

Christmas Decorating with Kraft-Tex

Kraft-Tex is an amazing new material that is a mix between a paper and a fabric. When washed and handled it softens up to take on a leather look. Kraft-Tex is currently available in five colours: tan, white, black, stone and chocolate. They come in rolls of 19 by 54 inches. It is also can get bolts of 19 inches by ten yards.

The material is fairly unique, but allows the most amazing versatility. It can take the full gamut of process from submerging in liquids to hot processes with an iron or heat gun. In addition to all of that, if you emboss or impress patterns on it, it will hold the pattern and shape. This all makes it very flexible to make into decorations, tags and banners and cards.

So, what to do with it?

Wet processes such as dyes and washes work well. Ink based sprays can be applied and any of the water colour based products such as gelatos, ink tense pencils and watercolour pencils and paints. Once one layer is dry, you can add more layers. Stencil or stamp onto the surface with acrylic paints. Lumiere paint is fantastic on the black and obviously the white will take any colours like a piece of white paper or card.

You can cut the Kraft-Tex with scissors or a die cutting system. As it won't fray and holds its shape, you can cut very intricate shapes out and glue, bond or stitch onto a background surface of more Kraft tex, canvas, card or fabric. You can iron out any creases and as it take heat, you can add images with TAP and other transfer media. You can also use embossing powder.

The most common use for the Kraft-Tex so far has been to make bags, household items and paper crafters are using it extensively for scrap booking and card making. As the material is durable, firm and solid, it is the perfect media for bags and bag straps. When you buy a roll of the Kraft-Tex you get a free pattern in the packaging. The tan and black version both have bag patterns and the white has an iPad cover pattern. The uses are not limited to that. Other uses include realistic leather costumes such mediaeval jerkins and even the soles on boutique baby shoes.

To make a **Gingerbread Man Banner** you will need some Kraft Tex (natural recommended); Christmas ribbon or cord, a small amount of toy stuffing, beads for eyes and buttons, glue and a sewing machine.

1. Use the template here and cut out 12 to 20 Kraft tex Gingerbread men.
2. Stitch or glue eyes and buttons on the front of half of the men. Use the template as a rough guide.
3. Cut ribbon into lengths to go between the men. You can space them closely or widely. Tuck the ends of the ribbons into the hands of the pair of men and pin
4. Stitch from one line on the top of the head, all the way around the ginger bread man, catching the ribbon in the hands. Repeat until all are sewn.
5. Place a small amount of toy stuffing into each man.
6. Stitch the heads closed and hang.

