

# creative cards

Where card makers come to share their love for techniques.

Get ready for three cool ways to use one die cut! BY LAURIE WILLISON

*I*'ve been creating cards and blogging for 10 years. After all these years, I have learned so much, but I still love a clean and simple card. White space is my favourite, but I do love to add in a quick and simple technique. Dies are a great way to add special details with a few cranks of your die cut machine, so let's take a look at three ways to get the most out of your dies.

## card 1

### EMBOSSED BACKGROUND WITH A DIE CUT

Create your own custom background filled with texture by using your die cuts to emboss a panel for your card front. The effect is gorgeous, but it doesn't add bulk to your design. It's the perfect way to create a beautiful card that's still flat enough that it won't require extra postage!

- 1 Make card from cardstock.
- 2 Trim rectangle panel and dry emboss repeatedly with holly die. See Tip to learn how to emboss with dies.
- 3 Create vellum stencil and ink leaves (see Step Outs 2-4 on pg. 53).
- 4 Die cut sentiment from gold cardstock and stitched rectangle from vellum. Adhere die cuts to embossed panel.
- 5 Adhere panel to card base with dimensional adhesive.

### merry christmas

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: DCWV, My Favorite Things, Neenah; VELLUM: Bazzill Basics; INK, INK BLENDER: Ranger Industries; DIES: Simon Says Stamp; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L



**TIP:** To get the desired effect when embossing a card front, use an embossing mat and a few shims. Keep adding shims until you reach your desired result.

**DESIGN TIP:** When creating a busier colourful background, add your sentiment to a vellum panel to help the sentiment stand out from the background.



card 2

### DIE CUTS WITH A TWIST

Spruce up a traditional die by using glitter cardstock and various shades of ink. These subtle changes in colour are easy and inexpensive ways to add instant depth and dimension to your cards.

- 1 Make card from cardstock.
- 2 Die cut stitched rectangles from cardstock rectangle. Adhere rectangle and die cuts to card base.
- 3 Die cut holly leaves from green cardstock and apply green ink.
- 4 Die cut holly berries from red glitter cardstock. Adhere berries and leaves to card.
- 5 Die cut sentiment from gold cardstock and adhere.

**DESIGN TIP:** Ink and blend the edges of your die cuts to give them more depth and definition.

### merry christmas panels

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: DCWV, My Favorite Things, Neenah; VELLUM: Bazzill Basics; INK, INK BLENDER: Ranger Industries; DIES: My Favorite Things, Simon Says Stamp; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L



**TIP:** Keep the background simple by using a cover plate die and inlaying all the negative pieces. While the background will look dimensional, inlaying the negative pieces gives you a flat workspace to add details on top.



card 3

### CREATE A STENCIL WITH YOUR DIE CUT

If embossing with your die cuts seems like too much work, create a similar look in half the time by creating a custom stencil with your dies!

- 1 Make card from cardstock.
- 2 Create holly background following Step Outs on pg. 53.
- 3 Die cut holly leaves from green cardstock and apply green ink.
- 4 Die cut holly berries from red glitter cardstock. Adhere berries and leaves with dimensional adhesive.
- 5 Die cut sentiment from gold cardstock and adhere.

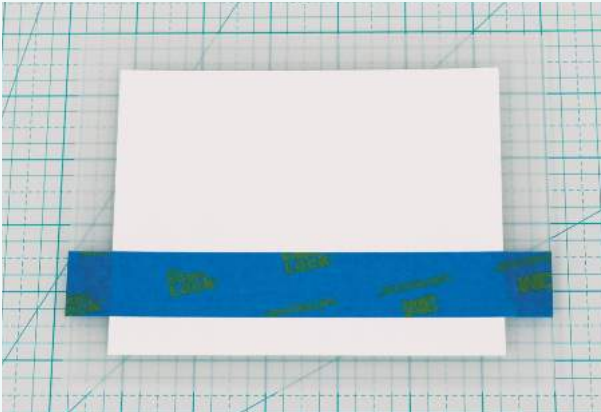
**TIP:** When using a die cut to create a stencil, use a transparent material like vellum so that you can see your project for perfect placement.

### christmas blessings

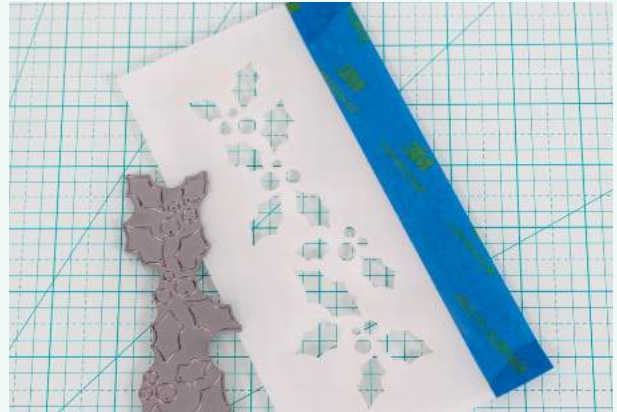
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## step-by-step process

**TECHNIQUE:** CREATE YOUR OWN STENCIL WITH DIES (AND TWO BONUS DIE TIPS!)



1 Mask off bottom of card front with tape.



2 Die cut holly from vellum.



3 Tape stencil to card front and apply ink over stencil with an ink blender.



4 Move stencil around on card front and repeat inking holly leaves and berries.



**BONUS TIP 1:** Die cut leaves, attach to sticky side of a Post-It note to avoid shifting, and blend ink.



**BONUS TIP 2:** Die cut fun foam. Adhere foam leaves and berries to inked cardstock dies for instant lift!

For more from Laurie, check out her blog at [soapboxcreations.blogspot.com](http://soapboxcreations.blogspot.com)