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Issue 134



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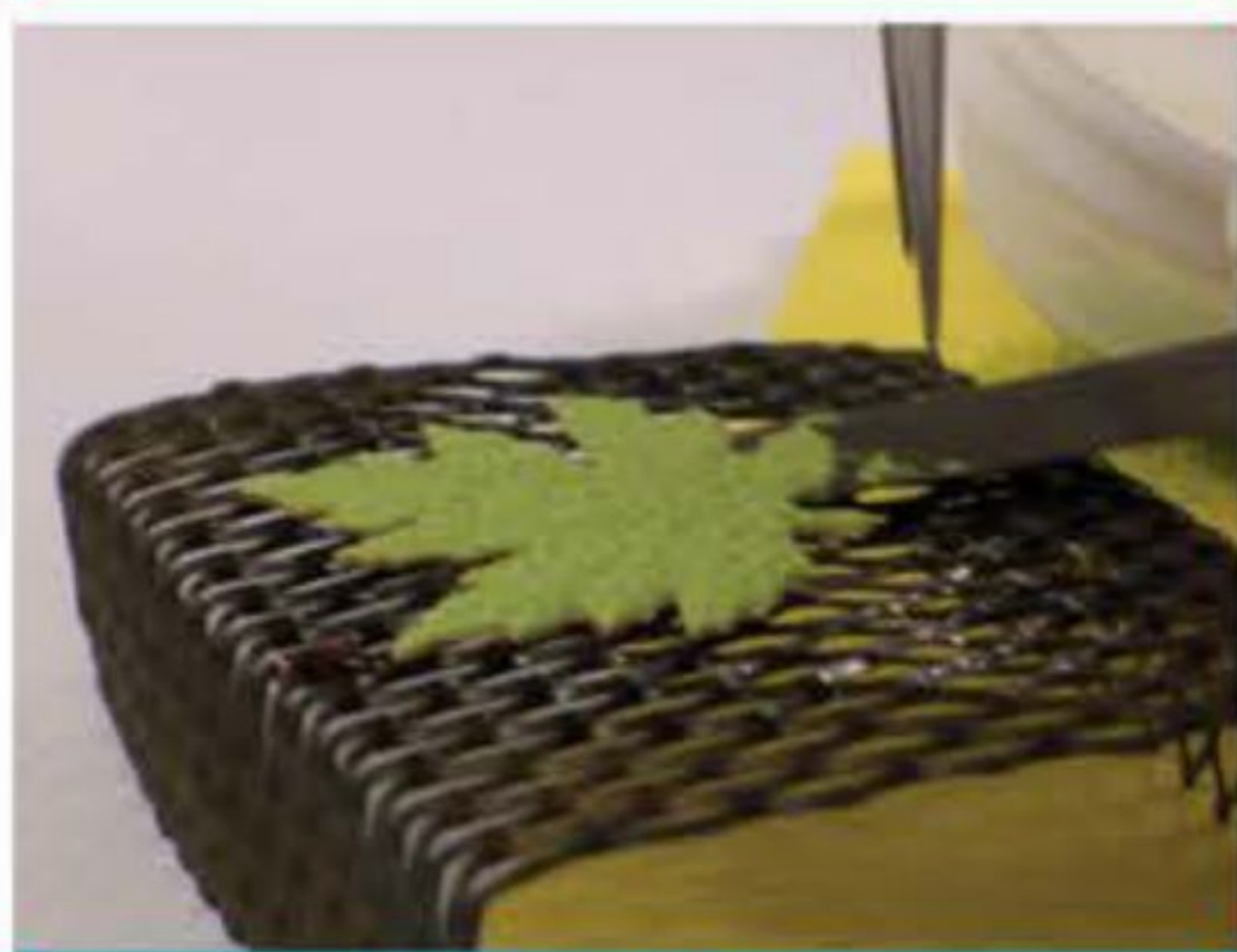
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Hello!

This new edition of PaperCrafter is utterly magical... and I mean that quite literally. See unicorns aplenty on page 76, try our fairy rocker cards (p73) and discover a magic lamp as part of our **Arabian Nights paper collection** over on page 45. But perhaps best of all, this issue's gift is a wondrous assortment of fairy stamps that encourage you to create enchanting scenes. Plus, there's a **bonus unicorn die**, which we know you'll love using again and again.

As well as too many techniques to count, we've also got chatting to some incredibly inspiring people this month. **Calligraphy extraordinaire Lauren Cooper** talks about self-doubt (p98), plus we reveal **your crafty confessions** on page 68 - upside down cards, inky paw prints, misspellings... we've heard it all. I had the pleasure of talking to Beccy Holiday on page 57; crafting helps her manage two debilitating illnesses, and her positivity is catching.

Elsewhere this issue, don't miss Amelia's guide on **making the perfect birthday card** (p31) or her slider cards spectacular on page 78. She's brimming with top tips for you. I also demand that you flick to page 60 immediately for our **Best of Craft Awards 2019**. Craft's most prestigious and longest-running awards are back and bigger than ever before!

That's all for now, crafters. We hope you enjoy this spellbinding June edition.

Rosie

Rosie Savage, Editor



Subscribe TODAY!

Turn to PAGE 42 for details

Inside...



P22



P66

MEET THIS MONTH'S PaperCrafter DESIGNERS



P58

"Discover my clever technique with washi tape"
COLETTE SMITH



P35

"Mask and stamp your way to scene card success"
CLAIRE RICHARDS



P29

"Don't miss my Father's Day greetings"
TRACEY DAYKIN-JONES



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PaperCrafter

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SAY HELLO TO SUMMER



Lauren Cooper
SHARES HER
CALLIGRAPHY
PHILOSOPHY ON P98



Your Freebies

WE LOVE TO TREAT YOU EVERY MONTH...

13 YOUR PaperCrafter GIFT

Love your fantastical fairy stamps and unicorn die



42

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45

YOUR FREE PAPERS

Discover a whole new world with Arabian prints



60

BEST OF CRAFT AWARDS 2019

Nominate your favourites for a chance to win big!



66

YOUR FREE DIGI STAMPS

Fall in love with these Clearly Besotted downloads



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GIVEAWAYS

Goodies galore with our latest opportunities to win



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IN THE paint box

Watercolouring has been on our radar for a rather long time now and we're still coveting the craft thanks to the likes of Marie Boudon, author of *DIY Watercolor Flowers*. Flick through the first few pages and you'll soon be gathering up your tools to try out the technique. From the comfort of your craft room, you'll learn everything you need to know, starting with the very basics of watercolouring, including gradients, blending and colour mixing. So, take a seat, pick up your brush and paint your very own posy.



DIY Watercolor Flowers
by Marie Boudon (£15.99,
fwmedia.co.uk)

Lavinia Stamps

Brand New
Designs

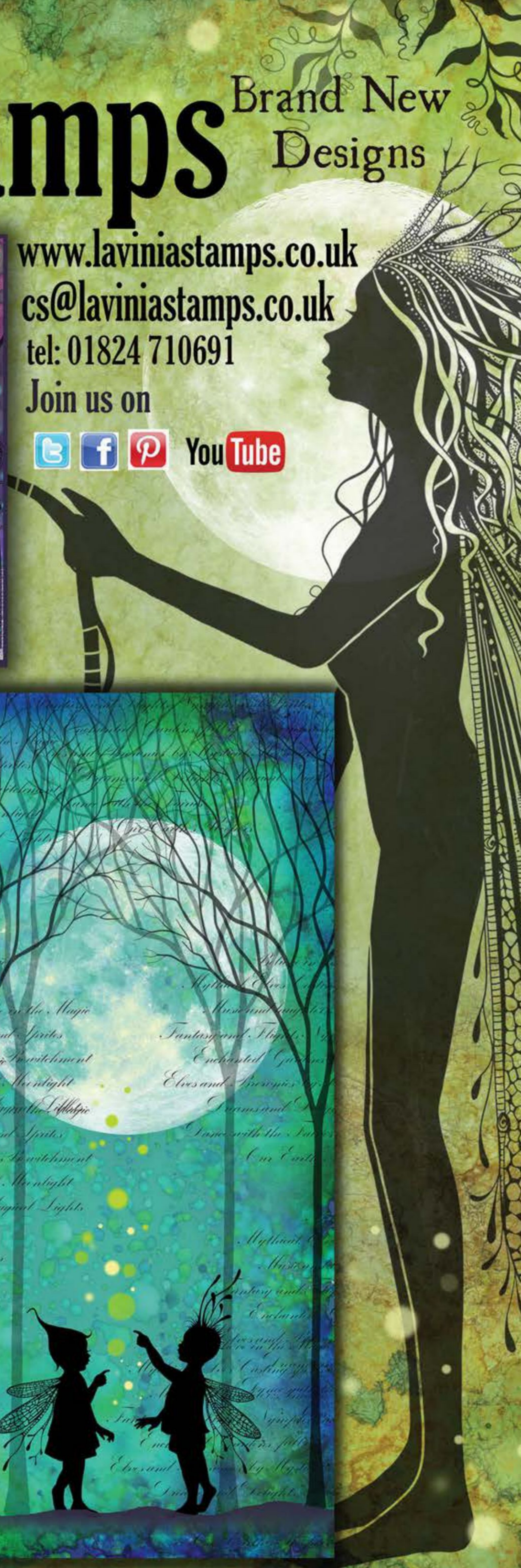
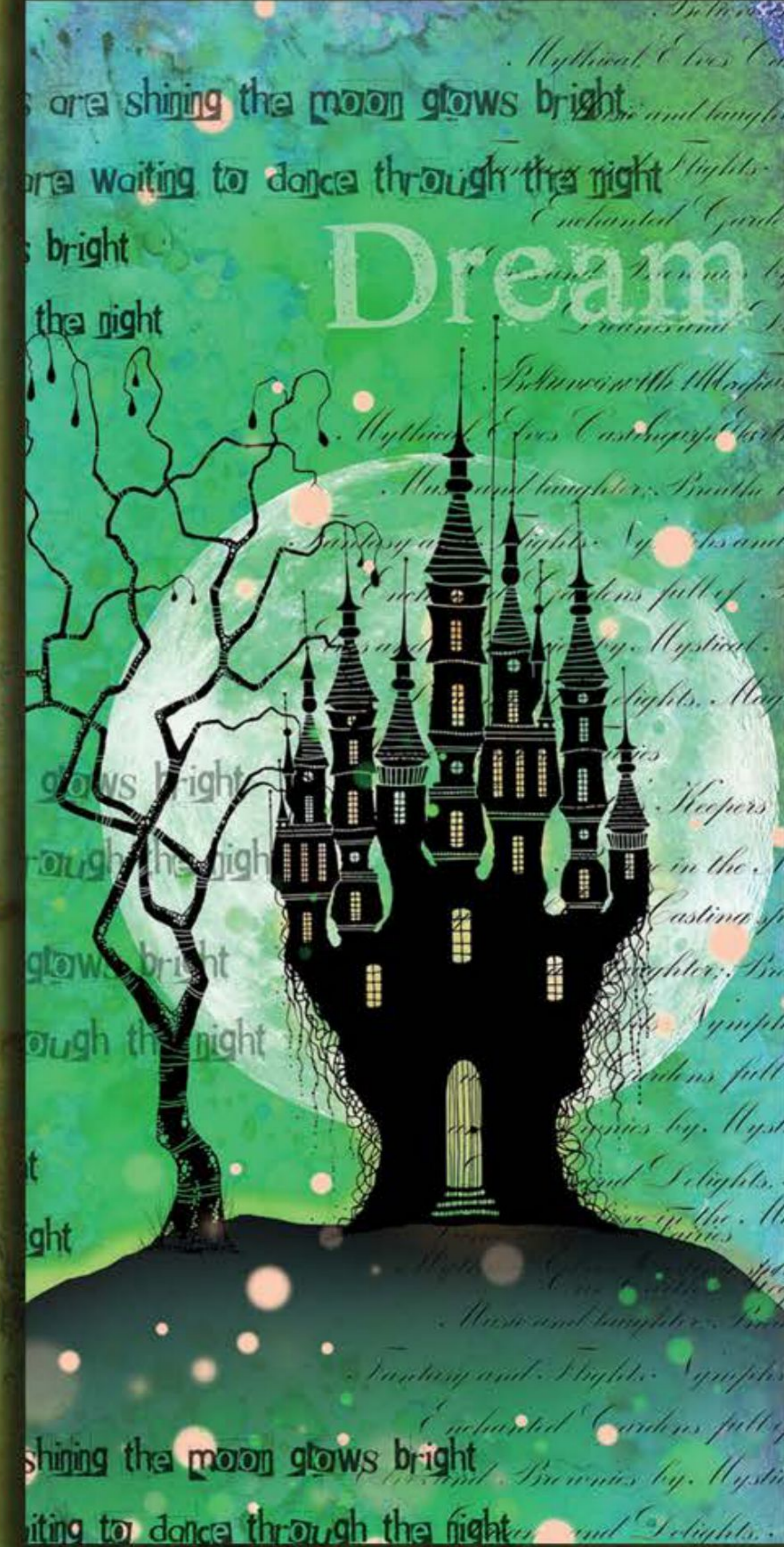


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Take Note!

The latest craft gossip to know right now

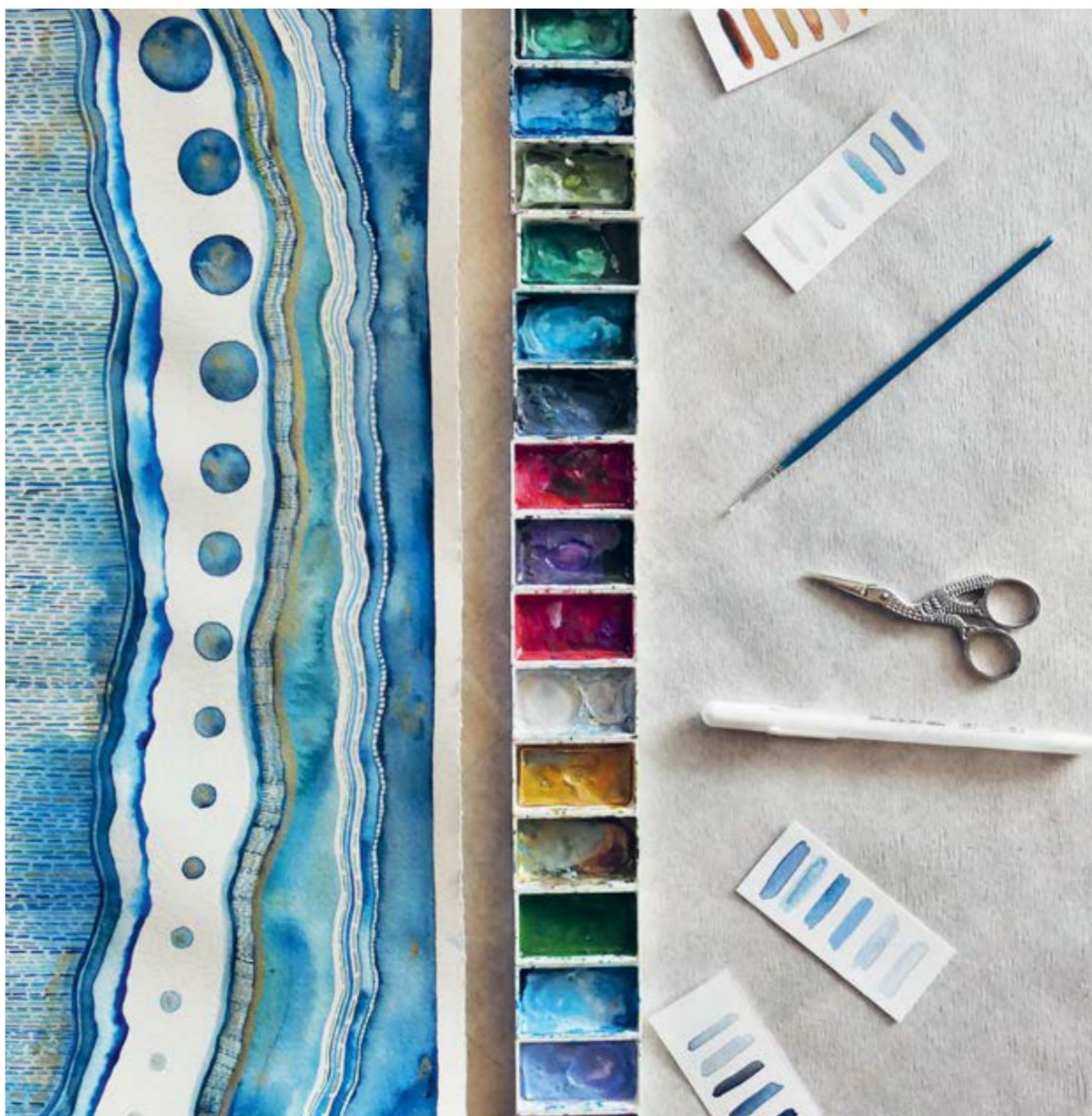
FIFTY SHADES OF... YELLOW

Apparently this sunny hue is the new 'it' colour and as the hottest palette of the season, we're embracing it more than ever before. Lemon, mustard, ochre, amber... whatever the shade or fancy name, yellow is without a doubt the most uplifting colour to sport this summer. Taking inspiration from Papier's colour scheme inspiration, give it a try and fill your crafts with the trend - you won't be disappointed! papier.com



CONQUER YOUR CLUTTER

A new season of crafting calls for a tidy space, so organise your stash with these simple yet effective storage solutions from Crate Paper (americancrafts.com). Use the magnetic message board for snippets of inspiration or hang your crafty odds and ends such as washi tape and ribbon from stylish gold hanging rods. Clear space, clear mind and all that!



DREAM IN WATERCOLOUR

Need a new read to dive into for inspiration? *Celestial Watercolor* (£12.99, quartoknows.com)

by Elise Mahan is a must-have in our library of crafty titles. Moonlit skies, starry scenes and ethereal washes, prepare to be transported to a world far, far away!

And, guess what? You can recreate your very own watercolour creations with the step-by-step instructions and clear visuals featured.

Dates for your

Diary

STAMP MAGIC

2nd June 2019, Doncaster

For tons of craft retailers and demonstrations all under one roof, this one-day show is the place to be if you're a keen cardmaker!

HYDE END CRAFT FAIR

19th - 21st July 2019, Hyde End

Head to Middlegrove Farm for a fun day out browsing the huge variety of craft goodies on offer

Take Note!

CREATIVE COLLAGE

Leave your paintbrush at home and step inside the workshop with Clover Robin to discover brand new ways to 'paint' a picture and document your memories. A new addition to the bookshelf, *Paper Cut Pictures* offers a complete guide to collaging and shows you how to transform snippets of paper into stunning works of art. £16.99, quartoknows.com



GET THE MEMO

"I have too many notebooks"... said no one ever! Hands up if you love new stationery just as much as we do. Well, you're in luck as Paperchase's latest collection of jotters are bound to brighten up your business. Featuring classic summery prints and the odd rainbow or two, there's not a rainy day in sight! paperchase.com



PARADISE FOUND!

Say hello to summer with Talking Tables' line-up of tropical party décor, perfect for accompanying your seasonal cardmaking. Thinking of throwing a garden soirée this year? You'll certainly be prepped with this smart collection of party decs. Featuring accents of zesty hues and succulent fruits, be sure to celebrate warmer climes in style. talkingtables.co.uk



ONLINE SHOP OF THE MONTH

Looking for your next crafty haul? Head to creative-expressions.uk.com for all of your papercrafting essentials. Browse the huge range of mixed media, die cutting and scrapbooking buys. And, while you're there, why not learn a new skill with step-by-step projects, video demos and blogs?

New to
Create and
Craft!



STAMP CENTRAL

Brand new to the number one shopping channel in crafts, Create and Craft has introduced a humdinger of a collection to snap up pronto! The Stamps by Chloe Blossoming Heart range is simply a must-have. Create beautiful floral heart projects in a flash with the clear stamps included, then die cut coordinating motifs to complete your creation. £38.96, createandcraft.com

IT'S SHOWTIME!

Crafting Live heads to Doncaster racecourse from 13th-14th July for a summer spectacular!

Stephanie Weightman's award-winning show is certainly not to be missed. Promising to bring you a whole host of crafty celebrities, the best shopping around and a full day of workshops, invite your crafty pals and buy your tickets today to guarantee a space. craftinglive.co.uk



JUNGLE FEVER

Surround yourself with greenery for a surge of zen! Plants have a whole host of benefits, but if you're not the green-fingered type, why not put your crafty skills to good use instead with Camille Soulayrol and her new book, *Plantopia*? Craft stylish botanical illustrations to keep and frame or recreate lifesize paper plants for a dramatic display. £19.95, amazon.co.uk



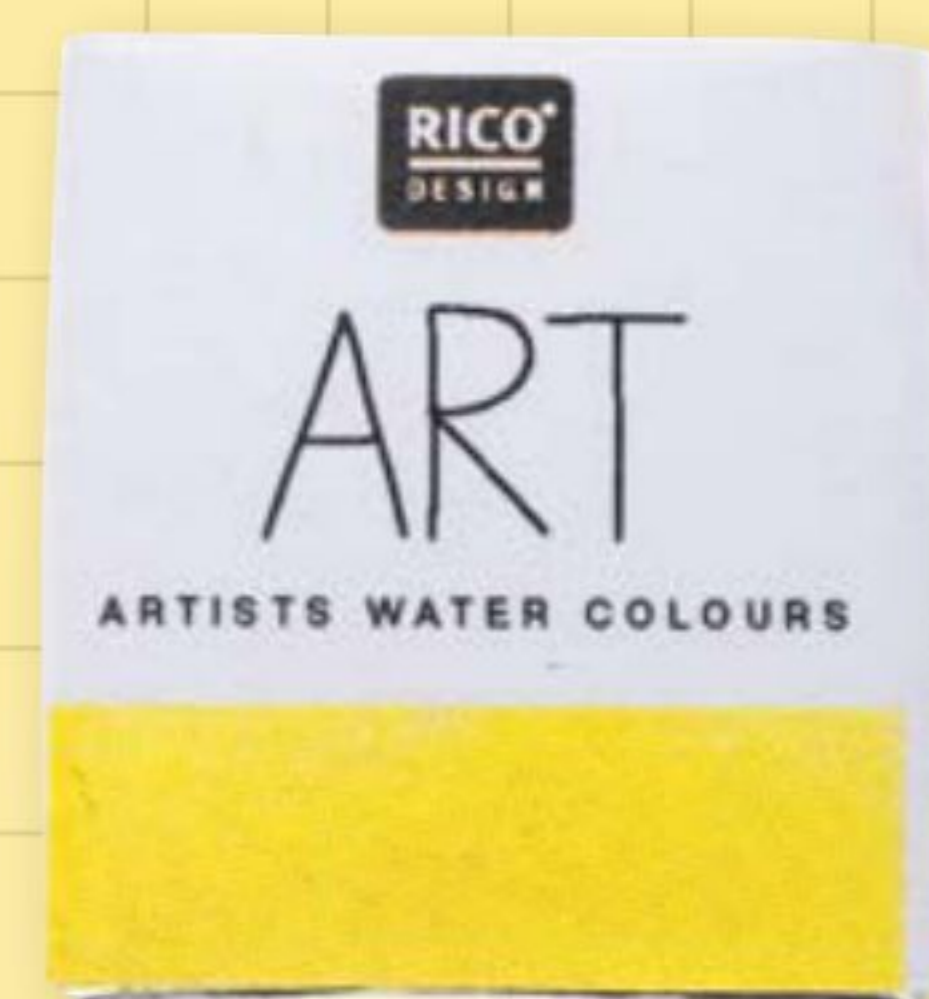
Photography by Frédéric Baron-Morin

Sunshine buys

SAY HELLO TO YELLOW WITH THESE CHEERFUL ADDITIONS



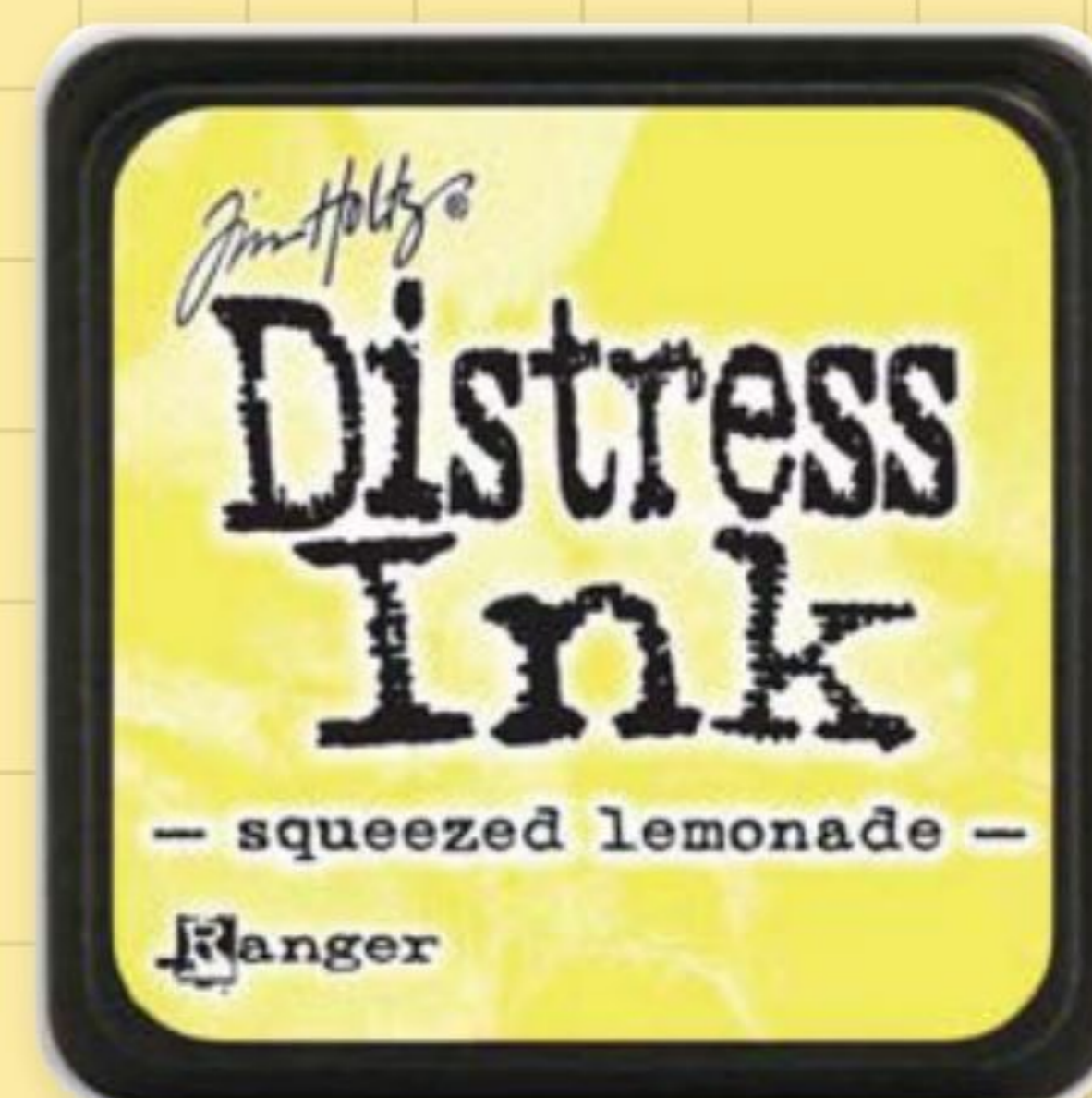
Nuvo Glow Drops in Banana Split, £2.75, tonic-studios.co.uk



ART Artists Watercolour in Yellow, visit rico-design.de for stockists



Ecoline Drawing Ink in Primary Lemon Yellow, £4.25, greatart.co.uk



Tim Holtz Distress Ink in Squeezed Lemonade, £4.49, joannasheen.com

PaperCrafter
PROMOTION

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Pilot's FriXion Colour erasable colouring pen is a step ahead of the competition thanks to clever ink which turns transparent when subjected to friction. No eraser dust, and the line disappears very cleanly leaving only a faint impression of the erased line. The ideal way to erase is using the built-in eraser, or heat with a hairdryer.

