

## Coloring - Pens and Pencils

**September 2020**

Coloring with pens and pencils is sometimes thought of as difficult. I never was a very good free hand artist and I always colored inside the lines. The first time I tried coloring I used PrismaColor water color pencils and then I moved into alcohol pens. WOW! What a discovery this was. The more I practiced, the better I became. Now I count myself as a novice artist. You can do it too.

**TIP** - Start with an inexpensive set of watercolor pencils or alcohol pens to practice with. Then, watch some YouTube videos for demonstrations on coloring with water color pencils and Copic Pens.

I recommend watching some YouTube videos to learn coloring with Pens and pencils

Start with a simple rubber stamp image. If you are a skilled image artist, you can pencil draw Your image instead of the stamp. This will give you an outline to see how the Pen/Pencil Reacts on the paper and how the ink spreads because of the water or alcohol in the pen.

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## Foiling

**April 2018**

Placing foils on you designs is fun elegant and surprisingly simple. There are methods to obtain a foiled image and many foiling devices available to use: a Standard laminator, the Foil Master from Silver Bullet, Heidi Swapp, GoPress Foil and more and my new favorite, the Foil Quill Heat Pen from WE R Memory Keepers. This is a multiple use accessory to attach to your Cricut, silhouette, Brother or Sizzix dye cutter.

Foiling is one way to add a bit of “*Elegance*” to your project that is very inexpensive.

**TIP** - Foil pieces can be reused because there is always a spot that still

has the foil present.

You need a laser printer to foil images and text you create on your computer which means there is no limit to the images you can foil.

Craft Foils can be purchased at discounted prices from online craft stores and Amazon.

If you are using the GoPress foil machine, you must use their foils. The Deco foils do not work.

**TECHNIQUE** - Christmas Tree image was printed on a laser printer using CraftArtist Pro. Foil was put on using the Heidi Swapp 12" Minc foiling machine.

The Merry Christmas text was printed on Paper Studio Christmas card stock.

Foils used were "Deco Foil" Rainbow and Lapis Watercolor

Visit **YOU TUBE** for many demos on using foiling machines.

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## **Silk Flowers**

**September 2017**

Small silk flowers are used quite often as an embellishment. These can be purchased from almost any scrapbook or craft store in small packages. These are usually available in Monochromatic or various Colorsets and have anywhere from 6 - 50 pieces in a package and are priced from \$1.99 or more depending on various vendors and packaging options.

**TIP** - flowers are one of your favourite embellishments, then you might try buying stem flowers from the floral department. You will have a broader variety of flower petals and colors to choose from and you will get two to five times the quantity of petals for less money. Watch the

craft store sales for discounts on stem flowers. You can usually buy at 40% to 50% off.

**TECHNIQUE** -Once you buy your stem flowers, gently pull the petals or leaves from the stem. Store your petals in your favorite plastic bins. I use clear bins so I can see the colors.

You can also pull the leaves from small flower stems and use as embellishments also.

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