



build a background

Bland background, be gone! These pages and cards shine from back to front! Love to paint? We'll show you how to watercolour truly original page foundations. Addicted to embellishments? Use those stickers to the letter, make that twine all the more divine, and pack a punch with buttons. You'll definitely be inspired to bring technique to the foreground with these brilliant bases!

BY MEGAN HOEPFNER

PageMaps pg 29

make it mini pg 34

around the page pg 37

layout no. 1

BACKGROUND TIP

make your own paper

Let your creativity bloom. All you need is a blank canvas, some watercolour paint, embroidery floss, and an image to work from. Whether that image is hand drawn, stenciled, or made using the drawing option on your electronic cutter, there are nearly limitless opportunities.

gather memories

BY PAIGE EVANS

supplies CARDSTOCK: American Crafts; DIE CUT SHAPES, STICKERS: Crate Paper; ELECTRONIC CUT FILE: Silhouette; WATERCOLOUR PAINT: Loew Cornell; SEWING MACHINE: Brother; FONT: Remington Noiseless; ADHESIVE: American Crafts; OTHER: Embroidery floss



BUILD THIS BACKGROUND

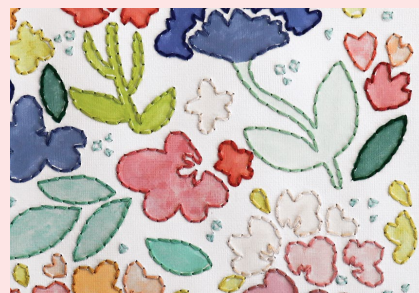
Feel like a kid again as you colour your own stitched creation.



1 Draw a background on cardstock using an electronic cut file and your cutter's pen or pencil attachment. Pierce holes along lines.



2 Backstitch along pierced lines, using various shades of embroidery floss and a sewing needle.



3 Colour inside the stitched lines using watercolour paint or coloured pencils.

layout no. 2

BACKGROUND TIP

make a rainbow

Who needs the pot o' gold when it's the rainbow that truly shines? Grouping accents together by colour creates a striking design, while the white space helps your background breathe.

the best

BY STACY COHEN

supplies CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics; STICKERS: American Crafts; DIES, ENAMEL SHAPES: Taylored Expressions; BAKER'S TWINE, GEMS, WASHI TAPE: Queen & Co.; FLOWERS: Prima Marketing; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L



BUILD THIS BACKGROUND

Let your true colours shine with these easy-to-follow steps.



1 Adhere washi tape strips diagonally across your page.



2 Adhere twine in space next to tape using a liquid adhesive.



3 Add embellishments to create dimension and complete the design.

layout no. 3

BACKGROUND TIP

wash resist

No, we're not asking you to continue neglecting that pile of laundry. (Though, there are surely more exciting things beckoning.) Creating a wash resist simply means designing a surface that won't take watercolour. In this case, that comes from stamping and heat embossing.

timeless love

BY BEA VALINT

supplies PATTERNED PAPER: Pink Paislee; STAMPS: PinkFresh Studio; STICKERS: Crate Paper; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L; OTHER: Embossing powder, ink, watercolour paint, watercolour paper



BUILD THIS BACKGROUND

Make the many gorgeous layers found on this striking design in three basic steps.



1 Stamp cardstock with embossing ink, apply embossing powder, and heat set.



2 Mist paper with water and apply colour using watercolour paint.



3 Dip paint brush in paint, hold over background, and tap brush to create splatter effect.

NOTE: Once page has dried, you can then go back and add additional stamping detail.

layout no. 4

BACKGROUND TIP

embrace simplicity

Sometimes the best way to make a background standout is to leave it bare. Especially when you have tasty accents doing much of the talking! To add patterned paper behind such exaggerated embellishments would only work to sour such a sweet design.



Download Kim's playful doughnut cut files and create your own sweet accents. Find them here:

scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-files

dunkin' together

BY KIM WATSON

supplies CARDSTOCK: American Crafts; PATTERNED PAPER, DIE CUT SHAPES, FLAIR: Fancy Pants Designs; STICKERS: Elle's Studio, Fancy Pants Designs; PEN, WASHI TAPE: Bella Blvd; ELECTRONIC CUT FILE: Kim Watson; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L, Therm O Web, Tombow

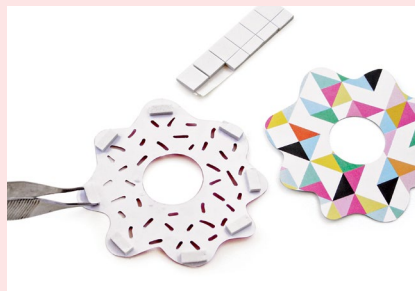


BUILD THIS BACKGROUND

Frame your photos with a paper creation that would make Homer Simpson proud. Give this pieced technique a try.



1 Die cut doughnut components from patterned paper.



2 Adhere sprinkle piece to frosting piece using foam adhesive.



3 Layer three pieces together to complete design.

card no. 1

BACKGROUND TIP

fill a shape

Like a punch straight to the heart... literally. This cute card's focal point was created by filling a heart with a variety of punched shapes. Note how the paper buttons are placed—they are positioned in a gradient fashion (warm to cool), with many shapes layered and overlapping.

kind words

BY NANCY DAMIANO

supplies CARDSTOCK, PATTERNED PAPER: American Crafts; PUNCH: Creative Memories; STAMP: Altenew; INK: Stampin' Up!; ENAMEL DOTS: Queen & Co.; ADHESIVE: Therm O Web



Turn to page 10 to learn more about the punch used.



easter

BY NANCY DAMIANO

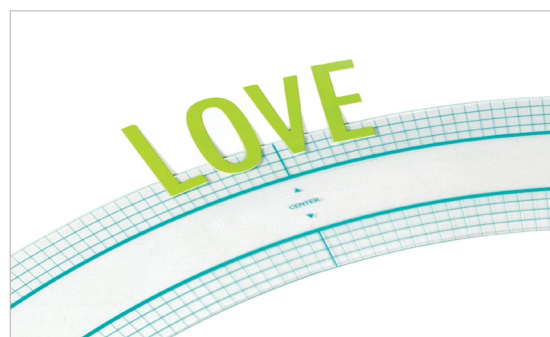
supplies CARDSTOCK, PATTERNED PAPER, RULER, VELLUM: American Crafts; STICKERS: Elle's Studio; SEQUINS, STAMP: Neat and Tangled; ENAMEL SHAPE: My Mind's Eye; DIE: Lawn Fawn; MARKERS: Copic; ADHESIVE: Therm O Web

card no. 2

BACKGROUND TIP

letter it up

Gimme an E! Gimme an A!... This background technique is worth cheering for—it turns a group of letters into a pattern, with colour amplifying the sentiment. Stamp your letters or use stickers from your stash.



American Crafts has come out with new **Thickers Alignment Guides**, which make adhering stickers easier than ever. Simply adhere a small portion of each letter to the guide and transfer to your project. The marks on the tool will help you master even spacing every time.