

## CCL – Art Squares & Gradients – 30 October 2024 - by John Lockwood

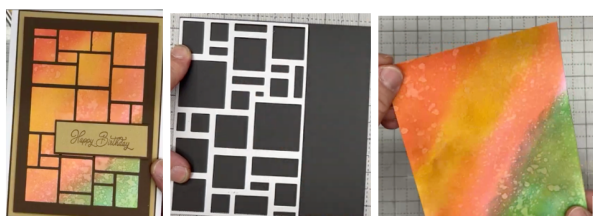


Instructions by June Smith

John has created a 'You Tube Video' dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024, using the new PCD277 - Presscut Background Collection - Art Squares die set. John demonstrates lots of techniques and how to make a card. I would advise that you visit it as well as following these instructions.

### Information:

We will be making our background pattern using the Fusion inks.

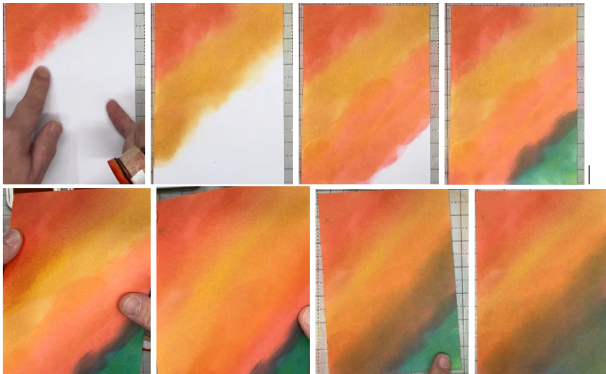


### Materials

PCD277 - Presscut Background Collection - Art Squares (2)  
JND508 – Handy Sentiment Stamps – 'Thank you for being you' or similar  
Plain White card  
CA Canvas Card Neutrals  
Fusion Inks – Gold: Berry, Sunfruit, Lychee and Pearl: Verdant  
Matching Daubers for each of the Fusions.  
Water Spray Bottle  
Versafine Vintage Sepia Ink Pad  
Double Sided Adhesive Sheet  
CT2060 Multipurpose Craft Mat  
Fan Brush, Water & Pencil  
A5 Die Cutting Machine  
Jewellery tray or clear box lid  
Sandy Art Creative with Sand - Pollen – Black Grey & White, or similar  
Glue Glaze  
2mm Foam Tape  
Craft Kit

### Method:

- Bring in a piece of white card cut to 5" x 7", lay this onto your Multipurpose Craft Mat card. We are going to add the Fusions from the top left corner down to the bottom right corner. Using the Berry Fusion and matching dauber, pick up some of the ink and add across the top left corner, letting it run out at the bottom, if you look at the photo below you can see how the ink gradients down. Then repeat with Sunfruit so you are going over the Berry edge to merge the colours. Repeat the same process with the Lychee, and again with the Verdant. Then repeat with the Berry so that you are pulling it into the Lychee. If you look at the 5th photo below you can see that it is a lot less seamless and softer. You need to then repeat these processes putting more colour onto the card so that they merge in seamlessly.



