

Saturday, July 31. 2010

Not Really Handmade, but

My mom received the thank you card below from my aunt. I snapped it up because it really inspired me. It gave me the idea that you can make cards similar to this with your kids. It's a great way to get kids to develop an appreciation for handmade cards. They don't have to start with rubber stamps and ink! You can find little things around your house, like buttons and stickers, and let your kids decorate blank note cards. They can mail their creations to a friend or family member who lives in a different city or state.

Have fun! Summer is almost over...;(

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:13

Make it Pop!

Here is an easy way to add dimension to your projects and make them POP! On the butterfly card below, I stamped two of the same butterfly image and colored them identically. I cut out one butterfly and adhered the center to the other butterfly with Stampin' Dimensionals. I bent the wings up a little bit, and that's all! You can also achieve this effect with flower petals and leaves.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:05

While You're Out Shopping for School Supplies...

...buy a bunch of two-pocket folders. You know, the ones that are on sale this time of year for ten cents. Buy lots of them in lots of different colors! Look at what you can make! (Although I made the folder shown here, the idea for this is not my original idea. I found it online a few years ago and adapted the theme. If it's yours, please send an email to info@ewillow.com so I can link to your blog.)

All you need to do is make two score lines, fold, and decorate. There is already a score line down the center, so just add a score line down the middle of the front of the folder and another score line down the middle of the back of the folder (see black arrows on the photo below.) Once you've made the score lines, fan-fold the folder as shown.

Now all you have to do is decorate and label each section of the folder. The folder I made is great for planning a party. The different pockets keep everything organized.

Inside left, above. Inside right, below.

Back view.
Now you try it!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:39

How to Make an Invitation Look Vintage

Two years ago I was blessed with the task of creating invitations for our family reunion. Six generations of my mom's family were going to gather at the homestead that my great-grandfather built in 1898. Talk about pressure! I was honored to accept the task. There were so many elements that I wanted to include in the invitation to ensure that the recipients would be filled with nostalgia and be excited to attend.

Here is the finished product. You can easily create the same type of invitation, and you probably already have all of the supplies that you'll need.

Supplies:

Two different colors of cardstock, brads, brown ink (or any dark color that coordinates with the cardstock you're using,) hole punch (for the brads,) corner-rounder

I used a two-column word doc to create the photo and wording of the invitation, and then I printed them onto Very Vanilla cardstock. The photo I used is an actual photo of my great-grandparents, great aunts and uncles, and grandfather in front of the house that my great-grandfather built (and where we had the reunion.) I'll bet when they posed for this photo they had NO IDEA that it would one day end up on the worldwide web. (By the way, that's a baby goat in the photo.)

Try to gather a photo that includes as many generations as possible. I think it adds a nice touch.

Here's the wording I used and you can use, too, since most family reunions include the same type of stuff, right? Food, music, fun, and games!

Now, to create a vintage look, there are three things you can do. First, before you attach the two pieces of cardstock together with the brads, scrape the sides of the cardstock directly against the ink pad. This will put ink along all of the edges. Then take the ink pad and randomly and lightly blot some ink directly onto the paper.

Second, add the brads to fasten the two pieces of cardstock together. After you add the brads, use a hammer and bang them flat. Finally, rub the sides of the cardstock against a metal edge (like a metal ruler or a pair of scissors,) to make the sides wrinkly. Don't worry if you make some little tears; it looks better that way!

That's all there is to it! The only difficult part of this project was creating the word doc. I always go crazy when I have to center things in columns, etc.

Have fun making the invitations for your family reunion.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:50

Friday, July 30, 2010

A Great Invitation Idea

If you're sending an invitation (or any other type of correspondence where you have inserts,) here is a great idea. We received this invitation in the mail yesterday, and my imagination immediately went wild. (I even thought of how to transform this invitation into a refrigerator organizer. Stay tuned.)

Whenever I include an insert inside a card, I have a paranoid fear that when the recipient opens the card, the insert(s) will fall to the floor and never be seen. (Hey, we all have our weird thoughts, right?!) This creation solves that problem in a cute and very simple way.

When you open the card, the beautiful invitation is presented on the right-hand side. I love, love, love how the invitation is attached with ribbon. The ribbon makes the invitation stand out and gives it the importance it deserves.

On the left-hand side, there is a simple pocket to hold the inserts. The pocket helps to organize all of the other "stuff," without detracting from the beautiful message of the invite.

