







Inspiring ideas for your special moments.

designed by Hannah Rabenstein

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INTRODUCTION

Foreword	4
Before you start	5
Materials	6
Throwback: effects & techniques	8

PROJECTS

Birthdays Flower topper	10 12
Wrapping paper	13
Paper bags & paper boxes	14
Gift wrapping	16
Gift bags	18
Valentine's Day <i>"LOVE" garland</i>	20 22
Envelopes	24
Easter Twig hangers	26 28
Small paper Easter nests	30
Spring Paper wrap for vases	32 34
Floral box frame	36
Mother's Day, Father's Day, Women's Day Thank you cards, paper for wrapping flowers & folding cards	38 38
Paper pennants with statement lettering	44

Summer	48
Paper cups	50
Flags & pegs	52
Paper candle bags	54
Weddings	56
Toppers	58
Papier mâché hearts	60
Confetti bags	62
Stationery	64
Pen pot	66
To-do lists	68
Notebooks	70
At home	72
Lettering in a poster hanger	74
Floral wreath	76
Christmas	78
Gift tags	80
Wooden discs	82
Wrapping paper	84
New Year's Eve	86
Bottle bags	88
Sparkler cards	90
Place cards with corks	92
Templates	

Numerous templates to use for these projects



Foreword

Welcome back! I'm delighted that you've picked up this new creative book. It follows on from my 2019 "Hand & Brush Lettering Guide" with a host of new creative ideas and projects.

In this book I'll show you a variety of creative, colorful and even some classic examples and design ideas for a range of occasions.

We'll begin with a few helpful tips, a quick recap of the previous guide and an overview of the STABILO pens that I use in these new projects.

It's structured according to the occasion: each theme starts with a short explanation of the color scheme and a list of materials. The little STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL highlighters indicate the level of difficulty for each theme. But with the stepby-step instructions, a few helpful tips and tricks and a bit of practice, nothing can go wrong! And the same principle as last time applies here: try it out, find your style, discover new possibilities and trust yourself!

Towards the end of the book you'll find a variety of templates for each of the projects that you can use either as inspiration or for copying and practising with.

While working on this guide I also created a few time-lapse "making-of" videos for several projects. To watch them, simply scan the QR-code using your smartphone. You can also check out the STABILO website **www.stabilo.com/creativebook** for more information about the book and the STABILO pens and pencils I used.

This creative book is full of ideas for the most wonderful moments throughout the entire year! Whether for spring or for summer festivals, gift ideas, home decorations or even your next New Year's Eve party – we've thought of (almost!) everything.

Whether you create these projects as they're described or expand on them using your own imagination and ideas: we hope you enjoy creating and working with this guide!

Now you can use what you learned in the first guide to create projects that are all your own and bring joy to others, to your loved ones or even yourself. And as you already know, lettering is the perfect way to do it!



Before you start

Before you get started with your first projects, I want to give you a few easy, helpful tips.

1. Preliminary drawing & erasing

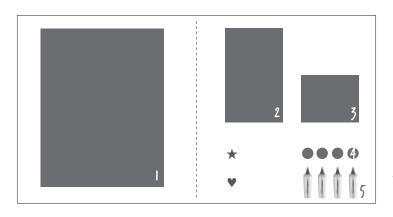
Preliminary drawings are usually indispensable, especially if the layout or surface you're using isn't very easy to work on. They act as a guide for the design and you can simply erase them once your project is finished - speaking of which: I recommend almost always (!) removing as much of the pencil from the preliminary drawing as you can before starting the major work. So you can just faintly still see the lines. Especially if you have chosen to use a very light design, such as one with pastel colors. Because sometimes it's impossible to erase the graphite at the very end and the preliminary drawing then shows through. I recommend using either a kneaded (putty) eraser to dab out the lines, or a normal rubber eraser that is as soft and lightcolored as possible. Use the flat side with very little pressure to erase the lines.



2. Useful little tools

The most important of these are jotting paper (scrap paper) and kitchen roll. Even when we aren't using a watercolor technique, they're really handy to have close by: depending upon the paper you use and its surface, fluff or small lumps can sometimes build up on the pen's tip. Before you know it, you end up with the fluff getting loose and causing smears, which is very annoying. You can fix this by drawing on some jotting paper until your pen "writes itself clean".

Use the kitchen roll to clean your rulers every now and again: dark colors will stick to the edge of a ruler, and if you then switch to using a light or pastel color, the dark color will have left an unwanted blemish!



Structure of the themes:

- Styled shoot
- 2 Description of the theme
- 3 List of materials
- 4 Color scheme
- 5 Level of difficulty
- ★ Pro
- Beginner

Materials

On these two pages I'll show you the instruments I used on the projects in this guide and that will be perfect for designs for a variety of occasions. There is a short description explaining each instrument's special properties and features.

STABILO pencil 160 for preliminary

drawings & sketches

STABILO Pen 68 metallic

for metallic effects

& coloring

STABILO® pencil

STABILO Pen 68 brush

for brush lettering, watercolor effects & color blending



STABILO

Pen 68 brush

STABILO



Throwback: effects & techniques

Here are a few more effects to try:

- I The STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL lets you create great, wide 3D effects on lettering written with the STABILO Pen 68 brush!
- 2 To go with the word "sparkle", I have used STABILO Pen 68 metallics in gold and copper to draw little groups of dots that thin out towards the top of the word. This effect also reflects the meaning of the word.
- ³ The word "floral" is practically crying out for flourishes and swirls! Here I've selected four colors from a STABI-LO point 88 color family. To ensure the word doesn't get lost in the embellishment, I've made it slightly bolder. My tip: Try to ensure your flourishes go with the flow of your letters. This way, they appear harmonious and not over the top.
- **4** "Color blending" is a popular technique and easy to do thanks to the water-based colors in the STABILO Pen 68 brush! Choose two pens, for example two from one color family (here: light pink and dark red), hold the tips together so that the dark color transfers onto the light tip.



(olor blending:





Hold the tip of the lighter pen against the tip of the darker pen to transfer the color.

Alternatively, use the darker pen to color a small area on a transparent sheet or clear plastic folder and then use the tip of the lighter pen to pick up the color from the sheet. The pens will automatically write themselves clean!

Watercolor:



You can use the STABILO Pen 68 brush to create beautiful watercolors! For this you need two or more colors, watercolor paper, water and a brush (1). Color differently sized areas with the pens. (2) Now paint the areas with the wet brush (3). Let the paper dry well! Afterwards you can add lettering or a passage of text over the top (4). Your watercolor lettering is now complete!