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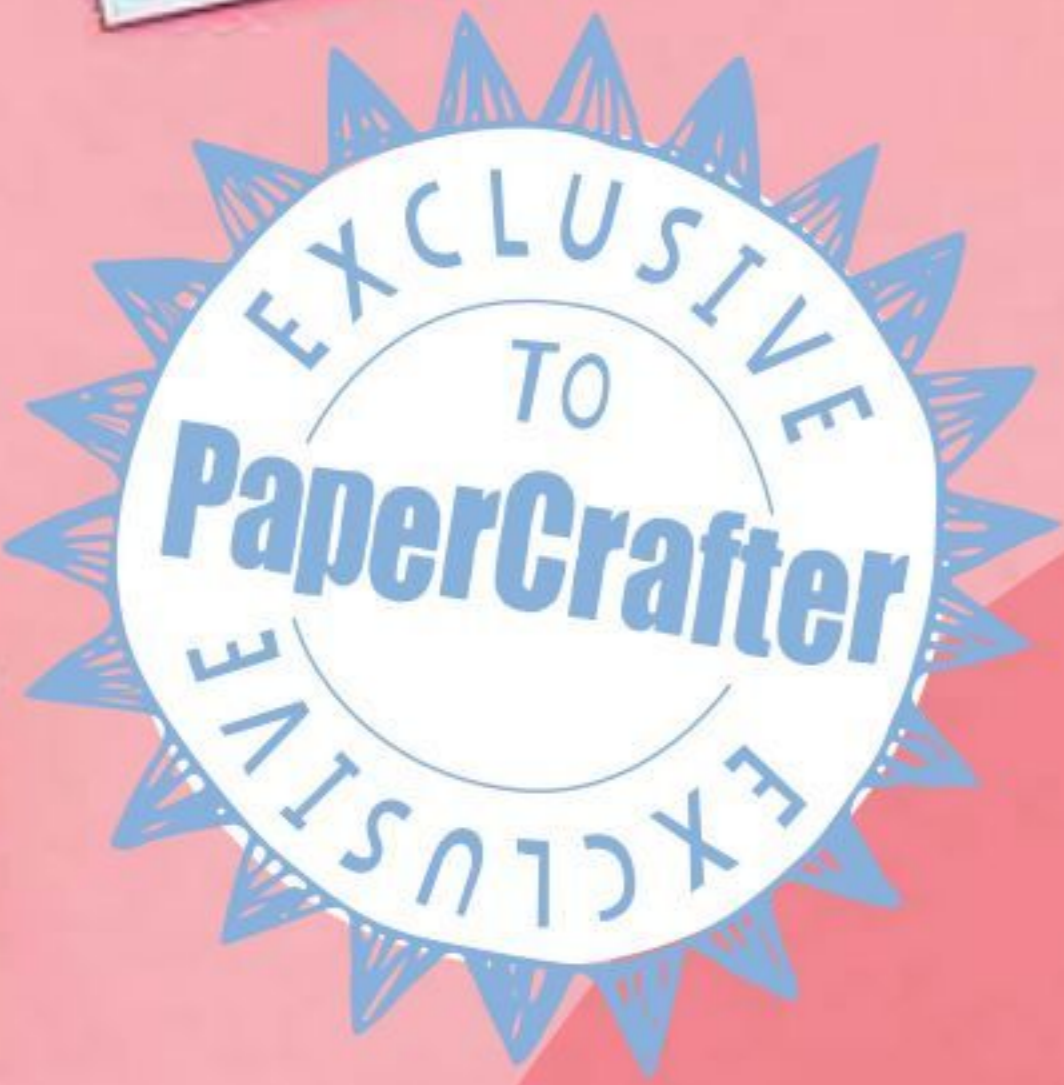


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Fairytale Collection

Is your cardmaking lacking in whimsy? Well, you're in luck as this issue's fairy stamps and coordinating unicorn die are sure to pack your projects with nothing but pure magic! There's a whole host of ways to experiment, but if you're in need of extra inspiration, turn the page to see how PaperCrafter designer Laura Bradley has employed her mixed media mastery to create seven dreamy designs.

*32 magical motifs
to treasure*





Blended backgrounds

For my 'Magical birthday wishes' greeting opposite, simply take a rectangle of white card, 9.5cm x 17cm, and blend distress inks in Squeezed Lemonade, Cracked Pistachio and Tumbled Glass with a blending tool. Spritz with water, dab off the excess with a paper towel, then heat-set. Stamp the fairy, grass, foliage and unicorn motifs onto the background in black ink. Print a sentiment in the top-right corner, cover with gold embossing powder, shake off the excess and heat-set. Mount onto a slightly larger blank with double-sided tape.

Turn up the heat

To recreate my heat-embossed fairy card, prep white card with an anti-static tool. Stamp flowers over the panel in VersaMark clear embossing ink. Pour over white embossing powder, remove the excess and heat-set. Add Spun Sugar distress ink onto acetate and spritz with water. Apply the ink directly onto the panel and press down. Dry off with a heat tool and repeat with Worn Lipstick distress ink. Take a slightly larger piece of white card and prep the surface with an anti-static tool. Stamp a sentiment using VersaMark clear embossing ink, pour over gold embossing powder and heat-set. Repeat with two fairy motifs and a square scalloped frame.

Which motif is your favourite?



Add an embossed effect to your stamped motifs



WITH LOVE





Customize your sentiments!

Simply take your three chosen sentiments and separate them by masking off the unwanted wording. Place them together onto an acrylic block and stamp.



INSIDER TRICKS WITH YOUR KIT

- 1 When using a glitter embossing powder, it's important to ink the background prior to heat embossing. Inking over the top will remove some of the glitter
- 2 A stamping platform is an essential tool for repeat stamping and precise impressions
- 3 Never let negative die-cuts go to waste! Simply save them for extra card projects
- 4 If you're not confident in colouring, you can always emboss the images first as the embossed edge will help to keep the pigment within the lines

Rethink your ink

Highlight your sentiments with subtle inky accents. Here, we've used a blending tool to lightly blend Spun Sugar distress ink over the message, gradually building up the intensity.



Use the smaller stamps in the set to create your own backgrounds





Layered die-cuts

Die cut the unicorn five times from white card, adhering four of them directly on top of each other. Take the fifth unicorn and cover it with VersaMark clear embossing ink. Cover with gold glitter embossing powder, remove the excess and heat-set.



WITH LOVE

Create an angled gradient effect with distress inks!



Embossed effects

Trim white card to 9.5cm x 14cm and prep the surface with an anti-static tool. Stamp feathers over the panel with VersaMark clear embossing ink, pour over white embossing powder, remove the excess and heat-set. Blend Spun Sugar, Shaded Lilac, Tumbled Glass and Cracked Pistachio distress inks together. Fix to a white blank. Trim a strip of white card, stamp a bird at one end in black ink and cut around the top half. Prep the other end with an anti-static tool, stamp a sentiment in clear embossing ink, cover with gold embossing powder and heat-set.



Pair your stamp collection with rainbow patterned papers for an extra magical look



IN PaperCrafter
NEXT MONTH...

Love fairy stamps? You'll find stunning designs at lavinia stamps.com

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- ★ Extra! Don't forget your bonus celebration stamp set – there's nine to enjoy

Wow!

Craft neverending cards just like these with your all-inclusive kit



*Don't miss issue 135,
on sale 30th May!*



Striking silhouettes

Die cut a large stitched rectangle from white card. To create the background, blend Spun Sugar, Shaded Lilac and Blueprint Sketch distress inks together. Stamp grass, a swing, fairy, dragonflies and a butterfly in black ink. Adhere onto a slightly larger white blank. Stamp a sentiment onto white, trim and secure to the card front with 3D foam pads.



Laura Bradley says...

“When using clear embossing ink, it's tricky to see what you've stamped. I recommend stamping in sections so you can see exactly where you need to stamp the next part”

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Club PaperCrafter

THIS MONTH'S PRIZE



Star PRIZE



Encased elegance

I'm a paper artist at heart, and there's nothing I enjoy more than pushing the boundaries of what can be done with the material. I particularly like the challenge of working in 3D, which of course has its own unique barriers that must be overcome. But that's all part of the fun! I used a simple greyscale mix of papers to give a sense of depth to the design, and I'm very happy with the result.

LEE-ANN DONALDSON, HAMPSHIRE



Lee-Ann has won the Dovecraft Folkland collection, worth over £25 from trimcraftdirect.com

Lovely touch



This is a Valentine gift box I made to put my hubby's favourite chocolates in! I used a Crafter's Companion die set and papers to achieve the look, and I was chuffed with how it turned

out! The best thing is, after he ate the chocolates he gave the box back to me, so I could use it again. Although he definitely loved it, I think he thought it might be a little too feminine for him!

LORNAJANE HUNTER, SCOTTISH BORDERS



Hopping fab



My inspiration for this came from Pinterest! I used a Sizzix Big Shot for the wood grain embossed border, as well as the black chalkboard piece. The embossing folder is from The Paper Studio and the rectangle die cut from Sizzix Framelits. The banner was made using the We R Memory Keepers Banner punch board. I love Club PaperCrafter - it's a great way to showcase everyone's latest makes.

EVELYN BLOEMENDAAL, CANADA



"To share your wonderful makes with me and the team, be sure to use the contact details below"

ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR

Send your letters to rosie.savage@aceville.co.uk

Club PaperCrafter

COME & JOIN OUR #craftchallenge

Entering our Craft Challenge is gloriously simple – just get in touch via Facebook or email!

I'm a delivery driver for my local chemist and I always meet lots of lovely people on my travels. One of the ladies I deliver to is a very talented crafter, and I found out that she teaches a parchment craft class. I would love to attend but work restricts me – so she offered to teach me after my shifts! This is a creation from our extra-curricular classes.

ANNA HOWAT, MILTON KEYNES



I covered the card blank with the gorgeous Anna Marie Spotted cardstock; I really love the result! The tile effect paper is from Lili Of The Valley, as is the girl and cat topper. I framed them using Bazzil Basics dies and decorated it with silk roses and calla lilies. The sentiment, a simple 'Happy Mother's Day Mum', was placed onto a die-cut flower – I then added cat dies in orange vivelle and finished it off with a gingham ribbon.

JULIE IRONMONGER, LEEDS

After I got some freebies from a Hunkydory magazine, I felt inspired to create this card, drawing on the memory of the long summers from my childhood. Stamping and colouring is one of my favourite techniques, and I utilised a few more for this make like embossing and patterned papers.

CHARLOTTE PAULS, LINCOLNSHIRE



Hi PaperCrafter! I made this card for a friend's birthday. For the background, I used yellow and brown watercolour paint in an attempt to create an antique style. I then stamped the bunny that I received with PaperCrafter in issue 130, and heat embossed it with gold embossing powder. Once that was done, I layered onto First Edition Forever Free patterned papers.

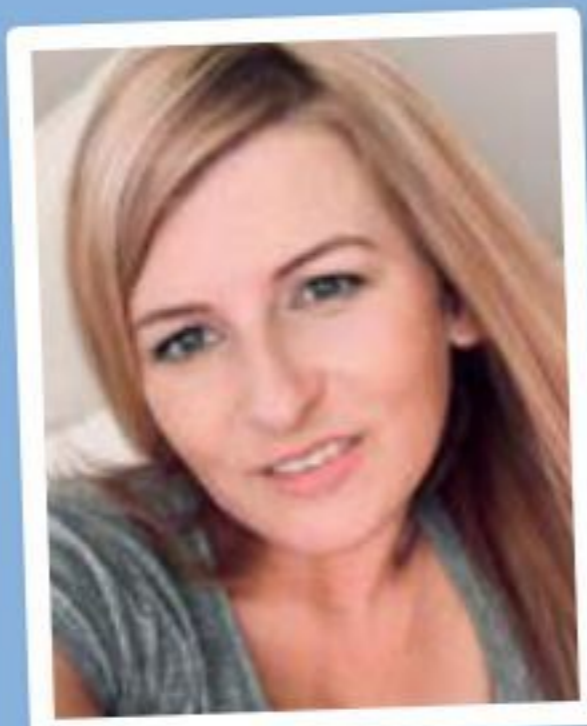
HANNAH FADESCO, LOUGHBOROUGH



**OUR
Winner**
ALDONA
SZERLA



Aldona has won a selection of Xcut dies worth over £25, courtesy of trimcraftdirect.com



"Hello PaperCrafter! I was so excited to send this project in, as it's one of my personal favourites. I made it for Mother's Day, and as you can probably tell, I was inspired by a floral bouquet. This is a smaller version, of course! I used light spring colours with small handmade flowers and I think the ribbon makes for the perfect finishing touch"

Congratulations, Aldona – we're sure your mum was ecstatic!





OUR INTEREST FAVES



Yes, these are made from paper... really! thisiscolossal.com



Sprinkle the home with these gorgeous sheet music roses. etsy.com



Try and resist the urge to play this paper cello. senaruna.com

Have your say

WE ASKED...

Do you listen to music while you craft? If so, what do you sing along to?

"Classic rock!"

NORMA SPENCER

"I listen to folk songs"

DEB WILSON

"I tend to listen to audiobooks, mainly Doctor Who themed!"

ANGELA FINCH

"Reggae and gospel"

MONIQUE FOX

"Everything from The Four Seasons to Queen!"

NICKY LEIGHTON

"I guess I'd have to say '60s, '70s and some Country"

JUDITH ELLIS VIDOUREK

"Never! In general I prefer podcasts when I'm busy crafting"

DESTINY ROUTE

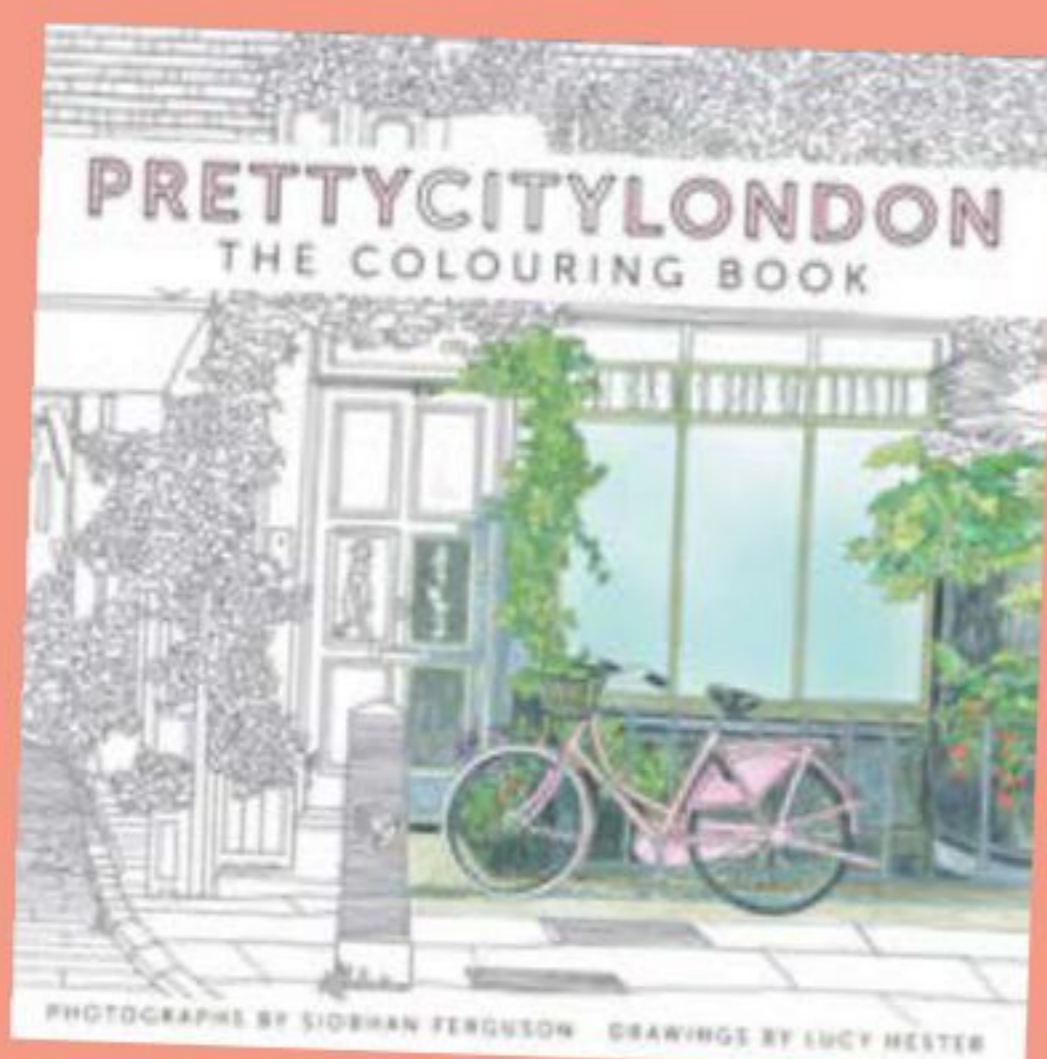
"No, I like to talk to myself!"

JOAN CROLL

What you're loving on our website

Head to papercraftermagazine.co.uk for tons of complimentary goodies, must-craft projects and unmissable giveaways

Explore London through colour with these free downloads from *prettycitylondon: The Colouring Book!*



These woodland digi stamps are almost too cute!



Take it slow with this sloth sentiment greeting card

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You will need

- › Craft essentials (see p94)
- › Template from **paper craftermagazine.co.uk**
- › Patterned papers, Pink Paislee Confetti Wishes 12" x 12"
- › Embellishments: Pink Paislee Confetti Wishes ephemera, puffy stickers, washi tape

Birthday chic

Make your recipient's day extra special with Pink Paislee's vibrant Confetti Wishes collection

Everyone has birthdays, but not everyone has a loved one that crafts. This is where our passion starts to pay for itself because, come on, who in this world prefers store-bought cards? With Sarah Jackman Read's latest crafty round-up, a delightfully flamboyant selection of birthday-themed makes, you'll be set for any upcoming celebration!



8
cards
to make!

OMBRÉ SENTIMENTS

1 Create a 15cm square top-folding white blank and cover the front with ombre paper. Layer confetti paper, 14cm square, on top and attach strips of washi tape across the front.

2 Trim foliage paper to 7cm x 11cm, then fix to the card front. Cut ombre paper, 5cm x 9cm, and secure on top with 3D foam pads.

3 Attach a sentiment, die-cut and shapes on

top, then fix a parrot to the left-hand side with 3D foam pads. Add washi tape and a sentiment in the top-left corner, then finish with stickers and gold gems.

EXPLODING MOTIFS

1 Create a white exploding box card using the template on our website. Trim foliage paper, 7cm x 15cm, then adhere to the back. Cover three strips of white card in coordinating paper and glue them to the inside of the box.

2 Trim three pieces of foliage paper to 7cm x 10cm and adhere to the outside front and sides. Glue three pieces of lemon paper, 5cm x 7cm, to the flaps, then add a thin strip of rainbow paper across each of them.

3 Attach a sentiment to the back panel with 3D foam pads. Fix die-cut shapes and stickers across the strips of card inside the box. Secure die-cuts to the flaps with 3D foam pads, then finish with gold gems.



CONFETTI CELEBRATIONS

1 Trim pink paper to 8.5cm x 12cm, matt onto confetti paper, then adhere to the front of a pink ombré blank, 11cm x 14cm. Add a small tag and sticker in the top-right corner.

2 Attach spotty paper behind a frame with 3D foam pads and fix to the top of the card. Trim two numbers and attach inside the frame, then add stickers

and puffy stickers around the outside.

3 Secure a length of washi tape across the bottom of the card, then attach a present motif in the centre of the tape with 3D foam pads. Complete with gold gems.

Five more
CARDS
to come



SENTIMENT REVEAL

1 Cover the front of a 13cm x 17.5cm white blank with black spotty paper. Trim pink ombre paper to 11.5cm x 16.5cm and cut a line halfway across towards the bottom on the right-hand side.

2 Adhere the pink ombre paper to the card front, fold back each side of the cut line and glue in place. Trim toucan paper, 5cm x

17.5cm, then adhere down the left-hand side. Cut pink paper to 4.5cm x 8cm, trim into a pennant and glue to the top-left corner.

3 Secure a sentiment with 3D foam pads, tuck stickers behind it and add a die-cut flower. Attach strips of washi tape and stickers across the top and bottom. Fix a record sentiment behind the ombre paper flaps, then add another sentiment to the bottom with 3D foam pads.



Sarah Jackman Read says...

“Cutting and folding double-sided papers can add dimension, while giving a sneak peek of what awaits inside!”

FUSSY-CUT FUN

1 Cover the front of an 11cm x 20cm top-folding white blank with foliage paper. Trim confetti paper, 10cm x 19cm, then glue on top. Cut pink ombre paper to 7.5cm x 20cm and adhere across the middle.

2 Fussy cut a circle, attach bunting around the edge, then secure to the right-hand side with 3D foam pads. Add a die-cut cake on top.

3 Adhere a sentiment and stickers to the left-hand side of the card front, then finish with a puffy sticker and gold gems.



Writer's block?

Copy these messages for a heartfelt time-saver

- Today is special, but you're special every day!
- Kindness comes so naturally to you
- A year may have passed, but I love you just the same
- You make my day, my month, my year, my life
- I hope your day is as amazing as you are!
- Keep being you... it makes the world a better place

LAYERED LUXURY

1 Trim the front of a foliage patterned blank down to 5.5cm, then attach thin strips of paper across the middle. Cut orange striped paper, 10.5cm x 14cm, then adhere inside the card. Add washi tape and sentiments down the right-hand side.

2 Attach a decorative panel to the front with 3D foam pads. Fix a die-cut vase of flowers on top with 3D foam pads, then finish with a parrot puffy sticker in the top-left corner.





PUFFY ACCENTS

1 Trim striped pink paper, 9cm x 12cm, layer onto green, then adhere to the front of a black confetti blank, 11cm x 14cm. Cut white card, 3cm x 13.5cm, cover with washi tape and glue across the middle.

2 Attach orange striped paper behind a frame

then fix to the left-hand side with 3D foam pads. Secure a fussy-cut cake inside the frame and a sentiment across the top.

3 Fix puffy sticker numbers to the bottom of the frame. Add a die-cut flower and a puffy sticker sentiment in the bottom-right corner, then finish with gold gems.

TOP TIP

Gems don't have to be gold – vary your visuals by introducing other colours

Get the look!

Put the happy into 'Happy birthday' by getting hold of these wonders, all available at papermaze.co.uk



Washi tape, £4.99



6" x 6" paper pad, £6.99



Ephemera, £4.99



Puffy stickers, £3.99



DIAMANTE GREETING

- 1 Cover the front of an 11cm x 18cm top-folding white blank with marble paper. Mount lemon paper, 10cm x 17cm, on top and add a tag in the top-right corner.
- 2 Cut orange striped paper to 3cm x 18cm,

then glue down the middle and add a length of washi tape on top. Attach a floral decoration to the centre.

- 3 Fix a circular sentiment on top with 3D foam pads, then secure a parrot and puffy sticker. Glue die-cut hearts to the bottom, then finish with gold gems.



3-step card

Usher in the new season with Kitty Frampton's vibrant assemblage of summertime icons

Summer is fast approaching, but as is often the case with Britain, you won't always be able to tell just by looking out the window. Naturally, it's our moral duty as crafters to encourage warmer climes by filling our homes with bright odes to the natural world. An excellent place to start is Kitty Frampton's cheery make which you can recreate in three simple steps. Roaring renditions of 'Rain, Rain, Go Away' are also encouraged.

You will need

- › Craft essentials (see p94)
- › Stamps: Pretty Pink Posh Cherry Blossoms, Hummingbirds
- › Dies: Lil Inker Designs Quilted Stitched Pattern; Die-namics Hello; M&C Stitched Squares
- › Ink pad, blue
- › Copic markers

STEP ONE

Fold a white blank, 12cm square. Cut white card, 10.5cm square, and mount onto turquoise, then fix to the blank. Die cut a smaller white stitched square, then a quilted one. Ink with blue and fix to the front with 3D foam pads.

STEP TWO

Stamp cherry blossoms and hummingbirds. Colour in using Copic markers, cut out and attach to the card front.

STEP THREE

Die cut 'Hello' from turquoise and white. Glue together, slightly offsetting them. Adhere to the card to finish.



Shop Stop

Premier Craft Tools Essentials Collection, £19.97, createandcraft.com



Pretty Pink Posh Hummingbird Thanks, Everyday Greetings and Cherry Blossom stamps, shoppettypinkposh.com



Ink pad in blue, £2, hobbycraft.co.uk



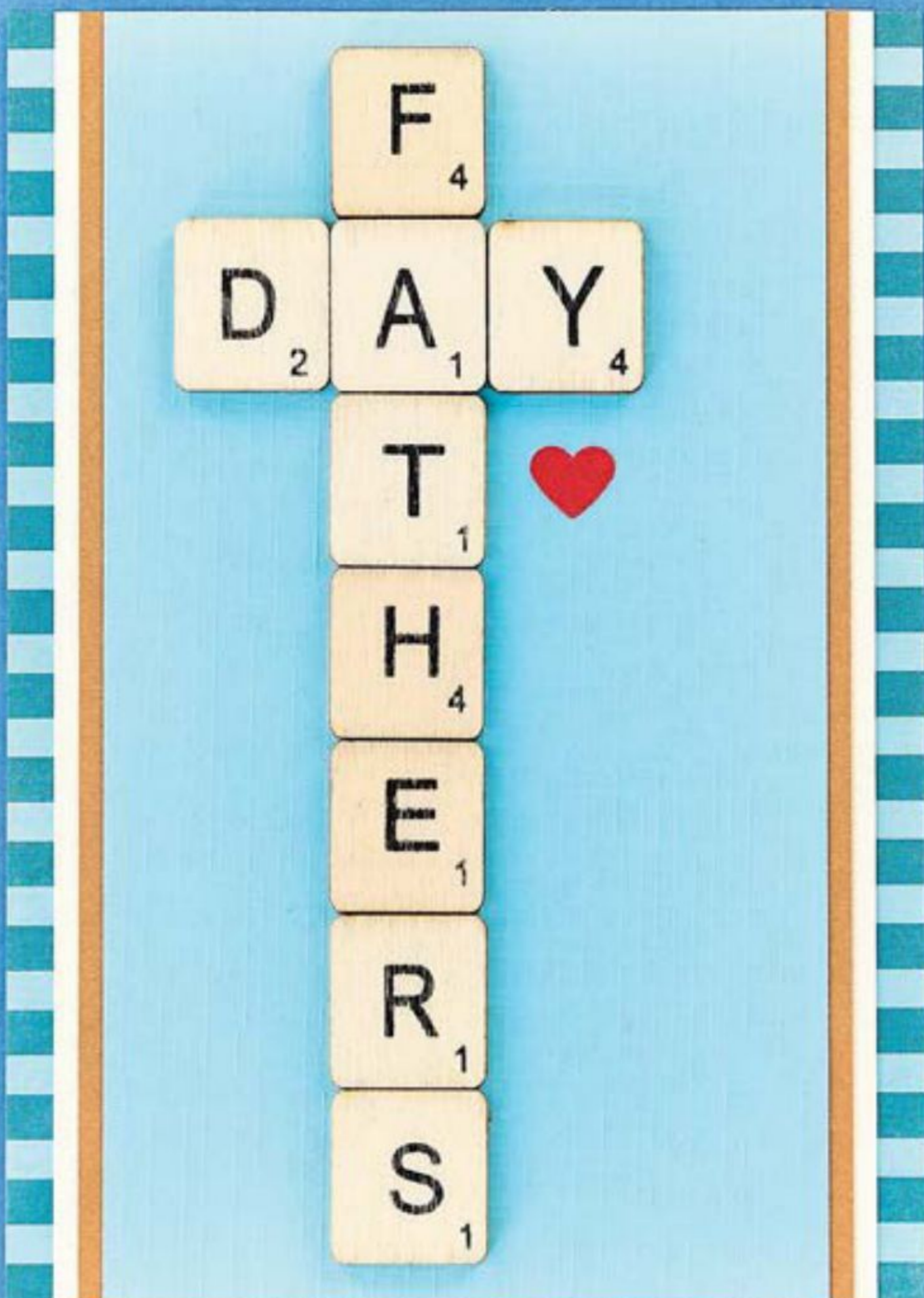
Copic Classic Marker 12 pen set, £100, copic-shop.co.uk

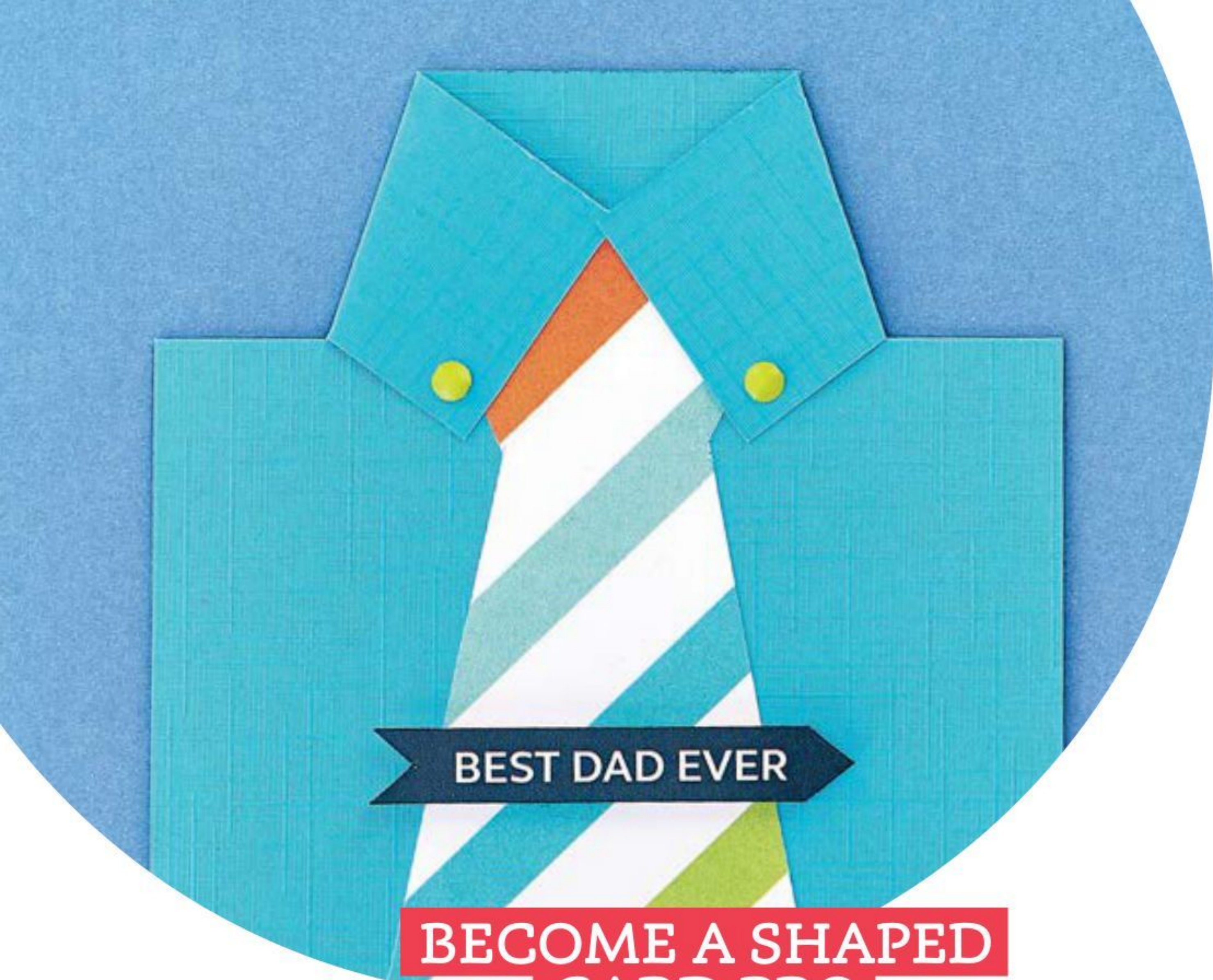


CRAFT
ME QUICK!

