

# product play

Stencils have long been a staple in creativity. Let's explore what they have to offer!

Many of our partners offer a wide array of stencils. They range from pretty and intricate to spare and geometric with lots of fun options in between! But how do you get the most out of these awesome little design doodads? Jennifer S. Gallacher is here to share three clever ways to use your stencils.



## life is a series of moments

BY JENNIFER S. GALLACHER

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics, JoAnn Crafts; PATTERNED PAPERS: Echo Park Paper, Pebbles, Simple Stories; CHIPBOARD: Project Life; ENAMEL DOTS, DIE: Echo Park Paper; TAG: Jillibean Soup; EMBOSSING PASTE: Tonic Studios; STENCIL, TRIM: American Crafts; ELECTRONIC CUT FILES: Silhouette America; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook.com, Therm O Web; OTHER: Brads



### START SMALL

If you're too skittish to stencil directly on your layout or card, start small with experiments. Secure the stencil to some cardstock on your workspace and add some embossing paste in a thin layer through the stencil. Once your design is dry, die cut it into shapes (Jennifer chose circles) and use them as unique design elements on a layout or card. If you mess it up, try again. It's just paper!

**STENCIL TIP:** Apply gold embossing paste through a stencil, let dry, and then die cut the embossed designs into circles to use as an embellishment on your project.

**STENCIL TIP:** When using embossing paste, it's recommended that you clean your stencil with hot water right after you're done to make sure that you can get it clean.

Special thanks to the following companies for sharing stencils with us for this column. You can find more stencils from these companies on their websites!

- **Echo Park Paper** [echoparkpaper.com](http://echoparkpaper.com)
- **Hero Arts** [heroarts.com](http://heroarts.com)
- **My Favorite Things** [mftstamps.com](http://mftstamps.com)
- **Pink & Main** [pinkandmain.com](http://pinkandmain.com)
- **Simon Says Stamp** [simonsaysstamp.com](http://simonsaysstamp.com)

## USE THE STENCIL WITH ACRYLIC PAINT

Remember back in the '80s when we were stenciling designs on our kitchen walls in shades of dusty blue and dusty rose? That same concept still works but with updated designs for the 21st century! Again, secure the stencil to your work surface with masking tape (for crisp edges) and use acrylic paint to pounce the colour into the design for best results. Let it dry and use it as an awesome backdrop for a pretty fall frame like Jennifer did!

**STENCIL TIP:** Use acrylic paint to pounce colour through a stencil to create a backdrop for a layout, card, or home décor piece.

**STENCIL TIP:** Use a light hand. You can always go back and add more colour, but if you add too much all at once, it's time to grab another sheet and try again.



### fall frame

BY JENNIFER S. GALLACHER

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics, Carta Bella; ENAMEL DOTS, DIE: Echo Park Paper; PAINT: Delta; STENCIL: BoBunny; ELECTRONIC CUT FILES: Silhouette America; FRAME: Jilibean Soup; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook.com, Therm O Web; OTHER: Brads



Want to learn another fun way to use stencils? Check out this video from Jennifer McGuire on our YouTube channel.

[bit.ly/PartialStencilingWithJenniferMcGuire](http://bit.ly/PartialStencilingWithJenniferMcGuire)



**STENCIL TIP:** Reserve a different foam applicator for each colour so that things don't get muddy.

## BLEND INKS THROUGH A STENCIL WITH A BLENDING TOOL

Let the pretty design of the stencil shine with beautiful colours of ink blended through it. The cool thing about this technique is that you can vary the look based on how large of an ink stash you have! You can try a rainbow, warm or cool colours, or various shades of one colour family for an ombré effect.

### hello

BY JENNIFER S. GALLACHER

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics, Carta Bella, Neenah; VELLUM: American Crafts; INK: Stampin' Up!; ENAMEL DOTS, DIE: Echo Park Paper; PHOTO CORNERS: Canson; STENCIL: Hero Arts; ELECTRONIC CUT FILE: Silhouette America; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook.com, Therm O Web; OTHER: Brad