The gift of giving

What is it they say? Giving a gift is almost nicer than receiving one!

That's the motto I've used for all the packaging, handmade gift ideas and birthday greetings for your loved ones that you will find on the next few pages.

It goes without saying that the type of packaging depends upon the gift you wish to wrap. My favourite part is putting myself in the shoes of whoever's birthday it is. What I mean is: what colors do they like best? How can I surprise them? Is there an inside joke, a memory, a word, a nickname or a quote that connects us and our friendship?

All of these are just food for thought – I'm sure you'll come up with something really special and individual for each and every one of your friends and loved ones!

Birthdays are always special days, and in the end even the most hardnosed birthday-grouch will be happy to get a handmade package and gift! Guaranteed.



- A range of packaging materials (blank is best) of your choice: gift bags, paper bags, colored construction paper, kraft paper (roll), wrapping paper and gift tags
- Washi/masking tape, ribbons, string, foldback clips, stickers... of your choice
- Wooden skewers, glue or adhesive tape, compass, scissors, ruler, eraser, drinking glass, a transparent sheet, kitchen roll, jotting paper
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO point 88 STABILO Pen 68 and Pen 68 brush STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL STABILO paintbrush



I Flower topper ♥

- 2 Gift wrapping ★
- 3 Gift bag♥
- 4 Paper bag ★
- 5 Wrapping paper ★
- 6 Paper box ♥

Flower Topper



In less than no time you can spruce up your birthday flowers with these toppers and personalised little messages and greetings!

Instructions

1. Cut out two circles per topper; one bigger than the other. Choose paper that matches the flowers or table decorations.

2. You can now design and draw individual words on the smaller circles.

3. Attach the wooden skewer to the larger circle with glue or adhesive tape and then glue the smaller circle on top.

My tip: Position the toppers at different heights and, if necessary, shorten some of them using garden shears – it'll make the arrangement much more dramatic!





Wrapping Paper



What if you don't have enough wrapping paper at home or you don't like what you have to choose from? The answer is simple: design your own paper! It's really easy, looks great and – most importantly – will be entirely unique. This is sure to delight the recipient – and they will definitely want to keep the wrapping paper!



Instructions

1. Cut a big enough sheet of paper.

Write the word "happy" in a range of different styles, sizes, variations and fonts across the entire sheet paper. It's a good way to practise and find out all the things you can do with the STABILO Pen 68 brush! And: It doesn't have to be perfect – what really counts is the toppers' lively, funky handmade charm!
 Now write "birthday" on a little gift tag and attach it with string to the wrapped gift.

Paper bag



With just a little effort and a few materials, a simple paper bag can be transformed into beautiful gift packaging! Small details such as the washi tape will make this the star of any table of presents!



Instructions

Tip: Pay attention to the layout! Short words or phrases will work best on this narrow format!

1. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of your lettering before going onto the major work. Then add shading and decoration.

2. Washi tape really makes it shine, used here to form the candles. Stick various lengths of washi tape to the bag and draw the flame at the tops.

3. Now you can unfold your bag, fill it up and close it with a foldback clip. Done!



Paper box



These cute little blank paper boxes from arts and crafts shops are another great way to package small gifts. Design them as you please according to the occasion or what's going to go in them. As the saying goes: good things come in small packages – and so does joy!





Instructions

1. For a delicate watercolor background, use your STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL Pastel to color two areas on a transparent sheet, then wet the STABILO paintbrush and paint the colors onto the box.

2. Let everything dry well.

3. Write a greeting or message over the top in a contrasting color. Let everything dry again.

4. Now fold the box along the creases, fill it up and close it using matching string or a foldback clip.



Gift wrapping

A list of creative, attractive ways to package your gifts would probably fill an entire book.

So I'll show you just one of the seemingly endless possibilities. This one works especially well if you have odd bits of paper that you want to put to good use. Have fun packaging and giving your gift!

Instructions

1. You will need two lots of paper: one for your gift and the other for the wrap. The paper for the wrap must be long enough to go all the way around your gift. The paper can be in coordinating or contrasting colors.

2. Wrap your present and tear a strip off the second lot of paper; this is the one that will be used for your lettering. Ensure that the strip is long and wide enough.

3. Do a preliminary drawing of your motif and then do the major work using the appropriate pens. Here I've added a 3D effect to the lettering in "Happy Birthday" using a blending technique.

4. Wrap the finished design around the gift and stick it down.

5. Now write "to you" on a gift tag, thread it onto the string, wrap the string at an angle around the gift and tie it up.



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Paper bag

I'm not great at wrapping presents, so I love using paper bags instead! Using paper bags means you don't have to wrestle with the paper if your gift is an odd shape; instead, you can dedicate yourself to the nice part – your personal design!

They're available in all shapes, colors and materials, they offer enough space for your message or greeting, you can add a little gift tag, label or sticker and a foldback clip – et voilà! I think the whole thing looks really good, in addition to being easy to transport and making the gift much more special than a run-of-the-mill, ready-made bag! It ticks all the boxes.

Instructions

1. Depending on the gift, recipient and size and shape of your bag, you have complete flexibility and countless possibilities for your design.

2. Lay your bag out flat on your work surface and smooth it out – be careful around the folds and kinks: pay extra attention to these when writing and work slowly, otherwise your lines might be wobbly.

3. Do a preliminary drawing of your motif and then do the major work using the appropriate pens. I chose a very colourful design with small illustrations and decoration like dots, lines and also stickers.

4. I've added a little gift tag on the top of the bag. A short word, like for example "hooray", is always good for continuing or adding to a message.

5. Tie on the gift tag with matching string, then close the bag with ribbon or foldback clip.







Bemy

time

Made with love!

Valentine's Day! No longer just a trend from America, Valentine's Day is the time of year for telling your sweetheart how they make your heart beat faster and how much you love them. I'll show you a few particularly special ways to do this on the following pages – either for Valentine's Day or just whenever the mood takes you! Whether big or small, a handmade gift is at least twice as nice. And your Valentine will be twice as happy when they find something you've made yourself on their beautiful flowers, chocolates or whatever surprise it is you've given them!

They're sure to love it – and give you a big kiss! Have fun creating, crafting and gifting! And let's be honest: Valentine's Day can be any day!

