

# alumni advice

We asked our alumni to share some of their important tips and advice for success and they were only too pleased to share the points below.

## The top tips we heard:

### Shop your stash.

No need to purchase all of the supplies the instructors are using.

### Go at your own pace.

Pause and rewind on YouTube are your friend.

### Be as prepared as you want to be.

Have time to do the homework? Great. Life is too busy with no time for homework? Also, great. There are no rules and no one is keeping score.

### Have fun.

If you feel pressure during a class, pause the card you're working on, join the chat and start fresh with the next card.



Below are many more amazing tips that even other alumni will appreciate!

### Before your event box arrives:

Join the Facebook group, and connect with the fellow crafters. You will find many supportive friends there who are more than happy to answer any questions. Don't wait until the day of the event to join as the moderators are busy and you may have to wait to be approved.

As you will sit for several hours, consider compression socks.

Purchase pouches, folders or something that you can separate your classes by the company and day/time.

Have extra white A2 card bases and card fronts cut.

If you don't have swatches of your ink pads, consider swatching before the event.

Be prepared! Consider pre-planning your meals and snacks. Family comes in handy here!

### When your event box arrives, consider:

Add tabs in your instruction guide to make it easier to find the class you're working on.

If you wish to follow along with the instructor, have the prep work completed before the start of the event. Choose one or two classes a day to prep. If you don't have time, that's totally okay.

Stamp out all your sentiments in the pages of the guide so you can see them all at a glance.

Condition your stamps to get a crisp image during the event.

Heat emboss any sentiments or other things that need to be heat embossed that are not part of a new technique being taught. You will have less to do during class and less chance of powder on your work surface.

If you are doing homework and have some time, consider cutting/stamping one or two extra images and sentiments in the event should you make a mistake during class. If you don't use them, you will have extras to make additional cards.

Don't be overwhelmed by all of the supplies, both in the box and on the supply list. Don't feel like you need everything on the list. Look through the instruction guide, and see if you already own something that can be substituted. Shop your stash.

Organize supplies, inks, markers, basic dies, etc. ahead of time per class.

Place the really small die cuts on low-tack tape and put with each class so you don't lose them.

Watch the meet and greets. Besides getting to know the instructors, it's a great time to ask any questions. Also, a great time to test your technology.

#### **During the event:**

Always have pen/paper handy. During class or when watching a video, if something is important to you, make notes on that card page in your book or on a post-it note you can pop in the book later. There is so much information that it will be hard to remember all of it later.

Have a small dish filled with water nearby to pop your dirty stencils in if you are using paste.

Have a spray bottle of alcohol & no dust rag to clean ink off a stencil.

If a technique or supply is totally new, consider watching the video and create the cards later.

When a class is underway, the pause and rewind buttons work. Use them if you need to!

We all have a style and there will be designers that are outside what you like to do. It's okay not to make every single card. Set the class aside and bring it out later when you feel you are ready to try something new.

Make it your own! Is the instructor creating a yellow bouquet but you love purple, make yours purple! This is your work, your class, your cards!

#### **YouTube advice:**

Create a private playlist on YouTube. When links for the meet & greets, any homework and the live classes are released, put them in order of the classes in your playlist so that it will flow from one video to the next during the event or for playback purposes.

#### *To create a playlist:*

- o Click on the YouTube video link we have posted
- o Open in the YouTube app (be sure to have the app)
- o Click on "save"
- o Create the playlist – ie "Crop & Create Fall 2025 Cardmaking event", click save for each link
- o When you're ready to watch, open YouTube and look for the playlist in your library
- o Click on the video

  
**Just great advice...**

**All cards do not have to be finished and perfect.** If a new technique is overwhelming you, just sit back, participate in the chat and watch the class. You can tackle it later.

As Gina K. always says, consider the cards made during the event as your practice cards.

**Enjoy the process and keep calm.** Go at your own pace. When the event is over, be sure to spread joy by sharing your cards with others! "I purchase a pack of envelopes and stamps right before the event and sometimes address them right then and there if I have the perfect recipient for that wonderful card I just made. Snap a photo if you need to remember it."

**Don't compare yourself to others.** Everyone crafts differently. Enjoy the experience. No one is judging you.

**Make it personal.** If something in class isn't your aesthetic then find a way to use those products that feel more you. Being creative is what this journey is all about and the more you can make things your own, the better they will be for you.

**A big thank you to our alumni for sharing these thoughtful tips!  
As always, if you have any questions at all during the event,  
email us at [create@scrapbookandcards.com](mailto:create@scrapbookandcards.com).**