

Parchment Craft Lesson – Fan Flowers
By Wendy Walters



I have taken pictures at each stage, so you can follow the pattern visually and also with written instructions.
Ideal if you have just started parchment craft as you can compare your work with the pictures to ensure you are on the right track.

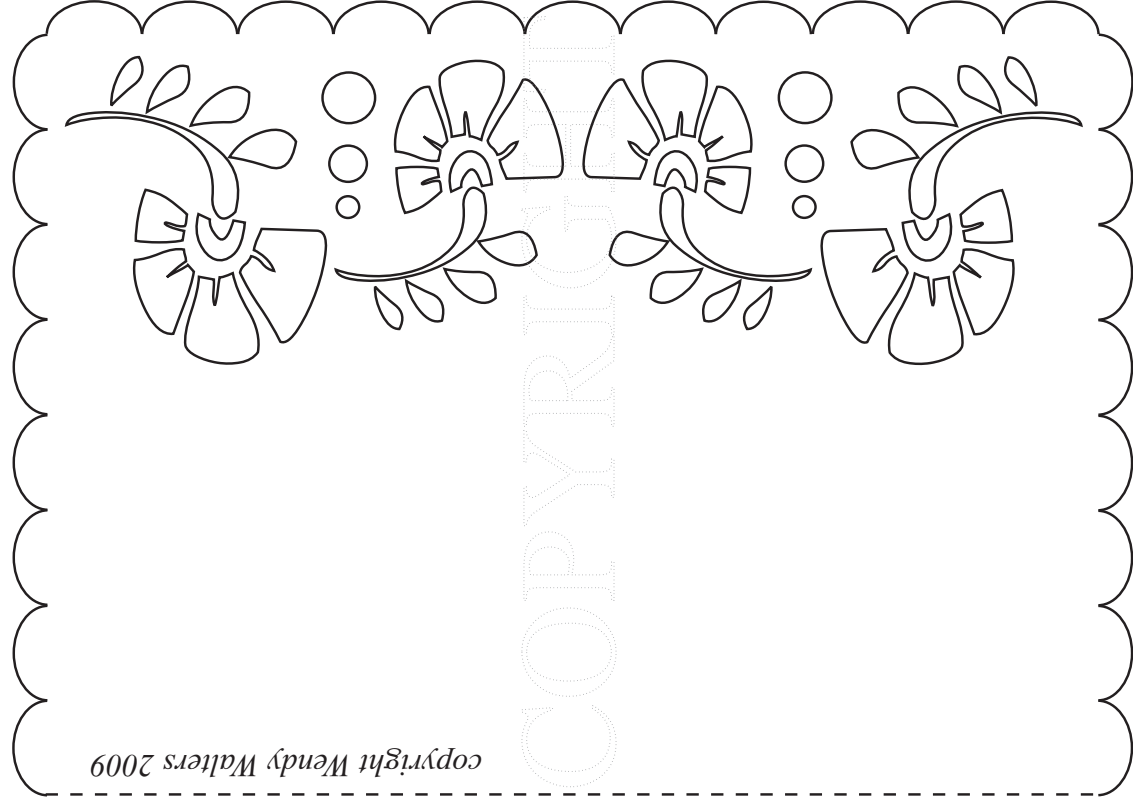
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Instructions:

1. Secure parchment craft paper over pattern with (Parchment Craft Paper 140gsm) using a low tack tape (Scotch Magic Tape)

Make sure you have positioned the parchment so the fold line is central of the paper, this will allow for the parchment to wrap around the back of the card.

TIP: Before you begin the tracing place a piece of paper under your hand, this will help to keep the parchment clean whilst you are working on your design.

2. Trace the fold line (Dashed line) using a Clear Ruler & Sharp White Pencil.

3. Trace the rest of the design using a Mapping Pen & White ink.

TIP: Wipe the nib of the pen onto a damp sponge this will help the ink flow from the nib. Load the nib by dipping into the white ink up to the well (Hole).

Trace by lightly skating over the surface, holding the pen as upright as possible, and keeping the nib sideways on to the line you tracing this will help to achieve the fine (Hair Like) lines required.

TIP: Turn your work so you are tracing in the same direction at all times. Remove from the pattern.

4. Embossing: Place on your rubber mat.

Fold Line: Working from the back using a Medium Ball Tool & Clear ruler emboss along the line 3 - 4 times using an even pressure

TIP: Do not press too hard or you could go through the parchment

Scallop Border: Line Style

Working from the back using a medium ball tool emboss each

scallop shape 3 - 4 times as before using an even pressure, the traced line should disappear into the whiteness of the embossing.

