

Shelf Card Instructions

by

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FM197 Gardening Shelf - FP111 Craft Shelf - FP120 Christmas Shelf
FP127 Wizard Shelf - FP128 Toy Shelf

These instructions are applicable to all of the shelf design rubber stamps, so there are no specific measurements given. The nature of the designs means that you can add all sorts of extra bits and pieces to the shelf once it has been attached and decouped.

1. Stamp the design five or six times onto thin white card (160gsm weight is perfect) using a black Stazon ink pad or other permanent ink. Cut one image as a panel and mat onto your chosen colours of card. Attach the panel onto a 7" x 5" card blank (with the fold at the top) so that it sits to one side.
2. Colour the edges of the images on the panel - they will be covered by other layers, so there is no need to colour them completely. Colour the extra stamped images - you may wish to do this as you go along to avoid colouring areas that you don't use.
3. To create the 3 - dimensional shelf, measure the length of the stamped shelf and cut a strip of stiff white card (anything over 200 gsm is fine). Now cut the strip into 15mm wide pieces (you can vary the depth of the shelves as you wish, but 15mm is a good size). Cut around eight of these.
4. Use a strong adhesive (Glossy Accents is perfect) and stick the panels on top of each other so that they form a thick, and very strong, shelf. Check the depth is right by placing the edge against the stamped image...the shelf should be the same depth.
5. Once you have the right number of layers, colour both sides lightly in your colour choice and, if you wish, sketch some darker lines along the length to emulate wood grain. Colour the edge of a piece of white paper in the same colour, trim to the depth of the shelf and glue this to the front of the layered shelf, wrapping it around the sides and to the back for neatness.
6. Glue the long edge of the layered shelf directly on top of the stamped image on the card and hold in place for a few moments. Now cut several rectangles of thin white card measuring around 15 mm x 1cm. Fold each of these in half to form little brackets. Colour one half of each the same colour as the shelf. Now glue the brackets in position so that the coloured half attaches to the shelf whilst the white half sticks to the stamped image. The brackets will be hidden behind the layers of decoupage. Note that you may need to trim some of the brackets a

little narrower to ensure that they don't show.

7. Now you can begin to decoupage the images in the normal way. You can decide how many layers of each image you wish to add as you go. The shelf will become stronger with each successive layer that is added.

8. Create a matted greeting panel that will fit in the space at the side of the shelf image and either stamp, add a peel off or write a message down its' length.

9. You can now have real fun adding extra items to the shelf! Lots of little embellishments may be glued into place and each card you make can look very different and can be made to suit the recipient. The shelf stamps which have a blank panel hanging below the shelf are designed to allow you to add a name or extra greeting.

Extra information:

You can make the shelves by using mount card instead of layering the thin card. However, it is very tricky to cut thick, heavy card accurately enough in such a small size and, although the method described takes a little longer, it gives a much tidier result.

When posting the 3D cards you can, of course, put them into a box envelope. However, if you roll up two strips of card, so that they look rather like cigar tubes, securing them with tape, you can place one on either side of the shelf and place into a padded envelope, strengthening with some stiff card at the back and front. They are also rather nice just placed into a gift bag if you are delivering the cards by hand. Remember how much a card like this would cost in a shop, so don't skimp on the posting of it!

You can also, of course, use the stamps in a more conventional way i.e. just stamp several times and layer the images without adding a 3D shelf.

The stamps can also be used to just add certain images to cards as well i.e. you may wish to simply use the plant pots from the Gardening Shelf for instance.