you need a hostess gift. Here is a quick and simple way to add lots of interest to your bouquet by sharing a sweet message in an unexpected place. This is guaranteed to start a conversation!

Rotate your vase embellishments as the seasons change by using other A Way with Words dies and coordinating Quietfire stamps. Or create a memorable birthday display by changing the diecut and sentiment!

Materials:

- ◆ Quietfire Design Rubber Stamp – Autumn is a Second Spring #5645
- ◆ Elizabeth Craft Designs A Way With Words, 4 Seasons Craft Dies, set of 4 #1199
- ◆ Suzanne Cannon at the Silhouette Design Store, Nesting Square Bracket Frames #132818
- ◆ Imagine Crafts VersaMagic Stamp Ink, Night Sky
- ◆ American Crafts Smooth Cardstock: Butter, Fountain, Marine
- ◆ Glue Dots: mini, micro
- ◆ Vase, square or rectangular

Tools:

- ◆ Silhouette Cameo
- ◆ Sizzix Big Shot
- ◆ Stamp positioner

Instructions:

1. Die cut Autumn from Butter cardstock.
2. Load the Nesting Square Bracket Frames cutting file into the Silhouette software and resize the grouped file until the largest frame measures 3.25". Ungroup the elements and cut each frame in the color of your choice. From the bottom up, I used Marine, Fountain and Butter colored cardstocks.
3. Stamp the sentiment on the smallest frame using a stamp positioner, if you need it. Assemble the frame stack using Glue Dots.
4. Attach the framed sentiment to vase, as shown, using mini Glue Dots.
5. Attach Autumn above the framed sentiment, as shown in the photo, using micro Glue Dots.
6. Designer Tip: Remove the micro Glue Dots from the release paper and roll between your fingers to make them long and narrow. This works well for the smaller strokes on the word die cut.
7. Fill vase with flowers and enjoy!



faith

health

creativity

love

friends

adventure

family

marriage

Grateful Garland

By [Laura Kelly Walters for Tombow](#)

Fall is the harvest season; the season where we give thanks for all that our efforts have produced. It is the season of Thanksgiving and beautiful colors in nature. I created this garland of paper leaves to express the many things for which I am grateful.

Materials:

- ♦ Tombow Dual Brush Markers, assorted fall colors
- ♦ Blender pens
- ♦ Tombow Twin Permanent Marker, black
- ♦ Tombow Adhesive
- ♦ Cardstock, white
- ♦ Twine (optional)

Tools:

- ♦ Sizzix Big Shot
- ♦ Sizzix, leaf die cut
- ♦ Needle and thread (optional)

Instructions:

1. Die cut as many leaves as you may want out of white cardstock.
2. Color the leaves using the Tombow Dual Brush Markers and blender pens. Brush over them with water to get a watercolor effect, adding ink from the markers as you go.
3. While they are drying, write, in permanent, MonoTwin marker, your thankful words. Then, using the same method as the leaves, color them.
4. Once everything is dry, attach your words to your leaves with your favorite Tombow adhesive. I used the Permanent Adhesive Runner.
5. To create the garland, sew, glue or clip the leaves together. Another option is to attach them to twine with clothespins.
6. When they are all attached together, they are the perfect décor to add to a Thanksgiving silverware caddy.





BLISSFUL

Blissful

By [Donna Salazar for Donna Salazar Designs](#)

I had so much fun making this card because I used so many of my favorite things! I used a strip of background paper that I made with the Gel Press® for a pop of my favorite colors. I used one of my favorite stamp/die combos from Spellbinders® for the flourish and swirls behind my paper flowers made with book pages, mulberry paper, and patterned paper. I added in some of my lace and ribbons from Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L® and, of course, I had to add in a few bits of denim here and there. This card was fairly easy to make. You could probably make a similar card in about 30 minutes.

Materials:

- ♦ Donna Salazar Designs® with Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L®
- ♦ Girlie Grunge Art Medium
- ♦ Dodz™ XL
- ♦ Lace ribbons
- ♦ Texture ribbons
- ♦ Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L®:
 - 3D Foam squares, white
 - Crafty Power Tape
 - E-Z Runner® Micro
 - E-Z Runner® Grand
- ♦ Home & Hobby Premium Double Sided Tape: 1", 1/2", 1/4"
- ♦ Donna Salazar Designs® with Clearsnap® Mix'd Media Inx CHOX, Sparrow
- ♦ Gel Press® Printing Plate 8"x"10
- ♦ Cardstock: Cream, Kraft
- ♦ Printer paper, white
- ♦ Patterned paper
- ♦ Flower stamens
- ♦ Acrylic paint, various colors
- ♦ Cardboard

Tools:

- ♦ Donna Salazar Designs® with Spellbinders®: Embroidered Flower Stamp/ Die Combo, Rose Creations Die Set, Carnation Creations Die Set, Journal Words Stamp Set
- ♦ The Crafter's Workshop, Daisy Chain Stencil
- ♦ Paper trimmer
- ♦ Scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut an 8 1/2" x 11" Kraft card stock in half horizontally, to have 2 pieces 8 1/2" x 5 1/2".
2. Score one of the pieces to create a card that is 4 1/4" x 5 1/2".
3. Create a mono print with the Gel Printing Plate and the stencil with various colors of acrylic paint.
4. Cut a strip from the printed image and adhere it to the front of the card with the E-Z Runner® Grand and then, distress the edges of the card.
5. Cut a piece of the loopy lace for the left side of the strip and adhere it with the 1/4" tape.
5. Cut 2 of the 2nd to largest die in the Rose Creations Die Set from mulberry paper.
6. Cut 8 of the #6 flower in the Carnation Creations Die Set (large long petal flower) from book pages.
7. Use the E-Z Runner® Micro to adhere 4 layers of the Carnation Creations together (make sure to keep the center hole open) Repeat for a 2nd flower.
8. Wrap Crafty Power Tape about 1/2" from the base of a flower stamen bundle and then, slide the stem through the hole of the Carnation Creation layered flowers.
9. Squeeze the layered flowers into the adhesive around the base of the stamen to create hanging flowers.
10. Cut 1 of the Big Blossom Die (designed to work with Bitty Blossoms Die Set) from patterned paper.
11. Cut 1 of the largest die in the Bitty Blossoms Set from the same patterned paper.