TIP: Gradually build up the whiteness by working over the lines, it's not the pressure that makes the parchment turn white it's how many times you emboss in the same area.

Flower Petals in the 2 centre flowers: Line Style: Using a Small Ball Tool technique as before.

Flower Petals at the Top & Bottom flowers: Graduation or Shading Style

This style is worked in layers the 1st being worked with the **Large Ball Tool**

2nd Layer - Medium Ball Tool

3rd Layer - Small Ball Tool

Sometimes finishing with an additional layer using a **Micro Ball Tool** to add extra definition to the highlighted areas and fully incorporate the traced lines.

Working from the back using a large ball start by placing the ball tool on the traced line and softly shade working from the outer edge of the petal stroking the ball tool in towards the centre lifting the ball tool as you reach the end of the stroke, the idea behind this style of embossing is to create highlights & shadows, highlights being the whiter areas and the shadows being the unembossed areas.

Repeat a 2nd layer using a medium ball tool this time shortening the stroke to achieve a graduated effect, incorporate the ink line to make it disappear into the embossing.

Repeat a 3rd layer using a small ball tool again shortening the stroke to achieve a

whiter highlight to the outer edge of the petal and a shadow as you look into the centre.

Repeat a 4th layer (if needed) using a micro ball tool to define the edges of the petals and highlight

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Tools and Materials Required:

Parchment Craft Paper (140gsm) A4 Sheet

White Pencil

White ink

Mapping Pen

Embossing Ball Tool Set includes: Large, Medium, Small and Micro Ball Tool

Scriber Embossing Tool

Decorative Embossing Tools: PCA Small Sun Tool

Embossing Mat A4 Black Rubber

Perforating Mat Black Foam

Perforating Tools: Bold (1 needle tool)

Bold Twin (2 needle Tool)

Parchment Craft Scissors

Other essential items required:

Low Tack Tape (Scotch Magic)

Paper Towel

Damp Sponge in container with lid

Tumble drier sheet (Not the wet sort)

Clear 12" Ruler

Pencil Eraser

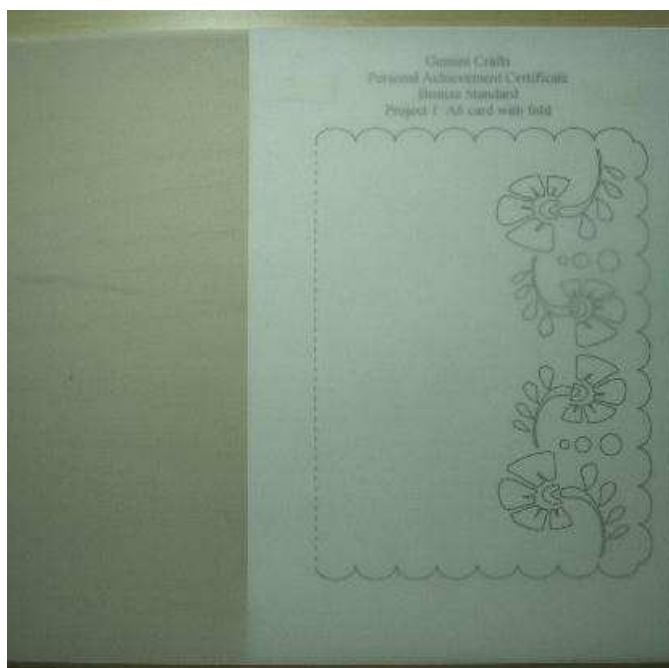
Double-Sided Tape

A4 Dark Pink Card

Instructions Step By Step with pictures.

1. Place the A4 parchment paper over the pattern with the 'Fold Line' in the centre of the sheet
2. Secure the parchment to the pattern using 2 x 1" pieces of low tack tape rolled into tubes with the sticky on the outside placed above the top of the pattern marked with an 'X'

Picture shows position of parchment paper so the dashed line is in the centre of the A4 sheet
The left hand side of the paper will fold around the back



3. The next step is to start tracing the design, TIP: Before you do place a piece of paper towel over the parchment paper to protect it from being marked by any moisture from your hands.
4. Trace the fold line by placing a clear ruler along the dashed lines and trace with a sharp white pencil extend the line to the top and bottom of the parchment sheet, this will make sense later.
5. Trace the rest of the design using the Mapping Pen and White ink.

