
Cricut Crafts: Winter Placemat with Jennifer Sbranti

Chapter 1 - Cricut Crafts: Winter Placemat

Overview

(bright music) - Hi, I'm Jenn Sbranti from Hostess with the Mostess and in this class, you're gonna learn how to make some festive holiday place mats using three different types of iron-on materials and stencil vinyl from Cricut. I'm also gonna share some quick tips on layering your vinyl and how you can turn any color of regular acrylic craft paint into a medium that you can use on fabric. So this is just a great way to personalize your holiday table with your very own style.

Materials

- For this project, you'll need patterned iron on. I'm using my modern cheer line for Cricut, but you can use whatever design you like. You'll also need Cricut stencil vinyl, glitter iron on, and a holographic iron on. Acrylic craft paint, fabric painting medium, a sponge brush, something to mix your paint in, painter's tape, scissors, a Cricut weeding tool, a place mat, one sheet of plain card stock, a light grip mat, a standard grip mat, a computer or other device to access Design Space, a Cricut easy press or iron, an ironing mat or an easy press mat, and a Cricut. I'm using the Explore Air 2, wild rose.

Create iron-on designs and stencils

- So now we're ready to put our iron-on cutouts onto our placemat. So the first thing you wanna do is prep your material. I'm using a cotton/polyester blend, so I have it set to 330. Just make sure it's set to whatever material you are using. And just give it about a five second warm up. You just wanna make sure you get all the wrinkles out and you have the material ready to adhere. The material's prepped and I'm ready to figure my layout. I'm gonna take the placeholders that I precut earlier and the stencils and I just wanna position them so that they're spaced evenly. This is something you can kinda eyeball, but you just wanna make sure that it's not too far to one side or the other. The stencil material also has these nice lines on it so that can help you with your alignment. So I think the layout looks pretty good. I'm gonna keep it there and take some painter's tape and just tack down my two outlines to make sure that they don't accidentally get moved when we are applying everything else. And this one I'm gonna do on the top and bottom. And that just makes sure that this stays in place while we are using the EasyPress over here. So these are ready to move out. I know the spacing is right. Set those aside. The first piece that we're gonna tack down is this patterned iron-on. So since this one's already in place, I can remove this and save it for the next placemat. We're ready to start applying some heat, but before we do that, let's take a quick peek at the Cricut EasyPress Settings Guide which you can find on their website. So the great thing about this guide is that you can select your heat-transfer material and your base material and it will tell you the proper settings. So I know we're gonna be using glitter, for example, so I'm gonna find glitter. And then my placemat is made out of a cotton/poly blend, so I'm gonna pick the material and I'm using an ironing mat and then you just click apply. And it will tell me my heat settings, how long I need to apply pressure for, and what type of pressure and the peel. It also gives you some extra steps if you wanna make sure that you're doing everything correctly. So because I'm layering this first design, I actually don't need to do a full heat press on the patterned iron-on, I can just tack it down, which usually takes maybe five to 10 seconds. I'm gonna grab my EasyPress and just apply

a light pressure. You can use a timer, but I usually just count in my head. Just gonna set that aside and then you can do a warm peel with a patterned iron-on, so I'm just gonna test it and make sure it tacked down. And if you feel like it didn't tack down, you can always add a couple more seconds. That looks good to go. So I actually, I'm gonna save this sheet in case I need it later and just set it to the side. Now I'm gonna grab the glitter iron-on. I'm just gonna lay it down right on top, make sure that there's no little seams around the edges. And then we are going to apply a full heat press to this. So I've got my EasyPress, position it right on top and the timer's already set for 30 seconds and I'm just gonna press the button. And hold with a light pressure the whole time. Because I'm working with glitter iron-on, I have the temperature set to 330. (beeping) Okay, so that's done and remove that. You're gonna wanna wait, actually you can do a pretty warm peel with glitter. So once it's cool enough to the touch, you can start to peel that back. And that looks pretty. Now we're ready for the holographic iron-on. So I know it want it around here. I'm gonna take my tape away and just kind of swap it out because I know it's about the same place. And it's a little bit sticky so you can get it in place. Gonna pick up the EasyPress again and it's still set at 330 because that is the temperature that I need just like the glitter. So I'm gonna press it down. You do wanna be careful not to accidentally put your iron or EasyPress on top of something that has already been adhered because it always needs to have a protective liner. (beeping) Set this. And again, just applying a light to medium pressure for about 30 seconds. (beeping) Okay, that's done. Gonna set this aside. Now, unlike the glitter, with the holographic, you wanna wait and do more of a cold peel so that means that I wanna wait at least 30 seconds until this is cooled off. So I'm actually gonna use the Cricut timer again and just leave it in its cradle and use the timer to count down the 30 seconds. (beeping) So I'm ready to start peeling. You just wanna work really slow. And again, if anything feels like it's not tacked enough you can always reapply some heat. But this looks good and one thing I love about this holographic iron-on is that it catches the texture of the fabric, so you can kind of see some of same texture in the material in the iron-on itself. For the final step to really set your design, you wanna flip it over and heat it from the back. I'm just gonna do this all at once. And you only need about 15 seconds on each design because I have them on both sides, I'm gonna do 15 seconds each. So I'm just gonna press the timer. I still have the timer set at 30 seconds, but I'm just gonna move it when it hits 15. You can also do a little bit of ironing. Just really wanna set it. (beeping) And we're done. So now our design is all set and we're ready to add some paint.