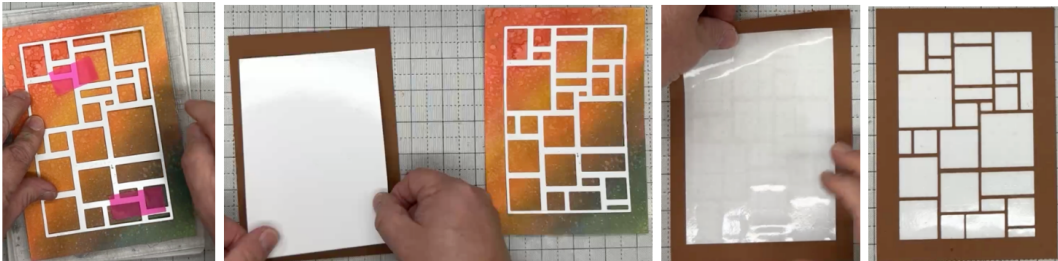
- We now want to squirt some water onto the mat, add the fan brush into it both sides to pick up the water, then hold a pencil over the design and behind the brush, and keep tapping the brush onto the pencil, you can do this as much as you want, moving it around as you go, pick up more water if you need to, you will then get a softer bleaching of colour. You can also splash bigger blobs of water at the top if you want and it literally bleaches larger areas of the design. Clean your desk down with more water and a micro fibre cloth.
- John was asked if you can wash the ink blending pads, the answer is no do not wash them as you will be removing all the ink from the pad. What John does is to add a double sided sticky dot onto the top right-hand corner of the Fusion, you can then add the dauber pad onto it. The refills are available from The Art of Craft and there are 10 in a packet.

This next bit you can do in 2 different ways:

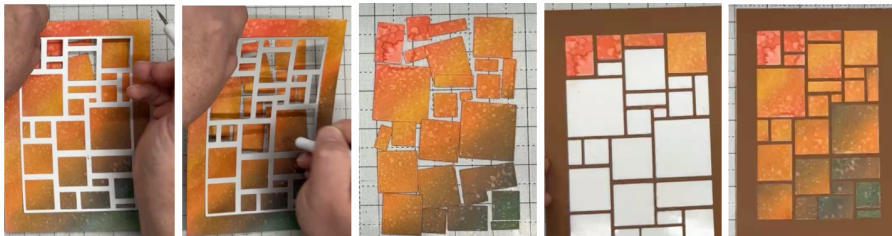
- Take a piece of the new Light Brown card and cut this to 5¾" x 4⅛", then add your 'Art Squares' inside die and run this through your die cutting machine, be very careful when you remove from the die cutting machine because you can keep the fall away squares. Position these on a piece of card in the same order and carefully put them to one side. You can use these to make another card, there are lots of samples that John and the Angels have done using the fall away pieces.



- This time John is going to cut the coloured piece from the same die, tape it down and run through your die cutting machine. Carefully slide the cut piece onto your table. Then bring in your double sided adhesive sheet, cut it down to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", turn the brown piece over and remove one side of the sheet and add this onto the card. Be very careful if you are not using the new mat, that you put another piece of scrap card behind your frame so you can pick it up, if you are using the new mat you don't need to put a piece of card behind.



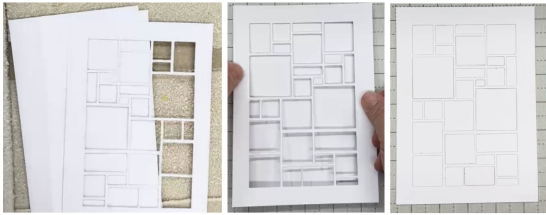
- John is now using the new Crafts Too Pick-up Tool, (take the ends off and see more tools, a brilliant idea). Carefully begin to lift the die up and at the same time press the pickup tool onto each square so that you will end up with the squares still in the correct position on your mat.
- Use the pickup end of your tool to pick up the 1st square and add this onto the sticky area, if you find that it is not in the right place, use the pick-up tool end to remove it and put it back in the right place. Repeat for the next square, then for the 3rd and 4th square, turn them around 180 degrees and add them back into position, you have the start of a completely different pattern. Continue this way until all of the pieces are in position.



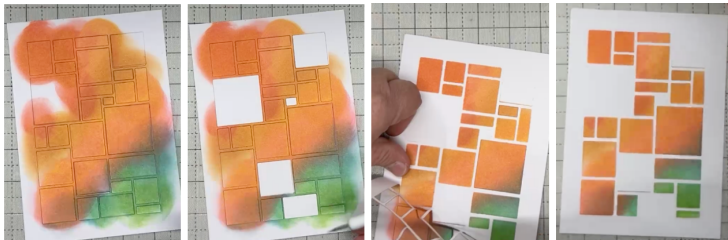
Here is another way of doing it, using something that John thought up earlier.

