Snow and Ice Techniques for Stampers
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Snow & Ice Techniques

As I write this eArticle, the Mid Atlantic where I live is in the middle of a snow and ice storm. So there is a lot of chilly inspiration right outside my window. You too may be seeing freezing weather or maybe you just want to create the look of it on a stamped card.

When you start playing around with this, you soon realize that there are actually quite a lot of ways to create the look of snow or ice. Often the technique you pick will be determined by the supplies you already have in your stamp room. Got embossing powder? White paint or ink? Materials for a resist? Embossing powder? Maybe some Epsom salt? Liquid Appliqué or a white gel pen? Use what you have to create snowy and icy looks on your next card.

Directions for these cards found later in this eArticle.
Color Choices

When creating a card with snow and ice, you will want to give some thought to color. Looking out the window at today’s snowstorm reminds me that during the storm, the world is mostly white and brown and maybe a little dark green where the snow falls on pine and other evergreens.

While most stamped snow cards will show a blue sky, today’s snow storm sky is actually white. The wet trunks and branches of the trees are dark brown, almost black. The only colors come from man-made objects not covered by the snow and a few light brown fall leaves still lingering in the tree branches.

So do you need to stick with white and brown and dark green? You could if you want the card to look more like it does in the middle of a storm. But if you want a bit more color, using blues and purples in the sky brightens things up but still gives a cool look.
If you are making a snow scene after the storm, the sky might actually be shades of blue and you might even use a bit of pale yellow or even silver to indicate sun in the sky or sun shining on the snow. Light greys or blues might be used to create shadow areas on the snow. If it is a Christmas scene, you might instead add color with a green pine tree festooned with holiday lights or a warm candle in the window of a house.
Banish winter -
and set your heart aflame!

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Snow Ideas & Techniques

**Masked Snow Drifts**

The classic way to create snow on a stamped card is to use torn or cut paper masks to create the look of snow drifts. The trick of course is to start with white paper as your card or layer base and 1) use the torn masks to cover areas that you want to represent snow. Then sponge or stipple sky areas in blues or maybe a bit of purple. You might use ink, paint, chalk or pastels for this area. 2) When you remove the masks from the protected area, it looks like snow.

You could create a single white against blue horizon in this way, or you could use several masks to create mounding snow. In this case, the blue acts as sky at the top of the card but lower down, it acts as shadow defining separate snow drifts. The snow drifts might be almost totally white or you might lightly sponge them with light blue ink for a darker moonlit snow effect.
This technique is not hard, but it is worth practicing it on scrap paper first to get a feel for how to create the most pleasing snow drifts.

If you have opaque white pigment ink, you could do this the other way around and 1) sponge white ink onto blue paper using masks. (Here you would mask the sky area instead of the snow area and then sponge or stipple the snow area with white.) You could optionally sprinkle on white, puffy white or glitter embossing powder and then heat emboss.

2) Use the masks again to protect snow areas when stamping images in between snowdrifts. This gives the scene more dimension.

**Learn More:** Heather Telford has quite a few paper masked snow drift examples on her *Bits & Pieces* blog. Be sure to scroll down through the blog to see all the various cards. They are really lovely examples of this technique.
Nancie Waterman's Artwork

Supplies: Stamps [Snowman - That’s All She Stamped, Trees - PSX], Cardstock [white, black, blue], Stamp ink [Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black, Ranger: Pigment Sailboat Blue, Archival French Ultramarine & Pale Ochre, Clearsnap Colorbox purple], Scrap paper or masking film, Stippling brush [JudiKins], Alcohol ink markers [Copic], Colored pencil [Prismacolor blue], Adhesive [Xyron.]

“Cut a circle out of a piece of scrap paper for a sun mask. Lay the mortise part of the mask on the card and stipple inside the cut circle with yellow ink. Remove the mask and then use the reverse mask to stipple around yellow sun. Then, as shown on previous pages, use a cut paper mask to cover card bottom to be a snowy hills. Stipple over remaining un-masked areas with blue. Move mask and stipple some areas below to create drifts. Stamp trees in black on stamped hills and color underneath with blue colored pencil.”

“Stamp snowman on another piece of white cardstock, cut out and color with Copic markers. Mount to stamped scene. Then mount layer to black and then blue card.”

Finished Size: 6 ¼” x 8”
**Stamped Snow**

A great way to make snowflakes on a card is to simply stamp and (optionally) heat emboss them. This is probably the simplest stamped way to create snow.

