



Decoupage

3D decoupage is the art of laying images to create a 3D effect. It is easy to start and can be inexpensive and very addictive.

Basic Tools & Materials

Decoupage sheet.

There are many different designs for 3D decoupage covering many different levels of skill. Most decoupage sheets have a main image and then the images needed to build up the picture. These are usually numbered so you know what image to start with. In addition to decoupage sheets, specifically used for this craft, other pictures that are repeated can be used. These images require you to work out the image that can be used to give that 3D effect. If you are a beginner it is best to go for a sheet that has already been worked out for you.

Looking at the decoupage sheets opposite, you can hopefully see that the elegant lady is a lot easier to cut out than the flowers.



As well as the decoupage opposite, there are also decoupage sheets called **Pyramid**. These images (example shown on the left hand side) are not cut around the detail of the images. These are cut around the straight edges of the whole image. You have the main image and then the main image reduced down slightly each time. These layers are then placed on top of each other. This may be an ideal way to start you off in the world of decoupage.



Scissors or knife and cutting mat

When using scissors, it is recommended that you use two pairs. A large pair to cut away the surplus paper or cut-outs and a small pair for the smaller and more intricate details. It is important to make sure your scissors are sharp and only use them on paper to avoid them becoming blunt. If you prefer to use a knife, it is a good idea to make sure the blade is sharp. If you're not sure just replace the blade. A blunt blade could cause you to ruin your decoupage. Before starting to cut with your knife, make sure you place it on top of a self-healing cutting mat. This will stop you from damaging your surface underneath.

Silicone/Gel glue or foam pads

Silicone/Gel or foam pads are used to create the height of the different layers. Silicone or Gel will not dry straight away but will give you time to adjust your image and will dry clear. When applying the silicone/Gel use either a cocktail stick or use the syringe supplied within the silicone/Gel kits. Foam pads stick straight away however, you can use a prit stick on the bottom of each foam pad which will give you time to move your image if you need to.

When applying the first layer, instead of using the silicone/Gel or foam pads you can use PVA or white glue.

Tweezers

Tweezers are a useful tool to have for crafting in general. For decoupage they can be used to pick up the smaller cut-outs giving you more control when placing the image on top of another.