Father's Day cards

Tracey Daykin-Jones shares four make-in-a-flash greetings, giving you options ahead of Sunday 16th June





BECOME A SHAPED CARD PRO

Draw a horizontal line 2.5cm down from the top of a piece of 10.5cm x 15cm card. Trim a 2.5cm line in from both sides of the pencil line and fold the ends into the centre to create a collar. Cut out a tie shape from striped paper and fix in place. Secure the collar with lime split pins. Type and print 'Best dad ever', cut out and add using 3D foam pads. Adhere white card to the back to complete the greeting.

Cardstock is perfect for the blue shirt element as it adds necessary texture

TRY A HALF FRONT DESIGN

Make a 10.5cm x 15cm white blank. Trim a diagonal line from top-left to bottom-right on the front. Adhere star patterned paper inside, then dark blue striped paper to the front section. Die cut three red circles and add black adhesive letters to spell out 'Dad'. Fix these to the card using 3D foam pads, then apply three stars to finish.



MAKE A NIFTY FAUX POCKET

Cover a 10.5cm x 15cm blank with red card. Trim a pocket shape from checked paper. Stamp 'Happy Father's Day' onto blue, trim and adhere to the pocket. Secure three playing cards together in a fan effect and attach to the greeting. Adhere the pocket on top with 3D foam pads.


Instead of playing cards, why not slot a gift card inside the pocket for an all-in-one greeting and present?

SPELL IT OUT SCRABBLE STYLE

Cover a 10.5cm x 15cm blank with striped paper. Layer cream, beige and light blue card down the centre. Stick wooden letters down and across the card to say 'Father's Day' using strips of double-sided tape - we got our letters from hobbycraft.co.uk. Add a tiny red heart to complete.



Takes just **five** minutes!



HOW TO CRAFT THE ULTIMATE BIRTHDAY CARD

WORDS BY AMELIA BOLTON

WARNING: this guide contains balloons, cake and cute party pets... let's do this!



BREAK THE RULES

Protruding motifs add height and dimension, so don't be afraid to overlap toppers along the edges of your card

Find out how to make me at papercraftermagazine.co.uk

ANATOMY OF A BIRTHDAY CARD...

Special celebrations call out for colour and we've certainly thrown in plenty of that with this cheerful make! Pull out your trusted marker pens, get creative with inks or invest in a zingy paper collection. Why not also try something a little whimsical with the card shape for a truly fun surprise? And, a greeting isn't complete without a sentiment. Stamps are ideal for punchy yet speedy messages or simply customise your card with thicker stickers.

GOOD AS GLITTER

For added texture, incorporate glitter or mirri card... after all, what's a party without a scatter of sparkle?



PRINT PERFECT

Energise your creative palette with striking colours and clashing patterns to guarantee the wow factor!



GET THE LOOK!



Xcut Large Balloon dies, £14.99, minervacrafts.com



Pebbles Happy Hooray paper pad, £5, hobbycraft.co.uk

Pebbles Happy Hooray chipboard thickers, £4.99, papermaze.co.uk





GET CRAFT CONFIDENT WITH ANNE-MARIE CATTERALL

CREATIVE MANAGER AT HUNKYDORY CRAFTS, ANNE-MARIE REVEALS HER SECRETS TO SUCCESS

- ★ Plan out your layout and design before you start. Sometimes it can be overwhelming when you have such a special card to make, so be sure to have a clear image in your mind
- ★ It's all in the preparation, so top up your stash with everything you need before you start – you don't want to run out of 3D foam pads to throw you off!
- ★ Keep your recipient in mind and the journey they will go through as they open their card. How can you coordinate the envelope to match? What about inserts or papers for the inside? And don't forget about the back of the card – a topper or stamped image makes for a lovely finishing touch
- ★ Make time to craft and, most importantly, enjoy the process – it shouldn't be stressful or rushed! Remember that crafting is a hobby for most of us; take pleasure in making your wonderful creation



ON OUR WISH LIST

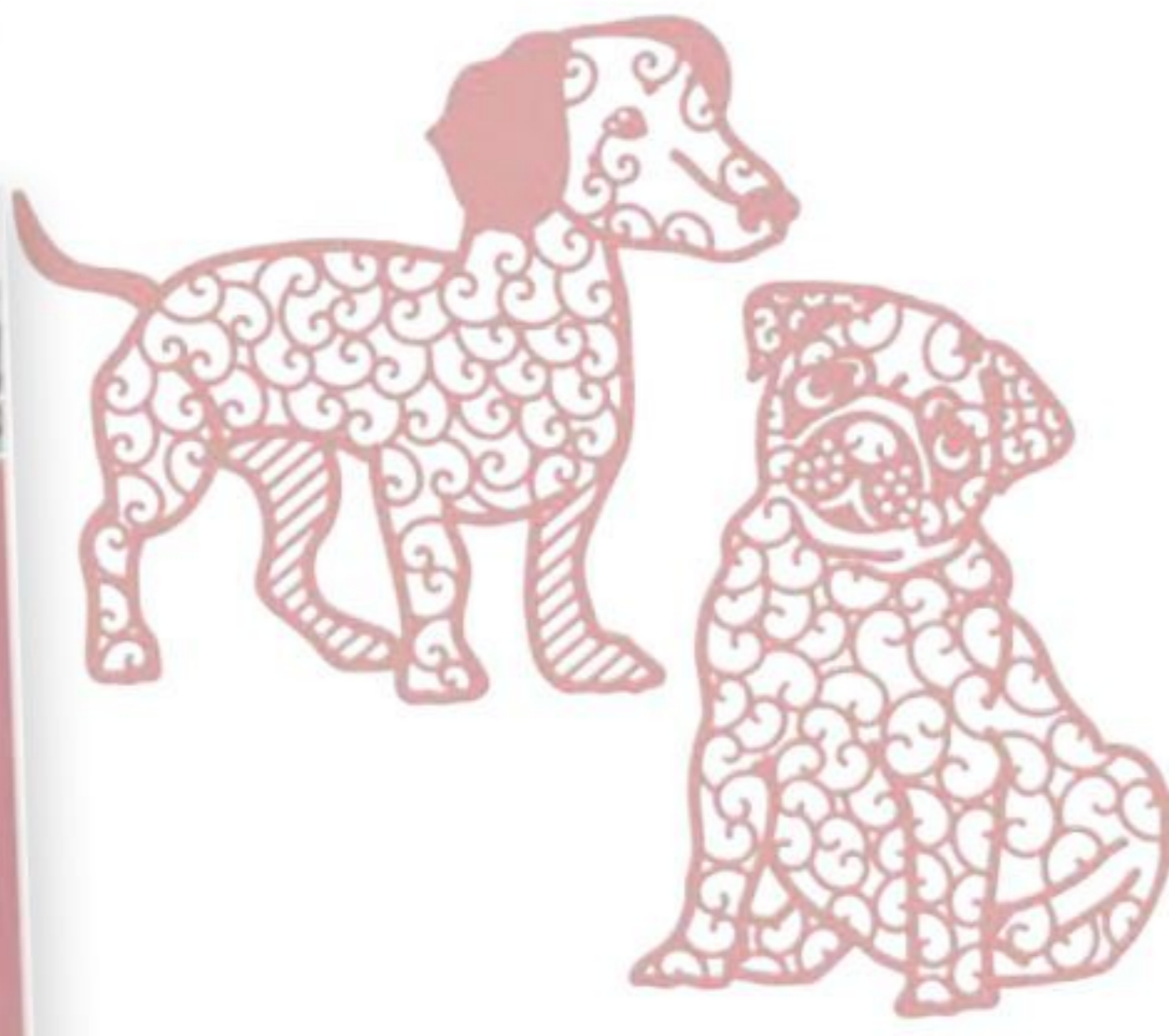
Meet your must-have cardmaking collection from Hunkydory Crafts! The Birthday Bonanza range is sure to set you up for some serious birthday crafting. Add depth with embossing folders, die cut sentiments in seconds, stamp classic celebratory motifs and pair the masks with distress inks or glitter paste. Plus, you certainly won't be stuck for colour with the vibrant patterned paper pad included! £77.58, hunkydorycrafts.co.uk

PERSONALISE YOUR PROJECTS!

SPARK YOUR RECIPIENT'S INTEREST WITH MOTIFS THAT ARE JUST THEIR CUP OF TEA... OR PROSECCO, IF THAT'S WHAT THEY PREFER

Download your free Party Pets paper collection at papercraftermagazine.co.uk

FOR THE ANIMAL ADORER...



From left to right: It's A Dog's Life Dachshund stamp, £4.99, hunkydorycrafts.co.uk; Intricut Dogs dies, £12 and Paper House cat stickers, £2.30, hobbycraft.co.uk

Head to papercraftermagazine.co.uk to download your Wander-ful papers for free!

FOR THE GLOBE-TROTTER...



From left to right: Pink Paislee Horizon shaped paper clips, £4.99, papermaze.co.uk; Explore The Globe 12" x 12" paper pad, £10, hobbycraft.co.uk; Lora Bailora Wanderlust wooden die-cut, £1.34, craftelier.com

FOR THE GREEN-FINGERED GEEK...



From left to right: First Edition Gardenia 12" x 12" paper pad, £14.99, therange.co.uk; Xcut Filigree Layered Flowers dies, £16, cuttingedgecrafts.co.uk; Barrow in Bloom stamps, £8, hunkydorycrafts.co.uk; Die'sire Classiques Quilling Aster Duo flower die, £12.99, crafterscompanion.co.uk



"It's all too easy to fill your card front with embellishments. Make sure it doesn't become top-heavy so that it can still stand up"

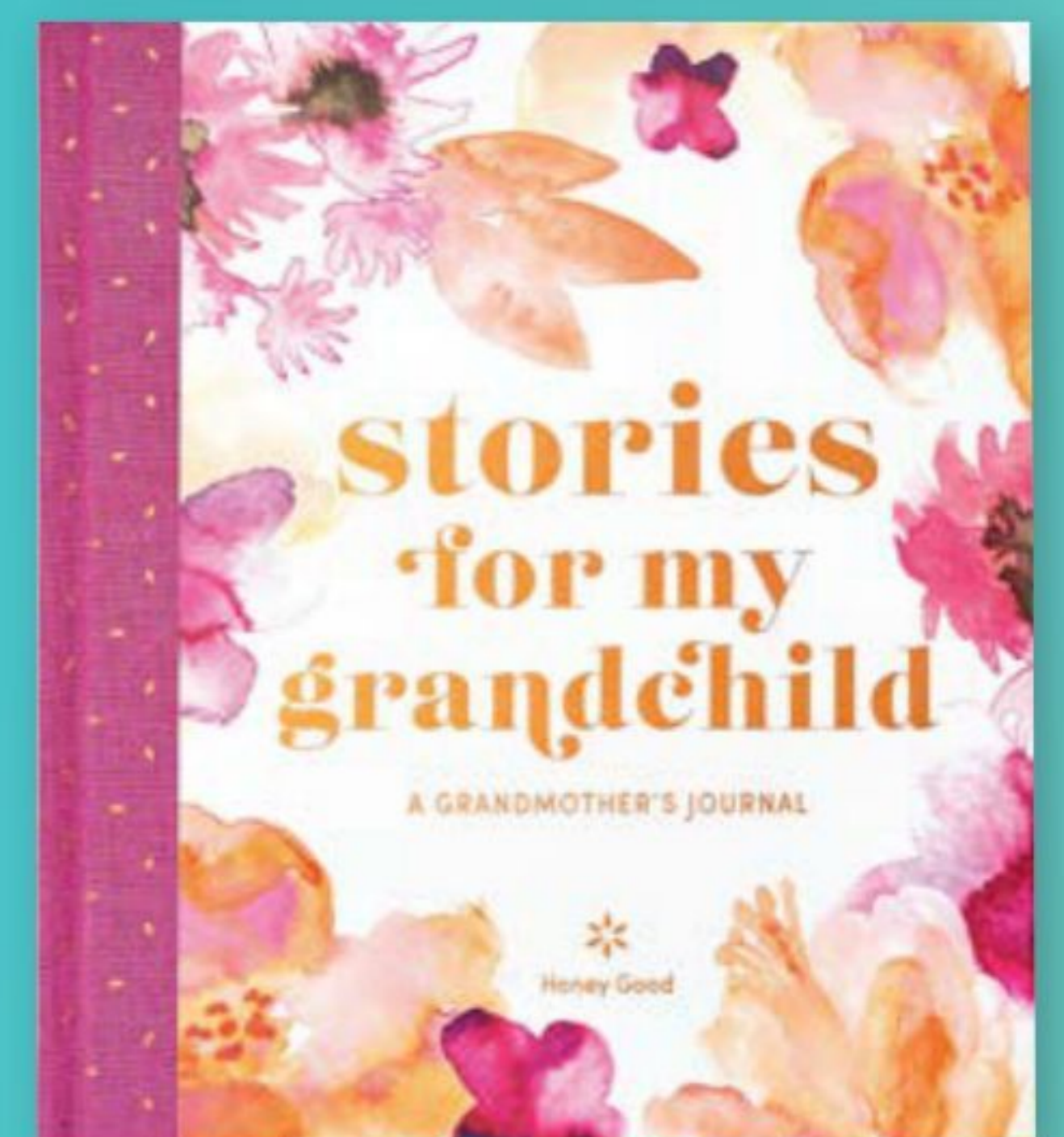
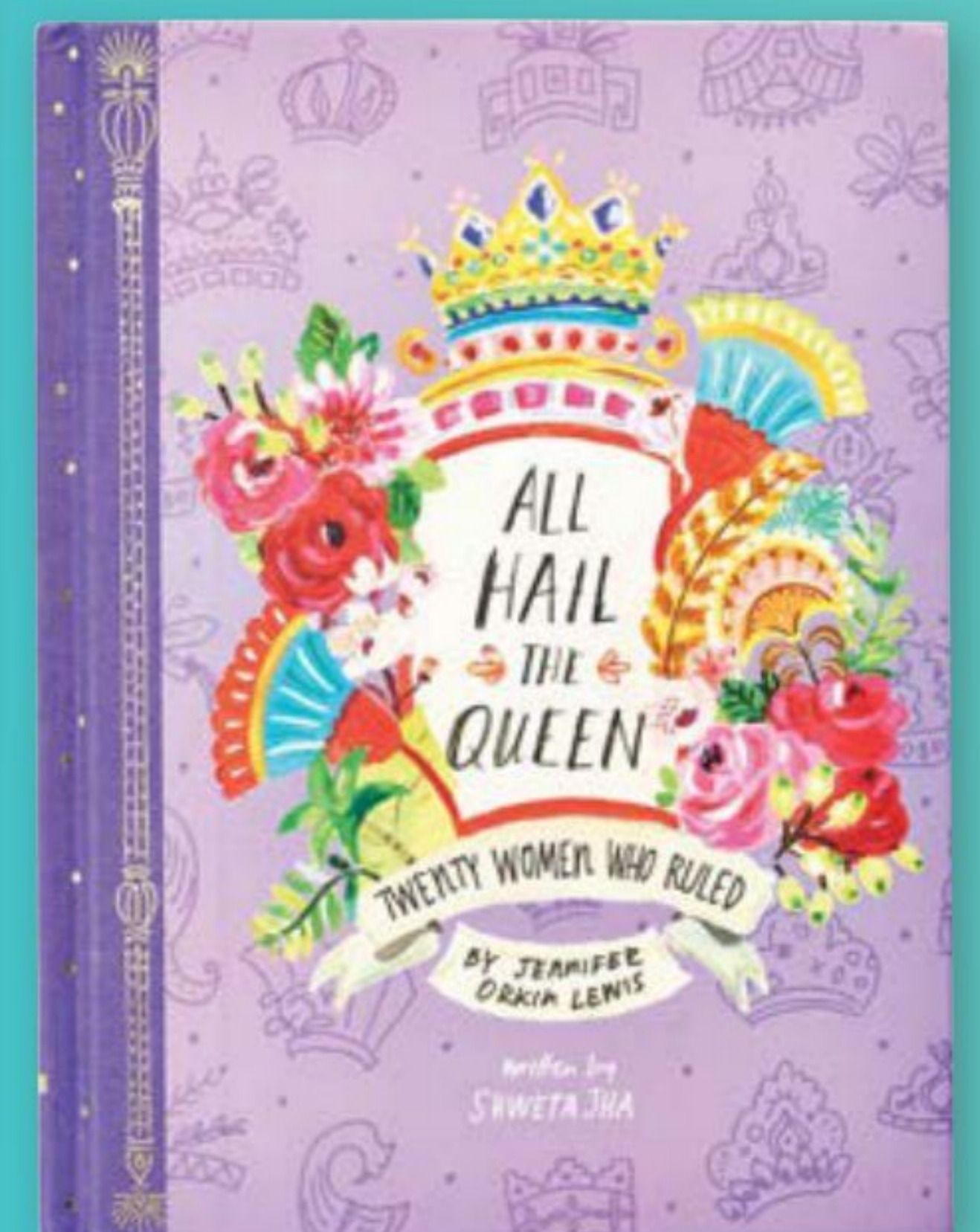
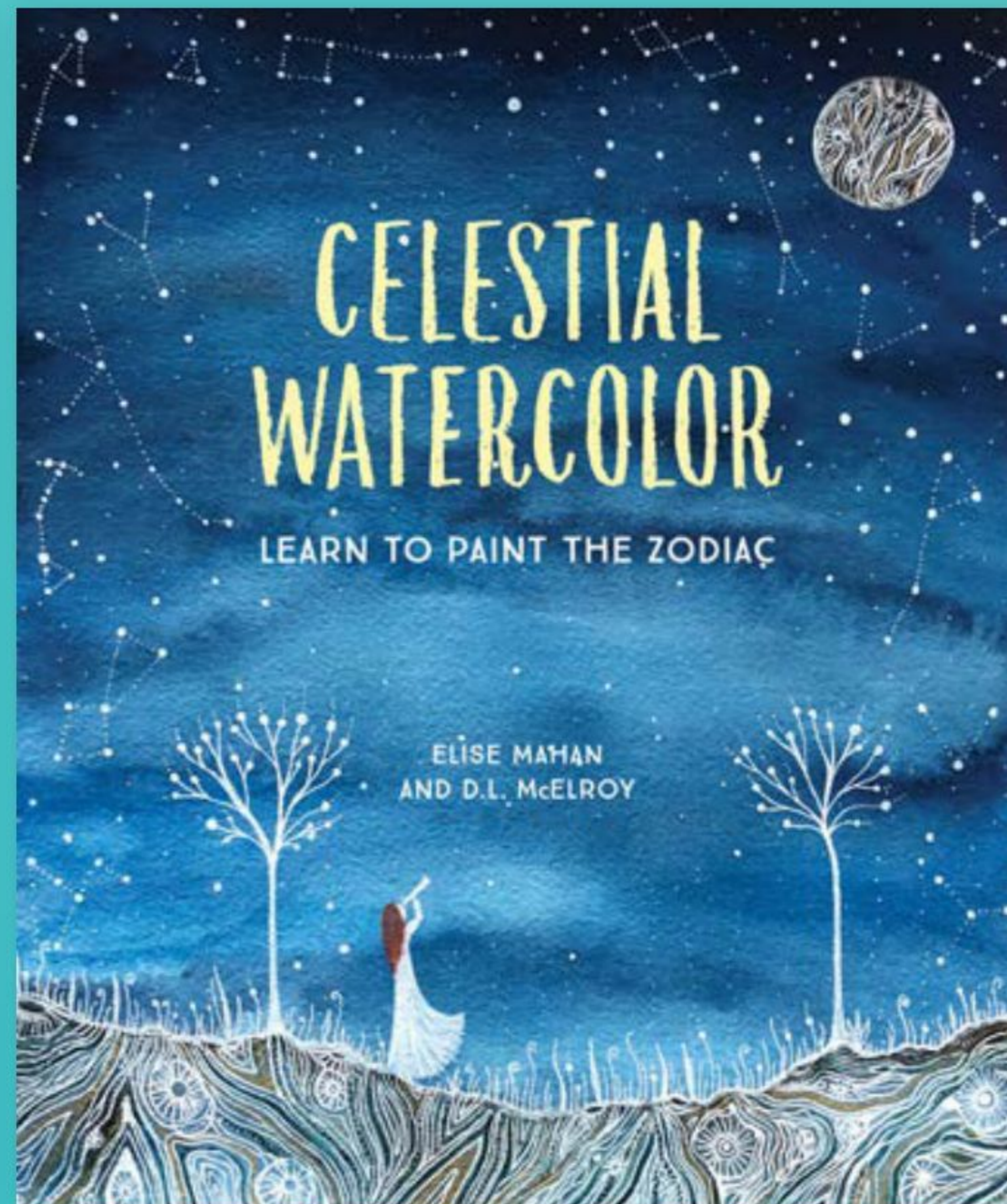
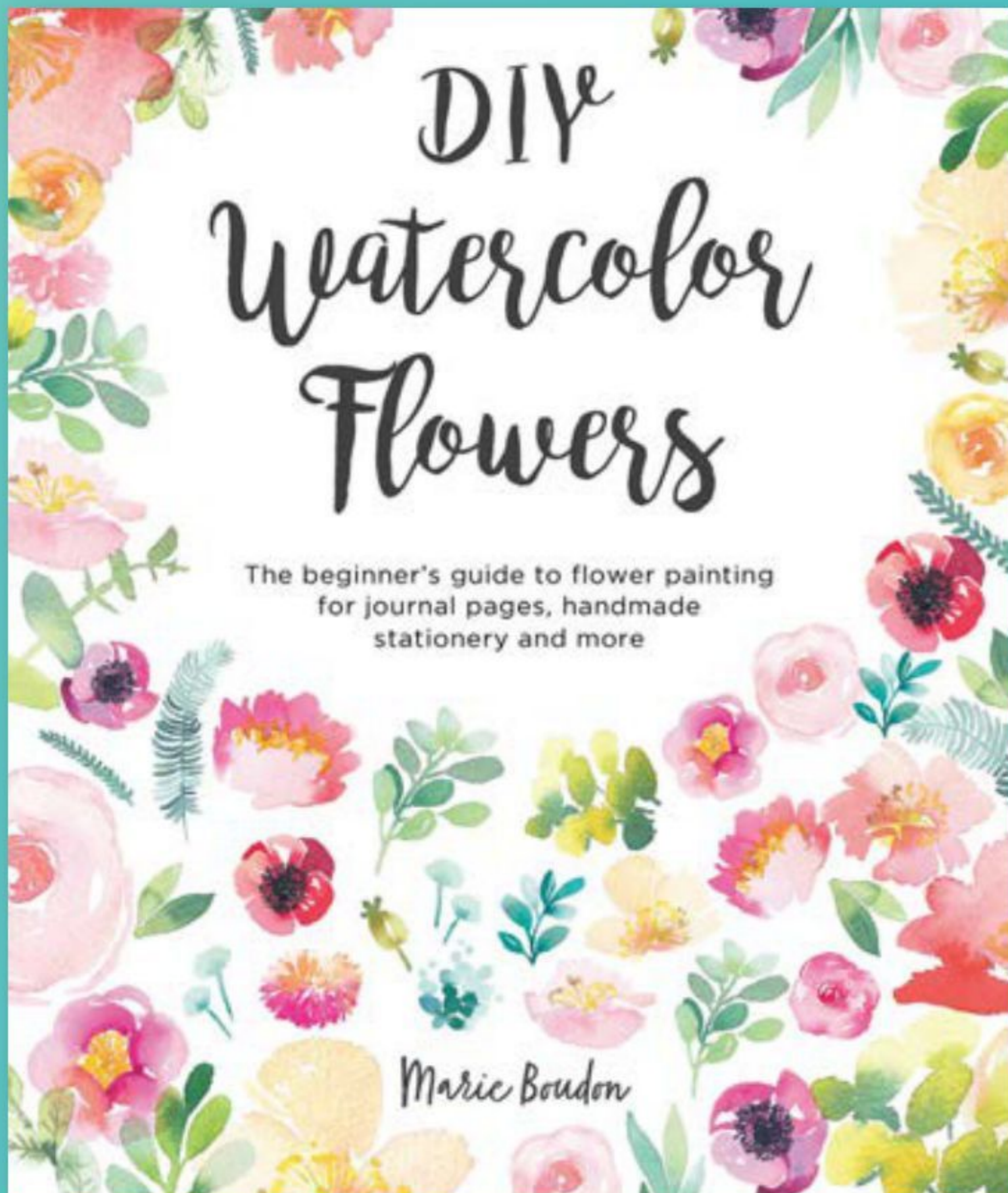
CORINNE BRADD, PAPER Crafter Designer

Reading Corner

Inspire your next project with our round-up of crafty reads



Head to papercraftermagazine.co.uk to download your free project from *Celestial Watercolor*



TEST THE WATERS

Watercolours and florals are quite simply a match made in heaven. Both delicate and elegant in nature, painterly blooms make for a stunning sight and never fail to uplift one's spirits. Complete with technique tutorials and projects, *DIY Watercolor Flowers* by Marie Boudon celebrates this classic combo and will help you to become a pro in a flash. (£15.99, F&W Media) fwmedia.co.uk

POP-UP PLANTS

If your craft desk is lacking a little inspiration, make this your newest addition. *Succulents In A Book* by Molly Hatch features eight pop-up succulents, illustrated in soft and tranquil green hues to create a serene environment for your space. Ideal for those who struggle to keep their green-leaved companions alive, you'll be pleased to know there's zero watering required! (£11.99, Harry N. Abrams) abramsandchronicle.co.uk

COLOUR TALES

As crafters, it feels like we're forever surrounded by colour and that's exactly how we like it, but have you ever considered the origin of your favourite hue? *Tate: Colour: A Visual History* by Alexandra Loske delves into the kaleidoscopic history of the pigments we've come to love and craft with today, making it the perfect read for any curious creatives out there. (£30, Ilex Press) octopusbooks.co.uk

MUST-HAVE MEMENTO

For all of the lovely grandmothers out there, meet your savvy sidekick. *Stories For My Grandchild* by Honey Good is your go-to journal to document each and every moment. Capture family history, not-to-be-forgotten memories and life events in this stylish keepsake, so you can cherish yesterday, today and tomorrow. (£14.99, Harry N. Abrams) abramsandchronicle.co.uk



CREATIVE CONSTELLATIONS

Take your watercolour illustrations to new heights with Elise Mahan's new book, *Celestial Watercolor*. Look up to the skies and recreate the cosmos, master watercolour moon phases and paint the skies through every season with simple step-by-step projects and inspiring visuals. Trust us, a few flicks through this stunning book and you'll be on cloud nine in no time. (£12.99, Rock Point) quartoknows.com

WHO RULES THE WORLD?