- Using the same Plain White card cut 2 pieces which are 5" x 7". Using one of them to cut out the die, again keep the pieces in order when you poke them out of the die and carefully put to one side. Then take the die cut piece and place into your spray box and add a light spray with 3M Spray glue. Add this onto your other white piece. Take a selection of the inside cut pieces and

give these a really light spray glue, turn them over and place back into position. These would look brilliant if you used Pollen on some of the squares.



- Bring back in your Fusion inks and daubers and repeat the same colouring as you did before. Then take your pokey tool and take out the ones that were not stuck down, then when you remove the main body of the frame you get the white outside and a few white squares.



- We now want to take this a step forward, what I could do is to replace the frame that we did earlier over it, or we can cut another piece of white card to 5" x 7" and cut the frame out again, carefully turn the die cut over and press out all the pieces in the right order, put these carefully to one side. Then drop the white frame over the piece and you get a completely different look, you have also got at least 2 sets of cut outs to make another card. Spray glue the back of the white piece and add over your design, you can also see the lines around the white squares, you could stamp sentiments into the white squares.
- We are then going to do more, bring in the coloured piece that you did before, the one which you flicked water onto, again add the die evenly as you did before and run this through your die cutting machine, poke the pieces out in order onto your mat. Take some of the 2mm foam tape and add a couple of strips across the white squares, or one strip for the small ones. Remove the yellow backing from the foam tape and add the corresponding die cuts into place. You can then see and compare the 2 card fronts which have been made in the same/similar way but with a completely different look.

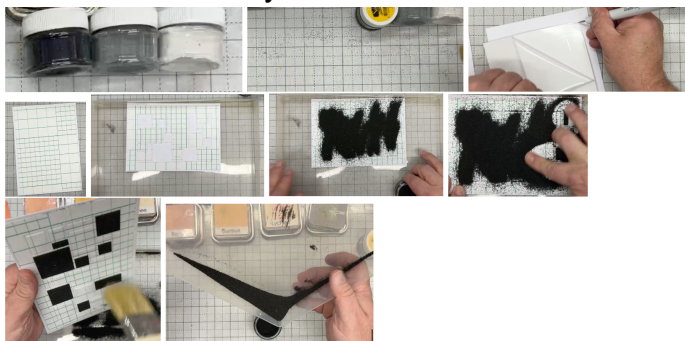


**Tip:** I have just had a thought, if you take your inside die and place this onto a piece of photocopy paper and write the number 1- 26 in each square, you can then repeat



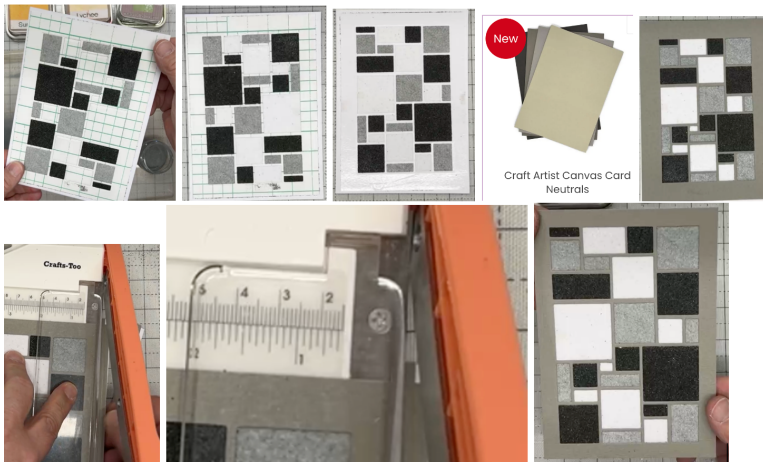
this and get 4 of them on a page, then print out the page. When you cut out your die carefully place the design face down onto your mat and add numbers 1-26 in the same order (the numbers will be left to right instead of right to left), you could then keep them whilst you are making your card or put the squares into a clear plastic bag until you want to use them. Just a thought.

