



Greeting Card Construction

Creating your own greeting cards can be fun, very inexpensive, and say,

“I care enough to send the very best!”

I frequently buy cards with envelopes, I also buy bulk packages of cardstock in the colors I use the most, especially white, red and green, and I use many scrapbooking papers, like mulberry paper and other lightly textured and colored papers available at most craft centers.

Card stock varies in wt. I have used 65# and up to 110# paper. Obviously the lighter weight stock folds easier, but I find some colors are only readily available in heavier stock. **Envelopes** come in varying sizes also. I purchased a box of white “Invitation” Envelopes” - **#5 ½** - (4.375” x 5.75”) for the smaller cards, and **A-7** - (5.25 x 7.25) for 5x7 cards. www.envelopes.com also www.cardsandpockets.com are good sources for multiple size envelopes as well as of colors.

Simple designs are best for stitching on cardstock. Heavy Satin and Fill stitches tend to perforate the card even with stabilizers. I always fuse a woven, fusible interfacing to the back of my embroidery card stock, cut approx. ¼” smaller than the card. (I currently use **Pellon Shape-flex**) A woven interfacing will not add as much bulk as some of the molded interfacings.

To fuse the embroidered piece to the card, I use a product called **Fine-Fuse.**, and a non-stick pressing sheet. (other fusible adhesives will work also) And to attach the printed greeting to the inside of the card, I like the double sided narrow (1/4”) tape called **this to that** by American Crafts, found in the scrapbooking section of many craft centers. (any double sided narrow tape will work.)

In addition to my rulers, scissors, rotary cutters and thread snips, other notions I find helpful in making my cards are, a non-colored **glue stick** (I use Scotch brand), and a Clover **Hera Marker** for creasing my cards for a sharp fold, creating a more professional finish.

see Notions page at www.heirloomstitches.net for many of these products

Construction:

To make a 5x7 card, cut the card stock 7” x 10” - (trim 1” from the bottom of an 8.5” x 11” sheet, and 1.5” from the side) **Card will fold to 5x7.**

Cut the top card (to be embroidered) 6.5” x 4.5”

Cut the interfacing for the top card 6.25” x 4.25”. **Fuse to top card with a Hot Dry Iron.**

Cut a piece of **Fine Fuse**, or other light weight fusible adhesive, 6.5 x 4.5”. Set aside for card assembly.

Greeting/verse sheet cut 9.5 x 6.75 from copy paper – (trim 1.5” from bottom and 1.75” from the side of an 8 ½ x 11” sheet of paper.)

To make a 4 ¼” x 5 ½” card, cut the card 5.5” x 8.5” (you can cut 2 from the width of an 8½” x 11” sheet of card stock.)

Cut the top card and Fine Fuse 3.75” x 5.” (cut 2 along length of card stock)

Cut fusible interfacing 3.5 x 4.5"

Greeting/verse sheet, cut 5.25" x 8.25" (Trim 1/2" from bottom and 1/4" from side, cut 2 sheets crosswise from length of paper)

****My card collections now include a **Placement file** to be stitched on your hooped stabilizer for exact placement of the embroidery card. If you are creating your own cards, or using an older set of mine, begin by creating your own placement template in L&E. Simply draw a rectangle outline, the dimension of your card. Save as a placement file. Recognize that this placement file is going to be larger than the embroidery design, and therefore may require a larger hoop. You can also use the placement file from one of my collections to create your own designs.****

Hoop a soft cut away stabilizer, a poly mesh works very well; (for heavier designs, I sometimes float a soft tear away under the hoop also).

Stitch the placement line on the stabilizer.

Use a **75 or 80 sharp needle**, and regular 40 wt. embroidery threads, although variegated, twists, and Metallics also work. (Metallics frequently require a larger needle with a larger eye, for better sewing. Cheaper Metallics often fray on card stock. I like Superior and Marathon metallics.)

****When embroidering on cards, I frequently turn off the scissors for jump stitches, but not thread changes. This provides a neater start and stop when design areas are small with few stitches. This can also create a bit of a problem if you do not trim your jumps after each color sews out, because as you continue, the foot may snag the jumps or at least cross over and anchor them down, making it more difficult to trim after all the sewing is complete. For me, I like the smoother starts and stops and can deal with the trims for a neater stitch-out and I do not need to trim the backs as they will never show.****

Many of my designs, have color stops that will allow different actions in the course of sewing, for instance I frequently use Mylar for accent, this is stitched as an applique' design, with a placement line, a tack down, a motif fill, (Mylar designs must have a close motif fill in order to cover the Mylar) and finally an edge stitch, sometimes a Zig-Zag /Satin Stitch, other times a decorative stitch. Most often these are all the same color thread, but will show different so that the machine will stop between steps.

When stitching is completed remove the hoop, trim any jumps, and remove the stabilizer from the back around the stitching area. You are ready to attach the embroidery to your card.

Carefully place the cut piece of **Fine Fuse** on the back of the embroidered card, place between the folds of a Teflon or non-stick pressing sheet, (this will protect iron and board from any excess fusible) with a **Hot Dry Iron** fuse the **Fine Fuse** to the back of the embroidered card, allow to cool. Peel away from the pressing sheet, center on the folded card stock, carefully centering the embroidered card to the front of the card, and fuse in place between the folds of the pressing sheet.

*** There have been times when I have embroidered directly onto a purchased card, and then cover the stitching with a decorative paper or fabric. ****

I prefer the look of the add-on card, but sometimes quicker suits the occasion.

Lettering on cards can be difficult, if you are creating your own designs, avoid any font that has a zig-zag or satin stitch as this will likely perforate the card.

Many of my cards have a digitized greeting stitched with either a running or a triple stitch, or, you can embellish your card with stamps and inks from scrapbooking. I have also played around with Word, and created and printed greetings on the card before stitching.

My designs come with word documents ready to print; I have left them as Word doc. files, so that you can edit wording if you wish and or color of printed font. There are greetings for both portrait and landscape style cards.

These verses were created in Word and the page has been divided into 2 "tables" or columns, the verse centered on half of one table.

As long as you are careful to keep your font size and or spacing the same as mine, you can highlight the wording and type in your own message. Play with it; just be sure that you maintain the original when saving.

To attach the "greeting" sheet to the inside of the card, I use a product called "**this to that**" by American Crafts; it is a ¼" double sided tape. I carefully place this along the top edge of the fold of the greeting sheet, be sure the fold of the sheet is against the fold of the card, peel the protective covering from the tape, close the card, press firmly in place.

If you are comfortable with your computer and Word you can also create a template of your own special logo for the back of your card, printed before you add the embroidery, or you can have a stamp made with your signature line. I like to let my friends know that I created their card especially for them.

Address the envelope and send the card to the person you "care enough to send the very best!"



Angel Magic



Angel Talk



Christmas Cheer

Current card collections at www.heirloomstitches.net

Check back frequently for newer sets. But most outline designs can be used for cards