This can be a good choice for those times when you are working on a dark colored surface and want white snowflakes on top. Remember that you would need to stamp with opaque white ink or paint. Or you would need to stamp with pigment ink and emboss. [Most dye inks tend to be translucent rather than opaque, although Tsukineko does have an opaque white ink in their StazOn line.] When embossing pigment inks, look for powder that is white, puffy white, or has some glitter or other sparkle in it.

**Learn More:** To learn how to use your stamps with acrylic paint, check out VSN’s “**Stamping with Acrylic Paint**” eArticle.
Another way to make snow when the card itself is to stay white is to stamp the snowflakes in shades of blue on the white paper instead of white as shown here.

While not realistic, blue is a cool color that gives you the right feel. Play around with pale blues or try stippling a few shades of blue ink or paint onto your stamp and then stamping.

Another option is to stamp with white ink or paint on white cardstock or stamp and emboss clear [or clear sparkle] snowflakes on white cardstock. This white on white look won’t show up easily in photos, but can be great for creating a subtle background or layer for a stamped card.
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Double Stamped Images

On her Bits & Pieces blog, Heather Telford shows off a very striking technique for creating the look of snow on branches or trees. The trick is to stamp the image twice on white cardstock, first in clear pigment ink and then again very slightly lower in black or dark green using a stamp positioner to line things up. Then emboss it all using clear powder. If you then use water-based inks or paint to color background, the embossing will resist the embossed areas. The clear embossed areas just above the dark stamped branches will look like a coating of snow. It’s a very pretty technique. (You will need to use a paper towel or cloth to remove any excess color from the embossed areas.)

This technique works well with silhouette images and is easiest with solid images. You can use images with thinner lines as I have here, but you need to line the images up extremely carefully when working with detailed images with thin lines.

In trying this technique, I found that the clear and black pigment inks I used clouded the black lines (a). So I did the technique a little differently to help me get the darker black I wanted; I reversed the order of stamping the black and clear images and used dye ink rather than pigment ink for the black step (b).

Trees: Anne Made Designs
1) Stamp positioners typically include an L (or T) shape and a thin clear or translucent sheet that fits inside its corner. Put the positioner on a work surface and place its sheet snuggly in the corner. Stamp the image in regular dye ink on the sheet by lining up the stamp edges along the positioner edges and carefully lowering the stamp onto the sheet. (I used black, but a contrasting color can make detailed image placement easier in step 3.) Set aside.

2) Stamp the image in dye ink on the card. Clean the stamp well.

3) Place the stamped clear sheet on the card just slightly above the original image where you want snow. Keeping the sheet in place, lower the positioner down so that the sheet is snuggled into the corner.

4) Remove this clear sheet, being careful to leave the positioner and card in place.
5) Ink the same image in clear embossing ink and stamp by carefully lowering it down onto the card, using the corner of the positioner to guide placement. Remove the positioner.

6) Cover the stamped area of the card with clear embossing powder, tap off excess and heat.

7) When cool, sponge, stipple or direct-to-paper the sky color over the piece. Then use a paper towel or cloth to wipe off the excess ink.

**Learn More:** Heather Telford has some really lovely cards created with by double stamping images with clear and dark pigment inks on her Bits & Pieces blog.
Nancie Waterman’s Artwork

Supplies: Stamps [Trees - Anne Made, Text - *Unknown], Cardstock [white, navy/white duplex], Stamp ink [Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black, Watermark, Ranger: Pigment Sailboat Blue], Embossing powder [clear], Gel Pen [Ranger Inksspirations white], Adhesive [Xyron.]

“As shown on previous pages, stamp image in black on white card. Clean stamp. Use stamp positioner to stamp positioner to stamp the same image just slightly higher and to the right of the black image. Emboss with clear ink.”

“Use a cut paper mask to cover area at bottom to be a snowy hill. Apply blue pigment ink direct-to-paper over all un-masked areas of card. Wipe excess ink off embossed areas with paper towel. Make dots of ‘snow’ in sky with white gel pen.”

“Stamp text on white hill in black ink. Mount layer to blue/white duplex card.”

Finished Size: 5 ½” x 4 ¼”
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**White Ink or Paint**

But sometimes what you really want is a sky full of tiny snowflakes. This is where you pull out white ink or paint and an old tooth brush.  

(a) Put a bit of opaque ink or paint on the toothbrush and speckle it onto colored cardstock by flicking a finger over the toothbrush. (Practice this on scrap paper to get the feel of the movement.)