Your mapping pen nib will be positioned the wrong way round in your pen handle simply pull it out and replace with the nib facing out.

Before loading the nib wipe gently over a damp sponge this will help the ink flow from the nib.

Open the ink bottle and stir with a cocktail stick or similar to mix the white chalky ink with the liquid Load the nib by dipping into the ink only up to the hole (well) in the nib and not beyond, do not take off any ink by scraping on the bottle neck.

Before tracing make sure you are comfortable with both elbows on the table.

Hold the pen as upright as possible and with minimal pressure trace the lines using the nib sideways on to create the finest line possible...this does take some practice!!!

Move your work around so your body remains in the same position throughout

Try to always pull forward with your strokes and never go backwards as this will make the pen judder and spatter.

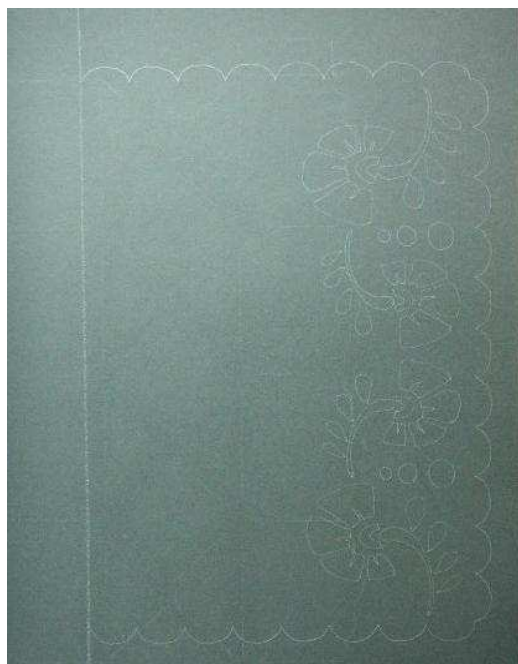
If the ink stops flowing wipe off any excess ink on your damp sponge and reload, depending on how long it takes you to trace the design you may need to stir the ink from time to time.

When you have finished tracing wipe your nib gently on the damp sponge and leave to air dry before placing the nib back in the handle, if you do this while the nib is still wet it will rust!

Use a piece of Paper Towel to protect your work from being marked whilst working on your project, this is a good habit to get into

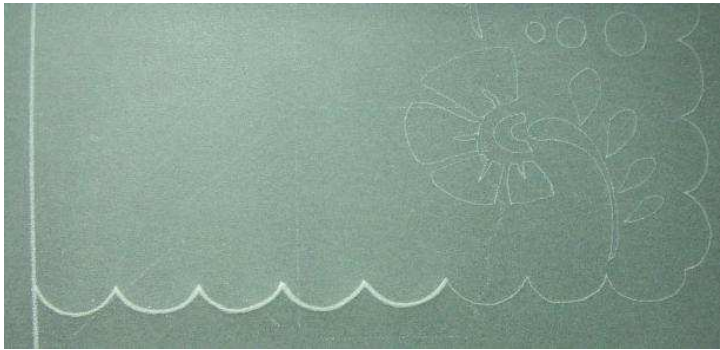


Traced design when finished
Practice to achieve very fine hair like lines



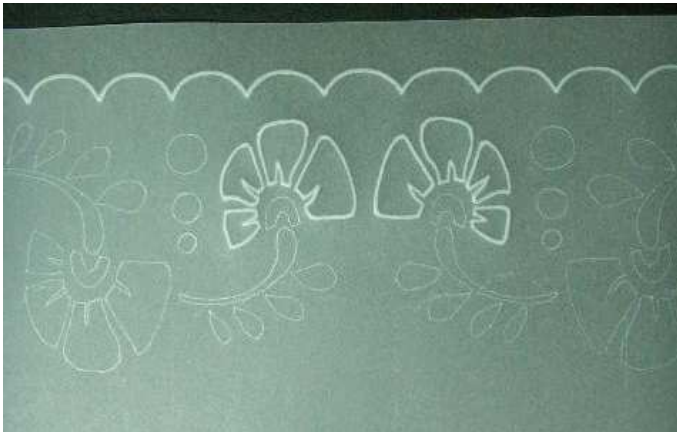
6. Embossing: Placed your design traced side down onto your black rubber mat
 7. Using a dry tumble drier sheet gently wipe over the parchment all the areas you have traced.
 8. Embossing the fold line: Using the clear ruler and a Medium Ball tool
- In the soft grip embossing tool set you will have 3 double ended tools which include 1 x Large Ball, 2 x Medium Balls, 2 x Small Balls and 1 x Micro ball.
- Hold the ruler with one hand securely run the medium ball tool along the ruler following the traced fold line working from the top to the bottom of the parchment sheet do not press on hard as you may go through the paper, it is better to work over a line several times to make white than it is to press hard once.

