Image Transfer Votives with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Image Transfer Votives
(lively music) - Hey everybody, welcome to Creativebug. We're coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and I'm gonna share one of my most favorite techniques with you today. If you know anything about me or my classes on Creativebug, you might know that my very first class on Creativebug was on image transfers. This is a technique that I've loved forever. It's something I've been doing since I was 15, which is 20 years ago at this point, and it's what I wrote my first book on, which is called Playing with Image Transfers. I'm gonna show you a project that you can customize for any home decor, any season, any event. We're gonna make some packing tape image transfer votives, and that's what this is here. They're really super simple and fun to make, and we're gonna be using some Scotch packing tape to do it. Because we're using our Scotch tape, Scotch so generously donated a huge prize package for Scotch and Post-it Note stuff, so Liana's gonna be posting a link. Make sure that you like and share this post with your friends. Let us know in the comments so that we know that you shared. 'Course, we love all of your comments and questions as always. And then be sure to follow that link, because then you can enter to win the giveaway. To make an image transfer, if you've never done one before, this is the most forgiving of all image transfers. You can use magazine photos for this project. I am actually using photocopies of my own images. And one of the questions, I actually got this question even today, it's the question that I get most frequently when I teach this class in person and also in the comments on my image transfer class on Creativebug, and the question is, can I use inkjet prints, so from your home printer most likely, and the answer is no, not for this technique. And the reason is we're using photocopy images which use toner in a laser printer, and if you can see kinda that sheen on the surface. The way toner is set on the paper is with heat, and it's that that allows us to release it to make it transfer, because the ink is actually just sitting on the surface of the paper. Your inkjet printer at home uses liquid ink. Obviously those cartridges might sound familiar, right, you have to replace your cartridges, and that ink absorbs into the fibers of the paper, which does not allow us to release it to make a transfer. So you can use any size. You'll notice that these are wider than packing tape is, but I'm gonna show you a little trick for still how to get the full image. I've got three different types of packing tape by Scotch here. This is the Heavy Duty, the Tough Grip, and the Long Lasting, and actually I tried all three of them, they work pretty similarly. I'm just gonna use the Heavy Duty 'cause this is what is most easily available. The easiest thing to do for an image transfer, if you've never done this before, is to start with smaller pieces. So tear it off of the roll, I find that to be the easiest. And let's do this one here, this is pretty. Try to work on a smooth surface. So I have all these different things under me. I just wanna work on my scratch paper. So I've got my photocopy of my image. I'm gonna put my packing tape right down onto the top of my photocopy, and I'm just gonna lay it down softly, try to get no bubbles or ripples. And because I wanna capture this entire image, we're gonna use two pieces of packing tape. Don't worry about fingerprints. These are going to overlap about 1/8 of an inch. Do the best you can. Especially if this is your first time, don't worry about it. We're actually gonna trim this down. But before I trim it and take it off of this paper, I want to burnish it, which just means rub really hard. You can use a craft stick or you can use a bone folder, whatever you prefer. These are really inexpensive and easy to find. You can also use the back of a spoon. People have different favorite burnishing techniques, but I love to use these craft sticks.