I wish you could see this in person. It is simplistic, elegant, and clever. I can't wait to get started making some! I have so many ideas for you! My blood pressure is racing...see you back here soon. I'll work out the measurements and post them this weekend.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:09

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Another Paper Cake

I'm so happy that so many of you have found the Paper Cake Treat Boxes template and tutorial so helpful. It's a great thing when a new creation is born, and I'm so excited that eWillow.com can help you in your creative endeavours by making your party planning a little easier. I'm also happy that so many of you see the importance of mailing handmade cards. Start thinking ahead about the greeting cards and gifts that you will need in the next few months, and then visit our fabulous studios and purchase some stunning one-of-a-kind handmade cards.

eWillow.com is all about creating, selling, buying, and sharing handmade paper art. I'm happy to share with you another version of the paper cake. It is a great item to make if you are hosting or attending a small luncheon. It would make a great centerpiece or hostess gift. You can fill each piece with delicious chocolate truffles.

For this cake, you will only need to use the template for the top layer of the cake (the smallest template.)

Click [HERE](#) for the template and tutorial.

Click [HERE](#) for photos of the three-layer cake.

If you have a Cricut machine with the ability to connect your machine to your computer, click [HERE](#) for the template.

You will need to print 11 pieces of the top layer.

For the cake plate, I used the lid to a round paper mache box. All I did was wrap strips of cardstock around the edge, cut a circle to cover the top, and added a scalloped trim.

For this cake, I didn't attach the pieces to each other like I did with the three-layer cake. If you are transporting the cake, you could use a little piece of double-sided tape to make sure the cake pieces stay together, but if you aren't moving the cake, there really isn't any need to adhere the pieces to each other.

I die-cut a large scallop circle and then cut out a smaller circle to make a solid layer on the top of the cake. I purchased a box of miniature plastic fruit over a year ago on clearance for under \$2. I knew that they would come in handy one day!

Now you make one! Be sure to show us photos of what you make so we can all see! You can upload the photos to your eWillow.com studio, or become a fan of eWillow.com on Facebook and upload your photos there, too. (But why not open a studio? It's free, and you can sell your stuff, too, if you want!)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:52

Sunday, July 25, 2010

A Cricut Freebie from a Featured Guest!

I love the blogging world! Awhile ago I was contacted by Ashley Whipple from Cute As a Fox Creations. Remember the paper cake treat boxes? Well, I have some great news for all of you Cricut-machine owners!

Ashley has made an SVG version of the templates so anyone with a Cricut cutting machine and Sure Cuts a Lot Software can cut out her own cake templates. For those of you that haven't heard of it before, Sure Cuts a Lot(SCAL) allows you to connect your Cricut to your computer and cut fonts and images straight from your computer. My tutorial includes instructions on assembling and decorating the cake; Ashley's tutorial focuses on how to use the SVG files and cut the slices. So, without further ado...here is the Cricut tutorial from Ashley. Thanks again, Ashley, for sharing this with eWillow.com's readers!

Supplies:

Cricut Cutting Machine

Sure Cuts a Lot Software * or other software that connects your Cricut to your computer

Directions:

1. First thing you want to do is download the SVG files. DOWNLOAD the Cake Slice Template. The file is a zip folder containing three SVG files. One file for each layer of cake.
2. Save and unzip the files.
3. Open up your Sure Cuts a Lot and select the option to Import SVG. It should look something like this:

Here are the sizes you want each size slice to be:

PaperCakeSliceSmall.SVG - 8.028" wide x 6.06" tall

PaperCakeSliceMedium.SVG - 8.565" wide x 7.067" tall

PaperCakeSliceLarge.SVG - 10.131" wide x 8.005" tall

These sizes will exactly duplicate the cake Charlene made. If you decide to experiment with the size make sure you lock the aspect ratio so the size stays proportional.

4. Cut 11 of each slice of cake. In the tutorial, Charlene has cut marks and score marks. I decided to perforate the score lines so they would be easy to fold.

Here is a picture of what the middle layer looks like after it has been cut. I have tested several of these, and the perforations make folding this so easy!

Charlene also includes a step in her tutorial to punch holes in the close tabs for ribbon. I added those punch holes so you can skip that step too. Now that your slices are cut, you can use Charlene's tutorial [HERE](#) to construct the cake and decorate. Charlene and I would love to see what you create with this! You can set up a Studio at eWillow.com to show off your beautiful cakes. I will be making one for a baby shower in two weeks and I will definitely be posting some pictures here.

Here is some fine print from Ashley... *Disclaimer: I (Ashley Whipple) am an affiliate of Sure Cuts a Lot which means that I (Ashley Whipple) get a small percentage of sales from people who follow my link and purchase the software. I (Ashley Whipple) look at it as a little thanks for taking time to develop these SVG files and making them available to everyone for free. If you are planning to purchase the software, please go through me (Ashley Whipple.)" Neither eWillow.com nor Charlene Harreveld have been compensated in any way.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:48

Friday, July 23, 2010

For the Bride and Groom

Look at this ultra-fabulous card! My friend Heather sent me the link to Lynn Pratt's blog. I wish I were at the Stampin' Up! convention this weekend! If I were, I would hunt down Lynn so I could swap cards with her. She made a TON of these to swap with other stampers. You can view photos and download the template [HERE](#).