(b) Alternatively, you might try using a stipple brush to lightly stipple white opaque ink or paint over a colored background. Again, practice this on scrap paper first to get the feel of how much paint to use and how much stippling you want to do for the amount of snow you want (a light flurry versus a heavy snowstorm.)

(c) White ink or paint could also be brushed or patted over a colored piece of cardstock to create snowdrifts or to create little drifts of snow at the corners of a stamped window.
Marilyn Sweeney’s Artwork

Supplies: Stamps (Rubber Moon), Paint (Americana Snow White acrylic), Stamp ink (Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black, Brilliance Sky Blue), Cardstock (white, purple), Acetate, Die-cut machine and Embossing folder; Deckle-edge scissors, Opaque white gel pen (Ranger: Inkssentials), Zig 2-way glue pen.

“Dry-emboss snowflakes onto purple cardstock. Cut a circle from a sheet of clear acetate and sponge white ink around the inside edge to give the circle some dimension. Dot the inside with the opaque white pen. Stamp the snowman on a scrap of sticker paper. Sponge lightly with sky blue ink and cut out. Stick the image to the background and cover with the circular ‘snow globe’, gluing it with the 2-way glue pen. Attach all to a white card.”

Finished Size: 4 ¼” x 5 ½”. 
Clear Medium Resist

Because the base cardstock we stampers so often use is white, resist techniques can work well to create the look of snow. If you have a clear acrylic medium in your craft stash, try flicking or dotting it over a white piece of paper. [a] Here I used *Gloss Medium & Varnish* which didn’t flick well, so I used the tip of a brush to create fat white snowflakes. Allow to the medium to dry. [I gave mine about an hour.]

[b] Then color over the background with blue regular dye or pigment stamping ink or other water-based medium. The clear medium should resist the ink.

c) Use a paper towel or cloth to remove any excess paint from the clear medium areas. To more easily clean off the snowbank area of my card, I put a little stamp cleaner on a paper towel and wiped over those areas.
Crayon Resist

Another way to create a resist is to use a white or clear crayon to [a] create dots on a piece of white paper and then [b] brush blue watercolor or water-based ink over the dotted area. The crayon will resist the water-based paint or ink. [c] Use a paper towel or cloth to remove any excess color from the crayon snowflakes.

Crayon resists can be a bit rougher than other resists because it can be hard to see whether you have complete coverage when you are coloring white on white. [Notice here how the colored snow drifts have blue areas even when wiped.] But this rough resist result can work in your favor to create a charming element when the card style is a rougher folk art kind of look.
Nancie Waterman’s Artwork

Supplies: Stamps [Street Scene - *Unknown], Cardstock [white], Stamp ink [Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black], Liquid Pearls [Ranger pearl], Colored pencils [Prismacolor], Pigment marker [Permapaque grey], Crayon [white], Watercolor paint [Dr Ph Martin Hydrus Ultramarine], Paintbrush, Adhesive [Xyron.]

“To create the background, as shown on previous page, color with white crayon on white cardstock. Brush over entire piece with blue watercolor paint. Wipe excess off paint with paper towel. Allow to dry.”

“Stamp street scene in black on another piece of white cardstock. Color with colored pencil and grey pigment marker and then add ‘snow’ details with Liquid Pearls. Allow to dry.”

“Mount stamped scene to crayon resist piece and then to white card.”

Finished Size: 4 ¾” x 6 ¼”
Masking Fluid Resist

Want yet another snowflake resist? (a) Try flicking masking fluid onto white paper. Allow it to dry. (I let mine sit for about twenty minutes.) (b) Color the background over it. Here again, you can use regular dye ink, chalks, pastels, watercolors or most water-based art mediums to color over the masking fluid.

(c) When finished, rub off the masking fluid. (Be sure not to leave it on the paper for long periods as it can then cling so well to the paper that the paper can tear when the masking fluid is rubbed off.) The dry masking fluid is kind of stringy and rubbery. You will be able to tell if you’ve gotten it all off by simply running your hand over the card. When the paper surface feels smooth again, you’ve got it all.

Masking fluid is (in my opinion) a messy technique; I tend to get gummy strings on my hands which drives me crazy. But it does create nice results that make for a nice snowstorm (or starry night).
**Nancie Waterman’s Artwork**

*Supplies:* Stamps (Snowman - Art Impressions, Text - Rubber Stampede), Cardstock (white, hot pink, navy blue), Stamp ink (Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black, Watermark, Ranger: Pigment Sailboat Blue, Clearsnap: Colorbox pink), Embossing powder (clear), Liquid Applique & Liquid Pearls (Ranger), Scissors, Foam tape, Paper mask, Adhesive (Xyron.)

