
Kids Cricut Crafts: Watercolor Butterfly Rings with Annabel Wrigley

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- I'm Annabel Wrigley, I'm a designer, author, and owner of Little Pincushion Studio, a sewing and craft studio for children in Warrenton, Virginia. I've partnered up with Cricut and CreativeBug to come up with a bunch of really fun paper cutting projects. I teach a lot of kids every single year, and one thing I love to do is empower them to be creative, and create their own artworks every day. This simple, layered, butterfly ring is the perfect blank canvas for you to show your true individuality. I'm gonna show you how to open the template in the Cricut design space. We're going to be cutting the butterflies from watercolor paper. I'm gonna show you how to watercolor a really gorgeous ombre design onto the butterflies, and then we'll add some fun little pen details. We'll hot glue and layer the butterflies together, and then we're gonna attach them to the ring, and you're gonna have the most beautiful ^statement piece on your hand.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- You really need very few materials for this project and most of them I'm sure you'll have lying around the house. We're going to need a computer, the Cricut Explore cutting machine. We also need a piece of watercolor paper. We're going to be using the Cricut green Mat which is the regular grip. We're going to need a couple of paintbrushes, some gel pens for detail, some watercolors, and these are just inexpensive watercolors from a craft store, some water and a bit of paper towel. We need a ring blank, a hot glue gun, a pair of scissors, and lastly I just printed up this picture of a butterfly wing from my visit to the museum because I was really inspired by the detail. And you can be inspired by anything that's out there, but I'm gonna show you how to recreate that butterfly wing.

Chapter 3 - Cut and Paint Shapes

Cut shapes with Cricut

- Before we start cutting out our butterflies we need to get our cutting mat all ready. So I'm using the green Cricut cutting mat, which is the standard grip or regular grip. And I'm going to take off the protective cover from the mat. I'm just going to peel that off. The cover is there to protect the mat from crumbs and threads and messy things that can get attached to the sticky surface. Take your water color paper and place it on the sticky surface of the mat. And make sure that you position it in the top left-hand corner. And I'm just going to smooth over the whole thing with my hand to make sure there's no little air bubbles anywhere. Once that's stuck down, we're gonna load it into the Cricut machine. By sliding it under those two white tabs. And make sure that it's right underneath there. To open the butterflies templates in your design space you can go to the Creative Bug project page. You can download the pdf and the link to the template will be in that pdf. I have the butterflies open in my design space. And I have them at a size that I really like. Each butterfly in this grouping is about two inches wide. And now I want to create a second grouping of butterflies that are a little bit smaller. Because we will be layering them on top of each other. So to do that I'm going to click. And then I'm going to click Duplicate. And that's gonna create another image exactly the same. I'm going to move that image underneath. And then I'm going to resize the butterflies so

they're a little bit smaller, because we will be layering them on top of each other for the ring. So to do that I'm going to take my mouse down to the bottom corner. I'm gonna click on it. And I'm going to drag it inwards. Until the image is half to three quarters of the size of the top image. And I think that looks pretty good. If you're wondering how to make it the exact measurement that you need? Just take a look at the top line and the side line, on the Cricut design page. And you'll see that it's marked one, two, three, four, five. Each one of those little sections equals an inch. To make sure that it cuts exactly as it looks on the page. To do that I'm going to go over and Select All. And then I'm going to go over here and click on Weld. And that's gonna turn both of those groupings into one main group. So now everything looks good and we can go ahead and start cutting our butterflies. So I'm going to go over to the little Cricut green button that says Go. I'm going to click on that. And then it's showing me how it's going to cut. And it looks good right here. So I'm going to click on the Go button. Then it's prompting me to press the arrow button and load the mat into the machine. The arrow button is flashing so we can press that to load the mat. Make sure that your dial is set to Cardstock. The cut light is flashing so that means we can press that button and go ahead and cut the butterflies. The arrow is flashing again. That means we can press that to unload the mat from the machine. This is my favorite part of the cutting process. I get to peel back the paper and reveal all the beautiful cut butterflies. Don't worry if some of the butterflies get stuck in the paper. You can just really easily just pop them out. I love how much detail the Cricut can create on each one of these little butterflies. Whenever I cut out these butterflies, I like to cut quite a few and set them aside. Because you never know when you're gonna need to make some for gifts. Or you might want to have friends over and make them together. They're just a great thing to have on hand.

