



Bonus
Tutorial

Amazing Paper Craft Techniques with Stencils





Amazing Paper Craft Techniques with Stencils

**Priya Sivaraj
Dr. Neha Sanwalka**



Editors Note

Amazing Paper Craft Techniques with Stencils will be the ultimate reference guide that lets you explore the limitless possibilities a stencil has to offer.

- Are you a paper-crafter always on the lookout for different techniques to enhance your cards and other paper craft projects?
- Do you always find yourself running out of packing papers and gifting ideas?
- Do you love decorating your book covers and personalizing gift bags / boxes?
- Do you own a huge stack of stencils but are unsure of how to use them in your projects?
- Are you unaware of the numerous mediums and techniques that you can use with stencils?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, this is the right book for you. Whether you are a Cardmaker or Scrapbooker, Mixed media artist or Art journal lover, Gift Maniac or Stationery lover, you have all the basics, tips, techniques, inspirations and more. There are over 175 paper craft projects to inspire you.

So get some paper, stencils and colors of your choice and start creating beautiful paper craft projects for your friends and family. If you are inspired by this book, we would love to see your projects in social media with #inspiredbycraftreat. Check out our other books titled [“18 Everyday Stencil crafts”](#) and “Inspiring Home Décor Ideas with Stencils”

Authors

Priya Sivaraj and Dr. Neha Sanwalka

Crafters whose works are featured

Arjita Singh	Mona Diwan	Jo Channon
Neha Bhatt	Anita Kejriwal	Saumya Mohanty
Hussena Calcuttawala	SD Pooja	Daksha Popat
Ria Banerjee	Deepti Stephens	Tejal Shah
Preeti Dutta	Sindhura Prajay	Chandini Swaminathan
Kirti Gupta	Juhi Khanna	Priyanka Kantak
Bhavana Kesarkar	Nupur Priya	Anamika Sarkar
Priya Satish	Swati Gupta	Archana Jhawar

STENCILS

Stencils are thin sheets of cardboard, plastic, or metal with patterns or letters cut out of them, that can be used to produce the cut design on the surface below by application of ink or paints through holes. The open sections of the stencil, i.e. the section through which you apply the color or ink are called “islands” and the solid parts that separate the islands, i.e. parts which keep the paint or ink away from the work surface are called “bridges”. Stenciling is the art of creating designs by applying paints or ink using stencils.





History Of Stenciling

As crafters, when we hear the word stencils, all we can think of them is a tool as for decorating our craft projects or for home decor. But did you know, origins of stencil are more utilitarian?

The first origin of stencil dates back to over 35000 years ago and is found in Asia and Europe. During the Palaeolithic era, hands were placed on rock walls of caves, and pigment was sprayed around the hand with the help of blowpipes made of hollowed reeds and bones, to create designs on walls. Historically, these hand designs are treated as 1st origins of stenciling.

In Fiji, during the same era, holes were cut out of banana and bamboo leaves to create stencils whereas Eskimos created stencils from dried seal skins. These stencils were used to create designs on clothing and textiles. Ancient Egyptians used stencils to decorate tombs.

Later around 500 to 600 AD Japanese developed a form of reverse stenciling called “Katazome” which they used to decorate Silk. Japanese are also credited to be creators of layering stencils that helped them create intricate designs on textiles. Stencils have been used in China to decorate silk and pottery.

Later stencils were used by artists in France to illustrate books. This technique was known as “Pochoir”. Stencils were also used for lettering to transfer manufacturing information on to food packaging. Stencils are still used to date to mark crates of whiskey. They were also used to create various hoardings and marking on roads.

In recent years, stencils have evolved as a tool for painting for artists and crafters. They are used extensively by Graffiti artists to create beautiful wall paintings. In the last 2 decades, stencils have also become an important part of home décor and card making.

Craftreat, as an Indian craft brand wants to take forward the legacy of stencils. Our stencils can be used with a variety of mediums and techniques. This book illustrates papercraft projects made using Craftreat stencils.



Why Use Stencils?

If even after reading the rich and exciting history of stencils, you are not very sure about using stencils for your crafting projects, here are some reasons why you should use stencils:

- Stencils are more economical as compared to stamps, so you can buy more stencils in the cost of buying 1 stamp set.
- Stencils are versatile and can be used with a variety of mediums such as paints, inks, texture pastes, etc.
- They are reusable to print designs on any surface of your choice including paper, wood, wall, fabric, and plastic.
- They relieve stress and help you relax. Gives a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.
- They help you spend quality time with your kids and do some creative art.



Stenciling Tools

Craftreat stencils are very easy to use and don't require any skill training. Even a novice can easily use them to create beautiful designs on various craft projects. Here is a list of some essential and non-essential tools and equipment to make your stenciling experience more fun and easy.

Essential tools:

- **Inks and paints:** To create designs using stencils you would need paint or inks. A variety of paints including acrylic, chalk, fabric, watercolor can be used with stencils. You can also use all types of craft inks (pigment/ dye/ chalk/ solvent/ hybrid) with stencils. Spray inks, pencil colors, and markers can also be used with stencils.
- **Applicators:** You would need an applicator to apply inks and paint through stencils. You can use a stencil stippling brush, soft bristle blending

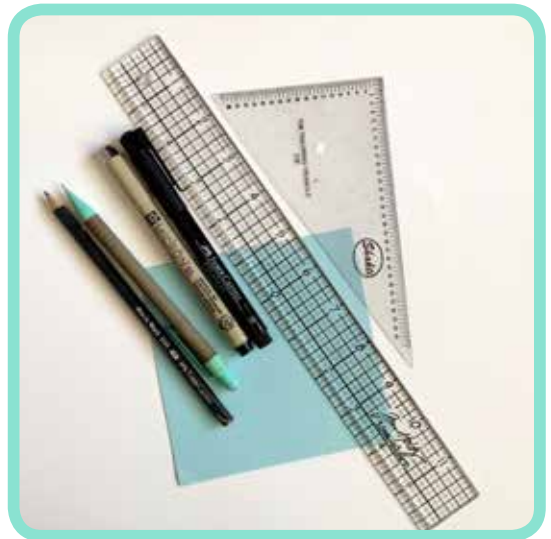


brushes, sponge rollers, natural sea sponge, blending foam, sponge daubers, spouncer, palette knife to print designs using stencils.

- **Low tack masking tape:** You would need a low tack masking tape to adhere to your stencil to your work surface. You can also use low tacky spray to create repositionable stencils.

Non-essential tools:

- **Ruler and measuring tapes:** A ruler or measuring tape can help you place your stencils in correct positions. They are especially important are especially important when you want to use the same stencil repeatedly to create a print, as they will help you measure the accurate distance between each stencil print.
- **Set-square:** Set-square gives accurate corners and right angles and can be very helpful in placing stencils especially when working on large surfaces.
- **Graphite pencil:** A light graphite pencil to make markings to place your stencil on your craft surfaces.
- **Fixatives:** Fixatives such as varnish, gel medium, Mod-Podge, Ranger Distress Glaze, etc. can be used as fixatives to seal your stenciled projects depending on the surface that you are working with.
- **Paper towel / Rags:** To dab of any excess paint or ink of your applicators. They are also important to keep your work surface clean.
- **Paint tray:** You would need a paint tray for your paints.



How to Stencil

Preparing surfaces for stenciling

Make sure you work on a flat surface, without any texture. Uneven surfaces and textures make the paints bleed through the stencils.

Your work surface needs to be free of dust before you stencil on them. Here is how you clean your paper-based work surfaces:

- **Paper Mache:** Wipe it with damp cloth or paper towel to remove dust.
- **Paper/ Cardstock:** Make sure your paper is free of dust. If using embossing inks, use an anti-static tool to get rid of finger marks from the paper.

Steps in stenciling

1. **Position your stencil:** The first step to print design using a stencil is to stabilize your stencil on the work surface. Place your stencil flat on the work surface and adhere it in position using painter's low tack masking tape. You can also convert your stencils into low tack repositionable stencils using spray adhesive.