Lynn, thank you so much for sharing the template! I'm off to make one right now. Have a fabulous weekend!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:37

Monday, July 19, 2010

Composition Book with File Folder Tutorial

Here is the tutorial to make this multi-functional composition book with attached file-folder.

Supplies:

Regular-size composition book

Empty cereal box

Eight envelopes, approximately 5" x 7" (but not larger)

Stamp set and permanent ink

12 x 12 card stock, 12 x 12 decorative cardstock, and several pieces of scraps

Tab punch

Corner-rounder punch

Crop-a-Dial

Paper cutter

Glue

Ribbon

Tutorial:

- 1) grab the composition book
- 2 & 3) stamp a fun stamp in permanent ink on 12 x 12 paper
- 4) cut 12 x 12 paper at 9 3/4", then cut the remaining piece at 6", so you will end up with two pieces that are 6" x 9 3/4", and one piece that is 2 1/4" x 12 "
- 5) corner-punch the top and bottom corners on one side only of both 6" x 9 3/4" pieces of cardstock, so they will fit nicely on the corners of the composition book
- 6) glue each piece to the front and the back of the composition book, leaving the binding uncovered
- 7) cut a piece of decorative cardstock 4" x 9 3/4"
- 8) glue the 4" x 9 3/4" piece to the binding of the composition book by wrapping it around from front to back, as shown
THAT'S ALL FOR THE BOOK! NOW ON TO THE FILE FOLDER...

Cut one piece of decorative cardstock 6" x 7 3/4"

Cut a piece out of the cereal box 6" x 7 3/4"

Glue the decorative cardstock to the decorated side of the cereal box

Cut a piece of ribbon 22" long and attach to the backside of the cereal box

Tie a nice bow

NOW YOU'RE DONE WITH THE FILE FOLDER COVER...LET'S MOVE ON TO THE FILE FOLDER...

- 9) cut a piece of cardstock 7 3/8" x 8"
- 10) on the 8" side, make a score line at every 1/2"
- 11) fan-fold the cardstock, folding the first fold "UP"
- 12) glue the fan-folded cardstock to the inside edge of the file folder cover, making sure to glue the "UP" piece to the cover
- 13) another view
- 14) cut the remaining 2 1/4" x 12" stamped piece of cardstock to 2 1/4" x 7 3/4" and glue it to the top inside edge of the cereal box, as shown
NOW LET'S MOVE ON TO THE ENVELOPES AND TABS...

- 15) cut the tops off of the envelopes
- 16) glue each envelope into the "valley" of the fan-folded cardstock
- 17) punch and attach the tabs, then glue the final envelope directly to the cover of the composition book

18) attach tabs to the pages of the composition book and add an elastic tie

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:44

Saturday, July 17, 2010

Coming Up Next Week...

...the tutorial for making this fun notebook with attached file folder. I was given the challenge to come up with a journal/file for the 12-to-18 year-old girls in my church. The requirements were to come up with something that was easy to use and not too bulky; something that they could not only take notes in but also could be a place for them to keep the handouts they receive in class on Sunday.

This is what I came up with. It's a plain composition book that I decorated. The file folder was the fun part to make! Come back next week for more pictures and the tutorial.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:07

Friday, July 16, 2010

An Oldie but Goodie

I have been going through boxes and boxes of projects and swaps from past get-togethers and Stampin' Up conventions. This is a card I received in a swap three years ago!

I want to share it with you because it is a really, really cute invitation idea for a baby shower. Don't you agree? It was made by Cindy Baughman.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:37

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mini Envelope Scrapbook Tutorial

You will find so many uses for this mini envelope scrapbook. See the original post [HERE](#). Now for the tutorial.

Supplies:

three or four different colors of cardstock, 1 3/8" circle punch, tab punch, paper cutter, scoring tool, a fun stamp set and some ink

Tutorial:

"A" is the scrapbook cover, cut one piece of cardstock 4 1/2" x 12", score at 1 5/8", 2", 5 3/8", 8 6/8"

"B" are the inserts, cut three different colors of cardstock 2 3/4" x 4"

"C" are the backgrounds, cut three of the same color of cardstock 3" x 5 1/4", score each piece at 1"

"D" are the envelopes, you will need three small envelopes 3" x 4", punch a 1/2 circle with the 1 3/8" circle punch

BELLY BAND: to hold the scrapbook closed, you will need a belly-band, made by wrapping a 1" x 8 1/2" piece of cardstock around the scrapbook, decorated as desired; also add a tab if desired

ASSEMBLY:

- 1) After scoring the three background pieces, adhere the envelopes to the 1" scored edge
- 2) Adhere the background pieces/envelopes to the centers of each scored area of the scrapbook cover
- 3) Stamp and decorate as desired

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 19:52

Tuesday, July 13. 2010

Cute Little Envelope Scrapbook

Here is a fun mini scrapbook you can make with cardstock and envelopes. I was going through some boxes of old make-n-takes and I found this little treasure from a Stampin' Up! event.

