

Beautiful Backgrounds

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



Paper! Wonderful paper.. Scraps of it, rolls of it, Sheets in a myriad number of colours and prints, pages torn from old books, Napkins, Even Good Old fashioned copy paper! PAPER is one of the most versatile mediums you have in your arsenal! It's fantastic for creating some truly awesome backgrounds! The one we are going to focus on here is fun and easy, gives you great bang for the buck, and it can be used with almost ANY subject matter.

You Will Need:

Surface:

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

Kraft paper(yup, the stuff you wrap packages in for mailing...The Brown Stuff.

DecoArt Americana Acrylic Paint:

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

DecoArt Media Matt Medium or Matt Decoupage

Stamps

I use Stampendous "Grunge" and "Vintage Note" Stamps, 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)

Misc:

Stazon Stamp Pad (optional) Small Brayer (Or a paint Bottle if you don't have a brayer.) Sanding Sponge or nail File (Emery Board), Scissors, Small Spray bottle filled with water.

Once you have all your supplies in hand , you are ready to get started on this fun, easy and incredibly versatile background.

To begin: Cut a piece of the craft paper to extend past the edge of your surface by about an inch. Now you are ready to stamp.

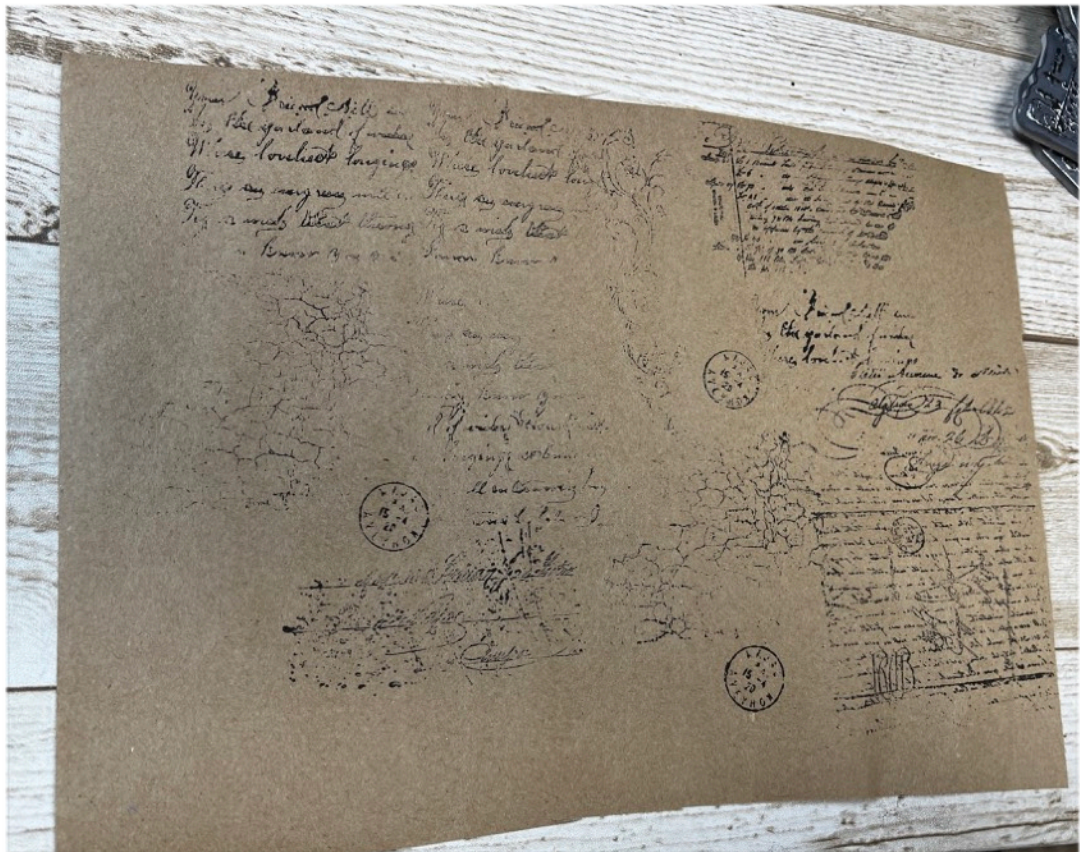
The Stamping:

