

# Beautiful Backgrounds

For Painting, Journalling, Decorative Painting In Acrylic and Mixed Media  
Part Three



## Stamped and Stencilled and More!!

Once you start playing with backgrounds and lose your fear of messing things up , you can find yourself creating all kinds of wonderful things! I Love to mix it up using textures, paint, glitter, Stamps Stencils, paper, and paint to create some fun and visually interesting backgrounds. All bets are off and you can use whatever you like to build a background that will enhance and support your artwork.

I frequently incorporate hand painted lettering into my backgrounds, then layer over top of them with Stamping and Stencilling to get the look that I want. It's a fun and easy way to create depth and interest as well as build on the theme of the piece, Then utilizing some of those elements in the focal points as well , helps bring the all of it together!

You will Need:

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Surface:

I used an 8 x 10 Art panel, but you can use Canvas , scrap plywood, canvas boards, or a piece of MDF.

DecoArt Americana Acrylic Paint:

Lamp Black, Asphaltum ( or Burnt Umber) And 24kt Gold( Entirely Optional), Warm White.

Stamps

I use Stampendous "Grunge" and "Vintage Note" Stamps most often, but honestly , use whatever you have on hand that suits what you are going to paint on your finished background.

( I use a lot of script, vintage documents, rustic and distressed, and small Elements like butterflies, Postage cancellation ,etc)

Brushes:

I use A Dynasty Encaustic Oval 1" ( Fugly Brush), Dynasty faux Squirrel #2 and #0 Rigger, 15/0 Script or Extra Long Detail Liner

[www.tracymoreu.net](http://www.tracymoreu.net)

Selection Of Stencils, ( I used m2-29 Postal) what ever appeals to you that fits with your subject matter.

Misc:

Stazon Stamp Pad ( optional) Small Brayer ( Or a paint Bottle if you don't have a brayer.) Sanding Sponge

To Begin:

Base the Surface with Lamp Black ( Or You Colour Of Choice). Let it dry then trace and transfer the Lettering of your choice to the surface.

### **The Lettering:**

**On The Palette:** Warm white , Asphaltum

Tips for Tracing/ Transferring Lettering:

Bad lettering can ruin an otherwise, beautifully painted piece. There are some simple ways to paint lovely lettering even if you don't have great lettering skills.

1: When Tracing/transferring lettering, use a steel edge ruler for all of the vertical and horizontal

lines to keep them CLEAN AND SHARP! ( bobbles in vertical/ horizontal lines stands out like a sore thumb.) The curved areas can be done free hand , as they are much more forgiving.

2: Make sure that the Lettering is transferred straight and level. ( if it's going up or down hill that's not good) Draw a clean straight line under the lettering on the line drawing. Then another straight and level line on the surface. Line up the two lines and secure the line drawing to the surface before transferring.

3: I never use a stylus.. I find they are too thick and leave dark and irregular lines when transferred. I use an ultra fine point ball pen ( Uniball Signo .38 Black Gel Pen). It leaves finer clean lines and they are easier to erase.

I like to do any shading under the lettering BEFORE I paint the letters So as soon as the line drawing is transferred ,Create a shadow under each letter on the right side, ON the background with the darkest value toward the letter, with a nice wide float of Asphaltum.

Paint in the lettering with thinned Warm White, using the #0 Rigger. Take care to keep the edges of the letters crisp and clean. Let it dry.

Sand the lettering to lightly distress it, let it wear through in places. Wipe of the dust. Apply a wash of thinned Asphaltum over the entire surface. Let it dry and then apply a second layer. Let it dry.

## The Stamping and Stencilling:

Use the Script stamps and apply in a random fashion over the background, just here and there and don't worry about them being too perfect. If you have other Stamps, or design elements feel free to add them. Let dry. Trace and transfer the line drawing to the surface. Let it dry. Apply a wash of thinned Asphaltum over the stamps.

Position the Postage Stencil stencil on the surface and stencil with The 24Kt Gold using the Stencil brush. Let it dry. ( I Like the Round element but you can use whatever you like)

Trace and transfer the design to the Surface.


This background can be very busy or quite subtle, depending how much of each element you add. You have complete control over this.. The More layers of colour between will create more depth.






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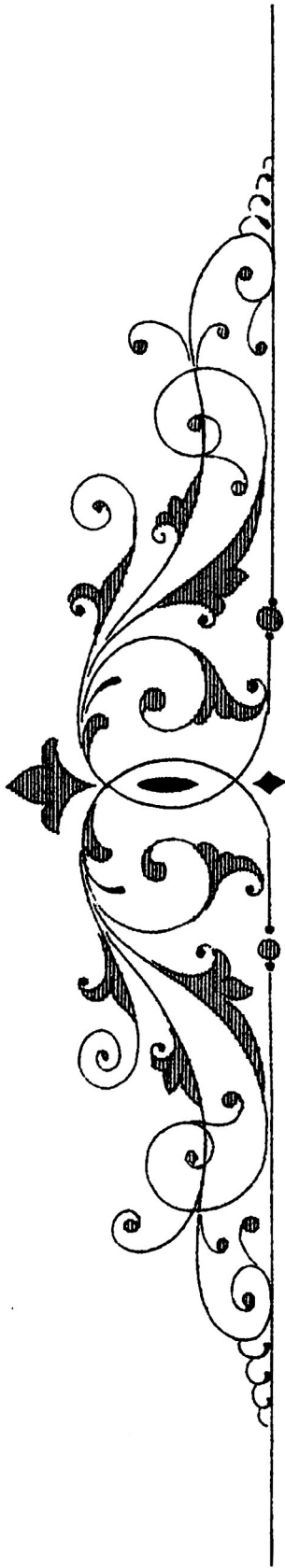
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