12. Use an embossing stylus to cup the petals of the Bitty Blossom and Big Blossom flower die cuts.
13. Fold 3 flower stamens in half and wrap base with Crafty Power Tape for the center of the Bitty Blossom and make 3 more flower stamen bundles using 4 flower stamens to tuck in behind the flowers later (set aside the extras).
14. Place the 3 flower stamen bundle on the inside of the pointed end of the Bitty Blossom die cut and use the stamen bundle to roll the flower. When you get to the center trim the stamens, add a Dodz™XL to the base and fold the tab over the adhesive.
15. Use the extra adhesive that is hoving around the base of the flower, to adhere the pointed end of the Big Blossom and roll it around the Bitty Blossom center, use a 2nd Dodz™XL on the center tab to secure the flower.
16. Use a stylus or paper piercer to curl petals of the Big Blossom flower outward and leave the Bitty Blossom petals curled inward.
17. Adhere the 2 layers of the mulberry Rose Creations die cuts together with Girlie Grunge Art Medium and then, adhere the flower you just created to the center with a Dodz™XL.
18. Stamp the “Embroidered Flowers” image onto the cream colored cardstock.
19. Tape the die around the stamped image die cut it.
20. Attach 3D Foam Squares to the back of the image and adhere to the front of the card.
21. Lay the hanging Carnation Creations flowers onto the “Embroidered Flowers” image with the stems pointing up and to the right.
22. Add 3 Dodz™XL to the bottom of the Rose Creation and Bitty Blossom flower and then, adhere over the stems of the hanging flowers.
23. Tuck the 3 remaining flower stamen bundles (that already have the Crafty Power Tape wrapped around their base) around the flowers.
24. Cut 2 #3 Rose Creations out of denim. Fold the flower in half, roll each one and wrap in 1” tape around the pointed end.
25. Tuck the rolled denim flowers under the flowers and press the flowers into the adhesive to hold in place.
26. Cut the organza ribbon in half and tie into a 3 layered bow. Take a piece of the 1” tape and roll into a strip to adhere the bow underneath the Rose Creations/Bitty Blossoms flower.
27. Stamp a word on cream cardstock using the Journal Words Stamps and Sparrow ink and then, cut the word into a strip, ink the edges and adhere to a piece of denim (denim belt loop used) 1/4” tape.
28. Adhere the denim belt loop and word to the bottom right side of the card with 1/2” tape.



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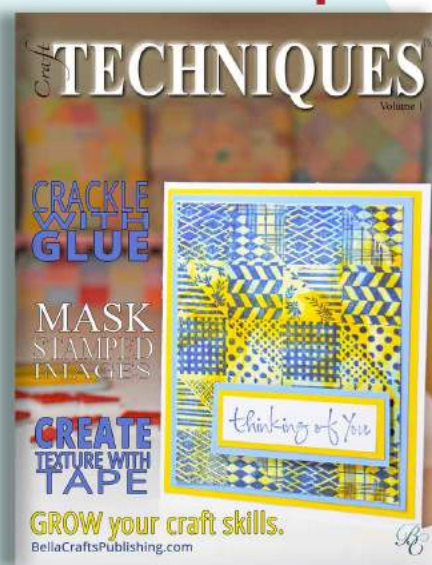
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I love making layered art. There is something about adding layer upon layer that makes an artwork more interesting, dimensional and detailed. It gives it an instant history. Layering in mixed media is easy as anything goes. This piece uses many of my favorite layering tools: paint, ink, stamps, stencils and markers.

Now is the Time

By [Seth Apter for Seth Apter](#)

Materials:

- ◆ Watercolor paper, 6" x 6" mounted onto book board
- ◆ Lineco ® PVA adhesive
- ◆ Liquitex Professional gesso, white
- ◆ PaperArtsy® Fresco Finish Chalk Acrylic paint: Bora Bora, Caramel, Haystack, Inky Pool, Zucchini, Cherry Red, Concrete
- ◆ Imagine Crafts® StazOn ink pad: Spiced Chai, St. Valentine, Ganache
- ◆ StencilGirl Products® stencil, The Time
- ◆ Spellbinders® rubber stamps: Tattered Screen, French Text
- ◆ Uni-ball® Signo gel pens: red, white
- ◆ Faber-Castell® Pitt Artist Pen big brush, Dark Naples Ochre

Tools:

- ◆ Paintbrushes
- ◆ Toothbrush
- ◆ Craft sponges

Instructions:

1. Using PVA, glue the watercolor paper to a piece of book board, adding strength and sturdiness to the artwork.
2. Add one layer of white gesso to the surface of the watercolor paper and allow to dry.
3. Loosely layer the surface with multiple colors of acrylic paint, allowing each layer to fully dry in between.
4. Using rubber stamps and ink pads, add random marks to the painted surface.
5. Lay the stencil over the surface. I chose a 6" x 6" stencil that fully covered the 6" x 6" piece of watercolor paper.
6. Using a craft sponge, daub on several colors of acrylic paint and ink from the ink pads through the stencil. Be sure that each layer is dry before proceeding and do not completely cover any layer along the way.
7. Using rubber stamps and a variety of ink pads, stamp through the stencil to add detail to the design.
8. Lift off the stencil and use a variety of gel pens and markers to outline all of the stenciling. Run an inkpad along the edge of the artwork. Both of these steps make the art pop and more dimensional.
9. Water down your choice of paint colors and use a toothbrush to add spray and splatter to the surface for extra visual texture and to integrate all the design elements.



Flower Pocket with Journaling Cards

By [Eileen Hull for Eileen Hull Design](#)

I can't stop making these Flower Pockets! This container goes together quickly and can be used in so many ways: to organize, wrap gifts, store supplies, for food gifts, party favors, plus, you can decorate it in whatever style you'd like! I added a bright paper flower and water colored the mat board to look like the sky.

Materials:

- ♦ Sizzix® Mat board, white #656492
- ♦ Color Box™ Blends inks: Uniform, Hydrangea
- ♦ Tissue paper, yellow
- ♦ Wire, 22 gauge
- ♦ Pearl
- ♦ Paper, green
- ♦ Button
- ♦ Adhesive tape, double-sided
- ♦ Glue

Tools:

- ♦ Sizzix Big Shot, #660425
- ♦ Twist & Style Tool inspired by Eileen Hull #661113
- ♦ Heart & Soul Flower by Eileen Hull #661108
- ♦ Spring Leaves by Eileen Hull #661111
- ♦ Flower Pocket by Eileen Hull #661112

Instructions:

1. Color the mat board by dabbing light and dark blue inks on a non-stick mat. Spritz ink with water, then drag mat board through the color, allowing it to pool in dark and light areas. Let dry.
2. Die cut the Flower Pocket from mat board. Fold up and assemble with strong double-sided adhesive.
3. Die cut the Heart & Soul Flower from the tissue paper. Die cut leaves from the green paper.
4. Add a pearl to a 24" length of wire. Fold the wire in half and place the pearl in the middle of nail tool anchor piece. Twist the stem from the wire using the Twist & Style tool, following the manufacturer's instructions. Load the flowers on twisted stem and secure the base of the flower with a button and glue. Trim the wire to 4".
5. Poke a small hole in the front, left side of the box. Insert the flower stem and wrap the stem around the flower to stabilize. Adhere the leaves underneath the flower.
6. Add 3" x 4" journaling cards to the box.





Water Lily Bracelet

By [Lisa Marie Jimenez](#)

As we head into fall, this Water Lily Bracelet will bring a little sunshine to your wrist. The bracelet has the colors of a beautiful summer bouquet of flowers. Project is fun to make and you will be sure to receive complements when wearing this design.

