

animal embossments



Materials

- 6 or more sheets of vellum
- Embossing powder
- Embossing heat tool
- Scissors
- Optional materials: Fine paintbrush (to brush away excess powder), eyelets, ribbon, string, brads, clear glue, and decorative papers for embellishments

Note: To use this technique, you will need an inkjet printer. To learn more, read this article about embossing with your inkjet printer. Be sure to read the instructions all the way through, especially the helpful tips in "getting started."

Instructions

getting started

- This project will help you create embossed animals with colorful backgrounds. You will print the backgrounds on one side of the vellum sheet and the embossing line art on the other side.
- The key to success in embossing with your printer is working quickly. Apply the embossing powder to the line art the moment it is ejected from the printer.
- The reason the artwork appears only at the top of the page is to help you get the embossing powder onto the art before the ink is dry. If the artwork appeared on the whole page, the first part of the page would be too dry to adhere to the embossing powder by the time the last part was printed.
- While the line art is black, remember that whatever embossing powder color you use will be the final color of the art. The powder will cover it completely.
- For more information and additional project ideas, read this informative article about embossing with your inkjet printer.
- You can choose to print the backgrounds for each animal or print the line art only and then color the embossments by hand.
- Experimenting is the key to success with this technique! Try different settings and supplies to find out which ones give you the best results. The most important variables are:
- Printer and ink. Drying times can vary considerably between different printers and printer settings. (You can change the settings in the Print menu. Click on Properties, and choose the print quality from the Setup tab and ink amount in the Advanced tab.)
- Paper type. Different paper types will have different drying times and reactions to heat.
- Embossing powder. Various brands and colors of embossing powders have different

melting points and produce a variety of effects.

- Heating tool. The settings on the heating tool and the distance you hold it from the paper can have a big impact on how the embossing powder melts. Be careful not to scorch or burn the paper!

printing the artwork

1. Open the colored backgrounds.
2. Print the backgrounds on vellum and set aside to dry completely. (Note: You can use the heat gun to speed up the drying time on the backgrounds, if you choose.) Note that the page numbers on the backgrounds correspond to the animal line art pages. This will help you keep them in order.
3. Place the vellum printout back into the printer tray with the printed side face up and top edge in as you face the printer. (Note: some printers are different, so check your manual for instructions on double-sided printing before you get started.)
4. Open your container of embossing powder and place it in your workstation before you print the artwork. It's a good idea to have it close at hand so you can sprinkle it on the printout as soon as possible. But don't keep it too close-you don't want to get embossing powder on or inside your printer!
5. Open the animal line art.
6. Print the first page of animal artwork (page 1) on the first page of vellum with colored backgrounds.



(step 6)

7. Sprinkle embossing powder liberally over the artwork as soon as it is ejected from the printer. Shake the embossing powder around to coat all the wet ink surfaces, then pour the excess powder back into the container.



(step 7)

8. If powder sticks to areas other than the artwork, blow the area lightly to loosen the excess powder or use a dry paintbrush to carefully brush it away.



(step 8)

9. Use an embossing heat tool to melt the embossing powder on the artwork. (Follow the heat tool instructions for details on settings, distances, and timing.)



(step 9)

10. Use scissors to trim away the excess vellum from around each animal to fit the shape of the project you intend to attach them to.

Embellishment ideas

- Create bookmarks, hangtags, gift tags, greeting cards, scrapbook page elements and other paper craft projects with these animal embossments: Just arrange the cut out embossments over your project and fasten, tie or adhere them in place. Use eyelets, ribbon, string, brads or clear glue.
- You may want to try using other kinds of paper for embossing. Note: if you use this artwork on an opaque paper such as HP photo paper, you should print the backgrounds as a mirror image (through the Print menu) on the same side as the embossments. Make sure the backgrounds are completely dry before printing the animal line art over them.

