

## Crazy pieced fabric postcards

### Materials for printed leaves:

- A selection of small to medium sized dried leaves
- Shiva paintstiks in autumnal colours
- A piece of plain, neutral coloured prewashed fabric for the leaf printing
- Protective covering for your work surface
- Disposable plastic gloves
- Double sided iron on fusible webbing to apply the printed leaves to your cards

The leaf rubbings need to be done first as you have to allow time for the paintstiks to dry completely. Cover your work surface with some sort of protective covering, then assemble your leaves and get your paintstiks ready.



Remove the outer skin from your paintstiks, either peel it off with your finger nails or use a sharp bladed knife.

Wearing your disposable plastic gloves, take one of your leaves and place it with the veins facing up, then take one of your paintstiks and rub lightly over the surface, you can use several different colours and blend them with your fingers.



Place your piece of fabric right side down on top of the leaf and rub gently with your fingers making sure that you rub over the whole leaf and edges to get a clear print.



Repeat this process until you have as many leaf prints as you want for your cards.



Leave to dry out completely for at least 24 hours and then heat set with a dry iron.

Next take the fabric with your printed and heat set leaves, and apply double sided fusible webbing to the wrong side following the manufacturer's instructions for your particular fusible. Cut out each leaf and set aside.



## Materials for cards

For each card you will need:

- One piece of plain cotton or muslin fabric 7½ inches x 5½ inches
- One piece of "Tear Away" stabilizer 7½ inches x 5½ inches
- One piece of Fast2Fuse (Standard weight) double-sided interfacing 7 inches x 5 inches
- One piece of plain, light coloured cotton fabric for the back of the postcard 7 inches x 5 inches
- Scraps of fabrics in autumnal colours

Layer your piece of 7½ inches x 5½ inches cotton or muslin fabric on top of the stabilizer.

Take one of your scraps and cut it into a five sided irregular shape and place this on top of the cotton background, pin in place.



Take another piece of fabric and line one straight edge against one of the edges of your shape.



Stitch with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam. Open out and press.



Take your next piece of fabric and line up the straight edge with the next edge of your five sided shape.



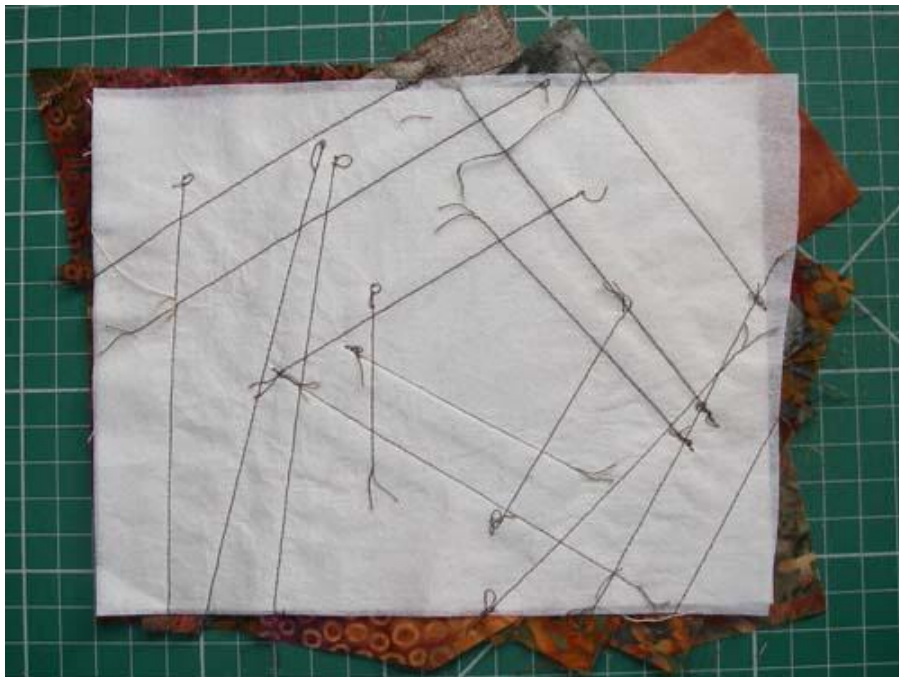
Stitch and press outwards. Continue working in this manner until all five sides of your shape have been covered.



Then continue adding pieces in a random manner until the whole background is covered. It doesn't matter if the fabrics overlap the edges because you will trim everything once you finish.



Once you have finished adding fabrics to the background turn it over and using a ruler and rotary cutter trim to 7 inches x 5 inches.





Arrange your leaves on the crazy pieced background and then once you are pleased with your arrangement fuse them in place.



Now you can either leave them as they are or have fun and embellish them with threads, beads or whatever you feel like.





Apply Fast2Fuse to the back of your card following the instructions and then add the plain light coloured piece of fabric for the back of your card. Once everything is lined up accurately fuse permanently.

To finish the edges you can use a decorative thread and a zigzag stitch. Go round all the edges once using the zigzag at the standard width and length, then go round again using a denser stitch and slightly wider to completely cover the edges and your first row of stitching.



Your card is now ready to send or give as a present.