Girls! Cleopatra, Catherine the Great, Elizabeth I, Marie Antoinette... these are just several of the leading ladies who have inspired imaginations over the years. *All Hail the Queen: Twenty Women Who Ruled* by Shweta Jha celebrates and brings to life the stories behind 20 key female figures through the stunning illustrations of Jennifer Orkin Lewis. (£13.99, Chronicle Books) abramsandchronicle.co.uk

Scene building

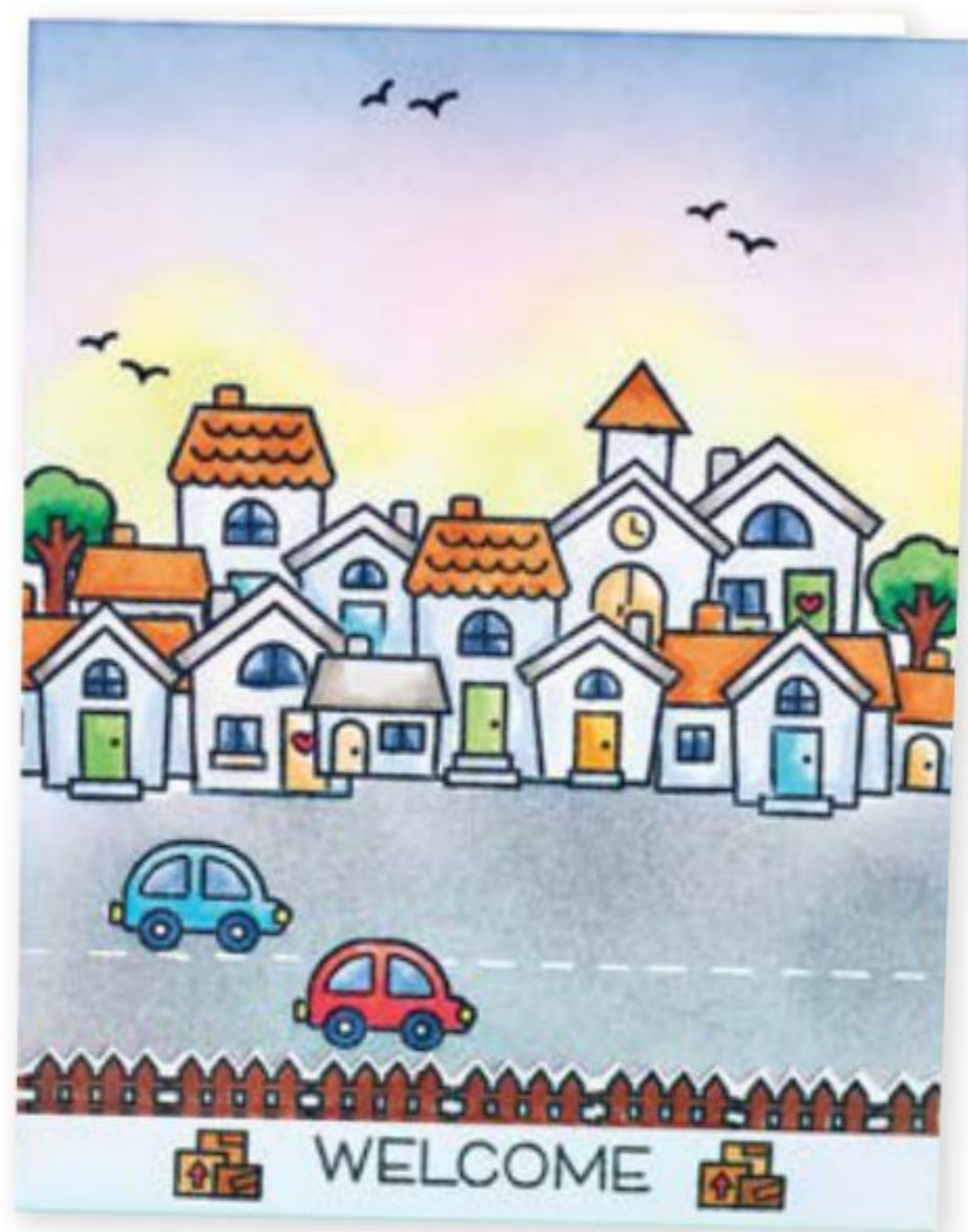
Mask, stamp, colour, blend... tell a story with Claire Richards' neighbourhood greetings

FOR MORE
Stamping
TURN TO
P13



You will need

- › Craft essentials (see p94)
- › Stamps, Lawn Fawn Happy Village
- › Dies: Lawn Fawn Happy Village, My Favorite Things Stitched Rectangle Scallop Frames
- › Stencil, My Favorite Things Drifts & Hills
- › Patterned paper, My Favorite Things Dots & Stripes Confection
- › Inks: Tim Holtz Distress Oxide Mowed Lawn, Tumbled Glass, Squeezed Lemonade, Spun Sugar, Shaded Lilac, Chipped Sapphire, Pumice Stone
- › Ink blending tool, Ranger
- › Glossy Accents, Ranger
- › Pens: alcohol markers, white gel
- › Sticky notes



MULTIPLE MASKING

1 Create an 11cm x 14cm white blank. Stamp various houses and two cars onto sticky note paper, then cut around the lines to create a set of masks. Trim white card, 11cm x 14cm, and stamp a triple house

centrally in black ink, then cover with the matching mask. Stamp different houses each side in black ink, then cover with the masks.

2 Repeat as required, building up layers of houses off to the edges of the card and above. Leave on the uppermost set of masks, then apply yellow, pink, purple and blue distress inks to create a sunset sky above. Stamp cars onto the lower section of the card, then mask. Move the masks to the bottom row of houses, then apply grey distress inks below. Use a white pen and ruler to create road markings.

3 Colour in all of the images with marker pens, then adhere the panel to the blank. Stamp a row of fences onto white card, then cut along the top edge. Secure to the bottom of the greeting. Trim white card, 1.5cm x 11cm, then stamp

TOP TIP

Don't have sticky notes? Use any paper as a mask – just apply washi or masking tape to hold it in place

'Welcome' and moving boxes onto it. Fix to the bottom of the card, covering the bottom of the row of fences. Stamp birds in black ink to finish.

EASY STENCILLING

1 Cover an 11.5cm x 15cm white blank with pink spotty paper. Trim white card, 10cm x 14cm. Use a stencil to create a hilly background on the bottom half of the card, using green distress ink. Rotate the stencil after each line to give a varied hillside effect. Apply blue distress ink to the

top half of the card, then add some yellow in the top-right corner. Adhere to the greeting.

2 Die cut the largest scalloped rectangle frame from white card, then fix to the card. Stamp five houses onto different striped papers, then colour the hearts in red. Press trees onto green spotty paper and small clouds onto white. Stamp a sun and cloud onto yellow and white, cut around the cloud and stick in place on the yellow. Cut the motifs using the coordinating dies and adhere, using 3D foam pads for the houses. Stamp 'Thank you' and birds in black ink.

FREEHAND TOPPER

1 Cut white card, 10cm x 13cm, and apply green distress ink centrally. Adhere to an 11cm x 14cm grey blank. Mark out a winding road in pencil onto grey card, cut out, then add road markings with a white pen. Fix to the greeting, going from the top-left to the bottom-right corner. Die cut the largest scalloped rectangle frame from blue card, then stick to the card.

2 Stamp houses, trees and a car onto white card. Colour in with marker pens, then cut out using the coordinating dies. Adhere the elements to the greeting, using 3D foam pads for the houses and car. Stamp 'Congrats on your new home' in green ink in the top-right corner. Add hearts in red ink and apply Glossy Accents to finish.



Shop Stop



Ranger Mini Ink Blending Tool, £5.49 for two handles and four foam refills, joannasheen.com

TECHNIQUE

Masking & stamping



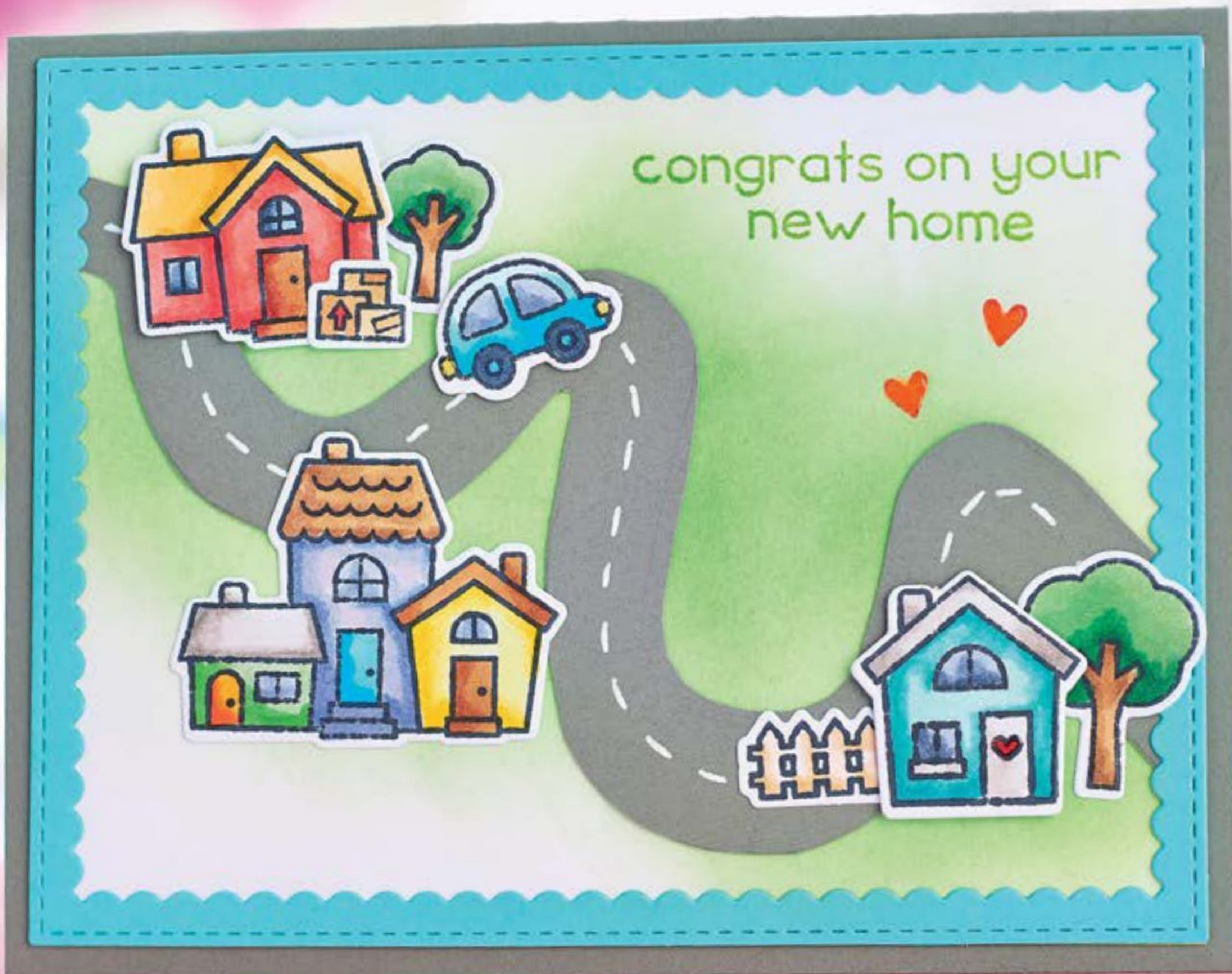
CLAIRE'S TOP TIPS

Set the scene

The Lawn Fawn Happy Village stamps were definitely designed with scene building in mind. The cute houses are easy to stamp and colour, but there are so many ways you can use them. Start with one house for a simple greeting, or cut out a few and layer them up using my easy-to-follow masking technique opposite. Distress inks are a great way to provide a blended background – I've created both a bright summer sky and a soft sunset. Why not try a nighttime scene as well?

Become a pro

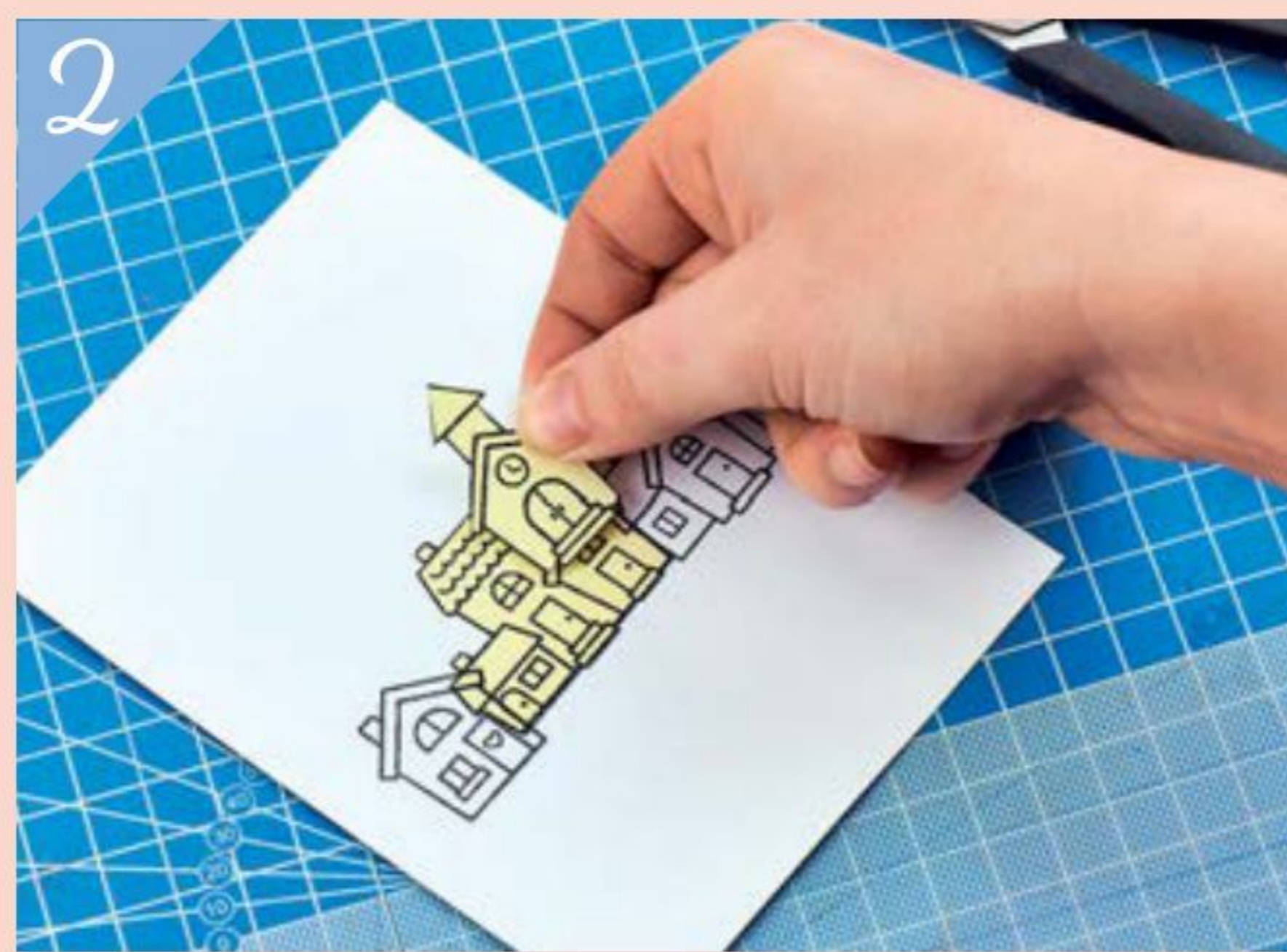
Definitely consider purchasing the coordinating dies when you're working with smaller scene-building stamps like these. It not only saves you time but it also gives your cards a neat and professional finish. Another top tip – to draw the road for my landscape design, I recommend starting on scrap paper first to get the curve how you want it, then use it as a template. So whip up a batch of these greetings and gift them to loved ones when they have a new home to call their own.



STEP-BY-STEP Masking made easy



1 Stamp houses onto sticky note paper and cut out



2 Stamp the first house onto white card, mask off and stamp houses on each side



3 Mask off the row of houses and stamp the next row above, moving the masks and repeating as required



4 Leave on the uppermost masks and apply distress inks to the top half of the card

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2



3



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6



4



7



9

10

- 1 Paint Tubes stamps, £3.99, indigoblu.com
- 2 Cotman Watercolours Sketchers' pocket box, £21, winsornewton.com/uk
- 3 Brusho Inks in Cobalt Blue, Prussian Blue and Purple, £1.70 each, laviniastamps.com
- 4 Watercolour brushes, £2.50, hobbycraft.co.uk
- 5 Luscious Pigment Powders in Blue, Pink and Ultraviolet, £4.99 each, indigoblu.com
- 6 Watercolour washi tape stickers, £3.95, thefoxandstar.co.uk
- 7 Studio Collection Colour pencils, £29.99, winsornewton.com/uk
- 8 Watercolour Splash stamp, from 4.95, littlestampstore.com
- 9 Capsule Elements Pigment Ultimate die-cut and paper pack, see docrafts.com for stockists
- 10 Ultimate Capsule Elements Pigment tags, see docrafts.com for stockists

Watercolour décor

Spruce up a celebratory spread with vibrancy and painterly touches

You will need

- › Craft essentials (see p94)
- › Liquid watercolour: red, pink, black
- › Drawing ink, black
- › Pen holder and nib

MIXED MEDIA PLACE CARDS

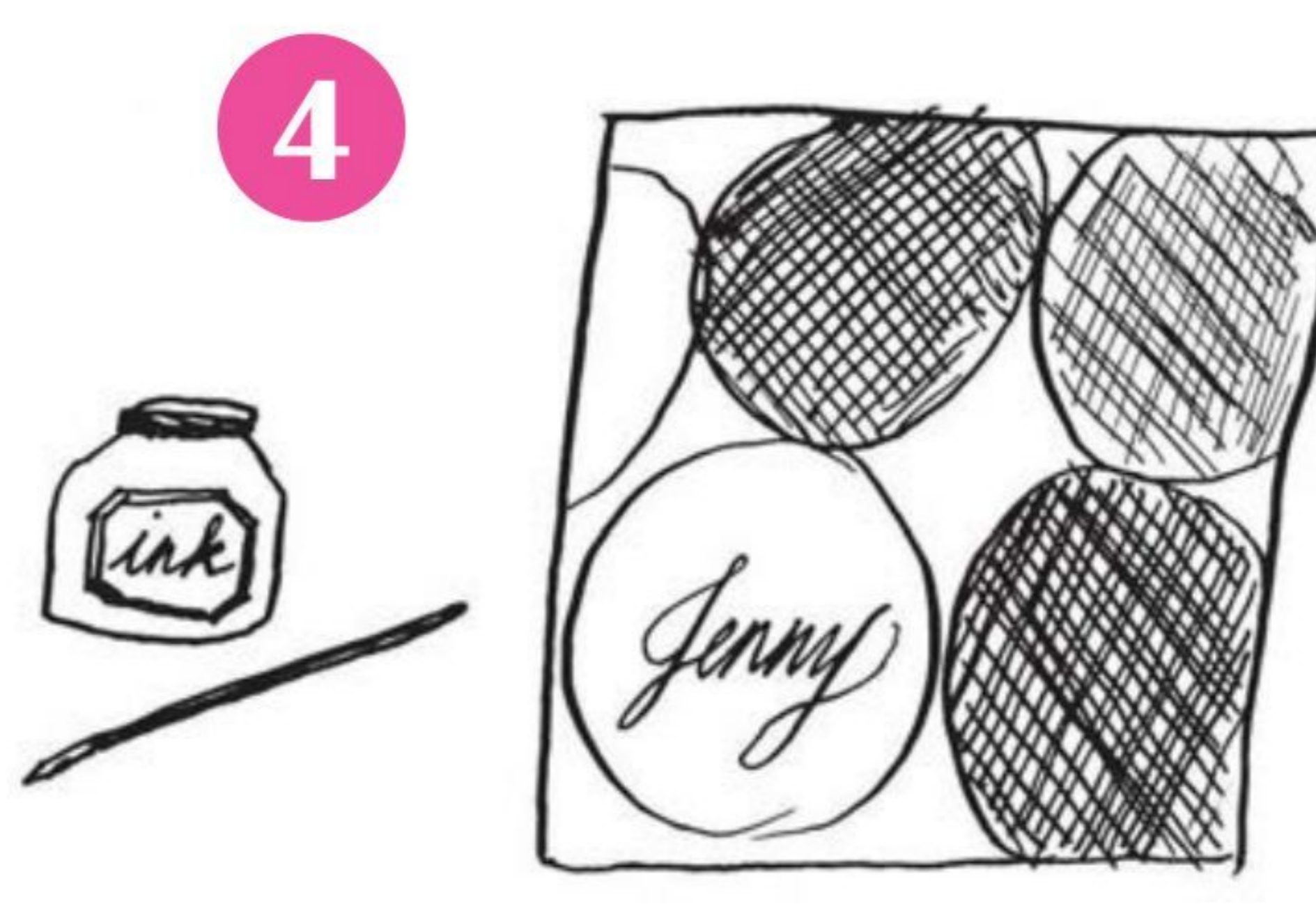
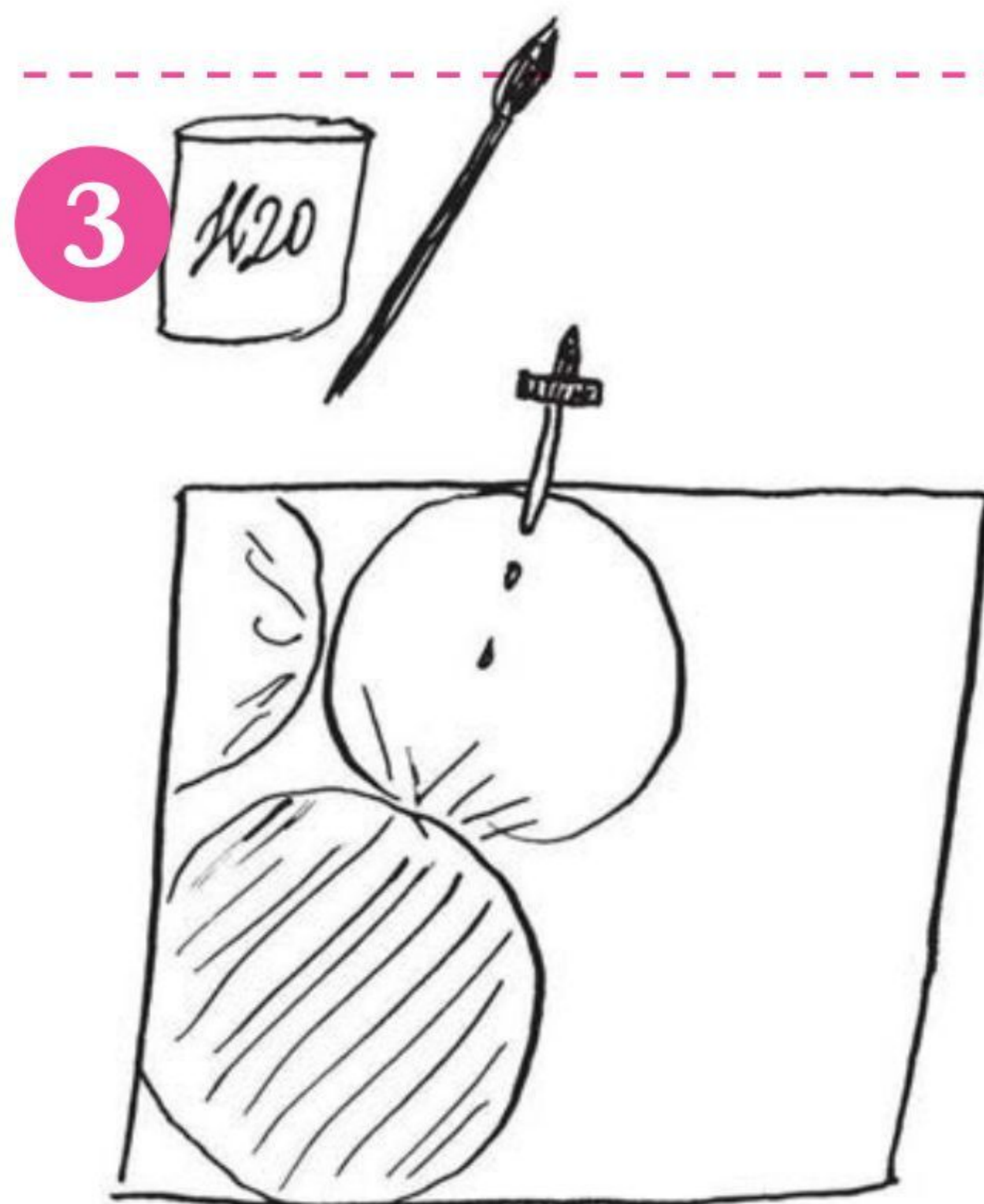
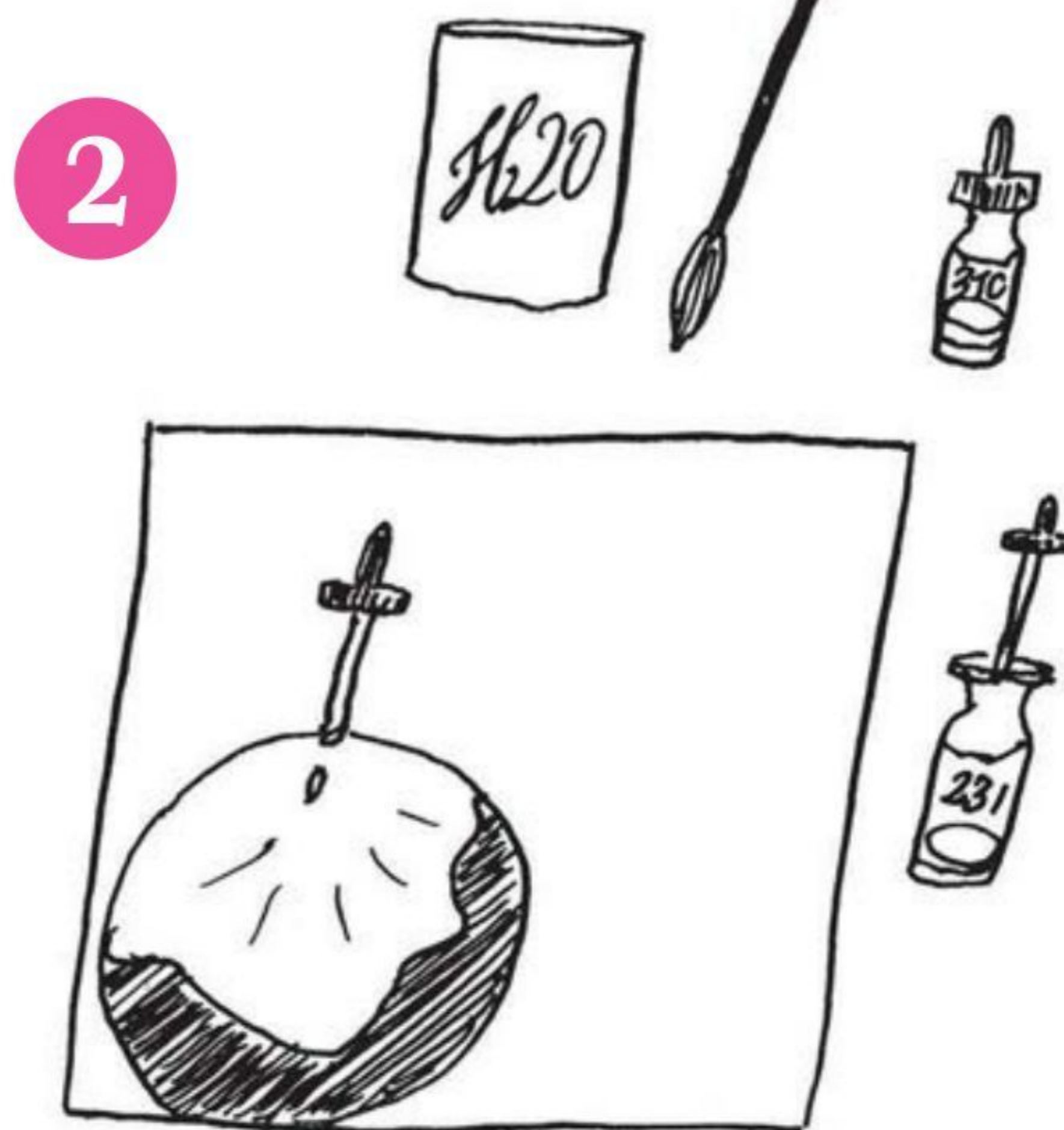
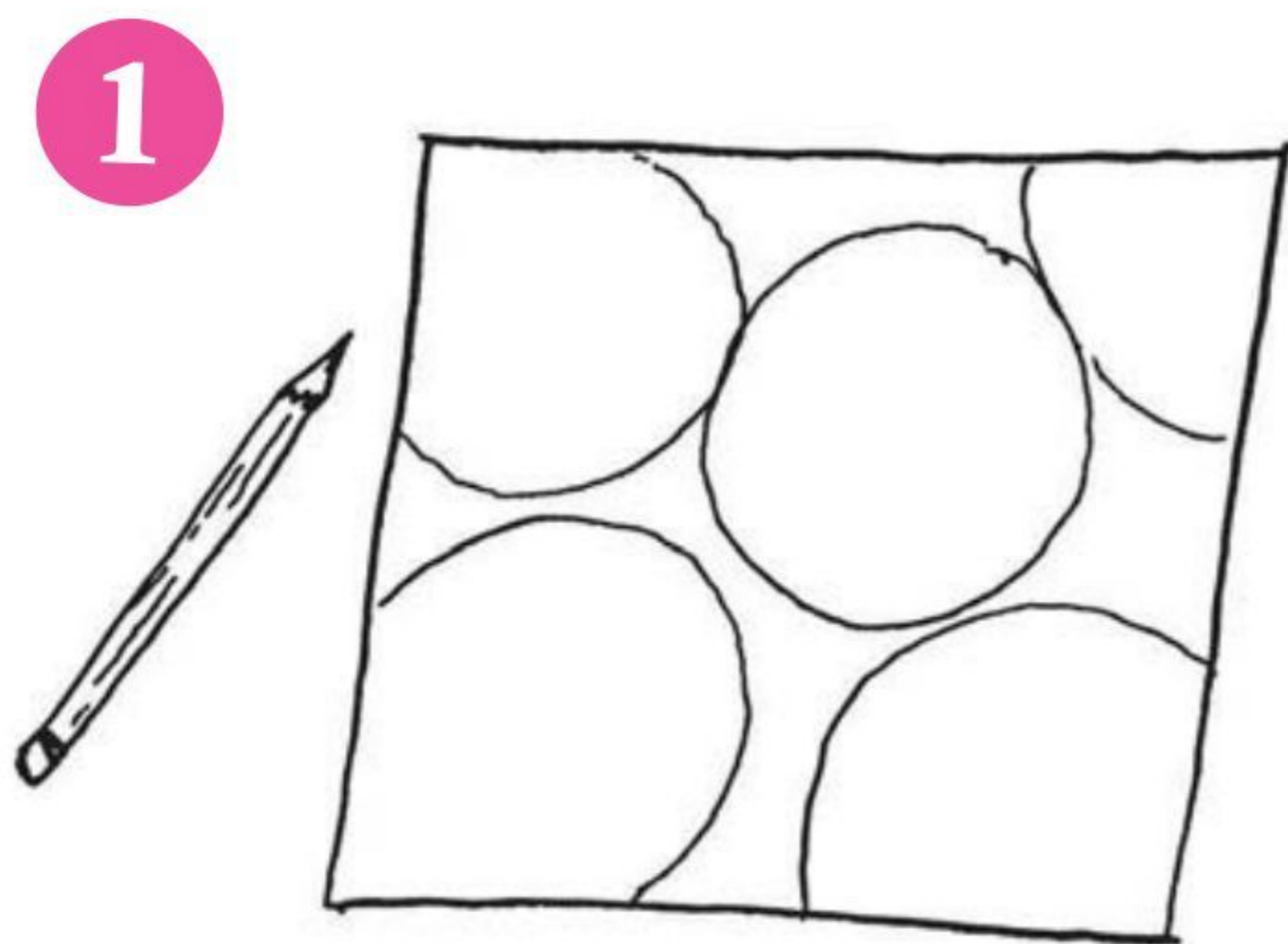
1 Sketch five circles onto watercolour card in pencil. Dip a round brush into clean water and brush over your first circular shape. Choose your colours; we've used various shades of pink, red and black.

