

Pressed Flower Note Cards

Project 3

Supplies and Tools

burnishing tools (1 for each participant)	markers
craft knives	newspaper
glue sticks	packing tape (clear)
ink pads	pencils
phone books	scrapbooking scissors
rubber stamps (letter stamps come in handy)	Styrofoam trays
scissors	tape dispensers (at least 1 for every 2 people in the group)
scrapbooking punches	tissues or makeup sponges

Materials

blank note cards	vellum pages with quotations or words (available in some craft stores)
card stock	
pressed flowers (see how-to below)	
scrapbooking vellum pages	

Step 1: Rummaging and Planning

Rummage through the flowers and other embellishing materials. Once you have your cards, flowers, and vellums (if needed), you're ready to plan. You'll want to play around with the layout to see what you like before you stick anything down.

The cards will look better if they aren't completely covered by tape. Also, keep this tip in mind: the fewer tape seams, the better. Tape seams can be the beginning of a lot of problems. If the tape doesn't meet up at the seam all the way, the flower will crack apart there. If the seam develops a wrinkle, it can be impossible to get that wrinkle out. So plan your work accordingly.

Here are a few design tips:

Card stock in a contrasting color and cut into a nice shape can work well as a backdrop and add dimension to your design.

Grouping flowers or leaves by size or color can create good patterns.

If you're planning to cover the entire face of the card and flower with vellum, check to make sure enough of the detail will show through.

Large flowers or leaves look better placed singly on a card.

Smaller flowers or leaves can be used singly or grouped at an edge or in a corner.

If you want to use any of the vellum quotes or plan to stamp words onto your card, be sure to plan for that in your layout.

Keep in mind that your flowers and leaves don't always have to be "flowers" or "leaves." With the right shape and a little imagination, you can use them to suggest butterflies or fairies.

Step 2: Sticking

Once you have a layout you like, you're ready to stick things down. There are three basic techniques for this step and each has variations.

STICKING ONTO CARD STOCK

If you're planning to make a lot of cards, this is the easiest technique to assembly-line. Cut your card stock to size and shape using the scrapbook edging scissors or by carefully ripping or even using straight-edge scissors,

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depending on the effect you want. Then use the glue stick to put a small amount of glue only on the area where the flower is to be. This glue is only to hold the flower in place while you tape it down, so you don't need a lot. Next, take a strip of packing tape. Working horizontally, gently place the tape over the flower. The tape should cover the flower but be securely on the card stock as well. The tape should overlap the flower at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Handle the tape gingerly and as precisely as possible. The dried flowers can be very delicate. Repeat this process of taping until the flower is completely taped to the card stock. Once it's covered, use the craft knife to trim off any rough edges of tape before burnishing the tape down.

This technique works well for large arrangements of many flowers or plants that spread out across the card. For these larger arrangements, you may want to use a larger piece of card stock than you need and cover it completely. Once the tape is burnished down, you can trim around your arrangement.

Once you're finished trimming the card stock, use the glue stick to glue it onto the note card.

STICKING DIRECTLY ONTO THE NOTE CARD

This process is almost the same as sticking the flower to the card stock, but it's a little riskier—if you make a mistake, you sacrifice an entire card. Once you have the flower in place on the front of the note card, use the glue stick to put a small amount of glue only on the area where the flower is to be. This glue is only to hold the flower in place while you tape it down, so you don't need a lot. Working horizontally, gently place a strip of packing tape over the flower. The tape should cover the flower but be securely on the note card as well. The tape should overlap the flower by at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Handle the tape gingerly and as precisely as possible. The dried flowers can be very delicate. Repeat this process of taping

until the flower is completely taped down on the note card. Once it's covered, use the craft knife to trim off any rough edges of tape before burnishing the tape down. This technique is best used only on a small area like corners or edges.

COVERING WITH VELLUM

This technique works best if you cover the entire face of the card (and flower, of course) with vellum. The vellum is translucent and adds a soft, muted look to the flowers. It comes in many colors and patterns, so you have plenty of options for this look. Keep in mind, though, that vellum-covered cards leave little room for other types of embellishment.

Once you've decided on placement, cut the vellum to size. It should be either exactly the same size as the face of the card or slightly smaller. Use the glue stick to put a small amount of glue only on the area where the flower is to be. Put the flowers in place and press them down gently to secure them. Next, cover one side of the vellum with glue from the glue stick. Then, glue side down, place the vellum over the flowers and onto the card face. Smooth down gently.

Step 3: Embellishing

There are various techniques for embellishing these cards. You can add words by gluing on quotes or using stamped words or letters. Use the scrapbooking scissors or careful tearing to add interesting edges. You can also use the stamp pad ink with the tissues or sponges to add color and dimension. To highlight the edges with ink, brush an inked tissue or sponge across the edge lightly. Use decorative stamps or scrapbook punches to add shapes and designs.