
Make a Collage Art Tag with Dawn M. Cardona

Chapter 1 - Make a Collage Art Tag

Overview

- I am always thinking of ways to make an impression using ordinary ideas. I wanted to create something for the recipient to adore - something as ordinary as a tag - for a much longer period - forever even. I'll show you how to cut out my Papa bird and Baby bird design from a template and freehand. I'll also show you how to perforate your keepsake gift tag so that this frameable artwork can be enjoyed for years to come.

Materials and creating your gift tag

- To make your keepsake gift tag, you'll need a paper cutter, three blades, one straight, one for perforating, one for scoring, Posca pens, colored pencils, Neocolor II crayons, a ruler or a tool for measuring, bone folder, a variety of paper, some found vintage pieces or scrapbooking papers are fine, maybe even some painted papers. String, card stock cut to six and a quarter and three and three quarters. Bristol paper cut to three and a half by five and a half inches glue, scissors, a pencil and awl and a hole puncher. You'll also need a cutting mat and the PDF downloadable template that I've designed. The first step would be we wanna prepare our canvas and I'm gonna measure a half inch from the short side. And then I'm gonna score a line using my scoring blade. If you don't have a cutting board with a scoring blade, you can find a rotary cutter, which provides options for scoring and perforating blades, which then you can use with a ruler to score your line. You can see the scored line right there. And now take your Bristol canvas and also do the same thing. But this time we're gonna be perforating a line a half inch from the short edge. So I'm gonna change out my blade. I'm having difficulty seeing the measurements, so I'm gonna use my ruler just to make sure I have it right there at the half inch mark. This perforated line will allow us to remove our artwork when we are finished. I'm gonna set this aside for now and start working on my artwork. I have already cut out some of the pieces from my PDF template. Make sure you keep this section of your template so that you can have a guide for your pieces and a key for what they are. I like to cut my pieces out in big chunks and choose my papers as I go, placing these pieces over the paper that I wanna use and cutting them at the same time. I'm currently working on the Papa Bird. To get a nice clean cut take your time and apply pressure away from your line, moving your paper rather than your scissors. I don't wanna force this cut here, so I'm gonna come over here and work my way up. And I've already see that I can make a mistake where it's not very smooth, so I'm just gonna set my template piece down and just create that nice curve. It doesn't have to be perfect, but if you like clean lines like I do, it's easy to clean it up after you've made the cut. And I'm just gonna keep working my way through these pieces with papers that appeal to me. You can choose whatever color, whatever texture pattern that you like. There are actually two pieces here. This is the little bobble on the hat. You can either cut this out with your scissors or punch a hole. I'm gonna punch a hole. This whole puncher doesn't have that space for the piece to fall into, and so I'm using my needle to pry it out. There we go. When I'm cutting very thin straight pieces, I like to cut the length of the leg first on both legs, and then going back over along the short side of the leg. Looks like my paper was doubled up so I have extra legs and I'll keep those in case I make a mistake somewhere. As you're cutting your pieces, so they don't get lost, make a pile for the pieces you wanna keep and then a pile to the other side of the pieces you don't want to keep. This is my eye, which I'm going to