TIPS

To make low tack repositionable stencil, wipe clean the backside of the stencil with a damp cloth to get rid of any dust particles. Lightly spray adhesive glue on the stencil and let it dry for a few minutes before using it. Once you have finished using stencils, clean them with warm soapy water to get rid of the adhesive glue. However, some glue may be left behind on the stencil. Hence, store these stencils on a wax/ parchment paper to avoid them from sticking to other stencils or the packaging.

2. **Offload and work in layers:** Whether you use paint or ink, the golden rule to getting a beautiful stencil design without any bleed is to offload every time you pick up the paint or ink on the brush. This is especially important when working with paints. Offloading means to remove excess paint from the brush on a paper towel or rag. The paintbrush should have very little paint on it. You can then apply the paint or ink through a stencil by working in layers. You can either apply paint or ink by stippling motion or circular motion.



- Stippling motion means to tap the paint on the surface using either sponcers, stencil brushes, or sponge.
- Circular motion means the stencil brush or blending foam is held at a 90° angle to the surface and is moved lightly in a circular motion to print the design.



3. **Removing the stencil:** Patience is the key to get a bleed free design when working with paints. Let the paint dry for a few minutes before removing the stencil from the work surface to avoid any accidents.

4. **Touch up:** If there are areas that have not been printed properly through the stencil, you can use a small painting brush and paint to complete the design.



5. **Join those bridges:** As mentioned before, bridges are solid areas on the stencil that hold your stencil together. Some people however, don't like the gaps that are formed in design due to the bridges. If you are one of those, using a thin paintbrush, paint, and fill in those gaps.

Sealing your stenciled projects

Cards don't need to be sealed, however, papercraft projects such as scrapbook layouts, gift wrappers, paper bags, or book cover may need to be sealed to make them waterproof.

The easiest way to make your papercraft projects waterproof is to use water-proof inks (like Ranger's Archival Inks) or paints when using stencils for printing. If you use inks and paints that are not waterproof, you can seal your papercraft projects using any water-based varnish or gel medium or Mod-podge. Make sure to pick up very little varnish or Mod-podge on your brush when sealing your projects. You can also use Ranger Distress Glaze (gel/ spray) to seal your paper projects.

Cleaning your stencils

Stencils should be cleaned immediately after use to prolong their life. Don't use very hot or boiling water to clean stencils, as it can damage the stencils. Here are some simple tips to clean the ink from stencils

- When using inks, wipe stencils with a damp cloth or baby wipes to clean the ink.
- When using paints, run stencil under warm water and lightly scrub with a toothbrush or plastic scrub. Pay attention to areas around the edges.
- If the paint has caked on your stencil, soak the stencil in warm soapy water for 2 hours (or overnight) in a baking/ cookie tray. Scrub with a toothbrush or plastic scrub thereafter to get rid of the paint. Thereafter, run them under water and leave aside to dry.
- When using oil paints, use mineral spirits or turpentine to clean your stencils. Thereafter, run them under water and leave aside to dry.
- When using alcohol-based markers, use rubbing alcohol to clean your stencils. Thereafter, run them under water and leave aside to dry.

Storing your stencils

Stencils can last for a long period if they are cleaned and stored properly.

- You can store your stencils either horizontally or hang them by a hook. You may also keep them together using binder rings. These are easy to flip throughways when you are searching stencils for next project
- Reverse stencils should always be stored in individual pocket sleeves to avoid tangling of stencil designs.
- Store stencils in a cool place.

Techniques With Stencils

The paper crafter in you can use all the inking and painting techniques that you know with stencils. Here are some of the techniques that we will be discussing in detail:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Ink blending | • Color lifting |
| • Use with paints | • Drop shadow effect |
| • Use with pencils/ markers/watercolors | • Layering with stencils |
| • Use with spray Inks | • Heat embossing |
| • Use with texture paste | • Resist techniques |
| • Use with other art mediums | • Creating focal points |
| • Doodling | • Paper cut windows |
| • Add sentiments | • Masking |
| • Building scene | • Dry embossing |
| • Turn around on the axis | • Combine with die-cutting |
| • Stamping with stencils | • Gel printing |

Basic Tips For Stencils

It is important to use the right tools and accessories to get the desired results. While, it may be easy for experienced crafters to use substitutes, the beginners can craft like a pro, if they have the correct knowledge and tools in hand.

How to build your first Stencil Collection

Always decide which stencils to use, based on the requirements. If you are a beginner, it is always better to build your first stash like this

- 2-3 background stencils (bold and intricate)
- Sentiment stencils
- Flower stencils
- Border stencil

These can be used on any occasion. Later on, find which techniques interest you and buy supplies based on your liking.

How to Choose Tools for any project

Choose your tools based on the stencil **size and area** of the project. But there are other considerations as well like the time you can afford to spend, the effect you want to achieve, Surface you work on. etc.

Brushes

- The known rule is small areas require a smaller brush and large areas require a larger brush.
- Ideally, the brush tip should be about half the size of the area to be painted.
- If the whole area is to be painted in the same color, use a large brush. If a large area has to be painted in different colors in portions, use a smaller brush.
- A smaller brush tips also helps in shading and highlighting.
- Always use stencil brushes that have short, dense and natural bristles. This provides control over the paint. Paint on brushes should be as less as possible. Be patient and practice.
- Use different brushes for different colors, to avoid contamination of colors.
- **Brayer/Roller** helps you cover larger areas in lesser time. But they do not offer the handiness for shading and detailing. They are best suited for creating backgrounds for scenes.

Daubers, Ink blending foams, and sponge wedges are best used in smaller areas and but beware some stencil designs may have sharp edges, that may ruin them. In such cases using **Ink Blending brushes are preferred.**

Stenciling on **curved surfaces** is difficult and requires the use of Repositionable spray adhesive.

Also different tools provide different effects. Different paints/inks give different effects. There is no single success formula. You may try and experiment with all the combinations and choose based on the occasion.

Stencils and Card Making

Just like stencils, greeting cards have a fascinating history rooted in the ancient Chinese and Egyptian era. Ancient Chinese exchanged goodwill messages to celebrate New Year whereas early Egyptians used papyrus scrolls to send greetings. Handmade greeting cards exchange began in Europe during the late 14th and early 15th centuries. Thus, cards have been made and exchanged for centuries. Even today in the 21st century, craft enthusiasts across the globe lovemaking and exchanging handmade greeting cards.

Stencils are extensively used by card makers to make cards. Craftreat stencils can be used in many different styles and techniques to create gorgeous handmade cards. They can be used to create background design for cards. They can be used to create focal points for cards or to add sentiments to cards. They can also be used to add different textures and mediums to not just cards but also art journals and scrapbook layouts. Stencils can also be combined with various other techniques such as die-cutting, gel printing, embossing to create stunning cards to gift your loved one.

In this book, we showcase different cards made using Craftreat stencils to inspire you. Cards have been divided into various sections based on the techniques used to make them for ease of understanding.

I. Ink Blending

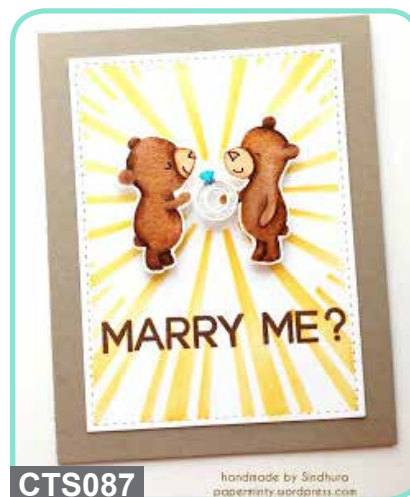
Ink Blending To Create A Card Background

Imagine having a focal point a plain cardstock as against a pretty colorful pattern paper. Pattern papers once used, can't be reused. However, a stencil can be used again and again to create beautiful pattern papers to serve as background for cards. The simplest and easiest way to create a background design with stencils is via ink blending. All types of ink work well for ink blending techniques. You can use either blending foam or stencil brushes for ink blending.

- If you are using a new blending foam, make sure to saturate your blending foam with ink. To saturate the blending foam with ink, dab the blending foam on the ink pad 1-2 times to pick up the ink. Then in a circular motion rub the blending foam on a craft mat for a few seconds. Repeat this step 1-2 times. This helps the ink spread evenly through the blending foam thereby saturating the foam with ink.
- Hold your blending tool at an angle and start the page.
- Build colors in layers by applying ink in slow circular motions.



