Basic Stenciling Techniques

Stencil Brushes – “stenciling” (stencil brushes, color medium)
- Tape stencil in place with removable tape
- Stencil with any medium and stencil brushes, inks/paints/paintstiks
- Use good quality brushes and hold straight up and down to get into smallest areas.
- Use a “dry brush” technique. Apply medium to brush, then rouge off on scratch paper to move ink up into bristles and to remove almost all ink from brush.
- Use a rouging motion in small circles to allow bristles to color entire image up to edge of metal.
- Having several brushes allows you to have different color families, or wash them and dry thoroughly before changing colors.
- Use stencil brushes with Picasso Stencil Mask tool to cover areas of stencil while coloring.

Double Stenciling (several stencils, stencil brushes, ink or color medium, micro tip pen)
- Tape open stencil in place with removable tape on all sides.
- Stencil background color with any medium using stencil brushes, inks/paints/paintstiks.
- Use a “dry brush” technique. Apply medium to brush, then rouge off on scratch paper to move ink up into bristles and to remove almost all ink from brush.
- Tape second, patterned stencil over open stencil.
- Using contrasting color and stencil brushes, add pattern.
- If desired, trace one or both stencils with permanent, micro tip pen. Or add third stencil as a background.

Stentangle (micro tip permanent pen)
- Outline stencil design with pen.
- Doodle within the outlined shapes. OR
- Doodle on top of dried paste.
- Use Picasso tool for repeated edge and inner shapes

Zero Technique (graphite powder or pencil and sandpaper, sponge dauber, kneaded eraser, fine tip eraser, permanent micro-tip marker)
- Cover paper with graphite on sponge dauber
- Lay down stencil and erase design with fine tip eraser or kneaded eraser
- Stentangle focal point if desired
Collage Technique (spray or mist ink, if desired – paste, paste spreader, palette knife)
- Using sprays, overlap stencils or move to new position to create collage look
- Paste final image to create focal point

Geometric Stenciling (spray or mist ink in multiple colors)
- Use spray ink through stencil to cover cardstock
- Flip stencil to a different direction and spray with second ink color to create a new, unexpected pattern.
- Experiment with different background stencils to find new patterns.

Double Glitter Technique (double-sided adhesive paper, watermark ink, glitters in various colors)
- Ink back of stencil with VersaMark Watermark Ink
- Apply stencil to double sided mounting paper
- Apply one or more colors of glitter through stencil openings
- Remove stencil from sticky paper and complete panel with contrasting glitter

Double Embossing Powder Technique – same as above with EP, either heated or not. (double-sided adhesive paper, watermark ink, embossing powders, embossing heat tool)

Dry Embossed Stencil Techniques
The thickness of metal stencils makes these techniques work well. To avoid bending, place metal stencil directly on NON-magnetic platform for support.

Dry Embossing (die cutting machine, platform, rubber (squishy) mat, two cutting plates, spray bottle with alcohol or water, sanding block, Core' dinations paper or Metal Sheets if desired.)
- Use die cut machine with proper layers to dry emboss paper, metal sheets, cardstock, etc.
- Spritz paper lightly with water or alcohol for crisper embossing of detailed image.
- Sandwich – Platform; stencil; paper; rubber (squishy) mat; two clear, flat, cutting plates (best if new)
- Replace stencil over design to add color to raised image with stencil brush.
- Remove color from metal and cardstock sheets with sanding block after embossing.
- Add color to metal sheets with alcohol inks.
Embossed Strié (die cutting machine and accessories above, stencil brush, ink or color medium)
- Dry emboss with machine as above
- Using brush and ink, wipe ink in stripes over stencil

Faux Cross Stitch (die cutting machine and accessories above, stencil brush, ink or color medium, fiberglass window screen)
- Dry emboss with machine as above.
- Stencil raised image with brushes and a pale ink color
- Place a piece of screen over the stenciled image and stencil with darker colors through screen.

Letterpress (die cutting machine and accessories above, stencil brush, spray or mist ink, spray booth, gloves)
- Spray ink directly on to metal stencil
- Press cardstock to wet stencil to print OR
- Dry emboss with machine allowing ink to print “negative” design while embossing raises design in cardstock color (white)

Embossing Paste Techniques
NOTE: Always clean tools immediately when pasting. Do not allow paste to dry on stencils, paste spreader, or palette knife. Place tools in a shallow tray of warm water to soak. Clean, flat on the bottom, with a soft brush like a nail brush. Blot dry with soft cloth (old t-shirt).