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And this is just pressing the packing tape down onto the surface of the photo so I'm making really good contact. If you forget to do this step, you'll still get a transfer, it just won't be as perfect as the original image. Like I mentioned earlier, this is the most forgiving of all types of image transfers, and another thing that this allows you to do is it does not reverse the text, so if I had something that said, like, great, or a picture of my Aunt Theresa and she has a mole on the left side of her face, then when you do a transfer it's not backwards, and so all of that will come out just as it's supposed to. So now we're gonna trim this, loosely. Our next step is to put this in water, so I don't need to put all of this into water. I'm gonna move things aside. If you get your paper wet that doesn't have the packing tape yet, then it can damage later transfers. And this is just a plastic shoebox full of warm water. You could use cold water as well, but the warm water works a little bit better, and it's nicer for your hands. So now our process is just to remove the paper backing. You don't, something that you may be wondering, actually, is when you make your photocopies, do you wanna use photo paper, or what kind of paper should you use? You should just use the most basic paper available, so you just wanna do an inexpensive photocopy on regular copy paper. Do not use card stock, do not use photo paper, and this is why. When you go to remove the paper backing, it would be much harder and take you a lot longer, so just thin, regular copy paper is the way to go. If you have overlapped pieces of tape like I have, depending on how hard you burnished. Your tape may come apart in the water, but that's fine, 'cause when we put our packing tape down onto our final surface, which for us is gonna be the votive, we can realign it. So I'm removing the paper backing. Now it may look like all of the paper is gone, and that's because when the paper is wet, it appears transparent, but actually there's quite a bit of paper here. I wish you guys could just like reach through your computer screen and feel this with your thumbs. But you're gonna have to train your thumbs to feel, it's gonna be like fuzzy. You don't wanna use your nails, because you can remove your image. But it's pretty hard to do, so if you're just using your thumbs, then you should be fine. And you can do this for a really large image. You would just overlap multiple strips of your packing tape. This is also one of my most favorite transfers to do when traveling, because I can just throw a roll of packing tape into my suitcase, and then when I pick up things in cafes, magazines in the airport, concert posters, any of that stuff, instead of bringing it all home with me, I can do little packing tape transfers. I've done packing tape transfers in literally every hotel bathroom in every hotel I've ever stayed in. All right, I think this is looking pretty good. Now surprisingly, depending on what kind of source image you're using, often when the tape dries, it will actually be sticky again, especially on the part that does not have an image. But sometimes, depending on if you're using a magazine that has a clay coating, or the amount of ink, or sometimes even just your image, how dense it is, the packing tape will not be sticky after it dries and we take it out of the water, and that's fine. You can use more tape to adhere it, you could use washi tape, you can also just use a little bit of glue stick. All right, I think that looks good. Look how awesome that image is. So this is the part that when dries usually becomes sticky again, and this is the part that has the front that we're gonna actually put onto the votive. This'll be facing out. You wanna get as much water off as you can. So you kinda squeegee it. If you allow this to dry and little white pieces appear and there's some paper that you forgot to remove, that's fine, you can put it back in the water. - [Woman] Courtney, Marian would like to know, can you use a laser printer instead of a color copier? - Marian's asking, can you use a laser printer instead of a color copier? Yes, the answer is yes. Most people don't have a laser printer at home because they tend to be a little bit more expensive if they are color, but if you're not sure if you have an inkjet printer or a laser printer, if you can't remember if they use toner cartridges or if they use ink cartridges, one way to tell is when the paper comes out

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of the copy machine, if it's warm, then you have a laser or toner-based printer, because like I said, it heat sets that ink onto the surface, so if it's warm, then you're good to go. Great question. All right, I've got a towel here that does not have fuzzy bits, and that's gonna help me just remove some of this water. You can really see the clarity of this image. I wish I could hear you all gasping, 'cause I'm sure you are. This is my favorite part when I teach it in person, because people are so moved and transformed and excited about this super easy transfer. And it actually starts to get sticky. So what has that been, like 30 seconds? And it's sticky. Now we're gonna add this to our votive, and that's the fun thing. There're not a lot of transfers that work with glass, but because it's packing tape, you can put it on anything. You can put it on the back of a computer, you can put it inside your shower, and it usually removes without leaving any residue, which is something I love about using the Scotch packing tape. The idea for the votives is really to have straight-sided vessels of any kind. If you have something that's very curved, then your transfer is not gonna lay flat. If you're working with something like that, then you're gonna wanna cut down your transfer into smaller pieces, but because we're just using a glass votive, the sides are pretty straight, and I just need to trim it to the size of my votive. So you can see that this is obviously bigger than the votive I'm working with, and that's just so that you could see how to do the two pieces together. I'm gonna use these scissors which I love that Scotch also makes. They're titanium, and they don't get sticky