9. Embossing the scallop border: Using the same medium ball tool emboss each scallop shape 3 – 4 times using an even pressure gradually building the whiteness, it is not the pressure that makes the parchment paper white it's how many times an area is worked. Take your time and emboss the rest of the border



Picture Shows
Part of the Scallop Border embossed showing a neat, crisp white line following the traced ink line and embossing 3-4 times gradually building the whiteness and making the ink line disappear.
TIP: It is essential that your traced lines are very fine in order to achieve this.

10. Embossing the 2 centre flower petals: Using a small ball tool emboss the lines of the petals 3 – 4 times same technique as used in the scallop border because you are now using a smaller sized ball tool you need to use slightly less pressure.



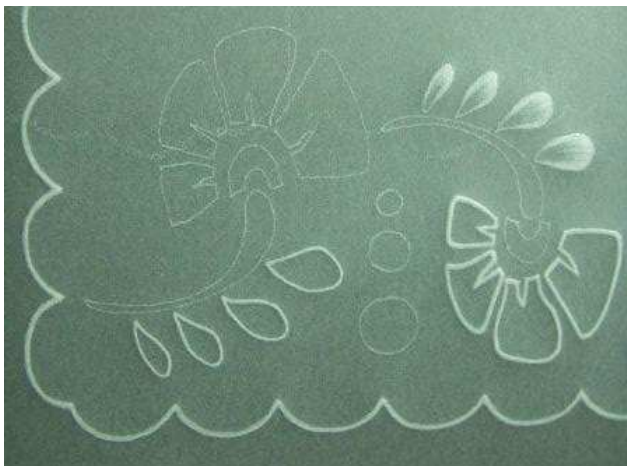
Picture shows
Embossed lines of the 2 centre flowers using the small ball tool

Practice embossing directly over your traced ink lines neatly and making them disappear into the embossing.

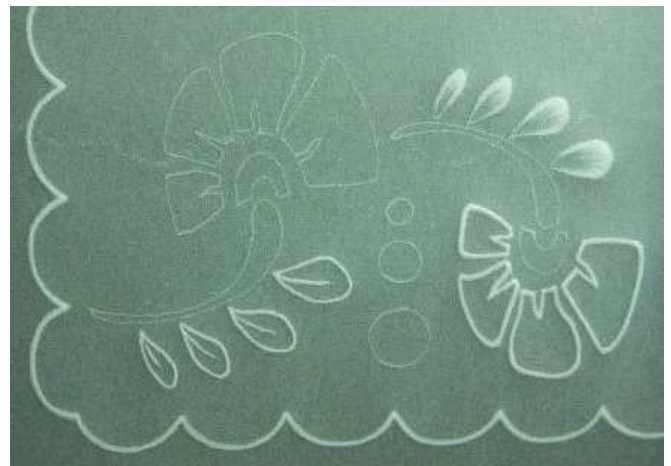
11. Embossing the leaves in the top and bottom flowers: Using the micro ball tool emboss the lines of the leaves.

12. Emboss the leaf veins: Using a Scriber Tool 'Freehand' emboss starting from the base of the leaf and fading away the embossed line as you approach the tip of the leaf. Try to do this with one stroke this requires practice and getting to know how much pressure to use.

Picture shows embossed lines of leaves using the micro ball tool



Picture shows embossed leaf veins using the scribe tool 'Freehand' style



13. Embossing the leaves of the 2 centre flowers: Graduation or Shading Style of embossing.

This style is worked in layers to create the graduated effect building layers using ever decreasing ball tool sizes to create highlights and definition

Also creating the natural shapes of the leaves or petals that you are embossing.

1st layer softly covering most of the area and using the largest ball possible to fit in the area you are embossing.

2nd layer using the next size smaller ball tool, with this layer you shorten the stroke and blend into the 1st layer.

3rd layer decreasing in ball size again and so on depending on what effect you want to achieve.

The technique movement is very similar to striking a match, working from your body and embossing away from you.

Place the ball tool on the traced line apply even pressure and stroke the tool towards the base of the leaf, lift the ball tool before you reach the end, (like an aeroplane taking off) the embossing should be whiter on the start point and graduate to nothing at the end.

