

STAMPING *on* CERAMIC TILES

HOLIDAY COASTERS WITH A DIFFERENCE

By Christina Hecht

Perhaps you're a stamper who sells hand-stamped items at craft shows and you're looking for something new to offer customers. Maybe you love stamping and want to create something that's decorative yet utilitarian and may also be used as lovely gifts. If so, then read on because the following article may be just what you're looking for.

Laura Pervier has been a vendor at craft shows in the northwest for several years. She sells her hand-stamped wares in a meticulously arranged booth that's identifiable by the large banner featuring a photo of a spectacular feline in repose that reads, "Under Kitty Supervision." The attractive tabby gracing the banner is Pervier's own loveable Lucy and the inspiration behind the store's name.

Several years ago, after seeing a demonstration at a local scrapbooking store, the Seatac, Washington, stamper

discovered the creative joy and satisfaction of stamping on ceramic tiles. Pervier's stamped and glazed tiles serve as beautiful coasters, paperweights or simply as decorative items. "But don't use them as trivets because the heat will damage the resin surface," says Pervier.

At the time of this writing the stamper has created more than 2,000 coasters using her "resin method," described below. When making so many tiles at one time, Pervier says the process not only sounds like a lot of work, "It is! But I feel it's worth it and I'm so addicted to making them."

Pervier sells a variety of stamped wares at craft shows and found the tiles are popular with customers. "I like to have plenty on hand and usually make at least four tiles of each image." Pervier colors the area around each quartet of images in a different hue to give customers a few choices.

After several years of making and selling a large variety of tiles at shows, Pervier now concentrates on creating animal-themed coasters. "That's my first love in life, and in stamping, it makes sense to focus on what you love."



SINGING CATS / Laura Pervier
(Stamp credit: Christmas cats—Stamping Bella.)



SANTA ON THE BEACH / Laura Pervier
(Stamp credit: Southern Santa—Sparkle n Sprinkle.)

Pervier stamps animals that she favors so you'll never find a snake, snail, frog or monkey coaster among her wares. "I just don't like those critters and it's hard to stamp images of something I don't like."

STAMPING ON TILE

Pervier prefers white glazed ceramic tile measuring 4¹/₄" by 4¹/₄".

1. Wipe the tile's surface clean of dust. Using StazOn or another waterproof ink, carefully stamp the inked image on the tile. Pervier recommends using a fresh or re-inked pad but warns, "Too much ink and the stamp will smear on the glazed surface; not enough ink and the stamp will stick to the tile and it's not easy to remove."

If an image does smear, wipe the ink off the tile immediately. Pervier uses a product called Un-Du to remove permanent ink. Goo-Gone may also work, but she hasn't tried it. Pervier has experimented with unglazed tile, but found that stamped images don't always transfer completely on the rough surface.

2. Allow the stamped images to dry thoroughly. Pervier typically works in assembly-line fashion, stamping 50 to 100 tiles at a time. The stamper typically leaves the tiles to dry for at least a day before applying colored ink.

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3. Armed with cotton swabs and 34 colors of transparent ink from Image Craft/Tsukineko's StazOn collection, Pervier uses an up-and-down tamping motion to apply color to the stamped images. She applies one color to all of the tiles before moving on to the next color. "That way I don't need to switch my cotton swabs (Q-tips work well) around." *Southern Santa*, shown on the previous page, took the longest to complete as it required several colors.

4. To apply color to open areas or along the tile edges, Pervier turns to 2-inch wide surgical sponges. "I tried make-up sponges, but they fall apart too quickly and leave debris on the tile."

5. When the colored ink is dry, Pervier covers the bottom of each tile with tape prior to applying the coat of resin. The tape prevents errant resin droplets from sticking to the bottom of the tile, which would have to be sanded off later.

6. Making sure to leave space between each tile,



CHRISTMAS CLYDE / Laura Pervier
(Stamp credit: *Horse with wreath—Serendipity.*)



CHRISTMAS MOOSE / Laura Pervier
(Stamp credit: *Moose—The Stampin' Place.*)

Pervier arranges the masked tiles on top of small wooden blocks inside cardboard flats that previously held canned cat food tins or soda cans. The blocks, which measure 3" x 3" x 1", were cut by Pervier's husband, Dirk Nehrhood.

7. Prior to applying the resin, Pervier sprays the tiles with a clear matte or glossy finish, such as Krylon or Valspar. "You want to cover the ink so it doesn't smear or run when you apply the final coat of resin. Until you put

on this protective coat, you can still rub the ink off with your fingers.”

Pervier recommends spraying the tiles with several coats out-of-doors on a warm and windless day and letting them dry for a day. Should any bugs or grass fall on the tiles they may be removed afterward with a dremel tool. You can then re-spray those areas on the tiles.

Resin of choice

Pervier’s resin lacquer of choice is EnviroTex Lite Pour-On High Gloss Finish. This two-part resin requires following the instructions precisely so that it cures and hardens properly. Prior to use, the stamper recommends reading the directions several times.

“When it says you need exactly the same amount of each part, or to use the plastic cups and spoons only once for each mixing, they really mean it. If you’re off by even a bit, the resin won’t cure properly.” Cover all work surfaces, including the floor, with newspaper before pouring.

8. Pour the resin over the center of each tile; use a plastic spoon to spread the liquid around for complete coverage. With the tiles supported on blocks of wood, apply enough resin so it flows over the uppermost edges. Shining an Ott-Light over the tiles enables Pervier to spot any areas that aren’t coated.

Pouring resin oftentimes requires multiple helping hands and when Pervier’s husband is not keeping their cat



DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS /

Laura Pervier

*(Stamp credit: Lizard on snow globe—
Talkabout Impressions.)*

Lucy away to prevent hair from sticking to the resin he’s blowing on freshly coated tiles with a drinking straw in order to remove any bubbles that form in the gooey resin.

9. Stack the trays in a warm, dry area and allow the resin to cure for approximately 48 hours. Depending on the temperature and humidity, the drying time may vary. If any coated areas do not dry and feel tacky, Pervier applies a second coat of resin over the tile.

10. Remove the tape on the bottom; if any resin flowed over the tape, remove it by hand-sanding or carefully with a belt sander.

11. Apply a square of cork with an adhesive backing to the bottom of each tile. The cork provides both esthetic and functional purposes: the tiles look more finished and professional and the cork prevents the ceramic from scratching furniture.

Cork may be purchased in either pre-cut squares or in a roll, which may be cut to size.

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*Christina Hecht lives and stamps in
Gila Bend, Arizona.*



DREAMING OF A FELINE CHRISTMAS

*Laura Pervier sells her hand-stamped wares at craft shows.
A friendly cat banner welcomes visitors.*