Cricut Crafts: **Carved Wood Frame** with Amber of Damask Love

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Overview

(upbeat music) - Hey, guys! It's Amber from Damask Love, and today's class is a special one, because we're gonna do some woodworking, but there are no power tools involved. We are going to use the knife blade on the Cricut maker, to create beautiful frames that you're gonna love for your home. Today you're going to learn how to use the knife blade. It's a super versatile tool, and once I show you some tricks, you'll be ready to use it for a lot more projects, and then I'm gonna show you how to assemble your project into a frame, and you're gonna love how easy it is to customize this project for your own home. I'm gonna use paint colors that I love, but of course, you can use paint colors you love to make it work in your space.

Materials

- To make our faux laser-cut frames, you're going to need three pieces of basswood. They should be 1/16th-inch thick and they can be cut down to eight by eight. You'll need three pieces because our frame has three layers. I'm using basswood because it's a nice dense crafting wood. You could also use chipboard or book board. I wouldn't recommend using balsa though, it's a little too spongy and doesn't make for a really thick good quality frame. You're going to need a Cricut Cutting Mat. It's recommended that when working with basswood to use the purple StrongGrip mat, but I've had luck using the green one. You'll also need the Knife Blade, a weeding tool, paintbrushes, craft paint, a photo that you love. You'll want to cut your photo down to 3 1/4 by 3 1/4 to fit in our frame. Wood glue, masking tape, and, of course, you'll need your laptop or other device to access Design Space, as well as the Cricut Maker.

Cutting the basswood

- The first thing you'll need to do is open the project in Design Space. I've already done the hard work for you, so you'll find the link to this project in the Materials PDF. Once you've done that, you'll wanna go ahead and put your knife blade in your machine. You don't wanna forget this part, which is why I like to do it at the beginning. Insert the knife blade and align the gears. Then close the housing so it fits snugly. Now we're ready to go up to the right-hand corner and click Make It. This will show all of our project on the canvases we'll be using. And then we click Continue, connect our device. Go ahead and search for basswood in the materials menu and select 1/16. Now we're ready to load our mat into our machine. But first, because we're using a kind of thick wood, we don't want it to move around on the mat while that knife blade is doing all the work. So we're gonna use masking tape along the edges to hold it down. It kinda helps when the masking tape is really pretty, but that's optional. (laughs) All right. Now we're ready to send this into our machine. Now, one important thing to remember is before you load in your mat, make sure the star wheels, these little white rings, are pushed all the way over to the right. Otherwise, these will leave an indentation in your wood, and it won't look very good. Now we're ready to load as usual. Once your machine makes the first pass through the cut, you'll get a time estimate that shows up in Design Space to let you know how much longer it will take to finish the project. When your project is done cutting, remove it slowly and gently from the mat, just to make sure you don't break the wood. I've already gone ahead and cut the two background layers of the frame, and now I'm saving the best for last.

The laser cut front of our frame is the most intricate, and it's gonna take the most time. So I prepped my mat already, and I'm gonna load it into the machine. This particular cut will take a little over two hours, so go watch a movie, grab some popcorn, and your project will be done, and you don't have to do anything but sit and wait. The intricate layer of our frame is all done cutting, and now I'm going to weed out the pieces we don't need. For this, I like to use the straight weeding tool and kind of push it in and then pull back all of those little pieces. Now, you'll notice that some of these are giving me a little trouble coming out, and that's just because the nature of basswood is that the grain sometimes makes it harder to pull things out. So I like to use the weeding tool to pull as much as I can. So with the weeding tool, I can kinda chip away at the pieces that I want to come out and then use the point to clean up those edges. Once you've cleaned up all those little bits and pieces on that intricate cut, we're ready to paint our frame and put it together.

Constructing the frame
- Now it's time to add paint to our frame. I've chosen two colors. One color is for that intricate top layer, and then the second color is for the two base layers. Let's go ahead and get started with that top layer. I'm using a bristle brush because I find that it gets into those crevices of that intricate laser cut a little bit better than a foam brush would. (rustling) (clattering) (clattering) (rustling) You only need to paint one side of each layer, because it'll all be sandwiched together and you won't even see the unpainted side. You'll see this teal poking out from the darker blue when the frame is all finished and assembled. We'll set these aside to dry. And once they're completely dry, it'll be time to glue them together. To do that, I'm going to take some wood glue and a foam brush, and brush the wood glue onto each layer. Now, you could use a lot of glue for this, but I'm using wood glue because wood glue actually, when it's used with wood, makes the project stronger, and I like the idea of making this a nice, sturdy frame. I'm brushing on because of the intricacy of this frame. I don't want a bunch of glue seeping out everywhere. Now, with the glue on our outermost layer, I'm just going to place it on top of the second layer. Now, if you have any extra glue, you can actually just touch that up with a little extra paint when you're all finished and that'll be just fine. Next, I'm gonna place my photo into the frame, (rustling) along with a little extra glue on this layer, too. So just brush, (clattering) brush on the glue edge to edge. Again, not too much glue. We don't want any glue seeping out everywhere. A little seepage we can deal with. Too much is not a good thing. Place our photo face down. And then we're going to face this piece wrong sides together so that we have a finished back on our frame. (rustling) Once you've done this, you'll want to place the whole project under some heavy books just so that everything dries flat. Our frame is all done. I let it rest under books to make it flat, and I also took the extra step to paint the edges that dark blue to just give it more of a seamless look. Now that it's finished, you really have a ton of options for how you want to display it. It's really lightweight, so you can use a picture hanger, or Command Strips, or you can just lean it up on your bookshelf and keep it displayed for everyone to see.