



Project Sheet

Distress Inks

The Tim Holtz Distress Ink products by Ranger have to be one of the most popular lines I have ever seen. Inks, tools, stains, re-inkers, embossing powder, markers and paints ... they're like nothing else on the market. When I bought my first distress inkpad, I had no idea how to use it, or of the potential it held. A friend helped me discover some of the cool things it can do, and I want to pass that on to you.

For a long time I lacked the proper tool I needed that would give me the result I wanted ... a blending tool with a foam pad. I have a different foam pad for each inkpad, and have written the name of the inkpad onto the blue Velcro of the foam pad with a sharpie pen so I use the right one with the right inkpad. Tip ... if the Velcro comes off your blending tool you can use a staple gun to reattach it. Easy.

The main thing I use my distress inks for is inking around the edges of card or paper. To get a smooth look, just pick up a little ink on the foam pad, and start on your craft sheet (or a piece of plain paper), working in a circular motion THEN continue the circular motion onto the edge of the card or paper you're inking. Keep working around the edge, picking up more ink as you need it, and starting off the edge each time. The reason we don't start inking direction onto the cardstock is that the ink can grab and leave a hard line instead of a smooth inked look.

Another cool think you can do with Distress Inks is use them with water. The way they react is amazing! Try dabbing a few splotches of ink direct from the inkpad directly to your craft sheet, spray a little water onto the ink and beads will form. Just pick them up on your cardstock and allow to dry (or speed things up with a heat gun). You can even repeat the process for some depth without muddying the layer you just created. Clean up your craft sheet with a tissue or towel ... done!

Of course, there are lots of other ways you can use Distress Inks, and lots of other Distress products. A quick search on YouTube will yield some amazing videos to show you more.



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