2 Drop the first colour onto one of the shapes using a dropper. You will notice that the pigment immediately spreads out. Add one drop of colour at a time until the circle is filled with colour.

3 Using the same technique, paint your next circle so that it just barely touches the last

shape. By placing the circles close enough, when you drop the second colour the two hues will blend together.

4 Continue this process until you have filled the paper with the shapes. After each place card has dried completely, use a pointed nib and black drawing ink to write out the guest's name.



Colour clever

Become a painterly pro with these smart buys – visit royaltalens.com for stockists



Ecoline Liquid Watercolour in Magenta



Ecoline Liquid Watercolour in Red Violet

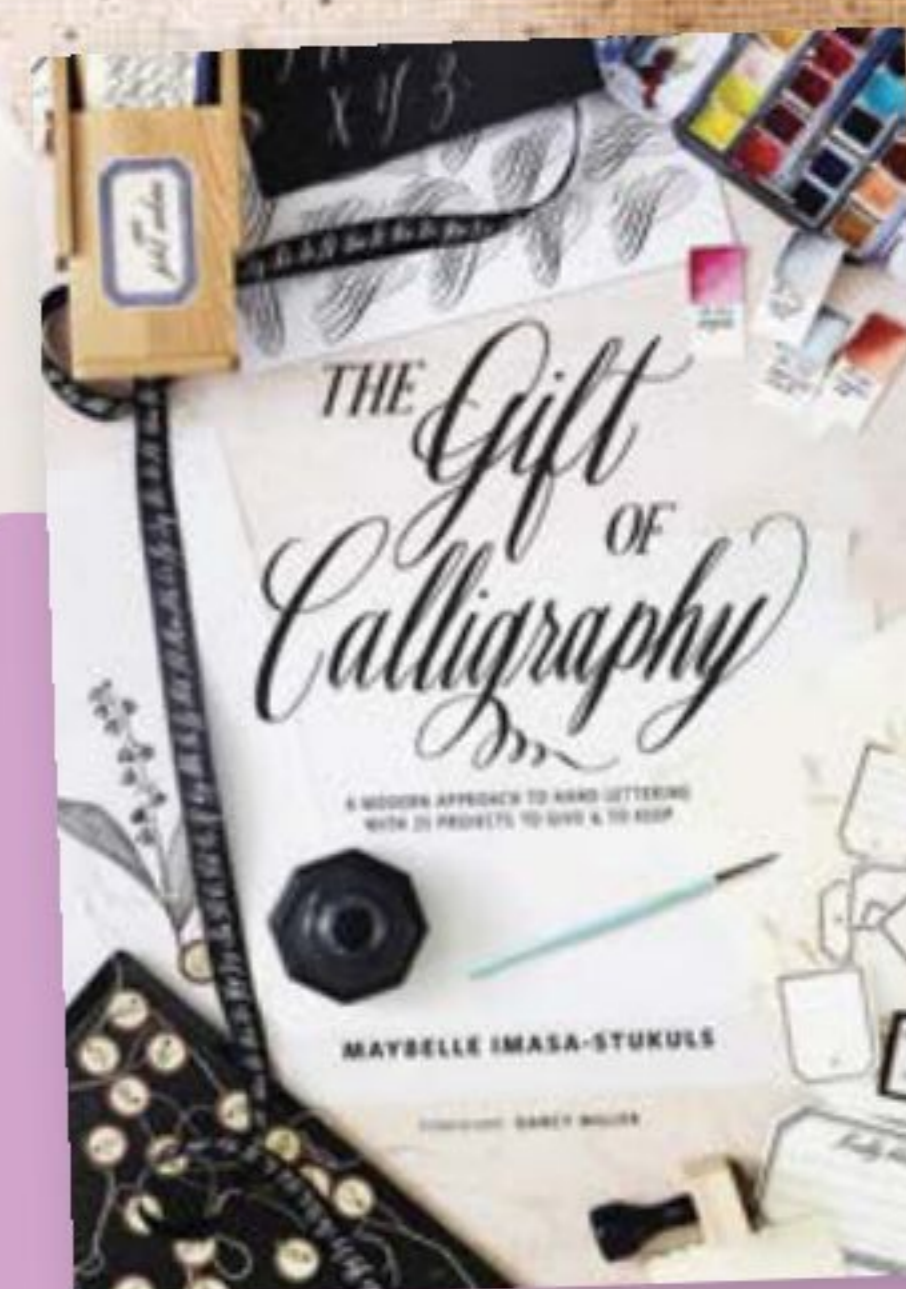


Ecoline Liquid Watercolour in Vermilion



TOP TIP

Don't worry if your circles aren't perfectly round – each shape should have an organic feel to it



This project has been taken from *The Gift of Calligraphy* by Maybelle Imasa-Stukuls (£21.99, Watson – Guptill). thegmcgroup.com

Order Form

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Add delicate woodland-inspired designs to your papercrafts with the Paper Addicts Lost Forest paper pad! These decorative papers are adorned with magical illustrations, including stags, bears, and woodland leaves. This is teamed with the Dial Trimmer, which is perfect for your cardmaking. The dial features six blade options: wave, deckle, perforate, scallop, score and cut.



“Creative cutting and illustrative papers... what’s not to love about this issue’s subscription gift?”

ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR

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Brands we love

New for you...
Why not treat yourself to something new this month from a selection of our most loved brands?



Fun Everyday or Birthday Card

Well designed dies make wonderful cards easy! All Joanna Sheen's Signature Dies are made in the USA and great quality. Fun Everyday or Birthday card - Hot Chocolate (SD677) at £8.99 and Doughnuts (SD675) at £8.99 - using dies from JoannaSheen.com



Deco Foil Flock Transfer Sheets

Deco Foil has a whole new feel! Add velvety texture and vibrant color to any project without the mess of traditional flock powders.

thermowebonline.com

Deco Foil Metallix Gel
Add beautiful, metallic shine and incredible dimension to any project without heat or special adhesives. Metallix Gel is available in six shining shades. thermowebonline.com



Chameleon's NEW Introductory Kit

This exciting new pack contains 3 Chameleon Pens and 2 Chameleon Color tops allowing you to easily achieve over 20 brilliant color gradations, tones and blends! Not only that, but every pack sold receives a free download and starter tutorials from

renowned Youtube artist Vexx. For more information head to

chameleonartproducts.com/introkit



Pilot Lettering Pen

The perfect pen for all calligraphy and hand lettering projects. With fast-drying pigment ink your projects will be complete in no time!

pilotpen.co.uk



Stick 'n Color

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jejeprodukt.com

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Each kit contains enough base ingredients to make approximately 6 large bath bombs, customise with your own choice of mould.



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thesoapkitchen.co.uk

Tattered Lace Fine Filament Collection

Home to the most detailed and delicate dies around, Tattered Lace ensures that every project you produce looks professional and beautiful, thanks to its stunning range of designs.

crafting.co.uk





Arabian nights

PAPER COLLECTION

Your wish is our command with this gorgeous and all-new set of prints



With the upcoming live action adaptation of Aladdin – it hits cinemas on 24th May – we’ve been daydreaming about beautiful domed buildings, palm trees, patterned rugs, and sand as far as the eye can see. Our paper designer Mia Dunton has encaptured the exoticism of Arabia with her warm, painterly illustrations – and we bet you can’t wait to craft with them. Turn the page and be transported...





Our very own crafty pro Corinne Bradd has worked her magic with these papers to create five stunning greetings that you can try for yourself. Create interesting shaped designs by slicing into your cards or extending toppers beyond the blank. These papers all work beautifully together, so have fun layering the various patterns and motifs!

Once you've crafted with this issue's free papers, make sure you share a picture with us on Facebook or Instagram!

You will need

- › Craft essentials (see p94)
- › FREE PaperCrafter patterned papers (see p49)

DIAGONAL FRONT

- 1 Make a 10.5cm x 13.5cm cream blank and cut a large portion of the top-right corner off at an angle. Cover the inside of the card with our teal patterned paper, then adhere the purple star paper to the outer slanted section.
- 2 Trim two 5mm wide strips of stripy paper and fix these in line with the angled cut on the front of the card. Fix the 'Have a magical day' sentiment to the inside of the card and add a card-mounted camel motif to the front.

FOR MORE
Shaped cards
TURN TO
P73

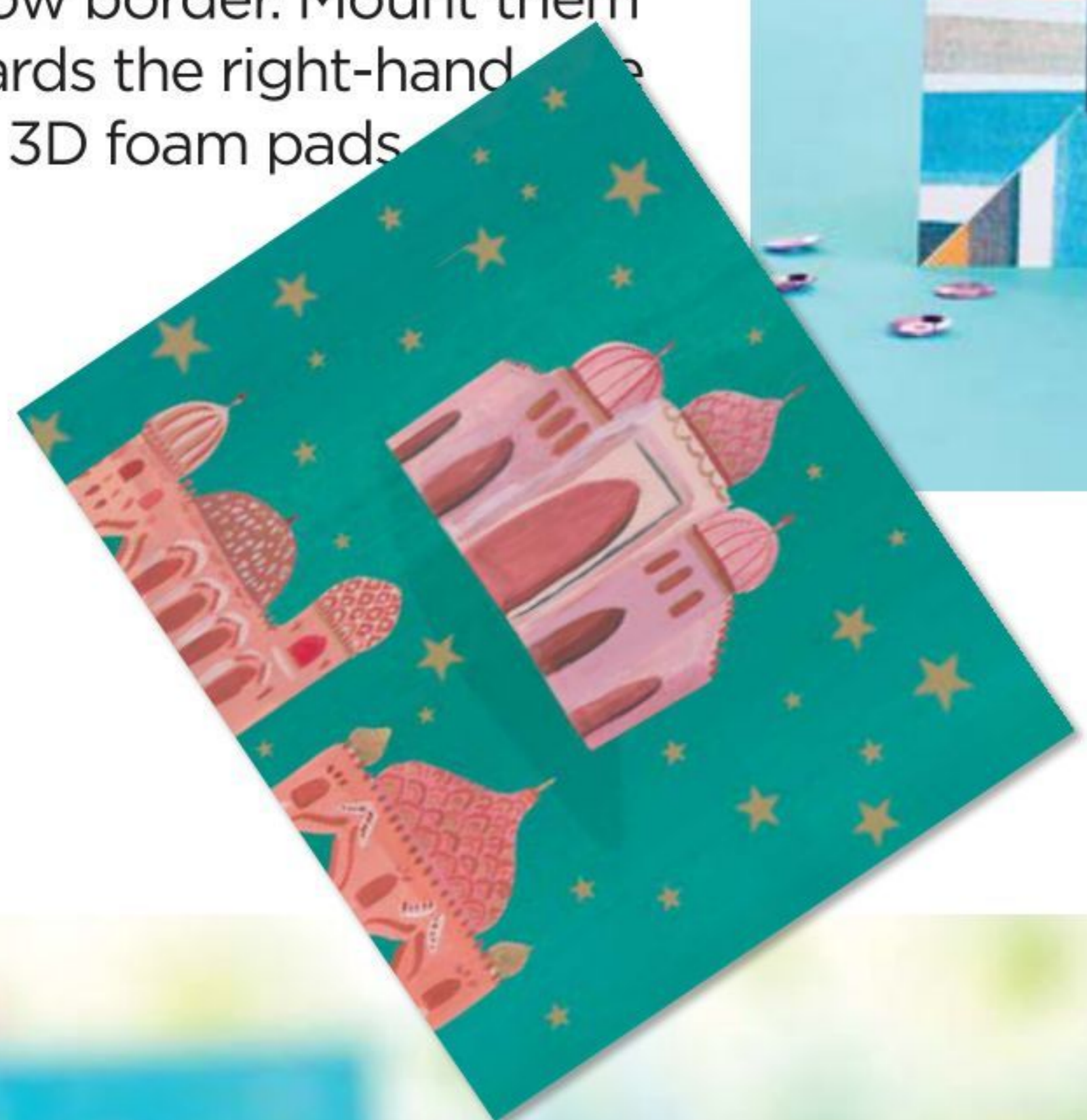




STRIPY BORDER

1 Create a 12cm x 20cm cream blank. Cut several 2cm wide strips of striped paper and use these to create a border all around the card. Fix a 9cm x 16.5cm panel of desert night patterned paper to the centre.

2 Mount a lamp, palm tree and star motif onto thin card and cut out, leaving a narrow border. Mount them towards the right-hand side with 3D foam pads.



Corinne Bradd says...

“If you’re printing out your free papers instead, you won’t need to back the motifs with card – just print them onto card to begin with!”

LAYERED HOUSES

1 Cover a 10.5cm x 15cm pink blank with our building paper. Select a few individual buildings, adhere onto thin card and cut out, leaving a narrow border of purple all around.

2 Mount the large genie’s lamp onto thin card and cut out, using a craft knife to cut away the background from inside the handle. Fix towards the top-left of the greeting, then fix the buildings to the bottom-right with 3D foam pads.

TOP TIP

Take your time cutting out the motifs to ensure neat, curved edges





MINI GREETING

- 1 Make a 10.5cm x 15cm pale green blank. Matt with our starry buildings paper, leaving a very narrow border all around and ensuring there is an entire motif towards the right-hand side.
- 2 Mount additional buildings and a sentiment onto thin card and cut out. Arrange them across the front of the card using 3D foam pads, allowing them to extend the sides slightly. Fix the 'Thank you' sentiment towards the left to finish.

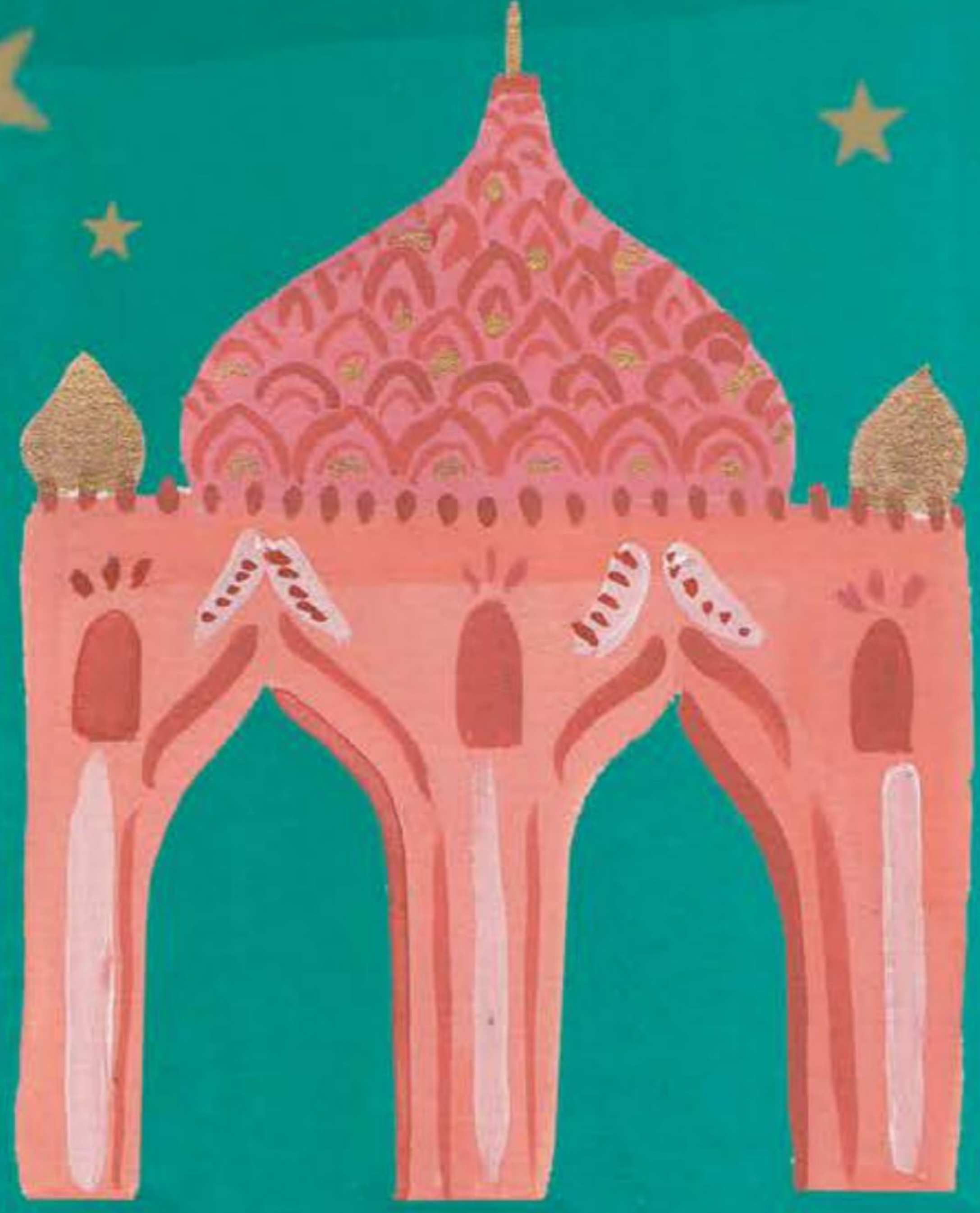
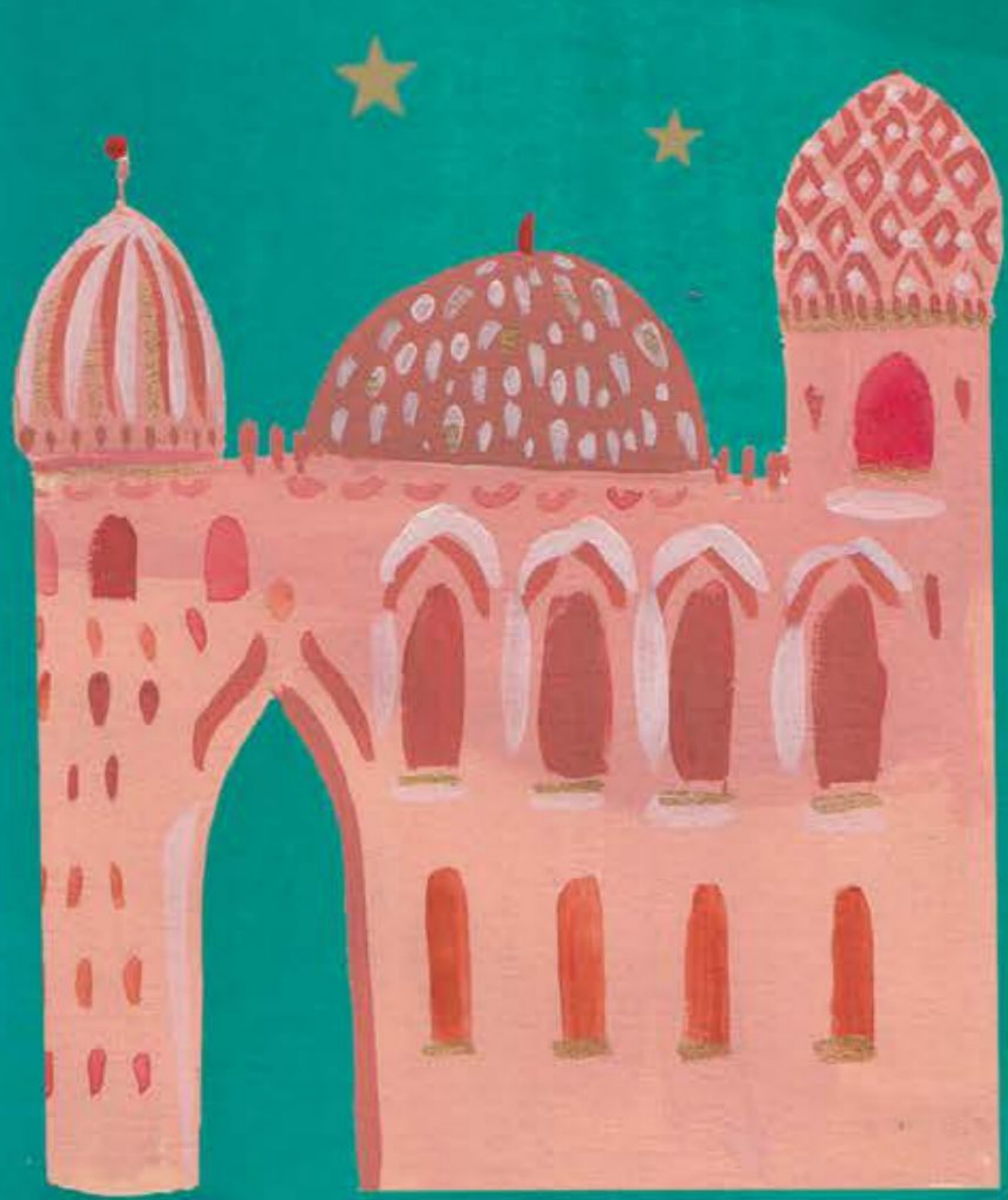
Matt a 10.5cm square cream blank with our pink patterned paper. Mount the 'Happy birthday' sentiment and a few gold stars onto thin card and cut out. Place the sentiment on the front with 3D foam pads, allowing the main background images to be seen. Add the stars with 3D foam pads to finish.

Shop Stop
 Tonic Studios Tim Holtz titanium scissors, £12.99, craftydevilspapercraft.co.uk



LOVE THESE EXCLUSIVE PAPERS BY MIA DUNTON? PRINT THEM AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE FROM PAPERCRAFTERMAGAZINE.CO.UK/DOWNLOADS

















Thank you



Good luck



“Crafting helps me control my panic attacks”

Beccy Holiday from Kent suffers from Panic Disorder and Generalised Anxiety Disorder – but crafting has truly become her happy place



I had my first panic attack in 2010 when I was 30, as I was getting on a plane for our first family holiday abroad.

I ended up being offloaded, along with the family, and taken to hospital. I thought at the time this was a one-off, having flown lots of times before, and didn't think much else of it except for being disappointed that our holiday was cancelled. A few weeks later I had another panic attack at a concert. A few weeks after that, at a shopping centre... all getting closer and closer to home.

From then on I started to fear the panic and that's when my problems really started; my world got so small that I struggled to leave the house. I would constantly be anxious

about my anxiety and the 'what ifs' and so my Generalised Anxiety Disorder started; the fear of fear. It's a vicious cycle.

For me, my anxiety manifests itself in heart palpitations (which can feel like you're having a heart attack), hot sweats and a funny tummy, but also a feeling that I'm 'going mad' – although I don't know what that is exactly. My mind whirs at a thousand miles an hour and my thoughts consume me. Will I be able to get to my daughters' weddings? They're nine and 11. What happens if...? Am I holding my family back? Are the kids missing out because we can't go away anywhere?

As the months went on, it got worse and worse.

While I was spending all this time at home, I'd browse Facebook and see these lovely crafty pages and think... I can make that. And so crafting began! I bought a Cricut Explore initially and now I also have the Cricut Maker, a Gemini and Big Shot all in constant use. I make cards, papercuts and scrapbook layouts, and have recently started using a MAMBI Happy Planner, which is just an excuse for adults to play with stickers. It's awesome.

In the last 18 months I've become more aware of mindfulness. To use a sea analogy – crafting helps to keep



the waves of anxiety moving rather than me getting stuck in the wave and tossed about. Recently I was suffering from a terrible panic attack, so I put a YouTube video on and learnt to crochet a mandala! Concentrating on how to do the stitches helped me stop focusing on the negative thoughts and feelings in my body. I'm

now on my third mandala – each one represents me overcoming the panic and being a little bit more in control again.

I'd absolutely recommend anyone and everyone to take up a craft. A few weeks ago I was suffering and hadn't created anything for a while so I put a post on my Instagram saying that my mental health wasn't great.

My crafting friends – none of whom I know in real life – were so incredibly supportive. On my own private feed of my 'real life' friends, not a single person acknowledged my struggle.

I have a long way to go until I'm back to the old me, and perhaps I never will be, but I hope that this won't continue to control me forever. I can only be hopeful that this is just a blip – albeit a ten-year blip – and my life will return to normal.

Thank you for sharing your story, Beccy. If you need help or advice, visit [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)



ONE OF BECCY'S MEANINGFUL MANDALAS



SCRAPBOOKING HELPS BECCY MANAGE HER CONDITIONS

Washi tape flowers

This issue, Colette Smith offers a fresh take on tape

A low-stress technique that gives you stunningly complex pattern possibilities? Like the nephew at family gatherings that refuses to believe you're a day over 30, washi tape is a veritable darling. Some of you might be familiar with the technique, but Colette Smith suggests paying attention to this bubbling trend, where the tape is used to fill and the excess trimmed away to leave a gloriously precise patterned or coloured section. Anything that encourages creativity and experimentation should be celebrated, and this is no exception.



1 Download the template from our website and print the flower panel onto light cardstock



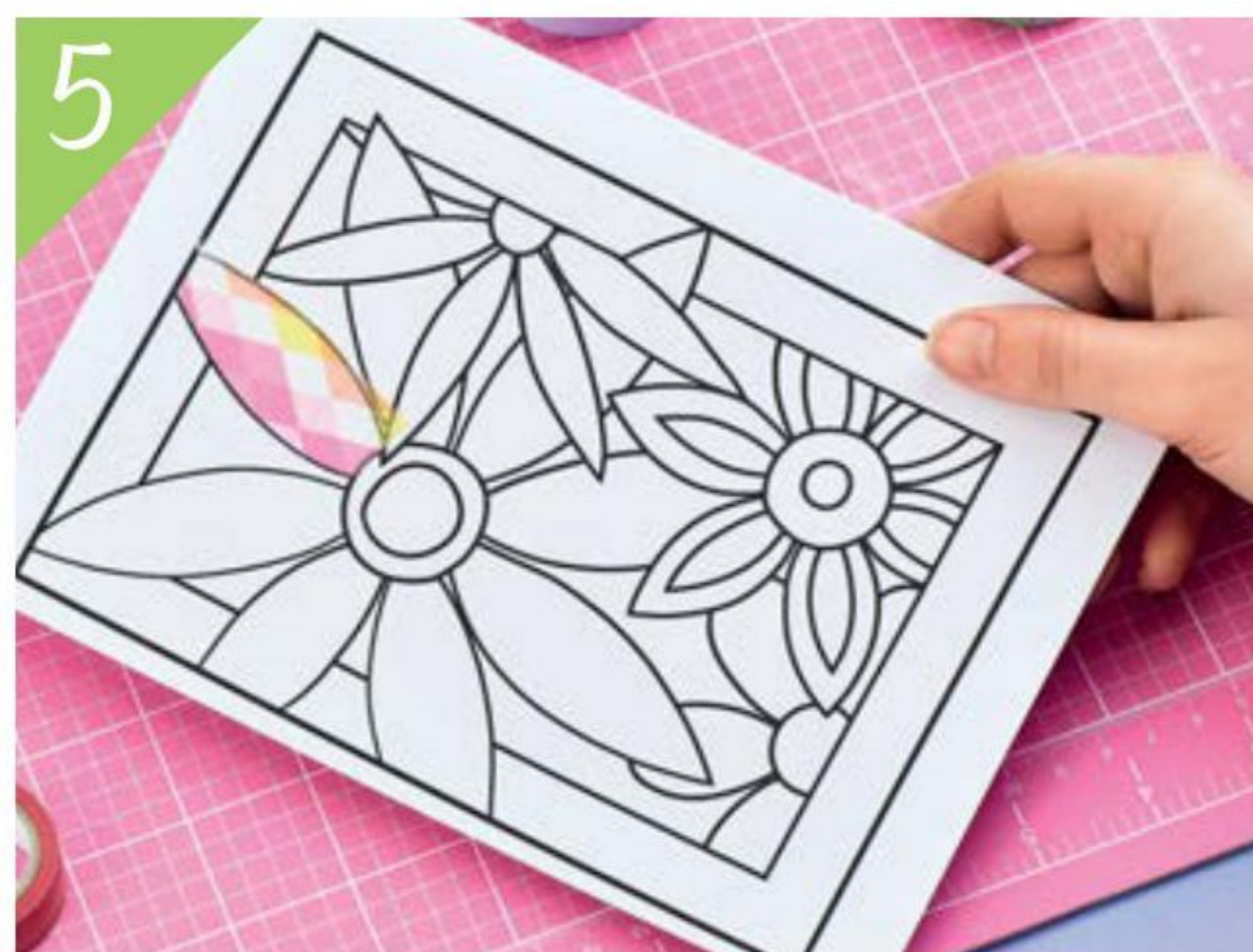
2 Place a short strip of washi tape over the bottom of one of the large flower petals



3 Fill in the remainder of the petal, lining up any patterns



4 Carefully cut around the petal on the inside of the outline. Be careful to use only enough pressure to cut through the tape, but not the card



5 Gently peel away the excess tape from around the edge, leaving it crisp and clean



6 Continue filling in the rest of the petals using the same method



7 Move on to the centre of the flower using contrasting colours or patterns



8 Complete the rest of the flowers, then fill in the background, following the outside of the outlines



9 Trim the image, matt onto a 15cm x 21cm side-folding blank, cut away the excess and add a sentiment bottom-left. Finish with gems

You will need

- › Craft essentials (see p94)
- › Templates from **papercraftermagazine.co.uk**
- › Washi tape

TOP TIP

If you go wrong with the tape, just peel it off and add a new piece!