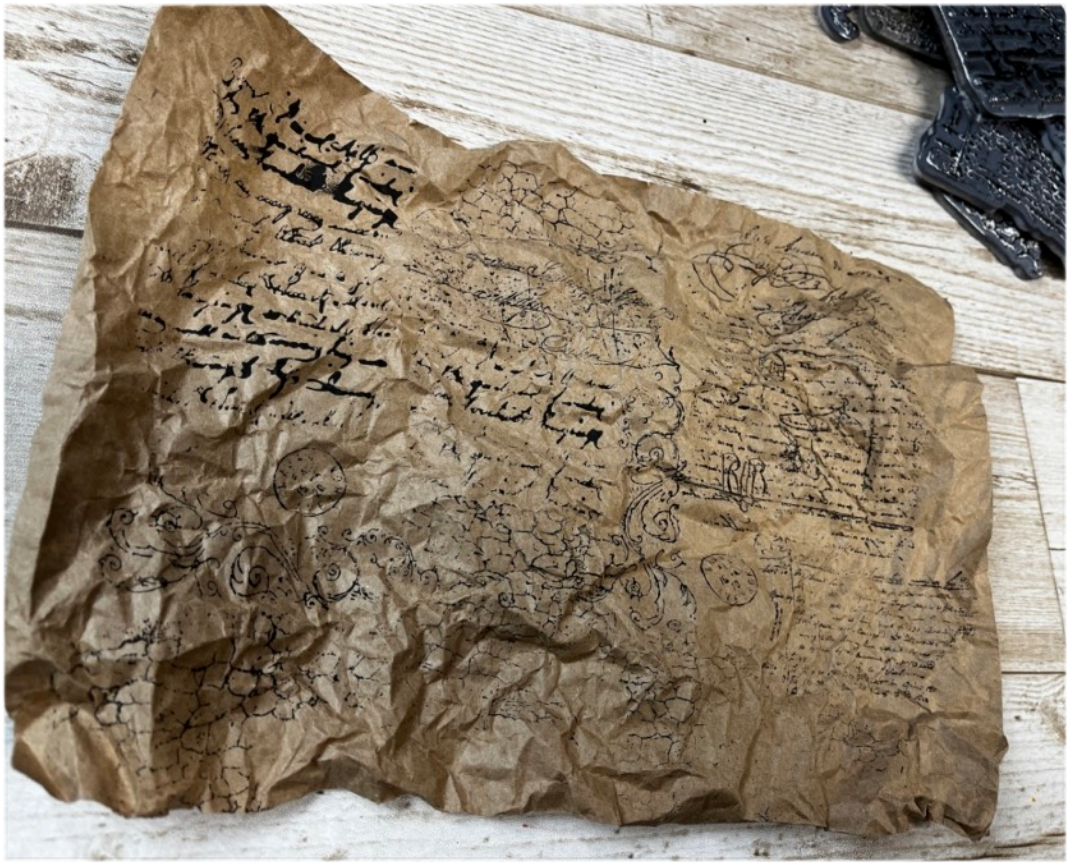
If you are going to use a Stamp Pad, I recommend using the STAZON Stamp Pad as it dries to a nice finish and it isn't bothered by water or the Matt Medium. If you are going to use Paint, Pour a small amount o your palette and roll the brayer in it to produce a nice even pad of paint.

Roll the paint onto your stamp and then immediately stamp onto the paper. (it doesn't matter if the image is perfect... in fact it looks better if it isn't , so don't fret over it)

