

## Chalk Fun

by Lisa Ricords, Lumpy Stuff Diva

Chalks are a fun and easy way to add color, texture and depth to your projects. The techniques are so easy that anyone can quickly get comfortable using them. Mistakes are easily fixed with a simple white eraser. But when you color with chalks you aren't going for an exact, stay in the lines kind of look so you'll find that you rarely need that little white eraser.



To get started you'll need, of course, chalks - also known as pastels. If you're scrap booking with them make sure you're using chalks labeled acid-free like the ones we carry from Craft-T. You'll also need some kind of tool to apply the chalk to your project.

Here are the most commonly used applicators.

Eye  
Shadow  
Applicat  
ors

Cotton  
Balls

Q Tips  
Cosmeti  
c

Sponges

Blender  
Pens

Alligator  
Clip with  
Pom  
Poms



You'll find that it's nice to have a variety of them on hand because you get different effect and coverage from each type of applicator.



### Basic Chalking

The most common use of chalks is to color a stamped or printed image or a die cut. With chalks you'll get a softer look than you would with markers or colored pencils. Plus, with just a few colors of chalk you can blend to make just about any shade and color. It's so easy to fade and blend and layer your chalk to achieve exactly the effect you're looking for. When blending colors start with a light color and work in darker ones as you go. A little color or shadow in the right places can really bring an embellishment alive. It'll change it from a flat piece of paper to a dimensional object that really stands out.

Speaking of standing out, chalks are great for coloring **dry embossed images**. For the rose tag, I used a piece of cosmetic sponge to rub pinks and green on the image after it was embossed but before I removed the template. That way I only got color on the raised parts. On the embossed bear tag I applied the chalks after the template was removed. **You can use chalks with any type of template.** Place a template over a piece of cardstock and rub on the chalks. You may want to hold the template in place with some repositionable adhesive while you work. For the pear tags above, the pear image was chalked with a template. It was then outlined and the background was chalked and blended.



Use your chalks to support the feel of your layout. Browns, gray, black etc, can be used to 'age' an item. White lightens or makes soft fluffy clouds. Pastel pink, yellow and blue says baby. If you use torn paper, try adding a coordinating color of chalk to the torn edge. The rough surface grabs and holds the chalk and the technique really adds to that rustic look of the torn paper.

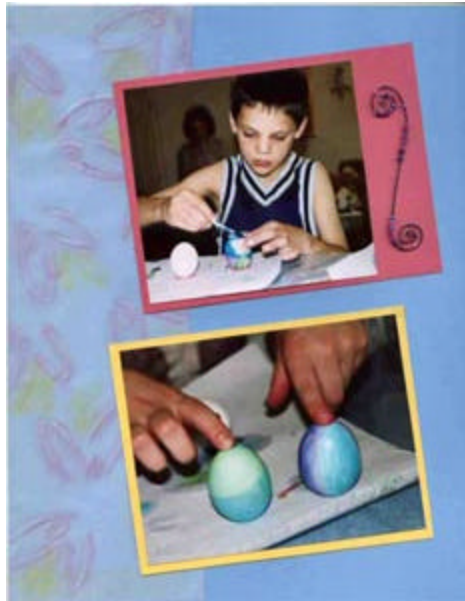


If you have a blender pen or chalk enhancer, try this idea. Rub the tip on the surface of your chalk, and then use it to color in a stamped or printed image. You'll get a much bolder color out of the chalks with this method than with using the chalks dry.

The **stained glass effect** on the back was created by using chalk and a blender pen on the back side of vellum over a stamped and embossed image.

#### **Color Makeovers**

Use your chalks to change the color of an item. This works well on ribbon, fabric, paper/cardstock, unglazed ceramic, drywall tape and more. This way I don't need to store every color of ribbon or put my layout on pause because I don't have the right color. I can just change the color of the ribbon I have with my pastels.



#### **Poppin' Pastels Technique**

Use a versamark pad to stamp one or more images onto cardstock then rub over the stamped images with chalk. The chalk will stick to the versamark ink more than the background paper and you'll get a nice bold image that "pops" out at you. This makes a nice background for a card or photo mat.

**Swirling Pastels** You can make a marble background paper with chalk dust swirled in water. Pour water into a shallow container (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches deep) slightly bigger than the cardstock you'll be using. Pick 2 or 3 chalk colors and remove them from their case. Gently scrape some of each color of chalk dust into the water. Swirl the water with a pencil or bone folder to cause the floating chalk dust to "marbleize". Not too much or the colors will mix together and you'll lose the marbled look. Now lay your card stock down on the surface of the water then immediately remove it. Allow it to dry flat. If the paper warps as it dries you can iron it flat again. See example below.

#### **Tips**

It's best to keep a wet paper towel or wet wipe handy. Chalks make dust, and you'll want to keep it cleaned up so you don't smear it in places you don't want it. Chalk dust will adhere itself to anything remotely sticky. If you have stray glue or adhesive, let it dry or remove it somehow before chalking the area. Some chalk will rub off on your fingers etc after you've applied it to your project. To minimize this some people like to set their chalk. You can spray the finished project with hairspray or an acid-free fixative, or you can place a piece of paper on top of the chalking and rub firmly with a blunt edge - a bone folder etc, to 'push' the chalk further into the grain of the paper.