punch out again with the hole puncher. Choosing a size that matches my whole on the template. These four pieces here are the scarf. I like to have a lot of fun with my scarves, so I'm gonna choose two colors and a pattern as I cut out my scarf. I like to rotate my piece as I cut, rather than forcing any cuts around a corner or into a tight space. This is the trickiest piece that I've included in this template. It might take a few tries before you get it right. Just be patient. You might wanna experiment using different tools, whatever you're comfortable with. I like using my scissors, but this can definitely be cut out with a craft knife. You're also welcome to freehand it, which I'm going to give myself a chance to try. So I have three leaves and a stem. I find it easier to work with a tinier sheet of paper than a big chunk, so cut it down to size. I also like to flip my paper over as I cut so that I can work from an easier angle, never forcing any cuts to avoid bending my paper. If you like it, then you're finished. If not, try again. Now for the tiny little heart. This is another shape that you can freehand if you wish. If you feel like your fingers are too big for these tiny cuts, if you have a pair of tweezers that can really come in handy. But I like to actually use my scissors and set them in in between the blades and glide the paper around until I've got the cut that I need. It is a little wonky, but gives it a bit of personality. You'll want to cut out the Baby bird just like you did your Papa bird. Now let's assemble Papa bird keeping our guide in front of us. I'm gonna take the body and start with the eye. I like to take a piece of scrap paper for my glue and then gluing pieces down using my craft needle. Just a bit of glue on the tip of your needle. I can already tell there's a little bit too much there, so I'm gonna wipe some away. Now I'm gonna attach the beak to the backside of the body, applying just a little bit of glue on the backside. I like to set the beak just a little bit higher than the eye. I will attach the hat now to the back of the head. I'm gonna save the bobble for last 'cause that can be a little tricky to add glue at the very tip. Now we'll add our scarf in. If you'll notice one piece is a little bit bigger than the other, I like the bigger piece on the bottom and have the skinnier piece overlapping. I am just gonna add a tiny bit of glue in the center of both pieces. And the reason why I've only added a little bit of glue between these two pieces is so that I can slip in the lengths of my scarf. I am applying the glue on the backside of the scarf that's gonna be against the body, not on top. If you try to slip in a piece with glue on top, it's going to smear that glue everywhere. This heart is optional, and I know it's a little funny to put it down at the bottom, but my dog has a pattern, a heart pattern on her side, and so I always like to add a little heart on the side of all my animals. I'm gonna place the first leg on top of the body and then the second leg on the backside of the body and kind of angle it toward the other leg just a bit and a little higher air. I'm gonna add glue behind the beak to attach my little leaf, move those extra legs aside, bring in my canvas. Make sure your glue is away so you don't accidentally get it all over the place. We'll also want to bring in our glued Baby bird. From here you can glue these pieces directly onto your canvas or add a bit more depth and interest by adding a little background. I want this to be a bit of a snowy scene, so I'm gonna get a neutral piece of paper, measure it to the width of my canvas, my white Bristol canvas, and adhere it along the bottom. I currently have my perforated blade in, and that's okay. You can simply fold it and pull, and it gives a really neat effect on the edges. I'm cutting it to the width of three and a half inches. It's a little bit high. About an inch might be perfect, so I'm gonna just cut it. It doesn't need to be a clean cut. It can even be a little wavy if you want it. I am just gonna add a really tiny dot of glue in three spaces using my craft needle, moving that glue around. I didn't want to add glue over the entire surface of the back because what I want to do is to be able to have one leg in front of that snow and one leg behind. So I'm going to glue these down now. Just add a little bit of glue on the tip of your needle and smear it along the backside. I like to add glue just in the center. This leg is a little loose. I'm gonna grab a scrap piece of paper, dip it into my glue, smear it a little bit on this

paper, and slide it under the leg, add pressure and pull. It gives you a nice clean look. Do the same for the Baby bird. Add just a little bit of glue on the back, slide the shorter leg behind. So I accidentally adhered the snow all the way down. So I'm just gonna give a the the back leg a little cut to make it appear as if it's behind the snow. Grab my scrap paper again with a little bit of glue on the tip and slide it under the legs. And now we can add the bobble at the very tip of that hat. At this point, I like to add little details, like a little shadow underneath that bird. Using a white Posca marker, just adding a bit of snow on the ground and you can add as much detail as you want. I'm going to stop here and take my pencil and write a little message. I've left this space blank so that you can write something that means something to you. I'm just gonna say that the little Baby bird is saying hello. And since this is a gift tag, your message can say, happy birthday, congratulations, whatever occasion you're going to be using this for. You can also add a message right here on the backside, on the card stock. It's a little hidden message for the recipient. And if you wanna sign your name. Okay, at this point we're going to attach these two pieces. And to do this, turn your canvas horizontally. You'll wanna lay your white canvas on top of your card stock so that the sides are all even. If you can remember, we scored this card stock. I'm gonna go ahead and fold that over using our bone folder, giving it a nice crease. You're gonna apply glue along the top edge of this canvas. My glue's a little dry, add another dot, press and hold. Now open it up again and apply some glue at the top edge, on the backside, close and press and hold. Now we're gonna measure and find the center at the top. The width of this card stock is three and three quarters, so I know it's about 1.9 inches, but that's a little bit hard to find. So I'm just gonna slide my ruler over until I kind of get these, an even number on both sides of that two. And then I'll find my center, mark it with a dot, take my whole punch on the largest setting and punch that out. And the last step is to use our string. I like to use about 10 to 12 inches. Bring it in from the backside, looping it through. So now you have a message on your card behind your tag. And when your recipient receives this, they can remove the artwork along the perforation and frame it and they can keep the artwork forever.