The white areas are regarded as the 'Highlights' and the un-embossed areas are the 'Shadows'. Creating realistic effects as in nature.

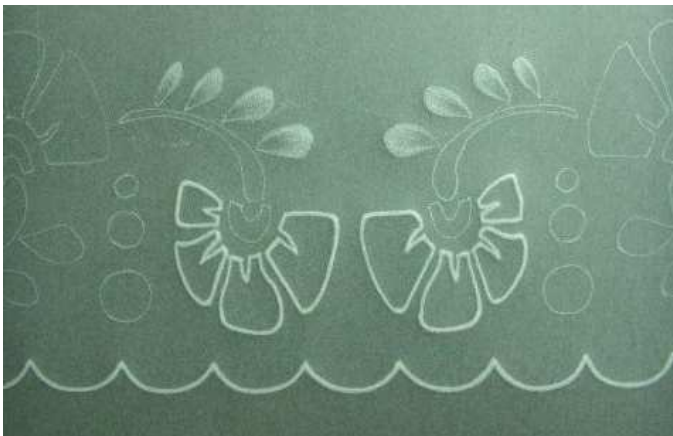
Practice incorporating your ink lines into the highlighted parts of your embossing.

Practice the pressures required for the different sized ball tools.

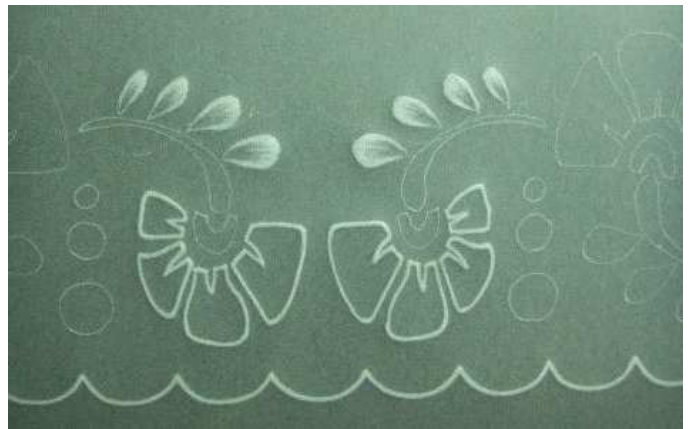
TIP: When you emboss parchment paper you effectively make the paper thinner so each graduated layer requires less pressure and each time you use a smaller size ball tool you also need less pressure.

This is a tricky style of embossing and does require lots of practice but it is worth the effort as you can create some stunning effects.

Picture shows the 1st layer of the graduated embossing style using a medium ball tool, look at the direction of the embossing, the highlights and the shadows.



Picture shows the 2nd layer of the graduated embossing style using a small ball tool, this layer as highlighted the edge of the leaves and incorporated the traced ink lines and the shadows create dimension.



14. Embossing the the top and bottom flower petals: Graduation or Shading Style

This is the same technique as the leaves before

This time you start your 1st layer with a large ball tool as the area being embossed is larger.



Pictures show from top left to right then bottom the graduated layers being built up starting with the
1st layer large ball tool
2nd layer medium ball tool
3rd layer small ball tool
Last layer using a micro ball tool to add definition and crisp and neaten highlighted areas.

15. Embossing circles and shapes: Full embossing

You can use this style when you want to fill in an area with an even whiteness.

It is achieved in a very similar way to the graduated technique you build up the whiteness by using large ball tools for a 1st layer and gradually build up the layers using smaller ball tools.

When you emboss circles you stroke across the shape first then around the outer edge last.

Picture shows direction of 1st layer of embossing in centre circle

Picture shows additional layers with using decreasing sized ball tools gradually increasing the whiteness



TIP: If you want area to be really white give the parchment paper time to rest, up to 24 hours on some occasions, nobody said this was a quick craft!! If you are impatient or in a hurry colour at the back with a white pencil...make sure you are working on a hard surface and not on your embossing mat!!!

16. Embossing the stems and flower centres: Stipple Style

This effect is achieved using a scribe tool which is a very fine embosser 'No ball tip' almost like a thick needle tool.

The technique is to press on the paper with enough pressure to create an embossed dot, be careful when you emboss in this style as you may perforate the paper, which is not good!

