

## Fabric-paper From Construction Paper - Not Just for Kids!

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Using an easy step by step process, you can create fun and versatile fabric-paper from kids' construction paper.

Get ready for some serious fun! Let's revisit construction paper and crayons and see what happens. Ready?

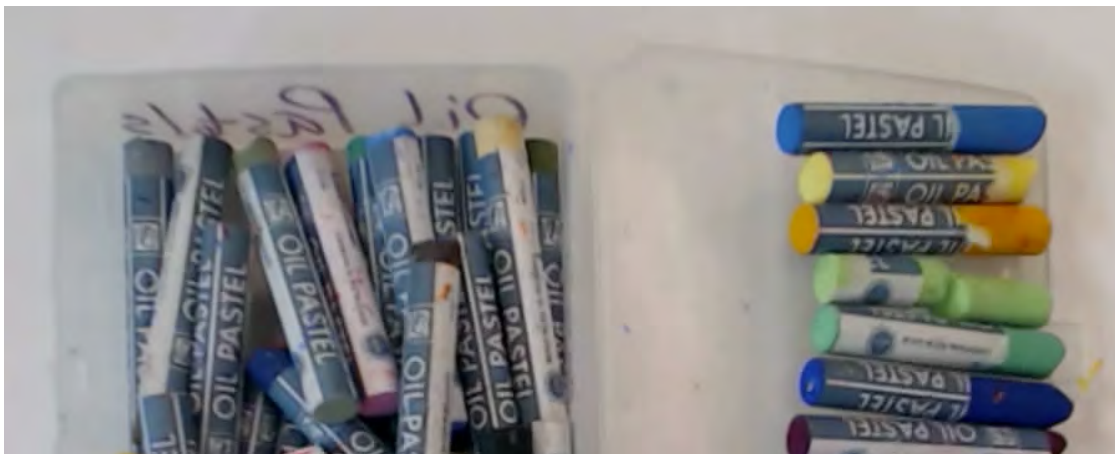
### Sneak Peek



These are a few samples of fabric-paper created with kids' construction paper.

# Class Notes

**Supplies:** First you'll need several big sheets of white or off-white construction paper and some inexpensive oil pastels.



Get the cheapest oil pastels you can find. There is no need to buy the highly pigmented pricey sets. This entire set was only about \$8.00. Be sure that you don't get water-soluble pastels. You need the oil to resist water-based paints. (You can also use wax crayons to create the color and resist.)

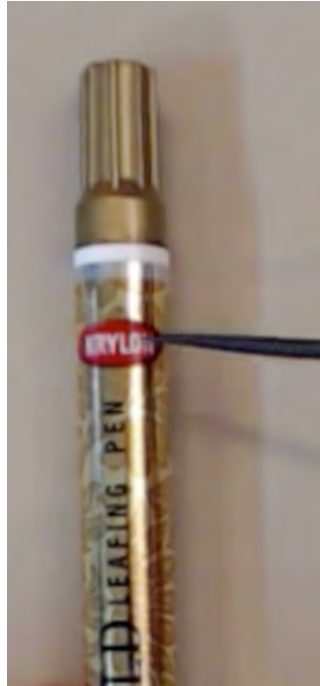
I bought an entire package of 12" by 18" white construction paper from an office supply store. Most multi-colored packs of construction paper only have 1-2 sheets of white included.

