

Eastwicks Paper & Ink

Card Making and More



Top Ink Blending Tips



Lets Start With Supplies

Paper: If you struggle at all with ink blending, my first recommendation is to change the paper you are using.

I know lots of people swear by Bristol smooth, but I have tested numerous papers and have found 100% cotton paper is by far the best, easiest and most forgiving to use while giving you the most beautiful blends.

If you really struggle with ink blending or you want to try something different, I cannot recommend enough, adding 100% cotton paper to your blending arsenal.

Most 100% cotton paper is watercolor paper which comes in all kinds of brands and textures. Hot press, Cold Press and Rough are the 3 textures that come to mind.

Hot Press is very smooth, great for blending and stamping.

Cold Press is a bit bumpier, giving some texture. Still great to blend on, not great for stamping, but can be done.

Rough, is as it sounds, very textured. I don't use this.

For ink blending I would stick with the Hot Press or Cold Press. Any brand works well, but I have found [Strathmore 500 Series](#) is affordable and works wonderfully. [Arches brand](#) is also another favorite, but shop around for the best price as it can vary.

Up Next:

Tools: Tools can be tricky not because there are so many, but because what each can/will do.

Blending Brushes are great for light soft blending. I have found I need to keep adding ink to deepen the color when I want a strong color payoff. The trade off here is that you don't need to work real hard to add the color to paper.

Flat Foam Blenders (think Ranger mini) are awesome for strong color payoff so having both tools in your pocket is a wise choice, because you can start soft with the blending brushes and deepen the color when you need to with the foam.

What I have found with this particular tool is you have to work harder to add the pressure to blend. Not great for people who have hand/wrist problems. Your paper will make a great difference in ease of blending, but you still have to add pressure/force to blend the colors together.

Dome Foam Blenders (think Scrapbook.com) have this firm disk under the dome and before the velcro. What this does, is allow you to not have to put as much pressure/force on your hand and wrist when blending. Great if you have pain in your hands and wrists. If I had to choose between each foam tool, I would go with the dome. It makes it a bit easier to blend when you don't have to manually add that pressure/force.

And Finally

Techniques: One of my best blending techniques is doing a figure 8 motion. A lot of people do a circular motion, but with the figure 8 motion you cover more area and it takes less work, pressure or force to apply the ink. It also blends the colors perfectly.

Another great technique is to start at the top of your panel and swipe down. It provides streaks of color and works well with light medium and dark color palettes, but looks really cool and takes minimal effort to apply the ink. This works really well with blending brushes.

Let's wrap it up! Now if you are a regular follower of my Youtube Channel and blog, you know I much prefer to “show you” how. So if you click [here](#) it will take you to a private video on my Youtube Channel to see these tips in action. If you are new to my channel and blog, welcome. I am glad you are here and I encourage you to check out [this video](#) and many more on my channel to inspire your creativity.