Best of Craft AWARDS 2019

ALL OF THIS UP FOR GRABS

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

The choice is up to you – celebrate your favourites for your chance to win!

READERS' CHOICE

It's been another exciting year in the world of crafts, and it's about to get even better as the longest running craft awards are back and bigger than ever. We've had a little makeover and are thrilled to reveal the Best of Craft Awards 2019 – a true celebration of all things creative.

The time has come to nominate the crème de la crème of the industry and we've made it as easy as possible to have your say. Simply complete the form opposite or online at craftawards.com, then you'll be entered into our incredible prize draw and receive a bumper craft pack to download!

If someone has really stood out from the crowd for you this year, now's the time for them to be recognised – every vote counts!

MEET OUR JUDGES

Brand new for this year, we've introduced an incredible judging panel who will be joining us at the voting stage!



TABITHA WATERHOUSE

Arts and Crafts Buyer for The Range, Tabitha knows what makes a fab product



LIA GRIFFITH

International DIY designer and crafter, Lia inspires millions to reconnect with creativity



MILLIE MAROTTA

Kickstarting the colouring trend and an established author, Millie has an eye for detail



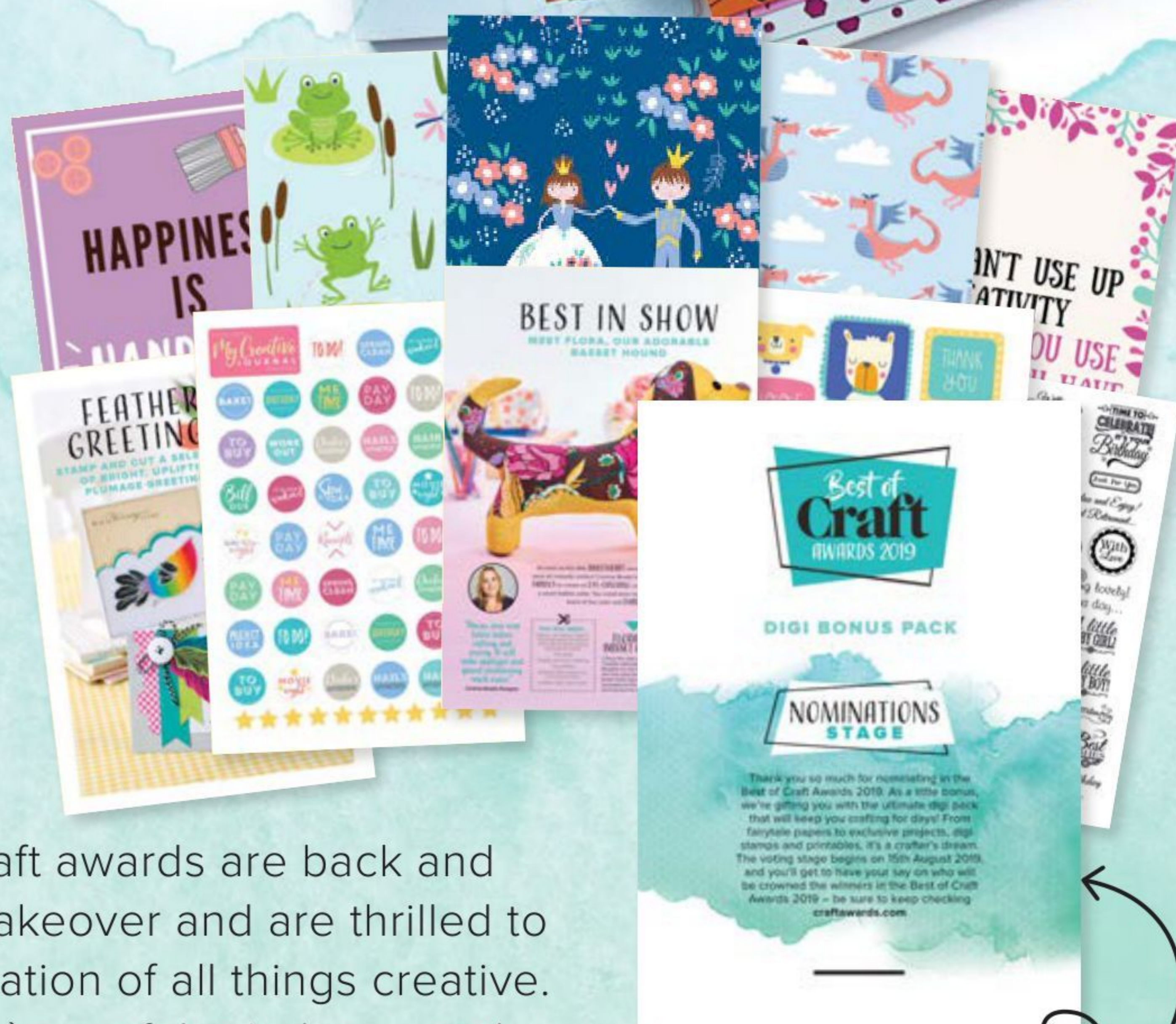
CLAIRE GELDER

Founder of Wool Couture, Claire has pioneered the trend for big knitting



"I couldn't be more ecstatic for the revamped Best of Craft Awards 2019 – there's no better time than now to nominate your favourites and give them the recognition they deserve"

ROSIE SAVAGE, EDITOR



JUST FOR YOU!

As a little thank you, you will automatically receive an exclusive digital bonus pack filled with brilliant papers, printables and projects!



Is there a brand or product that is a step above the rest? Perhaps there's a store that you can't resist visiting each week or even a star crafter that you think deserves some recognition. Now's the time to show your appreciation – pick up a pen, pour yourself a cuppa and get nominating!



WIN!

Appleyard Flowers is offering 20% off* to everyone who nominates, plus there are two three-month subscriptions to be won. **If that wasn't enough, one lucky crafter will also get their hands on the ultimate crafting bundle.**

You can also nominate online at craftawards.com

SHOPPING HEROES

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The TV shopping channel that you're forever tuning in to

MOST LOVED UK CRAFTS CHAIN STORE

Your favourite craft retailer on the high street

BEST BRAND FOR CRAFTS

The ultimate craft brand that ticks all your boxes

BEST RATED CUSTOMER SERVICE

The brand that never fails to offer high-quality customer care

BEST VENUE FOR WORKSHOPS

Your favourite creative space! Tell us the venue and location

BEST BRAND FOR BAKING

Who inspires you to get creative in the kitchen?

BEST SEWING MACHINE BRAND

Your pick of the best sewing machine money can buy

STELLAR PRODUCTS

FAVOURITE DIE-CUTTING RANGE

Your top choice for die cutting – tell us the brand and collection name

ULTIMATE GADGET/MACHINE

The crafty gizmo you simply can't live without

MOST LOVED STAMPING RANGE

Whose is simply the best? Share the brand and collection name

MOST LOVED PAPER-CRAFT RANGE

Tell us which brand you rely upon for papercrafting supplies

MADE TO INSPIRE

CRAFTING MAN OF THE YEAR

The man of the moment in crafts according to you!

CRAFTING WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Who is your leading lady in crafts?

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Tell us which designer inspires you time and time again

MOST INSPIRING BLOG

The website you always turn to for crafty inspiration

INDEPENDENT SHOPS

WHICH LOCAL RETAILER DO YOU RATE?

SCOTLAND

NORTH OF ENGLAND

WALES

IRELAND

MIDLANDS

SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND

SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

YOUR DETAILS

Title Initial

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Send your completed form to: Best of Craft Awards, 21-23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex. CO2 8JY

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The Fresco Finish Acrylic Paints from PaperArtsy are top quality, highly pigmented water-based, environmentally-friendly acrylic paints. Add a different dimension to your craft projects! Available from a variety of retailers.

paperartsy.co.uk

Lavinia Stamps New Rory and Darcy Set

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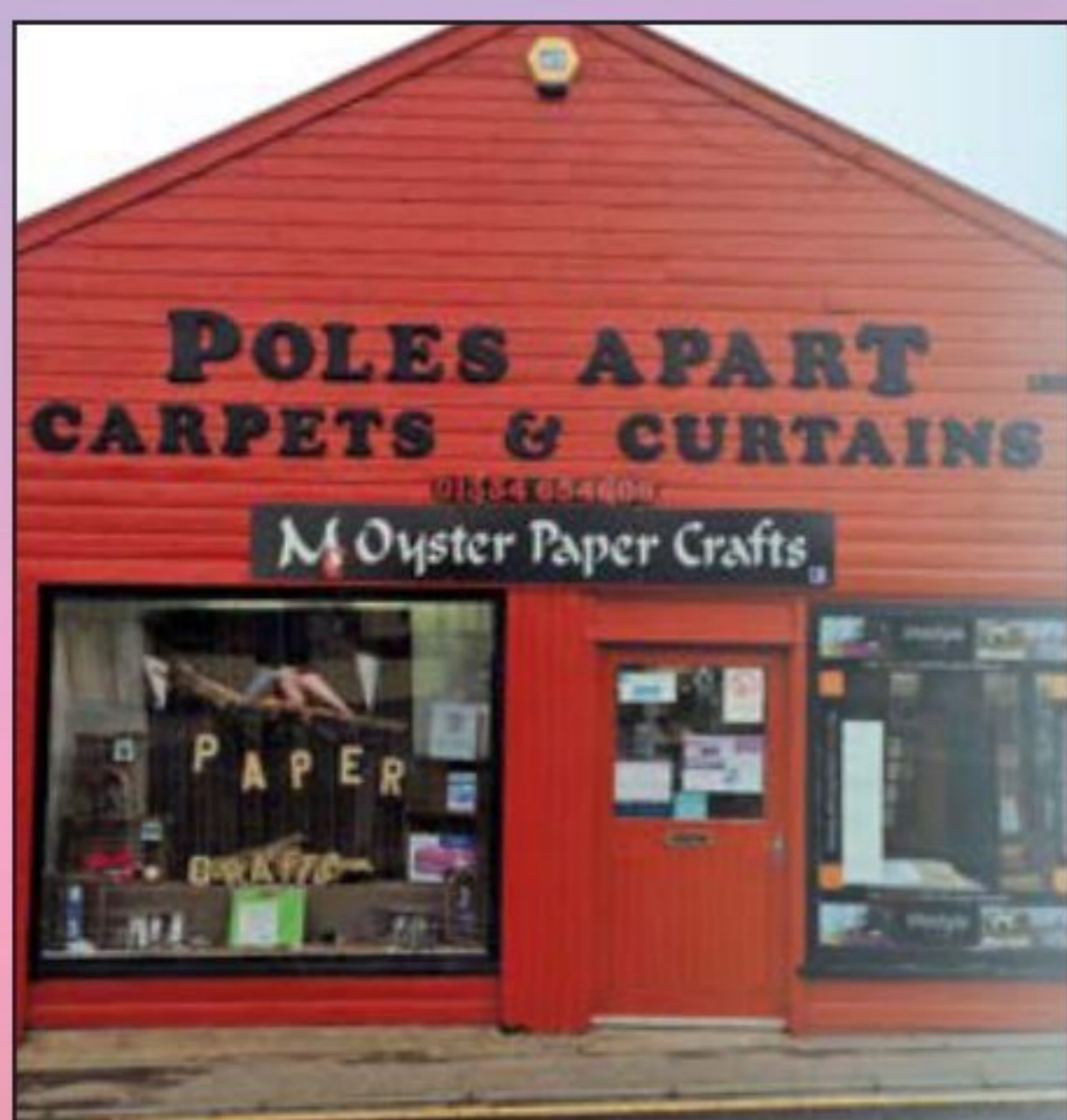
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Havali Heritage Hotel - plus get your hands dirty with the local artisans with some pottery and textile block printing.

thecrafttravelcompany.co.uk



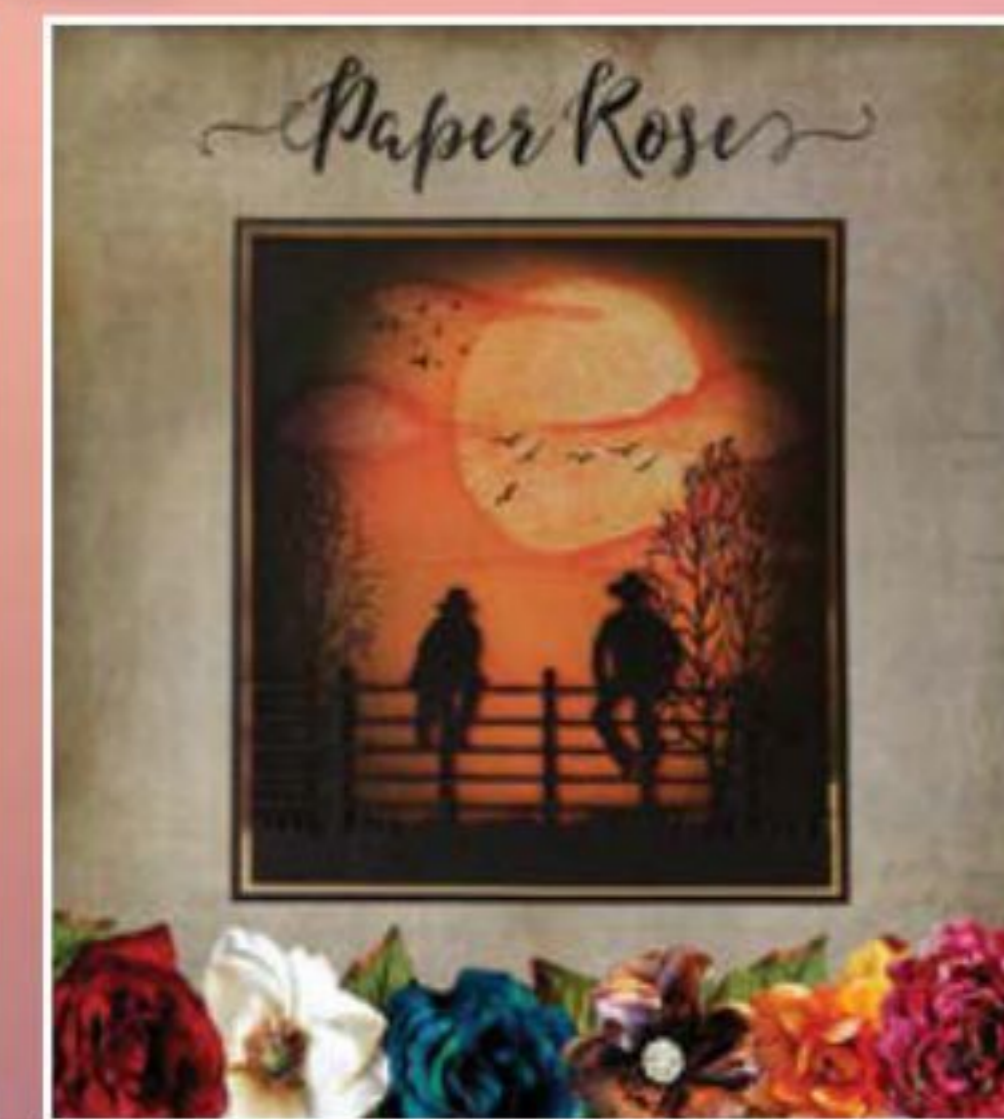
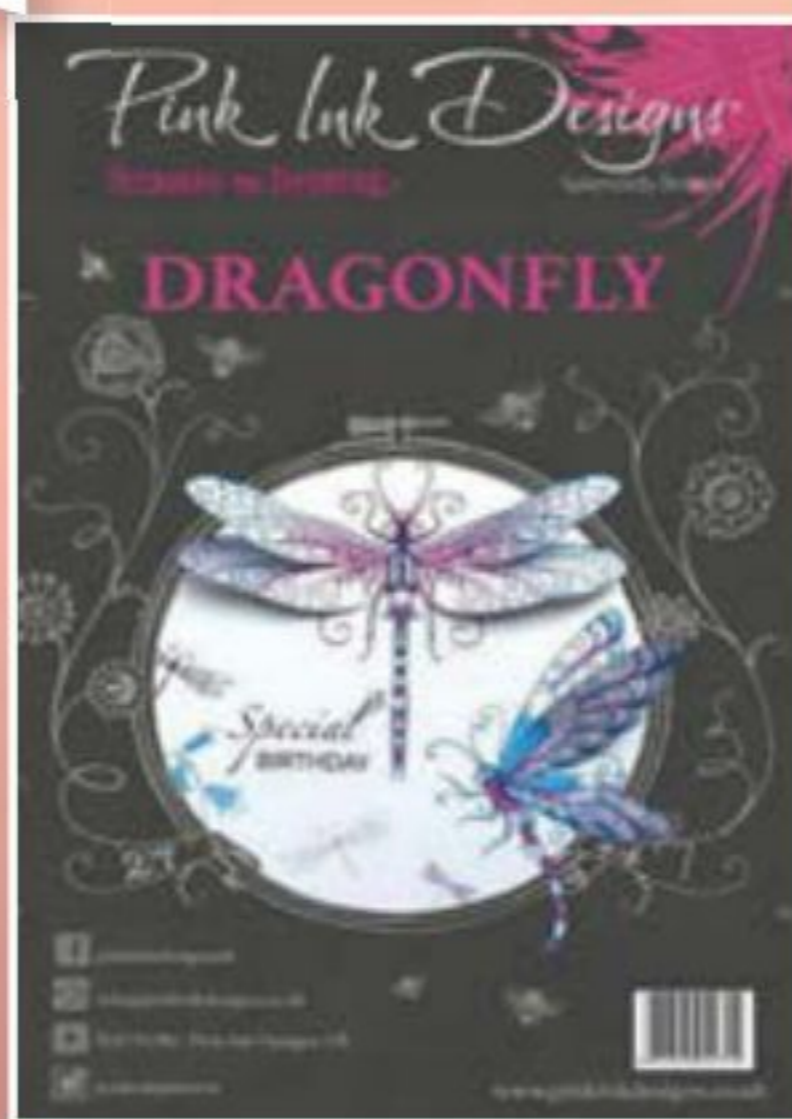
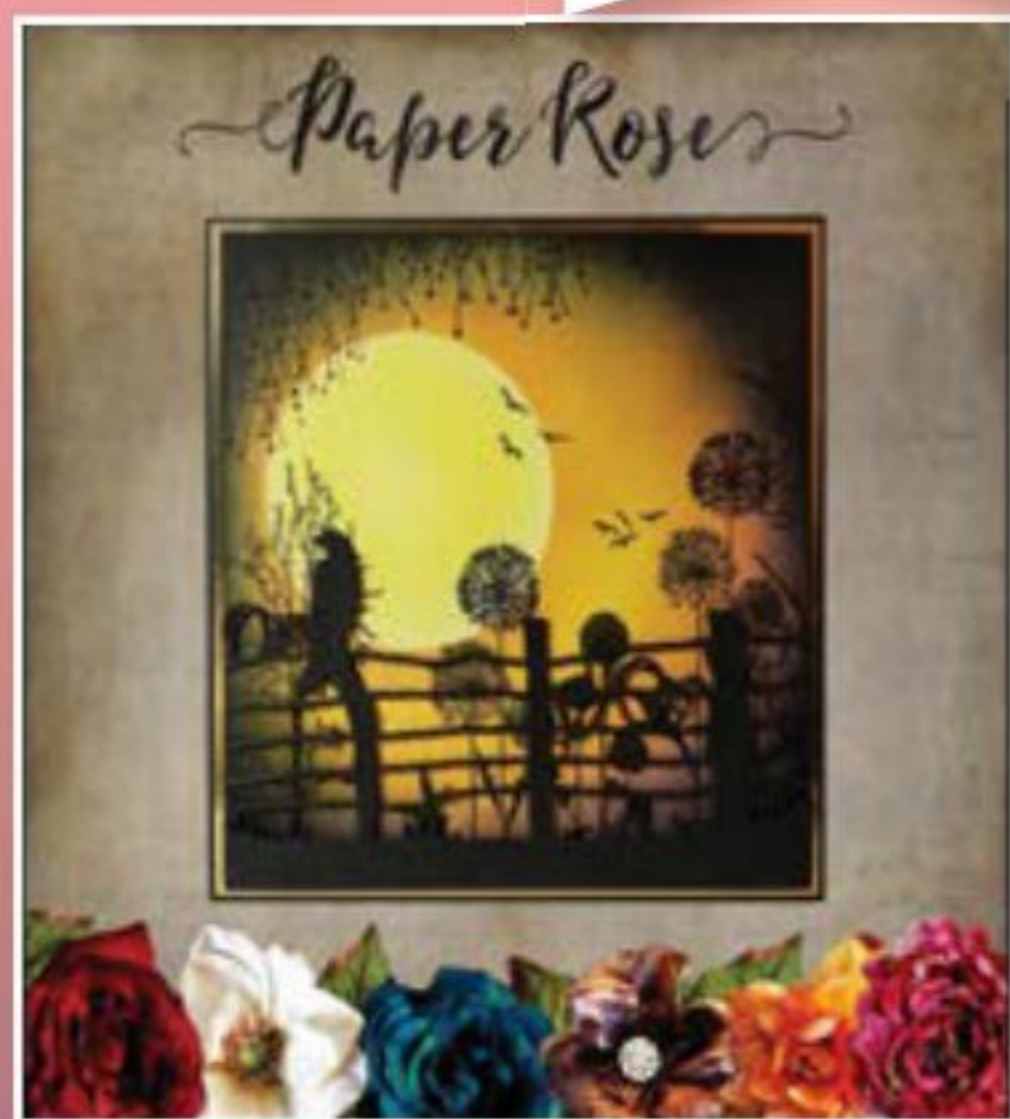
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TRIED & TESTED

Romantic Life COLLECTION

We hired resident crafter Corinne Bradd to sample this gorgeous paper range from DCWV



Get
playful
with prints!

Trend alert! DCWV's Romantic Life collection is a must-have for crafters seeking out the latest crazes. If you're a magpie for marble, rose gold and motivational quote cards... then you won't be able to take your eyes off this super chic selection of patterned papers. We're a rather positive bunch here at PaperCrafter HQ, so we were thrilled to come across the statement sentiments included too... how about 'Smile', 'Make it happen', and 'Love is sweet' to boost your mood?

Go mad for gold foil accents!



GET CRAFT CONFIDENT WITH... CORINNE BRADD

Go geometric

Create a 10.5cm square blank and round off the corners. Trim hexagon paper, 9cm square, round off the corners and fix to the centre of the card. Mount a 1cm strip of foil paper to kraft card, trim and fix down the left-hand side. Matt a sentiment onto kraft card, rounding off the corners as you go. Secure across the centre of the greeting.



1 Some of the papers feature stylish rose gold elements, so why not accentuate these by adorning your cards with a few coordinated embellishments such as pearls and brads?

2 A pastel palette makes for a clean and fresh look, but to ensure you're still achieving maximum impact, I would recommend mounting certain prints onto bold coloured card for added oomph!

3 The Romantic Life collection really lends itself to the scrapbooking look. It's very easy to incorporate this style into your cardmaking - just be sure to plan out your layout prior to adhering everything together

4 It's all about the quotes with this kit, so get playful with them. Why not layer multiple messages together, angle particular panels or write out your own scripty sentiments?



Mix and match angular patterns for a modern look

Make a statement with motivational quotes

Layer up
 Score the front of a 12cm x 18cm blank, 6cm in from the edge, and trim. Cover the inside with geometric paper and add marble paper to the front. Mount a sentiment onto pink and secure to the front panel only.

Oh, so rosy
 Cover a 10.5cm x 15cm blank with foil paper. Mount a sentiment panel onto dark green, then onto mint. Add brads to each corner. Fix the panel to the blank. Layer four hexagon motifs onto green and fix to the front.



All the trimmings

Complement your Romantic Life papers with these crafty accessories



Dovecraft Make A Wish pearls, £1.49, craftydevilspapercraft.co.uk



Dovecraft mini flower dies, £2.50, therange.co.uk



Metallic mini brads, £2.99, therange.co.uk



DCWV Romantic Life 12" x 12" paper pad, £14.99, chloescreativecards.co.uk

YOUR FREE

CLEARLY
BESOTTED

Floral DIGI STAMPS

Flowers are a crafter's best friend, so we know you'll love this month's free printables

Our friends at Clearly Besotted (clearlybesottedstamps.com) are gifting all PaperCrafter readers with 12 utterly lovely flowery digi stamps. Hooray! They're a fantastic resource to have on your computer because they just go with everything. Discover how to download them below – it's easy, we promise – then follow in our designer Kitty Frampton's footsteps and make the most of the floral designs in your cardmaking.

DOWNLOAD AND PRINT THEM

- 1 On your desktop computer, visit papercraftermagazine.co.uk and search 'Clearly Besotted floral digi stamps'.
- 2 Press 'Click here to download now' then log in – or register if you don't currently have an account with us.
- 3 Click 'Download now' and you'll see the download processing at the bottom of your screen.
- 4 Open the folder, then right-click on the file and select 'Print'.

GET COLOURING

Kitty has used marker pens to colour in her chosen digi stamps. We love the Pilot Pintor range – you can get it from cultpens.com – and they have bullet tips in medium, fine and extra-fine, depending on what you prefer. The extra-fine tip would be perfect for shading smaller areas, such as the little daisies on Kitty's 'Smile' greeting, while the medium tip saves time on larger areas. Enjoy the colouring process – it's the best part!

ADD TEXTURE

There are numerous ways to apply a tactile feel to your cards. For a couple of her creations, Kitty has used a heart embossing folder on white card to make backgrounds for her coloured-in digi stamps. Stitched dies work wonders too. They work exactly the same as regular shaped dies, but they apply a stitched border around the edge. Professional? Of course. Adorable? Absolutely! Plus, take this further with a full stitched background die, which you can see at play on Kitty's 'Feel better soon' design.

CONSIDER YOUR PALETTE

One of the best things about these digi stamps is their versatility. Flowers just work for everything, don't they? Kitty has crafted cards for a birthday, to say thank you, to offer condolences and more. Make them work for you by considering the sentiment, recipient and colour scheme. In fact, colour is everything. The shades you choose really can set the tone for your greeting, so pay attention to your palette as you craft.

Download
them today!



TOP TIP

Layer two stitched frame die-cuts together at a jaunty angle for a playful touch



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400+ DIGI
STAMPS
FROM OUR
WEBSITE!



Paw form

Jasper and Pixie, my two cats, are constants in my crafting life – and they don't let me forget it. Pixie once decided that she'd had enough of me working, jumped on my desk, purred and snuggled, then walked off. I realised in horror that she'd left inky footprints all over my finished cards. All three of them! I guess I'll never know if she did it on purpose, but I love her regardless.

INGRID VICHOVA,
PAPERCRAFTER DESIGNER

CRIME SCENE

I was asked to make a garden seat from two tyres; it was complex, but it went really well. At least at first. The paint I'd used was a universal all-in-one paint and primer. I mixed two tones to create a scarlet – it dried quickly so both coats went on in one day, and I drained the leftover mixed paint into a plastic cup with a cling-film lid just in case I needed it later. When I woke up the next morning, I was confronted with a bloodbath. A paint one. It had eaten through the flimsy plastic cup and flowed, well, everywhere – across the shelf, across the counter top, and onto the floor. Of course, it was a spirit-based paint which just spreads more when rubbed. It took me all morning to rid my kitchen of the wretched stuff but on the bright side, the seat is still alive and well after four years!

CORINNE BRADD,
PAPERCRAFTER
DESIGNER

Crafty solutions

I was short on time for making some projects and it seemed everything was against me! My scissors were blunt, glitter was getting everywhere, and the remaining glue had settled in the very bottom of the bottle. So, I turned to the kitchen! I put the glue upside down in a glass, and while that made

its way down the bottle, I gathered the loose glitter using a lint roller and sharpened my scissors by cutting through a few sheets of tin foil. There's always a solution to those 'oh no' moments.

STEPHANIE WEIGHTMAN,
TATTERED LACE

“Making my great grandson, who had turned five, a card celebrating his fourth birthday”

NATALIE COOPER, READER

Nuvo, old problems

I have more than one Disastercraft, so let me reel off a list. How about dropping a huge tub of glitter on the sheepskin rug? Or leaving the hot glue gun on overnight and it leaking everywhere? Or cutting endless fridge magnets instead of card? And the classic, finishing off a spectacular card by dribbling irreversible Nuvo drops all over it. On reflection, it's easier to say what I haven't done!

GILL MCCALL, READER

“I was making a card for my granddaughter's birthday. My hand brace got caught up in the wings of the parchment butterfly sentiment. Ripped them straight off!”

LYNN JACKSON, READER

UPSIDE DOWN UNDER

Being live and on camera doesn't exactly make crafting easier, and while I was demonstrating a card I had a habit of chatting a bit too much with the presenter. Once I'd come back to my senses, I'd look down and realise the card had been made upside down! It happened so many times in one year it was dubbed my 'Australian card technique.' It's not something I teach in my workshops, unsurprisingly.

