

Fabric-paper Circle Flowers - Fast and Fun!

Did you know that you can make simple, beautiful flowers with paper towels, some acrylic paint, interfacing, interesting threads and a thumb tack? Well, you can!

Sneak Peek



You can grow a fabric-paper flower garden right in your own sewing room! Let's sew some seeds!

Supplies:

- Paper Towels - **Scott Rags in a Box home improvement towels** are the perfect towel for creating these fun flowers. You can use regular paper towels, too.
- Acrylic Paint - craft paints
- Something to mix paint in - a plastic ice cube tray works well
- Foam Brushes
- Water - in a spray bottle and container for rinsing brushes
- Parchment Paper
- Iron
- Nonstick craft mat or plastic
- Fusible interfacing
- Fusible Web - if you like double-sided flowers, you'll need this to adhere two layers together - Stitch Witchery works great.
- Sewing Machine
- Open-toe appliqué presser foot
- Circular embroidery attachment for sewing machine **OR** thumbtack and painter's tape

Class Notes

- Buttons and beads for flower centers
- Hand sewing needle and thread
- Scissors
- Pinking or Scalloping Shears

Scott Rags in a Box



This is what the box looks like. There are 200 towels in the box which will make LOTS of flowers! These towels are excellent for other uses, too, of course.

Color Wheel: Just a note about using paint and avoiding mud



You'll find warm colors like red, yellow and orange on one side of the color wheel and cool colors like blue, purple and green on the other side. As long as you use colors that are close to each other on the color wheel, the colors will always look good together. If you use colors that are opposites on the color wheel, you are almost always guaranteed to get muddy colors. Keep this in mind as we move forward in class.

Add water first



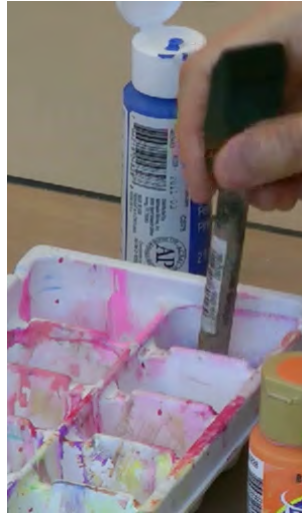
Pour a small amount of water into sections of the ice cube tray. You'll need one section for each color.

Choose Colors



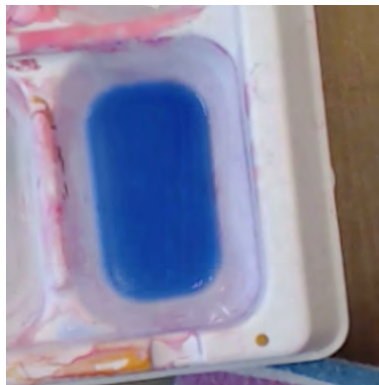
Craft paints are inexpensive and perfect for making fabric-paper.

Add Paint to Water



Add a few drops of paint into the water and stir. I'm using the handle of a foam brush to stir. You can add more paint or more water as needed.

Color Wash



When the paint is mixed up, it's very thin and watery; therefore, it's called a wash of paint.

Remember the Color Wheel



I like to keep the warm colors together and the cooler colors together. By doing this, I'm less likely to make mud when I paint the paper towels.

Wet the Towel



Place a paper towel on the craft mat and spray with water to dampen.

Crumple



Crumple the damp paper towel.

Dab



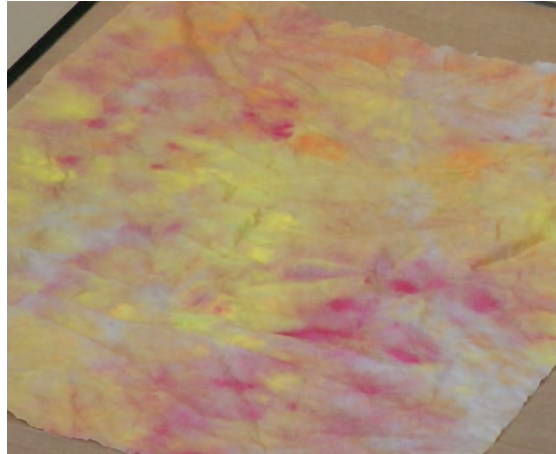
Dab the paint washes onto the damp towel.

Saturate



Saturate the entire towel.

Open the Towel



Open the towel and see what it looks like.
Add more paint if you like. I like to completely saturate and color the entire towel.

Folded Towel



If you fold the dampened towel and paint it, you'll get a different effect.