Basic Pasting (paste, paste spreader, palette knife)
- Apply paste to paste spreader with palette knife
- Tape all four sides of stencil to cardstock with removable tape
- Pull spreader across stencil with even pressure holding spreader at a 45 degree angle.
- If complete coverage is not achieved, pull across again. Try not to pull more than twice.
- Remove stencil from cardstock and place with all tools immediately in tray of water.
- Stencils and tools can soak in water while you complete the project.
- Return extra paste to jar, clean rim of paste jar and close lid tightly
- When paste is dry, color pasted image with stencil brushes and ink or coloring medium, if desired.
- Regular, Translucent, Pearlescent, and White Glossy Pastes can be tinted any color with tube acrylics or other water-based medium.

Shadow Effect (paste, ink or color medium, stencil brush, paste spreader, palette knife)
- Stencil first with dark ink, then paste over with metallic or regular paste, slightly misaligned to create a shadow.
- Color top layer with stencil brushes when dry if desired.
Sculpting (paste, palette knife, paste spreader)
- Add extra paste w/tip of palette knife after pasting normally.

Half and Half (paste, palette knife, paste spreader, paper trimmer)
- Paste same stencil on two different colors of card in two paste colors.
- Cut cards in half or quarters.
- Reassemble by switching pieces between the cards.

Paste on Acetate (paste, palette knife, paste spreader, acetate sheets)
- Allow extra drying time.
- Use lighter pressure.

Power Pasting with Hinged Stencil (paste, palette knife, paste spreader)
- Create a “handle” on bottom of stencil by folding a piece of removable tape in half across bottom.
- Use removable tape to create a sturdy “hinge” at top or side of stencil on a piece of paper or craft mat.
- Slide cardstock under stencil.
- Apply removable tape to other sides of stencil.
- Paste stencil with paste spreader.
- Remove side tapes and discard, not disturbing hinge.
- Lift with handle, not dislodging hinged section.
- Remove pasted card and replace with new card.
- Replace all tape every 4-5 cards or as necessary.

Sludge Paste (paste, palette knife, paste spreader)
- When coloring pastes, save the extra in a jar, or mix on craft mat for immediate use.
- Mix together to create a random color palette for pasting.

Glitter on Paste (matte paste, palette knife, paste spreader, glitter)
- One or more glitters can be added to embossing paste when wet for a dynamic effect.
- Micro Glitters and Ultra Fine Glitters work best.
- Gently pat glitter on to wet paste for best results.
- Use Matte Black Paste under dark glitters.
Crackle Embossing Paste (crackle paste, matte black paste, palette knife, paste spreader, heat tool, stencil brushes, coloring medium)
- Tape stencil to cardstock
- Paste with matte black embossing paste
- Allow to dry at least an hour
- Reposition clean stencil and gently paste with crackle embossing paste.
- Allow to dry in warm place 2 hours, or heat gently with heat tool to dry faster.
- Reposition clean stencil and add color to crackle paste with stencil brushes.

Mica Powders over Embossing Paste (matte black or glossy black paste, palette knife, paste spreader, mica powders, small brush, glue pad, sponge dauber)
- Paste stencil with matte black embossing paste.
- Clean stencil.
- Allow to dry
- Replace clean stencil over image.
- Apply glue from glue pad with a sponge dauber to entire design
- Gently brush mica powder on to glue with tapping motion.
OR
- Paste with glossy black paste
- Gently tap brush to sprinkle mica on wet paste
OR
- Mix mica powder into translucent embossing paste and spread across stencil.

Foil Leaf over Embossing Paste (paste, palette knife, paste spreader, glue pad, sponge dauber, metallic foil leaf)
- Paste with matte black embossing paste. Or use a coordinating metallic paste.
- Allow to dry
- Apply glue with a sponge dauber
- Gently apply foil leaf to glue and remove with soft brush.

