tips, tricks & techniques

3t's

sensational stitching

Hand stitching is making a splash as papercrafters are poking holes and threading needles to create chic and colourful designs with a handmade twist. Settle in for an inspiring look at six different ways to add stitching to your next project. It's quite possible you'll be stitching up something fabulous after you finish this article! BY SUSAN R. OPEL

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DESIGN TIP: Notice how Stacy's wave extends on either side of the cute photo of the girls jumping into the pool. That one design choice brings tons of movement to her layout!

layout 1

stitch in a shape

Create pretty texture and lots of interest by stitching around a shape on your cards or layouts, whether it's a large shape or a small one. Stacy created a whimsical wave that dominates the background of her layout and then poked holes around the shape to create a stitched perimeter. She then added fun monochromatic gems to the wave for even more energy.

DESIGN TIP: Create a long strip on your layout to feature two photos. Stacy's colourful patterned paper brings focus to the photos and the space to the right makes the perfect spot for a fun title!

good times in the sun

BY STACY COHEN

supplies CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics; PATTERNED PAPER, DIE CUT SHAPE, STICKERS: Simple Stories; LETTER STICKERS: American Crafts, Jillibean Soup; GEMS: Queen & Co; PASTELS: Colorfin; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L, Therm O Web; OTHER: Embroidery floss

DESIGN TIP: Summers at the ball park are full of fun! Follow Kelly's lead, and tilt some of your photos on your next layout to show the liveliness of little league.

layout 2

incorporate specialty stitching

If you want to dabble in stitching, search online for tutorials to create specialty stitches. You're never too old to learn! Kelly used a blanket stitch at the bottom of her layout to mimic the stitches on a baseball.

play ball

BY KELLY GOREE

supplies CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics, BoBunny; PATTERNED PAPER: Echo Park Paper; INK: Clearsnap; TRIM: DMC; ELECTRONIC CUT FILE: Silhouette America; PUNCHES: Fiskars; ADHESIVE: Therm O Web

STEP-BY-STEP

Try your hand at a pretty blanket stitch on your next project by following these steps:

1 Create evenly spaced holes, and thread floss through second hole from left horizontally and vertically as shown. **NOTE:** Make sure that thread is coming up through the paper as shown to go on to the next step.

2 Do the same stitch for the second hole, but before placing the needle in the third hole, take it under the stitch just before you pull the floss taut.

3 Place needle in the third hole and repeat the process.

DESIGN TIP: Use block letters when trying this technique, since they tend to have fewer curves to deal with, but if you're feeling adventurous, try a script font. We dare you!

layout 3

DESIGN TIP: Use varying font types, colours, and sizes when building a title. Nicole used all caps and a script, and the smaller *hit* in neutral colours gives rock star status to the stitched title.

stitch around a title

Make your title the star of the show by stitching around the letters like Nicole did! While the patterned papers for each letter are disparate, the stitching gives them a continuity, making it easier to read.

hit the beach

BY NICOLE NOWOSAD

supplies CARDSTOCK, LETTER STICKERS: American Crafts; PATTERNED PAPER, CHIPBOARD, DIE CUT SHAPES: Fancy Pants Designs; SEWING MACHINE: Janome; ADHESIVE: Therm O Web

cards 1 & 2

stitch on a stamped image

Give lots of extra touchability to your handmade cards by stitching on stamped images. Basically, if you have a hole poker, you can create holes to stitch on any image!

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make card from cardstock.
2. Stamp and emboss floral images to form two borders. Colour images with watercolour brush pens and hand-cut images.
3. Poke holes in stamped images using stamped stitch lines as a guide. Stitch through holes using thread.
4. Die cut cardstock using cross stitch die. Cross-stitch area wide enough to cover space between floral images.
5. Adhere cross-stitched panel to card base; adhere floral images using foam tape. Trim excess from floral images.
6. Die cut sentiment and adhere to cross-stitched panel; add clear dots.

DESIGN TIP: Leigh stitched the entire background, but you could simplify this design by using a patterned paper in its place.

hello friend

BY LEIGH HOUSTON

supplies CARDSTOCK: Koh-I-Noor, Neenah, Simon Says Stamp; STAMPS: Simon Says Stamp; INK: Tsukineko; EMBOSSING POWDER: Hero Arts; TRIM: DMC; SEQUINS: Pretty Pink Posh; DIES: Carta Bella, Paper Smooches; WATERCOLOUR MARKERS: Kuretake ZIG; ADHESIVE: 3M, Be Creative, Ranger Industries

stitch on die cut shapes

Add an extra special homemade touch to your cards and layouts by stitching on manually cut or premade die cuts.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make card from cardstock.
2. Die cut cardstock panel with cross stitch die. Die cut circular window from panel.
3. Cross-stitch panel up to edges of circular window; adhere panel to card base.
4. Die cut sentiment and adhere to center of window.
5. Die cut transparency circle; fill window with shaker components and cover window with circle.
6. Create frame to cover edges of circle using nesting circle dies; adhere frame to window to cover edges of circle.
7. Die cut flowers and leaves from cardstock, poke holes in die cuts, and hand-stitch; adhere flowers and leaves to card front.

DESIGN TIP: Don't feel like you have to stitch everything like Leigh did. Instead, start small, and just do a few flowers.

happy day

BY LEIGH HOUSTON

supplies CARDSTOCK: Neenah, Simon Says Stamp; PATTERNED PAPER: Echo Park Paper; TRANSPARENCY: Grafix; TRIM: DMC; SEQUINS: Kat Scrappiness; DIES: Carta Bella, Hero Arts, Paper Smooches, Simon Says Stamp; ADHESIVE: Be Creative, Ranger Industries

DESIGN TIP: Add pretty patterned paper butterflies to the middle of your stitched butterflies. It will give interest and weight to your show-stopping background.

layout 4

stitch an entire background

While Paige's design might seem intimidating, it's all about having the right tools. This gorgeous background was created with a cut file (which we are providing for you FREE). Once Paige cut the flurry of butterflies, she was ready to stitch since the holes are already cut. Make an impact with hand-stitching. There's definitely the wow factor, but you'll also get lost in the creativity.

FREE CUT FILES

Get a free download of Paige's exquisite butterfly cut file. The holes are cut for you, so you can dream up some pretty stitched butterflies of your own!
scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-content

hello sunshine

BY PAIGE EVANS

supplies PATTERNED PAPER, CHIPBOARD, STICKERS: Crate Paper; ELECTRONIC CUT FILE: Paige Evans; TRIM: DMC; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L