or gummed up, so they're perfect for cutting through tape, like we're about to do. So I'm just gonna trim this. I'm not being exact. I'm gonna trim off the top, too. I'm probably gonna leave this exposed bit on the side because it's extra sticky. I'm just gonna test it. Think I wanna trim it a little more, just because a curve happens here at the bottom of the glass where the little foot is. So trim off another bit. You can see how easy this is. You can make lots of transfers at once. So put down your packing tape, burnish, throw it in the water, go do your laundry, go make dinner, you can leave the tape soaking in the water and it's not going to hurt your transfer at all. So now we just put that right onto our votive. If the packing tape is wet, you may get a little bit of bubbling, but you can use your popsicle stick to kinda help that. I don't have any bubbling here, so everything is looking pretty good. So you can see, it just sticks right on there. And what's awesome is like if you're doing a birthday party, a mantelpiece, maybe you're getting ready for the holidays, you can customize this with members of your family. I could do one of Charlie, my little puppy. You could do beautiful landscapes, think landscapes and flowers work really well. You could make image transfers of your artwork, and then you can actually just remove this, because even though it's sticking, and it's pretty permanent, it's also easy to peel off. Half of the reason it's sticking is because of the adhesive on the packing tape, but the other reason it's sticking is because it's plastic and it's going against glass and it creates static. So it's really cool. I use these in mail art, in scrapbooks, in journals, in my sketchbook, and like I said, it's one of the few transfers that works on glass, and so using the packing tape is really awesome. All right, time to see what it looks like. I'm just gonna drop a votive in here. Remember we're doing a great giveaway with Scotch of Post-it Note and Scotch brand stuff, so be sure to like and share. Let us know in the comments that you've shared, and then follow that link that Liana's posting to the giveaway. So now you can see the photo is all illuminated. And you don't have to worry about the packing tape melting or anything getting hot. I've tested these, I've had votives that I've made for at least 10 years and light all the time, and as long as you're using a vessel that can have heat, like any votive, then you're fine, the packing tape is not effected by that. You can see how pretty they are. Sam, can you see? Some of my candles are going out. (person off-camera chuckles) And if you're not sure, you can also use these little guys. If you're afraid you might go to bed with a candle on. My mom's always worried about that, especially during the holidays. You can

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just use these little battery-operated ones, and those work too. - [Woman] Courtney, do you have any suggestions for other things you could put these on, aside from votives? - Yeah! Also you can use vases, so straight-sided vases. This is an image transfer of an oil painting I made. You could fill this with sand or rocks, you could do a terrarium, you could just use this like a regular vase and then put flowers in it. And I've been showing you images, but you can also type things out on your computer and print them, because this image transfer does not reverse your text. Could say happy birthday, it could say congratulations, it could have photo and text, which is really fun. So the customization possibilities are totally endless. And you can use any of the packing tape, whatever packing tape you have on hand. Scotch is my favorite brand to go to. And also something that I get asked a lot about is can you do this with regular sellotape? And normally no, regular tape does not have enough stick, and so what happens is when you go to rub off that paper backing, you wind up removing most of the image also. But, if you guys watch my Roll With It videos, then you'll know that Scotch just came out with this awesome new tape called Super-Hold, has 50% more stick than the regular tape does, and I tried this, and it actually works for an image transfer. Let's take a look at that, you guys wanna see it? Because it's smaller tape, let's look for an image that has a little bit more detail. Again, I'm still working with those photocopies. Let's see. I like the texture in this. This is a digital projection from a museum in Ohio. Gonna use a little bit of scratch paper for burnishing. Just burnishing. I am gonna trim the excess paper away, because now you know what the steps are, we're gonna put this in water next, and there's no reason to put this whole thing into water. Also when you go to dump out your tub at the end of your transfer session, you don't wanna put this in your sink, you wanna scoop out as much paper as you can, and then I like to just dump it right into the toilet, because it has the paper fibers in it, and you can just flush it. We're gonna do the same thing, remove the paper backing. Now if you get any distressing in your image, it may be because you didn't burnish enough. Like I said, regular sellotape does not work as well, because it doesn't have enough stick, and when you do this step, most of your image can be removed in the rubbing. But because I'm using the Scotch Super-Hold Tape, it's gonna work just like our packing tape. And this image is really dense. There are no open, clear spaces. And so this will not be sticky after it dries, and I can just use a little bit of glue stick, and you won't even see it. Give it a little squeegee. And then using like a lint-free towel. So you can really see when I lay it down on the surface of the table, like how vibrant that is. It's like really close to our original image. Right? Like really close. This type of transfer method, using packing tape, or in our case the Super-Hold Scotch tape, is one of the few methods, like I said, it's the most forgiving, but it also keeps your image most true to your original source. And so this I could also add to a votive if I want, but for something small like this, I would probably use it in mail art or an art journal. You can see I made another one earlier, this is of a