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CTS087

handmade by Sindhura
paperminty.wordpress.com

QUICK TIPS

- You can stencil directly on the card base.
- Though any type of inks works for this technique, dye inks and Ranger Distress/ Distress Oxide inks are easier to blend as compared to other inks.
- Blend the inks from outer edges towards the inside of the stencil design.



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QUICK TIPS

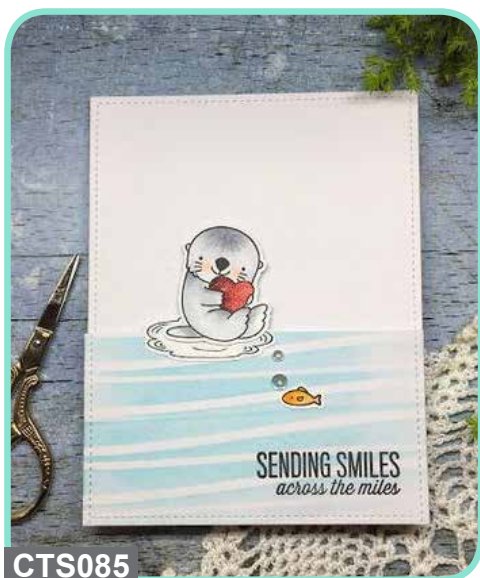
If you want to create stenciled prints in lighter colors like this card, try using stencil brushes for ink blending instead of blending foam.

QUICK TIPS

If you like to keep the actual design in white, use Crafttreat reverse stencil to blend ink on your card base. You can also use stencils to add a sentiment to your cards.



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QUICK TIPS

If you don't want to cover up the whole card base with stencil design, create a stencil print on a separate cardstock smaller in size as compared to the card base. Cut and adhere this stenciled cardstock to the card base. This partial background creates negative (space) on the card and helps draw attention to the focal point.

QUICK TIPS

To make your card design more cohesive, use the same die to add a border to your stenciled panel as your card base.



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CTS045

Preeti D.

QUICK TIPS

You can do ink blending through stencils to create designs on a pre-existing pattern paper.

Ink Blending On Kraft And Colored Cardstock

Stencils can also be used to create beautiful designs on colored stocks or kraft cardstock. Ranger's Distress Oxide inks, white pigment inks, and chalk inks works wonder for this technique.



QUICK TIPS

- When using white ink, make sure to use a clean and new dauber to blend ink to avoid contaminating ink pad.
- Also make sure that the stencils are clean of any residual inks from previous projects.



QUICK TIPS

You can also print stencil designs on colored cardstock.

Ink Blending To Create Rainbow Backgrounds



Don't you love using rainbow colors on your cards? Next time, use stencils and inks in various colors to create a rainbow background on your card base. To create a rainbow background, choose 4-5 colors of inks. Make sure you use a different blending foam or stencil brush for each color so that you do not cross stain your ink pads or create muddy colors on the card. Make sure you blend colors in sequence from either left to right or top to bottom (or vice versa) to get even blends in rainbow colors.



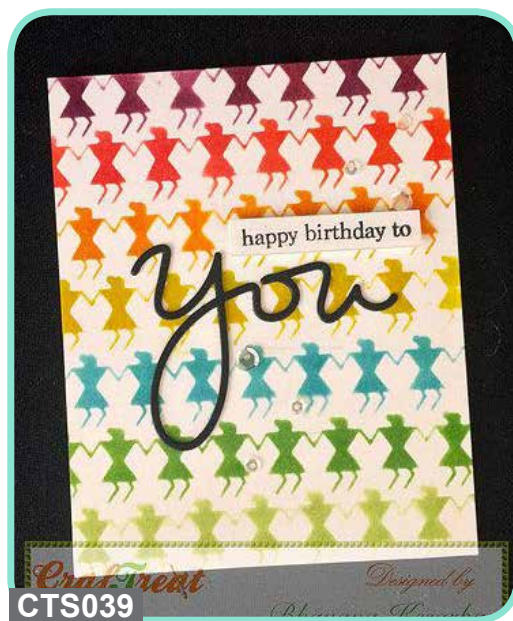
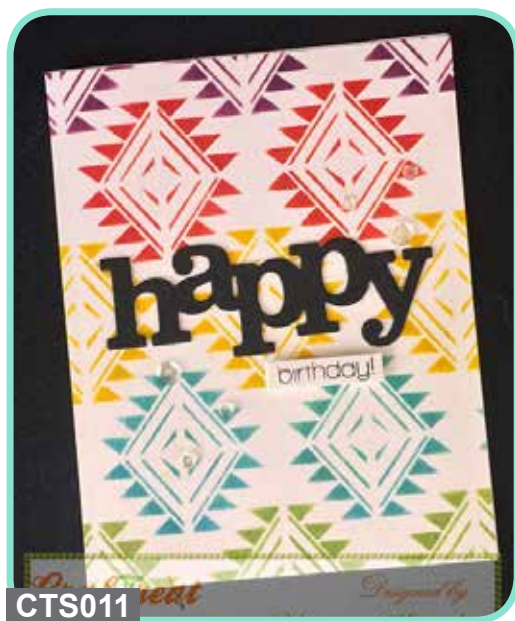
QUICK TIPS

If you don't want colors to mix colors, after blending one color, cover (mask) that color using a plain printer paper before you blend the next color ink.

QUICK TIPS

Add a piece of vellum paper to create an ombré effect on your rainbow card.





QUICK TIPS

You don't need background stencils to create backgrounds. You can repeatedly print border designs in different colors to create a rainbow background like in these 2 cards. Both Warli and lattice designs are border designs.



QUICK TIPS

If you don't have many different colors to create a rainbow effect, you can do it with just using 3 colors also. Simply blend 3 colors consecutively to achieve a rainbow-like effect.

Ink Blending To Create Ombré Backgrounds

Ombré or shaded background is achieved by blending one or more colors in tints and shades to achieve a moving effect of light to dark. Ranger Distress ink/ Ranger Distress Oxide inks or dye inks such as Altenew, Catherine Pooler inks, Memento inks, etc. work the best to create Ombré backgrounds.

- To create Ombré background using a single shade of ink, blend inks from dark to light as it is easier than blending from light to dark. You should start applying ink in the section that you want to be the darkest and move towards lighter sections.
- If you are going to apply ink directly to the lighter sections, offload extra ink on a scrap paper.
- Use stencil brush instead of blending foam if you want to blend ink from light to darker shade as its easier to apply lighter shades of ink with stencil brushes as compared to blending foam.

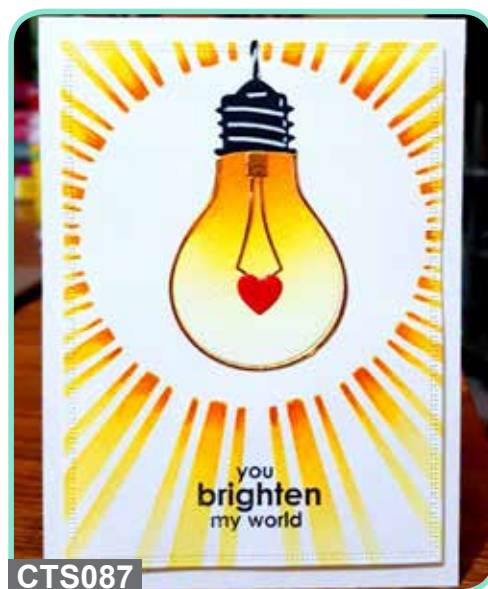


QUICK TIPS

You can achieve the Ombré effect by blending ink of the same color in different tints or shades.

QUICK TIPS

- *The Ombré effect can also be achieved by blending 2-3 complementary colors.*
- *You can also use the Ombré effect to create both background (rays) and focal point (bulb) on the card using stencils like on this card.*





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QUICK TIPS

- To create an Ombré effect, instead of printing the stencil design in Ombré shades, blend ink on the card base in Ombré effect and print the stencil design in one solid color.
- Arranging the pattern paper in reducing size at an angle on the card base creates a moving illusion on the card.

