



Simple Birthday Card

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Introduction

I love creating cards for my friends and family.

Rather than them believing I'm being cheap, they accept what they really are – my way of showing they're worth the effort.

When you start out creating your own cards, it can be somewhat time-consuming, but once you get the hang of it, creating your own cards is not only fun, but it gives a sense of satisfaction.

If you're lucky enough to see the recipient open the card, you're in for a treat. The look of appreciation is more than worthwhile.

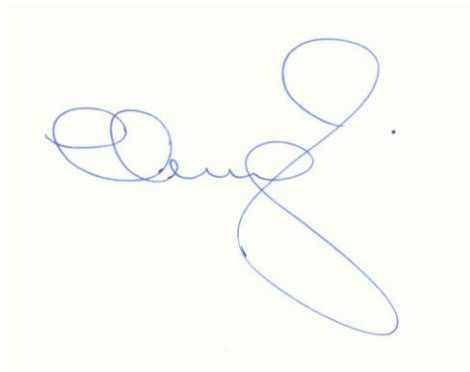
In the following pages I will show you how to create this simple birthday card. As you'll see at the end of the instructions, making a few simple – and easy – changes will give you a totally different look.

What I've included here is a basis for what can become a variety of finishes.

Keep in mind this is an extremely simple card, inspired by the fact that many people downloading this sheet may be total beginners.

As time goes on, the cards will become more complicated.

Without further ado, let's get started...



Basic Equipment

I tend to buy my equipment, papers etc, when they're either on sale, or are obsolete or out of season.

The reason for this is cost. Craft items can be expensive, so if I see something I like – and it's on special – I grab it for future use.

That said, you can often use items you already have. I have a craft trolley, and as I find something, I add to what is already there.

If you have children in the house, you may already undertake craft projects, and will quite possibly have everything you need.

Keep in mind that what follows are just suggestions; you can do whatever you want. These finished projects are just examples, and are meant to inspire rather than tell you this is what you must do.

You'll need core items such as glue, card stock (or you can use heavy paper), double sided photo squares and/or double sided craft tape, stars or other embellishments, a variety of papers to use as backgrounds.



For this card, I chose light green paper with delicate hearts on it, and a crisscross border (from another scrapbooking sheet).

I also chose a contrasting green hearts paper for the bottom label.

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I've used the Spellbinders Nestabilities Labels Six, and have chosen the size that accommodates the clear 'Happy Birthday' stamp I chose.



Begin by gluing or taping the main paper onto the card stock.

I prefer to cut the paper slightly smaller than the card stock as it gives a border-like look.

Next, take the crisscross 'border' or your equivalent and glue or tape it to the centre of the card. *You can use ribbon instead of a border.



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The next step is to glue the bottom label (green heart contrasting paper) onto the centre border as shown below.

As you can see, our card is gradually changing and building.



Now you can stamp “Happy Birthday” onto the white card label. I’ve chosen pink to go with the hearts theme. I’ve also used the stamp pad to create a border around the top label.

If you’ve not done this before, you simply run the edge of the card along the stamp pad being careful not to smudge it.

This gives you a pronounced edge and makes it stand out better.



The next thing I’ve done is use pink glitter glue to go over the word “Happy”.

It is just a bit of bling and helps it to stand out.

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Once dry, I've added this to the lower label using foam layering tape. You can also use the sponge (thick) tape you can get from craft suppliers.

It gives the label a lift and gives it a more 3D look.



And last, but certainly not least, I've used 'diamonds' glitter glue on some of the hearts and a few of the pink dots to add to the bling look. I've also added a few rhinestones to the bottom of the label.



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This is not one of the most stunning cards I've made, in fact it's far from it, but I wanted to show you how easy it can be.

That said, this simple card can be changed by using different papers, borders, etc.

By using (for instance) pearl sheets instead of scrapbooking paper, you'll have a gorgeous card with a very elegant look to it.

Or as can be seen below, using the same basic layout, the card can be totally changed.



For this card I've moved the border down, and used the same labelling method.

And voila! A totally new look.

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This card uses a similar method with some subtle changes.

This card is again on white card stock, then I've added pink card stock leaving a very fine border. I then added even more papers.



As you can see, I've left a large border between the edge of the pink card stock and my centre papers, giving it a totally different look.

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There's a sheet of gold paper underneath, and I've then added another sheet of paper on top of the gold.

(This card has a bottom opening.)

I've again moved the border down, this time using a border punch and contrasting paper. I've added a flower to the right, using a brad to the centre.

Then I've added a string of rhinestones across the border, which extends all the way across the card.



Added a few pink butterflies using a small butterfly punch, and used pink glitter glue to make them stand out.

Once again, a totally new look.