·······MATERIALS ··

- Construction paper in your preferred colors, thick or watercolor paper, small gift tags (e.g. with a hole already punched through), transparent sheet
- Glue or adhesive tape, scissors, compass, eraser, drinking glass, kitchen roll, jotting paper
- String/cord, small clothes pegs
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO point 88 STABILO Pen 68 and Pen 68 brush STABILO paintbrush STABILO SENSOR F



I "LOVE" garland ♥

2 Envelopes ★



Skills:





"LOVE" garland

Love is in the air! With this garland, I'll show you how to make these words a reality! At first glance this project might seem quite difficult, but each individual step is a lot of fun!

One more tip before you get started: You don't have to make circular pendants – squares, hearts, little flags... the possibilities are almost endless. And not just for Valentine's Day!







Instructions

1. Get your large piece of watercolor or thick paper and a transparent sheet ready.

2. Now use the STABILO Pen 68 brush in various red and blush shades to draw areas of color on the transparent sheet and add some water using the paintbrush.

3. Now press the transparent sheet onto the paper (a few times in a row if you wish) to create a varied and "wild" colored background. Repeat a few times until you have enough colored background and then let everything dry well.

4. Use the compass to draw circles on the watercolor background (one for each letter), ensuring they are all the same size. Choose the areas you use for the circles at will – some with more color, some with less – then cut them out.

5. Now do a preliminary pencil drawing of the letters and then do the major work in black (or any other high-contrast color).

6. Attach the finished pendants to the cord e.g. using small clothes pegs.



Envelopes

A simple envelope or blank card decorated with this lovely design will definitely earn a place of honour! Just a little effort and a few materials will guarantee you'll put a smile on your sweetheart's face. Have fun creating and gifting!





Instructions

1. Select an envelope in the size and color of your choice.

2. This time the layout is relatively important: one part will be directly on the envelope and the other part will be written on a paper tag and stuck on top. So before starting, get a rough idea of what you wish to write and where it should go.

3. Do a rough preliminary drawing of the big lettering on the envelope and position the paper tag where you think it should go. It doesn't matter if it covers the lettering slightly – as long as it's still easy to read.

4. Do a preliminary drawing of the "cord" that it should appear to hang from. Erase as much of the preliminary drawing of the lettering as you can, then do the major work.

5. Now stick the tag down and draw your "cord", remembering that a small part of it should go *over* the tag!





Happy Easter!

Spring, Easter, family. The first few warm rays of sun that finally awaken the plants and flowers. And every now and again some crazy April weather. Painting eggs with my siblings, breakfast with my loved ones around a beautifully decorated table on Easter Sunday – that's what I remember when I think back to the Easters of my childhood, and I love thinking back to those times! Today my Easters are a bit different, but that doesn't change the fact that Spring and Easter go hand-in-hand!

Over the next few pages I'll show you a few ideas for beautiful Easter decorations with a natural flair. Have fun writing, crafting and decorating – and have a Happy Easter!

HAPPY Chister

I Twig hangers ★

2 Paper Easter nest 🖈

·······MATERIALS······

- Construction paper in the colors of your choice (e.g. natural shades for this one), watercolor paper, small papier mâché Easter eggs (from an arts and crafts shop)
- Glue or adhesive tape, scissors, ruler, eraser, drinking glass, kitchen roll, jotting paper
- Thin string, a push pin or small holepunch for the holes (to hang them up)
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO point 88 STABILO Pen 68 and Pen 68 brush STABILO woody 3 in 1 STABILO paintbrush





Twig hangers

I must admit that these round little papier mâché eggs aren't easy for beginners, but they do look particularly beautiful hanging from pussy willow twigs alongside your paper decorations!

That's why the difficulty level for the eggs is a bit higher – but don't give up! Whether it's on a mug, a vase, a pan or an Easter egg: writing on a curved surface requires a bit of practice. Even I have to keep practicing!

Tip: Kraft paper often makes the colors look more pastel! So if you want more brilliant, luminous colors, it's best to use white paper.





Instructions

1. Select natural, muted and unobtrusive colors for your pens and paper. Shades of green, salmon and yellow go well with the beige of the papier mâché eggs.

2. Draw some eggs shapes in a range of sizes on the construction paper and cut them out. Use a push pin to make a hole at top to hang it up, then thread a length of thin string through.

3. Write some short and sweet Easter wishes and any other messages you can think of.

4. Think of it as practice! There isn't a lot of space on the eggs, but this way you'll quickly learn how to arrange words attractively in a limited space.

5. Now arrange the papier mâché and paper eggs on your twigs. Your beautiful, natural Easter decorations are now finished!



Paper Easter nest



Instructions

1. Draw the leaf shapes on watercolor paper and color them in lightly (!) using your STABILO woody 3 in 1 in various shades of green.

2. Paint the colors using a STABILO paintbrush and let it all dry well.

3. Cut more small leaves out of light-green paper and some eggs out of white paper.

4. Once the watercolor leaves are fully dry, cut them out and set up your little Easter nests like the one in the picture. The lettering should be done on the white paper egg.

5. All that's left to do is stick all of the elements down and your little Easter nest is finished! You can stick the whole thing to a card or use it to decorate the table for a lovely Easter brunch!



Finally!

A useless fact before we start: I'm a real child of winter. A picture-perfect winter, with masses of snow and sunshine, skiing, hiking and building igloos... that's how I remember the winters of my childhood and youth. But nowadays those winters are nothing more than a distant dream – especially here in the city – so it's not long until I start longing for spring with my heart and soul.

Too many grey, grey days. And when the first few rays of sunshine appear, when the first few buds start sprouting at the roadside and in the parks, that's when you know it's arrived: spring. Finally!

On the next few pages I've laid out two decoration ideas that will bring that spring feeling into your home.



I Paper wrap for vases ♥

2 Paper leaves & lettering in a box frame ★

- MATERIALS
- Construction paper in bright or pastel spring colors
- Glue or adhesive tape, scissors or scalpel, ruler, eraser, cutting mat
- Box frame (with two panes of glass), a vase of your choice (a cylindrical vase is great for easily getting the wrap around!)
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO point 88 STABILO Pen 68 and Pen 68 brush STABILO SENSOR F







Paper wrap for vases

Here is a very easy method for sprucing up this – admittedly – boring vase. And with a few fresh, colorful flowers in it, nothing will be able to stop the spring vibes!