## Black Sharpie Marker



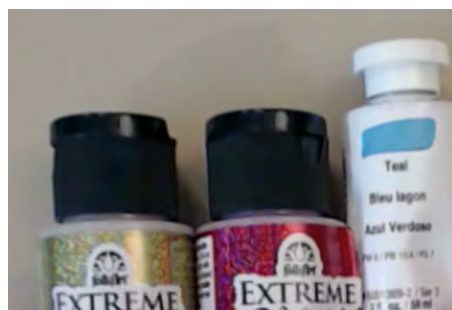
Black Sharpie marker - fine point

## Leafing Pen



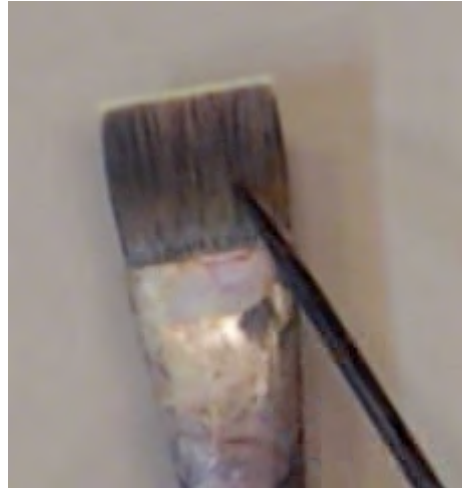
Krylon Leafing Pens - 18kt Gold is my favorite. These pens are available in silver, copper, pale gold and red shimmer.

## Acrylic Paints



Craft paints or artist-grade acrylic paints work equally well. You can use flat, metallic and glitter paints.

## Brush, etc.



1. This brush is 3/4" wide. The wider the brush, the faster you can paint.
2. You also need a paint palette - a plastic lid or plate or disposable palette.
3. And, you'll need some water to wash your brush.
4. Paper Towels

**I'll show the rest of the supplies as we need them.**

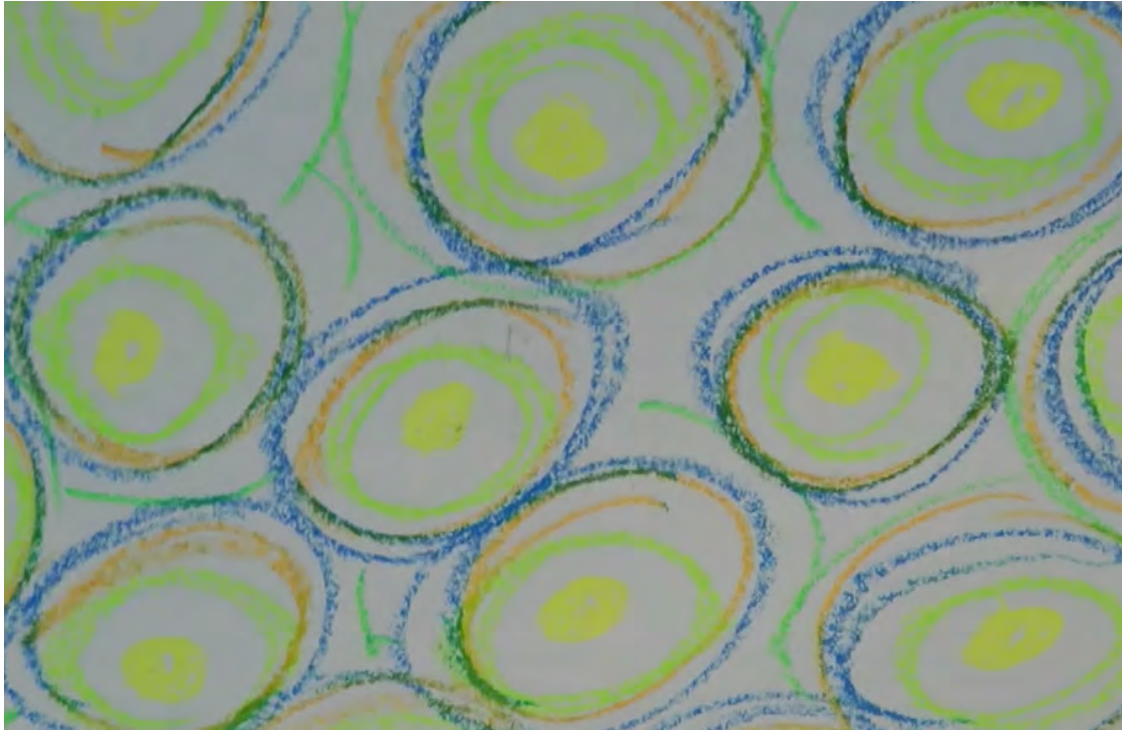
**Use Neighboring Colors on the Color Wheel**



I've chosen blues, greens and yellows to color the first sheet of paper.