When you're finished painting, let everything dry thoroughly.

Iron and Parchment Paper

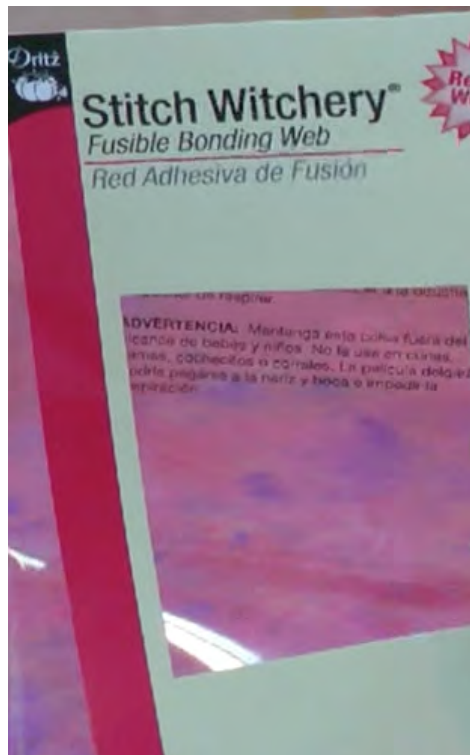


To flatten the dried, painted paper towels, place between 2 sheets of parchment paper and press with a dry iron (preferably one that's dedicated to art use.) Do this in a well ventilated area.

For single-sided fabric-paper. . .

Iron a layer of medium weight fusible interfacing to the back of a painted towel and you'll have a single-sided fabric-paper ready to make flowers. (**NOTE:** If you have lightweight fusible interfacing, you might need to add a second layer of interfacing to have enough body for the fabric-paper to stitch well.)

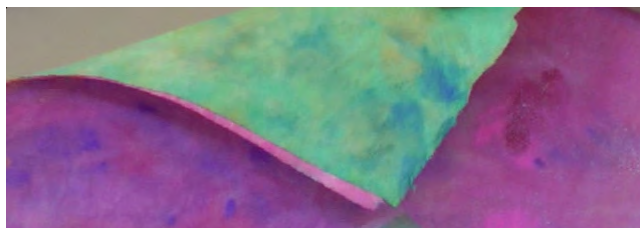
To Adhere 2 Towels Together



Place a piece of fusible bonding web between 2 painted and dried towels and fuse according to package instructions. Be sure to sandwich it between layers of parchment paper before fusing.

The fusing creates stitchable fabric-paper.

Double-Sided Fabric-paper



Example of double-sided fabric-paper (2 towels fused together with Stitch Witchery Bonding web)

To Stitch Circles



You can stitch circles with a circular embroidery attachment. Most machine manufacturers have an attachment similar to this one. It fits onto the bed of the sewing machine. The fabric slips over a pin and then you stitch. The fabric rotates on the pin and the stitching creates a perfect circle.

The other way to stitch perfect circles is to tape a thumbtack (pointy end up) to the bed of your sewing machine. Place the fabric onto the tack and stitch your circles.

See the class Sew Perfect Circles - Round and Round We Go if you need more information about stitching circles.

Threads



This is the perfect time to use beautiful machine embroidery threads.

Sulky 12 Weight Thread



12 weight thread creates a beautiful stitch with dimension. Be sure to use a 90/14 topstitching needle with this thread and sew rather slowly.

NOTE: Normal sewing thread is about 30 weight which is much thinner than 12 weight.

40 Weight Threads



The spool on the right is polyester thread. The other two are cotton embroidery threads. Both work well for denser stitches because they are thin threads. Polyester is shinier than cotton.

Open-toe Appliqué Presser Foot



Both of these are open-toe appliqué presser feet. The one on the right is larger to accommodate 9mm wide stitches. The left presser foot will only accommodate 5mm wide stitches. Notice the scooped out part of the foot (I'm pointing to it in the picture). This allows the foot to ride up and over the decorative stitches. If you don't have a foot similar to this, your stitching success will be questionable.