Attach iron-on to placemat

- So now we're ready to put our iron-on cutouts onto our place mat. So the first thing you want to do is prep your material. I'm using a cotton polyester blend, so I have it set to 330. Just make sure it's set to whatever material you are using. And just give it about a five-second warmup. You just want to make sure you get all the wrinkles out and you have the material ready to adhere. The material's prepped and I'm ready to figure my layout. I'm gonna take the placeholders that I precut earlier and the stencils, and I just want to position them so that they're spaced evenly. This is something you can kind of eyeball, but you just want to make sure that it's not too far to one side or the other. The stencil material also have these nice lines on it so that can help you with your alignment. So I think the layout looks pretty good. I'm gonna keep it there and take some painter's tape and just tack down my two outlines to make sure that they don't accidentally get moved when we are applying everything else. On this one, I'm gonna do one on the top and the bottom. And that just makes sure that this stays in place while we are using the easy press over here. Okay, so these are ready to move out. I know the spacing is right. I'll set those aside. And the first piece that we're

gonna tack down is this patterned iron on. So since this one's already in place, can remove this, and save it for the next place mat. We're ready to start applying some heat, but before we do that, let's take a quick peek at the Cricut EasyPress settings guide, which you can find on their website. So the great thing about this guide is that you can select your heat transfer material and your base material and it will tell you the proper settings. So I know we're gonna be using glitter, for example, so I'm gonna find glitter, and then my place mat is made out of a cotton poly blend, so I'm gonna pick the material, and I am using an ironing mat and then you juts click apply and it will tell me my heat settings, how long I need to apply pressure for, and what type of pressure and the peel. It also gives you some extra steps if you want to make sure that you're doing everything correctly. So because I'm layering this first design, I actually don't need to do a full heat press on the patterned iron on. I can just tack it down, which usually takes maybe five to 10 seconds, so I'm gonna grab my easy press and just apply a light pressure. You can use a timer, but I usually just count in my head. So I'm just gonna set that aside and then you can do a warm peel with the patterned iron on, so I'm just gonna test it and make sure it tacked down. And if you feel like it didn't tack down, you can always add a couple more seconds. That looks good to go, so I actually am gonna save this sheet in case I need it later, and just set it to the side. Now I'm gonna grab the glitter iron on and I'm just gonna lay it down right on top, make sure that there's no little seams around the edges. And then we are going to apply a full heat press to this. So I've got my easy press, position it right on top, and the timer's already set for 30 seconds and I'm just gonna press the button and hold with a light pressure the whole time. Because I'm working with glitter iron on, I have the temperature set to 330. (machine beeps) Okay, so it's done. Gonna remove that. And you're gonna wanna wait, actually, you can do a pretty warm peel with glitter. So once it's cool enough to the touch, you can start to peel that back. And that looks pretty. Now we're ready for the holographic iron on, so I know I want it around here. Gonna take my tape away and I just kind of swap it out 'cause I know it's about the same place and it's a little bit sticky, so you can get it in place. Gonna pick up the EasyPress again and it's still set at 330 because that is the temperature that I need, just like the glitter, so I'm gonna press it down. You do want to be careful not to accidentally put your iron or EasyPress on top of something that has already been adhered because it always needs to have a protective liner. I'll set this. (machine beeps) And again, just applying a light to medium pressure for about 30 seconds. (machine beeps) Okay, that's done. Gonna set this aside. Now unlike the glitter, with the holographic, you want to wait and do more of a cold peel, so that means that I want to wait at least 30 seconds until this is cooled off. So I'm actually gonna use the Cricut timer again and just leave it in its cradle and use the timer to count down the 30 seconds. (machine beeps) So we're ready to start peeling. You just want to work really slow, and again, if anything feels like it's not tacked down enough, you can always reapply some heat, but this looks good. And one thing I love about this holographic iron on is that it catches the texture of the fabric, so you can kind of see some of the same texture in the material in the iron on itself. For the final step, to really set your design, you want to flip it over and heat it from the back. So I'm just gonna do this all at once and you only need about 15 seconds on each design, and because I have them on both sides, I'm gonna do 15 seconds each. So I'm just gonna (machine beeps) press the timer. I still have the timer set at 30 seconds, but I'm just gonna move it when it hits 15. You can also do a little bit of ironing. Just really want to set it. (machine beeps) And we're done. So now our design is all set and we're ready to add some paint.

