



Simple Butterfly Card

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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.

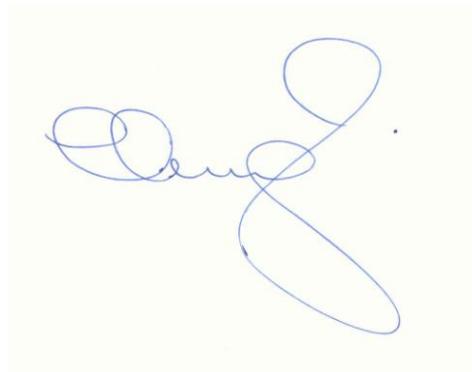
In the following pages I will show you how to create this simple birthday card. As you'll see at the end of the instructions, making a few simple – and easy – changes will give you a totally different look.

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'm using white card stock, and have embossed it with the Cuttlebug "Wings" embossing folder.

I am also using a pre-made butterfly I purchased from a \$2 store, and a string of rhinestones in a matching color.

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If you don't have a Cuttlebug, you can use background paper that will enhance the butterfly, or buy paper already embossed.



This butterfly doesn't match the embossing perfectly, but still does the job.

I have stuck it over the top of one of the embossed butterflies – the one that is nearest is size and look.

Next I've added a string of rhinestones (in a matching color to the butterfly) down the spine of the card.

I opened the card out to make it easier to apply the rhinestones.



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The next step is the addition of the greeting. In this case I've used a stick-on 'friends forever' sticker. I've used silver because the butterfly has silver elements and therefore that color works best.

If you prefer, you can use a stamp for your greeting.



Okay, so now the card is finished. Or is it?

It feels a little bare to me.

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I love working with ribbon, so I'll add a bow and see how that looks.

Nope. Doesn't look right.

So I'll move it down the card and see...



Better, but I'm still not happy with it.

So now I'll make the bow smaller...



That's much better!

I don't know about you, but I keep all the off-cuts of my ribbons so I have snippets when I need them.

In this case, it was a very small piece, and it was perfect for what was necessary.

Here's a variation on the above card:

This time I used a different Cuttlebug embossing folder. It has tiny dots, and I believe it's called Swiss Dots.

I've only embossed about three quarters of the card, and then added a pink butterfly. (From the same pack as the soft mauve one.)

Then I've added small pink rhinestone-like dots, and added a Happy Birthday sticker.



It's gone a bit askew, but I'm sure you can see the effect.

Again, you can use a stamp instead of a sticker. You can also add labels, a pink ribbon, and even some brads would change the look of this card.