

# Snow scene

Decorated with embossed sparkly snowflakes against an inky-blue sky, this is a quick and easy seasonal card that needs few materials. When folded, the card fits a standard-size envelope.

## YOU WILL NEED

210 x 300mm (8¼ x 12in) piece of watercolour paper  
Broad paintbrush  
Water  
Prussian-blue artist's acrylic ink  
Ruler  
Bone folder  
Snowflake rubber stamps  
Clear embossing pad  
White and silver sparkling embossing powder  
Domestic iron  
Fabric adhesive  
220mm (8¾in) of white pom-pom braid

## TECHNIQUES

Colourwashing with ink, page 31  
Three-panel cards, page 14  
Embossing with a stamp, page 62  
Fabric adhesive, page 25

## PROJECT SPEED

1



1 Using the broad paintbrush, apply water in a bold, undulating line across the paper, approximately a third of the way up. This line will form the skyline, with the unpainted area below suggesting a snowy landscape. Brush water roughly across the upper two-thirds of the paper. For the best results, do not work right to the edges and do not over-wet the paper.

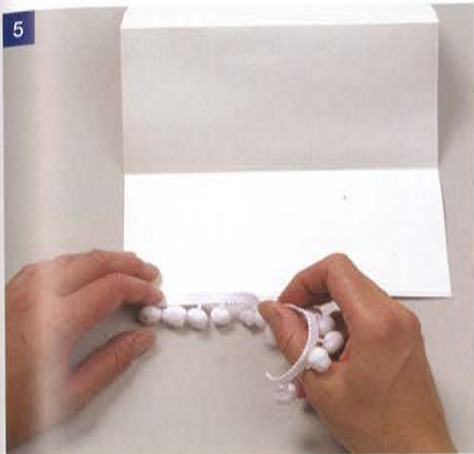


2 Brush on the ink, allowing the colour to flood the wet area of the paper. Add more colour as required. The ink will gather in some areas, which will dry to a darker shade than other areas. The effect is random and will be different every time. Leave the paper to dry completely and, if necessary, place it under a few heavy books for a while to flatten it. Score and fold the paper to make a three-panel, concertina card.



3 Consider the best positions for the embossed snowflakes and stamp the motifs onto the card using the rubber stamps and the embossing pad. Allow some of the motifs to cross onto the white un-inked area; the sparkling powder will ensure they show up.





4 Sprinkle on the embossing powder and tip off the excess. Hold the back of the card in front of the soleplate of a hot iron and let the powder melt and fuse together to complete the embossing process.

5 Apply fabric adhesive to the flat part of the pom-pom braid. Stick it to the back of the left-hand panel. Leave to dry and then trim the ends level with the top and bottom of the card.



# Christmas tree card

If every year you mean to make your own seasonal greetings cards, but never quite manage to find the time, then this is the project for you. You will spend longer writing and sealing them into envelopes than you did making the cards!



## YOU WILL NEED

Cutting mat  
Serrated knife  
Sponge  
White emulsion paint  
Flat dish  
21 x 10cm (8¼ x 4in) silver  
metallic single-fold card blank  
Glue pen  
Small coloured cup sequins  
All-purpose adhesive  
Gold star sequin

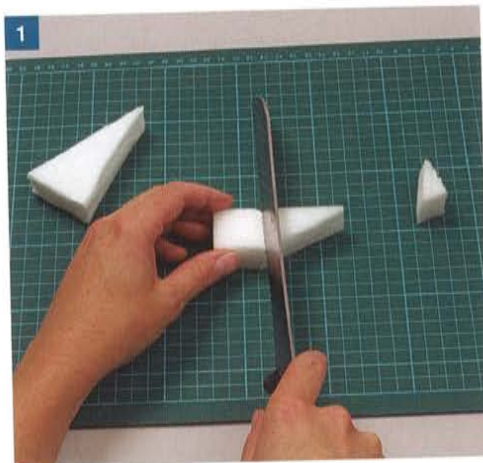
## TECHNIQUES

Simple stamping, page 41  
Single-fold cards, page 13  
Glue pen, page 24  
All-purpose adhesive, page 24