“As shown on previous page, cut a wavy paper mask to protect bottom half of a white piece of cardstock. Speckle exposed areas with masking fluid. Wait a few minutes to dry. Then apply blue ink direct-to-paper over this same area. Rub off masking fluid. Remove paper mask and stamp text in pink pigment ink and emboss in clear powder at bottom left.”

“Stamp snowman on another piece of cardstock in black. Color snowman’s white areas with Liquid Applique. Heat right away to get pebbly snow or wait for twenty minutes or even overnight to get smoother snow. Color snowman’s details using Liquid Pearls. Cut out.”

“Layer snow panel on pink and then navy blue card. Layer snowman on top with foam tape, overlapping inner panel edges slightly.”

*Finished Size: 5” x 6”*
Embossing Powder Resist

Still another way to create resist snowflakes is to use clear or white embossing powder. You can use snowflake stamps or tiny dot background stamps for this.

[a] Stamp and emboss the images in clear ink and powder, white ink and powder or a combination of the two. You could also look for white or clear powder with a bit of sparkle added to it. (b) Then paint blue watercolors, water-based inks, chalk, pastels, etc over the snowflakes/dots to create a sky. The embossing will resist most water-based mediums. (c) Use a paper towel or cloth to remove excess color from the embossing.

Optional: If you created your snowflakes or dots using clear ink and powder but you don’t want the embossed shine on the finished card, you could iron off the embossing by covering it with clean scrap paper and pressing it with a hot craft iron. The heat of the iron re-melts the embossing powder and the scrap paper absorbs it. This is a faux batik technique.
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Gelli Plate Snow Background

If you have a gelli plate, you could create a snowy background using blue paint and snowflake stamps.

1) Brayer the plate with blue acrylic paint.
2) Then stamp an un-inked snowflake stamp into the background repeatedly, wiping the paint of the stamp between stampings. Work quickly so the paint on the gel plate doesn’t dry. 3) Then press white paper down onto the painted surface and pull the print. Alternatively, you could use a small rubber tipped tool to remove dots in the blue background to represent snowflakes.

Learn More: Check out VSN’s “Gelli Plates & Stamps” eArticle for more on making Gelli Plate backgrounds.
Marilyn Sweeney’s Artwork

**Supplies:** Stamps [Rubber Moon, Impression Obsession, Sandy Jackson], Paint [Basics Acrylic Phthalocyanine Blue; Americana Snow White], Stamp Ink [Memento Tuxedo Black, Brilliance Sky Blue], Cardstock [white], Gelli plate, Stickles glitter glue [Ranger], Snowflake sticker, Gelatos [red, orange], Waterbrush, Pop dots.

“On a Gelli plate, prepare a monotype background with blue acrylic paint. Lightly stamp onto the paint with a snowflake stamp; pull the print. When dry, stamp the snow cluster image in white acrylic paint.”

“Stamp snowman on a piece of white cardstock in black. Color in with Gelatos on a waterbrush. Mask snowman and sponge the background with blue ink. Remove mask and deckle-edge the piece, outlining it with black ink. Spread glitter glue under the snowman to make it look like snow. Attach piece to the main background with pop dots. Apply a snowflake sticker. Attach the background to white card.”

**Finished Size:** 5 ½” x 4 ¼”
**Coloring Snow**

What do you do if you want to stamp a snowman on a white background? How do you make him stand out in this white on white situation? If you stamp your snowman in black (or grey or even blue maybe), try using colored pencil or markers to add just a bit of blue, grey or purple shadow around the edges. If you color along his inside edges, it also gives the snowman more shape and dimension. If you color outside the edges, it can be either a halo effect [if you color around him on all sides] or a drop shadow effect if you color the shadow just to one side and a little below him [left].

**Learn More:** Copic has a page on their site on “Creating a Snowy Scene with Copic Markers”. It is a drawing rather than a stamped scene, but shows how you could create shadow and highlight areas on snow. The Copic Creations blog has a December 2009 Challenge post on “Snow/Snowpeople” that shows a bunch of stamped snowmen cards that are colored with Copic markers. [You could use colored pencils in a similar way.]
Nancie Waterman’s Artwork

**Supplies:** Stamps [Snowflakes - Red Castle, Snowman - Art Impressions], Cardstock [white, black textured], Stamp ink [Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black, Watermark, Ranger: Pigment Sailboat Blue], Embossing powder [clear], Colored pencils [Prismacolor], Corner rounder, Scissors, Adhesive [Xyron.]