Materials:

- ♦ Enameled bracelet connector
- ♦ Water Lily Toggle Clasp Set
- ♦ Beaded chain, Yellow
- ♦ 6mm Beads, 5 inches
- ♦ Oval link chain, 10 inches
- ♦ Etched round jumpring, 8mm (4)
- ♦ Oval jumpring, 8mm (6)
- ♦ Round jumpring, 4mm (10)
- ♦ Assorted flower and round beads (20)
- ♦ Seed bead
- ♦ Headpins (21)

Tools:

- ♦ Round nose pliers
- ♦ Flat nose pliers (2 sets)
- ♦ Chain nose pliers
- ♦ Cutters

Instructions:

1. Cut the chain into 4 sections, 2 ½ inches each. Separate the beaded chain into 2 equal sections.
2. Load a bead onto a headpin and make a wrapped loop. Trim and tuck the end. Repeat this step for remaining beads.
3. Open a 4mm jumpring using flat nose pliers and load 3 assorted beads. Close jumpring. Repeat this step three more times, for a total of four bead dangles.
4. Add three oval jumpings to the link on the enamel bracelet connector. Then open an etched jumpring and load in the following order: bead bauble (by jumpring), chain section, beaded chain, chain section, and bead bauble. Next connect the etched jumpring through the oval jumpings and then close jumpring. Repeat this entire step for the opposite side.
5. Open a 4mm jumpring and add two assorted beads and then close ring. Repeat this step for a total of 4 bead baubles with two beads each.
6. Open a 4mm jumpring and add it to the hole on the water lily toggle. Next open an etched jumpring. Load the jumpring in the following order: bead bauble, end link on chain, end link on beaded chain, end link on chain, bead bauble and jumpring on lily toggle. Close jumpring.
7. Load a headpin with seed bead and then add the toggle bar using the center hole.

Make a wrapped loop on the backside of the toggle bar. Trim and tuck end. Open a 4mm jumpring and add to the wrapped loop.

8. Open the last etched jumpring and load in the following order: bead bauble, end link on chain, end link on beaded chain, end link on chain, bead bauble and jumpring on toggle bar. Close jumpring.

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By [Lisa Rojas](#)

Country Chic Foiled Frame

I love the look of this frame! The “rusticness”, mixed with the glittery, shininess of the foils, is a nice balance of two opposite elements. This frame will add a little “Country Chic” to your home décor.

Materials:

- ♦ Clearsnap Design Adhesives: French Swirl, Sentiments
- ♦ Foil: green, gold
- ♦ Burlap: tag, flower
- ♦ Paper leaves

- ♦ Paper towel

Tools: Glue gun, scissors

Instructions:

1. Wipe the frame clean with a paper towel to remove any dirt or dust.
2. Cut out the designs you want to use.
3. Lay the swirls down on the frame, following the manufacturer’s instructions.
4. Place the green foil with the color side facing up, over the design and rub gently.
5. Lift a corner of the foil up to make sure it’s sticking to the design adhesive. Repeat step 4, if necessary.
6. Lay the sentiment on the bottom, center of the frame and apply the gold foil, as you did in step 4.
7. Adhere the tag, flower and leaves to the top, right side of the frame with hot glue.
8. Add a photograph to the frame and display it in your home.

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LOVE

Vintage Leaf Banner

By [Rebekah Meier](#)

What a better way to celebrate a fall day than with a leaf inspired banner. This is a super easy and colorful mixed media project. If you wish, use your favorite colors to make a banner even more personal. Happy Autumn.

Materials:

- ◆ Fabric Elements™: banner, fabric tags
- ◆ The Crafter's Workshop Rebekah's Remnants: Doodling, Love Remnant templates
- ◆ Muslin, 5" x 9" (2)
- ◆ Muslin, 1 1/4" x 3 1/2" (1)
- ◆ Cotton batting, 5" x 9" (1)
- ◆ Osnaburg fabric, 4" x 2" (1)
- ◆ Acrylic paint: white, black
- ◆ Fabric adhesive
- ◆ Dye ink: blue, green
- ◆ Archival ink: brown, black
- ◆ Embroidery floss, brown
- ◆ Thread, brown
- ◆ Stamp, script design
- ◆ Paper flower and leaves
- ◆ Hot water
- ◆ Tea bags, regular (2-3)

Tools:

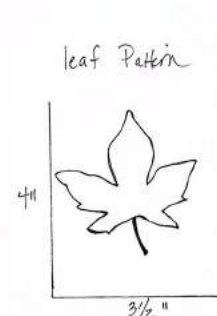
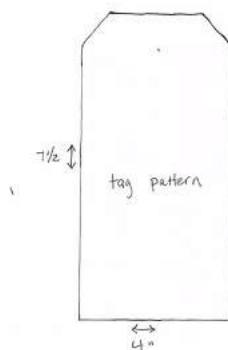
- ◆ Sewing machine
- ◆ Iron
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Paintbrush, flat 1/2"
- ◆ Pencil
- ◆ Embroidery needle
- ◆ Bowl

Instructions:

1. Create a tea stain solution by heating water and steeping tea bags in a bowl. Remove the tea bags and while still hot, place the banner into the bowl. Let it soak for approximately 2-3 minutes. Let dry and press with hot iron. Set aside.
2. Cut a tag shape from muslin pieces and batting, using the tag pattern. Layer the

two muslin pieces with batting between them. Machine stitch 1/4" from the raw edge around the tag.

3. Stamp the tag with script design in black ink.
4. Using a pencil, trace the leaf pattern onto the middle of the tag. Using a back stitch, embroider the leaf with 3 strands of brown embroidery floss.
5. Use a cosmetic sponges to add blue and green ink onto random areas of fabric tag. Set aside.
6. Using a cosmetic sponge, apply brown ink to the edges of the small muslin piece.
7. Use a cosmetic sponge to stencil "LOVE" onto it with black acrylic paint. Set aside.
8. Using the flat brush, randomly apply white paint onto the banner. Let dry. Stamp the banner with script design in brown ink.
9. Referring to the photo and using fabric adhesive, glue the finished tag to the banner. Approximately 1/4" below the tag, glue Osnaburg and stenciled muslin pieces.
10. Finish the banner by gluing flowers to the bottom of tag.





Chalked Storage Containers

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

Take plain metal storage containers from plain to pretty in no time with some chalk paint and other embellishments. Then, simply label your containers. Here are three ideas for altering them.

Materials:

- ♦ Metal storage containers
- ♦ Chalk paint, assorted colors (3)
- ♦ Chalkboard labels
- ♦ Wooden labels
- ♦ Contact paper, clear
- ♦ Chalkboard pen
- ♦ Ribbon 1/8", 3/8"
- ♦ Jute
- ♦ Beacon Adhesives, 527 Glue
- ♦ Marker, black

Tools:

- ♦ Assorted size paintbrushes
- ♦ Painter's tape
- ♦ Paper plate
- ♦ Die-cut machine
- ♦ Rectangular dies
- ♦ Rubber bands

Instructions for Small Container:

1. Paint the bottom of the jar with chalk paint following the manufacturer's instructions. Let dry.
2. With chalkboard pen, write on the chalkboard label. Add some dots or other doodles, if desired.
3. Glue the label to the jar and place rubber bands around the container, over the label until dry.
4. Once completely dry, remove the rubber bands.

Instructions for Medium Container:

1. Cut a piece of contact paper 3" x 4". Die cut a rectangle into the center to create a stencil.
2. Remove the backing and apply it to the front of the container. Be sure to smooth the interior edges, so the contact paper is completely flat.
3. Paint over the stencil, following the manufacturer's instructions. Carefully remove the contact paper.
4. Once completely dry, write the label name on top of the paint with chalkboard marker.
5. Wrap a piece of 3/8" ribbon around the top of the container, securing it with glue in the front. Then, tie a separate bow and glue it on top of where the ribbon meets. Let dry.

