Cricut Crafts: Layered Nature Card with Natalie Malan

Chapter 1 - Layered Nature Card

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi I'm Natalie Malan, I'm an illustrator and designer and we're going to make these wonderful greeting cards today. Cause who doesn't need a good greeting card? These cards are inspired by nature and my love of gardening. I've been growing flowers outside my yard for years now and then I bring them into my studio and I love to paint them in watercolors and gouache. I'll show you how to design your card in Design Space and then we'll craft it using the Cricut Wild Rose Explore Air 2, the Scoring Stylus and the fine tip blade. We'll be adding a special message to our card and I'll show you how to customize it using the print and cut feature. If you're looking for a fast project with some dimension, this is the project for you. (upbeat music)

Materials

- The materials for this project are simple. We'll be using your Cricut Wild Rose Explore Air 2, but you can use any Maker or Explore machine for this project. Within be using the fine-point blade included with your Cricut. We'll also be using the scoring stylus, which is another great tool to have. The card is made out of my Little Terrace and Juneberry paper packs, but you can use whatever printed paper you have on hand. You'll need two kinds of adhesive. I really like glue sticks for the parts you wanna keep flat, and I also love tiny foam dots for dimension. You'll also wanna have on hand some 8 1/2 by 11 white card stock for the base of the card and also for the print and cut feature. You'll also need a phone, a tablet, or a computer to use Cricut Design Space to design your card.

Cut Beetle card

- We'll begin with the beetle card. The first thing you need to do is go to your mobile device, or your tablet, or your computer, and log in to Design Space. Click on the link in your PDF file and it will open this particular project in Design Space for you. Now, something I wanna mention, we're gonna create this project using some different colors of paper then what I designed it with. So I wanna show you how easy it is to change that so you're not confused when you're cutting your mats. So I'm using a blue floral paper. So I'm gonna click on this part that says Square and change that to blue. And then my border piece is going to be green, this piece right here, so I'm gonna click on that to select it, and then change it up here to this pretty green color. Now this one was that same color before, so I'm gonna also change that one to the same pretty green color. There we go. And then this one, I wanna change this one as well to a more turquoise color, which we don't have the color I want right here, so I'm gonna click on Advanced and just pick something that reflects that color a little bit more so I can remember which mat I'm cutting. I wanna change the legs of my bug to a darker blue because I like the contrast there. And then I wanna change the body on the very top layer of my bug to be the same as the floral pattern paper in the background, so I'm just gonna select that same color. And something nice about Design Space is it shows you, Material colors means these are all the colors of mats that you currently have selected in your project. If you wanna reduce that number, you can just start kind of combining colors, like green, I could just pick one of these two greens, and that'll make it less mats. It's easy to change out your colors, so if you wanna make a pink beetle, go for it. We're ready to cut our card, so we'll click Make It. The Cricut will sort

