

# How to...

FREE  
information

## Make Cards

### Introduction

If you're interested in getting into crafts, card making is an ideal activity to start with. This leaflet will give you an introduction to a variety of card making techniques. Individual projects and step-by-step instructions can be found in our range of books and free You Can Make leaflets.

Card making is fun, easy and a great way of expressing your creativity. With only a few basic tools and craft supplies plus some simple tips and techniques, you can make unique handcrafted cards for a wide range of occasions including Birthday, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, Wedding, Anniversary, New Baby, Christening, New home, Get well, Bon voyage, Congratulations, Good luck... the list is endless.

Card designs can be as simple or as complicated as you want and you don't need huge amounts of spare time or money. Often the most effective designs can be created in less than half an hour, with just a few basic components.

Once you've started you could soon be using a range of techniques to make handcrafted cards and much more, from gift wrap and decorative gift boxes to scrapbook pages and memory albums.

### Equipment needed

#### Basic materials

Paper – available in handmade, patterned, vellum, metallic and more. Perfect for building up layers on cards, invitations, wedding stationery, scrapbook pages etc. Special papers can also be used as card inserts and for stylish gift wrapping.

Card – is an ideal surface for making cards. It comes in a huge range of colours and finishes and can be bought in a variety of sizes as a single sheet or in packs.

Card blanks – pre-folded card that has no design on it comes in a variety of shapes, colours and finishes and is available with matching envelopes. An aperture card is a two-fold card with a pre-cut shape in the front of the card.

#### Optional extras

Outline stickers, embellishments, card toppers, pens & markers, handmade paper, cellophane bags, craft box, craft punches, rubber stamps, ink pads, embossing powders and heat tool, light box, dry embossing templates and tools.

#### Basic tools

Metal ruler & craft knife, scissors, paper trimmer, self healing cutting mat, glues / adhesive tapes.

## Preparation

The following section will give you a brief description of a wide range of card making techniques.

## Card toppers

These are pre-made decorations, often with a self adhesive backing. They give an interesting 3-D effect and are a good option for beginners. No glue is required and a simple card need only consist of a card topper placed on a card blank.

## Embellishments

These can be used to add that special finishing touch to your card making projects. Embellishments are basically anything you can stick onto your cards to compliment the design and include stickers, card toppers, wooden shapes, skeleton leaves, wire, beads, ribbons, eyelets, brads, foam shapes, pom poms, faceted stones, petite flowers, mirror tiles and much much more.

## Embossing

Dry embossing – this technique uses either a light source, for example a light box, metal templates and an embossing tool or specialist embossing systems to create raised designs and textures on card, vellum paper and metal foil. For added effect, the raised surface can be coloured with a pen or pencil.

Heat embossing – this technique uses embossing powder, pigment or specialist clear embossing ink and a heat tool to create raised designs on card, paper and craft foam. This technique is most often used to add an extra dimension to rubber stamped images.

## Glass painting

This involves the use of specialist water or solvent based glass paints and glass paint outliner or peel off stickers to create designs on glass or acetate. Pick up a HobbyCraft 'How to Glass Paint' leaflet for further information on this craft.

## Iris folding

This simple technique involves folded strips of coloured or patterned paper, that are layered, according to a template, into a spiral pattern behind an aperture in a card blank. The name originates from the folded paper designs resembling the iris of a camera.

## 3D Decoupage

3D Decoupage is about creating 3D pictures from multiple copies of one image. Individual elements are cut out and glued into layers to 'build out' the picture, using foam pads or Glue Dots, curved tipped scissors or a craft knife and a cutting mat.

## Outline stickers

These are self adhesive coloured greetings, letters and shapes that offer an easy and stylish way to personalise your cards. They can be used on a variety of surfaces including card, gift boxes, wedding stationery and photo albums. A wide range of messages from Good Luck and Best Wishes to Congratulations and Happy Birthday are available in a variety of colours.