Stitch the Circles - fill the fabric-paper



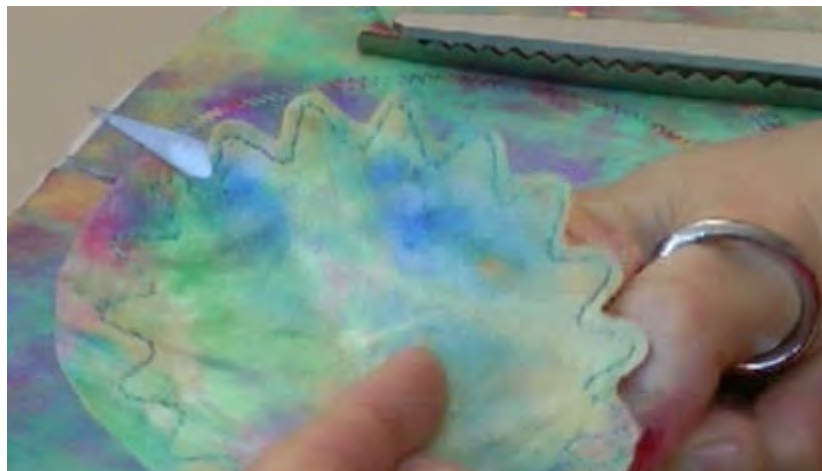
Stitch as many circles as will fit on your fabric-paper in varying sizes leaving at least 1/2" between circles.

Cut Out the Circles



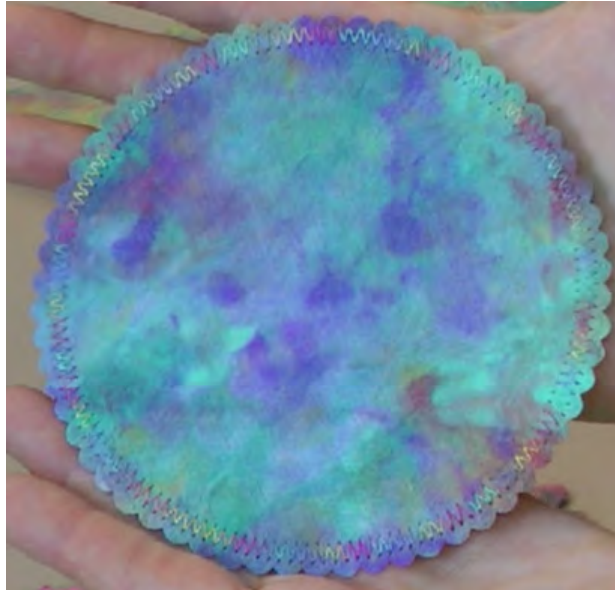
Cut out each circle. You can use regular scissors. I love to use pinking shears or scalloping shears for an easy decorative edge.

Regular Scissors



You can also cut out your circles with regular scissors. Just follow the outline of the stitch.

Scalloped Edge



This edge was created with scalloping shears.

Let the Flowers Bloom



Stack flowers together. Add a stitch or a dab of glue to hold. Stitch on a button and some beads and watch your garden grow.

Easy Peasy



This flower is made of 5 circles created with a straight stitch that were cut out with pinking shears. I stacked them together and added 3 stacked buttons for the center.

3 Concentric Circles



This flower is created with 2 pinked-edge circles and one scallop-edge circle with 2 stacked buttons for the center.

Fancy Stitches



These circles were stitched with 9mm wide decorative stitches to create a unique flower. Two stacked buttons fill the center.

Fun Colors



Each of the 4 circles was stitched with utility (construction) stitches and then cut out with scalloping shears. After stacking the circles, I added a large button with beads to hold it in place.

Spiral Flower



Where the stitching wasn't perfect, I began cutting toward the center in a large spiral. I left the center uncut.

Thread a needle with beading thread. I like Silamide, but Nymo will work fine, too.

Form small tucks and stitch to hold



I created several small tucks. After stitching the tucks I coiled the flower and added a few more stitches to hold.

Button Center



I stitched a button in the center.

You'd never know that the stitching wasn't perfect.

What do you do with your flower garden?



This stacked flower has a center created with the Flower Stitcher. I stitched the center on stabilized black satin ribbon and then cut it out. I stacked three cotton flower circles, added the center and a red brad and it's ready to embellish a tote bag.

Pin



The flower is a coiled fabric-paper flower (similar to one pictured earlier) with some fabric-paper leaves and stacked buttons and beads for the center. I sewed a pin-back to the back side of the flower and it looks great on a coat lapel or collar.

Make a Card



Brighten someone's day with a special handmade card. The flower is 3 stitched fabric-paper flower circles with a button center and paper stem and leaves.

Journal Page



This is a page from one of my journals. I used 5 circle flowers stacked together to create the sun. The red arrow is pointing to it. Don't these pages make you think of spring?

Thanks for joining me in class. Now go and plant your very own fabric-paper flower garden!