
How to Emboss with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Embossing Basics

How to emboss

(slow jazz music) - When you're working with rubber stamps and ink and you wanna emboss something, this magical transformation will happen. You're gonna sprinkle on a powder, hit it with some heat, and all of a sudden it'll become raised and glossy. It can become eventually metallic or even glittery, and it's a nice way to add some pop and some punch to your stamped designs. For all embossing, you wanna be working with a slow-drying ink and pigments are gonna be ideal for that. If you have any questions about it, you can always check the packaging. You're gonna stamp as you normally would and while the ink is wet and working on a scrap piece of paper that doesn't have any stamping on it, you're gonna take your embossing powder, we're gonna start with our metallic silver, and you're just gonna spread it very liberally over your stamped image, tap off the excess. And right now you have embossing powder stuck to your ink. This isn't permanent at this stage. The powder is just sitting in the wet ink. If you let this sit too long and it dries, you won't be able to emboss. If you run your hand across it or laid another piece of paper on top, it will smear. You have to heat set it to actually make it permanent and for that magic to come alive. Just gonna set that aside and recycle my embossing powder back into its little container, which is why we work on scratch paper. And cap this. I recommend that just because you can very easily tip these over and then you'll be sad. And then to set this and to make it really pop silver metallic, which is the color of the embossing powder, we have to use our heat tool. And this is an embossing gun. An embossing gun works like a hair dryer, but it's not the same. You can't substitute a hair dryer for this. The embossing tool has less force and way more heat, which is gonna activate our embossing powder. If you were to use a hair dryer, it would just spread your embossing powder all over it and you wouldn't be able to get that nice clean finished embossed image. You wanna turn this on and move it around until you see your embossing powder melt. (machine whirring) Once it makes that magical transformation, it's ready. You don't wanna put your finger in it because it's still warm and can be a little tacky. But once it comes down to room temperature, this is gonna be permanent. It's gonna be water resistant, so I could watercolor on top of this. And it's gonna give you this really beautiful metallic foil finish. And once that comes room temperature, that is set. Let's do a glitter embossing powder. Now using a glitter embossing powder is the only way to get glitter with stamping. You can't just sprinkle regular glitter on top of wet ink and hope that it'll stay. That's not gonna work. Let's go ahead and make our stamp. This is set, so it's fine, it's not gonna attract this other embossing powder. I'm gonna use a Chocolate Twinkle is what this one's called. It looks just like glitter. Again, I wanna just tap it off, and the glitter has a tendency to stick more, so you usually wanna flick it a little. Anywhere you see any little remnant of embossing powder or glitter, once you hit that with the heat, it's gonna become permanent. So you really wanna remove any extraneous little bits of that embossing powder. You can use your finger or you can even use a really small paintbrush. I can set that aside and recycle. And we're gonna do the same process. Now the glitter is gonna be a little bit harder to tell when it's actually set. (machine whirring) But you will see a slight change. It's almost like it sparkles a little more and becomes a little glossy. That's set. And then you get that cool shimmery effect, unlike the metallic which is a pretty solid foil, this gives you more of a glitzy glimmery look. Some glitter embossing powders are gonna be a little more sparkly or vibrant, and that depends mostly on the color of the embossing powder and sometimes the

brand. If you are using something, it doesn't feel like it has quite that punch that you want, then what you wanna do is pair your ink color with your embossing powder color. So if I'm doing silver, then I wanna use silver ink and silver embossing powder. Same thing for like a sparkly red. You're gonna get a more vibrant punchier glittery red if you use a red ink as well. Again it's gonna be raised off the surface, water resistant, and I can continue embossing on this page. The clear embossing powder is actually going to reveal the color of the ink below. It's still gonna give you that nice raised glossy finish, but it's not gonna add any color. So if I'm using the clear embossing powder with my teal ink, my finished image is gonna be teal. You can also use it with clear embossing ink, and what happens is actually the paper itself is what's gonna show through. So you get this really nice tone on tone effect still with maintaining that raised glossy surface. Sprinkle that on top. You can see it looks frosted almost. So we're gonna heat this up in the same way. (machine whirring) And then you can see that that teal color is what's gonna show through, but you still get that nice raised and glossy effect. And that's embossing. It's a great way to add relief, color, sparkle, and texture to your stamp designs.