

Session 1: Handmade Christmas Cards



Simple techniques to create a series beautiful, effective and unique Christmas cards

These are just suggestions and you won't need everything or you can substitute for what you have available.

- White or coloured card or pre-bought blank card-making cards.
- Scissors and pva glue or pritt stick
- Tissue paper, watercolour paper and/or drawing paper.
- Sticky back plastic.
- Watercolour paints, brush pens or any drawing or painting media of your choice.
- Small decorative hole punches, sequins, stickers, gems or any other embellishments.
- Templates – these are provided at the end of this document.

Materials

My aim is to give you some ideas and inspiration to work with different materials enabling you to produce a number of individual cards with relative ease.

Link to demonstration video: <https://youtu.be/RAPdey-foDE>

Tissue paper

1. Using pva glue, stick tissue paper shapes such as squares or circles all over a piece of white A4 paper or transparent tracing paper. Paste glue on top of the tissue to ensure it is well stuck down. You can add small paper based decorative pieces too such as these sparkly paper mosaic squares. Allow to dry completely.



2. Once the tissue is dry turn the paper over and use templates, such as the bauble ones supplied here, to fill the paper with different shapes, then cut them out.

Tissue paper



4. Use Pva or pritt stick to glue down your arrangements once you are happy with it. Draw strings with black pen and embellish with sequins, stickers, hole punched shapes or small buttons if you wish.

3. This will give you lots of individual brightly coloured bauble shapes that you can arrange onto the cards. Experiment with overlapping shapes, landscape and portrait orientation and different colour combinations.



Sticky back plastic & tissue paper

1. A mess-free alternative is to use sticky back plastic and tissue paper for a bright transparent effect. Cut the sticky back plastic into smaller squares to make handling easier then peel back the protective sheet and lay the plastic sticky side up.

2. It is easier to use small pieces of tissue paper (of any shape, lay these on top of the sticky side. Once the sheet is covered, carefully place another piece of the same sized sticky back plastic on top, sandwiching the papers in between.

3. Use a permanent pen such as a Sharpie or OHP pen to draw around templates onto the plastic or just cut the shapes out directly.



Watercolour paint

1. Cover your paper (watercolour paper works best for this) with watercolour paint. Experiment with dampening the paper first, then applying 2 colours that mix well together to make a secondary colour, (such as reds & yellows to make oranges, blue & yellow to make greens or reds & blues to make purples). Be mindful of not mixing too many different colours otherwise you will create murky effects.

2. Before adding paint you can draw patterns with white wax crayon or oil pastel onto your paper. You do not need to be too considered in your design or application of paint. Try sprinkling a small amount of rock salt into wet watercolour paint for some exciting textures - allow the paint to dry completely before removing the salt.



Watercolour paint

3. As with the tissue paper technique, once dried, remove the salt (if using), turn the paper over and use the templates to fill the paper with different shapes then cut them out. You will have subtly patterned painterly watercolour baubles that you can arrange onto your cards and embellish further with small gems or painted and drawn details if you wish.



Water brush pens

1. As a variation on this you could try water brush pens. They are easy to use and have water-based highly pigmented ink which can be blended with water to create watercolour effects.



Design Ideas



