



3 Ways to Spruce Up Your Gift Wrap

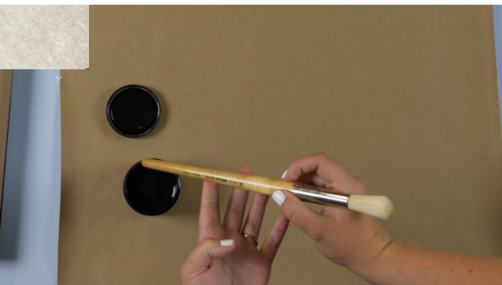
Add a fun, personal touch to your gifts with this easy tutorial! Using Blick Matte Acrylic Paints and Utrecht Artists' Acrylic Gesso, you'll learn how to deck out assorted papers with three artistic paint effects: dots, splatters, and swipes.

HOW TO MAKE IT



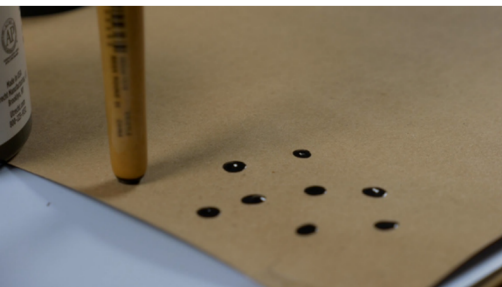
Step 1

Choose your favorite heavy-body acrylic paint in any color or an acrylic gesso (we're using Utrecht Artists' Acrylic Gesso).



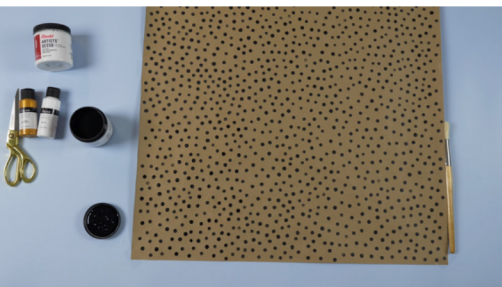
Step 2

Depending on how textured you'd like the dots to be, you can add more water for less texture. For this example, we're not adding water for the most texture available. As far as the tool, the end of a pencil eraser or the end of a paintbrush is our choice for dots.



Step 3

To start your pattern, dip the end of your pencil or paintbrush into the paint and twist it around on the paper to form a circle shape. This example doesn't follow a specific direction; we're creating more of a randomized dot pattern.



Step 4

Once you're finished, let the paint dry and place the paper however you like on your gift to give it a bit more texture and personality.

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Step 5

Mix a small amount of the Blick Matte Acrylic Paint color you have chosen with a few drops of water in a cup. This will make it easier to flick and spray. You don't want to add too much water, or it will end up making the paper wet.



Step 6

Dip your brush into the paint mixture and flick it onto some test paper to check the consistency. Add more paint or more water depending on how it's mixing.



Step 7

Tape down your large piece of Lotka paper onto a large piece of cardboard or a surface that you don't mind getting messy.



Step 8

Dip your brush into the paint mixture and start flicking it onto the Lotka paper. You can also hold your brush over the paper and tap it with your other hand. For bigger paint splatters, use more paint on the brush and tap harder. Test some different techniques to get the results you want. Don't be afraid to get messy!



Step 9

When you're done, let the paper dry completely before using it to wrap.

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Step 10

Choose your favorite heavy-body acrylic paint in any color or an acrylic gesso (we're using Utrecht Artists' Acrylic Gesso for thickness and texture).



Step 11

You'll need a larger thick bristle brush, such as the Blick Mega Natural Bristle Brush. This keeps the texture in the paint when you swipe it. You can use the gesso right out of the jar. Load your paintbrush with gesso.



Step 12

Pick a direction and swipe the paint in one stroke, only lifting the brush at the very end. This will produce a nice round brush stroke filled with texture. Be sure not to push too hard on the brush, and make sure the paint is not too thin.



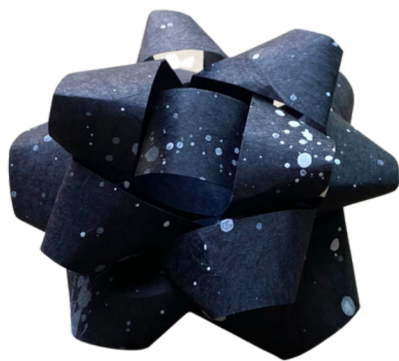
Step 13

Offset the brush strokes in each row to give a patterned look, keeping the strokes about the same length as the first stroke. Continue until the paper is fully filled out.



Step 14

Once the paper is dry, wrap your gift however you like and finish it off with your favorite bow.



How to Make a Paper Bow

Elevate your gift presentation by making a paper bow with decorative papers. This project can also make creative use of scraps too small to use for wrapping.

HOW TO MAKE IT



Step 1

Cut seven (7) strips each $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide from your wrapping paper. Trim three (3) strips to 10" long; trim three (3) strips to 9" long, and one (1) strip to 4.5" long.



Step 2

To create the loops of the bow, you'll twist the 10" and 9" strips on each end. Start by holding the middle of the strip pattern side away from you. Take the top of the strip, pull it down, and twist it behind the middle.



Step 3

Repeat on the other end and secure with glue, tape, or staples.



Step 4

For the 4.5" strip, wrap the ends together to make a single ring. Secure.

How to Make a Paper Bow



Step 5

Layer the three (3) largest loops.



Step 6

Layer the next three (3) loops and place them inside the first layer and secure.



Step 7

Finish the bow by layering the small ring in the middle and securing it in place.

How to Gift Wrap with a Pocket Fold

Elevate your presentation by wrapping gifts with a pocket fold and decorative papers. Greeting cards, gift cards, or other small gifts can be slipped into the pocket giving you endless options for personalization.



HOW TO MAKE IT



Step 1

Starting with paper cut at the correct size is essential for this technique to ensure crisp edges and reduce bulk. The width of the paper should be three times the width of the gift, and the length of the paper should be two times the length of the gift, plus the height of the gift.



Step 2

Fold the top of the wrapping paper down to meet the bottom edge of the paper. Pull the paper taut and run fingers along the edges to get crisp corners.



Step 3

Fold the right corner of the wrapping paper to the right edge of the gift and press firmly to crease.



Step 4

Fold the left corner of the wrapping paper to the left edge of the gift and press firmly to crease.

How to Gift Wrap with a Pocket Fold



Step 5

For a clean crisp corner, you may need to fold the paper down the side of the gift, as shown here.



Step 6

Pull the right edge of the wrapping paper to the left edge of the gift and secure it with double-sided tape.



Step 7

Pull the left edge of the wrapping paper to the right edge of the gift and secure it double-sided tape.



Step 8

To close the bottom of the gift, press the sides of the paper allowance down and crease the edges. Trim the flaps as needed to reduce bulk.



Step 9

Press the back flap of the paper down, followed by the front paper flap, and secure it with double-sided tape.