Instructions

1. Select paper that is long enough to wrap around the vase.

2. Now carefully tear a strip off the paper lengthwise. It's the torn edges that give this collar its charm, so don't worry about it being perfect! But ensure that the strip you tear off is wide/high enough for your lettering.

3. Wrap the strip around the vase to identify the section that is best for displaying your design, then mark the left and right edges of this section.

4. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of the lettering and then erase as much of it as you can.

5. Color blending: Now choose STABILO Pen 68 brush pens in your favourite colors for the blending and do the major work on your lettering. Here, I've created a color blend from green to yellow.

6. Do you still remember the "teardrop test" from my Hand & Brush Lettering Guide? Using this technique makes it easy to "dab" little petals and leaves around the lettering!









Box frame

I'm a big fan of these picture frames with two panes of glass in them – they're perfect for displaying dried leaves and flowers, for example, and you get the impression that whatever is in the frame is floating. Another great side effect: when the sun shines, it creates a great play of shadows.

As we're talking about spring, we won't use dried leaves but pastel-colored paper leaves. As a contrast I've created some striking black lettering – for some spring decoration that's a little different but still ornamental!





Instructions

1. Draw some leaves and petals on the colored paper and cut them out using scissors or scalpel.

2. Select the paper you want to use for the lettering and cut it to size (here it's postcard-sized) and do a preliminary drawing of your lettering.

3. A striking black will add maximum contrast to the pastel colors.

4. Now place the lettering centrally on the first pane of glass and organise the paper leaves around it. It will look particularly lively if you place them in front and behind the lettering!

5. Carefully place the second pane of glass over the top and gently replace them in the frame. Done!





Thank you card

For the best mother in the world.

It's time to say thank you. It doesn't always have to be with grand words. A small gesture, made by hand with lots of love, is often the best gift you can give!

Color scheme:



Skills:





·······MATERIALS·····

- Construction paper in shades of red and rosé (from one color family)
- Glue or adhesive tape, scissors or scalpel, ruler, eraser, jotting paper
- Things to add to the card, such as small flowers or fragrant lavender (which I've used here).
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO point 88 STABILO Pen 68 brush



Instructions

1. Cut a piece of paper that is a big as you need and fold it down the middle (like a folding card).

2. Think about where you want to cut for the flap and mark it in pencil. For example, you could cut two curves or parallel lines similar to the ones here. Ensure the flap isn't too narrow, otherwise it's likely to tear! Now you can see how much space is left around the flap for your design.

3. To make the cut, place the cutting mat (or thick piece of cardboard) inside the folding card and cut along the lines with a scalpel.

4. When you've finished designing the card, stick the edges closed using glue or adhesive tape. Now place your flower through the flap – done!



Paper for wrapping flowers

Similar to the wrapping paper on page 13, this idea is also fantastic for wrapping up a beautiful bouquet of flowers on Mother's Day.

Color scheme:





···· MATERIALS·······

- Single-color wrapping tissue (you can also use packaging paper or wrapping paper)
- Pegs, stickers or string (if needed) are all great for fastening the paper
- Writing instruments used: STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL Pastel STABILO Pen 68 brush



Instructions

 Choose your color scheme to match the flowers in your bouquet, as in the picture here: shades of red, pink and blush. Use matching wrapping tissue.
 Now let your imagination run wild: choose whatever shape, size, color, style and type of words you fancy!
 Using letters in a variety of shapes, sizes and types creates texture across the entire sheet of paper.

Tip: I wrapped around four layers of wrapping tissue around the bouquet for better stability.



Folding card

For the best dad in the world.

This handmade folding card has plenty of space to write a few loving words to your dad. I think that's something we should all do more often!

Color scheme:







Instructions

1. Select your color scheme: I've used shades of blue and silver to decorate; I've kept the fonts much more angular and free of flourishes.

2. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of your lettering. Think about which words are most important and are to be visually emphasised.

Layout tip: Ascending diagonal lines always have a positive, dynamic effect!

3. Once you've finished your lettering, start adding details. Shading and rays beaming out from the motif give the whole thing depth and a 3D-effect: little dots and other elements jazz it up.

4. For the inside of the card I've cut two pieces of white paper slightly smaller than the card itself, and stuck them down using matching stickers. This is where you can write your personal message!

......MATERIALS.....

- Construction paper
- Glue / adhesive tape or stickers, scissors, ruler, eraser, cutting mat
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO point 88 STABILO Pen 68 brush STABILO Pen 68 metallic silver





WOMEN'S DAY

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Paper pennant

Who runs the world?

There's only one answer: girls! Make a striking girl power statement on a handmade pennant – for your home, your bedroom door, for your office...

This pennant is super quick and easy to make and is also perfect for other motifs, statements and quotes! On the next few pages, I'll take you through the instructions step by step.



······ MATERIALS ······

- Construction paper
- Glue or adhesive tape, scissors or scalpel, ruler, eraser, cutting mat or something to place underneath, drinking glass, kitchen roll
- A straw or wooden skewer, cord/string
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO point 88 STABILO Pen 68 and Pen 68 brush STABILO paintbrush







Step by step

1

An overview of all you'll need for the pennant:

- a straw (or a wooden skewer) to mount it;

- paper cut to the right size (slightly narrower than the length of the straw) using scissors or a scalpel;

- adhesive tape (or a glue stick);

two paper clips to hold it in place (these will help you determine how much space you have for your design);
string or cord to hang it up.

2

Do a preliminary drawing of your lettering using the STABILO pencil 160.

Important: This time *do not* completely erase your preliminary drawing, because we'll be going back over the outlines once we've finished the watercolor.





3

I chose the STABILO Pen 68 brush in four different shades of red in order to get the watercolor effect.

There are two ways to accomplish this technique: either "paint" the letters with water and then add the color, or vice versa!

Important: Ensure your work is "unperfect"! The fact that the letters are painted in a more messy style that runs over the outlines is what gives this project its charm!

Let everything dry well.

4

Now use your pencil drawing as a guide for re-drawing the outlines of the letters.

For the first, light outline I used the STABILO point 88; for the second, thicker outline I used the STABILO Pen 68.

Tip: The outlines should be striking! This makes the letters stand out against the watercolor background and catch the eye!

Now fold the top of the paper around the straw, as measured earlier, and stick it down with glue or adhesive tape.

Attach the cord to the left and right ends of the straw, then all that's left to do is to hang the pennant where you want!





Let's celebrate summer!