“To create background, as shown in Embossing Powder Resist section, stamp snowflakes in clear pigment ink on white card and emboss in clear ink. Apply blue pigment ink direct-to-paper over embossed panel. Wipe excess ink of embossing with paper towel.”

“As shown on previous page, stamp snowman in black on another piece of white cardstock. Color with colored pencils.”

“Stamp text on white scrap in black ink. Mount scrap of blue inked white cardstock.

Round corners of snowflake and snowman panels. Cut corners of text layer panels. Mount all to black textured card.”

Finished Size: 5 ¾” x 8 ½”
White Gel Pen

Sometimes you have stamped and colored a scene and you just want to add a bit of snow to finish it off. Maybe you want to add some spots of white in the sky to represent falling snow or a bumpy line of white along a fence or a window ledge to look like accumulated snow.

Try adding spots of white with an opaque white gel pen. This is an easy way to add white accent color on images colored with markers or paint. [Gel pens don’t tend to do as well over colored pencil or crayon.]

Gel pens draw two-dimensional lines, so don’t expect to create dimensional puffs of snow.
Nancie Waterman’s Artwork

Supplies: Stamps [Mailbox - Mail Expressions, Text - computer generated], Cardstock [white, black textured], Stamp ink [Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black], Alcohol ink marker [Copic], Pigment ink pen [Permapaque grey], Gel Pen [Ranger Inksspirations white], Pitt Artist pen [black], Adhesive [Xyron.]

“As shown on previous page, stamp image in black on white card. Color panel with Copic markers. Add dots of snow in sky and light layer of snow on mailbox using white gel pen. Write name on mailbox in black. Cut bottom along snow line.”

“Use computer to print text on white cardstock in black. Mount stamped layer to white printed layer and then to textured black card.”

Finished Size: 7 ½” x 5”
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Dimension, Texture & Sparkle

Sometimes when you are creating snow on a white card, it feels dull and flat – all that white on white. One way to add some excitement is to add dimension, texture or sparkle using various craft products. [Note: Many of these products really need to be seen in person to see their sparkle or shine or texture; pictures don’t usually do them justice.]

- Glitter or Glitter Glue

One of the most popular ways to jazz up a snowy scene is to add a bit of sparkle with glitter. If using fine dry iridescent glitter, 1) apply glue where you want the glitter and 2) then sprinkle it on, pressing them down a bit to make sure you have a good adhesion. Brush off any excess after the glue has set.
If you are using glitter glues like Stickles, you can simply squeeze on the glitter glue where you want it and then allow to dry. (The glue dries clear.)

If you want glitter to cover an entire area, background or layer, apply a sheet of clear double-sided adhesive over the entire surface. (You could cut it into snow bank shapes if you like.) Then cover with glitter. Press on to make sure the glitter is stuck down well. (Or press the sticking tape down onto glitter.) Alternatively, you could use white/sparkle embossing powder and emboss over the tape.

- **Acrylic Paint**

  Don’t be afraid to try mixing mediums to create your snow. For example, you can use white acrylic paint to add white snowy details over colored pencil. Here I am using Claudine Hellmuth’s Studio acrylic paint in the mini size. Its needle-nosed tip makes it easy to put the paint right where I want it. You could of course use a paintbrush.
Supplies: Stamps [Winter Scene - Serendipity Stamps, Text - Stamp Art], Cardstock [white, green], Stamp ink [Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black], Glue [Clearsnap: Glue Gloss], Glitter [Rubber Stampede], Colored pencils [Prismacolor], Adhesive [Xyron.]

“As shown on previous pages, stamp scene in black ink on white cardstock and color with colored pencils. Color spots with clear drying glue and place glitter on glue areas, pressing down on it to get good adhesion. Allow to dry.”

“Stamp text on a scrap of white cardstock in black. Run edges of both this layer and main layer along black inkpad to get a black edge. Mount scene on green card and text on top.”

Finished Size: 4 ½” x 6”
Nancie Waterman’s Artwork

Supplies: Stamps [Water Mill - *Unknown, Text - Stamp Art], Cardstock [white, black glossy textured], Stamp ink [Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black, Ranger: Pigment Sailboat Blue], White acrylic paint [Ranger: Claudine Hellmuth Studio Acrylic Blank Canvas], Colored Pencils [Prismacolor], Adhesive [Xyron.]