## Parchment craft

This technique involves the embossing and piercing of vellum paper with a needle to give it a raised appearance that often looks like lace.

## Punching and cutting

Hole punches and decorative scissors can be used to create a variety of different patterned edges and shaped holes on paper and light weight card. The 'punched' shapes can also be used to add layers and interest to your cards. Always practice on a piece of scrap paper first.

## Quilling

This is the ancient art of rolling thin strips of paper into different shapes and using the shapes to form designs on cards, boxes and pictures.

## Rubber stamping

This is a quick and effective method of producing repeat patterns. Stamps are used with an ink pad and can be embellished with embossing powder to create a raised finish. Once dry, stamps can be coloured in with felt pen or watercolour pencils. Pick up our How to Rubber Stamp leaflet for further information on this craft.

## Shaker cards

Shaker cards are made using an aperture card blank and confetti which can be made from sequins or beads or shapes produced from punching. The aperture is sealed with acetate by surrounding it with self-adhesive foam strips, making a cavity which is filled with the 'confetti.'

## Teabag folding

This folding technique originated in Holland and was first created by folding the paper envelopes that t-bags were packaged in – hence its name. It is a paper art form used to create 3-D greetings cards and invitations by folding paper. Designs can be created using any paper, although a range of specialist papers are also available.

## Others

Silk painting, decoupage, cross stitch, calligraphy and more.

## Tips for using Papercraft tools

### Border punches

Create a continuous border on paper or light weight card by using the white pattern printed onto the border punch, begin by punching once anywhere along the border. Slide the punched section over to the left or right until it lines up directly with the white printed section on the tool. Continue in both directions until the entire border is punched. Use markings on the punch as a guide to centre or turn corners.

### Decorative hole punches

If your punch won't press, the material you're punching could be too thick so use a lighter weight paper or card. To resharpen your punch, punch through aluminium foil or sandpaper.

### Paper edgers or decorative edged scissors

To cut a straight line with your paper edgers, use a ruler and pencil to draw a straight line on the backside of the paper to be cut. As you cut with the paper edger, make sure the edge of a pattern touches the line exactly the same each time the pattern is cut.

### Die Cutting Machines

Several die cutting systems are available that allow you to cut out images or alphabets from your own card stock, paper etc. This enables you to cut out items for pages in specific colours and papers which co-ordinate with your layout and other embellishments. It's a quick and easy way of producing multiple copies of the same

shape, a task that is very difficult to do with scissors. Choose from a manual machine, such as Cuttlebug, Sizzix Big Shot and Sidekick, or electronic software based machines, such as eclips or Slice.

## Texture plates

Place card or paper over your texture plate, secure with low tack tape and rub with a stylus, coloured pencil or crayon. This gives a great effect for die cuts and backgrounds.

## Useful Hints & tips

- When tearing mulberry paper, use a ruler, paintbrush and water. Lightly score the paper along the line you want to tear then brush water onto the line. Use your fingers to tear along the wet line. This will give a fluffy, feathered effect edge.
- Use sticky fixers or glue dots to give a raised image to embellishments.
- To avoid unsightly glue when using vellum, use spray adhesive or glue intermittently and cover the glue areas with embellishments. Alternatively secure vellum in position by using outline stickers.
- Use a cocktail stick or a pair of tweezers to peel outline stickers off their backing sheets.

- When making wedding invitations use an inexpensive technique and a design that is quick to replicate and relatively light and flat for posting.
- Using an outline sticker the same colour as your card will give an embossed effect.
- Outline stickers can be coloured in with felt pens or glass paints.
- Use the same card making techniques for gift wrapping, scrapbook pages and photo albums.

## Project ideas

For a wide selection of card making projects, see our range of free 'You can make' leaflets or visit our Ideas Library on [www.hobbycraft.co.uk](http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk).

HobbyCraft sells an excellent range of books on card making and papercrafts.

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