Faux Cloisonné (paste, palette knife, paste spreader, stencil brushes, ink or coloring medium, Deep Impressions Embossing Enamel, Clear Embossing Powder, heat tool)
- Paste stencil with regular paste.
- Color image with stencil brushes and pigment ink
- Apply deep impressions embossing enamel over design and heat to set
- Apply additional color with darker pigment inks
- Apply regular clear embossing enamel over design and heat again to set.
**Faux Ceramic Tile** (paste, palette knife, paste spreader, tile pattern stencil, die cutting machine, platform, rubber mat, spray bottle with alcohol or water, two cutting mats, heat tool, stencil brushes, ink or coloring medium, watermark ink, clear embossing powder, sponge dauber, glitter if desired)

- Choose tile pattern and dry emboss on to white cardstock.
- Reposition Tile stencil, then layer decorative stencil on top with removable tape.
- Stencil decorative stencil with small stencil brushes.
- When finished, heat set ink to dry thoroughly
- Clean tile stencil and dry thoroughly
- Replace tile stencil over inked design
- Apply VersaMark ink over entire design.
- Emboss with clear powder for shiny, tile surface.

**OR**

- Replace tile stencil over stenciled design.
- Paste with translucent paste. (can add glitter if desired to wet paste)
- Allow to dry.

**Molten Magic** (metallic paste, palette knife, paste spreader)

- Paste stencil with metallic embossing paste, remove and clean stencil
- Sprinkle with embossing powder while wet.
- Tap to remove excess powder
- Heat from underneath until powder bubbles and sets

**Resist Techniques**

**Joseph’s Coat** (translucent paste, palette knife, paste spreader, stencil brushes, coloring medium, glossy cardstock)

- Apply ink directly to cover glossy cardstock.
- Paste design in Translucent Paste, allow to dry.
- Apply dye ink in dark color (black) to entire card with stencil brush.
- Wipe with a slightly damp paper towel to remove ink from paste area.

**Thick EP Resist** (embossing paste, palette knife, paste spreader, Chunky Clear Embossing Enamel, heat tool, stencil brushes, coloring medium)

- Paste design with colored paste.
- While wet apply Chunky Clear Enamel by sprinkling on colored paste.
- Allow to dry and heat set enamel.
- Replace clean stencil and stencil with a second color of ink.
- Wipe ink away to reveal color.
**Embossing Powder Resist** (watermark ink, white or clear embossing powder, sponge daubers, ink or coloring medium)
- Apply VersaMark through stencil using dauber.
- Emboss with white or clear powder.
- Apply ink over entire surface with brush, brayer, dauber, etc.
- Wipe away ink from embossed area.

**Spray Finish Resist** (Fast Finish, spray bottle, stencil brushes or dauber, ink or coloring medium)
- Use Beacon Fast Finish in a Spray Bottle through stencil.
- Allow to dry (clean stencil immediately).
- Apply ink over dry spray and wipe away to reveal color underneath.

**Die-Cutting/Paper Piecing**

**Die Cut and Glitter** (die cutting machine, platform, cutting plates, double sided mounting paper, micro or other glitters)
- Cut image from Double Sided Mounting Paper
- Reassemble glittering each piece.

**Sealed with Glitter** (die cutting machine, platform, cutting plates, double sided mounting paper, micro or other glitter, translucent embossing paste)
- Complete piece as above.
- Put stencil over design and paste with translucent embossing paste.
- Allow to dry.

**Paper Piecing on Paste** (paste, paste spreader, palette knife, die cutting machine, platform, cutting plates)
- Paste stencil with black matte embossing paste.
- Use cutting dies to create pieces of stencil image.
- Place paper pieced image on wet paste to adhere.

**Nesting Frames as Mats** (die cutting machine, platform, cutting plates)
- Use nesting cutting dies to mat or frame stenciled, pasted, or die cut/paper pieced image.

**Layered Nesting Frames** (die cutting machine, platform, cutting plates)
- Tape frame dies together to create “frames” or to die cut multiple layers.
- Reassemble with dimensional foam adhesive.
Tips for *Picasso* Stencil Mask and Tool

- Use stencil brushes with soft-colored pigment ink.
- Use a dry brush technique in a circular motion.
- Tape over unneeded holes.
- Work either inside holes or brush off the outer edges.
- Turn Picasso over to double your options.
- Clean it before you flip it over.

Find more tips and techniques using *Picasso* at [www.stampendous.com](http://www.stampendous.com)