Ok, on page 33 I said I was a child of winter. But really, is there anything better than sultry summer nights? There really is nothing nicer than whiling them away with your sweetheart, friends or guests! And if you've got something to celebrate – even better! Or you can just celebrate the fact that it's summer... On the next few pages I'll show you three projects that are perfect for jazzing up a summer night to make it unforget-table.

My favourite part of this is that all the lettering and objects are timeless. When autumn comes around, simply store them away and get them out again next summer! It would be a real pity to throw the paper cups away. Why not use them as pen pots? Or give them away as beautiful gifts!

No matter what you have planned, I hope you enjoy creating your designs – maybe even out on the balcony or in the garden. You're sure to be inspired!

MATERIALS Construction paper in bright or pastel summer colors Glue or adhesive tape, scissors, scalpel, ruler, eraser, cutting mat Paper cups, paper candle bags, (clothes) pegs, wooden skewers Writing instruments used:

• Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO Pen 68 and Pen 68 brush STABILO Pen 68 metallic



.....

- I Paper cups ★
- 2 Flags & pegs ♥
- 3 Paper candle bags ★



Paper cups

Whether for a birthday party, a summer bash or barbecue – saying "cheers" will be twice as fun with these hand-designed paper cups!

While writing on a curved surface does require a bit of practice, the most important thing is the gesture and the delight your guests will feel when they pick up these cups! So don't give up! Practice makes perfect and, once you and your hand are used to the shape and flow of the various pens, you'll have so much fun – I promise!

Instructions

1. Select your color scheme: I've picked colors that both match and contrast with the cup colors.

Depending upon the amount of practise you've had, you can either do a preliminary pencil drawing of your text or start decorating the cups straight away.
 When you've finished your lettering, finish it with matching illustrations, symbols, swirls, lines, etc.



My basic tip: When writing on cups, mugs and other round objects: get into a comfortable sitting position, making sure you aren't cramped and you can move and rest your hand comfortably!

If it starts getting tricky, like when it comes to drawing a longer swirl or a straight line, I like to have a thick book or something similar at hand, something that's got a good bit of height that I can rest my hand on. This gives you a bit more purchase and makes your movements more sure when drawing certain elements!





Flags & pegs

You've set the table and now all you need are a few eye-catching elements. These flag and peg toppers will give any cup, glass or bunch of flowers that special little something!

They're quick and easy to make. And your guests are guaranteed to enjoy the words and little messages! So get to it: have fun celebrating!



Instructions

 Take a sheet of colored construction paper, fold it in half and then cut whatever shape you'd like (flag, rectangle, etc.) A preliminary drawing will help here!
 Now add your design to the flag and decorate it with little elements and details.

3. Depending upon how you plan to use them, you can either stick them to clothes pegs or stick a wooden skewer between the pieces of paper.

My tip: Use a combination of both! A variety of heights, sizes and shapes will create a more exciting overall look.





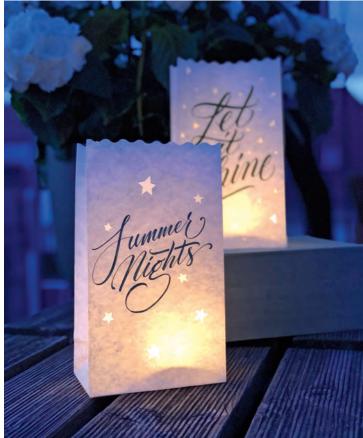


Paper candle bags

I find these an absolute must-have for the pleasant, sultry summer nights we love! I've fallen in love with these simple yet effective, atmospheric little paper candle bags. With just a little bit of effort, you can create a wonderful atmosphere on your balcony, terrace or in your garden!

Whether for a summer bash, a garden party or a romantic evening for two – design them however you wish, for whatever occasion. Then all you have to do is wait for sunset!





Instructions

1. A STABILO Pen 68 metallic is perfect for these candle bags as they provide a good contrast but also shimmer beautifully in the daylight.

2. Design the candle bags with quotes and words on the topic of summer (nights).

3. For the little shaped holes, place a thick piece of cardboard in the bag and use a scalpel to cut out the shapes you'd like. The candle light will look beautiful shining through them!

4. Put a big tealight in the bag, then place it out on your balcony or in your garden and enjoy the warm summer night!



The best day of your life.

For the best day of your life, I've laid out a few ideas over the following pages that you can easily create – to give your wedding or a friend's wedding that personal touch.

These examples are perfect for a range of uses: party favours, table or flower decorations and confetti.

A quick tip before you get started: I made my own confetti by simply taking a hole punch (or you could use slightly larger circle punch) to the left-over watercolor-effect paper from the Valentine's Day project on page 22. It's really quick to do and this way absolutely everything is handmade – and you don't have to throw anything away! You can also use different shapes or unusual materials such as petals, leaves, colored paper... The ideas and possibilities are endless!

Now enjoy getting creative and have an unforgettable day!



- I Flower topper ♥
- 2 Papier mâché hearts 🖤
- 3 Confetti bags ★

·······MATERIALS·

- Construction paper
- Ruler, eraser, scissors, adhesive tape
- Wooden skewers, small bags, confetti and papier mâché hearts (e.g. from arts and crafts or home decoration shops)
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO SENSOR F & M STABILO Pen 68 metallic





Toppers

Either use one wooden skewer, like the flower toppers at the beginning of the guide, or two wooden skewers, which will make it more like a garland or banner. You can use these toppers in a range of different ways: as an extra element in the flowers decorating the tables of the church, or as signs displaying the table numbers or table names – whatever you choose, they're a beautiful, eye-catching and personal option!







Instructions

1. Draw the shape of your banner with pencil on construction paper (not thin paper!).

2. Cut out the shapes using the scissors and do a preliminary drawing of the lettering.

3. Choose colors for the lettering that match the color scheme of the other decorations and how you intend to use the topper. I've picked shades from the bouquet.

4. Now stick two wooden skewer to the back of the banner using adhesive tape, one at the right end and the other at the left end. Done!

My tip: Ensure the banner isn't too long, otherwise it will be unstable. The banner in my example is approx. 16cm long.



Papier mâché hearts

Hanging papier mâché hearts that you can buy from arts and crafts shops are another lovely idea. You can attach them to the chairs of the bride and groom or include them in other decorations. They're easy to design but are such a lovely keepsake that everyone will want one!