## PROJECT SPEED

1

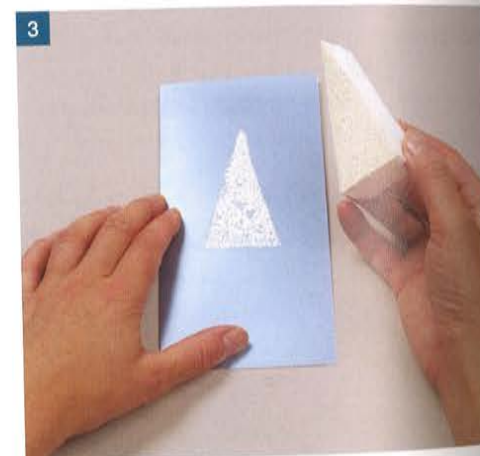
2



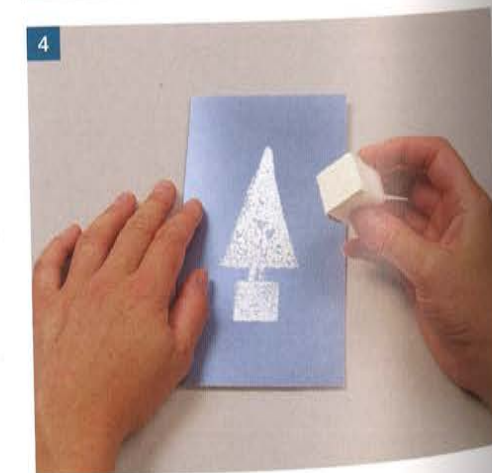
**1** Working on a cutting mat, use a serrated knife to cut the sponge into an elongated triangle to make a simple Christmas tree shape 90mm (3½in) tall and 50mm (2in) across at the base. From the off cuts, cut a 25 x 25mm (1 x 1in) square, which will make the base and the trunk of the tree.



**2** Decant some white paint into a flat dish and spread it out thinly. Dip the face of the triangular sponge into the paint, ensuring that the surface is evenly covered.



**3** Press the triangle onto the front of the card, positioning it centrally and with the point approximately 40mm (1½in) down from the top. Gently lift the sponge off the card, being careful not to smudge the print.



**4** Coat the face of the square sponge by dipping it into the white paint. Make the pot by stamping a square centrally, about 10mm (½in) below the tree. The trunk is made with the same square sponge held at an angle to make a narrow line, joining the tree to the pot. Leave to dry completely.

5



5 Use a glue pen to stick on a few sequin baubles and a dab of all-purpose adhesive to attach the star to the top of the tree.

### Tip

For speed, buy ready-made cards to decorate. Once you have cut the sponges and gathered the materials together, it's easiest to produce a run of cards in stages. Lay a number out on a work surface and print all the triangles, then all the pots and trunks. Leave them to dry, then stick on all the sequins and finally all the stars. What could be easier or quicker? You can use the same technique to make gift-wrap and tags for a fully co-ordinated look.



# Colourful christmas

A modern interpretation of a favourite festive motif, this card can be worked in colours to suit your own Christmas theme. You could also try using the same techniques with other simple seasonal shapes, such as stars or snowflakes.

## YOU WILL NEED

Tree template, page 191  
15 x 10cm (6 x 4in) piece of tracing paper  
15 x 10cm (6 x 4in) pink and red duo card blank  
Star punch  
Dressmaker's pin  
Sharp embroidery needle  
Lime-green stranded embroidery thread  
Purple flat sequins  
Glue pen  
White opalescent star sequin

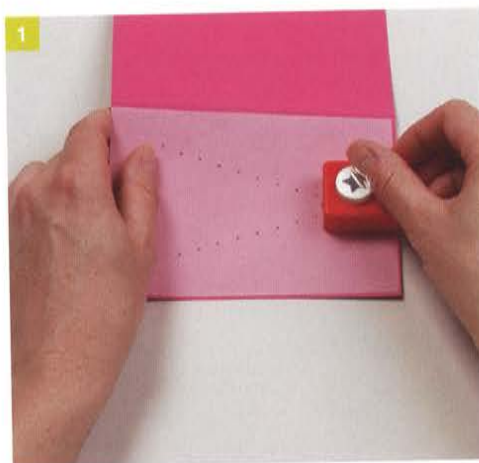
## TECHNIQUES

Transferring a template, page 33  
Punching shapes, page 54  
Piercing paper, page 55  
Straight stitches, page 44  
Glue pen, page 24

