Blendabilities Class
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Tips & Tricks

Blendabilities come in packs of 3 with a light, medium & dark color, for maximum shading flexibility! They are not sold individually, so you'll want to try to use them as a set as much as you can. You must use a Tuxedo Black Memento pad for stamping images you want to color, or heat emboss in your preferred color.

You don't need special paper for blendas – but they were formulated for our Whisper White & Very Vanilla. Watercolor paper and Shimmer CS do add additional effects, but aren't required. Be aware that the markers will bleed through your paper, so make sure to have a scrap or grid-paper surface to work on.

The Color Lifter is NOT an eraser – it "pushes" the ink around, and helps with blending. Use it to add highlights, too.

There are 2 schools of thought on coloring: from light to dark, or dark to light. Personally, I prefer sparing dark to light, so that I can then go back and add additional blending with the lightest marker as I finish. Lay color with small circular motions. Be cautious when approaching the Memento-inked lines, as an alcohol-based marker, sometimes the ink can "bloom" outside your lines.

When coloring gems or other embellishments, try to use the SIDE of your markers, to save your brush tips.

Don't be afraid to keep on coloring – the CS can take it! If you aren't happy with how it's coming out, make sure to pause every few minutes to allow the inks to really dry – the effect of the blendas may soften or blend better as the alcohol continues to evaporate.

Because Blendas are alcohol-based, they dry out VERY fast – so cap them tightly in between uses. Blenda caps have an additional well inside to help hold the moisture in – be careful when capping! You don't want to mash up your tip. Once placed, press cap in place against table til you hear the click! Markers are not refillable, and should be stored FLAT.

Be cautious opening new markers the first few times – because the markers are "harder" to open, a little splash of ink might fly off and splatter your project. You can see where this happened to me on our first project below!

Stampin' Up! has several YouTube videos available specifically on blendas, and they can be found here:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCgx4panAESg39TFyPXK47tLsbE1oxeUo

Bloom With Hope Card
Supplies used: Bloom With Hope Stamp Set; Whisper White & Calypso Coal CS; Memento Ink Pad; Calypso Coral & Daffodil Delight Blendas, with Old Olive Marker for stems; Ovals Collection Framelits; Finial Press EF (retired); Occasions Piercing Template.

This card is intended to offer a "shaded" stamp for you to work on.

Begin with a standard portrait top-fold card base in Calypso Coral. Cut and emboss a white layer at 5 ¼" x 4". Cut and pierce a Calypso oval with 5th largest oval. (All done for you in class!) On white CS, stamp your arrangement of flowers and sentiment in Memento, and cut out with 4th largest oval. Go ahead and stamp flowers on lower right front corner of envelope.

Color in your flowers using blendas: add yellows to the centers, and work the corals on the petals. Color any visible stems with Old Olive markers.

Glue stamped image to Calypso Coral oval and pop-dot over white embossed layer.

'Stache Tags
Supplies used: Santa Stache & Wonderful Wreath Stamp Sets; Old Olive, Cherry Cobbler, Smoky Slate & Whisper White CS; Angled & Scalloped Tag Topper Punches; Memento Black Ink Pad; Old Olive, Cherry Cobbler, Smoky Slate & Flesh Tones Blendas; Mustache Framelits Die; Old Olive & Cherry Cobbler Baker's Twines; 2-Way Glue Pen; Dazzling Diamonds Glitter.

These tags are intended to offer "unshaded" stamps for you to work with.

Prepare 1 tag each in Cherry Cobbler & Old Olive CS using tag punches. Go ahead and stamp to/from at bottoms. (Done for you in class!)

Stamp Santa & Nutcracker onto Whisper White, and again on smaller scrap for just the mustaches. The Nutcracker mustache is on Smoky Slate. (Done for you in class!) Color in faces with two tones; Nude & Blush for Santa, Ivory & Natural for Nutcracker. The paler color is for the skin, the darkers are for cheeks or nose!

Trace mustache and beard lines with palest Smoky Slate marker for Santa, medium for Nutcracker, and also his hair, brows and uniform trim.

To color in the solid areas on these, I started with the darkest color of either Cherry Cobbler or Old Olive and traced around the open spaces, working in one color at a time towards the centers. I then blended with my Color Lifter to highlight those centers.

Cut out heads and pop-dot to tags; cut extra mustaches with framelit and pop-dot in place.

On Santa, trace broken lines with 2-Way Glue pen and dust with glitter. Add twines with extra bows at top as desired.

Colored Emboss Card
Supplies used: Boutique Borders, Flower Shop & Teeny Tiny Wishes Stamp Sets; Whisper White, Smoky Slate, Basic Black & either Tempting Turquoise, Rich Razzleberry or Pumpkin Pie CS; Memento Black & Craft White Ink Pads; White Embossing Powder; Rick Razzleberry, Tempting Turquoise & Pumpkin Pie Blendas; Pansy, Word Window & Modern Label Punches.

This card was designed to show you some colored emboss possibilities!

Begin with a standard landscape card base in Whisper White. Cut a layer in Smoky Slate at 5" x 3 ¾", and another in Basic Black at 4 7/8" x 3 5/8". Stamp black layer all over with Boutique Borders in Craft White, dust with White embossing powder and heat set. (All done for you in class!)

Color embossed lines in colors offered as desired. Notice how any excess ink is obscured by the black CS!

Stamp flower (done for you) and sentiment of choice in Memento Black onto white scrap, and flower onto lower right envelope front. Color & shade flower in offered color of your choice, and punch a matching Modern Label from scrap. Punch flower with Pansy Punch, and sentiment with Word Window. Layer over Modern Label, and pop-dot as shown over black background. Glue black layer flat over Smoky Slate layer and pop-dot all onto card base.