

Making Machine Embroidered Cards – Debbie Hicks – Too Cute Embroidery

Stitching on paper is really fun and easy to do once you know the basics. To create this holiday card, I used thick mulberry paper. The fibers make it very strong and it holds stitches very well without any holes.

To create the card shown here you will need:

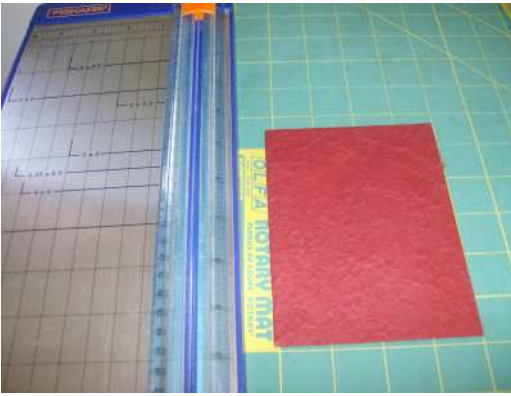
- Embroidery design
- Heavy weight cutaway stabilizer
- Thick mulberry paper
- Card stock to mount finished design on
(I used Stampin Up copper metallic paper and another gold metallic paper to layer this card. Your copper or card base should be cut to 6.5 x 11 and scored down the center (this will be shown later) and the gold piece should be cut to 6" x 5".
- Ribbon
- Crystals if desired or other embellishments to and more decorations to your tree
- E6000 adhesive, jewelry glue or crystal applicator to secure crystals onto card

Let's get started:

The first thing you want to do is hoop your cutaway stabilizer. I used a heavyweight to be safe.



My particular card front/design filled the entire hoop so I didn't have to worry about centering the design.



Using a paper cutter cut your mulberry paper to 5x7 to fit inside your hoop.

Place your hoop on the machine and lay your paper on top – you could use spray adhesive on the back if you like to hold it more securely.



Begin stitching design as you normally would.



I didn't have any trouble with my paper shifting or moving.



Clip threads as needed between colors



I used Sulky metallic gold for the garland area and silver for the ribbon area. I didn't have any problem using metallic threads and use a wonderful thread stand that holds my threads in a tension disk that works wonderfully. If you are having trouble with metallic threads, try putting more distance between your machine and the thread and look at using a thread conditioner like Thread Heaven to run your thread as it travels over the top of your machine.



The white disks at the top keep the thread held taut so that as the machine speeds up and slows down the thread isn't jerked – thread is held securely and I don't get thread breaking like I used to. I purchased this from ebay.



Here is our finished design – the photo doesn't really show how pretty the metallic gold and silver thread look on the card – it's okay but if you want to make it fabulous we need to do some more!



To make the card, I used a copper card base piece that was 11" x 6.5". If you have never used a paper cutter, you use the measurements at the top to measure how large your paper will be once cut and then slide the blade up or down to cut your paper. You'll notice there are two different colored blades here. On the left, the black blade scores the paper. It makes an indentation into the card stock so that it's easier to fold and you get a nice crisp line. The orange blade on the right is a cutting blade.

With your copper card stock, cut your piece down to 11 x 6.5 and then score down the center at 5.5" – using the guides at the top

Cut your gold/next layer ½" smaller so that you can see the layer underneath – cut a piece 5" x 6"



To add another decorative element, I punched the corners off the gold piece.

Next, add adhesive to the back of your gold piece of paper and carefully affix it to your copper card base – you can use double-sided tape or a rolling adhesive like Tombow.



To get our embroidery design ready, we need to trim the stabilizer around the design being careful not to cut the paper.



Using one hand to hold the edge of the paper secure and control, use your other hand to gently tear the edge off the mulberry paper toward you



Once your paper is torn, line it up on your card base and make sure it's the right size & no stabilizer is showing around the edges – apply adhesive or double-sided tape and carefully place on top of your card



I placed a piece of ribbon in between the layers and then pulled up and tied into a knot. It's easier for me to make a knot to hold it and then finish it into a bow



Looking good – but I think we need some bling – let's add a star on top and crystals

To apply your crystals, you can purchase crystals with glue on the back that are applied with a wand. Crystals are picked up with the wand and the glue on the back melts. You place the crystals where desired and press down to secure.

I used crystals that didn't have glue on the back so used a jewelry glue with a fine tip to apply glue to the card and then used tweezers to place the crystals on the card



E6000 is a very strong glue – you can dip your crystals in and then drop onto your card and push down to secure

Another good choice is this hypo-cement used for jewelry making. I love the fine tip



To keep your crystals from moving, place them on a piece of fleece fabric

To place crystals, pick up with tweezers or your fingertip, dip in glue and then place on card.





And here's our finished card – I think the crystals add a nice touch and really make the card pop.

I will be creating more designs to make holiday cards and hope that you enjoy making them as much as I have!

Happy stitching!

Debbie Hicks

We now offer thick mulberry paper cardstock through our website!