Instructions

1. Papier mâché is a great material to work with: it has a matt surface and you can use almost any writing instrument on it. I've picked the STABILO Pen 68 metallic in light green.

2. Do a light preliminary pencil drawing of the word; it'll help to ensure the word fits nicely within the heart shape!

3. Before doing the major work, erase as much of the pencil drawing as you can.

4. I've used *faux calligraphy* to write out "Mr & Mrs" and added swashes and flourishes to fill the shape as harmoniously as possible.

5. Let everything dry well and carefully erase any of the preliminary drawing that is still visible.





(onfetti bags

It's not a wedding without confetti! That much is certain. These handmade little confetti bags will put a big smile on the face of every wedding guest both during and after the party – because these bags are wonderful keepsakes for an unforgettable day! With words, quotes and short sayings that have a personal meaning to the bride and groom, you can turn these plain little bags into something really great. Fill them with your confetti and you can even give them as a gift to your guests. Have fun celebrating!

Instructions

1. The transparent paper bags you can get from arts and crafts shops are a great choice because they look so pretty with the confetti showing through.

2. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of the wording to ensure it fits harmoniously within the space.

3. Before doing the major work, erase as much of the pencil drawing as you can.

4. I've chosen bold, contrasting colors: metallic shades and black. Add little hearts or other fitting symbols to decorate the lettering.

5. Let everything dry well and carefully erase any of the preliminary drawing that is still visible.

6. When you're finished, fill the bag with your confetti and get ready for the party!







Creative chaos...

...or a meticulously tidy workspace? Opinions differ wildly. I'm definitely on team "Creative Chaos", but sooner or later it gets to me and I have to tidy everything up. I must admit: looking at a clear, well-organised desk makes me feel great. Even if it doesn't stay that way for long!

No matter which team you're on: You'll find a few practical yet pretty little helpers here, as well as some ideas for your desk, writing instruments and other stationery. Because one thing's for sure: I don't do anything without my beloved notebook. I'm Team Analogue all the way!

MATERIALS

- White construction paper
- Ruler, eraser
- Notebooks and pen pot, as well as stickers and masking/washi tape of your choice
- Writing instruments used: STABILO Write-4-all STABILO Pen 68 and Pen 68 brush STABILO Pen 68 metallic STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL Pastel



- I Pen pot ★
- 2 Weekly planner •
- 3 Notebooks 🖈

Skills:





Pen pot

I like having my favourite pens close by, ready to grab. So it makes sense to make my pen pot look beautiful, too!

For this, there are countless possibilities, shapes, sizes and materials. Whether you use paper cups, papier mâché, or even smooth or varnished wood – as long as the surface is nice and smooth, you can create some great results using the STABILO Write-4-all or the Pen 68 metallic, and in the end you'll have a completely customized pen pot!

If the material you have is causing you problems, you can wrap a paper sleeve around it and use this to create your designs. The advantage of this is if you don't like the design anymore, you can simply design a new one and replace it!







Instructions

1. For this pen pot made from smooth, painted wood, I have chosen high-contrast lettering in black with decoration in metallic shades.

2. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of the wording to ensure it fits harmoniously within the space.

3. Before doing the major work, erase as much of the pencil drawing as you can.

4. This can be quite awkward to do, depending on the shape of the cup or pot. For a better grip, it can help to stack up a few books to the height of the cup or pot. Then you can rest your hand on it and your movements will be more sure!

5. When the first part (here it's the three words in black, "makers gonna make") has dried well, you can add decorative elements around the outside. **Important:** Always ensure everything has dried well before starting the next step!

6. Now all that's left is for you to fill it with your favourite pens and pencils and put it on your desk!



Weekly planner

When my mind is filled with chaos, I find it really helps to write down all the important things for the coming week. And the important part is the writing itself: that way, it's out of my over-crowded mind and on paper – preferably written out beautifully – and I always have my weekly planner in sight!

It doesn't really matter whether you write out your tasks, projects and plans for a whole week, or prefer to work on a day-to-day basis, or split up your plans into specific categories. Lay out your list however feels good and right to you.

The main thing is that you enjoy making it! I find that unpleasant or stressful topics seem only half as bad when they're written out beautifully! This has the positive side effect of calming the mind!

Here I'll show you just one of many design ideas, and I've kept it very simple. The way I see it, legibility and clarity are particularly important here, which is why I've decided against adding any decoration or other elements and instead chosen a clean overall look that can be put together quickly!



Instructions

Depending upon the number of categories you want, a classic portrait A4 or A5 format should work.
 First, use a pencil to measure out, assign and highlight each of the categories.

3. Any additions can added in the middle of the top and bottom. For example, you can write "to do", "Weekly planner", or something similar. Adding the calendar week or dates for that week will give you an even clearer overview.

4. Choose a different color of STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL Pastel for each of your categories; this way you'll be able to easily distinguish between them. You can write out your tasks for the relevant category above the dotted lines.

5. Less is more: With the exception of a few pastelcolored accents, I've done my best to avoid flourishes and extra details. This way your plan will be clearly structured!

6. Use some masking or adhesive tape to stick it up somewhere you can easily see it.



Notebooks

I can't live without my beloved notebooks. Whether a planner for my appointments, projects and free time or a blank book for ideas, sketches and my list of "words that I absolutely have to write out" – you can never have enough notebooks.

At the minute, I especially like the notebooks made from brown kraft paper. I think a simple, graphic design in black, grey and white or gold accents looks very elegant and stylish. With statement lettering, which you can even scale-up to extend beyond the available space, you'll turn a once dreary notebook into a real must-have. Have fun creating and filling your book!

Instructions

1. All arts and crafts shops stock a range of single-colored notebooks in different shapes and sizes.

2. The color scheme is black with grey shading, and details in gold and white in the form of stickers or masking tape.

3. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of your (statement) lettering. For an exciting layout, combine a big, sweeping, page-filling word that extends over the edges of the space with a smaller word in serif or capital letters. This contrast always looks great! Guaranteed.

4. The best instrument for the major work is a STABILO Pen 68 brush; for the fine lines and details, I use the STABILO SENSOR F.

5. Once your lettering is finished, you can decorate the free space with color-coordinated stickers or masking tape, or with geometric lines and shapes.

My tip: Less is more! This way, you'll be able to create a clean, geometric look!







