

creative cards

Where card makers come to share what's hot in the world of stamping, die cutting, and handmade kindness!

We're here to help you think outside the box and challenge yourself! Join five incredibly talented designers as they give you a whole bunch of clever ideas to expand the use of your manual die stash.



DESIGN TIP: Dilay's tone-on-tone vases and white background allow the colourful woven strips to really pop. Keeping her sentiment neutral lets those juicy colours shine.

thanks

BY DILAY NACAR

supplies CARDSTOCK: Concord & 9th; DIES: Altenew, Taylored Expressions; ADHESIVE: Gina K. Designs, Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L

OUR FOCUS: DIE DIVERSITY

We asked several designers to put on their thinking caps and come up with creative ways to use dies in unexpected ways! Once you see what they have to share with you, we're pretty sure your head will be swimming with all kinds of ideas.

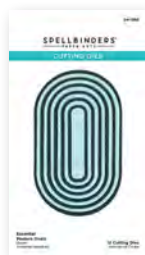
MAXIMIZE YOUR DIES

To create a detailed and elevated background, Dee repeatedly die cut one vase shape several times and wove 1/8 inch strips through the openings. If you see a hole or a slot in a die cut shape, think about what could be slipped in or through it. You could tuck in the stem of a flower, tie a bow, or put a sequin or gem in each opening.

DESIGN TIP: Think in terms of repetition.

One vase as opposed to nine would be a completely different story with this design.

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT: The Spellbinders Modern Ovals are an all-purpose nested set of dies. Tina used hers to create the popsicles on the right. SO clever!



GIVE SHAPE TO SOMETHING UNIQUE

Tina tells us, “It all started when I was little, and I created a bumblebee out of hearts. Ever since then I see shapes in a new light.” And so, this delicious summery card came to be! One set of nested circle dies created the cone, the scoops of ice cream, and the cherries on top. Talk about clever.

DESIGN TIP: Add shading to your circles for depth and dimension. The added ink will help to make the cones and scoops look more lifelike.

DESIGN TIP: Use a completely different colour for the background to highlight the cones. The subtle stamped design gives interest without taking away from the cones.

sweetheart

BY TINA SMITH

supplies CARDSTOCK: Neenah, Spellbinders; VELLUM: Hero Arts; STAMP: Simon Says Stamp; INK: Pinkfresh Studio, Spellbinders; PEN: Uni-Ball Signo; DIES: Simon Says Stamp, Spellbinders; ADHESIVE: Bearly Art, Ranger, Simon Says Stamp, Spellbinders



SUMMERTIME SWEETNESS

Creating backgrounds with nesting dies is ordinary but using them to make something delicious and sweet makes them extraordinary! This smart way of looking at your stash makes it more versatile and budget friendly. Think back to drawing class—you may have been taught that all matter is made up of shapes. So basically, you can create ANYTHING, right?

DESIGN TIP: Tina’s striped frozen treats came together thanks to the Essential Modern Ovals dies from Spellbinders. She cut three different colours of cardstock, sliced them, and pieced them together. The sticks were cut from one of the smaller ovals, too!

DESIGN TIP: Add depth with ink blending on the popsicle, a popped up panel, and a cheerful embossed background in buttery yellow.

hello

BY TINA SMITH

supplies CARDSTOCK: Neenah, Spellbinders; VELLUM: Hero Arts; INK: Pinkfresh Studio; GLITTER: Ranger; SEQUINS: Pretty Pink Posh; DIES: Simon Says Stamp, Spellbinders; EMBOSSING FOLDER: Spellbinders; ADHESIVE: Bearly Art, Simon Says Stamp, Spellbinders



CHOOSE A DIFFERENT MEDIA

Sure, dies cut cardstock, but what else do they cut? You may have glitter paper, felt, foam, canvas, or even metal in your stash. Experiment with different textures. Charlene die cut vellum and then coloured the leaves and flowers with alcohol markers. To create the mottled effect, she spritzed the coloured vellum with isopropyl alcohol.

DESIGN TIP: Intersperse pure white butterflies and leaves to bulk up and highlight the coloured leaves and flowers.

DESIGN TIP: Soft touches of text behind the glorious floral spray make Charlene's design simply SING.

thinking of you

BY CHARLENE MADRID

supplies CARDSTOCK: Hero Arts, Neenah; STAMPS, ADHESIVE, DIES, INK, RUB-ONS: Hero Arts; MARKERS: Copic; GEMS: Honey Bee Stamps; OTHER: Isopropyl alcohol, vellum



TRY A SIMILAR TECHNIQUE ON ACETATE

For this elegant and vintage design (with a modern twist!), Charlene layered die cuts that were cut from alcohol ink on acetate. She used both blending solution and isopropyl alcohol to blend and move the alcohol inks around. She tells us she likes to alternate between blending solution and isopropyl alcohol.

