Embossed Holiday Cards with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Embossed Holiday Cards
- Hey everybody, it's Courtney from Creativebug coming at you live like we always do on Tuesday and Thursday and I can't believe October is already over. How did that happen? Halloween has come and gone and we are like randomly just thrust right into the holiday season which means you're starting to see all of that trickle out into the world which I love, actually. I love that Christmas kind of comes early. In fact, last week I took a little walk to check out some ornaments and get some inspiration for the new colors for the season. If you're following along on Creativebug, you know that this month is the holiday craft-along which is one of my classes and it's 30 different ideas for tags and cards and gift wraps. If you're a Jo-Ann craft store fan, then you may have received a really beautiful email in your inbox today that features that project and those 30 day classes or if you're a Creativebug fan, you may have gotten an email similar to that. We're partnering with Jo-Ann for this and we have a great giveaway a little bit later so make sure you like and share this with your friends so that you can be entered in the giveaway. I wanted to share with you a technique that sort of like skirts around some of the stuff that I talked about in the monthly class and that's embossing. If you haven't done any embossing before, it's super fun, it's really easy to do, and it's the technique that really you can't get with any other kind of methodology. So I'm gonna share that with you. We're gonna combine it in a really interesting way with watercolor for a really awesome card design. What I have in front of me are some rubber stamps and because we're gonna be pairing this with clear embossing powder and embossing ink, you want to make sure that your rubber stamps are super, super clean. If you have any green or pink or yellow ink on this, when you go to stamp into your clear embossing pad, it's gonna make this really dirty and you won't have a clear, clean stamp pad any longer. So make sure whatever rubber stamps you're using are nice and clean. I've got some clear embossing powder and I also have some stamp cleaner to make sure if there are any inks on there that I can easily clean those off. I've got my watercolors and I've got these great A2 cards. These come in packs at Jo-Ann. They come in a bunch of different colors so you can do this technique on any color. I happen to be using white and these packs also come with envelopes. I've got kraft and clear, white rather. I have some scratch paper and my watercolor brushes and my heat gun. So I'm gonna start by embossing and stamping on my card and then I'm gonna show you a watercolor technique on top of that. Let's do an all-over pattern using this cute little ornament. Apply the ink, it's clear. That's what we're going for. This is like a color on color look. This case, clear on white. If you were doing this on a colored card, then whatever color the paper is is what's gonna show through. So this will look really cool on kraft paper, too and I'm stamping the card flat and I'm going right off the edge. So I'm giving this an all-over pattern. I want to remove my scratch paper so I have a nice, clean scratch paper underneath my stamped card and now I'm gonna put clear embossing powder on top. It's gonna look like a lot, but we can recycle it. If you're just joining us, I'm showing you how to do clear embossing on a card that we're gonna add watercolor to in a minute and this is kind of in reference to our 30 day holiday challenge that's on Creativebug right now and if you like and share this post with your friends, then you can be entered to win a Jo-Ann gift card so you can get all the cool supplies for this. I'm just tapping off the excess embossing powder which we'll use in a minute again. Right now the embossing powder is sitting on the surface of the clear ink, so it's really subtle. Hopefully you can see that. You don't want to run

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your hand through this or smear this, we need to heat set this to be permanent and you have to use a heat gun. You don't want to use a hair dryer. That's one of the questions I used to get asked all the time. "Can I use a hair dryer instead of an embossing gun?" The answer is no because a hair dryer has way too much force and not enough heat and a heat gun has more heat and less force. So you're gonna move aside your embossing powder. Lay your card down and then using your heat gun, you're just gonna in a circular motion, heat this up. The powder will melt and become permanent. (heat gun whirring) You can see it start to change. It's gonna go glossy. See you can see it changing. Like I said, the clear is a little more subtle and I forgot to mention because we're live, you guys can write in and ask questions. So if you've had any trouble with embossing, let us know. Or if you've had great results, you can let us know that, too. We actually have a class on Creativebug that's all about rubber stamping and embossing; it's also one of my classes. So this is really beautiful. It's a very subtle technique and this is gonna act as a resist for us to put watercolor on top in a minute. You could, of course, do an entire suite of cards like this just as is. If you want to leave this really clear subtle stamping technique, you totally could. Once this cools in about 30 