Decorative letters for your home

A life without letters is possible, but pointless. Or at least it is for me! They aren't just the focus of my work and career; they're also the focus of my private life. Anyone who comes round my house notices very quickly that I love letters! The evidence is everywhere: old illuminated letters from the flea market, signs, posters and cards, adhesive letters on windows or – and here's where we get to the point – hand-drawn lettering: framed, pinned up and on shelves.

The next few projects cover two ideas for displaying your lettering beautifully in your home!

It requires some effort and a materials, but the result is all the more wonderful! I bet your next visitor will be super impressed and you're sure to get your first few commissions!

MATERIALS

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Ruler, eraser, scissors, jotting paper, kitchen roll, drinking glass
- Poster hanger from an arts and crafts store, wreath of dried flowers from a florist – or one you've made yourself!
- Writing instruments used: STABILO Pen 68 and Pen 68 brush STABILO point 88 STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL Pastel STABILO paintbrush



- Lettering in a poster hanger ★
- 2 Floral wreath ★





Lettering in a poster hanger

A beautiful idea that's perfect for people who love change: the poster hanger. The poster hangers in my examples are magnetic and can be found in a variety of designs, colors and lengths (for different formats) in arts and crafts shops.

And do you know what's great about them? Once you're sick of seeing them, it only takes a few seconds to put something new in the hanger and have a brand new decoration for your wall!

For this example I asked myself: what makes my house a home? As a self-confessed plant lover, I soon had an answer. What makes your home special to you? Simply replace "Plants" with your own personal word!



Instructions

1. Choose a sheet of paper to fit the size of your poster hanger. You'll need watercolor paper for this project!

2. Do a faint preliminary pencil drawing of the petals, leaves and lettering and erase the drawing until it is almost invisible, especially in the areas that are to have the watercolor effect!

3. For the watercolor work, I used the STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL Pastel and some matching shades of the STABILO Pen 68 brush; these two pens are great for painting with a brush! Color the petals and leaves and leave everything to dry well!

4. Fill in the lettering in *faux calligraphy* using a STABILO point 88; as a contrast, write "Plants" in narrow monoline capital letters.

5. Draw in the two thick lines below and above the watercolor elements. They mirror the frames of the poster hanger.

6. Clamp the finished picture between the bars.





Floral wreath

I am a great admirer of the artistry of florists and all those who can create such beautiful wreaths. I suspect that my patience only extends to letters... So of course I've added these to this cute dried floral wreath, too. Cut a banner from construction paper, add a nice saying, welcome, or something that fits in with your home, and you've made a beautiful, timeless decoration! The wreath will last forever and the paper banner is easy to replace when you're ready for a change!

and home sti

Instructions

1. Take a sheet of construction paper that fits your wreath (approx. 2–3cm longer), draw out the shape of your banner and cut it out with scissors.

2. Hold the paper banner to the wreath to check that it is big enough and work out where the lettering can go (so it won't be covered by the flowers).

3. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of your lettering. The combination of brush lettering and serif font creates a lovely contrast and matches the text.

4. Do the major work on your lettering. For the word "home", I used the STABILO Pen 68 brush and blended the shades light grey and salmon; for the word "sweet", I used the STABILO point 88 and Pen 68.

5. I chose muted, unobtrusive colors that match the dried flowers. The lettering and flowers harmonise; neither of them steal the show and the overall look is natural and attractive.

6. Now stick the paper banner to the wreath; the left end under the flowers and the right end over the metal ring.





Merry Christmas!

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Even if we moan about how stressful the run-up to Christmas is – as soon as it's time to wrap the little (or big!) gifts you've bought for your loved ones, you start to feel that sense of calm and contemplation.

You don't have to be a gift-wrapping wizard: with just a little effort and a few materials, you can conjure up the most amazing gift ideas. And as always, it's the thought that counts.

Whether it's a few lovely little gift tags, some striking wrapping paper or small wooden discs: everything is made with love! That's something everyone can see and appreciate.

However you choose to wrap your gift, enjoy the feeling of calm and joy as you work! Take your time over it and look forward to the days ahead. I wish you a cosy, stress-free and merry run-up to Christmas!

······ MATERIALS ······

- Ready-made gift tags from arts and crafts shops or colored construction paper, kraft paper, or single-colored wrapping paper
- Ruler, eraser, holepunch (if needed), scissors, stickers
- Ribbons, string, wooden discs from an arts and crafts shop or garden centre
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO Pen 68 brush and Pen 68 metallic STABILO point 88 STABILO Write-4-all

Color scheme:



Skills:



- I Gift tags ♥
- 2 Wooden discs ★
- 3 Wrapping paper ★



Gift tags

When it comes to wrapping gifts, these are a classic option. But I still love them for their versatility and design possibilities! You can find them in arts and crafts shops in a range of colors, shapes and sizes, and often with pre-punched holes.

Which means that all that's left to do is grab your favourite pens in your favourite colors and start designing these lovely little gift tags. They don't always offer a lot of space, but that doesn't matter. It's nice, meditative work and good practice. You can play with shapes, for example by positioning the lettering in a circle.

Attach it to your wrapping, bottle or Christmas bag with matching string and in less than no time you have a great gift to give!



Instructions

1. I picked traditional Christmas colors for this project: gold, green and red. Metallic shades will provide beautiful, shimmering accents.

2. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of your lettering and erase as much of it as you can before doing the major work.

3. You can even attach more than one tag to a gift: write one word on each tag then thread them onto the string in line, forming a sentence. This gives you more options to play with different tags, words and messages!

4. Decorate the remaining space with symbols, elements or pictures to suit the occasion. Try little dots, swirls, lines or illustrations such as stars, hearts, snowflakes, etc.

5. When you're finished, attach them to your gifts using matching string or cord.







Wooden discs

The STABILO Write-4-all in black, red and dark green is wonderful for designing these little wooden discs! Ensure the surface is as smooth as possible.

You can either integrate the wooden discs into your Christmas decorations or table setting, or attach them to a gift.

They are available in a range of sizes and are perfect for that natural look!



Instructions

1. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of your lettering and select a STABILO Write-4-all in black, red and green. You can erase the pencil once the ink is dry.

2. The *faux calligraphy* technique is great for the major work on the letters, or you can use a combination of different fonts. As always, I recommend using no more than three!

3. You could even use a simple hatching technique to draw little illustrations such as Christmas trees and stars. It makes the pictures look lively and forms a contrast to the other wooden discs.

4. Important: Be careful not to apply too much pressure! Otherwise too much color will bleed into the wood and your pen could fray more quickly.