“As shown on previous pages, stamp image in black on white cardstock and color with colored pencils. Add snow details using white acrylic paint in a needle-nosed bottle. Allow to dry.”

“Stamp text on a scrap of white cardstock in black. Run edges of both this layer and main layer along blue inkpad to get a blue edge. Mount scene on black card and text on top.”

Finished Size: 4 ½” x 5”
Shona Erlenborn’s Artwork


[Continued on Next Page . . . ]
“Temporarily attach Dreamweaver Bare Tree stencil to kraft cardstock; apply VersaMark ink. Remove stencil [wash gently in soapy water]. From top to bottom, apply a little each of Dragon Fruit, Cherry, Morning Glory, Americana and Bracing Blue embossing powder; heat emboss. Apply London Fog ink over embossed piece. Rub excess off embossed area with tissue.”

“Cut and emboss Spellbinders Snowmen from white card. Stick 2 ½” Tear-ific Tape on white cardstock. Use the snowmen shaped left-over as a template to cut out snowman. Remove tape backing and place die-cuts on top. Apply Cloud Nine glitter to face areas [to be colored with Copics], Peruvian Lily to hat and scarf, Jasper Blue and Orchid Rose to bodies. Apply Night Sky and Cherry Sparkle to hat and scarf with Brushable Glue and attach to snowman.”

“Stick Tear-ific Tape onto white cardstock, punch out a length of Fiskars grass border, remove backing and apply Swan Wing Glitter Tinsel. Attach to top of card front.”

“Stick Tear-ific Tape to white cardstock, remove backing and apply Cloud Nine Glitter and punch out snowflakes.”

“Apply VersaMark ink to edges of card base and heat emboss with Bracing Blue embossing powder. Randomly sponge on more VersaMark and apply Magic Speckle embossing powder and reheat [from the underside of the card to prevent the powder from flying].”

“Attach snowmen to front panel with tape at base and Dimensionals at heads. Apply Mega Tack Glue to base of card and place packing nuggets and then Swan Wing Glitter Tinsel. Attach snowflakes to background with same glue. Layer panel to card base with Dimensionals.”

Finished Size: 5 ½” x 4 ¼”
Specialty Craft Products

Poke around your local craft store for specialty craft products designed to look like snow on a craft project. Possibilities include: Art Glitter’s Faux Snow and other craft products or glass glitters. Also try white Flocking or Flower Soft, Crystal Fibers, Angel Grass Shred or Arnold Grummer’s Iridescent Mica Flakes.

For example, if you want puffy snow, try Marvy Uchida’s Snow Marker or white Liquid Applique. To use, shake either up and draw or dot on the ink. If you heat it immediately as I’ve done here, you get tight little puffs of white. If you let it dry longer [even overnight], you’ll get a smoother puff. Marvy recommends letting their Snow Marker dry for about twenty minutes before heating. If you want sparkle as well as puff, you could sprinkle a little fine iridescent glitter on the wet fluid [before heating it up.]
Nancie Waterman’s Artwork

Supplies: Stamps [Cabin - Milltown Obsessions, Snowmen (Quick Art), Text - *Unknown], Cardstock [white, navy/white duplex], Stamp ink [Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black], Colored pencils [Prisma-color], Liquid Applique and Liquid Pearls [Ranger], Adhesive [Xyron.]

“As shown on previous page, stamp cabin and snowmen on white cardstock in black. Color cabin and sky with colored pencils.”

“Color snowman’s white areas with white Liquid Applique. Add snow to cabin and other areas. Heat right away to get pebbly snow like on the cabin or wait for twenty minutes to get smoother snow like on the snowmen. Color snowman’s details using Liquid Pearls. Allow all to dry.”

“Stamp text on a piece of scrap cardstock, cut out and layer onto scene. Layer all onto blue duplex card.”

Finished Size: 5 ½” x 4 ¼”
- **Iridescent Tinting Medium**

Acrylic art mediums can be a fun way to add shimmer or shine. My favorite is Liquitex's Iridescent Tinting Medium. It can be painted or sponged onto a card to create a beautiful shimmer. Acrylic mediums are water-based, so if you paint them over regular water-based ink, the ink will probably run. Stamp with permanent inks and heat set or use a spray workable fixative before adding the medium over stamped images.

- **Grated Paper**

You could even use finely grated white paper to create the look of snow. Jackie Topa shows how to do this in a *September 28, 2009 post* on her Addicted to Stamping blog.