Ink Blending With Multiple Stencils

Ink blending can be done multiple times with the same stencils or different stencils, one on top of others. The key to making this technique pop out is to use the first layer in a very light shade and the second layer a bolder color.



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QUICK TIPS

The key to make this technique pop out is to use the first layer in light shade and second layer in bolder color



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QUICK TIPS

You can also create stencil design on colored cardstock by applying inks in multiple shades of the same color as the card base. Ranger's Distress Oxide or chalk Inks will work the best for this technique.



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2.Using Stencils With Paints

The best part about stencils is that you can use stencils with multiple color mediums. So if you don't have inks, you can use paints to create beautiful stencil designs. You can use both blending foam or stippling stencil brush to print designs with paints. You can use all types of paints when printing with stencils. Once you finish using your stencils with paints, make sure to wash and clean them immediately. If paints are not cleaned immediately, layers of paints may cake on stencil which makes stenciling difficult when you use stencil next time.



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QUICK TIPS

- When using paint to print design, pick very little color on the applicator to avoid bleeding. To make sure you have very little paint on your applicator, offload extra paint on a scrap paper.
- When using paints, use tapping motion rather than a circular motion to avoid bleeding.



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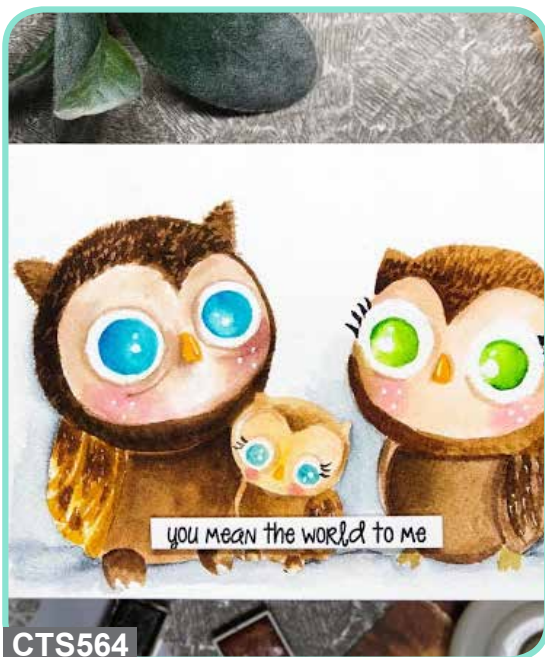
Preeti D.

QUICK TIPS

You can combine ink blending and paints with stencils to create intricate designs with the help of 2 step stencils from Craftreat. The white details of the stencil design have been added with white paint on this card.

3.Using Stencils With Watercolors

You can also use stencils with watercolors. Outline the stencil with a very light graphite pencil or a water-color pencil. Remove the stencil and paint the design with watercolors. Make sure you use watercolor card stock if you want to paint with watercolors.



QUICK TIPS

After coloring your design using watercolors, you can use pencil colors or markers to add extra shading to the design.

QUICK TIPS

You can also use fussy cut, watercolored stencil design as a focal point on your card.



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QUICK TIPS

Use die-cut sentiments to add dimension to the card.



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QUICK TIPS

After coloring the design, you can outline design with a black fine liner to define the design.



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4. Using Stencils With Pencil Colors, Pens And Markers

Like watercolors, pencil colors, fine liners, or markers can be used with stencils to create cards. You just need to outline the stencil design using a graphite pencil or a black pen. Thereafter, you can either color the design using pencil colors or marker or simply doodle the design.



QUICK TIPS

Make sure you use the appropriate cardstock for the type of markers you are using. Alcohol ink markers require special paper for the inks to blend well.



QUICK TIPS

Pencils are especially a great medium of coloring when creating cards on dark colored cardstock.

QUICK TIPS

This technique can be also used to create fussy cut embellishments for cards. With this technique, create the design on spare card stock. Once you color the image, fussy cut the image and use it as an embellishment on the card.





QUICK TIPS

If you like doodling, you can use stencils to outline your doodles and then fill in the design with various patterns. You can also add stencil design with markers on the card border like the red border on this card.

QUICK TIPS

Just draw the outlines with markers and color inside with color pencils. Arrange them like a tile.



5. Using Stencil With Sprays

Spray inks are diluted inks that come in a mister. You don't need a blending foam or stencil brush to apply these inks, but directly spray them from the bottle that they come in. You need to be very careful when using spray inks with stencils otherwise the ink can bleed below the stencil bridges. Some tips to spray inks without bleeding are:

- Make sure to lay a stencil flat on the paper.
- Spray from a distance of about 8 - 10 inches from the paper surface. This helps even distribution of inks and avoid bloating.
- Spray a light layer of ink. Don't spray a lot of ink at one time as the ink will bleed.
- If you want to darken the color of inks, wait for 1st layer of ink to dry before spraying more ink through the stencils.
- Let the ink dry for a few seconds before you lift the stencil. If you lift the stencil immediately, there are chances of bleeding.
- When you use spray inks, a lot of ink deposits on the stencils. Once you pick up the stencil, place the stencil on another cardstock with ink side face down (i.e. stamp with the stencil). So you can get 2 cards with one technique.



6. Building A Scene



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Do you like creating sceneries and skylines on your cards? Crafttreat has a range of stencils that help you create beautiful scenes. Scene stencils include stencil designs of grass, clouds, skyline, clouds, shouting stars, firecrackers, etc. You can use various inks or paints to create scenes using Crafttreat stencils.



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QUICK TIPS

After blending ink through the stencil to create the background, you can add fussy cut embellishments using foam tap to complete your card.



CTS083



CTS012



CTS084

handmade by Sindhu
paperminty.wordpress.com



CTS084

QUICK TIPS

You can use different stencils to create a scene. Like clouds and sun are created with the stencil in this card. You can add some die-cuts to your cards to add dimension.



QUICK TIPS

You can use a round stencil to create sun when building scenes

7. Stamping With Stencils

Do you love stamping to make cards? Have you ever tried stamping with stencils to create designs for a card? Stamping with stencils gives a distressed look to your stamped design. Stencils can be used as stamps in 3 ways.

- Blend a water-reactive ink on card stock. Then mist your stencil with water using a water mister. Place the misted stencil (waterside face down) on the ink blended card stock and press lightly. Use a paper towel to absorb extra water. Lift the stencil slowly and let it dry. This gives a misted stamped design on your card base.
- The second way to use the stencil as a stamp is similar to stamping with slight variation. Place your stencil on a craft mat and apply any water-reactive ink on the stencil directly from the ink pad. Then very lightly mist the inked stencil with water to activate the inks. Place the inked stencil (ink side face down) on the card stock that you intend to stamp on. Use a paper towel to dab lightly over the stencil. Lift the stencil to reveal the stamped design. Ranger Distress inks and Distress Oxide inks work particularly well for this technique.
- The 3rd technique for stamping is a variation of the second technique. After inking the stencil, place the inked stencil (ink side face down) on the card stock that you intend to stamp on. Then run this through a die cutting machine to get the stamped design on the card. (using the same sandwich as you use for die-cutting. You may need extra shim). Though this is a simpler technique to stamp with stencils, this technique works best with Ranger Distress Oxide inks as they have a longer drying time as compared to most other water-reactive inks.

QUICK TIPS

You can combine traditional ink blending and stamp in the same card as in this card. The orchard color ink is blended on the card using a reverse stencil whereas the top green part is stamped using the same reverse stencil and Ranger Distress Oxide Inks.



8. Color Lifting With Mister/Wipes

Color lifting as the name suggests, is to lift the color that has already been laid on the cardstock and gives an Ombré like feel. This technique can only be done using water-reactive inks. You need to ink a cardstock completely with a water-reactive ink. Once the ink is dry, place the stencil on the ink blended cardstock and use any of the 3 methods described below to lift the color.