Not only can you place photos and/or journaling on the paper that you insert into the envelopes, but you can also attach the envelopes in such a way so that you can flip them over and use the backs of the envelopes and the cover, too. This scrapbook might be little, but it holds a ton of stuff! You can carry it around in your purse and use it as a brag book. Tutorial will be up on Wednesday. Come back then to see how you can make this little gem.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld in Giveaway! at 22:32

Monday, July 12, 2010

An Easy Chart for Under \$5.00

Here is an idea for a very easy chart you can make for under \$5.00. I used two pieces of chipboard and a package of shower curtain hooks that I found on clearance for \$2.48. All you have to do is cover each piece of chipboard with designer paper. I added a cute bow to each end. I used Mod Podge to adhere the hooks. I am going to hang the chart on a chalkboard, so I used sticky-back magnets on the back of the chipboard.

I die-cut the tags and labeled each one. It really doesn't get any easier, or cheaper, than this!

Now you try it! When you're finished, add photos of your project to your eWillow.com studio so we can all see. You can even sell your creations, too!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 17:18

Saturday, July 10. 2010

Here's a Simple Sparkly Card

You can add a little bit of bling to your cards by using some two-way glue and some dazzling diamonds glitter. On this card, I used watercolor pencils to color the flower and then added the glitter. Be sure to use watercolor paper when you are working with any type of water-coloring technique. You don't want the water to soak through the cardstock. Watercolor paper is just heavy enough to absorb the water, but still light enough to look nice on your card. I used the edge of my scissors to create the wrinkled effect around the edges of the watercolor paper. I used the direct-to-paper technique to outline the edges with ink.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:40

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

So Many Fabulous Things!

Yow-zee! eWillow.com has added several new studios over the past few days. You need to go shopping NOW! Browse the studios and stock up on greeting cards and gifts for the rest of the year. Who doesn't like to send or receive a card or gift, right? Handmade cards and gifts are even better!

Start the trend among your friends and family. ANYONE can go to the store and buy a card off the rack...but it takes a really cool, trendy, and thoughtful person to give a handmade card!

Try it! Have fun shopping!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:09

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Yummy Strawberries

I love to add depth to my cards. On this card, I stamped the strawberries onto small pieces of white cardstock. In order to stamp the stems in green, I used the brush side of the marker and then "huffed" on the ink to make sure it was wet before I stamped it onto white scraps. I cut out the stems, and then attached the stems with dimensionals to make them "pop."

Have you been eating strawberries this summer? I hope you're putting lots of whipped cream on top! And chocolate, too!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 19:52

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Paper Cake Treat Boxes: Template and Tutorial

Finally, as promised, the tutorial! Yes, it really did take me two days to get this ready. I hope you enjoy it. Be sure to create a FREE studio on eWillow.com and upload photos of your cakes when you are finished. You can even sell them, too! Click [HERE](#) for more details.

Also, to help spread the word about eWillow.com and to build our community, please link to this tutorial and share the news that eWillow.com is FREE to use. Once you open a studio, you can sell your creations or just upload photos of your paper crafts for all of us to see. Email info@ewillow.com for more information.

Now, on to the tutorial!

Supplies

Download the Template (Print the template directly onto the cardstock. It's much easier that way! You will need to print ELEVEN of each)

[papercaketreatboxestemplate.pdf](#)

If you have a Cricut machine, click [HERE](#) for the template

Scissors

Hole Punch

Bone Folder for Scoring

Double-Sided Tape

Assorted Cardstock, Ribbons, Punches, & Embellishments

Instructions

- 1) Remember, to make it easier, print templates directly onto cardstock
Please note that you need ELEVEN of each piece
- 2) Cut out cake pieces on solid lines and score on dotted lines
- 3) Apply double-sided tape to pointy flap and adhere as shown below
- 4) Apply double-sided tape to side flap and adhere as shown
- 5) Bring flaps together and punch a hole
- 6) Feed ribbon thru one hole, wrap around box, and feed out thru other hole

To make the curly things, cut strips of paper 1/2" wide and curl the end around a pencil.

Decorate each slice any way you want! On the slices below, I punched out different shapes and glued them onto the flaps.

For the cake topper, I painted a wooden knob and added some paper circles. I gathered up some ribbon and adhered it with glue.

Now, you try it! Remember to share the link to this tutorial on your blog. Once you do, come back and leave your blog address with us in the comments section below so we can all visit your blog. Have fun!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:12