

Altered Canvas Tutorial



Create an altered canvas using Stewart Gill Paints, paper napkins, cheesecloth, lace, tissue paper, and Paper Whimsy images.

Supplies:

5 x 5 Deep Edge Canvas
Decorative Paper Napkins
Buttons
Bubble Wrap
Mica Chips
[Digi Sheet 258](#)
[Stewart Gill Metamica Paints](#)
[Digi Sheet 231](#)

Stewart Gill Paints
Matte Gel Medium
Paper Whimsy Images
Circle object
E6000 Glue
[Digi Sheet 259](#)
[Stewart Gill Byzantia Paints](#)
[Digi Sheet 237](#)

Tissue paper
Lace
Paintbrush
Prima Flowers
Gesso or primer
[5 x 5 Deep Edge Canvas](#)
[Digi Sheet 226](#)
[Digi Sheet 232](#)

*If you click on the products that are hyperlinks it will take you directly to the Paper Whimsy Shoppe to purchase these as supplies.

Technique:

Step 1: Paint canvas using primer or gesso. Plain white paint works fine also to seal it.

Step 2: Apply Stewart Gill paints to canvas. You can mix them with other craft paints to change the hue and consistency. The paint can also be diluted with water. There are so many possibilities to achieve the consistency and look you want!

Step 3: Add some texture. Using bubble wrap, tissue paper and cheesecloth will add texture and dimension to your piece. I painted my cheesecloth strips on wax paper and allowed time to dry before adding to the canvas with matte gel. Adding paint to bubble wrap and dabbing on to your canvas will add interesting dimension. Tissue paper can be added to the canvas and colored with paint also. Using small cups, caps, or anything that is circular can also add dimension to your piece. Simply paint along the edge, and press on to the canvas. The paint will form a circle.



Step 4: If you wish to use decorative paper napkins in part of your project, make sure to peel away the white paper layer from the backing. This will give the napkin a more transparent look on your canvas.

On this canvas you can see a small amount of a pattern napkin peeking out on the right hand side of the collage image. I also diluted the paint with water and lightly painted over the word art and stamp collage image.

Step 5: Once napkin is dry on canvas, add your collage image using matte gel. I then added bits of cheesecloth strips (that were painted previously with Stewart Gill paint) using more matte gel. A small amount of vintage lace was added to the bottom of the image and I colored it lightly with the paint.

Step 6: I added Prima flowers and Words (also painted with Stewart Gill paint). The Prima flowers were added with E6000 glue and the Words were added with more matte gel. Seal project with matte gel or your favorite sealer.



On this canvas, the image was mounted on to chipboard. I used a decorative napkin as the background. I used matte gel medium to apply the napkin to the chipboard. A Paper Whimsy door image and beautiful face were added. The butterfly and word art were added as the next layer. A small heart charm was glued to the center with E6000.

Variations:

Apply layers of cheesecloth, tissue paper or modeling paste to the canvas when you begin. Add your colors afterwards. The collage image can always be mounted to chipboard and glued down on to the canvas. This will allow the image not to be "lumpy" and will create awesome texture to your background.

Take a paper doily and lay on to the canvas. Using a dry brush technique (very little paint applied to brush) stipple paint color through the holes of the doily (like a stencil) and watch the design come out on your canvas.

Use letter/number stencils on the background to add interest.

Add old book text or sheet music to the canvas with matte gel medium. Once dry, dilute the paint with water and go over it with your brush. This will allow the text/music notes to show through, but it will be a beautiful hue to match your project.