1. Mist water through the stencil using a water mister. Absorb extra water with the help of a paper towel. Slowly lift the stencil and set aside to dry.
2. Wipe the ink through stencil with the help of a wet wipe.
3. Sprinkle salt in the open areas (islands) of the stencil. Let it sit for a few minutes. Dust away the salt to get a color lifted look. The longer you let salt sit on the card, the more color salt will lift.



CTS345

9. Drop Shadow Effect

Ink a layer of the stencil with white ink, slightly shift the stencil to right and ink again using darker inks. This gives a shadow like feel. These can be used both with designs and sentiments to give that 3D effect.



CTS003



CTS457

10. Use With Texture Paste

Texture paste adds dimension as well as various textures to papercraft projects. A variety of texture pastes are available in the market such as white texture paste, transparent texture paste, black texture paste, fiber texture paste, cement texture paste, sand texture paste, crackle paste, sand texture paste all of which can be used with stencils to create designs. You can also use a heavy gel medium to create designs with stencils.

- To apply texture, place the stencil on the card stock and take a small amount of texture paste on a palette knife or a sturdy card piece (like an expired credit card).
- In a smooth motion, apply the texture on the cardstock through the stencil (in a similar manner like you apply butter on bread)
- Use either top to bottom or left to right (or vice versa) motion to avoid smudging of texture paste below the stencil bridges.

- Once you have finished using the stencil, place your stencil on a craft mat and scrape off the extra texture paste from the stencil top and transfer it back to paste container.
- Clean your stencils immediately after use to avoid caking of texture paste on the stencil.



CTS024

QUICK TIPS

- You can use multiple stencils when using texture paste to create interesting patterns on the card base.
- Make sure one design is completely dry before using another stencil to avoid smudging.



CTS014

QUICK TIPS

You can make your colored texture paste. Mix small amounts of white texture paste with paint or ink (from re-inkers or spray inks) on a craft mat with the help of a palette knife.



CTS359

QUICK TIPS

Texture paste can be used with Crafttreat 2 step stencils to create dimensional effects on the top layer of stencils.



CTS054

II. Use Stencils With Other Art Mediums

Stencils can be used with any type of art medium including glitter (dry or paste), dimensional paints, pearl powder, wax mousse, etc. The steps involved in using these mediums are the same as when you would use these mediums directly on paper.

Dimensional paints are thick acrylic paints which when applied on paper gives a thick embossed look. Dimensional paints have to be applied using the same technique as you would apply texture paste using a palette knife or sturdy card piece. Most dimensional paints contain some form of glue to give them volume, so you must clean your stencils immediately after using dimensional paints.



CTS038



CTS038

Glitter is a crafter's best friend. You can use dry glitter with stencils to create beautiful designs on your cards. Place the stencil on the card base. Apply a very thin layer of glue with the help of a sponge dauber. Let it sit for 20-30 seconds and then pick the stencil. Sprinkle the glitter over the glue and dust off the excess glitter. Make sure you wash your stencils immediately after use.



CTS054



CTS044



CTS043

QUICK TIPS

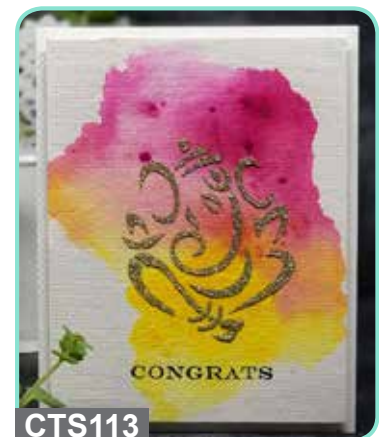
Instead of dry glitter, you can use glitter paste.



CTS597

QUICK TIPS

You can combine glitter with a watercolor background to add sparkle to your card.



CTS113

You can also use pearl powders with stencils. After you place the stencil on your card base, either apply Ranger Perfect Medium ink or a very thin layer of glue with the help of sponge dauber. Let it sit for 20-30 seconds and then pick the stencil. Sprinkle the pearl powder over the glue and dust off the excess pearl powder.



12. Heat Embossing Through Stencils

Heat embossing is another favorite technique of crafters. Not only stamps, but even stencils can also be used with heat embossing powders to create beautiful dimensional designs on papercraft projects.

- Use anti-static powder on the cardstock and stencil before placing the stencil on cardstock.
- With the help of a sponge dauber apply embossing ink through the stencil on the cardstock. You can apply ink directly with ink pad also, however, using dauber ensures that you have applied ink through the smallest of design islands of the stencil.
- Make sure to have even coverage of the embossing ink before you lift the stencil.
- Sprinkle heat embossing powder and dust off any embossing powder before applying heat.



QUICK TIPS

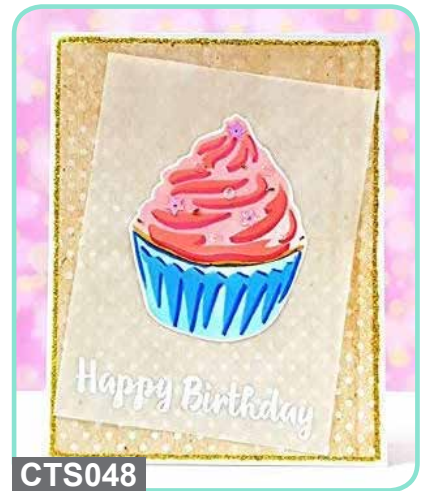
You can use heat embossing to create vibrant focal points on colored cardstock.



CTS054



CTS042



CTS048



CTS051



CTS430



CTS001

QUICK TIPS

Heat embossing powder can be used with Craftreat 2 step stencils or layering stencils to create dimensional effects on the top layer of stencils.



CTS603

QUICK TIPS

You can also create such vintage effect with Stampendous vintage embossing powder.

13. Dry Embossing

Heat embossing is an embossing technique that uses embossing powders. Similar dry embossing is a technique wherein you emboss a piece of cardstock without any external means of embossing powder. In simple words, dry embossing is etching your design in the cardstock. Dry embossing can be done in 2 ways.

1. You can do dry emboss using your die cutting machine. You would need a soft embossing mat. For the sandwich of the stencil, paper, embossing mat, and cutting plates, follow instructions that come with die cutting machine you own.
2. If you don't own a die cutting machine you can dry emboss using embossing ball tools. Place your card stock on an embossing mat. Place your stencil over the cardstock and etch your design using embossing ball tools.

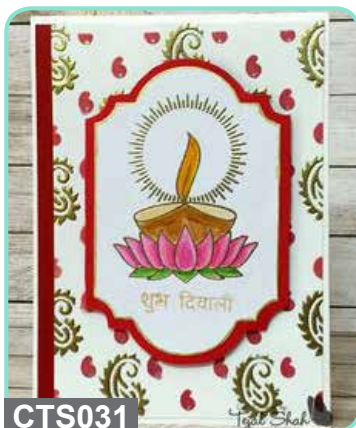


QUICK TIPS

You can blend inks and then emboss the design for a colorful look.

QUICK TIPS

You can dry emboss your design after blending the ink on the cardstock. When you emboss the cardstock after blending ink on it, the embossed design would be of a lighter color as compared to the original ink blend. In this card, Distress ink was blended on cardstock, and then the large paisley design was dry embossed using a die-cut machine.



QUICK TIPS

You can also combine dry embossing with heat embossing for a more raised effect. In this card, the large paisley design was dry embossed with a die-cut machine. After dry embossing, the design was heat embossed with the gold heat embossing powder.



14. Resist Techniques

Resist means to prevent a part of card from staining with colors. In the resist technique, you seal a particular area of design with a medium that can resist staining by ink. Most commonly used resist mediums include masking fluid, clear heat embossing powder, Ranger Multi Medium, or Ranger Distress Glaze spray. For resist technique to work, you need to cover the design that you want to resist with either of the 3 mediums. Once the mediums are dry, you blend ink over the rest of the area.



QUICK TIPS

Resist can also be used when you want to use 2 step stencils and don't have texture paste or glitter but want to use a lighter color on the top layers of your design as compared to the bottom layers. Ink the parts you want to color in lighter shades and then heat set the ink using clear embossing powder. Once heat embossing is done, apply the dark ink. The heat set area will resist the darker ink.