the mats by color. Now, let's say you get through this project and you don't have three different shades of blue, you can go back to your mat and change that so they're either all the same shade if you just have one shade of blue paper or whatever. We're going to start with mat number one using the LightGrip mat that comes with the machine. Now, since we're using one mat and not five, I will show you my favorite trick for loading and unloading your paper from the mats. The first sheet of paper we're using is the light one. I like to add it to the top left corner because that is where Design Space is gonna automatically put your image. You can move it around in Design Space to different areas on the paper if you need to. We're gonna start with opening our machine. We've got it plugged in and ready. And then we'll load our mat. Make sure it's under both of these two little guides, and then put even pressure along the backside of your mat. To load your mat, you'll use the load/unload arrow. (machine whirring) And we'll insert the fine point blade into your machine. The machine actually does come loaded with the blade already. From here on out, Design Space and your Cricut will lead you through the rest of the project. You can choose Cardstock on your machine, or you can choose Cardstock in the Design Space app. We're gonna set our dial over to Cardstock, since that's what we're using for this project. And then on Design Space, we will click Continue. And then up here, we have our machine plugged in through the USB, so it's gonna go ahead and select USB for us. It says Material set to: Cardstock, since we changed that on the dial. If you had it set to Custom, you would come through and go to Browse all materials and search for cardstock. This is a medium weight cardstock. So you could select it that way as well. Either way, you either want your machine or your Design Space to see cardstock right up here. Pressure is set to Default. If you've done a test cut, and you feel like you need it to go to More to cut all the way through your cardstock, or maybe it's cutting a little too far, you can set your pressure to Less. And I don't personally like to cut most of my paper on Fast Mode. I prefer to cut it at the speed that it picks for the project. Now that the light is blinking, your machine is ready to hit go. (machine whirring) As soon as the machine is finished cutting, you'll see the load/unload button start to blink, and you're ready to unload. One of my favorite tips for working with paper and cardstock is that your Cricut mats are really, really flexible. So you can actually bend 'em at a pretty sharp angle and remove your paper, and this prevents it from getting a really weird curl and keeps everything nice and flat. Perfectly flat still. We'll load our next mats, following the Design Space prompts and cut them the same way as the first. So we've got our green mat. Everything set to Cardstock. (machine whirring) Now that the light is blinking, we're ready to unload our mat. And the Design Space is prompting me now to put in the turquoise mat. So I'm gonna load it and cut it. (machine whirring) This is the piece for the interior of our card. I like to choose something that's a very subtle semi-solid so that you have a really nice space to do journaling or lettering or write a nice greeting. You'll notice that for this mat, in Design Space there is a dotted score line right here and it actually says Score and Cut next to the mat. And so you need to make sure that you have your scoring stylus installed to get the score line. It says Load Scoring Stylus in Clamp A. To load the scoring stylus, come to clamp A. When you put the stylus in, keep the clamp open and push until it snaps and then close your clamp. Now we're ready to load our mat. I like to align my paper and load it in the machine. And now we're ready to cut. (machine whirring) Now that your project has been cut and scored, we can unload your mat. We have one more mat for the legs of the beetle, so let's cut that now. I love that this paper is double-sided, and on the back there's this really pretty watercolor that I wanna use for the legs of my project. So I'm gonna align it in the top left corner and rub it down. You can see right here that I need a piece of cardstock that's at least four by five inches to cut this piece. Now when I'm doing this, I just wanna make sure that I've got enough space. And you

can use the ruler on the sides of your mat to make sure that it's gonna be five, and just a little bit over four. So we're ready to go. Our mat is loaded and we're ready to cut. (machine whirring) Now unload our mat. On this one, it's really important to do it from the back because you have lots of teeny little arms and legs. Once all your mats are cut, we're ready to assemble your card.

Assemble card
- Now that all your components are cut, we can go ahead and assemble the card. We'll start by folding your card along the score line that we just made. It's nice because it makes this so much more convenient and you get a really good fold. Then I like to put the piece that we'll write on on the inside. We're going to use our glue stick and I'll go pretty close to the edges but not quite all the way to the edges. If you want to go all the way to the edges, you'll need a piece of scratch paper so that you're not getting glue all over your project. Just get that nice and rubbed down, burnish it a little. Now these three pieces we'll use the foam dots for dimension but the first two pieces we're going to use the glue stick again. We're going to glue the outside two pieces the same way that we glued the inside. Make sure you got it nice and centered, rub it on. If you don't have a glue stick you can use a different kind of glue but you might want to put a book or something on top so that it stays nice and flat. And then this one you just want to make sure that all the way around your edges are kind of the same distance and that it's nice and straight. And now for the fun part, I like my legs to be a little bit dangly so sometimes I'll bend them different directions so that you can see that they really pop out and they're 3D. And I like to put three to four pieces of my little foam squares on the body. So you put them on and then you can peel the adhesive paper off of the back of the foam dots. And we're ready to stick it to the card. Once again nice and centered, you have a lot of options here you could do extra bugs or I just kind of like to frame it out in the middle and then I'm careful when I'm pushing it on that I only press down in the places where I have the foam dots. The next piece is our eyes and also the fall out piece from behind here so we're going to put this guy on next using the same process as before. I like to put the foam dots in similar places on each layer for these first two layers so that when I press on this layer it has some support back behind it. So I kind of know then a (mumbles) shape is a good spot to press on that card. And then this last guy I'm going to put two at the top, I'm going to hide one right here in his abdomen in between those dots. And then just make sure that you only press where those three dots are and we're all done he's so cute.