JOANNA SHEEN, DESIGNER



Armed with yarn

One of my funniest crafting facepalm moments was when I was arm-knitting an eternity scarf. Naturally, both of your arms are full of stitches and joined by the knitted portion in the middle – it's pretty much a straitjacket. One day, the doorbell rang. I just about managed to open the door with my arms laden with yarn. The postman looked quizzically at me and asked if I could sign for a parcel. I replied, “Does it look like I'm able to sign for anything?!” Politely of course. He looked at me like I was crazy, dropped the parcel by my feet – and ran off as fast as he could!

KEREN BAKER, PAPERCRAFTER DESIGNER

If I'm famous for anything, it's fridge magnets – the problem is, I never mean to make them! I do it at least once a week, if not more. I put my dies the wrong way round and as it's going through the machine, as soon as I realise, I wearily say: "Well that's another fridge magnet I've made then." Thinking about it now, maybe I should start my own fridge magnet business – it might offset the costs of all the metallic sheets I buy!

SHARON HOLDEN, READER

"HI, UH - BUDDY!"

I remember it well – and kind of wish I didn't! I was in my second year of university, and I fancied a guy who lived in the halls opposite to me. It was Valentine's Day, and I thought I'd make him a cheesy card. I even plucked up the courage to give it to him in front of all his friends. At first he was happy, then confused – to my horror, he said: "You know my name isn't Greg, right?" I laughed it off as a practical joke, but no, I didn't! His name was Ed, and I'd obviously misheard it when someone told me.

STEPH HENLEY, READER

"My beloved cat knocking my glitter glue over... and then proceeding to roll in it. Turned into a little glitter fluff ball"

NICOLA MASON, READER

disastercraft

noun

- A crafting mishap – one that is especially silly or avoidable

"She swore loudly as she looked upon her disastercraft"

The one connecting line between all crafters, regardless of skill level? Mistakes. Everyone – from your annoyingly talented sister-in-law to your adorably/infuriatingly messy children – makes them. So we asked as many as we could about their biggest slip-ups, and, unsurprisingly, the PaperCrafter inbox was stuffed with responses.

EKATSIM GIB S'EIRAM-ENNA

I'd prepped a demo using a die-cut alphabet and papers to make some bunting. While I was sticking it all together I recommended that you take extra care to make sure the letters were in the correct order, so as to ensure that when you turned it around it all worked. As I stuck the last bits down, I picked it up at each end and I had done exactly what I said not to do! Instead of saying 'Jenny' it read 'ynneJ'. Note to self – check before you stick everything down!

ANNE-MARIE CATTERALL, HUNKYDORY

Stuck on glue

I had an... incident with spray glue a few years ago. I wanted to add some temporary adhesive to some unmounted rubber stamps. I sprayed the back, that was fine, but the can continued to spray glue erratically even though I'd stopped spraying. It. Went. Everywhere. My hands were covered so I kept sticking to everything I was touching, including the can! It sprayed all over my room and worst of all it got in my hair which went rock hard. I ended up submerging the can in a bucket of water until it ran out of adhesive. I was coming across sticky bits three weeks later, and I had to cut a huge lump of hair out at the roots. I've avoided adhesives like the plague ever since.

SARAH WILKS, READER

Like our Facebook page at [facebook.com/papercraftermag](https://www.facebook.com/papercraftermag) to continue the discussion of your crafting disasters with us!

PaperCrafter Bumper Giveaways

Prizes worth £6,000
up for grabs!

FIVE GLUE BUNDLES

worth £134 each

Take the stress out of DIY projects with a selection of products that are easy to use, ensuring that your crafty makes stand the test of time. Use Gorilla's clear glue to adhere die-cuts to a card, the black and white tape to stick paper embellishments onto a project, grab the super glue to ensure that ceramic designs are sturdy or even their glue pen for any papercrafting bits. You'll be amazed by the amount of things you can put together with this lovely bundle!

uk.gorillaglu.com



12 INDIGOBLU STAMP AND STENCIL SETS

worth £46 each

Let your creativity soar with an IndigoBlu stamp and stencil bundle. Create meaningful cards, beautiful creative pieces or upcycled works of art that'll be great to dot around the home, or gift to family and friends. Whatever it is you choose to do, you'll be sure to have a lovely time with these crafty products.

indigoBlu.com



FIVE TRIBLEND PEN AND CARRY CASE SETS

worth £120 each

Crafter's Companion is at it again with their selection of cool, crafty items! In this case, five winners can win a Triblend pen and carry case set that'll take your design skills from ordinary to extraordinary. Featuring colours that mimic a rainbow, you're sure to create some truly magical items that'll put a smile on a recipient's face.

crafterscompanion.co.uk



ONE GOURMET ESCAPE FOR TWO

worth £400

There's nothing better than a weekend away at a gorgeous hotel with a lovely selection of food to satisfy your palate, so there's no doubt you'll love this indulgent overnight hotel escape from Red Letter Days. One lucky reader will be able to choose from a selection of four and five star hotels, ensuring you enjoy luxurious accommodation to go with your gourmet dining experience. Locations include Jersey, Somerset and the Scottish Highlands, to name a few, and the amenities on offer differ slightly according to the venue chosen.

redletterdays.co.uk

**15 PAIRS OF CRAFT4CRAFTERS
SHOW TICKETS**

**worth £20 each and a
Craft Hamper worth £200**

The Craft4Crafters Show is an exciting event taking place at the Bath and West Showground. Featuring an array of craft suppliers, exhibitors and more than 120 workshops, there is plenty to see and do! Running from 17th-19th October 2019, you'll have more than enough time to learn, make friends and go home with more craft essentials than you could ever imagine. And with 15 pairs of tickets up for grabs, there will be lots of celebrations! In addition, one person can win a craft hamper filled with lots of treats that'll make your friends jealous.

craft4crafters.co.uk



**TWO SIX-MONTH APPELYARD
FLOWERS SUBSCRIPTIONS**

worth £276 each

Appleyard Flowers is offering two lucky winners a chance to revel in the beauty of their bouquets for six months with their luxury surprise flowers subscription! That means that each month you'll get to decorate your home with stunning florals brought right to your door. T&Cs apply, see online for details.

appleyardflowers.com

**ONE CRICUT MAKER
AND ACCESSORIES**

worth £460

One winner's creative potential will be realised with the Cricut Maker. Cut any type of material, from delicate paper and fabric, to leather and beyond! You'll also have greater precision and control that'll make the design process seamless. This bundle also includes a LightGrip Mat that has just the right amount of adhesive to secure materials such as vellum, vinyl and lots more, and the Glitter Vinyl can be used to create sparkly decals, labels and even media covers.

uk.cricut.com



TWO OXO BUNDLES

worth over £222.50 each

Organise your craft supplies with OXO POP - it's the perfect product to channel your inner tidying expert Marie Kondo. With 18 different sizes in the range, there's a container to suit any storage needs. They each come with airtight seals and one-handed opening, and will be just what you need to store ribbons, buttons, fabric and even yarn. You won't believe how much you can tidy away.

oxouk.com

**TURN OVER
FOR MORE!**



FIVE HOME IMPROVEMENT KITS

worth £110 each

If your home needs a bit of a tidy up, perhaps National Home Improvement Month in April will be enough motivation to get you on your feet to make just one change. To get you kitted out, we've got two bundles of DIY goodies up for grabs. Each includes a Nilfisk Buddy Vac, Zep cleaning bundle, Harris straight to the point paint brush and mini roller woodcare kit.
homeimprovementmonth.co.uk



FIVE STAMPIN' UP! COLLECTIONS

worth £103 each

Five lucky winners will be in with the chance of breathing new life into their crafts with a fantastic selection of products from Stampin' Up!. You'll be spoilt for choice with a stamp set, Thinlits dies, metallic ribbon, metal elements, cardstock and a choice of ink pads. It's a crafter's dream all wrapped up into a cute bundle!

stampinup.com



FIVE TRIMCRAFT BUNDLES

worth £112 each

Trimcraft is offering five winners the chance to add a ton of goodies to their craft stash. Each bundle comes with a selection of dies, which include nature, alphabet and essential shapes for your cardmaking. You'll also find paper pads that'll keep you crafting for weeks on end. So, what are you waiting for? Enter today and you could be one of the lucky ones!

thecraftblog.com



ENTERING IS EASY

1. Visit our website papercraftermagazine.co.uk
2. Click the 'Giveaways' tab
3. Select a giveaway and enter details

CLOSING DATE: 13th June 2019

In full swing

Bring your cards to life with movement and a sprinkle of crafty magic...

Master three card shapes!



You will need

- › Craft essentials (see p94)
- › Patterned paper, Dovecraft Fairy Tales 8" x 8"
- › Embellishments: Dovecraft Fairy Tales decoupage pad, sentiment toppers, mini bows, holographic butterfly toppers, paper blossoms, adhesive pearls
- › Dies: circles, scalloped circles
- › Acetate



EASY ROCKER

- 1 Die cut a 19cm diameter circle from white card, score across the centre and fold in half to create a rocker card. Use the blank as a guide to trim pink butterfly paper, then fix to the front.
- 2 Secure a 1.5cm strip of yellow patterned paper across the card front, trimming to fit. Die cut a 10cm diameter circle from fairy paper, matt onto pink card and die cut into a slightly larger scalloped circle. Fix to the card front with 3D foam pads.
- 3 Layer up the decoupage motifs with 3D foam pads and mount onto the circular panel. Add paper flowers to the bottom-left corner, then attach a pearl gem and sentiment on top.
- 4 Secure two pink butterflies to thin strips of acetate, then adhere either side of the circles. Embellish with silver gems and glue a bow to the top of the card to finish.

SIDE STEP

- 1 Die cut a 19cm diameter circle from white card, score across the centre and fold in half. Open up the circle and, with the fold horizontal, use a pencil to mark a line, 11cm in from the left-hand side.
- 2 Mark a point, 5.5cm below the line and 3.5cm above it, then cut a line point to point. Mark along the line at 2cm, 4cm and 7cm, then score along from each point to the right-hand edge of the

circle. Fold the score lines starting with a mountain fold at the front to create a side stepper rocker card.

3 Use the blank as a guide to trim butterfly and checked paper for the front and steps, then adhere in place. Fix a 1.5cm strip of contrasting paper across the card front, trimming to fit. Attach a sentiment and bow to the right-hand side.

4 Die cut a 10cm diameter circle from yellow

patterned paper, layer onto a larger pink checked scalloped circle die-cut, then secure above the paper strip with 3D foam pads.

5 Layer up the decoupage motifs with 3D foam pads and matt onto the circular panel. Stick two butterflies to thin strips of acetate and fix to the steps. Attach paper flowers and embellish with pearl gems in the centres. Complete with silver gems.

TOP TIP

Go the extra mile and create a rocker and stepper card in one

COMBO CRAFTING

- 1 Follow the step-by-step opposite to create a stepper rocker card from white. Use the blank as a guide to trim yellow butterfly paper and attach to the front and sides.
- 2 Adhere a 1.5cm strip of pink patterned paper across the front, trimming to fit. Die cut a 10cm diameter circle from butterfly paper, then secure onto a slightly larger yellow scalloped circle. Fix above the paper strip with 3D foam pads.
- 3 Layer up the decoupage motifs with 3D foam pads and glue on top of the circular panel. Add a sentiment to the centre of the paper strip and attach a bow to the left-hand side.
- 4 Stick two blue butterflies to thin strips of acetate and fix to the steps. Attach paper flowers and embellish with pearl gems in the centres. Complete with silver gems.



Shop Stop

Fairy Tales 8" x 8" paper pad, £7.99, therange.co.uk



**SARAH'S
TOP TIPS**

Step it up

If you're after something to challenge your creative skills just that little bit more, then this masterclass is just for you! Standard card blanks are great if you've just got to grips with cardmaking, but why not try to incorporate even more technique into your crafting? Playing around with the shape of your blanks is a great place to start. It's all too easy to focus your attention upon the decoration, but my advice would be to start experimenting from the word go!

Fold & fly

Rocker cards are fun, interactive and surprisingly easy to make! Start off with my simple rocker card, then pair what you've learnt with the stepper technique to create a card shape with a real twist. It's all in the scoring and folding, and with a few crucial dimensions you can transform your blanks into spectacular structures. Don't worry, we provide you with all of the necessary measurements and clear step-by-step instructions so you can ace the technique in no time.



STEP-BY-STEP Stepper rocker card



1 Die cut a 19cm diameter circle, score across the centre and fold in half. Open up the circle and, with the fold horizontal, mark 3.5cm in from each side and draw a line



2 Mark a point along both lines, 3cm up and 5cm down from the central fold. Cut a line from point to point on each side



3 Starting below the fold line, mark 1.5cm and 3.5cm down each cut line, then draw a score line from each point to the outside edge of the circle



4 Mountain fold the score lines nearest the front and valley fold the other two. Fold the card in half, turn it over, then trim off any excess card to maintain the curve of the circle



I couldn't wait to give you your first glimpse of the Wonderland range. It's every crafter's dream to receive a new cardmaking kit and when this one landed in my stash, I was simply lost for words – and that's a rarity for me! Think whimsical washi, mystical motifs, pretty in pink pastels... the list goes on. Let's just all take a moment to admire those holographic accents!

FIRST LOOK

RICO[®]
DESIGN

Wonderland

Get your crafty mitts on Rico Design's latest collection and prepare for magical things to happen...

BOLD BORDERS

Cover a 10.5cm x 15cm blank with green card. Edge the card with rocket washi tape and add narrow strips of green washi tape inside this. Place a sentiment sticker in the bottom-right corner and add a rocket tag across the centre at an angle with 3D foam pads.

Trending motifs!

Find stockists for the Rico Design Wonderland collection at rico-design.de

YOU ARE AWESOME

Use washi tape to frame and draw attention to certain elements

APERTURE FRAMES

Matt unicorn paper, 12cm square, onto a slightly larger blank. Die cut a 7.5cm circle aperture from blue card and fix to the card front, ensuring to frame the central motif. Run unicorn washi tape across the top and bottom of the circle, trimming to fit.

Fold coordinating gift boxes in a flash with the pre-scored card

STAMPED TOPPERS

Edge a 10.5cm x 15cm blank with rabbit washi tape and secure holographic bunny paper, 7.5cm x 12cm, to the centre. Stamp three rabbits onto cream card and colour in. Trim into a small rectangle and mount onto pink card. Fix to the bottom right of the greeting with 3D foam pads and add a leaping hare topper to finish.

Holographic accents are just what's needed to pep up your party makes

The mini wooden stamps included are perfect for adding cute motifs to your cards

MAKE A STATEMENT

Cover a 10.5cm x 15cm blank with patterned paper. Die cut a 9.5cm x 14cm rectangular frame from white card and cover with patterned washi tape. Fix to the centre of the card with 3D foam pads. Take a holographic sentiment tag and glue to the top-left of the card.

Why not try...?

- ★ Apply the large holographic gift tags to your cards as toppers for extra impact
- ★ Pairing contrasting patterns and prints together simply adds to the whimsicality of this collection
- ★ Create apertures with ease using basic shaped nesting dies. We recommend the Moonstone nesting dies from Hunkydory Crafts (hunkydorycrafts.co.uk)
- ★ Colour in your stamped motifs or leave them blank for more subtle silhouettes

THE **PaperCrafter** GUIDE TO...

SLIDER CARDS

Master the trending technique on every crafter's lips

Fancy taking your cardmaking to the next level?

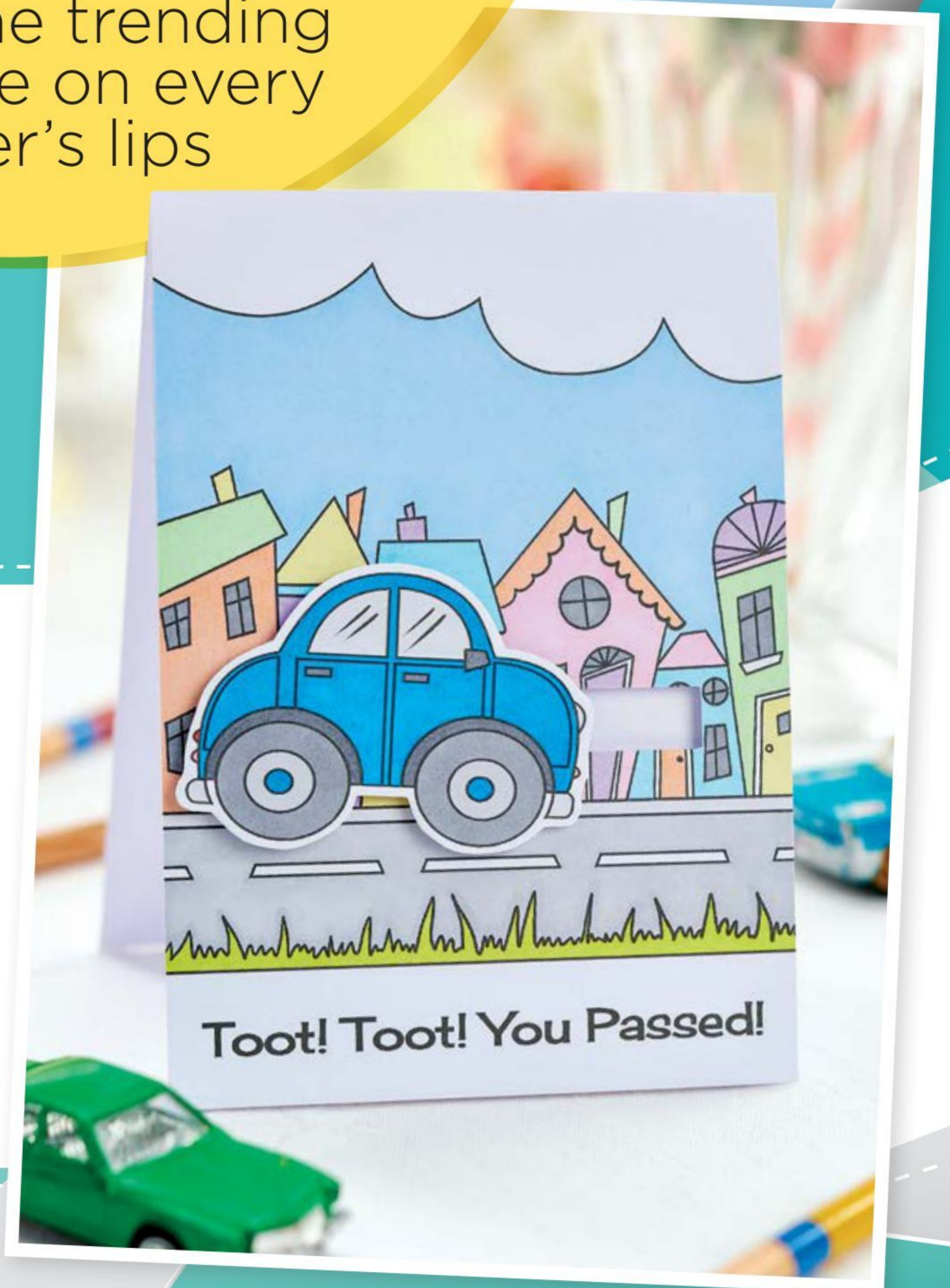
Meet your new technique to try... slider cards. There's a host of interactive shapes and sizes to experiment with, but if you're a little puzzled on how to get started, be sure to consult our cardmaking cheats, step-by-step, and tried and trusted gizmos to slide into your craft stash right now... see what we did there?

62%

of you have never made a slider card, but would love to give it a go! Now's your chance...

WHAT IS A SLIDER CARD?

An up-and-coming trend in the world of crafts, slider cards refer to the latest buzzword amongst crafters, 'kinetic'. This simply means 'movement', so any design with an element of motion can be classed as a kinetic card. They may look tricky to make but with our quick hacks, you'll become a whizz (quite literally) in no time!



HOW TO...



Download and print the templates from **papercrafter magazine.co.uk**, then colour them in with marker pens



Cut out the car, then glue a penny onto the reverse. Once dry, add another penny on top of the first one using a small piece of foam tape



Trim the section from the street scene with a sharp craft knife, then cut to fit a 10cm x 15cm top-folding blank



Fix the scene to the blank with 3D foam pads. Carefully pop the car into the slot, making sure that it can slide smoothly back and forth

QUICK TIP...

Why not include a hidden sentiment for your recipient to reveal?

SMART DESIGNER SECRETS...

- ★ Kinetic greetings are heavier than usual, so ensure you use a thicker cardstock for the base
- ★ Dust the pennies with talc or anti-static powder to help it slide more easily
- ★ Avoid placing the double-sided tape too close to the slider aperture as this would make it tricky for the tab to slide
- ★ Depending on the thickness of the foam tape, you may need to double it up to allow the slider to move freely. Test before sticking down permanently
- ★ For a stronger bond, add a dab of glue to the 3D foam pad when attaching to the coins

TOOL KIT

Penny Slider card die, £39.99, crafting.co.uk



My Favorite Things Spin and Slide discs, £3.49, bumbleberrys.co.uk



Ek Success Powder tool applicator, visit lawnfawn.com for stockists



NOW TRY...



STATEMENT SENTIMENTS



REVEALING MOTIFS



VERTICAL SLIDERS

Wedding keepsakes

Give the people you love a time capsule to cherish a unique day

It's common knowledge that weddings are generally the most important day of a person's life, but it's a less accepted fact that for family and even close friends, your special day can be almost as momentous for them as it is for you. By gifting loved ones items from this keepsakes collection, you provide two things: a physical memento of a wonderful day, and a reminder that during a tumultuous time of stress and drastic change, they were still very much in your thoughts.

You will need

- › Craft essentials (see p94)
- › Digital images: Silhouette 'Three vines with leaves' by Emily Dyer, 'box' by Lori Whitlock
- › Punches, hearts
- › Dies, flowers
- › Thread, embroidery
- › Lace



BLOOMING CORSAGE

- 1 Die cut several layers of white flowers, then curl the edges around a pencil to give them a realistic shape. Stack layers of the flowers to create a full bloom.
- 2 Add a circle of gold paper into the centre, along with a metal button. Punch hearts from mint and peach card, then secure onto the flower.
- 3 Cut out leaves from mint and peach card using a digital download, then fix them behind the flower. Adhere a long length of lace to the bottom and add a large circle of card to secure the lace and leaves.

CONFETTI BOX

- 1 Download a digital box template from Silhouette or draw your own. Punch a heart aperture, then cut the box out and assemble. Cut out printed leaves from a digital download and punch some gold hearts.
- 2 Stack the hearts and secure them in pairs, weaving embroidery thread



between them. Wrap lace around the top of the box and a thin strip of ribbon, then tie both into knots. Layer the leaves on top of each other and add a heart.

Be trend aware

Girly girls rejoice, pink is popping! Choose blush tones mixed with crisp whites for a sophisticated and charming palette

As far as stationery goes, handmade is the new shop-bought. Calligraphy is seriously on the rise, so best get practising!

Pastel-perfect macarons are fabulous choices for favours. Alternatively, chocolate truffles are also a favoured option – both of which you can make yourself



TOP TIP
Stack multiple leaves for a full effect, or use less for a simpler flower

CUPCAKE TOPPERS

1 Print out wedding sentiments or use a stamp of your choice. Cut around them, then trim gold card to match.

2 Secure the pieces together, place a mini wooden skewer between and slightly offset the gold piece to create a shadow effect. Punch little hearts from mint and peach card, then add them to the toppers.



Xcut Large Palm heart punch, £6.99, hobbycraft.co.uk

Designer for the day

Miriam Grazier



With its uplifting sentiment and pastel ink splotches, Miriam Grazier's card inspires nostalgia for summers past, while also nailing the expectant joy found in waiting for those temperatures to soar. That duality is one of the best things about the seasons. We reminisce fondly upon the ones that have passed, look forward to those yet to come; and it's just one of the many beautiful things about this make.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING CHOSEN AS DESIGNER FOR THE DAY?

I was super excited to be chosen – it's a great honour. I've got lots of projects, so it's amazing to have one published. It's also given me the chance to play with products that I love, and share my excitement with fellow PaperCrafter readers!

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CREATE THIS LOVE LETTER TO SUMMER?

The inspiration behind the design is twofold – the nostalgia of longing for longer days, coupled with the excitement that comes with the start of a new season on the horizon. I love seeing flowers blooming in my garden, and I can't wait to spend my summer days amongst them.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BRAND?

PaperArtsy without a doubt. I fell in love with their products when I started crafting ten years ago and still use the first stamps I bought from the brand. I am a regular blogger for their website, which I love!



FAVOURITE CRAFTING TECHNIQUE?

It has got to be stamping and visualising in my head how I can use my stamps in different ways. Even just using a part of a stamp can lift a project. I love stamping into texture paste too – just make sure to clean your stamps straight away!

HOW DID YOU GET INTO CRAFTING?

I have quite a stressful job and I needed an escape with a heavy dose of me-time. A friend made me a Christmas card one year, and I remember looking at it and wondering if I could try out cardmaking for myself. I haven't looked back since!

SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS IN A FUTURE ISSUE!

If you'd like to see your paper project printed in PaperCrafter, email or write to us with your contact details to be entered into our random draw. If picked, you'll have a photo of your make published in the magazine and instructions on our website. Find our contact information on page 3. Good luck! For terms and conditions please visit papercraftermagazine.co.uk/designer-for-the-day

FIND OUT HOW TO CRAFT MIRIAM'S CARD AT PAPERCRAFTERMAGAZINE.CO.UK

Masterclass

TECHNIQUE
Patchwork
die cutting

Arranging excellence

Achieve patchwork bliss with
Keren Baker's intricate greetings



You will need

- › Craft essentials (see p94)
- › Dies: Crafter's Companion Gemini Create-a-Card Metal Die Swirls Patchwork, Sugar Pea Designs Dad Word
- › Patterned papers, Make & Create Lovely Basics
- › Ink: Ranger Jet Black Archival, Tonic Studios Nuvo Clear Mark
- › Tonic Studios Nuvo Crystal Drops, Red Berry
- › Embossing powder, white
- › Pen, Sakura white jelly roll



PERSONAL PATTERNS

- 1 Make a white 12.5cm x 16cm blank and matt with black cardstock. Trim a smaller layer of white. Die cut five patchwork squares from it in a symmetrical pattern.
- 2 Die cut another patterned piece

from yellow. Add green cardstock behind the panel and adhere to the greeting.

- 3 Stamp a sentiment in red cardstock. Add white embossing powder, heat to set and fix to the card. Finish with Nuvo drops in the centres of each patchwork pattern.

DIAGONAL DELIGHT

- 1 Trim a 12.5cm x 14.5cm white blank and add spotty paper. Die cut plain squares from the die set using red, black, green and yellow cardstock, then arrange them diagonally so the edges are touching. Trim the excess card.

- 2 Stamp a sentiment in black onto a thin white strip, making sure it is lined up correctly. Fold and trim into a banner shape and attach to the card to finish.

STAR PLAYER

- 1 Create a 14.5cm square white blank. Add a smaller layer of black cardstock. Die cut squares from yellow and green card and red patterned paper.
- 2 Adhere the red square diagonally at the bottom, followed by yellow and green to create a tile effect. Die cut a sentiment from black cardstock. Add white Nuvo drops around the letters, and on some of the black card areas.



TOP TIP

Rearrange the position of the coloured card for your own personal flourish!

Shop Stop



Gemini Create-a-Card Metal Die Swirls Patchwork, £9.99, crafterscompanion.co.uk

TECHNIQUE

Patchwork die cutting



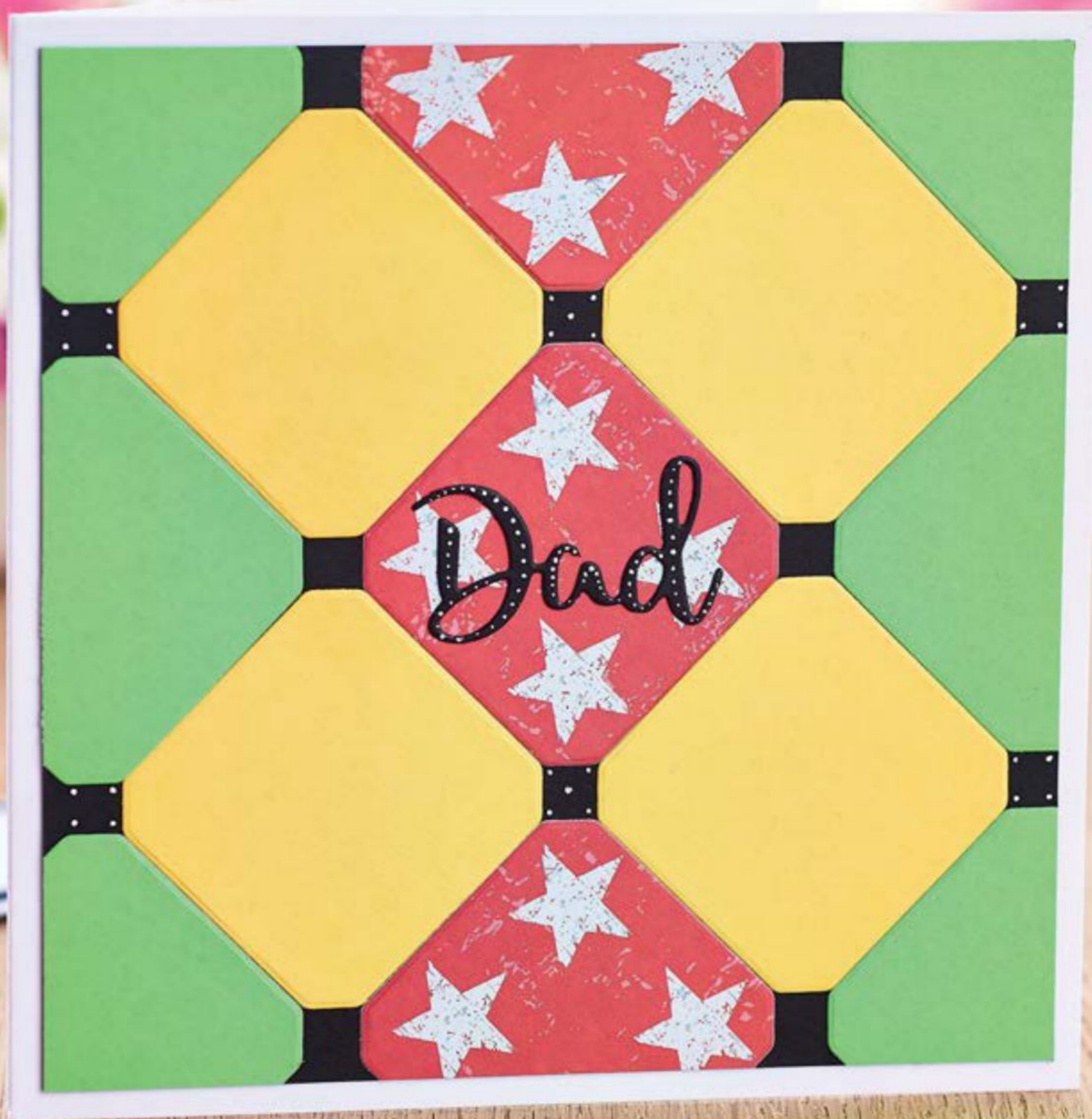
KEREN'S TOP TIPS

Patchwork possibilities

Patchwork isn't just for fabric; you can make some great patterns by arranging simple shapes in different orders using a variety of colours. You could also make up your own or search for patchworks online, and can even create more complex designs by trimming the squares in half or searching for different shapes like hexagons, rectangles or chevrons. As always, don't be afraid to experiment. Sticking to simple colours will give a bold look, using pretty patterns will give a soft feminine feel, and applying different gradients adds depth and personality.