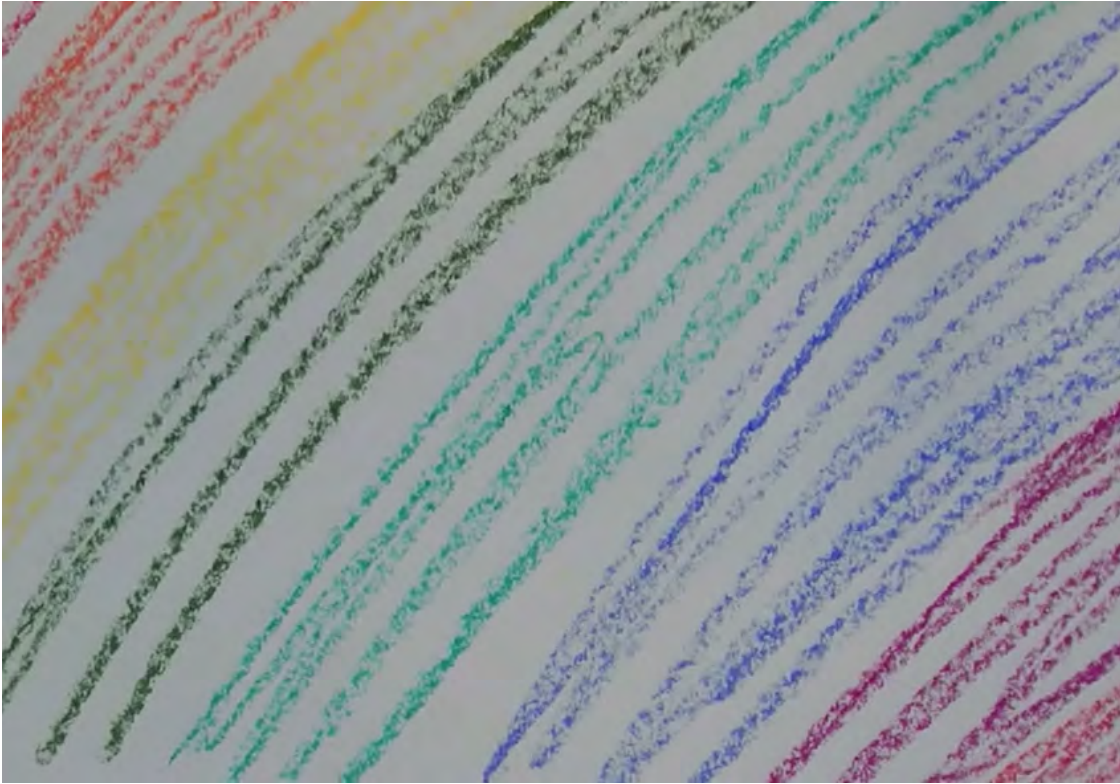


## Sheet #1 - Circle Pattern



Easy! Just create random circles. Leave some white spaces here and there.

