



MyCraftBasketStudio

5 Tools to Ink Paper Edges with Ink - Tutorial #17

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Print these instructions and follow along with my video:

<https://youtu.be/hTikM67zAho>

By distressing the edge, we give it a vintage look. It also tricks the eye into thinking there is dimension. Here are five tools you can use to ink paper edges, each giving a slightly different look.

1. Sponges:

Round Synthetic Sponge

This was the original distress tool, it is used in painting.

- Swirl onto the cardstock from the scrap paper. This leaves a nice feathered edge.
- Swipe the edge. This leaves an edge that is not as feathered, more condensed look but still light.
- You can use it to stipple too!
- If it gets too dirty, it can be washed with soap and water. And with a slightly damp sponge, you would get a cool distressed look as well with water-based inks.

Latex Free Foam Cosmetic Wedges

- Swirl onto the cardstock from the scrap paper. This leaves a darker feathered edge.
- Swipe the edge. This leaves an edge that is not as feathered, more condensed and darker.

2. Wood block with felt:

For those on a budget, this is the way to go. Any wood block, glue down the hook side of the velcro.



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- Cut a felt strip that is the size of the edge the velcro is on and press onto the hook strip.
- Swirl onto the cardstock from the scrap paper. This leaves a nice feathered edge.
- Swipe the edge. This leaves an edge that is not as feathered, more condensed look but still light. Keep the felt to use over and over with the color that was on it. Once it is worn out, throw away and get a new piece.

3. Tim Holtz Applicators:

Ink Applicator Tool (felt)

It is basically the same thing as the homemade wood block but it has a handle. You use it in the same way as the homemade wood block.

- Swirl onto the cardstock from the scrap paper. This leaves a nice feathered edge.
- Swipe the edge. This leaves an edge that is not as feathered, more condensed look but still light. Keep the felt to use over and over with the color that was on it. Once it is worn out, throw away and get a new piece.
- Some people place a hook velcro dot on the ink case and attach the applicator head there so it is handy to use again.

Ink Blending Tool (foam)

Tim's foam version of the Foam Cosmetic Wedges. You can use the same applicator handle and again switch out for colors.



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- This tool can be swirled or swiped as well but the distribution is much heavier.

4. Ink blending brush:

- This gives you a nice feathered look by swirling or swiping the edge.
- I want to point out that using the swirl method, a lot of ink is left on the scrap paper. That is ink that is not usable. That is why I personally hold the paper and brush the edge.

5. Ink Pad Dragging:

You can use an ink pad. It gives you a very distinctive look. It lays down a thick, heavy, saturated line. It's easy to overdo, it's not subtle, it's not vintage, it's not soft.

- Scrape the ink pad on the edge of the cardstock, much like a butter knife on the side of a butter dish. Be aware that there is ink build-up that can be wiped off and get transferred where you don't want it.

It's bold and dark — almost like outlining the paper with a marker. But if that is the look you want, now you know how to achieve it!

What inks to use

Any ink can be used. It does not have to be distressed inks. Do test the ink to make sure it will do what you want it to do before applying it to your project. Keep in mind Pigment inks can take a little longer to dry.

Difference between Distress Ink and Distress Oxide Ink

(from Google Search)

- Transparency & Color: Distress Inks are transparent dye inks, meaning



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the color of the underlying paper shows through. Distress Oxides are opaque fusions of dye and pigment, allowing you to stamp or blend lighter colors over darker cardstock.

- **Blending:** Because of their pigment base, Oxides stay wet longer ("open time"), making them smoother and easier to blend seamlessly. Distress Inks dry faster and can be harder to blend without leaving harsh lines.
- **Water Reaction:** Both inks react with water, but in different ways. When water is applied to Distress Ink, the color spreads and dilutes. When applied to Distress Oxides, the pigments oxidize, creating a milky, chalky film that gives a distinct "weathered" look.
- **Stamping:** Distress Inks yield crisp stamped lines with translucent color, whereas Oxides provide solid, chalky, and opaque impressions.

Distressing paper edges is one of those simple techniques that can completely transform a project, and now you have five different ways to achieve the exact look you want. Whether you prefer a soft vintage fade, a crisp defined outline, or something bold and dramatic, each tool offers its own personality on the page. Even if you're working on a budget, there's always an option that will give you beautiful results. Try them, test your inks, and see which method feels most natural in your hands. Most of all, have fun experimenting. The best results often come from playing and discovering what works for your style.