tapestry I saw in a library book. Has such great detail, look how small that is. Compared to this, look, it's so tiny, and you still get all that detail, which is so rad. You can also save your packing tape transfers for later. So this is also something I talk about in my book, Playing with Image Transfers. And if you saw, again, I think it was on my live shoot, actually, where I talked about back to school book covers using washi tape and the Super-Hold tape. I made these packing tape transfers to go on the cover of my books, and so these ones are great, they're both Roald Dahl quotes. Again, you can see that the text has not been reversed, so my photocopy looked just like this, I didn't have to deal with reverse imagery. And then because I'm not sure what I wanna use this on, I can actually just save it on my wax paper for later, and then peel it off. If I can find the edge of it. So this guy I could also use on a vase, or, let's do this one, 'cause I already have a guy on there. So right onto my vase. Maybe this is like your penny jar, or your quarter jar, and you put a quote about travel for your

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upcoming adventures. We can use those little ones. Oh, that one's not sticking, so let's use a little bit of our glue stick. Just a bit. Then you can use that right on the glass. You can also add little custom tape transfers to things like frames, if you're gonna give a gift of art or a photo, we could do some little tape transfers like this. Yeah, I think that's super cute. And it's like transparent custom washi tape. Like, you could have an image of you and your friends in this little tiny tape transfer, which would be really, really cool. This is why I love image transfers, you guys! It's so amazing. I really like how this plant one came out. You wanna experiment with which kind of images are gonna look the best for your transfer. Things that are high contrast work really well for image transfers. You've seen some examples of using photos of foliage. This one happens to be a watercolor that I did. This is the Creativebug set, it's a closeup of part of one of the painted panels. And black and whites look really cool too, but my candle is going out, so you can't see it as well. But look how cool that silhouette looks, if you can see it. - [Woman] Courtney, we have a couple of questions on how to do transfers on acrylic paintings. - It sounds like there are some questions about doing transfers on acrylic paintings. You could use a packing tape method, but the packing tape and the acrylic do not marry as well as other things, there are better transfers. In fact, you can do a transfer using gel medium or actually using acrylic paint, and so then everything is like-minded. You can find out more about image transfers in my Playing with Image Transfers book, and of course on Creativebug, where I have a great image transfer class that walks you through the process of using different types of images and different types of processes for other materials. You could do it on canvas, on wood, and even on metal. It's a good question. Do we have any other questions about image transfers? - [Woman] There's a whole bunch. - It sounds like you guys were as excited about image transfers as I am! Like I said, they're one of the things that I've really loved my entire life. If you're anything like me and you get easily distracted by new processes, sometimes you try something, you love it for a few months, and then you kinda forget about it and the supplies sit in the back of your closet, the cool thing about image transfers is how simple and how inexpensive is this? You need a roll of packing tape, and in this case a couple of photocopies or a magazine. And because there's always this element of unexpectedness that happens in the process of doing a transfer, because you can do it on so many mediums, it's very alluring, and it's kept me interested for the last 20 years. I'm sure it'll keep you interested for the next 20. Be sure to check out my image transfer class on Creativebug. If you need a code to join Creativebug or check out our classes, you can use the code Joann30 for 30 free days of Creativebug as well as a 30% off coupon to Joann. Be sure to enter the giveaway. Like and share with your friends, they can enter too. When are we closing the giveaway? - [Woman] Um, I'm not sure what it says on it. - We'll have to check. I think you have at least till the end of today, but probably to the end of the week to do the giveaway. And you can win a huge prize pack of Scotch brand tapes that you can make your image transfers with, some washi tape to decorate anything, any of your craft projects, as well as some Post-it Note stuff, which is really fun. We've got some great ideas for that on our site as well. Do we have any other questions? - [Woman] I think, okay, one more. - One more question! - [Woman] How would you wash a glass item that has an image transfer? - Good question, so the question is how do I wash this? So, I mean, how often do you wash your votive candles? I never wash candles. But if you think you might wash them, let's say something gets smokey, you're gonna wash the inside, then you can just use a paper towel, a little bit of glass cleaner. If you need to wash the outside, I would just wipe it down with a damp cloth. If you need to do something more aggressive than that, then you can actually peel away the transfer, save it on the wax paper, wash the vessel, and then put your transfer back on. So they're very flexible that way. Like I said, you can customize a whole set of votives for one dinner

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party and then take off all the transfers, save them or use them in another project, and then create new transfers, create new imagery, you can do it for every holiday with the same 12 votives, which is pretty awesome. These are good questions. - [Woman] Okay, and there are six days left on the giveaway. - Six whole days left on the giveaway, so be sure to follow that link that Liana is posting. You can enter the giveaway for Scotch and Post-it Note goodies if you follow that link, and we'll see you on our next live shoot next week. (lively music)

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