



Project Sheet Embossing

Adding texture to your cards, layouts and off the page projects is fun to do, and embossing is a great technique. Actually it's two fun techniques ... let's look at the difference between them.

Dry Embossing - Dry embossing is a great raised embossing technique. The old school method would see you place your card or paper between 2 identical stencils, place them over a lightbox or padded surface (like a mouse mat) and use a stylus to trace the shape to create your raised design. The Shape Boss by Fiskars was a perfect example of this method. The more popular way to get this effect nowadays is to use embossing folders in a manual die cutting machine. It's definitely faster! There are some incredible designs available and embossing folders have become a lot more affordable in recent years.

Stamped Embossing - Stamped embossing is also a raised effect, but achieved in a very different way. You need a stamp, inkpad, embossing powder and a heat gun. You should work on a surface that can handle the heat. The inkpad should be a slow drying ink, like a pigment ink or embossing ink. A raised dye inkpad may dry too quickly, which means the powder won't stick. You will also need a piece of clean paper folded in half then flattened out again. Ink up the stamp and stamp the image onto your cardstock. Hold the image over the paper with the crease down the middle and pour the embossing powder over the stamped image. Tap off the excess, and collect all the excess powder on the paper. Now you can pour it back into the jar to use next time. Heat the stamped/powdered image with the heat gun, watch it carefully and you will see it melt and change from a matt powder to a hard glossy finish. Don't overheat it, or it will just melt into the cardstock and lose its gloss and height ... and don't burn your fingers! You can use clear ink with a coloured powder, or a coloured ink with a clear powder ... there is a LOT of choice.

If you want to add texture to your projects without a lot of bulk, embossing might be the technique for you.