Roll up scraps of white cardstock and grate the end of the roll on a cheese grater. Apply glue to the card and then press the glued surface into a pile of the grated paper. Jackie says to give it a few minutes to set up and then brush off excess grated paper with a brush.
Ice Ideas & Techniques

Coloring Icicles

Just as you can create dimension on stamped snowmen using colored pencils or markers, you can do something similar to color icicles.

Try using light blue or purple in short back and forth lines down the length of the icicle to one side but not quite at its edge to give it a bit of roundness. You could cut out the icicles and mount them with foam tape to create some dimension on the card.

Tip: Not having an icicle stamp, I improvised here by opening a photo of icicles in PhotoShop, using a “Find Edges” filter and adjusting the black and white points to create a line image that I could then print out. This is actually one image twice. (The right half is the left half flipped.)

Learn More: Marianne Walker's excellent “I Like Markers” blog includes a December 2008 post on “Coloring Icicles” using Copic alcohol ink markers. Even if you use colored pencils as I have, I think you’ll find her post very useful.
Embosed Layers Ice

Want to create the look of ice on a stamped lake or on a stamped window pane? Try layers of clear embossing ink and powder, a classic technique originated by Suze Weinberg. 

1. Use a sponge or directly apply clear embossing ink over the area you want to look like ice.
2. Apply clear embossing powder, tap off the excess and
3. then heat. If you repeat this on top several times, the “ice” will get thicker. Here I embossed two layers of clear and one layer of tinsel embossing powder.

**Tip:** If you put the next layer of powder on the still-warm previous layer, you don’t have to use additional ink for each layer.

**Tip:** If you (optionally) flex the cardstock, the thick layer of clear embossing will crack.

**Learn More:** I used masking to create trees outside the window: I stamped the window on masking film and cut out the panes a little bit into the window frame to create a mortise mask. I stamped the window on the card, covered it with the mask and stamped the trees over them and then removed the mask. VSN’s “Stamped Interiors” eArticle covers this type of masking in detail.
Nancie Waterman’s Artwork

Supplies: Stamps [Window - Stampington & Co, Trees - Visions of Ink], Cardstock [white, medium blue, dark blue], Stamp ink [Tsukineko: Memento Tuxedo Black, Clearsnap Colorbox Watermark, Ranger: Pigment Sailboat Blue], Embossing powder [Ranger: Bridal Tinsel, clear, white], Colored pencils [Prismacolor], Pigment ink marker [Permapaque], Adhesive [Xyron.]

“Use masking to stamp trees and window on white cardstock. Color frame and scene with colored pencils. As shown on the previous page, apply clear pigment ink partially on window pane area. Emboss with tinsel embossing powder. Apply additional layers of clear ink over entire window pane areas and emboss in clear powder. Add more powder while still warm and heat again. Color outer frame with brown pigment ink marker.”

“To create background, as shown in Stamped Snow section, stamp and emboss snowflakes in white ink and powder on blue cardstock. Layer window to this layer and then all to dark blue card.”

Finished Size: 5 ½” x 4 ¼”
**Clear Dimensional Glue Ice**

Another method to create an icy look is to use clear drying dimensional glues like Stampin’ Up’s Crystal Effects, Ranger’s Glossy Accents or JudiKins’ Diamond Glaze to create dimensional “ice.” These products come in a bottle with a fine tip, so you could use them to add details like icicles or you can work it over a larger surface to create shiny “ice” wherever you want it.

Optionally, fine glitter can stick to these products if you want sparkle instead of shine or want to add a bit of sparkle in around the edges.

**Tip:** Dimensional glues may cause some water-based art mediums to run. Test first and use a workable spray fixative before gluing if needed.

**Tip:** Dimensional glues can take a little while to dry, so plan on letting the card sit overnight before putting it in an envelope to avoid the glue flattening and/or sticking to the inside of the envelope.
**Stamped Reflections**

Mirror stamping is a classic stamping technique. One typical way to use it is to stamp an image and use its mirror to look like a lake reflection: 1) Stamp the image on your card. 2) Stamp the image on a blank rubber stamp with regular dye ink. 3) Stamp the reversed image beneath the original image on the card.

Spray the lake area with workable fixative and then apply clear dimensional glue over it to create a glassy lake. Often when lakes are thickly frozen, they start to get whiter, so you might sprinkle in a bit of white iridescent glitter here and there on the frozen lake surface before the glue dries. 4) Or instead paint the lake with Iridescent Tinting Medium as I’ve done here.
Nancie Waterman’s Artwork

Supplies: Stamps [Lighthouse - Stampendous, blank stamp - Hot Potatoes], Cardstock [white, navy/white duplex], Stamp ink [Clearsnap: Vivid Black dye ink], Colored Pencils, Spray workable fixative, Iridescent Tinting Medium, Pitt Artist pen, Adhesive [Xyron.]