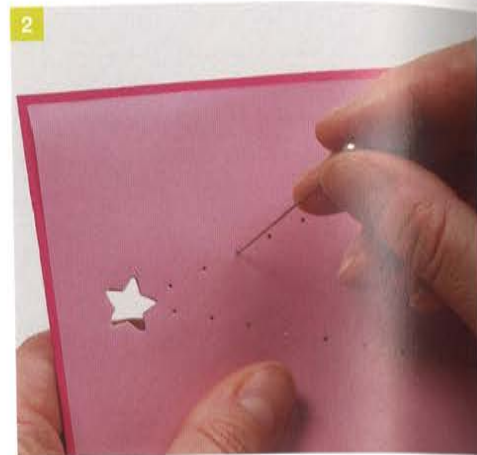
## PROJECT SPEED

1

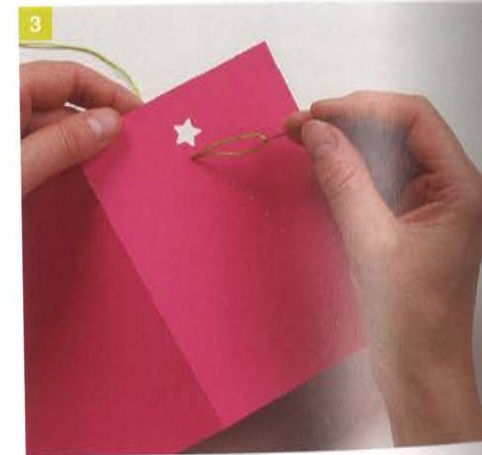
2



1 Trace the template onto the piece of tracing paper. Lay the paper over the front of the card blank and punch out the star.



2 Using the pin, pierce holes through the card at the points marked on the template.

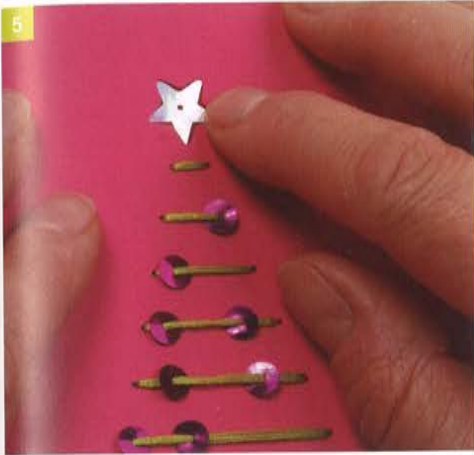


3 Thread the needle with a long length of embroidery thread and tie a knot in one end. Push the needle through the top left-hand hole, from back to front, and pull the thread through right up to the knot.



