

Bleach Out!

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TAC Cruisers

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This is just one of the many ways to use bleach in your stamping projects. ALL card stocks react differently. Try it on a cardstock swatch of each color to determine if you really want to use that particular cardstock for a project. Keep swatches on hand with any notations so that you can refer back to them.

Clorox Advantage brand is a thicker than normal bleach and works splendid for any bleaching projects. ALL bleach will lose its strength after time. If you don't use up what is in your designated container/brush, dump it out and refill with fresh. Bleach stored in clear plastic allows light to penetrate, and this is one way that bleach loses its effectiveness. Have you ever noticed that all bleach is sold in white opaque bottles?



Supplies

Happy Trails Stamp Set (TAC)

Greetings Stamp Set (TAC)

VersaMark™ Ink Pad (TSUKINEKO~*TAC)

India Black Dye Ink Pad (TAC)

Black Embossing Powder (TSUKINEKO~*TAC)

Aqua Flow Water Brushes (SCHARFF~*TAC)

4.25" x 5.5" 2-tone Navy/White Card Stock (Hollo's)

2" x 3 1/8" Sand Stone Card Stock (Hollo's)

1 3/4" x 3" Sand Stone Card Stock (Hollo's)

1 3/4" x 2 3/4" Black Card Stock (Hollo's)

Mono Adhesive (Tombow~*TAC)

3 Star Buttons (Buttons Galore, Crafts 2000)

YES Glue (GANE~*TAC)

Heat Gun (Milwaukee~*TAC)

Bleach (Clorox Advantage)

Black Multi Liner 0.05 (Copic, Mary Maxim)

Bone Folder (TAC)

Matches (Grocery Store)

Instructions

1. Stamp "Happy Birthday" from the Greetings stamp set onto the 1 3/4" x 3" Sand Stone card stock with Black India Ink.

2. Take into the bathroom and over the sink burn the edges of each side of the saying with matches. Burn enough to get a jagged edge. Run matches under water to extinguish thoroughly. Rub off all loose ash edges leaving just a hint of color (you can, also, tear the edges and sponge with a dark brown to create a similar effect).
3. Stamp the horse's torso onto the black card stock using a VersaMark pad. Spoon or sprinkle black embossing powder over the image to coat completely. Dump excess back into original container.
4. Melt embossing powder with a heat gun until the image is completely shiny. Allow to cool.
5. Take your aqua flow brush into the bathroom/laundry room and fill with Clorox Advantage bleach. Rinse off the outside of the brush and wash your hands to remove any bleach that may have spilled over.
6. Take the brush back to your project and brush over the newly embossed image, trying to stay within the image as much as possible. The more bleach you use the more bleached it will become. Brush on a light coat first and then bleach again and again until you reach the color you desire. Work in a rotating pattern so your brush strokes do not show. Don't saturate your image with a lot of bleach all at once since it may damage your paper.
7. Allow to air dry. You will see the color change almost instantly. It will continue to bleach until it is completely dry.
8. Once it is dry you can touch it up with your black marker to cover any leaks outside your image.
9. When everything is dry, you can start assembling your card. Using your Mono Adhesive, attach the bleached image to the 2" x 3 1/8" Sand Stone card stock.
10. Fold your Navy card stock in half creating an A2 size card, putting the white side to the center.
11. Attach your horse image and burnt image to the Navy card stock.
12. Add buttons below the Happy Birthday image using YES glue.

I added stitching to match my buttons to both images on the Sand Stone card stock for effect. You may want to do the same with any dots and dashes to match whatever buttons you use.

Have fun with bleach techniques, but exercise caution!