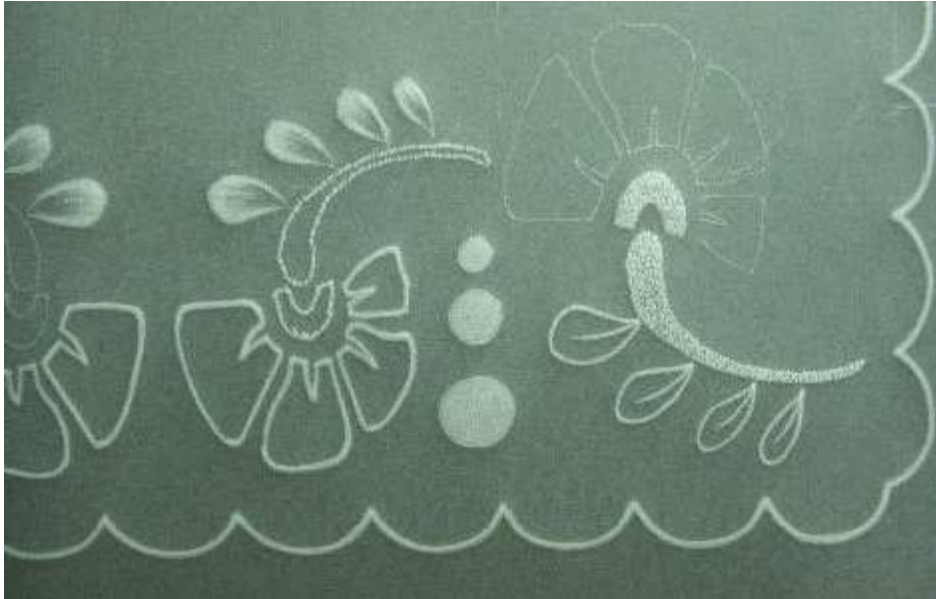
It is a style that can be used for lots of different effects, filling in areas or adding a decorative detail within your designs.

Start by stippling the line of the area you want to fill, I have grouped the dots close together to make a dense embossed area.

The picture shows

Left flower - Stippled outline of tiny embossed dots along the stem and flower centre

Right flower - Stem and flower centre completely filled with tiny stippled embossed dots



17. Embossing decoratively using a Sun Tool

These sun shaped tools create pretty embossed designs and can be used in lots of ways.

How to emboss a crisp neat sun shape

1. Hold the tool upright and apply pressure downwards
2. Rock the tool forward to the north and make sure you emboss the edge of the tool.
3. Bring the tool back to the centre
4. Rock the tool backward to the south catching the edge of the tool
5. Bring the tool back to centre
6. Rock the tool to the east (left) catching the edge of the tool
7. Bring the tool back to centre
8. Rock the tool to the west (right) catching the edge of the tool
9. Lift the tool off the paper, look on the front and you should have a crisp, neat sun shape.



TIP: Do not press on too hard as you will go straight through your paper, and all this will achieve is a hole, which is not good.....Practice on a scrap piece first!!

Picture shows embossed sun shapes at each point of the scallop border

18. Perforating: Decorative this technique is produced by piercing the paper with a needle tool on this occasion I have used a PCA Uni Bold 1 needle tool, this is a thicker gauge tool perfect for beginners. Place your design right side up on a perforating mat, this is a thick foam mat perfect for the needles to sink into while you are perforating.

Hold the tool as upright as possible.

Using a Uni Bold 1 needle tool perforate the centre of each sun shape around the scallop border.

You don't need to push the needle tool through the paper until the base of the needle touches the paper, pierce the paper just enough to create neat, consistent sized holes.



Picture shows perforated sun tool shapes using a PCA Uni Bold 1 needle tool

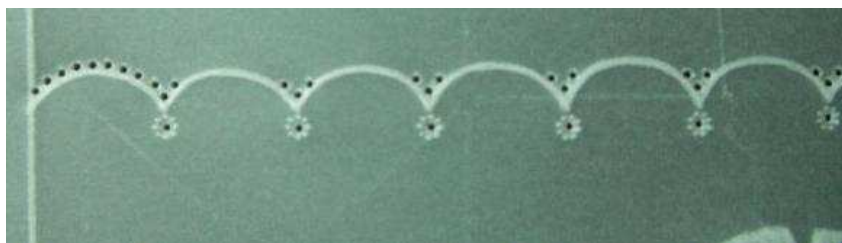
The PCA Bold Twin Tool is a 2 needle tool required for the perforating of the outer edge of the border