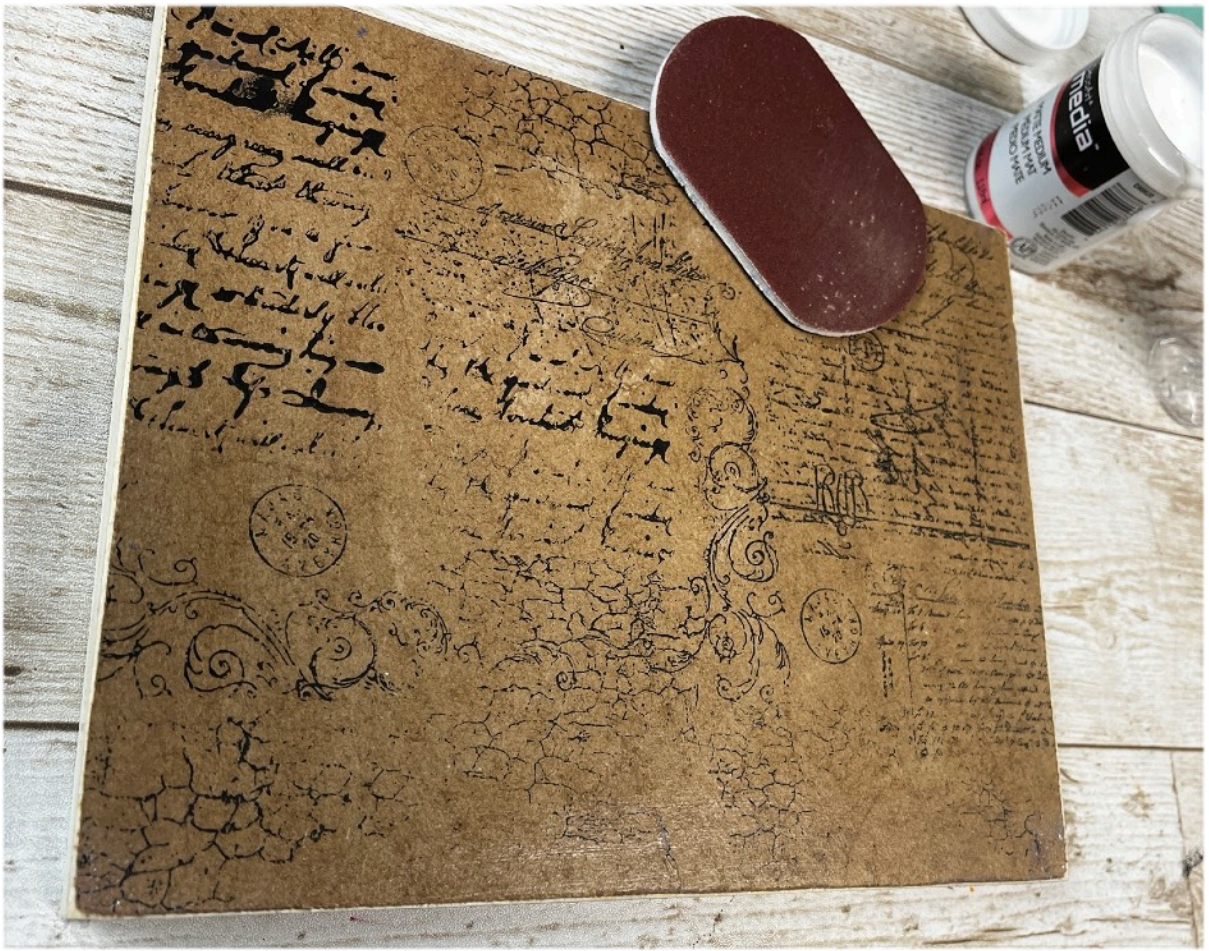
It doesn't have to be filled, and you can over lap the images or leave spaces between them if you like you can have open areas and ares that have smaller elements added to them. The Choice is your yours. Experiment with it a bit and try it out on several sheets of paper and then select the one that you like most. (you can use the other bits for other projects!)

Once your paper is stamped to your satisfaction, and completely dry.... Crumple it into a ball. Really crumple it... then smooth it out and crumple it again. (this is going to open up the paper a bit and allow it to absorb some water and matte medium. This also distresses the paper a little)