seconds, then we can add some watercolor on top. - [Woman] I have a question for you. - [Courtney] We have our first question. - [Woman] Sary, sounds like Sary. - Possibly Sary, hi Sary. Liana is not sure she's saying your name right. - [Liana] She's from Ireland. - And she's from Ireland. - [Liana] She said she just got an embossing dryer. "Any tips for getting rid of stray specks of powder, "it's driving me mad." - Excellent question. So Sary from Ireland, hi. Thank you for tuning in. She's asking about what do I do about those stray little grains of embossing powder because once you hit those with a heat gun, they will melt and become permanent. Excellent question. So pretend that this still has it's powder on it. If you give it a little flick, then the rest of the powder would come off. The other thing you can do is take a tiny paintbrush that is not wet. You want to make sure it's not wet. You can take it and get the little paint brush to kind of wipe away those grains of sand or embossing powder. So those are two techniques that you can use and hopefully those help you out in your embossing and improve your embossing technique. So this is cooled and it's permanent. We're gonna take some watercolor. Dip your brush in the water and I think I'm gonna go with like this really fun pink color. Your holiday colors can be anything. Also, if you take a look at my palette here, this is all just wet watercolor, it comes out of a tube like this and it goes into a palette like this. If you've ever seen Yao Cheng's classes, you'll notice that she uses a palette similarly. Lindsay Stripling's watercolor classes on Creativebug, a lot of my friends use a palette like this, but you can also just use a craft watercolor palette, whatever is comfortable for you. You can even use a Crayola palette, whatever you like. So you can see as I put the watercolor on top, the emboss, the clear emboss is acting as a resist and the watercolor is not penetrating in those areas. I'm getting some beading on top of my ornaments and I actually like the way that looks. If you're afraid or not liking the look, you could take a dry paintbrush and kind of wick up those little beads if you want, but I actually like the contrast and I just let them dry so I can keep that. - [Liana] Courtney, why don't you tell them about our giveaway? - If you guys are just joining us or because I haven't mentioned it yet, we're doing a giveaway with Jo-Ann which means if you like and share our post, leave us a comment or ask us a question, then you will be entered to win this awesome $50 Jo-Ann gift certificate. If you got the beautiful email that featured some of our holiday roundup classes today either from Jo-Ann or from us, and if you're new to Creativebug, then you also will get 30 free days of Creativebug and you also get 30% off coupon from Jo-Ann to use in stores or online and if you didn't get that email, no worries, you can still use the promo code JOANN1 on Creativebug to get your 30 free days of Creativebug and you can check out our holiday challenge that's going on right

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now which is one of my classes, you can check out the embossing class or rubber stamping class. You can check out all of our classes. Just get an early jumpstart on your holiday crafting. We're gonna add some blue in here. I'm being just super liberal and random with this. I'm not overthinking it. That's the beauty of watercolor; it allows you to really just play. And you can see how I stamped over the crease which is where the card is gonna fold and onto the back. I just like that look. I think that's fun. Now I do want this to dry and I'm gonna let it dry flat. Right now it's buckling a little bit. We you get these A2 cards or A6 or A7, whatever card size you're working with in a pack with envelopes that are not watercolor paper, so they are gonna buckle a little bit, but fear not, you can weight them after their dry under a dictionary or if you have a book press or a big heavy stack of magazines and they'll flatten out with no problems. I have some other ones, some other cards I made earlier and you can see the clear embossing that's on all of these that even included a little envelope. I was just gonna show you one other way to paint this. Just something else. This is a really graphic single tree which I really like. You can see how bright and wonderful that becomes when you add some watercolor. There's so many great uses for embossing. I've got a bunch of ideas in the holiday class that's going right now on Creativebug. - [Liana] Courtney, Julie would like to know what are your favorite colors for this holiday season? - Julie is asking what are my favorite colors for the holiday season. Thanks for asking Julie, and watching and following along. That's a tough one. Red, historically, has been my favorite color since I was a little girl, but I like kind of a nontraditional approach to Christmas which is not unusual. I think a lot of designers and artists are kind of infusing new colors into the holiday kind of traditional palette. So red is fun, but it's kind of even more fun to pair it with like a bright pink or an ochre yellow. You can have a chartreuse green instead of a traditional green. I'm really into indigo, as are most of my friends right now. You're seeing it on a lot of design blogs and on Pinterest and so forth so indigo is a great color if you're celebrating something other than Christmas like