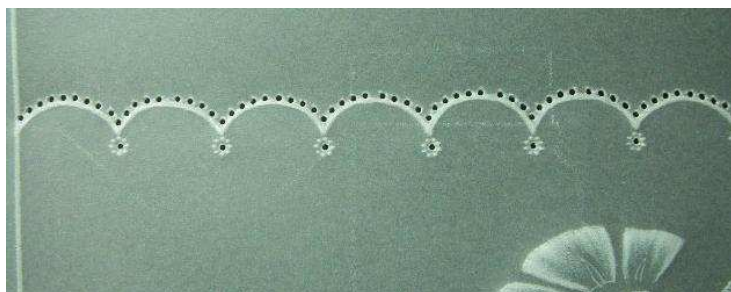
19. Perforating around a border of a design using a Bold Twin 2 needle perforating tool

Use the tool as upright as possible perforate the outer edge of the embossed line of the scallop border this tool perforates 2 holes evenly spaced, move along 1 needle space letting the last needle drop in the last hole this will keep the holes at a neat even distance as you perforate around border.

Perforate just to the outside of the embossed line, you don't want to lose this white border.



Picture shows perforations in a row on 1st scallop starting at the fold line. Perforate in each dip of the scallop then join with a row of holes, doing this ensures a neat perforated border.



Picture shows perforations connected, continue until you have perforated around all 3 sides Do not perforate the fold line!!

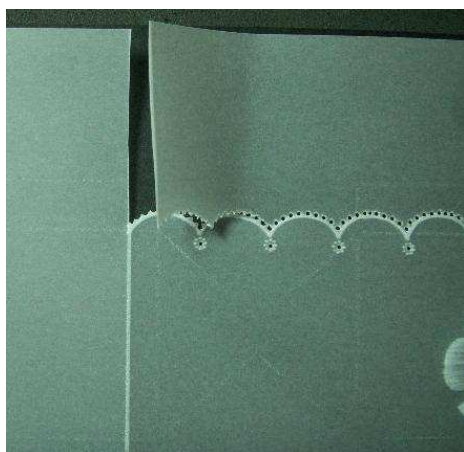
20. Cutting:

This technique requires special parchment craft scissors, these are very fine and sharp curved tipped scissors which enable you to cut out very fine areas of paper which creates the look of lace work.

On this design we are going to cut away the excess paper from around the edge and create a pretty lace edge called a 'Picot Edge' an edge of tiny 'V' shapes.

1st Take your scissors and cut down the fold line from the top of the parchment sheet until you get to the first perforated hole.

Picture shows cut from top of parchment paper sheet and first cuts in between border perforations.



Picture shows 2 different types of parchment craft scissors

Normal scissor style & Tweezer style
You can use which ever you feel most comfortable with.



2nd Take your scissors with the curved tips facing downwards.

Hold the parchment paper and place your finger tips behind the first 2 holes of the perforated border.

Place the tips of the scissors into the first 2 perforated holes, do not push too hard as you will tear the paper before cutting.

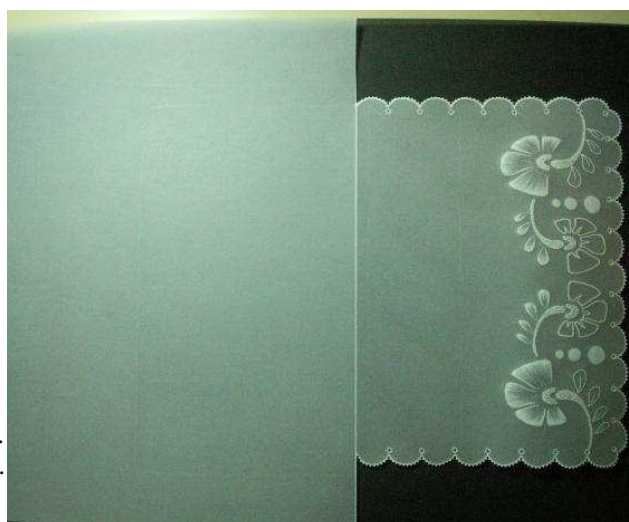
Keeping the scissor tips in the holes lower them until they are flat to the paper and carefully snip in between the 2 holes, this should have created a 'V' shape in between the 2 holes when done correctly!

This requires lots of practice, getting used to the tools and feel for the technique.

This cutting technique is all you need to learn, as all other cutting that is required as you progress is done exactly the same.



Picture shows cut away border and 'Picot Edge' tiny 'V' shapes, this is a standard in the craft.



