



Colour Schemes

Using colour in a considered way can greatly enhance your work, and allow you to make the most of your stamps.

Understanding how different colours react with one another is key to guiding you in what to choose and what to avoid in any scheme. It is invariably easier to achieve a harmonious colour composition by limiting the number of colours you use in a particular design.



You will need ■ chick and hats rubber stamp ■ royal blue VersaColor™ inkpad ■ pearl blue embossing powder ■ blue Sakura Starlight™ pen ■ white linen-effect card ■ blue and dark blue card ■ pale blue card 13 x 20cm (5 x 8in), plus scraps ■ scraps of printed papers ■ plain blue and blue plaid ribbon ■ die-cutting tool and hat dies



1 Using the inkpad, ink the chick stamp up carefully. Check that there is ink all over the rubber, then stamp onto the white linen-effect card.

2 Sprinkle the embossing powder all over the wet stamped image. Tip away the excess powder, returning it to the jar. Check that the image is completely covered and carefully remove any stray powder with a paintbrush. Using a heat gun, heat the surface of the powder (see page 29).

3 Run the glaze pen over scrap paper – the flow will be quicker than on plastic, and speed is of the essence, as you must use the ink before it dries out. Dip a fine paintbrush into clean water and pick up some of the ink. Test the intensity of the diluted colour on scrap paper.



9 Hats Off to You

Try restricting a design to using only the shades of a single colour to create a simple, subtle scheme.

The advantage of this type of approach to colour is that it can be used with any image. Just decide on a particular colour and get started! Look out for packs of monochromatic card, which will make it easier for you to coordinate your layout. Here, I have chosen blue as the colour theme for this fun, springtime design, which is perfect for Easter.



When using simple colour schemes, incorporate a variety of different materials and textures, as well as colouring mediums, to add interest.



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4 Starting with one section at a time, such as the chick, flower or one of the hats, apply a light wash to one side to create shading. This will make them look more three-dimensional. When returning to a section to add more shading, pick up less water and more ink.

5 Apply very light colour washes in patches to the background, leaving a white halo around the image. Apply a little more colour below the chick for ground. Trim the card to 10 x 7.5cm (4 x 3in). Stick ribbon across the bottom with Hi-Tack Glue™. Mount on a slightly larger piece of blue card.

6 Score and fold two flaps 5cm (2in) wide in the pale blue card. Mount the panel inside. Die-cut and assemble two hats from dark and pale blue card and printed papers. Mount one on the inside, the other on one flap with an adhesive foam pad. Glue ribbon to the card back, to tie in front.