Instructions for Large Container:

1. With painter's tape, mask the jar about 1/4 and 2/3 up from the bottom. Press the tape firmly into place to ensure complete contact.
2. Paint the top section first, the middle section and finally, the bottom. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for best results.
3. Once completely dry, remove the tape.
4. Wrap jute around the container between the top and middle colors. Secure with glue.
5. Layer two different color 1/8" ribbons and tie them into a bow. Glue to the front of the container, over the jute.
6. Write the label name onto the wood tag and attach it to the clasp of the container.



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feeling or expression of thankfulness

... Genesung mit ...
... unter guter Georg fest bei ...
... meinen Armen; ich drü ...
... den Verlust, den ich ...
... fast zu gleichen The ...
... reißer, wie der Thirge, de ...

... by brackets and is ...
... ks and magazines. ...
... enough to be used for ...
... Its plainness makes ...
... aw curtains or over- ...
... ow of a boy's or man's ...
... ch or bed cover, for ...
... and for other pur- ...
... material is required. ...
... in a summer cottage ...
... costs but little. It ...
... of how to cover the ...
... neatly and pleasingly ...

... watch the sun—it's ...
... rest in the sea just ou ...
... there; I've been ravin ...
... Have you been wo ...
... a looking thing I am ...
... tell you all about m ...
... you to tears. I am ...
... half inches tall, and I weigh 1009 pounds, I ...
... have light brown hair that curls around ...
... my face, and a nose that is liberally ...
... sprinkled with freckles. Add wide open ...
... eyes of a blue that is neither dark nor ...
... light, and a mouth that is slightly large ...
... (CONTINUED ON PAGE 30.)

Gratitude: A Remembrance Journal

By [Chantal Johnson](#)

Gratitude begins with remembering...from the smallest of blessings such as the alarm clock or the coffee brewing, to the more meaningful such as the love of family, the birth of a child, the realization of a dream and more.

In creating this journal, there are so many techniques, elements and sentiments that I am already filled with Gratitude. In creating your journal, I hope you fill the pages with your many blessings, both big and small.

Materials:

- ♦ Blank journal
- ♦ Vintage paper
- ♦ Cardstock, white
- ♦ Mulberry paper, green or shade of choice
- ♦ ColorBox Crafter's by Ann Butler, Limelight
- ♦ Tim Holtz® Distress Inks: Scattered Straw, Chipped Sapphire
- ♦ Blending foam (3)
- ♦ StaZon® Ink, black
- ♦ Gratitude by Seaside Stampin' or stamp of choice
- ♦ Ranger Glossy Accents™
- ♦ Glue stick or craft glue
- ♦ Zots glue dots
- ♦ Wood leaves
- ♦ ICE Resin® Iced Enamels™, Medium
- ♦ ICE Resin® Iced Enamels™, Relique Powder: Chartreuse, Ivory
- ♦ Glass beads (2)
- ♦ Head pin (1)
- ♦ Wire, 3" length (1)
- ♦ Feathers (2)
- ♦ Ribbon
- ♦ Vintage brass letter

Tools:

- ♦ ICE Resin®: disposable cup, brush, sponge
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Sizzix big shot
- ♦ Sizzix texture folder
- ♦ Non-stick craft mat
- ♦ Glue gun

- ♦ Heat gun
- ♦ Round nose pliers
- ♦ Flat nose pliers
- ♦ Paper beading tool

Instructions:

1. Begin by preparing all elements of the journal and then, assemble all together.
2. Cut white cardstock to desired size. Place it in the texture folder and run through the die cut machine.
3. Using the 3 ink colors and the blending foam sponges, gently add color over the textured areas until desired color is achieved. Begin with scattered straw, limelight and then, chipped sapphire.
4. On a smaller piece of white cardstock, using Stazon® ink, stamp sentiment. Gently blend Scattered Straw ink over the stamped sentiment. Trim if necessary. Ink the edges also.
5. To create ICE Resin® Paper, mix equal parts A and B of ICE Resin®, lay a small piece of vintage paper onto non-stick craft mat. Using a sponge, gently sponge ICE Resin® onto both sides of paper. Let dry 8-10 hours.
6. To create the ICE Resin® sealed paper bead, roll a desired size bead from vintage paper with the paper beading tool and then, use glue stick to secure the end. Using a small brush and the ICE Resin® from step 5, paint or seal all around the bead and lay on the nonstick craft mat. Let dry 8-10 hours.

7. To create Iced Enamel™ leaves, using a small brush, brush Iced Enamels™ Medium onto the leaves. Sprinkle a good covering of the Iced Enamel™ Relique Powder over them. Tap off the excess. With a heat gun, melt the powder until it is smooth. Seal, using a small brush, with ICE Resin™.
8. Once everything has been sealed and is dry, assemble the journal.
9. Attach the vintage paper to journal, layer textured cardstock, ICE Resin® paper and mulberry paper. Using glue dots, add the stamped sentiment.
10. Attach the brass embellishments with Ranger Glossy Accents™.
11. Thread the glass beads and paper bead onto the head pin. Wire-wrap the top, creating a loop.
12. Tie ribbon at the top of journal with a double bow. Slip the wire beads onto the ribbon or through another piece of looped wire.
13. Adhere Iced Enamel™ leaves and feathers with hot glue.
14. Now enjoy your journal!!

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By [Lisa Rojas](#)

The Queen's Bracelet

Every queen needs some type of fabulous jewelry to announce her status to the world. Since my husband wouldn't leave the house with me in my tiara, I decided on the next best thing; the queen's bracelet! So, go ahead and make one of your own and show your "queeniness" to the world!

Materials:

- ◆ Bracelet, silver, 7"
- ◆ Shrink plastic
- ◆ Colored pencils
- ◆ Permanent inkpad, black
- ◆ Charms, silver, hearts (4)
- ◆ Jump rings, 6mm (8)
- ◆ Rubber stamp

Tools:

- ◆ Heat tool
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Round nosed pliers

Instructions:

1. Prepare the shrink plastic according to the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Then, stamp the image onto it in black ink and let it dry.
3. Color the image with colored pencils, punch a hole in the top and cut it out.
4. Use the heat tool to shrink the images, following the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Attach jump rings to the images and charms.
6. Attach the images and charms to the bracelet on every fourth link.

Designer Note: My bracelet has four images and four charms. Use as many as you like.



Altered Burlap Photo Album

By [Theresa Cifali](#)

Get your photos off of your devices and into a beautifully decorated album. These make amazing gifts for grandparents...especially if you complete the inside with photos, journaling and embellishments.