## Sheet #2 - Diagonals



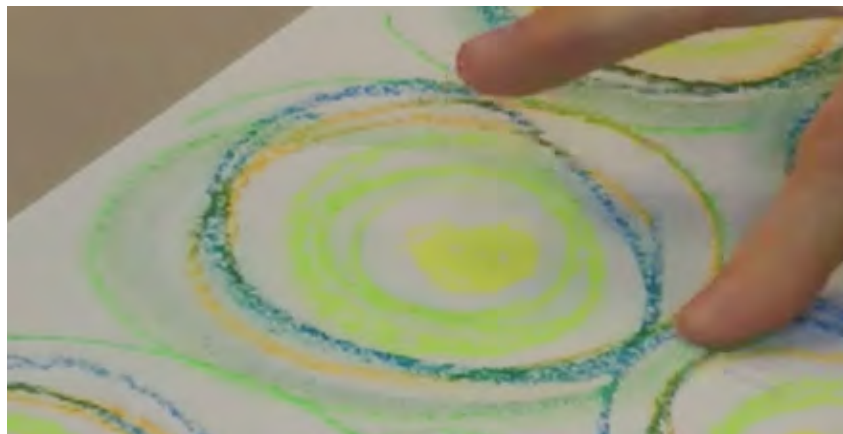
Think about the colors of the rainbow. Scribble diagonal lines. Leave some white spaces.

## Sheet #3 - Flowers



Begin with spots and then add flower shapes around the spots. Draw like a little kid. Add several colors, but keep some white space.

## Blending



You can blend the oil pastels with your finger. It softens the colors slightly.



## Paint



Thin some acrylic paint to the consistency of ink. Paint over the oil pastel shapes. Use plenty of water with the paint. The oil pastel resists the paint as it beads up and away from the pastel.



## More Paint



Use another color of paint, too.

## Paint the Diagonal Pattern



Repeat the acrylic wash step on this sheet, too.

## Paint the Flower Sheet



I've used different colors of this acrylic washes on each sheet to create variety. It's good to have several choices to work with.

Let each sheet dry.

You can add additional washes of paint - especially metallic or glitter paints for added sparkle. You can also add more layers of oil pastel, too.

## Iron and Parchment Paper



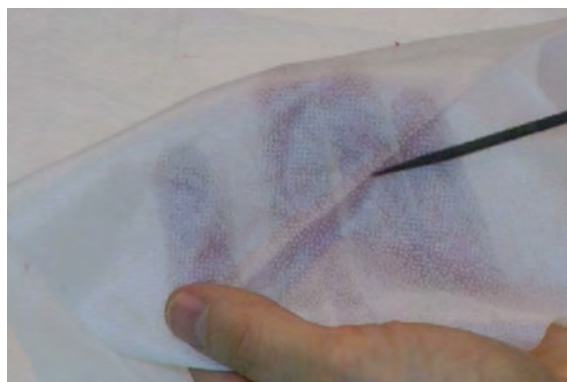
Place the colored construction paper between sheets of parchment paper on ironing surface. Parchment paper is commonly found in grocery stores with baking supplies.

## Iron Paper



Set iron on "Wool" and iron over the paper to melt the oil pastel and flatten the paper. The paper gets very hot, so handle with care. The picture shows the paper sheet after ironing.

## Fusible Interfacing and Wonder Under



By adding a very **light weight fusible interfacing** to the back of the paper, it becomes stitchable or fabric-paper. Notice that one side of the interfacing is rough and that's the fusible side. You need a piece of interfacing that is large enough to cover each sheet of paper. This will go on the back of

the paper sheet.

You'll also need a corresponding piece of **Wonder Under** for each sheet. Wonder Under is a paper-backed fusible web. We will be using it as a sealer (an unusual use for sure) on top of the sheet.

## Make a Sandwich



You need to do this exactly this way, **building from bottom to top.**

1. Parchment Paper
2. Interfacing - fusible side UP
3. Colored paper - pretty side UP
4. Wonder Under - paper side UP (Wonder Under is a paper-backed fusible glue and you need a piece large enough to cover the surface of the paper)
5. Parchment Paper on top

Iron the sandwich until the interfacing and Wonder Under have successfully fused to the paper sheet.

