



CRAFT CORNER

Patchwork Rose floral bridge card

Create a shaped card that is perfect for all occasions

Hello and welcome to my Craft Corner! Every month I share two new projects with *Choice* readers - one for those who enjoy hobbies such as papercrafting, upcycling and decoupage, and one for those who are fond of sewing and needlecraft, where I focus on simple, everyday stitched fabric accessories.

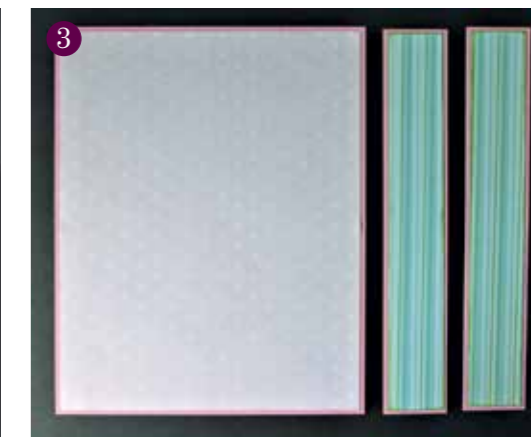
I've lived and breathed crafting for as long as I can remember. I have very fond memories of cake decorating, cross-stitching and candle-making with my mum, and in my late teens I discovered the joy of cardmaking.

I was fortunate enough to turn my favourite pastimes into my career by setting up Crafter's Companion out of my university bedroom, and it's been an amazing journey seeing my business develop into what it is today.

I love experimenting and using our products for a whole variety of crafts. Our range of mixed-media dies can be used to create beautiful home décor items such as canvases and decorative storage solutions. Mixing and matching my Signature collections can make some wonderful personalised gifts, and our range of Threaders fabrics is ideal for curtain making, quilting, dress making and more.

My aim is to show you how easy (and rewarding) it is to create your own handicraft items, so grab a cuppa and read on to be inspired.

Find out more at (www.crafterscompanion.co.uk) or visit one of our retail stores at Newton Aycliffe, Chesterfield and Evesham.



To create:

1 Print out two contrasting patterned papers and a selection of embellishments from your free downloads

2 Cut a piece of white 300gsm card to 11 1/2 x 8 in. On the long side, score at 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 in from either end. Burnish the score lines to create the card base on which you will adhere your 'bridges'

3 From pink card, cut one piece measuring 6 1/4 in x 7 3/4 in and mat a slightly smaller piece of patterned paper on top. Then cut two edge pieces 1 1/4 in x 7 3/4 in and mat contrasting patterned paper on top. Finally, cut two pieces of pink card to 3/4 in x 7 3/4 in - do not mat with patterned paper. Adhere these and the back panel to your card base, setting the patterned edge panels aside for later

4 Fussy-cut all of your elements including your focal image, leaves, flowers and sentiment, leaving a narrow white border around the edges to give

a more professional finish. Die-cut or punch out your focal image onto a shape of your choice

5 Cut two 1 1/2 in x 9 1/2 in pieces of acetate - these will make your bridges. Adhere these across the top and bottom of your card, securing on the outer panels with red line tape. Cover these with the patterned paper edge panels that you set aside earlier. The acetate will now be sandwiched in between, providing a clear bridge across the top and bottom of your card where you can add embellishments, but also enabling the card to fold flat for posting

6 Glue your focal panel in the middle of your card, using foam pads to give it some dimension, and then arrange and adhere all your floral elements across your acetate bridges, finishing with your sentiment and some pearl gems.

TOP TIP

This shaped card is ideal for all occasions and perfect for adding lots of interesting images and die-cuts. For a different look, only add one bridge across your card with a cluster of images adhered to it in the middle.

Supplies:

- Free Patchwork Rose papers and embellishments from: (www.crafterscompanion.co.uk/choice-magazine-papercrafting)
- White 300gsm card for card base
- White printable card
- Pink card for matting and layering
- Oval punch or dies (optional)
- Fingerlift tape
- 3D glue gel
- Red liner tape
- Acetate
- Pearl gems





Get Sewing

Easy Christmas appliqué gift bag

These simple-to-sew festive gift bags can be made in various sizes for all kinds of presents

To prepare:

Out of your two fat quarters of fabric cut:

- Two 9in x 10in rectangles of white cotton fabric for the top part of the bag
- Two 6in x 10in rectangles of Christmas fabric for the bottom half of the bag
- Two 2.5in x 10in rectangles of Christmas fabric for the ribbon channels

To create:

1 Select your chosen appliqué dies and cut all the components from your scrap felt

2 Place a bottom panel and a top panel right sides together and join using a 0.25in seam allowance. Press the seam and then top-stitch close to the seam on the bottom panel. Repeat for the back panels. Using Stick and Spray for Fabric, place your appliqué in position on the front top panel

3 Change your presser foot to the free motion embroidery foot and stitch in place using the raw edge appliqué method

4 Fold over and stitch a small double fold hem on the short sides of your two ribbon channel panels. Fold the channels lengthways with wrong sides together and press

5 Align the raw edges of the channel panels with the top of both the front and back panels,

making sure you leave enough room for the side seams of the gift bag. Stitch in place. Use your pinking shears to trim the seam allowance and make it a neater edge

6 Place the completed front and back panels right sides together and stitch the side seams together using a 0.25in seam allowance. Make sure not to catch the short edges of the ribbon channel in the side seams as you stitch. To box the corners, place the side and base seams together and measure around 2in up the folded seam and stitch across. Trim the corner using your pinking shears. Repeat for the other bottom corner

7 Turn your gift bag through to the right side and press. Cut your satin ribbon into two equal pieces. Using a bodkin, thread one length of ribbon through one channel and back round through the other channel until it comes back out on the side you started. Take the other length of ribbon and do exactly the same but this time start threading at the opposite side and all the way back round to where you started. This will give you two ends of ribbon hanging from each side. When you pull on all the ribbons, the bag will gather and close. Tie neat bows in each side.

TOP TIP

■ These gift bags can be adapted and made in various sizes as required.

Supplies:

- Fat quarter of white cotton fabric
- Fat quarter of Christmas cotton fabric
- Scraps of felt for your appliqué
- Gemini Christmas 'Build an Appliqué' dies
- 60in of co-ordinating satin ribbon
- Crafter's Companion Stick and Spray temporary adhesive for fabric
- Pinking shears
- Basic sewing kit