“To create background, as shown in Masking Fluid Resist section, cut a wavy paper mask to protect half of a white piece of cardstock. Speckle exposed areas with masking fluid. Wait a few minutes to dry. Then apply blue ink direct-to-paper over this same area. Rub off masking fluid. Remove paper mask.”

“Stamp lighthouse on another piece of white cardstock. Color with colored pencils and draw shoreline with black pen. As shown on previous page, stamp lighthouse on a blank rubber stamp and use that to stamp mirror image upside down. Protect area with spray fixative and then paint area with Iridescent Tinting Medium. [This looks light silver on the actual card.] Layer lighthouse onto background. Write text with black pen and layer all to navy card.”

Finished Size: 5 ½” x 4 ¼”
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Epsom Salt Crystals

One interesting technique I found on the internet uses Epsom Salt to create a crystallized background. To create it, 1) mix Epsom Salt and boiling water in equal amounts and 2) stir until the salt is dissolved. (For example, you might mix ¼ cup Epsom Salt in ¼ cup boiling water.)

3) Brush the still hot mixture over the cardstock, making sure to only brush over each area once. (If you brush over the same area again, it removes salt rather than adds more.) Keep the mixture hot and stirred up while you are using it.

4) Allow to dry for an hour or so and watch the crystal pattern set up.

Learn More: Check out Deb Valder's “Epsom Salt Technique” YouTube video to watch this being done. Deb also shows using a waterbrush or a spritzer to spread the mixture instead of a brush. (Don't let the mixture dry inside them though.)
Plastic & Vinyl Ice

If you have a large icicle stamp, you could stamp it on shrink plastic, cut it out and heat according to shrink plastic package directions and then glue that onto your stamped card. Or cut icicle shapes out of clear plastic and embellish with glitter glue. If your die-cut machine can handle plastic, you might die-cut snowflakes out of clear plastic and embellish with glitter glue.

1) Or you could stamp icicles on Shimmer Sheetz, cut them out and glue them onto your stamped card. Or simply cut out icicle shapes. 2) Here I used my print-out icicles as a cutting guide to cut icicles out of Shimmer Sheetz and added a line of Glossy Accents clear dimensional glue as an accent along each icicle.

Or try Frosted Film, a translucent adhesive backed vinyl product from Tim Holtz’s Idea-ology line that can be die-cut or layered over stamped cards for a frosty look. This might be fun for covering stamped window panes for an icy look.
Play With Your Supplies

Play around with the stamping supplies you’ve got in your stash. Check out the inks, paints, glues and embellishments you have in your storage drawers. Is it white? Is it glossy? Is it sparkly? Is it dimensional? You are very likely to find some that you can use to create the look of white fluffy snow or shiny clear ice on your next stamped card.

Directions for this Stamped Reflections card are found earlier in this eArticle.

Next: Snow Artwork.
Marilyn Sweeney’s Artwork

Supplies: Stamps [Impression Obsession, Stamp Hideaway, Sandy Jackson], Paint [Basics Acrylic Phthalocyanine Green; Americana Snow White], Stamp Ink [Brilliance Moonlight White; Memento Tuxedo Black], Gelli plate, Die-cut machine and embossing folder [Cuttlebug], Cardstock [white], White opaque pen [Ranger Inkssentials].

“Prepare two monotypes on the Gelli plate, one with straight green paint and the other with a tiny bit of white mixed with the green paint. Stamp the lighter piece with the larger snowflake while the print is still wet.”

“Stamp the snowflake cluster with moonlight white ink after drying the monotype. Stamp the Christmas tree on this piece in black ink. Accent it with opaque white pen and edge white ink. Affix to the darker monotype which has been dry-embossed. Mount this to a white card.”

Finished Size: 5 ¼” x 4 ¼”
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"Dye, Pigment & Paper" is the stamping blog of Nancie Waterman, editor of Vamp Stamp News (VSN). The blog's focus is on using inks and paint on paper (mostly.) Please come hang out with me!

“Birdseed & Binoculars” is a second blog from Nancie Waterman, editor of Vamp Stamp News (VSN). This blog’s focus is backyard bird watching. Please check it out if you like watching birds as well as stamping. Or share the link with a friend who likes watching birds.
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Many thanks, Nancie, VSN

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