

# 1. Embossed foil card



The simplicity of these cards is what makes them so successful. The combination of metal on a plain, or ornate card background always creates admiring glances. They are so easy you'll find yourself making lots!

## What you need

Piece of cut foil  
Design  
Pencil  
Tracing paper  
Red ball point pen  
Masking tape  
Backing board  
Duster  
UHU glue and spreader  
Small sharp scissors  
Coloured card  
Ruler



## What you do

This project is completed in three stages:

1. Transferring the design.
2. Embossing.
3. Mounting.
4. Painting.

### 1. *Transferring the design*

1. Choose a design.
2. Trace your design or use a photocopy. Cut the photocopy down to size.
3. Measure out the area you are to cut with a ruler and ball point pen. This area should be slightly larger than your design. The ball point pen will leave an impression in the foil for you to cut along.
4. Carefully cut the metal foil, observing health and safety guidelines. If the edge is at all sharp, edge it in masking tape. The tape can be easily removed after working.
5. Put your foil down on your backing board. If you have chosen a coloured foil, put the coloured foil against the backing board, coloured side down.
6. Position your design on top of the foil, centralising it so that you have an even space all the way around.

7. Tape your design on top of your foil with masking tape, making sure that you also tape the foil to the board. You can tape the foil down at the top first, then tape the design on top. Make sure that you leave the edges and sides free from tape as you need to be able to lift up the design to see what's happening!
8. Take your red ball point pen and trace over the design. If there are some complicated areas, decide if you want to leave some lines out.
9. When you can see the impression well enough on the wrong side of your foil, remove your design. You'll be going over it again in a moment, but without the design to guide you.

## ***2. Embossing***

1. Take your design off your foil and remove your backing board.
2. Place your foil, still wrong side up, on top of a single layer of clean duster. Make sure there are no wrinkles or folds of duster underneath your foil.
3. You can tape the foil down onto the duster if you wish.
4. Now go over the embossing you can already see. Putting it on the duster gives you a much deeper base to push against, and when you turn your metal foil to the front you will be amazed at how raised and embossed your design has become.
5. Keep going over your design, checking the front, until you are happy with the result.

### ***Problems transferring your design?***

You have a number of options:

1. Rub the red ball point pen back and forth over the design.
2. Instead of using a backing board as your base, skip to the next step and use a soft duster instead. This will make it easier to press.
3. If one layer of duster doesn't give you the depth you want, then go for a double layer!

## ***3. Mounting***

After finishing your embossing you may like to emboss a ruled frame to balance your design. The frame needs to be added at this stage, before mounting, or any other enhancing work.

### ***Mounting your embossed foil design***

1. Your design will look great against any number of coloured backgrounds. First choose the card you want to mount it on. Plain cards are best, although you could go for one of the more expensive three-fold cards.
2. Choose your card. If it is a shop bought one, you will have an envelope to match.

3. Turn your metal foil over to the wrong side and spread some UHU glue over the back.
4. Position on the front of your chosen card.
5. Alternatively make your own, following the instructions below.

### ***Making your own simple card***

1. It helps to have a bought card as a template to draw around.
2. Choose a card that is reasonably thick, that will hold your foil and won't become top heavy.
3. Place your shop card on the card of choice and draw around, keeping the pencil close to the edge.
4. Mark the centre fold and pencil in with a ruler.
5. Cut out carefully with a Stanley knife, metal ruler and cutting mat making sure the sides are at right angles.
6. Place a ruler along the centre fold and score with the back of a pair of scissors. Keeping the scissors on the fold line, run them down carefully along the fold.
7. Check that the scored line of your card will fold.
8. Neaten or trim any edges.
9. Place your foil on some newspaper and spread the back with glue.
10. Position in place on your new card.

## **4. *Painting***

You may choose to paint your embossed foil card before mounting.

1. Select your paint. Load your brush and push your paint to fill your design area.
2. Clean brushes between colours.
3. All the paint to dry.

## **What next**

Try backing the foil with a contrasting colour, perhaps an unusual texture like handmade paper. Delicate papers provide a striking contrast against the flat finish of foil or pewter. Keep a box for bits and bobs to add to your card and try your foil against a selection before you make your final decision.