
How to Use Ink Pads and Stamps with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat instrumental music) - Stamping is a really quick and easy way to add imagery or design to any of your projects, and you may have played with it before, but you may have been frustrated and that's probably because you're using the wrong ink or using the wrong method for inking up your stamps. I'm going to walk you through the different types of ink pads and how to properly ink your stamp. (upbeat instrumental music)

Chapter 2 - Ink Pads and Stamps

Using ink pads and stamps

- Our first category of ink pads are dye-based ink pads and this is like true ink soaked in a stamp pad. So I'll open some of these up so you can see them. And your standard office store ink pad, this is maybe something you might be familiar with is definitely going to be a dye-based pad. Some of them you want to read the packaging, some of them will be quick drying and really good for coated papers things that are metallic or plastic-y or have a glossy finish. They have different qualities the pads themselves, some will be more fibrous in texture, much like the weave of fabric, that's pretty standard for an office supply version. There's also vivid is one example that's a little more foamy and spongy and has less texture. What's great about these crafting inks as opposed to your office store ones that has a recess pad, most often you'll find ink pads that have a raised surface which allows you to use the stamp pad itself as a tool in addition to using almost any size rubber stamp with the pad. So let me just show you what these surfaces look like. You can see that there's texture when I stamp this and that's mimicking the texture of the fabric surface of this pad. Now you're not necessarily going to use your stamp pads like this but this just gives you a sense, where that gives you a really even flat texture. These other ones are going to be definitely more textured and you can see how juicy they are, they're truly like a liquid dye and they're also going to be translucent because of that, not like a paint that would be opaque or hard to see through, these are going to give you really vibrant rich colors that are very liquid-y that are very inky and they are quick drying which is great if you're working with kids or you're wanting to stamp on a quick piece of correspondents, they're ideal for paper. But do read the packaging because some are specially formulated to also stamp on fabric. Our second category of ink pads are pigment-based ink pads. And those are going to have a more paint like consistency, they're going to be opaque, they'll be much slower drying, which is going to be great for embossing, and they usually have a spongier pad. Just got to open these guys up you can see. They guys are really spongy, this is Color Box, this is going to be one of your more common and well-known ink pads, this is something I grew up with. You can see I can really press down on this and I get a really soft sponge texture on these pads. I'm actually going to show you how you're going to use these with rubber stamps but I just want you to get a sense of the texture because it may not be obvious when you're looking at the pad or buying it when it's all wrapped up. But these really do have a different texture and you can absolutely use the pads themselves as a tool. Those are our pigments, they're going to really sit on the surface of the paper which is going to make them great for embossing, but they do take a long time to dry you can see those dye-based ones that's bled through to my next page, they're pretty potent. Then you have things that are pigment-based that are quick drying and those are usually chalk-based pads. I'll

just stamp with the pad itself, they're going to give you really flat, matte, even coverage. And they're good for layering and they're quick drying, so not for embossing necessarily but when you want to stamp multiple colors on top of each other. This brilliance pad is spongy, it's a metallic but it's also quick drying, a lot of metallics are very slow drying and that's why the brilliance pad is nice because it's quick drying, but it's also metallic. Last we have our hybrids and our inks for stamping on things other than paper, things that are nonporous things like metal or glass. And you want to read the packaging, some will be permanent immediately and some you will have to heat set for permanence. I love these Yellow Owl Workshop, she's done a really good job of clearly showing with infographics what you can stamp with. And let's actually do some stamping, so I'm using the Yellow Owl Workshop pad which is all purpose, one I can stamp on lots of surfaces. And it might be counterintuitive on how you're going to stamp, most people want to press the stamp into the surface of the stamp pad and that's where you can add too much ink to your stamp and then you can get a really messy impression. What I like to do instead is just tap lightly. I want to make sure that I do have good coverage on my stamp I can just kind of rotate it in the light to make sure it's all glossy and then you want to press firmly but you don't want to rock and then you get a really nice impression you should reapply your ink between each stamping and if you're going to switch colors you want to clean off your stamp and I like to use a baby wipe for that. If I'm working on a project or lots of multiples I'll usually start stamping in my lightest color first and work my way down to my darker color to make sure I don't contaminate this. But I've cleaned it off pretty nicely I want to do the neon yellow. Same thing, lots of little taps. Make sure that I have good coverage and then stamp. Get this popping neon yellow. Now what's great about Yellow Owl or something like StazOn that are both meant for glossy or nonporous surfaces, you can stamp on things like metal like these little tins, you can do something on glass for a shadow box or for a little frame and you want to stamp them in the exact same way. Just tapping to get good coverage and then you're going to stamp, you have to be careful because metal is slippery and so is glass. And that's good, you are going to get some movement with the ink itself so you can see that the outside of every little feather or flower petal there is darker than the interior and that's to be expected when you're stamping on something that is metallic or even on glass. And you'll read the manufacturer's instructions because you often need to heat set this ink. So I've got an embossing gun, works sort of like a hair dryer except for it's much hotter with much less force. Just going to heat this up. (dryer running) And let it cool down 'cause the metal is really hot. And then this will be permanent, I stamped another one earlier, you can see there's a little mistletoe that I stamped and heat set. And one it's dry and heat set, it's not coming off, you can scrape it and nothing's happening. If you're wanting to emboss any of these, certain inks will work better for embossing than others and you'll want to know that before you start your project. So you can check out our how to emboss class, but regardless of whether you're embossing or not, adding rubber stamps and stamping designs onto paper projects, fabric, and even metal are a great way to add quick and easy motifs to all kinds of projects.