Materials:

- ♦ Chipboard album, kraft
- ♦ Burlap, self-adhesive
- ♦ Cardstock, dark blue
- ♦ Flowers: paper, burlap
- ♦ Leaves with stems, paper
- ♦ Tulle
- ♦ Ribbons and fibers, assorted
- ♦ Adhesive, high-tack

Tools:

- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Paper-trimmer
- ♦ Glue gun
- ♦ Japanese screw punch
- ♦ Self-healing mat

Instructions:

1. Open the binding rings and remove the cover.
2. Cut the burlap the same size as the album cover, peel the backing and attach.
3. Use a Japanese screw punch to punch the holes through the burlap.
4. Cut the cardstock 4 ½" x 5" and attach it to the right side of the journal with high-tack adhesive.
5. Attach the paper leaves to the cover with hot glue.
6. Tie a piece of tulle around the right side of the album cover, over the leaves. Knot and trim.
7. Arrange the flowers and then, secure with hot glue.
8. Remove the binding rings from the remaining pages of the album and decorate the pages with pictures, journaling and embellishments, as desired.
9. Stack the cover and pages and add the binding clips.
10. Cut 5" lengths of ribbons, tulle and fibers. Tie the elements around the binder rings until they are completely covered.

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Bee Earrings in 5 Easy Steps

FEBRUARY 14, 2016 BY LISA JIMENEZ — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



These beautiful Bee Earrings are quick and easy to make. It takes just 5 steps to make these Bee Earrings! The earrings are lightweight and fun to wear. They are so easy to make, you can make a pair for yourself and for a friend. Let's get started. Supplies: Creative Soul Treasures Floral Bee Charm [...]

DIY Felt Project Ideas

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 BY BELLA CRAFTS QUARTERLY — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



We are thrilled to be bringing you 8 diy felt project ideas. Felt has been a popular fabric among crafters for many years. It's a soft, easy material to work with that comes in a multitude of different colors. It has often been used throughout the years for children's projects, but it's come along [...]

Mixed Media Cardmaking

FEBRUARY 8, 2016 BY LISA FULMER — [1 COMMENT](#)



Recently I took a cardmaking class from my friend Daniela Costa. She designs totally adorable papercraft projects with loads of texture and distress. I just love how mixed media techniques can bring so much character to a greeting card. Whether you're celebrating Valentine's Day or expressing your love any day of the year, this is the type of [...]





Easy Table Accessories

By [Madeline Arendt](#)

Create two easy projects to add to any entertaining setting. Combine burlap, batting and some simple machine stitching to make baskets and pads of any size.

Materials:

- ♦ Burlap fabric
- ♦ Batting, heat resistant
- ♦ Ribbon
- ♦ Thread

Tools:

- ♦ Cutting mat
- ♦ Rotary cutter
- ♦ Acrylic ruler
- ♦ Sewing machine
- ♦ Iron
- ♦ Straight pins
- ♦ Marking pen - disappearing type

Instructions for Basket:

1. Cut two pieces of burlap approximately 14" square.
2. Cut one piece of batting 8" square.
3. Layer the batting between the two pieces of burlap, centering it in the middle. Pin, if necessary, to hold the layers together.
4. Mark the 8" center area with a marking pen.
5. Stitch along the lines with a straight stitch and then, once again with a zig-zag stitch.
6. Measure 2" out on all four sides from the center, bottom stitched lines.
7. Stitch around the four sides using the straight stitch first, followed by the zig-zag stitch.
8. Fray the four sides by pulling away the burlap threads.
9. Trim the fringe using the ruler and rotary cutter to about 1/2" long.
10. With an iron, press each side up along the stitched bottom portion of the basket.
11. Create a fold in each corner and stitch to hold the sides together. (Refer to photo)
12. Poke a hole near the top edge of each corner and thread a decorative piece of ribbon through and tie it into a bow.

Instructions for Mat:

1. Cut two pieces of burlap approximately 14" x 16".
2. Cut one piece of batting approximately 12" x 14".
3. Layer the batting between the two pieces of burlap, centering it in the middle. Pin, if necessary, to hold the layers together.
4. Mark the center of the piece and draw a line down the mat.
5. Continue to mark from the center line in both directions in 1 1/2' increments.
6. Stitch down each line with a zig-zag stitch.
7. Turn the mat, find the center again and mark with lines running in the opposite direction. Stitch with a zig-zag stitch.
8. If needed, trim the four sides evenly with the rotary cutter.
9. Fringe the edges by pulling the thread from the burlap. It may be necessary to remove some of the stitching to create the fringe.

Designer Tips:

- ⇒ The basket and pad size can be changed, if desired, by following the basic instructions.
- ⇒ For the basket - no matter the size, always remember that the measurement for the four sides should be approximately 2 1/2" (with or without fringe).
- ⇒ Always find the straight of the burlap in both directions before cutting the pieces to be used.
- ⇒ It's helpful to cut the burlap pieces slightly larger than the desired finished size.
- ⇒ Once the pieces are sewn together and fringed, they can be trimmed to the correct size.
- ⇒ Lengthen and widen the zig-zag stitch slightly. Use a contrasting thread if desired for the stitching.



Gel Press Canvas Clutch

By [Cindy Shepard](#)

Black and gold – a striking combination, add a little purple and I'm in heaven! I was thrilled when I found a black canvas pad at my local art store. I often use this type of canvas for my Gel Press printing. The thin canvas sheets are wonderful for making my own accessories, especially a perfect little clutch bag for an evening out.

Materials:

- ♦ Gel Press printing plate, 8" x 10"
- ♦ Frederix canvas sheet, black, 9" x 12"
- ♦ Balzer Design stencil
- ♦ Golden Interference Gold, fine, heavy body acrylic
- ♦ Golden Interference Violet, fluid acrylic
- ♦ Golden Carbon Black, fluid acrylic
- ♦ Thread, gold
- ♦ Frog clasp, gold
- ♦ Tyvek or cardstock

Tools:

- ♦ Brayer
- ♦ Liner brush
- ♦ Sewing needle
- ♦ Sewing machine
- ♦ Scissors

Instructions:

1. Use a brayer to apply Interference Violet to Gel Press plate. Cut circles from Tyvek or cardboard and then, place them onto the plate to mask off color in desired areas.
2. Carefully place the black canvas sheet onto the Gel Press plate, leaving a border around each edge of the canvas. Remove the canvas from the plate.
3. Brayer Interference Gold onto the Gel Press plate, place the stencil on the plate. Press the canvas sheet onto the gel plate, matching the edges of the previous print. Remove the canvas from the plate.
4. Use a liner brush to paint swirls of gold and black onto the black, masked circle shapes.
5. Fold the bottom of the canvas up approximately 4 ½" and crease. Sew each side with gold thread. Fold the top of the canvas down approximately 2 ½" and crease.
6. Hand sew a gold frog clasp to complete your clutch bag.