5. Once the discs are fully dry, you can erase any remaining pencil and then position them or hang them up wherever you want.





Wrapping paper

This is a very quick and easy idea that nevertheless turns your wrapping paper into a real work of art! And here's a great little upcycling idea on the side: Once the gift has been unwrapped, the motif can be cut out and either hung up, framed or even used again during the festive period! For example, you could stick it on a Christmas card – there are so many possibilities!





Instructions

1. Choose single-colored wrapping or kraft paper.

2. Draw out the dimensions of your gift – here it's a book. This frame shows you the space you have for your design.

3. Do a preliminary drawing of the lettering if you'd like.

4. Important: Draw and work across and over the frame! It rounds off the idea and makes the final wrapping particularly exciting. The green STABILO Pen 68 metallic forms a great contrast to the brown kraft paper.

5. Once everything is fully dry, you can wrap your gift. I decided against using ribbons and other additions in order to maximise the impact of this statement paper!

Tip: The metallic colors look different on kraft paper than they do on white or black paper!



Happy New Year!

A quick case for the turn of the year: New Year's Eve is in *no way* a day like any other! I've always loved New Year's Eve and I always look forward to the next one. It seems like you only blink and "boxing week" is over and it's already time to ring in the New Year. Whether with a huge blowout with tons of friends, or snuggled up on the sofa with your favourite person – everyone has their own way to celebrate! And if after Christmas you decide you haven't had enough creativity, I have just the thing for you on the next few pages: I'll show you a few easy but creative ideas to really make your New Year's Eve party shine! With this in mind: ten, nine, eight... pop a cork and have an unforgettable start to the New Year!

.....MATERIALS.....

- Black construction paper, paper bottle bag
- Ruler, eraser, scalpel and cutting mat, jotting paper, small saw or sharp, serrated knife
- Champagne or sparkling wine cork, sparklers, stickers and extras of your choice
- Writing instruments used: STABILO pencil 160 STABILO Pen 68 metallic

Color scheme:



Skills:



- I Bottle bags ★
- 2 Sparkler cards ★
- 3 Place cards ♥



Bottle bags

No matter how you prefer to ring in the New Year: this handmade bottle bag is the perfect gift for the host of the party and will get you twice as excited about celebrating!

These specialised paper bags are also available in a variety of sizes, colors and designs. To achieve the elegant New Year's look that I wanted, I chose a black bag and then decorated it with oversized gold lettering and matching stickers.

Instructions

1. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of your lettering. And go for it: spread the oversized statement lettering with its long, sweeping flourishes across the entire length and width of the bag. This looks particularly dramatic and dynamic!

2. Now do the major work, using the gold STABILO Pen 68 metallic, for example. The other colors in this series also cover well and really come into their own on black paper!

3. Let your lettering dry well and carefully erase any remaining pencil.

4. You can then decorate the bag with matching stickers or even masking tape to give the perfect party look. The golden circles look like confetti and turn a once boring bag into a shimmering eye-catcher! Or use the other metallic colors, which will harmonise wonderfully with the gold. Then put your bottle in and get ready to party!







Sparkler cards

These cards may look simple at first, but with their small flap for holding sparklers they make a wonderful gift (perhaps for the host of a party)! These cards are a wonderful gesture when combined with heartfelt wishes for the New Year. They're easy to make and quick to decorate. Minimum effort, maximum joy. They'll guarantee a happy and – most importantly – sparkly start to the New Year!

Instructions

1. Cut out a piece of construction paper that is as big as you need (slightly shorter than the sparklers) and fold it in half once for stability, so that you have a long, narrow shape (like a standard DL envelope).

2. Now make two cuts approx. 1.5–2cm long using a scalpel (as you did for the Mother's Day card project on page 38). This is the flap that will hold the sparklers.

3. Now stick the edges of the card together using adhesive tape or glue.

4. I've chosen long, extensive lettering that is all joined together and that matches the size and shape of the card. It runs along the length of the sparklers the entire card.

5. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of your lettering; a short phrase with approx. 3–4 words will suffice for the length this of card! This look is brought alive by the joins between words: the sweeping flourishes joining the words, which are written with the letters relatively close together, make the overall image exciting yet still harmonious and balanced.

6. Let everything dry well and carefully erase any remaining pencil. Slide two sparklers through the flap and you're done!







Place cards

You can get these champagne or sparkling wine corks in arts and crafts stores or home decoration shops. Or you could collect them yourself, of course... Add a piece of construction paper with the names of your friends and family written out in beautiful lettering and your striking place cards are finished! I really like this idea and you can definitely use it for other celebrations and parties! Anywhere where corks are being popped!



Instructions

1. Either use ready-made place cards from the shop or cut them out of black construction paper. 6.5 x 4cm is about the right size for the corks.

2. For the names, I chose a font with a sweeping, dynamic look that sometimes extends over and across the edges of the format.

3. Do a preliminary pencil drawing of the names and erase it almost completely before you do the major work.

4. For the major work I selected a STABILO Pen 68 metallic in light green, because it looks really nice when combined with the black paper and beige cork.5. Let everything dry well and then erase any remaining pencil.

6. Now cut a slit in the cork. For this you can use a bread knife or a small hand saw, if you have one. As long as you use something that cuts well and has teeth! No need to cut any deeper than approx. 5mm. Now stick the card in and you're done!



Templates

In this part of the book, you'll find a few of the examples from the projects as templates for you to copy. You can also go to the STABILO website to watch the making-of videos for several projects!







EASTER





















The artist

My fascination with letters began just before my design studies in Nuremberg and is still going strong more than 11 years later.

In this time I've come to recognise the beauty of our 26 letters and our numbers with their many details and characteristics, and they've quickly become the focus of my work.

My studies, in which I specialised in typography, allowed me to take this fascination further and expand my knowledge, and I became a true lettering aficionado.

For more than seven years now I have worked as a freelancer doing lettering, calligraphy, graffiti and graphic design, and I can definitively say: I can't imagine *anything* better!

The multifaceted nature of working with letters makes every project exciting: Whether it's designing logos, doing classic work on paper, designing large-scale shop windows, walls, tables or even properties, combining digital and analogue, working with a variety of techniques and tools – every project has its own challenges. The world of (hand) writing is virtually boundless and omnipresent. That's what my life is like, too: Letters are not only the focus of my work, but also of my free time.

They have and will always have my unabashed enthusiasm and love.





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