- Another thing we can do is to add some of the 'Sandy Art Creative with Sand - Pollen, (you can use embossing powder, glitter, tiny beads etc.) you will need some more of the double sided adhesive sheet, cut to 5" x 7", then cut 2 pieces of white card to 5¼" x 7¼". Pollen is small particles of sand and coloured. **Tip:** I use one of those trays with sides and the end is a hole that you can pour the product you are using back into the pot; they are ideal for so many things especially if you are using beads and things like that. You can see in the photo below that John opened the lid and some of the Pollen fell out onto the mat, so he used his trusty paint brush to clean them off.
- We need to remove the shiny side of the sheet so that you are looking at the stick part, turn this over and place onto one of the white cut pieces, the grids are on the top side. What we then want to do is place the die onto the grids BUT we don't want to cut right through the card we want to create a sticker, so we glue the white pieces together, John is using spray glue for speed, you can use a wet glue, but you have to make sure it is dry before you die cut it, you then have a 600gsm piece of card and the adhesive sheet on top. Add your die onto the front, secure with tape, and run through your die cutting machine once. When you remove the die you will notice that the squares have been cut but not right through to the back of the card.
- Bring in a tray, rub it over with a tumble drier sheet, place the die cut onto it and remove some of the top coverings revealing the sticky squares, you might want to take your time planning which pieces to remove, John is just taking them off randomly. Starting with the Black (or your own choice) and sprinkle over the sticky sheet, use your finger to rub each of the sticky squares, if you don't like the feel of the pollen you could use a disposable glove. Hold the card up over the tray and brush off any Pollen with a brush, John uses a very cheap one from the 99p + 1p shop or similar. Shake the excess Pollen into the corner of your tray and put it back into the pot, you should find that because you wiped the tray first with the tumble drier sheet that the pollen moves easily into the corner and doesn't stick to the tray.



- We are then going to repeat this process using the Grey and then the White. We can then reveal the rest of the sticky sheet cover to give us a beautiful

monochrome look. We are then going to take a light grey colour of the new Canvas Card Neutrals; these are 220 gsm and there are 4 co-ordinating colours in each pack. Cut this to 5¼"x 7¼", and add the die, then run through your machine. You could use this as A4 or longways.



- We are then going to trim this down, so bring in your guillotine and if you line up the right-hand end of the coloured squares with the solid metal, you can see a screw in it just where the 2cm mark is and cut this down, then repeat for all 4 sides. It then measures nearly 4¾" x 6¾", so just trim this down to 4⅝" x 6⅝".
- You could add this to a larger card with a black and white layer, and add a sentiment across the right-hand side, very modern card. Place the other pieces to the side.
- We could take the black and white piece and add that onto a top folding 5" x 7" white card blank



Your creations are now complete. I hope you have enjoyed these instructions.

John is now giving us a sneak peek of what is coming up on Friday at 10am & 1pm on the Highlight Crafts facebook live spree event, you can order from there and you can watch back on these, they will be available for 24 hours. They are also available, on The Art of Craft website from 6pm on Saturday. The other thing that we are finally launching is the 'Mini die cutting machine' You all know by now that Create & Craft are no longer trading. John is also demoing on the Art of Craft website, keep a look out for the notifications from them.

This 1st card has lights, and if you move the card it looks as though the dawn is rising behind the Trees and Deer's. The 3 sentiments are designed to work with all your other JND dies. Carol's stepper card is designed to work perfectly with the Gingerbread people and matching papers. The tag box will take 2 Ferrero Rocher.

However, the boxes are for all year round, not just for Christmas. They would make brilliant wedding favour boxes, or for a small birthday gift, even that diamond ring!. The 3 Tags on a card is made with the beautiful Mirror, Glitter and light blues. Also, the tag die set will go through the new Mini die cutting machine.