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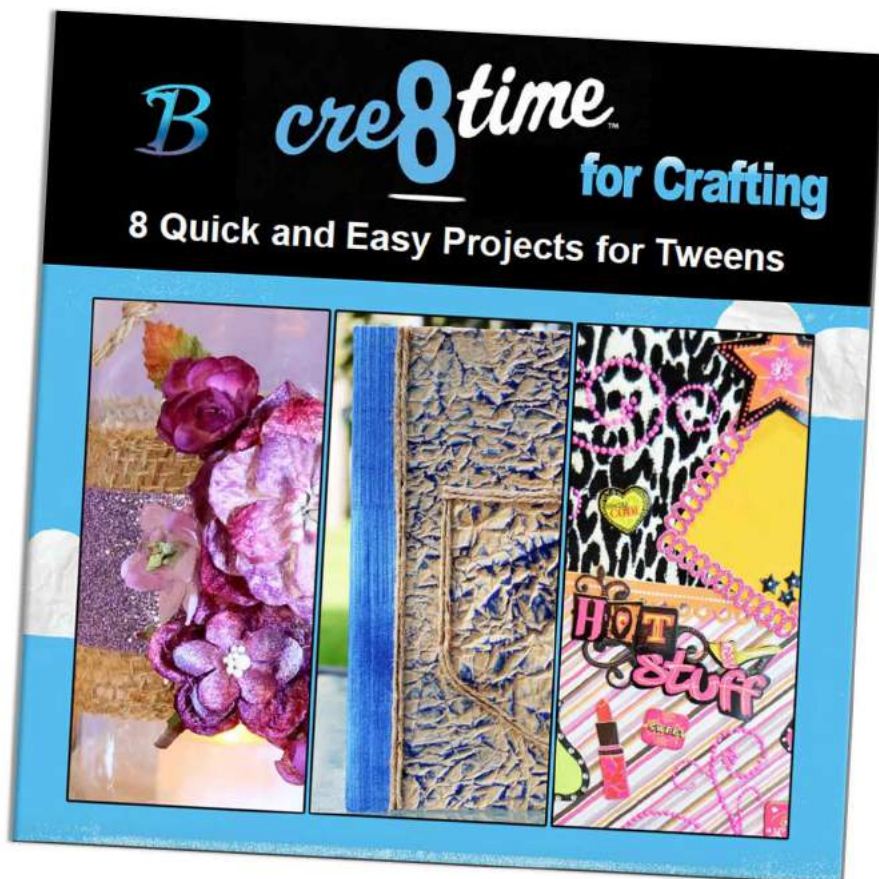
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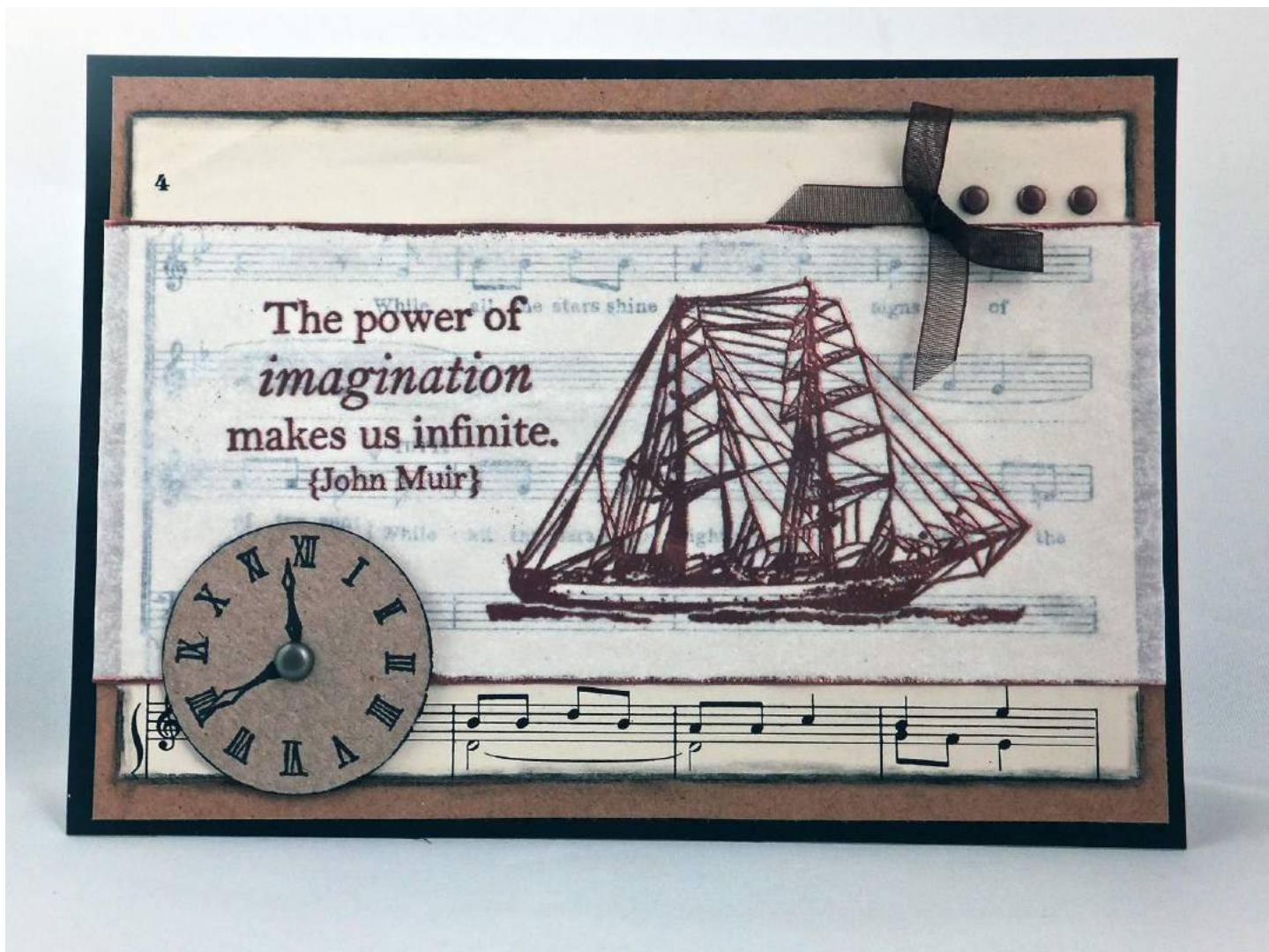
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Imagination

By [Sara Naumann](#)

Sailing ships, music notes and clocks...these classic images are perfect for cards that celebrate an adventurous soul. (They're great for those hard-to-make-masculine cards, too.) Add extra texture with vellum, metallic embossing and dimensional embellishments for a design that's easy to replicate!

Materials:

- ◆ Embossing powder, Copper
- ◆ Embossing ink
- ◆ Inkpads, black
- ◆ Cardstock: black, kraft
- ◆ Card blank, white, 5"x7"
- ◆ Sheet music
- ◆ Vellum
- ◆ Mini brads, copper (3)
- ◆ Antique brad
- ◆ Ribbon, sheer, brown
- ◆ Craft glue
- ◆ Foam tape
- ◆ Glue stick

Tools:

- ◆ Eclectica³ {Sara Naumann} ESN19 stamps
- ◆ Acrylic block
- ◆ Circle punch, 1 3/4"
- ◆ Black pastel pencil
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Heat tool



Instructions:

1. Cover the card front with black cardstock.
2. Mat a 4 1/2" x 6 1/2" piece of sheet music onto kraft cardstock. Use the pastel pencil to trace around the sheet music and then, blend it with your finger.
3. Ink the long edges of a 3" x 8" piece of vellum with embossing ink. Sprinkle with copper embossing powder and then, heat set. Copper-emboss the ship and the quote on the vellum.
4. Apply glue stick on the back of the vellum, and then adhere it to the sheet music. Wrap the ends of the vellum to the back of the matted piece. Glue the piece to the card front.
5. Stamp the clock on kraft cardstock. Punch into a circle. Insert the antique brad in the center. Use foam tape to adhere the clock to the card front.
6. Add three copper brads at the top right corner of the card front. Tie a bow in the brown ribbon and then, glue it to the card front.