**Let everything completely cool.**

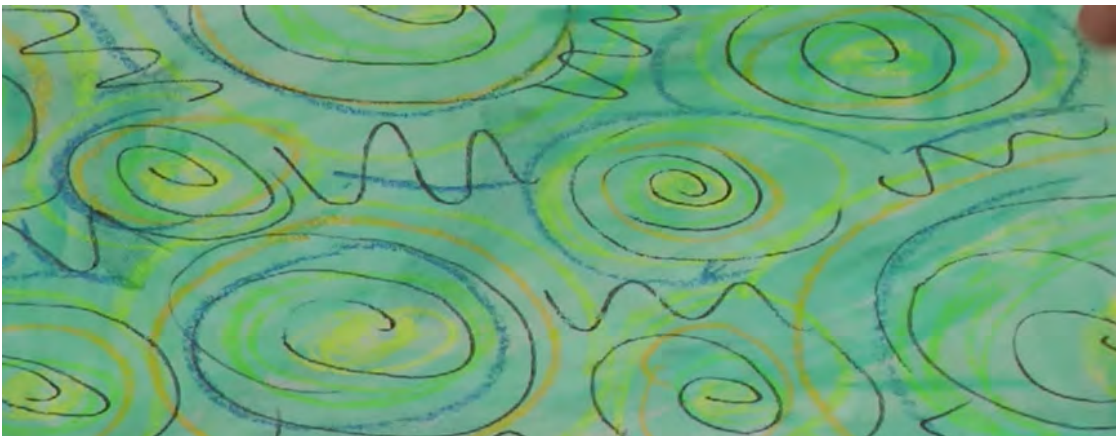


## Peel off Paper Backing



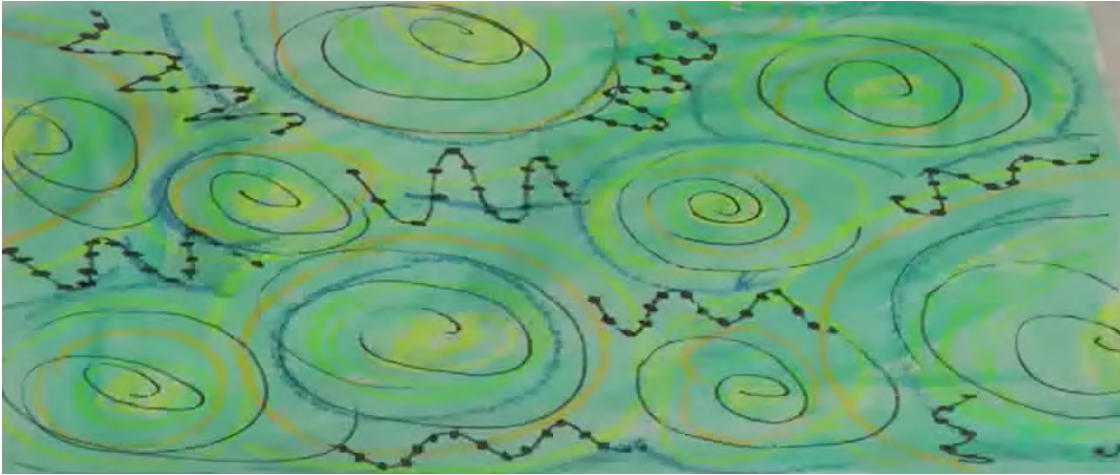
Once the sandwich is completely cool, peel away the paper from the Wonder Under. The Wonder Under helps seal the oil pastel. Sometimes the surface feel quite rough. Don't worry about that.