Butterfly card
- Our next project is to make this lovely Mother's Day card. I'm so excited to show you how to use the print and cut feature, and I'm also going to show you how to change it up a little so you can print whatever you want. The first step is to start in Design Space. You're gonna start by following the link in your PDF to open the cut files. I have them open and ready right here on my screen. There's this great envelope that's gonna use our scoring tool. And then this little banner is what we're using for our print and cut feature. So first I'll show you how to print and cut this whole project, and then I'll show you how to adapt this text to say something different. We're actually all ready to go to cut and print. When you make a print and cut project, the first thing that's gonna pop up is this part to print and cut. You'll see right here it wants me to use 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of card stock. I prefer card stock personally because I think it's a little bit nicer when it goes through your printer and goes on your card. So we'll come down here, we'll click Continue, Send to Printer. And it's gonna pull up whatever printer you have attached. We don't currently have one open, so it's

gonna say Print to PDF. Right now it's asking right here, a bleed means that it will kind of blur out your edges. You can see it a little bit right here at the top of the B. We don't actually want that to show, so we're gonna turn that off. If I was doing a butterfly or maybe a cute sticker, I would probably turn the bleed back on. So we're gonna turn off our bleed and click Print. We've already printed it off. And it's gonna print a big bounding box on the outside edges. And what that will do is allow your Cricut machine to sync with the image and cut it exactly on the lines that you want. This one is gonna be fun 'cause it has a little bit of a score line right here and right here so you can perfectly fold the flaps backwards on your card. We already have our scoring tool loaded on our machine so we'll just insert our mat with even pressure along the back and hit load. (machine whirring) And now we're ready to cut. (machine whirring) The machine will scan, score, and cut. (machine beeps) Let's unload the mat. (machine whirring) Onto our second mat. (machine whirring) (machine beeps) Now that it's cut, we can unload the mat. (machine whirring) On these delicate little antennas, I like to do the mat from the back facing me. And I'll do the body of the butterfly first, and then I'll pull it off the mat this way from the bottom to the top so I don't rip those tiny, tiny, tiny little antenna. Onto the next butterfly. (machine whirring) (machine whirring) (machine beeping) Unload the mat. For these tiny little pieces, I like to use the scraper that came with your machine after I've peeled the butterfly off of my mat. So I'm gonna take it off the same way since it's such a delicate piece of paper. Just really gently bending the mat around. And my butterfly's ready to go. We'll set that to the side. Peel the paper off your mat. And then our cute scraper makes this go so fast. And we're ready for our next mat. Load the mat. (machine whirring) And press the Cricut button. (machine whirring) Unload the mat. (machine whirring) So now we're on mat five. (machine whirring) (machine beeps) I'm using the same piece of paper because it's two-sided, so I'm actually gonna cut my next butterfly right here in the top left corner. If you have a scrap piece of paper and you're using your phone, you can use the SnapMat feature to take a picture of your mat and move your cut file around wherever you have space. Mine, I can see it on the screen right here, and it is gonna cut in the top left corner. (machine whirring) (machine whirring) (machine beeping) And unload your mat. (machine whirring) And same as the last butterfly, just carefully start peeling from the outside edges to lift it away from the mat. This helps all those delicate pieces of paper to really stay together well. There we go. This card includes an envelope, so make sure that you have your scoring tool inserted into your machine. Load the mat for your envelope. (machine whirring) And press go. (machine whirring) (machine beeps) And unload your mat. (machine whirring) And I was so excited about the envelope that I skipped mat number six, so we're gonna go back and cut that one really quick. (machine whirring) (machine beeps) And unload your mat. (machine whirring) We've cut all of the components for our card, but remember how I said I was gonna teach you how to customize your text? We're gonna do that next. Now let's say I wanted to have this say Congratulations instead of Best Mom Ever. First, I'm going to click on the layer. There's some score lines right here. You can't see them very well on Design Space 'cause they're so, so tiny. You can see the dashed lines right here on your image. So we're gonna detach these two things using the Detach tool. And then on this Cut and Print, we are gonna change the fill from Print to No Fill, and it's gonna turn it black. We wanna just change that to be our white card stock. And then we're gonna add some text using the Text button. So when you click on the Text button, the Add text here box opens up. And we can type in Congratulations, not Comgratulations. And then we can use the different fonts available to change it. I want my letters a little bit closer together. It was spacing them out a little bit too much for my liking. So now I'm gonna drag this up here. And then using the little arrows on the corner, I'm gonna drag it to fit. And then you can use the arrow keys on your