Paint stencil details

- The first you wanna do for painting is to take those stencils that we cut, and you wanna peel the

paper backing off of the stencil. You wanna make sure to be careful when you're removing the vinyl from the paper. Just go slowly. Sometimes if you have a lot of cuts they can stick, and just like that it's done. Set this aside. And then I'm gonna position this back where I had first decided to put it, and I'm gonna use the little lines that are on the vinyl to help me keep it straight. So when you tack it down you just wanna use your fingers to press it down, and try to get the edges really adhered so that the paint doesn't bleed too much under the vinyl. Grab my second one. Do the same thing. So with this one I'm going to flip it upside down just to give my placement a little more design variety. So I have the little sparkle star at the top on the first one, and then we're gonna put it at the bottom on this one. And again, just looking for those lines, and then I'm gonna tack it down gently, and then just really use my fingers around the edges of the design to make sure that it's nice and flat. Okay, and now it's ready for the paint. So, because we're painting on fabric, you need to use a paint that works on fabric, and I actually had a really hard time finding the right kind of colors when I was out shopping. So one trick you can do is to buy a fabric painting medium, and you can use this a mix it with any of your favorite regular or acrylic craft paints, which opens up way more colors, and then you can get the exact shade that you need for your placemat. (bottle snaps) I'm just gonna use a little bit because I don't need a ton of paint for this placemat. (bottle snaps) And the ratio is two parts acrylic paint one part fabric medium. (bottle snaps) Okay. (bottle snaps) I'm assuming this will just be shot. It's kind of an eyeball. You just get your first paint ready. I like to use these sponge-tips brushes. They go on the fabric really well, and I tried like three or four different kinds of brushes and these worked the best. And they're cheapest, so that was an added bonus. So you wanna make sure you don't have too much paint on your brush, especially for the very first coat because this is the one that's just kind of laying the foundation. And one thing to really pay attention to, especially with this vinyl that's on a navy blue placemat, is to make sure that you're not accidentally going into an area where you want a different color, and to make sure that you're not going over the vinyl and accidentally getting it on the placemat. So I'm just gonna really be careful, make sure that I'm only painting on the design. Okay. So this first layer is just going to kind of provide a layer that all the rest of the paint can stick to, so I'm gonna wait for this to dry. While I'm letting that first color dry, I am gonna do the other two colors. So now I'm gonna go ahead and do a second coat on the peach. And in my experience, it can depend on the type of paint you're using, but you'll need at least two coats of paint, sometimes up to three or four. So just kinda look at it as it's drying, and decide how opaque you want it to be. I've let the final coat of paint dry, and now it's time to peel off the stencil. So just like that your placemat is done! And the great thing about the iron-on vinyl is that it's already washable. So I already know that my different colors of iron-ons are good to go in the washing machine. As far as the fabric paint goes, the directions might vary based on the type you're using, so just make sure you check the instructions on the bottle. And then another great thing about this type of repeating pattern design is that you can scale it up really easily, so you're not limited to just the placement. I actually made a whole fun table runner out of the same exact pattern, and here it is, and it looks really great repeated all the way down the table. And this I actually one reason why those little placeholder paper cuts that we used to kind of figure out our positioning, they help so much when you're doing a long project like this. So I was able to make sure that everything was evenly spaced out using those cut out paper pieces. And again, you can customize this project to work with your own colors, so you can make it match your own holiday party or everyday occasion, even your everyday home decor.