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Faux Cross-Stitch Stenciling



Dry embossing,
then stenciling with pigment ink
through a fiberglass screen, gives a look of
fine needlework.

FAUX CROSS-STITCH

MATERIALS

Dreamweaver brass stencils:

LL516 Bearded Iris

LL454 Bird of Paradise

LL513 Torch Ginger

Dreamweaver fiberglass screen

White card stock

Embossing tool

Wax paper

Light table

1/8" and 1/4" stencil brushes

Several colors of pigment ink

Removable tape

FLOWER CARDS

1. Tape the stencil to the front of the white card stock using removable tape.
2. Turn the card over so the stencil is face down against the light table. Dry emboss this paper using an embossing tool. To help the tool glide more easily, you may want to rub the back of the card with wax paper or even place wax paper over the back of the card stock and emboss through the wax paper.
3. Now turn the card over with the stencil still attached, so that you can add color. Use 1/4" stencil brushes to stencil pale colors onto the dry embossed image. This first coat of colors should be very pale or pastel colors. For instance the leaves could be stenciled with a mint colored green, or even yellow, and the iris flower could be stenciled with a pale lavender. This light coloration is optional, but it makes it appear that the lines of "faux stitching" are colored, rather than just white. It also makes it easier to see the design while you are stenciling in the next steps.
4. Next the fiberglass screen is attached on top of the brass stencil and "hinged" to the paper with just one piece of removable tape. This way you can peek underneath the screen and see if you are applying enough ink onto the design.
5. Load a 1/4" stencil brush with pigment ink and off-load any excess onto a paper towel. This dry brush technique will keep the colors from running under the stencil and causing a blurred image. Keep peeking at the flower underneath the screen to determine how much more you will need to stencil onto the image. Build your color slowly, with layer after layer of color, going from the lightest to the darkest. This is called shading and, the more you work at it, the more interesting the finished piece becomes. An 1/8" stencil brush can be used to stencil very small areas, like the center of the iris yellow or the dark blue center portion of the Bird of Paradise flower. If your base color for the center of the iris was yellow, you may want to contrast this lighter color and stencil through the screen with red or orange. Once you are satisfied with the color intensity, remove the screen.
6. Finish the card by embellishing it with pieces of brightly colored card stock that is torn to create a deckled edge. You now have a beautiful card that looks like you have spent hours creating it with needle and thread.

TIPS

Remember that it is important to have the screen as close to the paper as possible, so that the grid marks are not blurry. This is why we dry embossed the paper first and then put the screen on top of the stencil. If you are stenciling directly onto the paper without embossing first, my suggestion is to "hinge" the screen onto the paper first and then tape the stencil down onto the screen on all four sides of the stencil to keep it from shifting. This way you can peek under the screen to see how much color is going onto the card stock and the stencil will not move. Another option is to paste the flower stencil with regular Dreamweaver Embossing Paste onto dark colored card stock. After cleaning off the stencil and letting the paste dry, realign the stencil on top of the pasted image and apply the screen in the same manner described above. For detailed instructions on how to apply Embossing Paste, read Lynell Harlow's latest book "New Dimensions in Cardmaking".