Mix it up

The Crafter's Companion Create-a-Card patchwork dies are invaluable when it comes to creating stunning designs that well and truly pop. Each die tells a different story and, when combined, the possibilities are limited only by your imagination. They are designed with most card sizes in mind but remember, you can also use them with larger makes if you so wish. I've used this on multiple projects now, and somehow I'm still surprised at how many different crafting styles patchwork complements. Anyway, don't take my word for it – try it for yourself!



STEP-BY-STEP Basic patchwork



1 Add patterned paper to a white blank



2 Die cut some of the rounded squares in different colours of cardstock



3 Arrange the squares diagonally, nesting them together and trimming the edges



4 Finish building the pattern and add a sentiment to finish

COMING SOON!

SUGAR PAPER

Papermania's Sweet Treats collection, visit docrafts.com for stockists

TAKE ME HOME

Sweet party bags, £4.50, paperchase.com

HEATWAVE

Hot sauce pen, £3.50, paperchase.com

PIECE OF CAKE

Bringing you a smorgasbord of party food goodness this issue

The world, it seems quite clear, is having a moment. Instead of getting swept up in the doom and gloom, why not switch off and get silly with this issue's foodie favourites? Whether you're trying to make the kids smile or just hosting a cute little get-together (that may or may not include copious amounts of stomped grape juice) take a gander over this selection for inspiration. Let the world have its moment – you've got a party to plan.

STICK TO CAKE

Cake and Cupcakes 3D stickers, see rico-design.de for stockists



SQUEEZE O' KETCHUP

Fast Food Squishems Lucky Dip, £7, paperchase.com



PARTY TIME

First Edition Party washi tape, £8, hobbycraft.co.uk



DIE-ING TO PARTY

Tattered Lace Cocktail Dies, £12.99, Tattered Lace Secret Surprise Balloons and Presents Die, £22.99, craftelier.co.uk



GUILTY PLEASURE

Delicious Doughnuts and Fast Food stamps, £8 each, hunkydorycrafts.co.uk

RAINBOW COLOURS

Soft oil pastel set, £3, hobbycraft.co.uk

RAIN BRILLIANT

Rain Party Cluster, see americancrafts.com for stockists





CRAFT
ME QUICK!

Pawzome greetings

Tracey Daykin-Jones gives the Paper Addicts Pawzome Prints collection a big thumbs up





PLAY WITH SHORTER CARD FRONTS

Trim a 2.5cm strip from the front of a 10.5cm x 15cm white blank. Cover the remaining section with polka dot paper. Trim a panel of bone paper, round the corners and adhere on top. Add three die-cut dog images to the right edge and add dog kennel paper to the inside to finish.

When adding three equally-spaced elements, always adhere the central piece first!

HIGHLIGHT TOPPERS WITH COLOURFUL ACCENTS

Adhere blue card to a 10.5cm x 15cm white blank, leaving a small white border down each long side. Layer orange star paper on top. Cut out three cat images. Offset them with blue and orange squares, then adhere down the centre of the card. Embellish the cats' crowns with tiny gold gems.



Get the Paper Addicts Pawsome Prints 12" x 12" paper pad from your local branch of The Range or visit amazon.co.uk



MAKE A GATEFOLD CARD WITH EASE

Take a piece of 15cm x 20.75cm white card. Placing it in a landscape position, score down 5.25cm in from each side to create a gatefold greeting. Cover the outer panels with light blue card. Trim two panels of paw print paper, round the corners with a punch and adhere on top. Cut out three sausage dog images, round the corners and secure in place, so two are on the left half and one is on the right. Adhere dog bowl patterned paper inside to finish.



Achieve smooth rounded corners with the Fiskars 3-in-1 corner squeeze punch, £16.60, cc-craft.co.uk



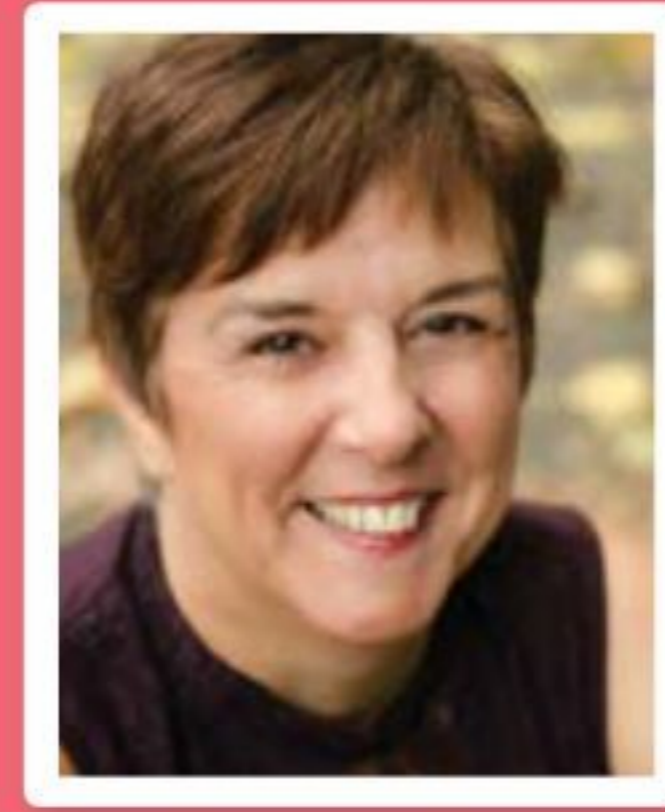
PUT YOUR LAYERING SKILLS TO GOOD USE

Cover the front of a 10.5cm blank with orange card, then matt with blue. Trim wavy paper, round the corners and layer on top. Trim a panel of fish paper, trim an inverted 'v' in the bottom and layer onto light orange card. Adhere to the left of the card and add gems to the fish eyes to complete.

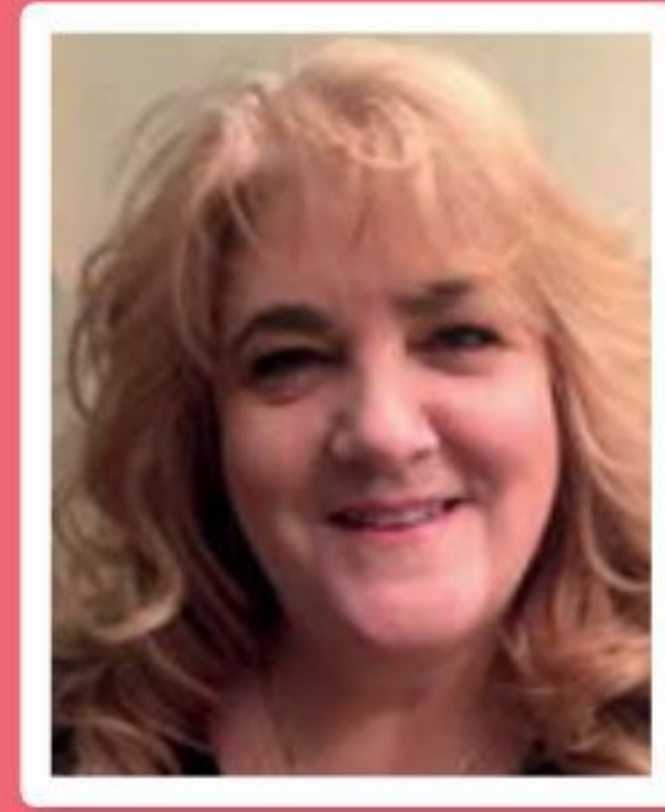
Sometimes simple cards work best, but the mini silver gems add just the right amount of pizzazz to this design

ASK THE Experts

Here to answer your crafty queries



JULIE HICKEY



DAWN MACFIE



TRACEY DUTTON

How can I incorporate fabric into my cardmaking?

CAROLYN LETTEN SAYS:



Easy! Fix green zigzag fabric onto the left-hand side of a 17cm square blank. Glue blue scribble fabric to white card, 13cm x 17cm, then machine stitch across the bottom and down the left. Stick blue wave fabric, 9.5cm x 10.5cm, and stitch in place. Use 3D foam pads to secure it to the greeting and add ribbon under the right edge. Cut two boats from fabric and adhere. Mount a trawler onto white card and use 3D foam pads to attach. Matt seagull ribbon onto card, covered in yellow fabric, then secure. Trim a circle from white card, 8cm in diameter. Cover with red stripe fabric and machine stitch around the edge, then trim with pinking shears. Using the template from **papercrafter**

magazine.co.uk, cut a star from white card, cover with yellow fabric and stitch around the edge. Sew 'No.1 Dad' in the centre. Mount a circle onto the bottom-left corner of the main card using 3D foam pads and mount the star on top, trapping two pieces of ribbon in-between.

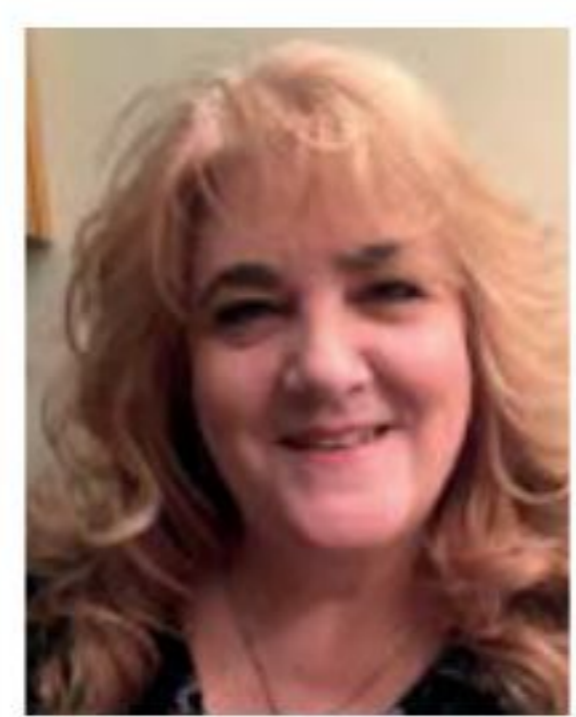
Carolyn Letten's simple stichy solution is a must-make for this Father's Day!



TOP TIP

Add glitter glue to the waves and star to highlight

I'd love to take up scrapbooking, but don't know where to start with my initial layout. Can you help?



DAWN MACFIE SAYS:

Scrapbooking is all about the photos as they can tell

a lovely story. Once chosen, have a browse for free scrapbook page sketches on the web for a little inspiration. They're a great resource and guide to structuring your page. When selecting papers and cardstock, keep to three core colours as it's easier on the eye - scrapbook and paper collections can be very useful for achieving a coordinated look. Remember that

embellishments work well in odd numbers and choose a title that sums up your layout and fits in with your main theme. Try one of my favourite techniques... hidden journaling. Simply place your sentiment on a tag and position it within a pocket element or hide it behind a photo.

Master more scrapbooking techniques with Dawn's online workshops at dawnsinspirations.com

How do you layer stamped motifs?

COLETTE SMITH SAYS:



Masking is a fantastic technique which allows you to overlap stamped

images. A flower stamp can be used with masking so it looks like some are sitting in front or behind each other – almost like an optical illusion! I've used bold floral images and shaded them with coloured pencils in bright shades to create a beautiful cottage garden set of blooms. Follow the outline of the image closely when cutting out the mask to avoid getting a white border around the stamped image or ink where you don't want it. It's also important to make sure the ink is dry on the stamped motif before covering; otherwise, the mask will pick up and transfer the ink elsewhere, ruining your design.

Give the masking technique a try with PaperCrafter designer Colette Smith's easy step-by-step



STEP-BY-STEP Masked motifs



1 Stamp flower heads and leaves onto masking paper. Leave to dry, then cut out; you will need more than one mask of each image



2 On white card, 10cm x 14cm, stamp a larger flower head at the bottom-centre so it overlaps the edge. Allow the ink to dry and cover the stamped image with the mask, making sure it is lined up correctly



3 Keep the mask on and stamp another flower either side so they overlap the mask. Cover the other blooms with masks, then stamp leaves and flowers, overlapping. Continue to build up the flowers and leaves until you are happy with the layout



4 Stamp a sentiment at the top. Remove any masks and colour in the design. Cover the front of a blank, 10.5cm x 14.5cm, with yellow card and matt the stamped image onto it. Finish with gems

QUICKFIRE question

What is your current papercraft crush?



"I'm getting to grips with stamping and colouring in - I'm loving it"

CHRISTINE GOODWIN, READER



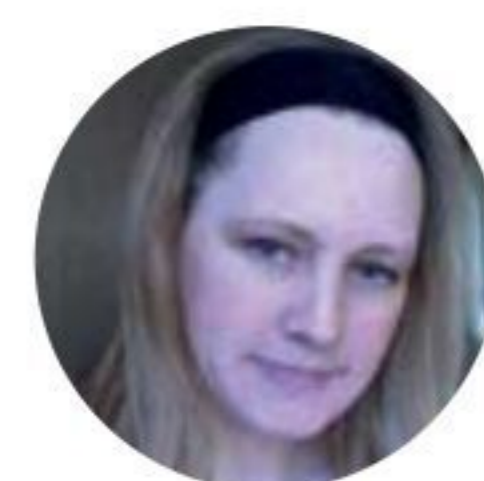
"I can't stop using my new egg-shaped frame dies"

JUDITH ELLIS VIDOUREK, READER



"I can't get enough of Lawn Fawn and Karen Burniston's kinetic dies"

CHRISTINE GRAHAM, READER



"I'm obsessed with making little gift boxes using my Tonic Studios and Crafter's Companion dies"

LORNAJANE HUNTER, READER



"My new Tim Holtz Distress Oxide ink sprays are magical!"

NAOMI HANLON, READER

Next month's question:

What tips do you have for crafting with kids?

Share your answer by tagging us on Facebook @papercraftermag or emailing amelia.bolton@aceville.co.uk

Hello, PaperCrafter! How do you use Distress Oxide inks to colour in stamped images?



JULIE HICKEY SAYS: I absolutely love applying Distress Oxide ink pads to

my stamped images, because the combination of using both dye-based ink and pigment ink makes them really creamy and super easy to blend with a water brush. I simply take a craft sheet, smooch a little ink onto the sheet, then use a water brush to pick up the colour and apply it to my stamped image. Here, I applied the darker ink to the centre of the flowers first and blended the colour out towards the edges of the petals. For the leaves, I started with the lightest hue and added highlights with a deeper green,

blending the edges of the colours together. The great thing about Distress Oxide inks is that you can add layers and build up the

depth of colour.

Recreate Julie's look and explore her new Spring Delights stamp and die range at craftsulove.co.uk



What are your top mixed media techniques for statement backgrounds?



TRACEY DUTTON SAYS: The Gel Press plate is something I always use

to create wonderful vibrant backgrounds for my cards. I tend to use Colorbox inks on the Gel Press, applied using the Speedball rubber brayer. I then like to water

down Brusho pigment powders and flick just two or three colours over the top of the Gel Press. Next, I take a piece of good quality card and place face-down onto the Gel Press, smooth over and lift away to reveal stunning results. It's such a quick and easy effect, and a great backdrop for stamped motifs.

Fancy giving Tracey's mixed media backgrounds a bash? Stock up on your supplies at laviniastamps.com



Get in touch with your questions!

EMAIL: amelia.bolton@aceville.co.uk
POST: PaperCrafter, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY



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Stamp, die cut and colour cute characters

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YOUR PaperCrafter BASKET

Quick jargon buster

- › **BRADS:** paper fasteners with split pins that pierce paper then pull apart to secure on the reverse
- › **DECOUPAGE:** strips of paper are pasted to cover an object, or creating a 3D image by layering paper, where the smaller parts of a repeated image are cut out and added to the original image for a raised effect
- › **DIE-CUTTING:** a die-cutting machine cuts out shapes from paper, card and other materials. Sandwich a metal die over your material then feed it through the machine. The pressure on the die creates the cut
- › **MATTING:** the method of layering different sizes of paper or card pieces together
- › **ORIGAMI:** the traditional Japanese art of folding paper to create 3D shapes
- › **SANDING:** using a sanding block to create a rough texture on the face or edges of a piece of card
- › **SCORING:** the method of running a scoring tool over a piece of card to create a straight line that can then be folded

Measuring, folding and cutting tools

- › Bone folder
- › Craft knife
- › Cutting mat
- › Decorative-edged scissors
- › Die-cutting machine
- › Scissors
- › Scoring board
- › Steel ruler

Craft essentials

- › Adhesives
- › Card blanks
- › Cardstock, different colours
- › Eraser
- › Gems
- › Patterned papers
- › Pen and pencils
- › Ribbons
- › Twine



Top tips for... **DECORATIVE TOUCHES**

- › Score embossed lines on your card blanks for a subtle yet effective texture
- › Make sure your embellishments complement the focal point, rather than distract from it
- › Multiple sentiments can give your makes a playful feel that might be hard to accomplish with just one
- › If you want your flowers to pop, remember to always curl and shape them with a pencil – the extra dimension can really bring your card to life

STEP-BY-STEP GETTING INKY



Apply a few drops of dark and light blue alcohol ink



Add several drops of two additional colours and allow them to blend



Gently dab the surface with a damp baby wipe to blot the ink. Die cut several flowers from the inked panel and black card then stack them with 3D foam pads



Mount the flower onto white and black card, then fix to a 10.5cm x 15cm blank. Spritz with black ink, then add a sentiment, pearl and bow to finish

HOW TO... MASTER PREHISTORIC SENTIMENTS



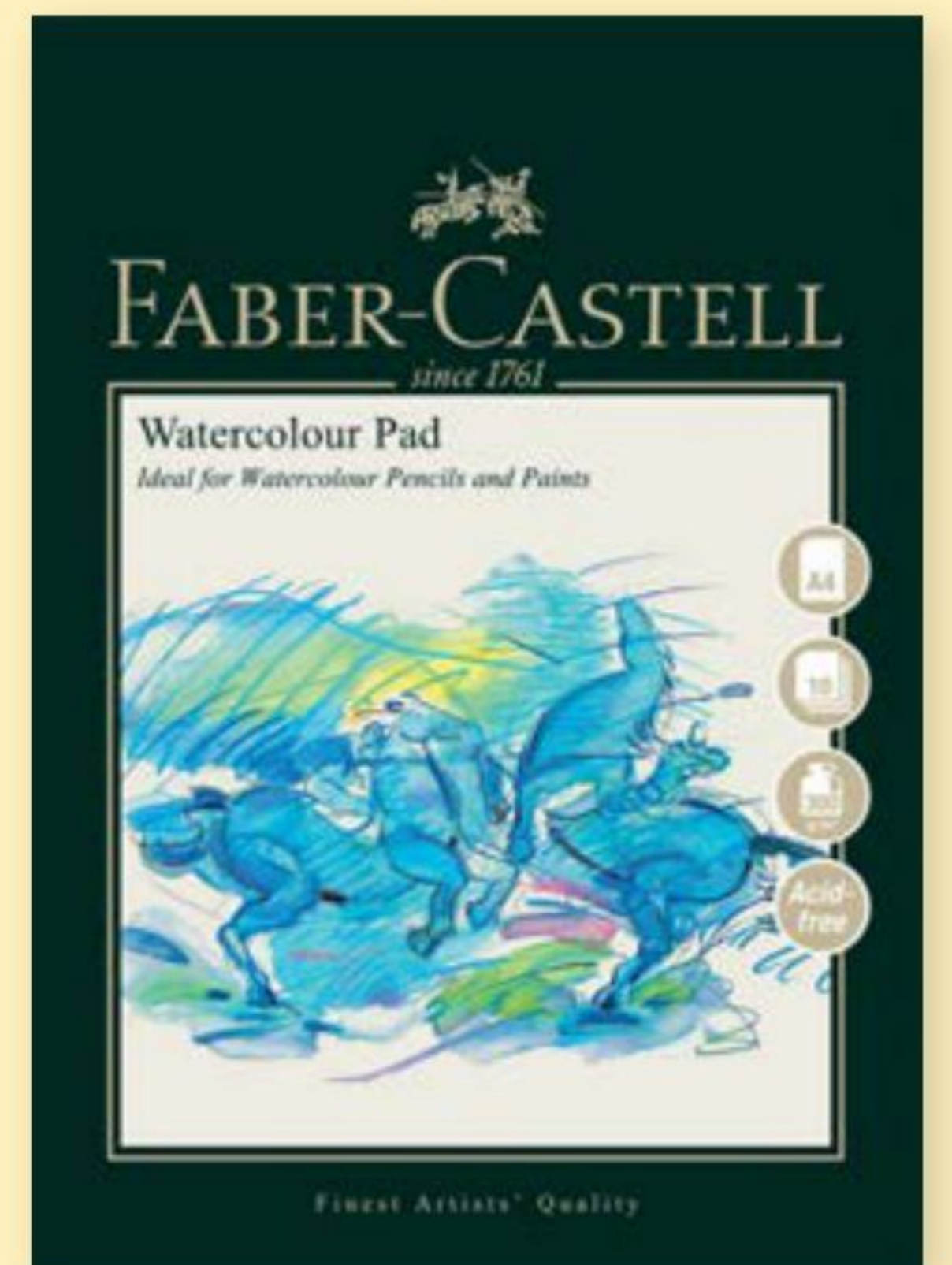
- 1 Create a white blank, 12cm x 14.5cm. Layer polka dot paper onto blue and fix to the card.
- 2 Die cut a scalloped-edged rectangle from yellow, then attach spotty orange paper on top.
- 3 Die cut a stitched cloud from white card

and glue onto the orange panel. Fix to the top of the card with 3D foam pads.

- 4 Attach die-cut dinosaurs (by Doodlebug) and two sentiments with 3D foam pads, then die cut grass from green card and secure to finish.

Brilliant for **BEGINNERS**

Get these artsy essentials
in time for summer



Watercolour Pad,
£5, hobbycraft.co.uk



Reeves Sketching Pencils,
£2.99, therange.co.uk



Reeves Coloured Pencils,
£7, hobbycraft.co.uk



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A MOMENT WITH Lauren Cooper

We talk to calligrapher Lauren about self-doubt and her son's handwriting



Calligraphy, a precise and deliberate craft, notoriously offers little room for mistakes. So it's riveting to hear from consummate calligrapher Lauren Cooper, who is warm, open and humble, about her less than smooth journey on the road to owning her own business dedicated to the form.

It's 2013. Lauren Cooper is a post-grad, lost and overwhelmed, realising that a career in wedding stationery may not be for her. After being inspired by what she's seen online, she decides to buy some tools from a calligraphy store. Problem is, they're the wrong ones. "I was using the wrong nibs, the wrong paper, and had no idea about calligraphy." Luckily she stumbled across Molly Suber-Thorpe's book *Modern Calligraphy*, which introduced her to the basics and gave her a crucial foundation of technical confidence. Soon after, she gave birth to her son – an event which did the opposite of stymying her dreams, and instead became a driver for Lauren to realise her calligraphy ambitions.

DREAM REALISED

Fast forward six years, and people are having their own Suber-Thorpe moment

with Lauren's book, *Modern Calligraphy & Hand Lettering*, released in 2018. No matter how many times it happens, it seems the thrill will never wear off: "Every time someone says how much it has helped them, I get emotional!" she admits. For those both inspired and intimidated by her swirling masterworks, Lauren is here to provide a guiding hand – she runs a workshop aimed at total beginners. "There's so much information out there which is amazing, but I want to take anyone from newbie to advanced using everything I've learned. I honestly believe that everyone can learn modern calligraphy – it's all about patience and practice!"

Of course, success doesn't guarantee a lifetime cache of self-belief, and when we ask if she doubted herself in the early stages, Lauren replied that she still does: "Comparison is the thief of joy' is my favourite quote. With Instagram, it's easy to get caught up in the comparison game, and the self-doubt that can accompany it. I try to remember that you never know someone's story or journey by looking at their social media profile." In an age of carefully curated, often misleading social media profiles, this is timely advice. Lauren's words on the relationship with

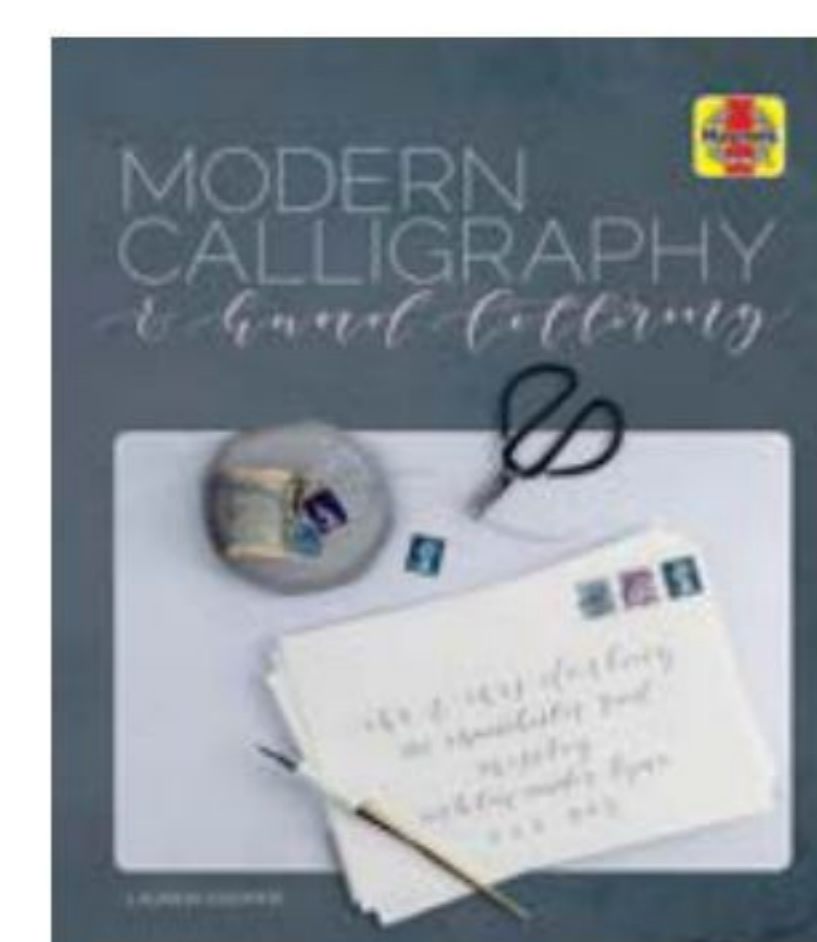
"You don't need the whole world to love you. Just your audience"

your work and the people that appreciate it are also worth heeding: "Everyone has their own preferences and taste. You don't need the whole world to love you. Just your audience."

BLUE BLOOD

And friends and family, she adds. Lauren has four weddings to plan for this year, all of which she feels proud and eager to contribute to. "I love being able to help them with their big day. Gifting my passion to my best friends is really special. Plus, it means the wedding gift is sorted!" She also has her son's fourth birthday to come (honestly, that tear-jerking dedication to him in her book is worth the price of admission alone), and it seems like an interest in his mother's vocation isn't entirely off the cards. "He has nailed writing his name and I am a very proud mama when we give people handmade cards that he has written in. I'm actually surprised at how good he is!"

One of the reasons she pursued her career so vigorously is because she wanted to demonstrate to her son, when the time is right, of what can happen when you are motivated, resilient, and brave enough to follow your dreams. In doing so, she unwittingly laid a blueprint for a whole host of people – people that feel lost, directionless, and low on self-belief. Speaking with Lauren is inspiring, hearing her journey invigorating, and after it all you can't help but feel that any dream, no matter how far-fetched, is attainable – just so long as you have the right nibs.



Modern Calligraphy & Hand Lettering by Lauren Cooper (£22.99, Haynes Publishing). Photography by Holly Booth. haynes.com

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