

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

### Supplies:

- Kids Construction Paper - White (I prefer the larger sized sheets approximately 12”X18”)
- Oil Pastels - inexpensive regular oil pastels, **not** water soluble
- Acrylic Paints - artist grade or craft acrylics
- Brush - 3/4” - 1” wide acrylic brush
- Water
- Paper Towels
- Fusible Interfacing - light weight
- Wonder Under Fusible Web
- Parchment Paper
- Iron - dedicated to fiber art
- Black Sharpie Marker
- Krylon Leafing Pens - Gold, Silver, Red Shimmer, etc.
- Sewing Machine
- Tulle - color of your choice
- Nylon Organza - rainbow is my favorite
- Thread - for machine embroidery
- Needle - appropriate for thread
- Fabric and Paper Scissors
- Small Scissor
- Pins
- Supreme Slider - Teflon free-motion sheet - **optional** but helps fabric-paper glide more easily beneath the sewing machine needle.

### To Create Construction-Paper Fabric-Paper:

1. Choose several colors of oil pastels and color on white construction paper. Be sure to leave white space. Don't cover the paper completely with oil pastel. Create several different sheets with various patterns and colors so that you have choices to work with.

Examples:

- \* Spirals or circles
- \* Linear pattern
- \* Flower motif

2. Thin acrylic paint with water and paint over the oil pastel. You might choose one color or a couple of colors that blend. Allow to dry. Add more oil pastel, if you wish and more acrylic paint washes. The oil pastel will resist the paint wash. Allow to dry completely.
3. Place colored paper between sheets of parchment paper and press with iron (wool setting) to melt oil pastel into the paper and to flatten the paper.
4. Cut lightweight fusible interfacing slightly larger than colored paper.
5. Cut Wonder Under slightly larger than colored paper.
6. **Create the following "sandwich" from the bottom up:**
  - Parchment paper (bottom layer)
  - Fusible interfacing, fusible side UP
  - Colored Paper, pretty side UP
  - Wonder Under, paper side UP (the fusible web acts as a sealer for the oil pastel)
  - Parchment paper
7. Press with iron (wool setting) to fuse the layers. LET COOL.
8. When the sandwich has cooled, carefully peel Wonder Under release paper back. The surface may feel a bit rough.
9. Add details and doodles with Black Sharpie.
10. Add sparkle with Krylon Leafing Pens (my favorite color is 18 kt. Gold)
11. Now, take a deep breath and crumple the paper. Begin slowly at first as the fibers may resist the process. Keep crumpling until you totally soften the entire piece. It's really important that you do this for several minutes until the paper is very soft, quite pliable and much more fabric-like than paper-like.

12. Place fabric-paper between sheets of parchment paper and press again with iron (wool setting) to somewhat flatten. It will never flatten entirely.
13. Cover the colored side of the paper with tulle or organza in the color of your choice. Try various colors to see how the colors change and what you prefer.
14. Cover tulle or organza covered fabric-paper with parchment paper and iron (wool setting) which will activate the fusible web and help to hold the sheer fabric onto the surface. DO NOT overheat or the fabric may melt. If it melts, consider it added texture. :-)
15. Time to stitch.
16. If you wish to do free-motion stitching, placing a Supreme Slider teflon sheet on the bed of your machine can really help fabric-paper move more easily. Lower the feed dogs. Thread your machine with machine embroidery thread and appropriate needle. Think of the thread as ink; the fabric-paper as your sheet of paper; and the needle as your pen. Just draw! Instead of moving the pen, you are moving the paper. Draw and doodle until you feel it's complete. You can change colors of threads to add even more interest.
17. Now, your Construction-Paper Fabric-Paper is ready to use in whatever creative way you choose.

### **How to Get Creative with Construction-Paper Fabric-Paper**

- Create a journal cover from the fabric-paper
- Die cut into shapes (steel rule dies only)
- Cut into squares or strips and create pieced art quilts with fabric-paper
- Greeting Cards or postcards
- Embellish tote bags, hats, hand bags, aprons (note that this fabric-paper is not washable)
- Wall hangings
- Bookmarks
- Fabric-paper beads
- Fabric-paper charms