

Tips for Making Fabric Postcards

What is a fabric postcard?

- A fabric postcard consists of three layers – similar to a quilt. The design or “top,” a stiff middle, and the back is for the address and message. The edges are usually finished with a loose satin stitch.
- These small creations can be placed inside a clear mailing sleeve and mailed with a first-class stamp. The total thickness can not be wider than ¼” or the postage will increase significantly.
- Standard size: 4” x 6” finished
- There is no one right or wrong way to do a fabric postcard. Resources for ideas and other ways to make fabric postcards are listed on the back.



appliance. Theme: St. Patrick's Day

Front -- embroidered

are hundreds of ways to design the front. Some ideas include:

- Start with a focus fabric and add a few strips around it
- Fusible applique
- Make a fabric collage from scraps
- Use an embroidered design
- Draw, write, or paint on fabric
- Construct a “picture” out of fabric
- Construct your “top” slightly larger than 4” x 6”, but keep your main image smaller than 4” x 6” so that nothing important is lost when trimming to size later.



Back -- purchased fabric postcard back fabric from Spoonflower

The Top Layer

The Middle Layer

- The middle layer is what stiffens the postcard for mailing.
- A stiff fusible interfacing works best. Peltex 71 has one side with fusible. Peltex 72 has two sides with fusible. Either work. Peltex 71 is slightly less expensive and only the back of the postcard has to have fusible stabilizer. The advantage to Peltex 72 is that you have the option of fusing your top to the middle before “quilting” it.
- You can even use a thick cardboard if nothing else is available. With this method you would create a sleeve by sewing the top and back with right sides together along three sides. Turn it inside out, slip the thick cardboard in the middle, and then close the seam on the fourth side. There is no “quilting” with this method.



Front -- fusible applique

Theme: Valentine's Day

The Back

- You can buy fabric postcard backs on sites like

- This layer is the fun part – the creative part. There

Spoonflower.com or Etsy.com. Search Fabric Postcard Backs on Google. Found some on Spoonflower for \$11.00/yard.

- All you really need is a white or muslin piece of fabric – cut it slightly larger than 4" x 6." It will be trimmed later. Then you can use a fabric marker to create your



own

postcard back.

Example of Designing a Fabric Postcard

5
3
4

2

1

Construction

1. Select a background fabric and build the front, or top, of your postcard from that.
2. Attach the front to the middle layer with a small amount of stitching (quilting). Doing this step now, means the stitching will not come through onto the back of the card.
3. Now is a good time to embellish the card with soft embellishments like decorative threads, ribbons and lace that can be stitched down.
4. Fuse the back to the other side of the middle stabilizer.
5. Trim the postcard to 4" x 6"
 - 1 -- Choose Background fabric/ start of top
 - 2 -- Decide on Back fabric

3-- Decide on Middle - Peltex 71

4 -- Main design: flowers are double sided and only sewn down in middle to look three-dimensional. Leaves are fused to background and stitched 5 -- Embellishment -- in this case a ball of tangled thread glued as the center.



Completed front Theme: Spring!



Plain white back was fused to Peltex. Then a satin stitch was stitched around the card to finish. Fabric marker was used to write Postcard and draw the line between message and address

6. Finish the edges with a satin stitch or other decorative stitch. Or finish with a straight stitch close to the edge. You can also machine bind the edges, should you desire.
7. Glue on hard embellishments like buttons and beads.
8. Complete the back of your card with address and message. If you used a blank piece of fabric, turn the card so it is laying horizontally, and draw a line in the middle to separate the address from the message. You can write Postcard in the middle across the top.

Mailing

When your card is ready to be mailed, place your addressed and messaged postcard in a clear mailer.

Place your first-class stamp on the outside of the mailer, so that the stamp can be canceled when mailed.

If desired, you can take your fabric postcard to the Post Office and have it hand canceled. But you can also just mail it as usual.

Other Resources:

Google Image search – Fabric Post Cards – for tons of ideas
Pinterest search

Here's a couple of online tutorials:

<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/easy-fabric-post-cards-2821813>

<https://suzyquilts.com/handmade-quilted-postcard-tutorial/>