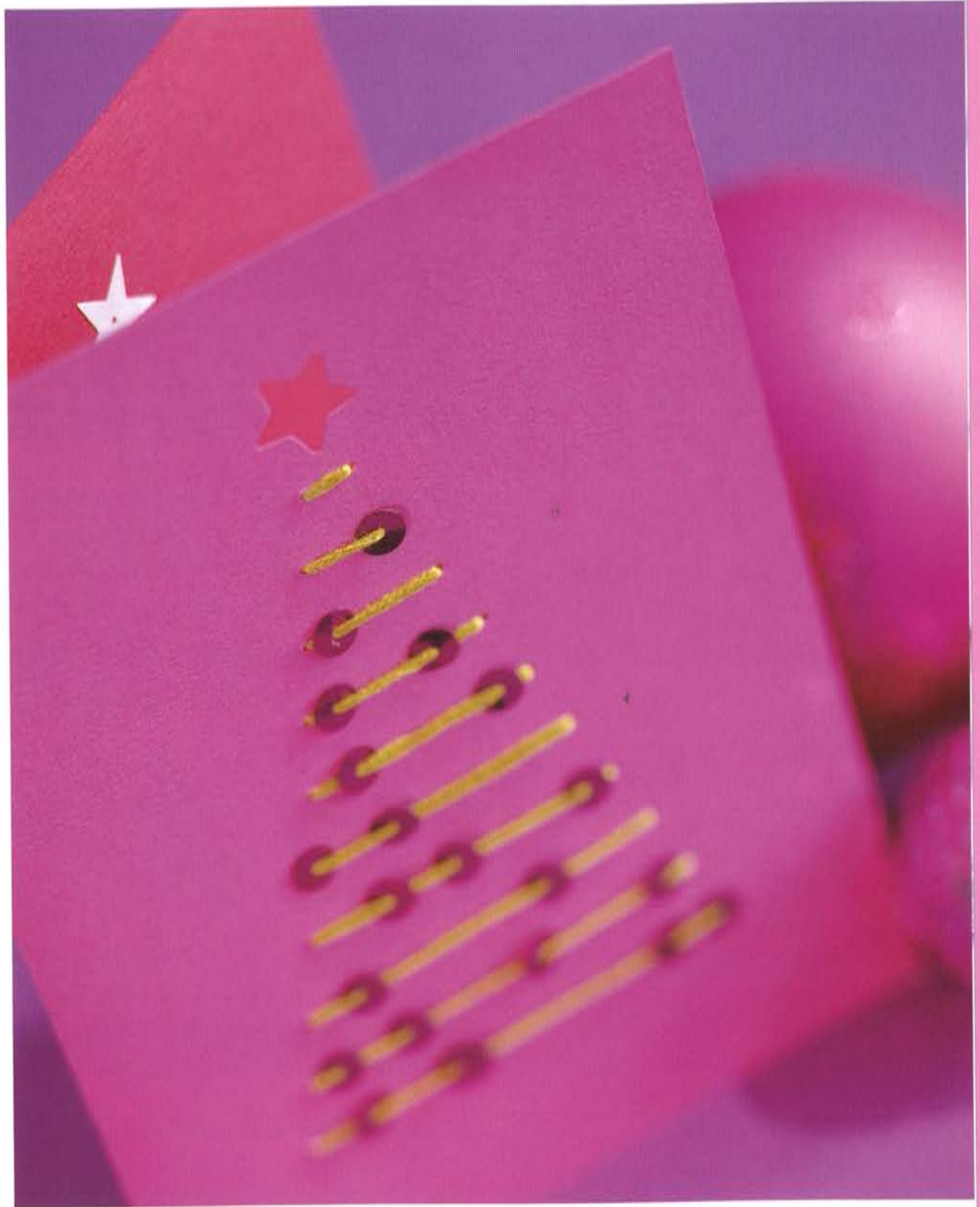
4 Take the needle down through the top right-hand hole to make the first stitch. Bring it back up through the next left-hand hole, thread on a sequin, then push the needle down through the parallel right-hand hole.

5 Continue, threading sequins onto each stitch, until the tree is complete. Fasten off the thread on the back. With the card closed, glue the star sequin through the star aperture to the inside back of the card.



### Tip

*This colour combination of pink and red card with purple sequins looks very contemporary, but for a more traditional feel you could use green thread for the tree and gold sequins for the decoration. Alternatively, try clashing colours for dramatic impact – lime green with fuchsia pink and tangerine orange, perhaps.*



# Christmas gift

Like all projects where large quantities are involved, it's best to set up a mini production line; preparing the squares, tying the ribbons, sticking the motifs to the cards, and so on. Best of all, split the tasks between the family and have a jolly evening getting into the festive spirit.