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Spiky Cactus Mini Embroidery

By [Helen Bradley](#)

I love making small embroideries – they're quick and easy to sew, they look cute and make great gifts. This issue's cactus embroidery is certainly small, but it's not quite what it seems to be at first look. Its color and texture doesn't all come from thread. Instead I've used markers to quick start the project. This combination of markers and thread makes the embroidery a super fun project.

Materials:

- ◆ Embroidery hoop (4"–5" is ideal)
- ◆ DMC® Pearl Cottons: orange, dark brown and green
- ◆ Linen fabric: color of your choice, 8"x8"
- ◆ Ribbon for hanging, 10"
- ◆ Sewing thread
- ◆ Tombow Dual Brush Markers, #098 & #946
- ◆ Felt

Tools:

- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Embroidery and sewing needles
- ◆ Disappearing marking pen (optional)

Instructions:

1. Place the linen fabric in the embroidery hoop.
2. Sketch the outline of the cactus shape and container using disappearing pen on your fabric.
3. Using the Tombow markers color the cactus and the container and allow the ink to dry. Draw over the shapes again to darken the edges and to add some color texture to the shapes.
4. Using thread colors that match the markers, sew around the edges of the shapes using backstitch. Around the top of the container stitch a series of long stitches to suggest ridges. Using a dark brown thread, sew small 'v' shapes using straight stitches for the spines on the cactus. The spines should follow the direction of the pad of the cactus except around the edges where they should point outwards.
5. If desired, color the stitches with your markers to blend the thread color with the drawing.
6. Finish the embroidery by gathering up the excess fabric at the back of the hoop. Cut a circle of felt slightly smaller than the hoop and hem stitch the felt over the gathered linen.
7. Thread the ribbon through the hoop and tie the ends in a knot for hanging.

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Framed Memo Board

By [Ann Butler](#)

I am always on the lookout for unique frames as they can be used in oh so many projects. Unique frames can be found inexpensively at garage sales, auctions and second hand stores. Here, I turned one into a trendy memo board to hang in the guest room.

Materials:

- ♦ Frame, with a 11" x 17" opening
- ♦ Ann Butler Designs Iridescent, Sapphire
- ♦ Chalk It Up, Blueberry
- ♦ Burlap, 14" x 20"
- ♦ Warm batting, 11" x 17" (3)
- ♦ Mat board, 11" x 17"
- ♦ Brads (5)
- ♦ Jute or twine

Tools:

- ♦ Paintbrush
- ♦ Tapestry needle
- ♦ Piercing tool
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Tape measure
- ♦ Pencil

Instructions:

1. Paint the frame and buttons with Blueberry. Let dry.
2. Paint a light coat of Sapphire on the frame and brads. Let dry. Repeat if desired.
3. Measure to find the center of the mat and then, pierce a hole.
4. Measure 4" from the center toward the corners of the mat board in all four directions and pierce holes.
5. Layer the mat board, batting and burlap.
6. Thread the tapestry needle with jute and sew in and out of the holes using the photo as a guide.
7. Glue the brads in place where the jute intersects.
8. Insert the burlap into the frame.