Hanukkah, then you can go with an indigo blue as opposed to a royal blue which I think is a little more traditional and just have fun. Just try shifting the traditional colors to a warmer or cooler version, adding a little bit of neon or a little bit of metallic and you'll have kind of like your own kind of interpretation for your holiday color palette which I think would be really cool. Alright, I think that's good. I really like these irregular brush strokes. You can see I was very vigorous and I have these little dots here which are totally fine, I like that. Again, you can see how the watercolor is beading up on the embossed surface and I'm gonna leave that and let it dry because I like that texture and contrast. Set that aside. I'll do another one. If you're just joining us, I'm showing you how to do clear embossing on white cards, pre-made cards, and then using that as a resist to watercolor on top of your holiday cards. Really, you don't want to leave your holiday card crafting to the end or the end of November, the beginning of December because you need to be sending them all out. So we're trying to inspire you to get an early start and if like and share this with friends then you are entered to win our $50 gift card to Jo-Ann which you can use on all these fun supplies and still have some leftover. - [Liana] I have another question for you. - [Courtney] We have another question. - [Liana] Ana would like to know can you use a color embossing? - Yes, Ana's asking, "Can you use a color embossing "instead of the white?" And the answer is yes, totally you could. I like the clear on the white paper because it adds a lot of contrast, but if you want to use a gold or a silver or any other color, you totally could. That's a great idea, you could feel free to post a picture on our Facebook page or on our Creativebug student gallery once you do it. That would be awesome. I would love to see that. So I'm gonna let these set aside to dry. You can see I've got some here and then I made some earlier to show you and I've had them sitting under a dictionary so that they're nice and flat. In this one, I use this really pretty holly berry stamp which I love in my 30

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day craft-along. I actually use this stamp to make gift wrap. It's a super versatile stamp. Again, a tree like we just painted, a little winter scene and also an envelope to go with. So really you could use this for text-based stamps, you could use the same technique for a New Year's card if a holiday is not your thing or you can't get it together by the end of the season. We're trying to help you early though, so that you can really enjoy the season and the holidays and start your crafting now while you still have a little bit of time and the flurry and frenzy of shopping isn't upon you. Remember to like and share and I think we maybe have another question. - [Liana] We have a couple more. - We have a few more questions. - [Liana] We do have time. - We do have time, thank you so much for writing in. - [Liana] Okay, Stephanie wants to know, what is one craft item that you can't live without? - Stephanie is asking me, "What is one craft item "I can't live without?" Ooh, that's a really hard one. Can we say craft and fine art are two different things because watercolor, I cannot live without my watercolor set. Washing tape is, of course, something since I wrote a book on it. I definitely love my washing tape. Yeah, I don't know, I'd say a pair of scissors and some double-sided tape come in handy for a lot of different uses. Whether or not they're crafting, I think those are like really, super, like a good sharp pair of scissors is really, really key. That's a good question. - [Liana] And Ursula wants to know-- - And Ursula has a question. - [Liana] Can you just review the steps one more time and she wants to know should you stick to simple sheets? - Ooh, good question. So Ursula is asking if I can review the steps one more time because it sounds like she's just joining us. If that's the case, you can re-watch this live shoot on our Facebook page or even better, on CBTV tomorrow in HD which is pretty awesome. We also have an embossing class on our site which you can use the promo code JOANN1 to get 30 free days of Creativebug to check that out. So the steps for this are pretty simple. I'm using rubber stamps, a clear embossing pad. So this has clear ink in it. You can see my rubber stamps here and then I'm using clear embossing powder. So I stamp the card, I hit it with a little bit of the clear embossing powder, use my heat gun to make it permanent and glossy. You can see I can run my hand over that and then this embossing acts as a resist. So once it's set, I can use watercolor on top and get these really beautiful, kind of boutiquey resist effects which I think are really fun. We had a question earlier, could you use a different color embossing powder and do the same technique? Absolutely, you could. I like the contrast of the clear embossing powder on the white card, but if you want to experiment, try gold, metallic or something else, please feel free to do so and if you're just joining us, remember to like and share this so you can win a $50 Jo-Ann gift card. You can also use the promo code JOANN1 to get 30 free days of Creativebug and check out all of our classes and we'll see you next week on voting day for our next live shoot.

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