## YOU WILL NEED

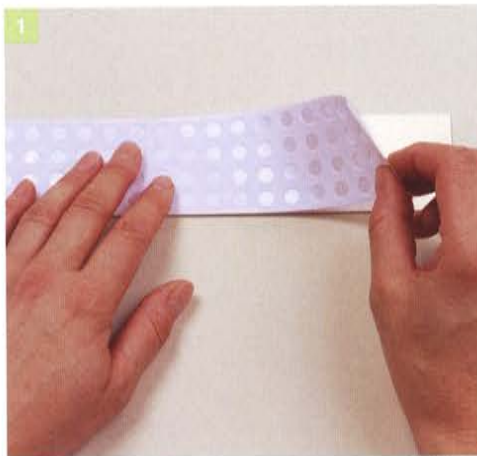
Spotted embossed wallpaper  
Paper adhesive  
Thick card  
Craft knife  
Steel rule  
Cutting mat  
Narrow silver ribbon  
Scissors  
Double-sided tape  
12 x 17cm (4¾ x 6¾in) smooth white card blank  
Glue pen  
Sequins

## TECHNIQUES

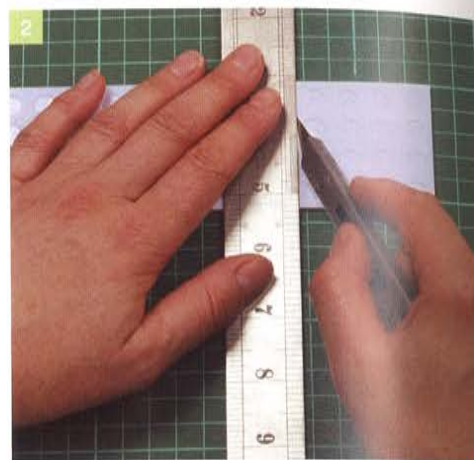
Single-fold cards, page 13  
Double-sided tape, page 26  
Relief mounting, page 67  
Glue pen, page 24

## PROJECT SPEED

1



1 Cut a 5cm (2½in) strip of wallpaper, taking the placing of the pattern into account. Using paper adhesive, stick the wallpaper to an identically sized piece of thick card.



2 Using the craft knife and steel rule on the cutting mat, cut the strip into 5cm (2½in) squares.



3 Lay a length of ribbon around each square and tie the ends in a bow on one side. Trim the ends.

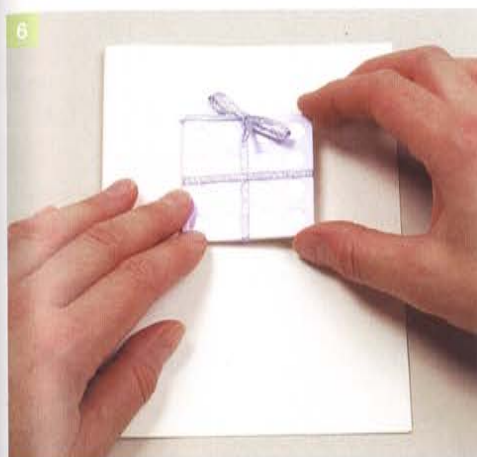
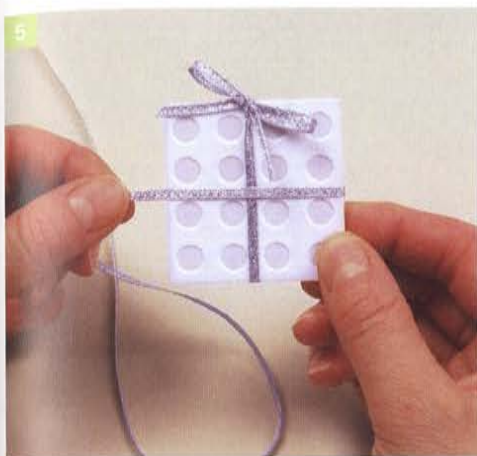
4 Working on the back, stick double-sided tape around the edges of the square. Peel off the backing paper.



5 Lay a piece of ribbon across the square at right angles to the first piece. Stick the ends to the tape on the back.

6 Stick the whole square to the front of the card.

7 Embellish the square further by using a glue pen to stick on a few sequins.



## Tip

When you cut your square of wallpaper for the motif, take the pattern into account; you may need to adjust the size of the panel slightly so that you do not cut through any of the circles on the paper. Make sure, too, that the ribbon is narrow enough to fit neatly in between the rows of dots without obscuring any of the pattern.



**C&B**  
CRAFTS



# ULTIMATE CARDMAKING

A collection of over 100 techniques and 50  
inspirational projects **SARAH BEAMAN**

