

Technique, Batik!



Consider making beautiful fall or holiday cards with this fun and simple technique.

Instructions and samples were prepared for Third Coast by *Arlene Rose*



Images used above:

Edie's Star, ES-075-F, \$3.50; Square Design, ES-140-AA, \$2.00

Batik (pronounced bah-TEEK) is an ancient method of dyeing fabric, popular today in Indonesia and Malaysia. During the dyeing process, some areas of the material are covered with wax or pastes made of glues or starches, the purpose being to create designs by preventing dyes from penetrating in patterned areas. Multicolored and blended effects are obtained by repeating the dyeing process several times, with the initial pattern of wax boiled off and another design applied before dyeing again in a new color.

While traveling in Malaysia several years ago, I witnessed a demonstration of batik on fabric where they used large, carved wooden designs, similar to giant rubber stamps. The "stamp" was dipped into wax, then stamped onto fabric to create a resist area, before the dye was applied.

Here's a fun way to create rubber stamped batik using clear embossing powder, dye re-inkers and some of our great Third Coast Images!



Image used:
SB-021-A, Carved Leaf, \$2.25



Image used:
ES-079-D, Brush Pine, \$3.00

Supply list:

- White mulberry paper
- Dye pad re-inkers, two or more colors (in bottles)
- Third Coast rubber stamps
- Clear embossing pad
- Clear embossing powder (not thick)
- Newsprint (the type used for drawing, not your daily paper)
- Iron (without steam)
- Heat tool
- Spritzer bottle filled with water
- Brushes
- Water
- Small containers for mixing color

Instructions:

1. Emboss on mulberry paper using solid stamp, clear embossing pad or resist pad, clear embossing powder and heat tool, just until image is clear.
2. Place on one side of newsprint and spritz with water until soaked but not drippy.
3. Drop one color of re-inker in several places. Using brush, dribble more water on to spread the color, BUT leave some places available for more

color. Clean the brush. Now drop a different color, and repeat with the brush from a clean cup of water. (I also added Daniel Smith metallic pale gold watercolor.)

4. Fold newsprint over, press onto your paper and leave for few seconds.

5. Now carefully unfold and transfer to a couple of clean sheets of newsprint in a flip flop method. (Don't throw out your first newsprint. Allow it to dry, it makes great wrapping paper or backgrounds).

6. Fold this newsprint over, and with a medium to hot iron, press about one minute. Carefully begin to lift off the newsprint. If it sticks, put the newsprint down and heat that area until it releases when you lift it up. (The paper sticks because you are removing the embossing powder from the mulberry paper as you heat it. That's why it's important not to move the paper just keep heating until it comes off the newsprint.)

7. That's your Batik paper! You will find that it will show up best when placed on a sheet of white cardstock. I do this by "Xyroning" my card stock then placing the paper over it and smoothing out with a bone folder.