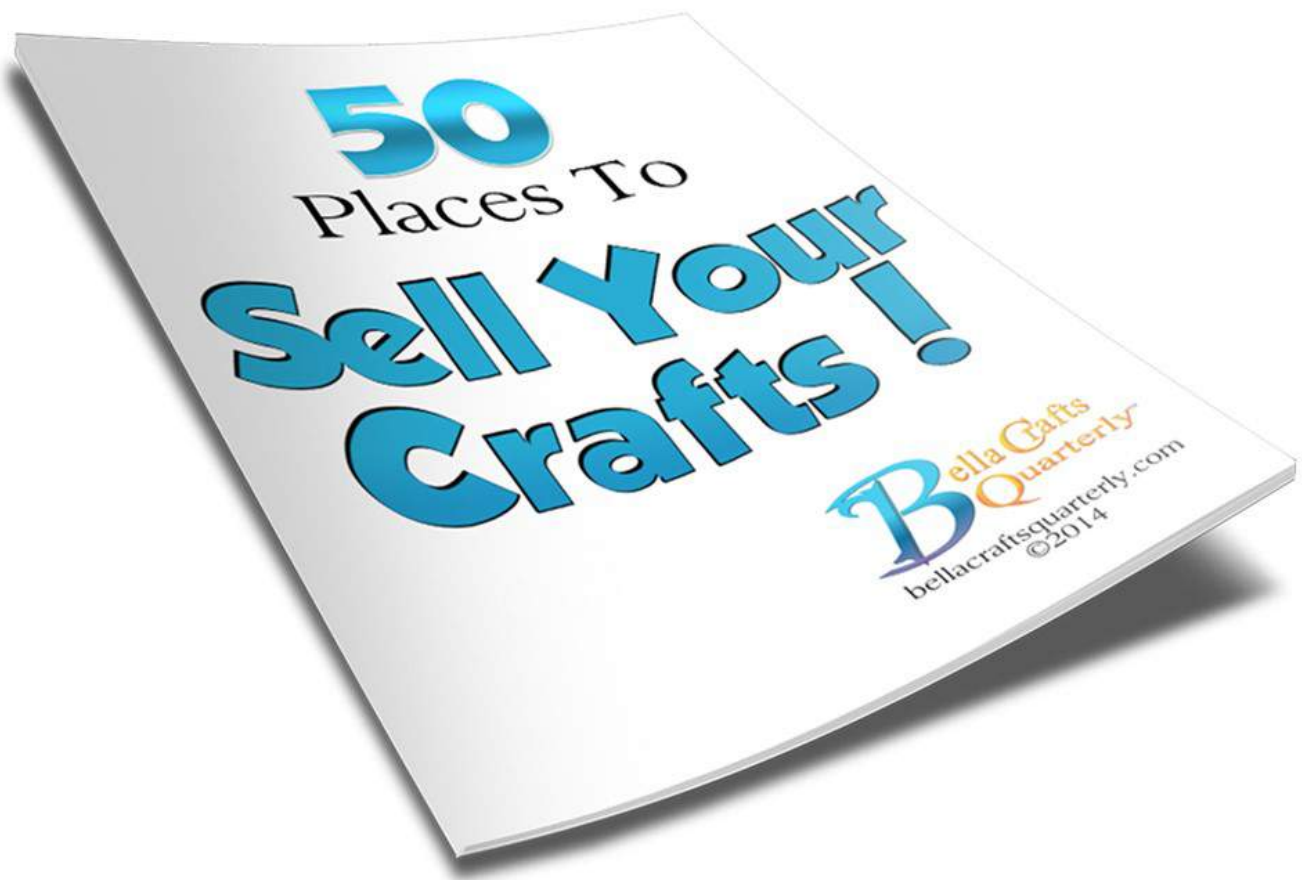


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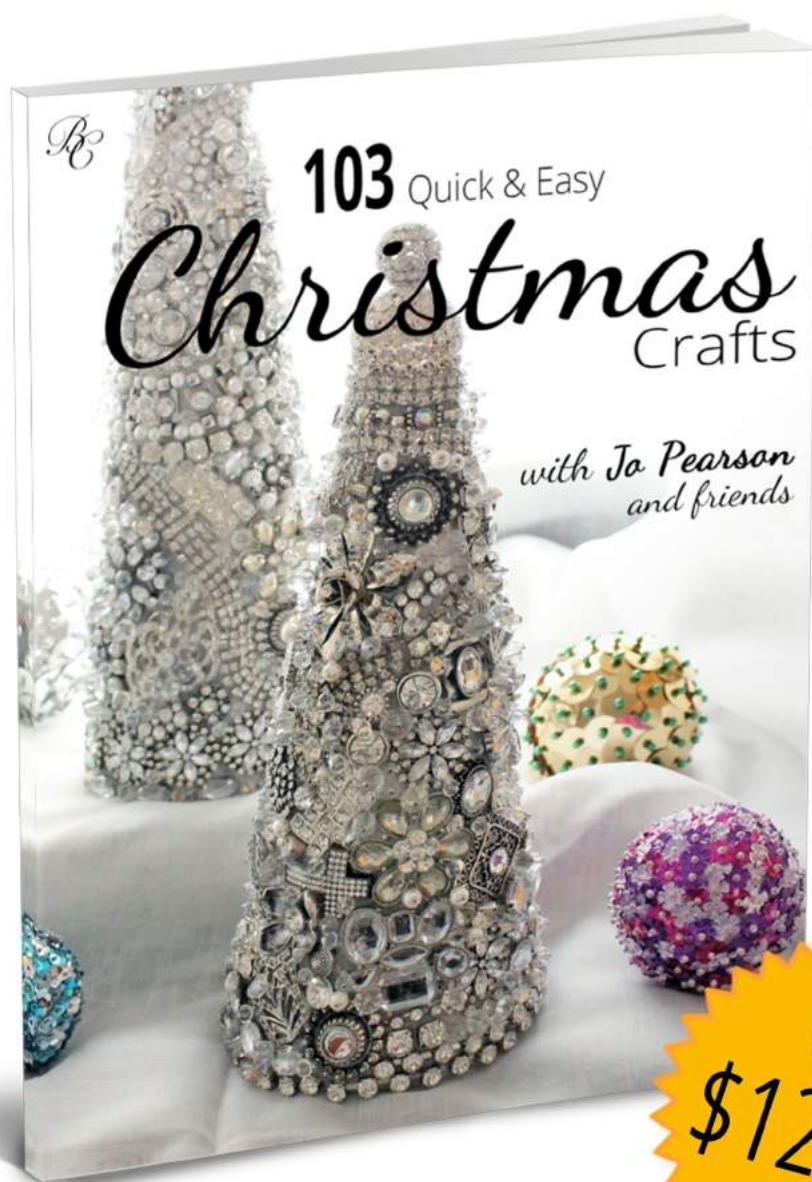


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Project by: Deanna Russo

Name of Project: Tea Time Bow K® Centerpiece

Type of Project: This was a Bow K'ed arrangement. We incorporated repurposed bows and silk flowers along with new materials to create a unique and beautiful centerpiece.

Special Technique Used: Bow K-ing does not require special skills. If you can make a bow and tie a knot, you can Bow K!

Products Used: Bow K Ribbon Craft & Keepsake with white, standard size
Gold vase from Hobby Lobby
Silk flowers

Name of Project: Alice's Springtime Chair

Type of Project: Furniture Restoration - Home Décor

Special Technique Used: Just careful painting.

Products Used: Prep, Base colors (Brown, white, black) and Clear Sealer are from Rethunk Junk by Laura -

Accent Colors (green, yellow & purple) from Delta Ceramcoat Accrylic paints

Flowers were done using water slide decals (made for ceramics but work great on painted wood).



Project by: KC Eddy

Name of Project: DIY Spring Lamp

Type of Project: I would say this is a recycled - mixed media project

Special Technique Used: I etched the recycled glass bottle and I hand painted the lamp shade (provided by Etchall as a member of their Etchall Elite Team)

Products Used provided by Etchall:
Etchall's lighten-up kit
Etchall Etchmask
Etchall dip'n etch liquid

Other products/tools used:
Recycled glass bottle
Recycled plastic container
Prima flowers and butterfly
Pebeo Vitral glass paints
Martha Stewart Crafts Glass Paints
Martha Stewart Adhesive Stencils 2-sheet/pk - blossoms
Fabric ribbon
Adtech hot glue gun and glue sticks
Westcott paper trimmer



Project by: Maria Soto



Project by: Patti Hodder

Name of Project: Decorating with Kids Toys

Type of Project: Painting/ general crafts

Special Technique Used: Using a plain wooden frame, spray paint the frame and old plastic toys. Will use probably 3 - 4 coats to completely cover the colors of the plastic toys. Once dry, spray paint with a clear lacquer to seal the frames and toys. Once completely dry, adhere the toys to the frame as desired using a strong glue. Add scrabble letters to personalize as desired.

Products Used: Michaels plain frame, Krylon spray paint and sealer, 3 in 1 glue by Beacon



Project by: Chantal Johnson

Name of your project: The Way to A Dream Tag

Type of project: Mixed Media tag-using everything but the kitchen sink

Did you use a special technique: The "walk away" technique and Collage layering

I like to call this the "walk away" technique. It is when the layers are built up over time. A few minutes here and there. Each time you walk away and then return, you see something different and it inspires you to add or take away. It gives a pause in the rush to finish.

Products used in project: In this watercolor paper tag, I used twinkling H2O's (a hardpan watercolor cake with beautiful bits of mica powders and shimmers), Acrylic paints, distress inks, rub-ons, stamps and even gauze fabric. Embellished with Ribbons, pearls and wire, the piece de resistance is my ICE Resin® cast - a Relic inspired milagro that has been painted with Mica Powder and inks. Using ICE Resin® in casting found objects is one of my most favorite possibilities.



Project by: Francine Perri

Name of your project:-Old Time Paris

Type of project: Mixed Media

Did you use a special technique: Decoupage

Products used in project: Canvas, decoupage glue, tissue paper, distress ink, various souvenirs and ephemera directly from Paris.

Name of Project: Holiday Gift Tag Ornaments

Type of Project: Paper art project, can be used for ornaments, gift tags, or as a scrapbook embellishment.

Special Technique Used: Embroidery on paper (I recommend punching the holes in the paper before stitching, using a pattern template, also an additional technique is making your own gift tags, using a paper cutter and scissors to cut them out, and punching a hole at top.)

Products Used: Strathmore colored art paper 65 lb., yarn or embroidery thread, tapestry/embroidery needle, 3M acid free paper glue, fabric glue for gluing layers of paper together, sequins, holographic paper and round paper punch, paper cutter, paper edge cutting scissors



Project by: Denise Losczyk



Project by: Sue Morin

Name of project: Birthday Fun with Flowers!

Type of project: Mixed Media

Special Technique Used: No real special technique used

Products used in project: Bazzill Cardstock, Plantable seed paper, Mulberry Paper Flower, Scrapbooking brad, Authentique - Crush double sided paper, Scor tape, Tombow adhesive, Glue dots, 1 1/2" & 2" circle punches, ribbon, printer

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