Paint butterfly design

- I love this part of the project because it's when you can really go crazy with your creativity. I'm just gonna lay down a watercolor wash on top of the butterflies. I'm gonna show you how to do a bit of an ombre look, and then I'm gonna do a few pen details on it just to make it super sweet. So to start off with, grab your paint brush and wet it a little bit, and then we're going to use this really pretty coral-y orange color, and I really want to get it to be quite bright for the first bit of painting, so to test it, I can just test it on my paper towel. I think it needs just a tiny bit more water, like that. Because our butterfly ring is layered, we want to do the exact same paint effect on both of our butterfly pieces, so I'm going to start off by just painting quite a strong outline with the paint quite dark, and it's important just to double check that the two butterflies that you're painting on are the actual same shape because we had four different ones to choose from. I have a small one and a large one, and I'm just going to continue to do that strong painted outline. Once you've done that, you can rinse off your brush. We want it to be wet but not too wet, and we're just going to come back and just blend in those edges into the center with just a wet brush, and you'll see how it's creating this really cool dark to light ombre look, and I just want to add just a little bit more color around here, so I'm gonna go back to my paint and just add a tiny bit more color, but this is a little bit lighter than the first one. I'm just blending it. I like how that small one looks, so I'm gonna go ahead and do the same thing with the larger butterfly. (paintbrush stroking) So now I'm gonna go back to the water and rinse the paint off my brush, just blot it a little bit, and then I'm gonna go back and blend just as I did before. (paintbrush stroking) You may want to jump in and start adding your pen details straight away, but I really want you to stop and let your watercolor paper dry, and that only takes a few minutes.

Chapter 4 - Finish Rings

Finish design and assemble

- We're going to start decorating the wings of the butterfly and I have my picture in front of me as my inspiration. I love how inky and imperfect the wings on this butterfly are and I'm gonna try and recreate it just a little bit. So I have some gel pens here and I just have a black felt-tip marker, and I'm gonna start off by creating a little bit of detail with the black marker, and then I'm gonna add some accents with the gel pens. I thought I'd start with this little one and I'm gonna go ahead and create... a kind of black outline that's separating the sections of the wings. I love how the black really pops against this coral orange color. And remember these lines don't have to be perfect. I think being a little bit imperfect looks really good. I'm going to refer back to the image that I have right here and I'm gonna create some of these thin and fat lines that you'll see on there. I loved the little kind of scallop dots on the bottom of that picture, so I'm going to kind of try and recreate it a little bit. I'm just gonna add this little triangle that looks a lot like the photo. And I think I wanna add a little bit of detail to the body right here. And I'm just going to do... exact little lines right there. I really like how my small one turned out. So I'm going to go to my large one and do the same thing. And then I'm gonna come back and do my gel pen accents when I finish both of them. So I'm just doing it similar to the little one but not exactly the same. There's no formula here, I'm just kind of... going with what I like. That's the fun part. I'm using the gel pen to add a little bit of extra color and a little bit of brightness to the design. I'm using this really fun neon orange which is a really similar color to the watercolor, but it's just that much more bright. And I'm just gonna go around and highlight some little edges. You don't need to do all of them. I'm just choosing just a few to do. So I'm going to move on to my small one. I love how the gel pen adds a little bit of extra depth to the butterfly. I can't wait to wear my butterfly ring, so I'm gonna go ahead and finish putting it together. I'm taking one of my butterflies, and I'm just carefully bending the wings up towards me. Make sure that your gel pen is dry before you do this. I'm gonna hold it in the body, and then just lift it up. Just like that. And we're going to do the same thing with the small one. I'm just gonna lift it up, and just do that gently. So they both look ready for flight. Now I'm gonna take the small one, and I've got my hot glue gun ready to go. And then carefully stick that on top of the body of the larger one. And now it's ready to attach to the ring blank. So I'm just going to put a little bit of glue on the back of the butterfly. And then I'm just going to stick it down on the ring just like that. I love how this ring looks. I feel like the layers give it a lot of movement, and I think I'm gonna make a few more in all different colors for myself. I wanted to give you a few ideas of other variations that you can do if you don't wanna do something like this. I've just played around with a few different ideas using some metallic pens and then my favorite neon gel pen. This one, all the wing detail is done in a silver metallic pen. And then I've just added some highlights. And then I love this one that my daughter made. And she added a lot of pen detail around the outside, and I think it's really cute. These butterfly rings are quick and easy to make, and I'm sure you're gonna be making tons of them for all your friends and family. You know these butterfly rings don't just have to be rings. You can make the butterflies and attach them to magnets, or hair barrettes or pins. They're just a really fun thing to make with a bunch of girlfriends on a weekend afternoon.