15. Foiling With Stencils

Love adding foil to your papercraft projects, you can do so with stencils too. To add foil with the help of stencils, you need to use either a hot foil medium or tacky glue or heavy gel medium or Mod Podge. Apply a smooth and thin layer of the glue medium through the stencil design. Wait for 20-30 seconds, lift the stencil, and set it aside to dry. Once it is dry, add foil to the design and run it through the laminator.



QUICK TIPS

You can add foil to your craft projects with the help of WOW Bond It Powder if you don't have a laminator.

16. Creating A Focal Point

The focal point is the central embellishment of your card. Stencils can be used to create beautiful focal points for your cards. To create focal points using stencils, you need to print the stencil design on separate cardstock with the color medium of your choice. Once the design is ready, fussy cut it and adhere it to your card base either with glue or foam tape.



QUICK TIPS

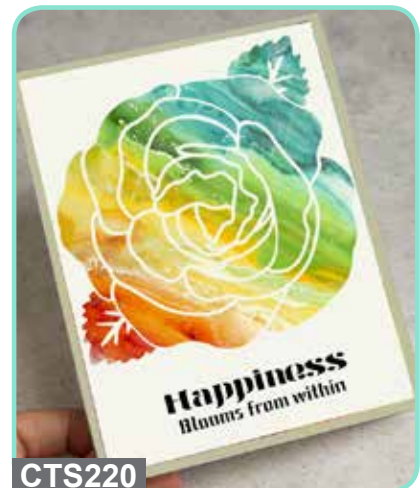
To further add dimension to your focal point, you can paper piece parts of the design and adhere to them using foam tape.

17. Paper Cut Windows

Paper cutting is a technique wherein stencil designs are traced and cut through paper with a paper-knife and these paper cuts are then stuck on the project. You can say paper cutting is like collage wherein you glue different pieces together to create a design. But unlike collage, you are cutting a comprehensive design using a pen-knife and you can also use the negative that is left behind to create a card.

QUICK TIPS

To make sure that your paper cut-outs are adhered in the right position on the card base, place the stencil on the card base, and then glue each part. Once the entire design is glued, remove the stencil. i.e. use the stencil as a guideline for placement of paper cutting pieces.



18. Combine Stenciling With Die-Cutting

Are you like us, who loves both stenciling as well as die-cutting? Why not combine both the techniques to create beautiful cards. These 2 techniques can be combined in many different ways. Round, scallop, square, dome, oval, or any solid shape die work best for this technique. You can combine die cutting with stencils to create both backgrounds as well as focal points on your card.



CTS089



CTS023

QUICK TIPS

- When combining these techniques to create background, 1st stencil the design on the cardstock and then die cut the design. The piece of cardstock that is cut out can be used on other cards in the future.
- You can create a shaker element in the die-cut section.



CTS154

QUICK TIPS

If you don't want to convert the die-cut section in a shaker element, you can adhere to some embellishments there.

QUICK TIPS

You can combine stenciling with alphabet dies to create raised sentiments on the card



CTS162



QUICK TIPS

You can also combine die cutting with stenciling to create focal points on the card.

19. Masking With Stencils

Masking is a technique wherein you cover certain areas of a project so that you print stencil design only in some areas. You need at least 2 stencils for this technique to work. One stencil works as a mask while the other stencil is used to print design. Place your stencil mask on the cardstock to cover areas that you don't want the design print on. Then place the design stencil you intend to print with and blend in the ink or paints of your choice.



QUICK TIPS

You can hand-cut/Die cut a shaped mask with printer paper, if you don't have that shaped stencil.

QUICK TIPS

You can combine 2 stencils for the masking technique. Place the 1st stencil on the card stock and blend the ink. Then place a second stencil over the 1st stencil and blend ink through both the stencils.



QUICK TIPS

You can also draw the outline of first stencil with marker. Then place another stencil on it and ink blend it through both the stencils.

20. Gel printing with Stencils

Gelatin printing is a type of mono-printing. You apply a layer of paint or ink on a slab of gelatin (or you can use commercially available gelatin monoprint press), then you create designs in paints or ink using various tools, stamps, or stencils and then place a paper on it to take a print. Stencils are a great tool for gelatin printing.



QUICK TIPS

You can use only a small panel of mono-print on the card to add interest to the card.



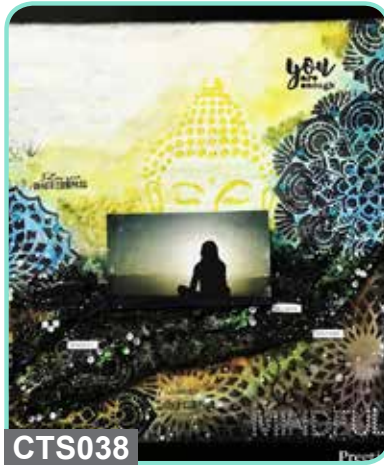
Stencils In Scrapbook Layouts And Art Journal

A scrapbook is a method to preserve photos and memories whereas an art journal is a means of self-expression. Stencils are best friends for crafters who make art journals and scrapbooks. You can create designs in both scrapbooks as well as art journals with stencil. Stencils can be used to break a blank page, create designs, add sentiments, or add textures in an art journal or scrapbook.





CTS370



CTS038

QUICK TIPS

Stencils can be used to add texture in the background on scrapbooks and art journals



CTS011



CTS003



CTS040

QUICK TIPS

You can simply use a stencil to break the monotony of a blank art journal page.



CTS552



CTS573

QUICK TIPS

You can also use stencils to create focall points and add a sentiment on scrapbook layout and art journal pages.



CTS098

Personalized Gifting

A handmade gift wrapper makes a gift special. Handmade gift wrappers are easy to make, economical and you can never run out of them as they can be quickly made at home. Personalized gift wrappers can be made using any white, colored, kraft cardstock, or even an old newspaper. Gifting can also be personalized by creating beautiful designs on store-bought paper bags or boxes, passport covers, or envelopes.

Stencils can be used very easily to personalize gift wrappers and gifts. As we have covered all the techniques that can be used with stencils for paper crafting in the card section, in the personalized gifting section, we are sharing with you ideas on how you can dazzle gift wrappers, boxes, and bags with help of stencils.

When using stencils to create wrapping papers or personalizing gifts, avoid using dye-based inks or Ranger Distress ink/ Distress Oxide inks as they are water-reactive. Use waterproof inks such as Ranger Archival Ink, Stazon ink, or other pigment inks that are waterproof.

Making Wrapping Papers With Stencils

Stencils can be used to create beautiful pattern papers to create wrapping papers. You can even make paper bags or gift boxes from the handmade wrapping papers.

- The biggest size of craft stencil in most craft brands including Crafttreat is 12 by 12", hence to create wrapping papers, the design needs to be repeated continuously. Hence, to get a uniform design, either stencil from top to bottom or left to right (or vice-versa).
- Keep a baby wipe or a wet cloth close by and clean the stencil immediately after use.
- Background stencils work best to create wrapping papers.



QUICK TIPS

You can also make paper bags out of wrapping paper created with stencils



CTS229

QUICK TIPS

You can also use handmade wrapping paper to create flower baskets or candy pouches or paper boxes.

QUICK TIPS

On the other hand, if you are the party organizer and you like to make party banners yourselves, then stencils are the best solution to oomph the look of your decoration!



CTS286

Decorating Paper Bags

Store brought paper bags are mostly plain and they look very impersonal when used for gifting. You can use stencils to covert these boring stores brought bags into beautiful art pieces which the giftee would love to receive.



CTS243

QUICK TIPS

- Use stencils with either waterproof inks or paints to create designs on paper bags.
- Any design can be used to create personalized paper bags.



QUICK TIPS

- If large stencils (12 by 12") are not available, you can use smaller size stencils repeatedly to create a design on paper bags.

QUICK TIPS

- To further personalize the handmade paper, you can add embellishments and sentiments to your stenciled paper bag.



Personalizing Gift Boxes

Gift boxes can be decorated by adding designs or sentiments on them. Especially adding sentiments adds more meaning to the gift.