## Doodle with Black Sharpie



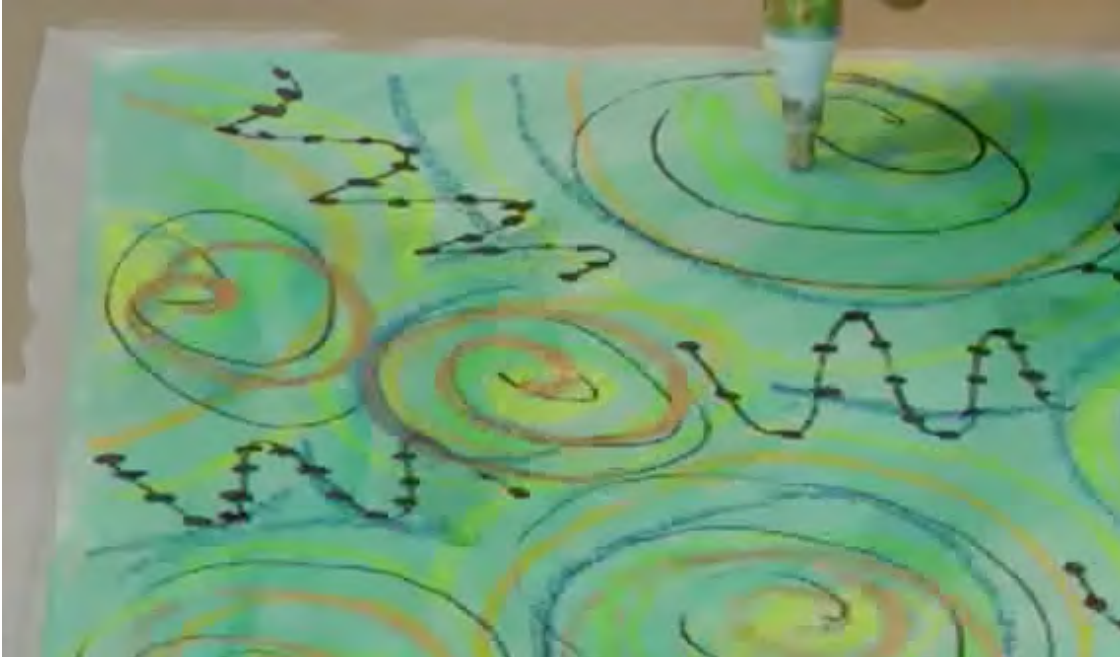
Don't think, just doodle. Black makes the previous colors pop.

## When in Doubt, Dot!



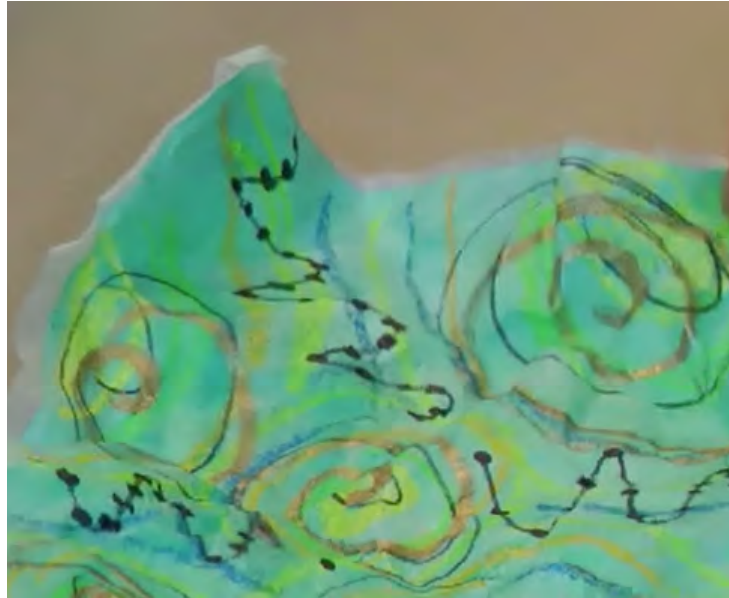
Dots add visual texture and they're fun to do, too.

## Add Gold Pen



Adding the 18kt Gold Leafing pen creates sparkle.

## Crumple the Sheet



Take a deep breath and begin to crumple the sheet. At first it's a little challenging because the fibers are quite stiff. The more you crumple, the softer it gets. Continue to knead and squeeze the sheet until it is very, very soft. It takes a couple of minutes to achieve the pliable texture that you need.

## Iron Again



**ALWAYS PLACE THE SHEET BETWEEN LAYERS OF PARCHMENT PAPER WHEN IRONING!**

If you don't, it will stick to your iron because the fusible web will always react to heat.