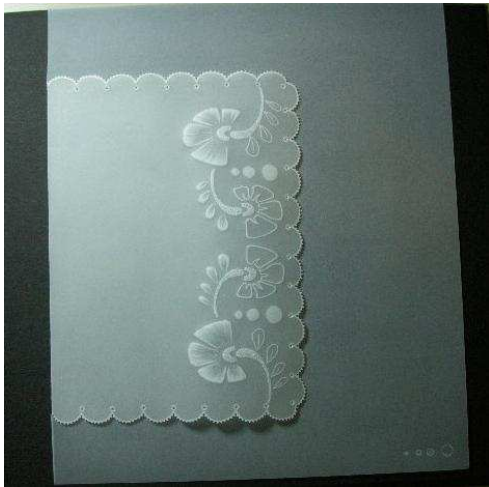
Picture shows completed cut away border.
Showing fold line and back half of design.

21. Assembly: This is one way of finishing a folded design

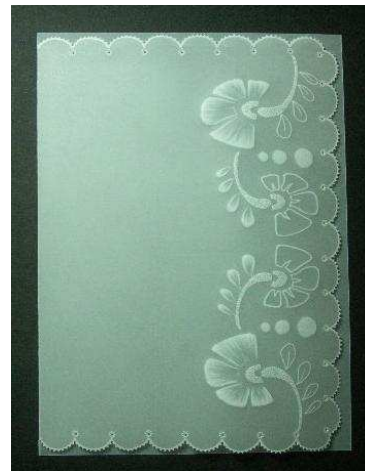
Carefully fold along the scored fold line.

Trim away back half using a rotary trimmer, craft scissors, guillotine or craft knife and ruler

Picture shows folded design



Picture shows trimmed back half,
Cut slightly larger than the front.



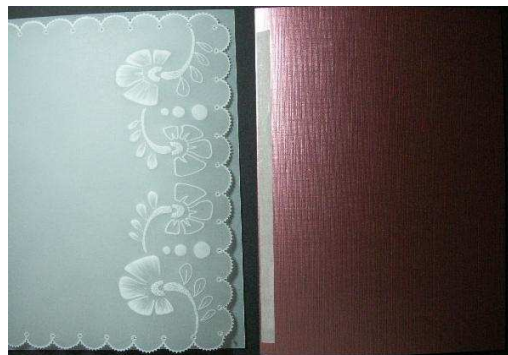
22. Adding a card insert: Using a folded A4 card cut slightly larger than the parchment design.

Add a strip of double-sided tape along the folded edge of the card insert and remove back paper.

Picture shows pink folded card insert cut
slightly larger than the parchment design



Picture shows double-side tape along fold edge
of the folded card insert



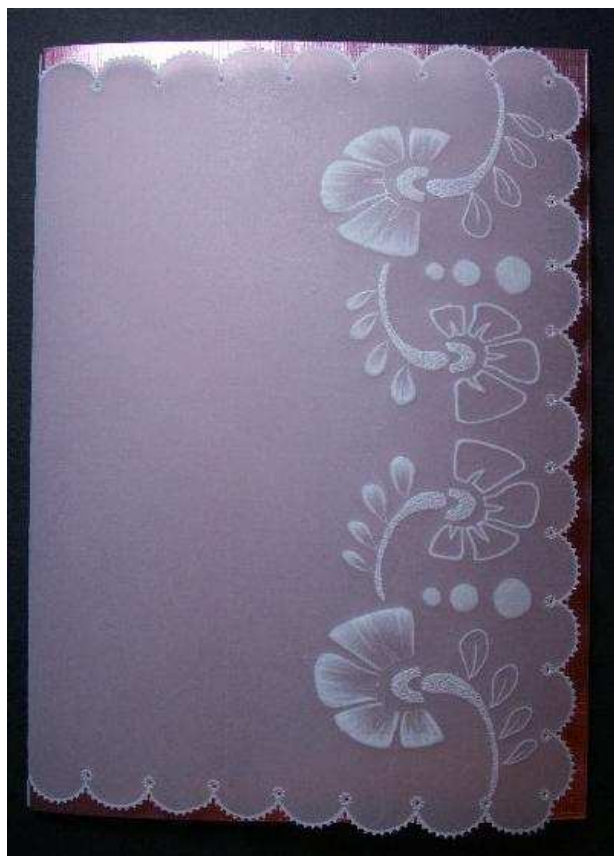
Open out the parchment craft design.

Carefully place the card insert inside with the folds together and the tape facing the back half and press to adhere.



Picture shows view from the back and
double side tape along the back half fold

Pictures of finished sample:



I hope you have enjoyed this project and it as inspired you to try more of my designs.

“Thank you and keep parching”

Wendy Walters

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