CTS270

QUICK TIPS

- Use paints when stenciling on gift boxes as you would carry them in hand. Inks can bleed or react with water or oil from hand stains.
- Combine sentiments with other floral or appropriate designs to add more charm to gift boxes



CTS197



CTS017

QUICK TIPS

You can also use stencils to personalize magazine stands or suggestion boxes.



CTS497

Paper Frames For Gifting

Selecting a gift can be a daunting task especially when selecting them for elderly (it is always difficult to decide what to gift them as its feelings that count) or for someone going through difficult times (who needs some encouragement) or for house-warming/festivities (the giftee would be swarmed with gifts and you want your gift to stand out). Next time you face this dilemma, make a handmade paper frame that is personalized.



CTS164

QUICK TIPS

You can use a sentiment stencil with dye inks to create beautiful Diwali greetings or housewarming greetings in rainbow colors.



CTS211

QUICK TIPS

You can add color to your stenciled design by filling the gaps in the design with 3-d paints.



CTS394



CTS167

QUICK TIPS

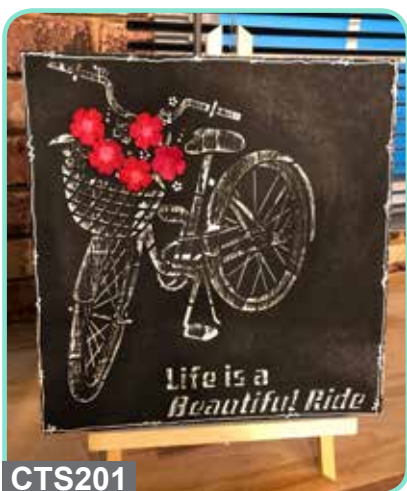
You can also personalize a store brought cardboard frame by stenciling a design on it.

QUICK TIPS

To create a motivational frame, you can use an exam writing board as the base (that can be hung easily anywhere).



CTS271



CTS201

QUICK TIPS

Apply texture paste through the stencil and cover the whole board with Black gesso. Now sand on the textured area to reveal the design inside. Simple and easy "Chalkboards on Chipboards"

Personalized Envelops

Be it for cards or for gifting money, envelopes are used by people of all ages and gender. A beautiful card in a white envelope looks so dull. Similarly, when gifting money, a plain envelopes leaves no impression in the eyes of the giftee. So, next time using envelop for cards or money gifting, decorate them beautifully with stencils.



QUICK TIPS

You can add designs with stencils on envelopes with either inks, paints or dew drops.



QUICK TIPS

You can use stencils to add sentiments and hy scrolls to your card envelopes



QUICK TIPS

You can also use stencils to create beautiful backgrounds on the envelope and then embellish the envelope using flowers, stamped images, or die cuts.



QUICK TIPS

You can also add a design on envelopes with stencils using texture pastes or 3-D paints, glitter, wax mousse, foil, heat embossing, etc.

Personalized Passport Covers

Passport is the most personal item that expresses a person's identity. To protect them from wear and tear, travelers often use passport covers. The commercially available passport covers are often plain and very dull. Stencils can be used to personalize passport covers to reflect the personality of the passport holder.



- Clean the passport cover to remove any stains.
- Use chalk paints, acrylic paints, or fabric paints to stencil designs on passport covers. You can also use Stazon ink for printing design on passport covers.

Personalized Book Covers

Books and planners help a person keep track of his work, appointment, and deadlines. Even though a popular saying goes that “don’t judge a book by its cover”, we are sure everyone loves decorating their book and planner covers. Stencils can be used to design your book covers.



CTS210

QUICK TIPS

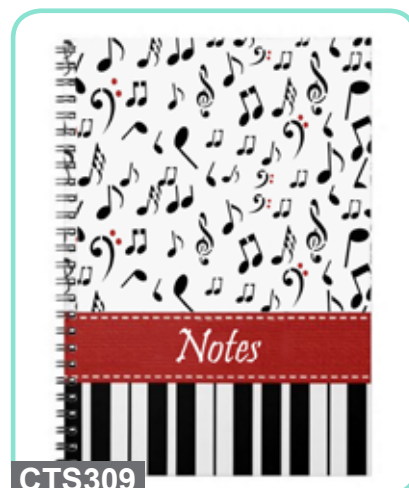
Use waterproof ink or paints to create designs on book covers. If you use water-reactive inks such as dye inks or Ranger Distress inks, make sure to seal your book covers with either a watercolor varnish or Ranger Distress Glaze to avoid Colors reacting with water. To further



CTS395



CTS344



CTS309



CTS156



CTS431



CTS439

QUICK TIPS

personalize book and planner covers, you can embellish the cover with an embellishment of your choice.

Tags And Bookmarks

Bookmarks are a book reader's best friend as they help mark the last read page. Handmade bookmarks can be thus a great gift for an avid reader. You can design bookmarks using stencils.



CTS101

QUICK TIPS

You can directly doodle the design or blend ink through the stencils on the bookmark.



CTS150



CTS136

QUICK TIPS

You can blend the stencil design on a separate cardstock and fussy cut the design to use as embellishments on the bookmarks.

Invitations

Invitations can be customized using stencils and they are very handy and inexpensive. Throwing a party at home? wedding? engagement? bridal shower? – the best thing you can do is to make your handmade invitations!!



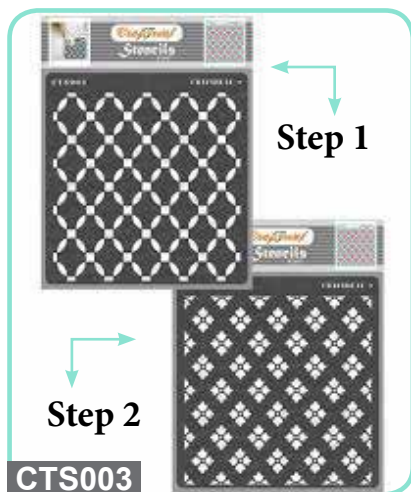
CTS113

CraftTreat Speciality Stencils

There are some stencil designs in Crafttreat that are unique and do not come in regular stencils. The designs described below create some beautiful effects and are so easy to use for the gorgeous outcome you achieve.

Crafttreat 2 Step Stencils

Crafttreat 2 step stencils come in a set of 2. Both stencils print different parts of the design. These stencils make it easy to create colorful backgrounds using inks of different backgrounds without the need for masking. You just need to use 2 different shades of same ink or 2 completely different ink colors for each of the stencils



QUICK TIPS

- To create a monochromatic background using 2 step stencil, use a light and dark shade of ink of the same color for the 2 stencils.
- Add dew drops or glitter dots to the center of a pattern for texture.

QUICK TIPS

To add an extra dimension to your card design, you can heat emboss one of the stencil designs with clear embossing powder after ink blending.



QUICK TIPS

You can cut the stencil background into two and place a sentiment in between.

Fusion Stencils

Crafttreat has a special range of stencils called “Fusion stencils”. These stencils are a fusion of floral and geometric patterns. Like 2 step stencils, these stencils also come in a set of 2. 1st stencil design contains the floral pattern as island whereas geometric pattern forms islands on the 2nd stencil. So you can use different parts of the design with inks of different colors to create beautiful designs on your cards.