computer to adjust it where you want. Or you can also select the text box and this background banner and hit Align, Center horizontally. The last thing we need to do is double-check this corner. You'll notice that your text box says Cut. And if you leave it like it is, it will actually cut out each and every one of those letters, which we don't want for this project right now. So we're gonna click on it to select and then go over to the Fill drop-down and change it to Print. Now you'll see that it says Print. The next thing we need to do is select, holding the Shift key, our text, our score line, and our cut banner. And then attach those together and click MAKE IT. And you're all ready to print. You would continue cutting all the mats in the same way as you would for the Mother's Day card. Let's assemble our Mother's Day card. Let's begin with the base of our card. We have that nice score line that you can see really faintly as you're creasing. I like to use my scraper tool to get a good crisp edge. And then next, we wanna center our oval. I'll use my glue stick to put glue on the back of the oval. I'm just gonna be careful and not go off the edge. If you were worried about getting glue on your table or your project, you could use a piece of scratch paper. Now I'm ready to put on the cute banner that we just made. So there's the perfect little score line that I'm gonna use to fold it under on both sides. And you know I like a nice sharp crease. We're ready to glue. I'm gonna use a piece of scratch paper for this since my glue stick is larger than this banner. I'm gonna put a little glue to hold these two folded edges. And they're ready, and now I'll put glue on the back. And attach it to my card. The butterflies are kinda fun. There's a tiny little score line down the middle that you can use to pop 'em up and give your card some dimension. And you could really put these anywhere that you want on the front of your card. For balance, I like to put one on the bottom right and one on the top left, so that's what I'm gonna do on mine. I like to glue this back flat piece down first using my piece of scratch paper. And then to do the delicate cutout, I just like to hold it with my finger in the middle and place it on the card. You can leave it, and then once it's dry, you can kind of fluff the wings up again. Just remember, if you wanna put this card in the envelope, you need to make sure that the butterflies aren't hanging off the edge of your card. The last butterfly. Now while those are drying, we can finish up the envelope. And again, our envelope has those great little score lines that are gonna make folding up your envelope so much easier. So for the envelope, this bottom flap goes inside, and then we're gonna put a little bit of glue right here to adhere the flaps down. Another tip for you if you're making envelopes and you happen to have paperclips around, I put paperclips on the three sides to hold them together nice and snug while it's drying. Your mom is gonna be so excited to see your butterfly card. Let's look at all our cute cards together. The beetles were so fun because you can see right here the different combinations you can make by using colorways of paper. And I think it's a great project to do any time of year and change it up with your sentiments, change it up with your colors of paper, and I hope you have a great time making them.