

Stamping on Ribbon

Holidays are a perfect time for making gifts from the heart with lots of personalization.

Who doesn't love a gift that someone created just for you?

One way to make your gift even better is to incorporate personalized ribbons or wrap your gift with a hand-made ribbon.

On these pages are just a sample of some of the wonderful ribbons I created using satin ribbon, rubber stamps and ink pads made especially for fabric and other porous surfaces.

Gathering supplies

To begin, I gathered all of my supplies together. I had lots of wonderful satin ribbons from Alpha Stamps in tan, moss, ivory and antique blue. The possibilities are endless because the key to my ribbon stamping is the ink I use. VersaCraft Chalk Pigment Pad works well on both satin ribbon and fabric. The image comes out very clean and sharp.

But do remember to leave plenty of time for drying. Also make sure you have some type of stamp cleaner. I prefer to use diaper wipes because I can cover the entire stamp and wipe it down. Plus diaper wipes seem to always come in handy when working in the studio.

I have lots of holiday-themed stamps, both mounted and unmounted. For the unmounted stamps, I prefer acrylic blocks that have a lined graph on them—it makes it easier to line my stamp up straight and place the image on the ribbon more accurately.

Another item I find to be helpful is a brayer. It seems



Where the Ink Meets the Ribbon

Rhonda Thomas celebrates the Holidays with stamped treasures. (Stamp credits: All—Alpha Stamps.)

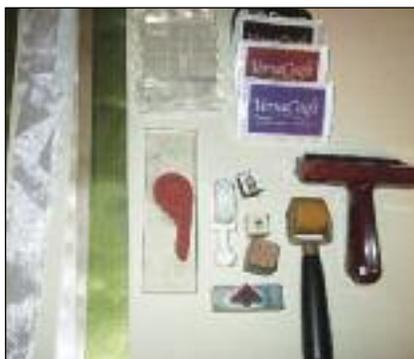
the only time I can get a good impression from a larger stamp is when I use a brayer and roll all over the area, vertically and horizontally, several times. That way I know I'm getting an even amount of ink over the surface of the entire stamp. I place old or used paper underneath to keep my surface clean when the stamped image extends off the ribbon.

Practice first

It's a good idea to practice first and get a comfortable feeling for stamping on ribbon. This type of stamping can seem intimidating, especially if you usually stamp on paper—but I can assure you that it is actually very easy to do. Don't stress about getting a perfect image. Remember that this is a personalized gift from the heart and should be fun.

After choosing your first stamp, coat it in ink. I usually check for ink coverage, especially on larger stamps to make sure they are completely covered.

Carefully place your inked stamp on the ribbon and press. I rock back and forth just a tad and apply even pressure. Be careful not to rock too much, because



Before you get started, make sure you have all the right supplies.



Stamps attached to acrylic blocks can be lined up for perfect placement.

the edge of the stamp has ink on it as well, and you don't want an unwanted border around your image.

Carefully lift your stamp straight up off the ribbon. You'll need to hold the ribbon down with one hand, otherwise the ribbon will stick to the stamp, which can smudge your image.

When using multiple stamps, it can be helpful to lay the acrylic block over the ribbon first. Then attach the stamps to the block. This allows you to see the images lined up on the block. If you want to add a sense of movement, feel free to tilt the stamps you place. Or tilt the block, as you stamp.

At one point, I used a crushed silky ribbon and was surprised at how crisp the images were and the intensity of the ink colors.

I even tried a little embossing. After stamping, I sprinkled on a touch of embossing powder. Then I used a heat gun ever so carefully to not melt or misshape the ribbon. Sometimes ribbon needs a little glitz as well.

The possibilities are endless. And think of all of the places you can attach your personalized ribbon on. Holiday



Variety of Ribbons

There are many types of ribbon that take stamped images. The ribbons with the Santas and calendar and pine branches (above, left) show how you can set up two (or even more) images on an acrylic block. Rhonda added holiday accents to frayed French script burlap ribbon (above, right).

"I love the shabby vintage look," she says.

(Stamp credits: All—Alpha Stamps.)

cards, wreaths, bows for ornaments or even on a little girl's hair barrette. I could go on and on. Fact is, you don't know until you try—and if you try and like the outcome, then you've had a successful day.

Rhonda Secrist Thomas is a stay-at-home mom who has been creating art for as long as she can remember. She is a Design Team Member for Alpha Stamps. To learn more about Rhonda and see more of her art, visit her blog at RhondaMum.blogspot.com.



Lighting the Lamp

One way to add a little something extra to your ribbon is to use Dimensional Paint. Rhonda Thomas used Ranger Liquid Pearls (Gold Pearl) to add a flame to a lantern stamp. Just squeeze on a dot and lift up away from you to make a "flame."

Resources

Alpha Stamps is an excellent source for ribbon, embellishments, ink pads, paints and rubber stamps. All the ribbon used in this column came from Alpha Stamps. Images on the ribbon shown here include designs from the Holiday Brownies Rubber Stamp Set, Angels We Have Heard on High Stamp Set, Vintage Holiday Cling Stamp Set and French Script. Visit www.alphastamps.com.

VersaCraft Chalk Pigment Pad colors used on ribbon: Poppy Red, Brick, Chocolate, Peony Purple, Real Black. This ink is manufactured by Imagine Crafts (formerly named Tsukineko). These pads are available from Alpha Stamps, www.alphastamps.com, as well as other sources.

Stampers Anonymous is another good source for holiday images. Stamps used on ribbon shown here were from the Festive Sounds and Mini-Holidays sets. Visit www.stampersanonymous.com.