Iron the sheet to help flatten after the crumpling process. Let the parchment cool before peeling up the top parchment sheet.

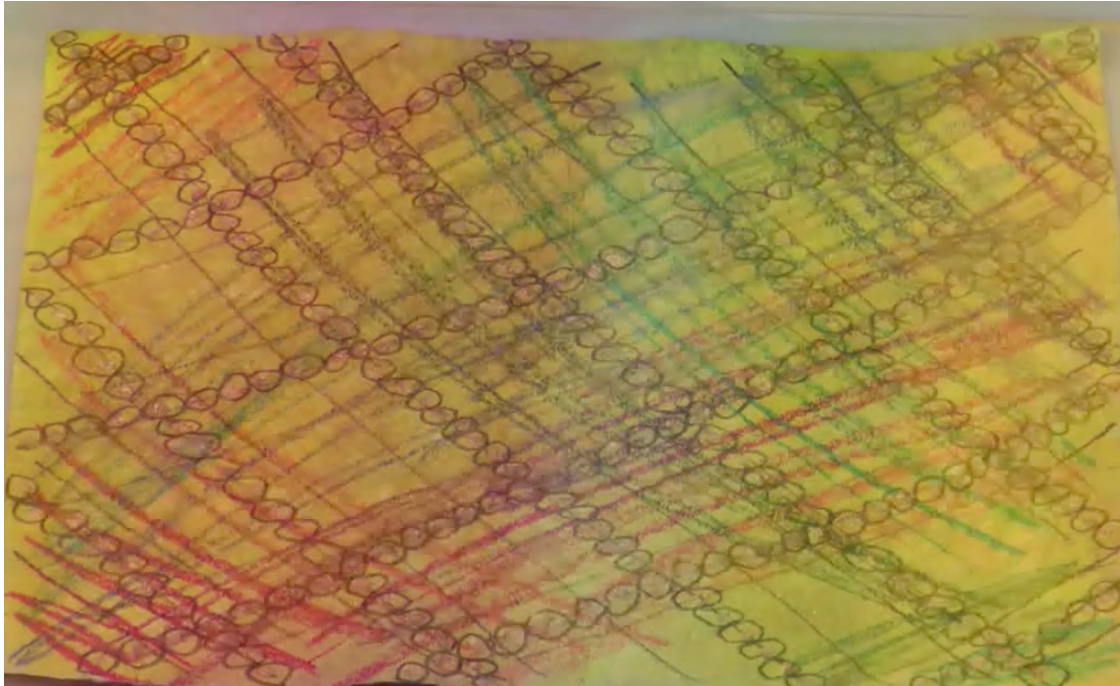
## Sheer Fabric on Top



I often use **tulle** on top of the fabric-paper sheet to help further seal in oil pastel. My preference is black tulle, but you might prefer another color. You see the tulle covering the sheet on the right side of the picture.