DESIGN TIP: Go with gray and white for a pretty backdrop. The black sentiment and colourful flowers stand out against the soft and layered background.

DESIGN TIP: Die cut a bunch of flowers and leaves from acetate that has been coloured with alcohol inks. Save them for later or fashion a pretty wreath with the lot of them!

just a little note

BY CHARLENE MADRID

supplies CARDSTOCK: Hero Arts, Neenah; STAMPS, DIES, GEMS: Honey Bee Stamps; INK: Hero Arts, Ranger; ADHESIVE: Hero Arts; OTHER: Acetate, isopropyl alcohol



MAKE A STENCIL WITH A DIE

Believe it or not, you have unique stencils in your stash—they just happen to be dressed up as dies at the moment. Choose a die cut and use it on a thin cardstock or vellum, and suddenly you have a stencil! Use the “stencil” as you would with any stencil for ink blending or even a colourful paste or gel.

DESIGN TIP: Embossing folders really add a quick and gorgeous texture for an understated yet interesting background.

DESIGN TIP: Notice Mindy’s gem placement: the gems seem to flow from slightly above and to the left of the sentiment, and they continue slightly below and to the right.

with sympathy

BY MINDY EGGEN

supplies CARDSTOCK, ADHESIVE: Gina K. Designs, Taylored Expressions; STAMPS, DIES, INK: Taylored Expressions; EMBOSSING FOLDER, GEMS: Gina K. Designs



Check out Mindy’s video to learn more about how she created this pretty sympathy card. Watch here: bit.ly/SPSU24Mindy



DRY EMBOSS WITH A COVER PLATE DIE

Check the manual or website for your manual die cut machine, and you’ll probably find a sandwich that can be used to emboss ANY die cut. On this card, Mindy dry embossed a cover plate to create a pretty, textured backdrop for her beautiful floral spray.

DESIGN TIP: Oooh, that beautiful and rich maroon margin is magnificent! This deeply saturated version of the pinks Mindy used creates beauty and drama all at once. The thin white margin between makes the contrast even more pronounced.

DESIGN TIP: Sympathy cards need not be somber. The idea is to give comfort, so don’t shy away from softer pinks to convey your condolences.

remembering you today

BY MINDY EGGEN

supplies CARDSTOCK, STAMPS, ADHESIVE, INK: Gina K. Designs, Taylored Expressions; DIES, GEMS: Gina K. Designs



Check out another video from Mindy to learn how she created this gorgeous card. Watch here: bit.ly/SPSU24Mindy2



CREATE "WINDOWS" TO A COLOURFUL BACKGROUND

Bethany used a few small dies to frame her sentiment. Start by stamping your sentiment in the sweet spot on a white panel and then thoughtfully die cut from the panel by placing the elements around your sentiment. Trim the sides and then test patterned papers, stenciled backgrounds, or glitter cardstock behind to see what strikes your fancy!

DESIGN TIP: Check your coordinating dies! You may think that they only pair up with stamps, but you'll be surprised what you might find.

DESIGN TIP: Bethany has a very soft style in her colour choices, but you can go bold. This technique would be spectacular with black and metallic gold!

you are loved

BY BETHANY DESCHAMP

supplies CARDSTOCK: Concord & 9th, Neenah; STAMPS, DIES: Concord & 9th; INK: Tsukineko; ADHESIVE: Bearly Art; OTHER: Enamel dots



WASTE NOT WANT NOT

You likely have a bin full of scraps from previous projects or experiments that didn't completely go the way you intended them to. Pull them out and die cut small flowers from them! What a fun and easy way to build up a stash of little posies for later use. Bethany gathered a whole bunch of small florals on this pretty design.

DESIGN TIP: Notice how Bethany has some flowers that go off the edge. This design choice creates movement. Adhere the flowers, turn over the panel, and trim off with scissors.

hello there

BY BETHANY DESCHAMP

supplies CARDSTOCK: Concord & 9th, Neenah; STAMPS, DIES: Concord & 9th; INK: Concord & 9th, Tsukineko; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L; OTHER: Enamel dots

Want more ideas for creative uses of dies?

Turn to page 25 in our *Fresh and Floral* article to see how flower and leaf dies combine to create a butterfly!