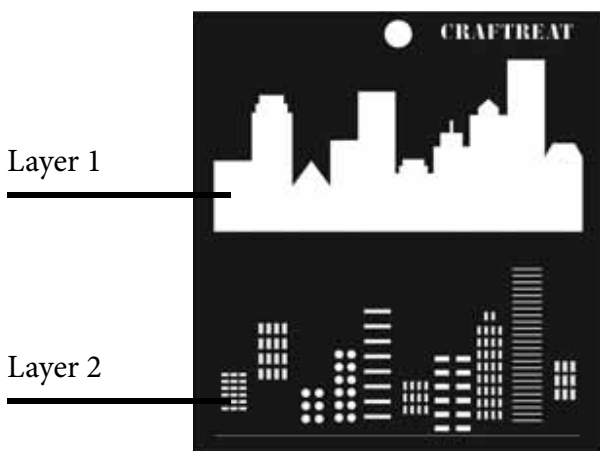
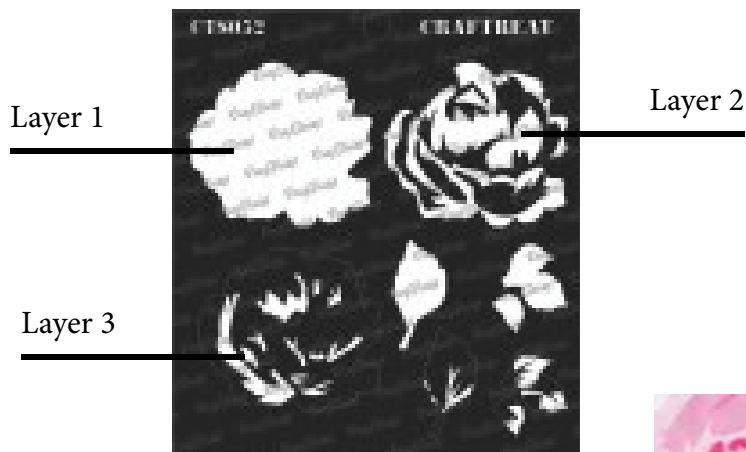
QUICK TIPS

Use finger daubers or mini-ink applicators to apply ink in smaller areas.

Crafttreat Layering Stencils

Multi-layered stencils

Multi-layered stencils are used to create images with more detail and depth than you can achieve with single layered stencils. Each stencil layer will have registration marks cut into them so that you can quickly and easily line up each stencil layer.



Like layering stamps, layering stencils have a design broken down into 3-4 parts. You can use ink in different hues and shades of the same color or use complementary colors to create designs using layering stencils. Just remember that you need to use the lightest shade of the ink for the biggest part of the design (i.e. the base design) and increase the intensity of color as you go on building the design. In simple terms, a layering stencil enables you to build the design with intricate patterns very easily. Craftreat has a huge range of layering stencils in various themes.



CTS052



CTS046



CTS046



CTS049

Preeti D.



CTS047

Preeti D.



CTS050



CTS052



CTS053



CTS160



QUICK TIPS

You can use pencil colors or markers to add extra shading to your layered cards.



QUICK TIPS

You can create designs using layering stencil on a spare cardstock and fussy cut the stenciled design to use as an embellishment on cards.



CTS160



CTS440



CTS434



CTS433



CTS432



CTS429



CTS441



CTS052

QUICK TIPS

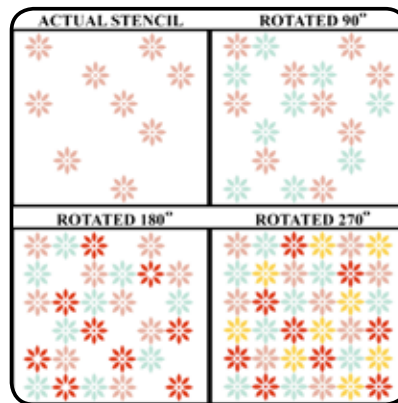
Make a flip card - Focal point is the stenciled cardstock which is placed inside a die cut window.

Don't forget to check out our other designs in layering stencils.

Turn Around The Axis Stencils

Turn around the axis is a technique where a stencil design is printed repeatedly by turning the stencil around its axis either clockwise or anti-clockwise. To use this technique, print design through the stencil with either inks or paints. Once the design is completely printed, pick up the stencil and place it over the design that you printed previously, but rotate the stencil at 90°. Repeat this step 2 more times.

These stencils help you form a pattern with different color inks, which is otherwise not possible with regular designs.



Stencil rotated 2 times turning 180 degrees.



Stencil rotated 4 times turning 90 degrees each time.

Peony Layered Flowers Card Tutorial

By Anita Kejriwal

Supplies Used:

CrafTreat Stencils : CTS436, CTS300, CTS364

Distress Inks : Victorian Velvet, Spun Sugar, Picked Raspberry, Mowed Lawn, Forest Moss, Dusty Concord, Black soot

Ink Blending Brushes

White Card stock

Sentiment Stamp

Scissors

Double side Foam Tape



Procedure

1. Take the cardstock and ink blend Spun Sugar Distress ink through stencil CTS300.



2. Again ink blend the flower from CTS364 on the top. This will be visible from behind the focal element.



3. The Main focus element is the Fussy Cut Layered flowers. Take another piece of cardstock and stencil CTS436. With ink blending tool, color the Layer 1 with Victorian velvet. Layer 2 with Dusty Concord and Layer 3 with Picked Raspberry. When working in layers, use the markings on the stencils, to align them each time. Similarly do for leaves.



4. Fussy cut the leaves and flowers from the cardstock, as show in picture.

5. Arrange the flowers as shown in the image. Use double side foam tape for giving dimensions and arranging flowers on the card.



6. Finish the card by adding your favorite sentiment and distressing the edges around with Black soot. Mount it on the card base.

Why Craftreat for stenciling?

- Competitively priced and are **cheaper** than buying stamps.
- **Variety of designs** and size to suit all your crafting needs.
- Use with a **variety of mediums** such as paints, inks, texture pastes, etc.
- **Beautiful designs** that will help you overcome the fear of painting freehand.
- **High-quality plastic** - Durable, use the same design over and over again
- **Flexible**, so they can be used on curved surfaces.
- **Translucent**, which enables you to see through them. This helps in positioning correctly and painting different colors in layers.
- **Seamless**, which means you can paint and cover a larger surface without losing continuity.
- Print designs on **any surface** of your choice including paper, wood, wall, fabric, plastic, etc

Choose based on your Requirements

Craftreat stencils come in 5 sizes: 3"x12", 4"x8", 6 "x6", 8.5" x12"and 12"x 12". So we have stencils in a variety of sizes and designs to meet the needs of all crafters. If you are confused about which ones to choose, the reference guide on next page will help you.

If you are impressed by the contents of this book and want to try out your favorite techniques, then you know what to do!! Buy CraFTreat Stencils now and get creative. Make beautiful projects and share with us in Social Media with #craftreat or #inspiredbycraftreat . We would love to see your works.

Check Out Our Other Product Range



Scrapbook Paper

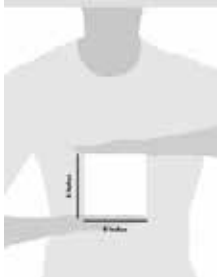
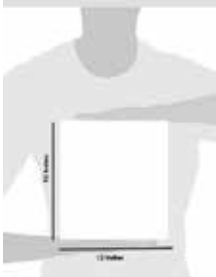
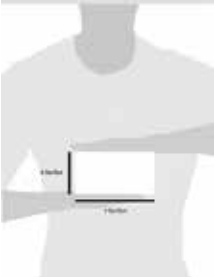


Decoupage Paper

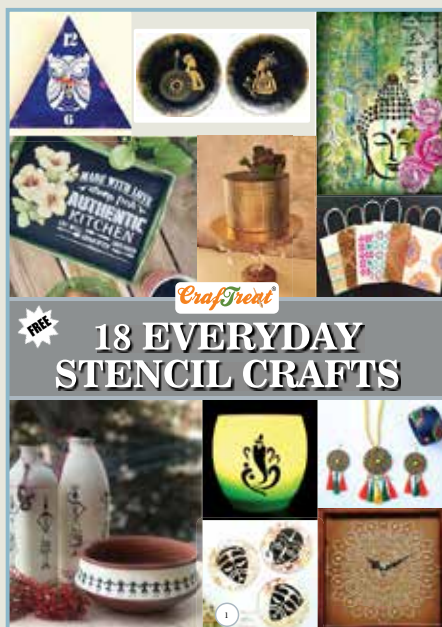


Lasercut Chipboard

Choose your stencil Size

	6" x 6"	12" x 12"	3" x 12"	A4	4" x 8"
Purpose / Usage					
Cards/Scrapbooks	✓	✓			✓
Floor/Wall/Tile	✓	✓		✓	
Furniture	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cake / Cookie	✓		✓		
Mixed Media	✓			✓	✓
Home Decor	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Canvas Art	✓	✓		✓	✓
Dress / Accessories	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Gift Wrapping	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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For Ideas & Inspirations Visit

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 info@crafttreat.com  +91 9445120510