



Jennifer McGuire

We are thrilled to have the amazing [Jennifer McGuire](#) as our very first designer spotlight guest. We asked Jennifer few questions so she can share her insights with us. Let's dive in!

1. What motivated you to start making cards and begin stamping?

I started out as a scrapbooker. I was volunteering with my church senior high youth group and wanted to do a scrapbook of a mission trip we went on. I was hooked immediately. I soon started working with magazines and companies. After a few years, Hero Arts contacted me and we hit it off immediately. Under their wings (and especially Shari Carroll's) I became a cardmaker and stamper. I love the generosity of giving cards.

2. Where do you find inspirations for your amazing techniques?

That's a good question! I used to be an engineer, so I have this desire to "invent" or find ways of doing things. Therefore, I really enjoy coming up with techniques, or just creating spins on old ones. Not sure I find inspiration for them but rather just work with techniques out of a strong desire. Hoping that makes sense! :)

Oh, another reason I like to do techniques is because I enjoy teaching in the stamping world. I never do videos without some sort of technique shared. Therefore, I always have to come up with more.

3. Please share advice on finding inspiration/developing creativity in making cards/crafting projects (i.e. finding creative mojo)

I really believe everyone is different when it comes to finding inspiration. For many, going to blogs and watching videos is inspiring. It is a great way to learn and get better at card making. Me? I am an odd bird. :) I find if I visit blogs or watch videos, I lose my creativity. I am better when I stay in my own world and do things in my way. However, there are so many amazing cardmakers out there. Wow! Just seeing cards they share on Instagram is inspiring to me. And their friendships.

4. Do you have a specific style that you are comfortable with or like to stick to?

For me, I like any style that allows me to do my techniques.

5. Can you share a favorite card you made previously using Altenew products?

<http://www.jennifermcguireink.com/2015/05/video-altenew-inks-stamp-layering-giveaway.html>

6. Can you please share specific, practical tips for beginning or advanced card makers (i.e. interesting ways to use crafting products or re-use existing sets, etc.)?

My best advice is to "do your thing." Don't try to be someone else or create like them.

Just do what makes YOU happy and what works for YOU. If you see lots of people buying a particular product or jumping on a certain trend... but you don't think it is for you... just skip it! This will help you cut back on what you buy and you will use more of what you have. :)