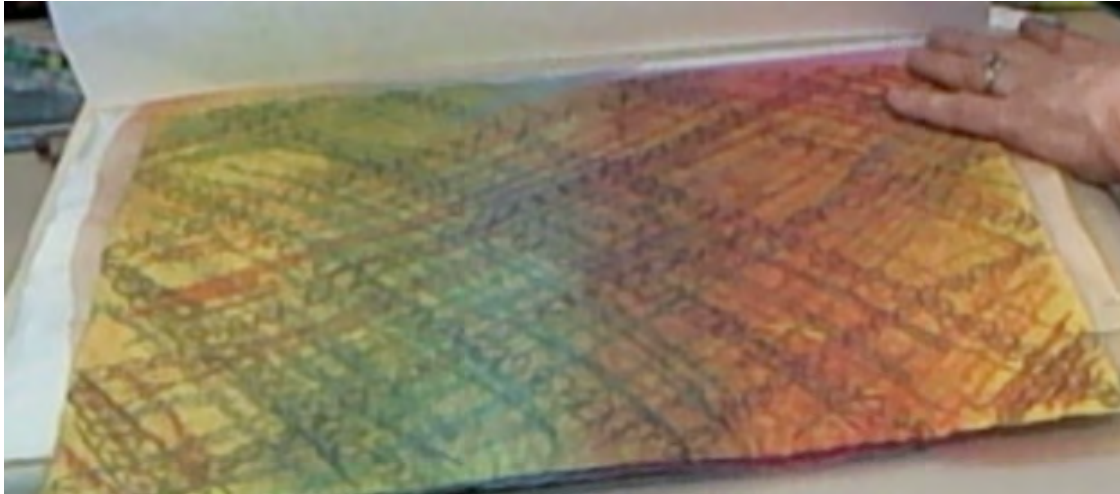
## Organza on Top



Another good sheer fabric choice is **organza**. If you can find ombre or rainbow organza, it increases the intensity of the colors beneath it. It's gorgeous!

The Wonder Under surface stays a bit tacky. To adhere the organza or tulle to the surface of the sheet, place parchment over the whole thing once again and iron to activate the Wonder Under somewhat and it will bond the sheer fabric onto the sheet. Organza can easily melt, so don't iron too long.

## See the Colors?



In this picture, you can see the shading created by the rainbow organza. Yum!

## Stitching



Thread your sewing machine with any thread that you like. I love King Tut thread by Superior Threads. Use a size 80/12 or 90/14 needle and stitch as much as you like. You can use straight stitching with the feed dogs engaged like this or. . .

## Free-Motion Stitching



You can drop the feed dogs, attach a free-motion presser foot and stitch away. (**HINT:** When free-motion stitching think of the needle as a pen, the thread is the ink and the fabric is the paper. Instead of drawing the with pen, you are moving the paper beneath the pen.)

## Stitching Ideas



I embellished the flower with free-motion stitching and pretty thread. This was stitched with size 12 thread and a size 90/14 topstitching needle. When using a thicker thread like size 12, you need to use a larger needle.



## Free-Motion and Regular Stitching



This sample is covered with black tulle and then stitched with King Tut thread and straight stitching.

Then I switched to size 12 thread and free-motion stitching to further embellish with swirly motifs.

## What to do With Fabric-paper



You can die cut fabric-paper

## Create Journal Covers



Fabric-paper makes beautiful book covers.

# Class Notes

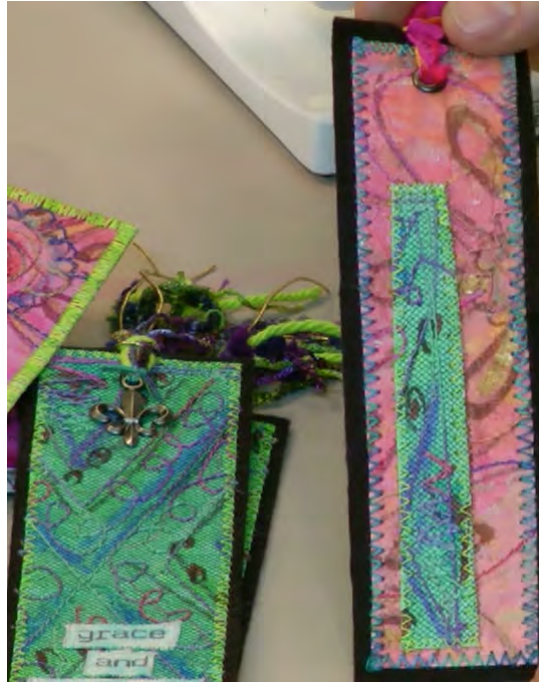
## Postcards



You can make postcards.



## Bookmarks



Or, you can create beautiful bookmarks.

## Enjoy!



Fabric-paper is not washable, but it's perfect for many, many uses. I'd love to see what you create with **your** version of fabric-paper.