Glitter 101 with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Glitter 101
All about glitter
(bright electronic music) - Adding glitter to a project is a nice way to create some sparkle, or some shimmer, or shine. You can use it in a little, tiny touch, or really mass it out and do something really big and glittery. There are a lot of types of glitter on the market, and I'm gonna walk you through some of the ones that you might find out there, their different qualities, how to apply them, ^and you'll figure out what works best for your project. ^The glitter that you might be most familiar with would be the really chunky kids' glitter. You can get it in big containers or jugs, and kids love it. It can be useful for a lot of projects. For most applications, I apply glue with a brush. I'm just using PVA. That stands for polyvinyl acetate, which sounds big and scary, but really it's just a book-binding glue. It's very similar to Elmer's. It just dries a little quicker and has a heavier body. You can find it at the craft store often. You just wanna check with where the book-binding supplies are. Now, certainly if you're working on a small project, you could also use something like Elmer's or tacky glue for your glittering. And you can just brush it on, pretty even coat, and then sprinkle on your glitter. This is the thick, chunky kind, the kids' version, and it might work nicely to work over a little scrap piece of paper. And I'm just gonna really liberally pour this glitter on. I'm not gonna waste it though, because once it sticks to the glue, you can tap it off onto my little scrap sheet here, and just fold this guy in half and recycle it back into the tube or container. You might lose a few tiny grains of glitter in the process, but for the most part, it's pretty economical. For all glitter, you're gonna need to let it set up and dry. And that gives you a really dense, even coat of glitter. It's gonna be very textural. And you do need to let it set up and dry, just like you would with any type of glitter. I made a little sample here, a variety of glitters. This is the one that we just did. A brushstroke of glue with our glitter on top, and this is just a little, squiggly line with a bottle. So you can see kind of how they work in this chunky style. This next one up is a German glass glitter. You can see, compared to all the other silvers, it has a warmer tone. It's actually made of pulverized glass. It's really popular in Victorian crafts and crafts that you want to have a vintage feel. It actually tarnishes over time, so that color will get darker, more like a gunmetal. And you can often buy it in little vials or containers. It is pulverized glass, so it's not necessarily something you would use with kids. Glitter glue is really popular, and it's a nice way to have a very controlled amount of glitter. But, unlike other glitters that you would apply with a glue, the glue is mixed in, so every bit of glitter is coated in glue, and it changes or affects the shimmer and reflectivity a little bit. You can kinda see that. You get more of a dulled shine. You still get some sparkle, though. This is applied with a brushstroke, and it feels more like a gel, in that case. And you would apply it just like you would glue, right out of the bottle. Sometimes they come in pens. Glitter glue is really popular. It's really easy to apply because it comes out just like a ribbon of glue. But it does take a long time to dry, so this should be the final touch on your project. This is your average crafting glitter in the fine version. There are a lot of glitters that say fine, super fine, or extra fine. They're all about the same kind. And it's gonna give you a really even, dense shimmer. And this is a great all-purpose glitter. And usually you can sprinkle these out. They come in different little pots, or vials, sometimes in little, tiny envelopes. And then we have some specialty glitters. This is also a silver glitter, but it has that rainbow reflectivity. It's also in a fine, and it's just gonna give you a different overall look. It works in the same way. You can still apply this with glue. You can also use really strong double-sided tapes and glue dots to

create little, glittery shapes. If you haven't worked with a glue dot before, they either come in sheets or on a roll. They're a very sticky adhesive. They're also a little rubbery and elastic, similar to what comes on the back of your credit card when you get a new credit card in the mail. And you actually don't want to touch the glue dot itself, 'cause you'll reduce the stickiness. What you wanna do is just kiss it to your surface. You're left with just your glue dot, and then, just like you'd work with any of your other glitter, take a piece of scratch paper, put it underneath. Liberally sprinkle glitter over that glue dot. Tap off your excess. And with your finger or a paintbrush, just knock off any stray glitter. This is a nice way to get a really flat and perfect little glitter dot. And those glue dots come in different sizes. You can do big ones and small ones and 3D ones. The other option is to use something like a glitter spray paint, like Glitter Blast, and using something like confetti, which is essentially a giant version of glitter. With the spray, you'll get a really fine mist. It's gonna go on like spray paint, and it gives you a really nice, even coverage. And with something like the confetti, you're gonna have to use a thicker glue, like a tacky glue or even a hot glue, to get those confetti bits to stick. Something that's a common thing to glitter is a letter shape, so let's do a little test here using just a chipboard letter and our PVA. We're gonna cover this entire thing in glue, and then we'll glitter it. Just want to use your paintbrush to get as much glue as you can, nice and even, over the surface. And I wouldn't worry about this fine interior edge. If we get too much glitter on that edge, it's so narrow that it might distort the shape. If we're using a really chunky glitter, especially, it might distort the shape of your letter. So once we've glued it, we don't want to put our glitter on this page because there's glue on this. So to get to a fresh scrap piece of paper, and again just cover it in glitter. Can't go wrong, cover it in glitter. Carefully lift it up, knock of the excess, and you get a really clean, really glittery letter. When applying glitter with brush and glue, it gives you a really beautiful, sparkly finish. But that glitter is prone to eventually kind of sloughing off, especially if whatever you're glittering is gonna be handled a lot. Your option to use a glitter spray paint is what's really gonna give you flat, even coverage that won't shed quite as much. I'm gonna recycle my glitter here. So fold this in half, put it back in the jar. I have these two really large glitter shapes. The A was glittered in the method I just showed you, brushing on our glue and sprinkling on our glitter, and the C was actually done with the spray glitter. And you can see, if I tap them, how much glitter falls off the one I used with just brushing on glue, and no glitter fell off on the C. So you wanna think about how much you're gonna touch these, where they're gonna live. Are they gonna be on a bookshelf just more as decoration, or maybe you're using them for one night for something like a party or a wedding? Then you can get away with this method, and this is nice, 'cause you can brush on the glitter and you get a lot of control. But for something for longevity, this spray glitter gives a really nice, even effect and you're not gonna get that shedding. I wanted to show you all of these glitter options mostly in silver, so you could really get a sense of the size of the glitter and the reflectivity, but the great thing about glitter is that it comes in a million different colors. So you're really gonna use the color of the glitter that's gonna be appropriate for your project. You do wanna add it sort of as a final touch because a lot of these things do need to dry and you don't want it getting all over. Glitter has a tendency to just kind of spread once you've started using it. You'll figure out what works best for your project and what you like, and then you might just want to add a little touch.