

Embossing Instructions

Before you launch out into any serious embossing projects make sure you have all of your equipment ready; this might include card or paper, embossing powder, Pigment pad or Embossing Pad, anti static pad, a heat gun or toaster and maybe a soft brush. Let's explain these items a little further...

1. **Card and Paper:** this might sound self-explanatory but there are a few restrictions to what can be embossed. For example when you are using a toaster you can really only emboss papers (velum paper can be embossed too) and lightweight card, anything heavier will require a heat source applied directly onto the powder.
2. **Embossing Powder:** These powders are a finely ground enamel that you melt onto your project. The metallic colours like gold, silver, copper and also black, will cover any coloured ink successfully and you won't see any of the ink beneath them, whereas powders with a clear base such as Poly Sparkle, Holographic, Clear and Rainbow (there are others too) will be influenced by the colour of the ink under them i.e. If you stamp a navy pigment ink then put Poly Sparkle powder onto it you will have a Sparkling Navy image.
3. **Pigment Ink:** This ink is pretty essential for successful embossing. Pigment ink is a slow drying ink that gives you time to sprinkle your powder onto it without it having dried too much, this gives you the option of either leaving the ink to dry as normal or you can put emboss it. This ink gives you about 30 seconds to cover it with powder before it starts to lose its adhesiveness. You can also get a pad called an 'Embossing Pad', these are usually clear or lightly tinted, these pads will give you about a minute to get your powder onto it; this means you can experiment with using more than one colour of powder at a time and they tend to take all that time pressure out of the job.
4. **Anti-static Pad:** This small pad contains a fine powder which when rubbed over your card or paper before stamping it, will remove the atmospheric moisture from the card and alleviate any static electricity in the card which may cause small fragments of powder to cling to your project where you don't want it to. These pads are not essential and I actually very rarely use one, but if you use hand creams or your hands tend to sweat a little then it would help you to get a great result.
5. **Heat Tool:** Now this is a Godsend for embossing, these hot air guns are great because they apply direct heat to the embossed image without blowing the powder off. Heat guns operate at very hot temperatures so watch yourself when handling them; they work twice as fast as a toaster and can be used to melt powder on any thickness of card or even timber.
6. **Toaster:** This is the 'everyday Kiwi' embossing tool! Your toaster will work fine with paper or light craft card; if your card selection is too heavy there is a possibility that you will burn the back of your project before it melts the powder on the top. When using a toaster put the heat up to a higher setting and when placing the project over the toaster make sure the powder side is facing upward so you can see the design and you will be able to see the powder melting and going shiny. **DO NOT LEAVE THE PROJECT UNATTENDED ON THE TOASTER AT ANY POINT!!!** Children must have adult supervision when using this method.
7. **Soft Brush:** This is simply to dust off any excess powder away from your stamped design **BEFORE** you apply heat to it. Once it is melted it is staying there!

Instructions

- 1.** If you need to, wipe your card over with an anti-static pad. Open your embossing powder vial ready for use; also have a scrap piece of A4 paper on your work surface to collect the excess powder.
- 2.** Carefully ink your stamp with pigment ink and position it on your project where you intend your image to be.
- 3.** Pour embossing powder generously over the whole image; don't be too shy with it, as most of it will end up in the container again anyway. Now tilt the image onto its side and tap it firmly on your scrap piece of paper. Now replace the excess powder on your scrap piece of paper into the embossing vial.
- 4.** You now use your soft brush to brush away any embossing granules that are around your stamped image that you don't want melted onto your project.
- 5.** Place the embossed image over your toaster with the powder facing upwards so you can see what is happening, give it a little time to start melting then slowly move it across the heat until it is entirely raised and shiny. Be careful not to 'over emboss' the image by leaving it on the heat too long (when an image is over-embossed it will all of a sudden go 'flat' looking and may have a slight oily looking line around it). If you are going to use a heat tool you will apply heat directly to the embossed side of the project, hold the tool about two inches above the card and wave it over the image until you see the powder transform, remember not to hold the heat over one place too long or you will over-emboss it.
- 6.** Once your image is off the heat wave it around in the air a little to cool it off and set to embossing.

AWESOME! You're all done – Congratulations.