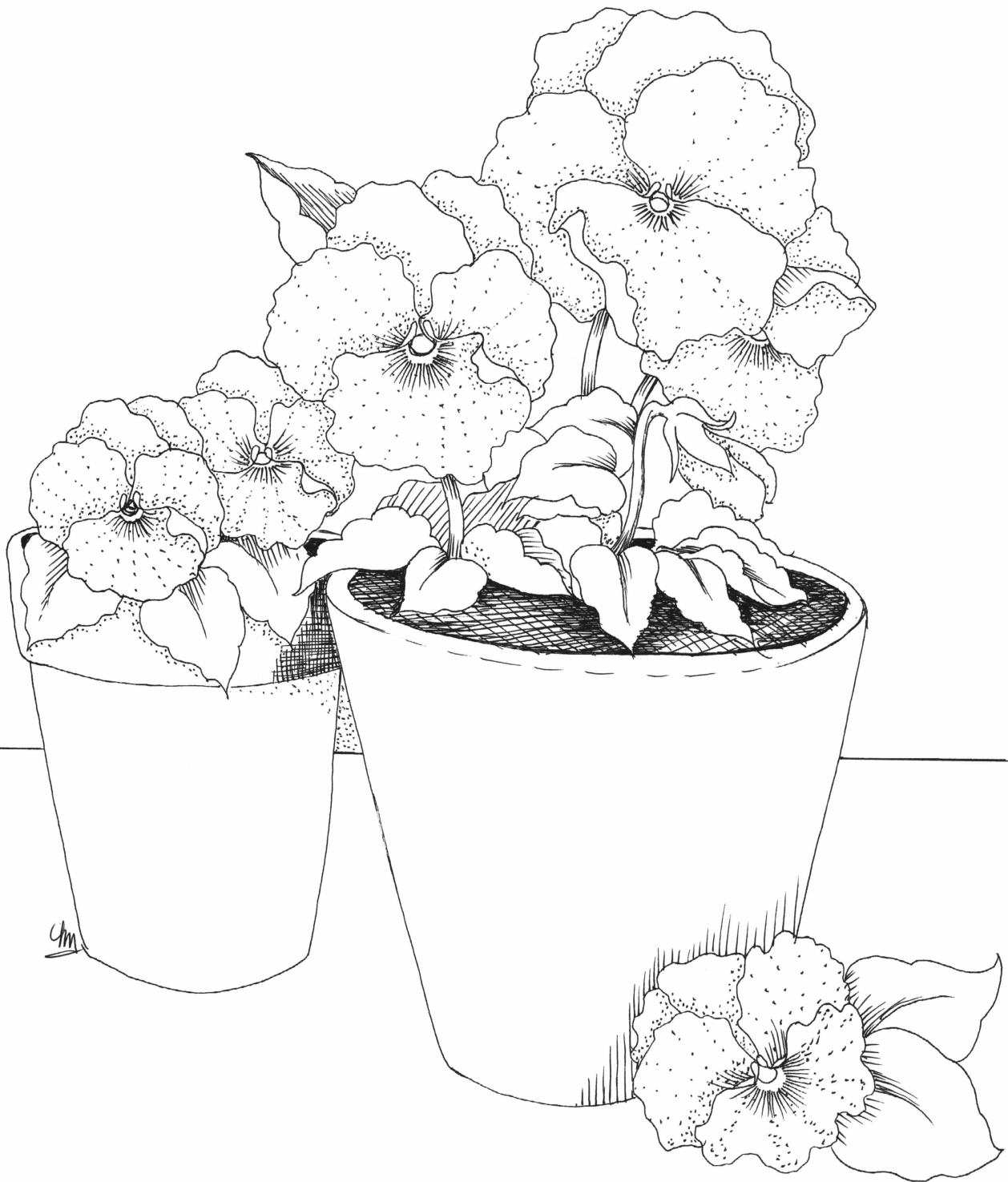












Adhering The Paper To The Surface:

Lightly mist your paper with the spray bottle (both sides) Not soaking wet, just enough to darken the paper and make it softer, the paper will become a bit more pliable and easier to work with and the moisture will help prevent bubbling and ripples in the paper.

Apply a generous coat of the Matt Medium to the surface and lay the wet/damp paper into it. Smooth it out with the palm of your hand. Now roll over the paper with a clean brayer,(or a paint Bottle) to firmly seat the paper into the Matt Medium. Let it dry well. You can force dry this with a heat gun or a hair dryer, just do it with a little care.

Sand the edges of the surface with a sanding sponge or a Nail File (Emery Board) to remove the excess paper. Wipe away any dust then apply a nice even coat of the Matt Medium over the entire surface. (Pay attention to the edges of the surface in particular) Let it dry well.

Adding the Colour:

Apply a colour wash of Asphaltum (Thinned with either glaze or water) to the outside edge of the surface. Keeping the darker value to the outside. You can do this with a multiple floats of Asphaltum too, if you prefer to use a brush. Once you have the edge as dark as you like, apply a light wash of heavily thinned Asphaltum over the entire Surface. Let it dry. Apply a light coat of Matt Medium over everything to seal. You are now ready to add your design.