

CATALOG PICKS

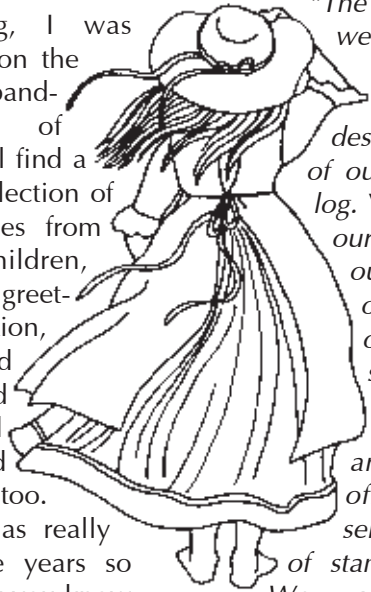
Repeat Impressions

I have always been a fan of Repeat Impressions images, but it has been a few years since I have done a catalog review (1998.) So when co-owner Wendy Wyman recently sent me her fourth edition catalog, I was impressed (pardon the pun!) by the expanded selection of images. You will find a well-rounded selection of very nice images from nature, cute children, word stamps for greetings and inspiration, stamps designed for boxes and lockets and bookmarks and antique images too. The selection has really grown over the years so even if you think you know what Repeat Impressions offers, take another peek because there is more!

Repeat Impressions is owned by Wendy Wyman and Bill Welsh. Wendy explains, "We are a husband and wife team. I am the artist for the entire Repeat Impressions line and I also designed and maintain our web site. Bill is the craftsman and manufactures all our stamps. He also produces custom polymer stamps and presses rubber for other companies and individuals. Our stamp business has evolved into full time jobs for both of us."

"Repeat Impressions has grown by leaps and bounds in the last several years. Established as a home business in 1996, we quickly outgrew our spare bedroom office and garage manufacturing set-up. Within two years we were looking to expand and moved our business from Portland, ME to Freeport, ME. This time we started from scratch and built a home around our business. By building a home

with an adjoining workshop and office we created the best of both worlds. The new set-up allowed us to work more efficiently and fill orders more quickly. And it wasn't long before our stamp business evolved into full time jobs for both of us."



"The 180 stamp designs we offered in our original catalog has grown to over 1300 designs with the release of our most recent catalog. You may also browse our entire catalog via our web site where we offer the convenience of secure online shopping."

"In addition to our art stamps we also offer custom stamp services and a variety of stamping supplies.

We carry cushion, acrylic blocks, vinyl cling and glue for remountable systems. We also offer a few of our own exclusive products including Blink'ems (a tiny blinking light mechanism) and a selection of stampers T-shirts. Our most recent product addition is our line of Creative Results Accent Pieces (fondly referred to as C.R.A.P.). This line includes a variety of pieces that lend themselves well to altered book projects and scrapbooking. At the moment we offer metal tags with an attached tassel, miscellaneous jewelry findings, nailheads, ribbon slides, buckles, stampable tiles, etc. We plan to be adding more items to this line. You can already find a few of these items on our web site. Some items are available in limited quantities only so we only offer them at the conventions."

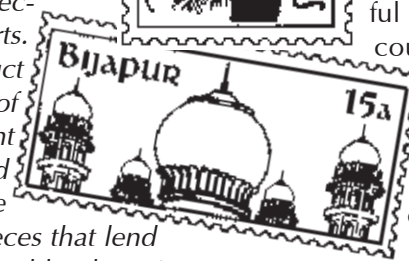


The three-hole punched, 8 1/2" x 11" catalog has about a hundred pages of images. The first few sections cover scenic images and nature. There are all kinds of animals – many birds of different types, adorable cats, funny cats and playful cats, dragonflies and butterflies. For your woodland stamping you will find moose and deer, a bristled porcupine, a skunk, a swimming beaver and leaping rabbits among other critters. There are sea creatures and seashells and a pebbly sea urchin. Stamp out a lush garden with a selection of flowers, a wheelbarrow, a garden bench and a bird-bath for the birds to perch on. There are trees and grasses, scenes of mountains, lakes and streams and recreational boaters to enjoy them. This is also a great source for lighthouses inspired by many found in Maine.

There is a neat selection of stamps about three



quarters of an inch square that could be either quilt squares or stained glass. Mixing and matching would create a wonderful array of patterns. I could see these stamped on acetate to create a window or used to stamp a border for a card.



There are also adorable pictures of children and toys and word stamps for new babies and baby showers and sentiment stamps about mom and dad, retirement, birthdays, graduations, weddings and other events.

Stampers will have fun with several pages of word stamps about stamping, including a number of stamp verses set to holiday tunes (great for stamping cards for your stamping buddies.) There are pages and pages of stamps for various seasons and holidays as well.

There are lovely floral borders and frames. A heart shaped frame of roses is especially nice. If your interest is in creating postoids, there are postal shapes in rectangles, triangles and hexagons in positive or negative versions. And speaking of positives and negatives, there is a strong selection of solid shadow stamps in a variety of shapes that can be used for frames or backgrounds for all kinds of images.

My favorites of the new-to-me stamps are the "Verticals." This is a line of stamps that are - you guessed it - designed on the vertical. There are two versions of each graphic vertical image. One is positive (black on white in the catalog) and the other is negative (white on black) and they mirror each other as well. Along with these images is a selection of word stamps - both greetings and longer sentiments and/or quotes - that are arranged in a similar vertical design. This lets you mix and match graphic and text images to create shutter cards, regular cards, bookmarks and tags or even use them for a border or background. Repeat Impressions suggests, "Trim folded cardstock so that

the front panel is less wide than the back panel. Stamp a vertical verse inside and add a vertical sentiment along the outside edge of the inside panel." Father's

Day card makers take note: several of these vertical graphic images would be fun for masculine themed projects.

We've shown the Lockebility 2-in-1 stamp in a past VSN (Jul '03 VSN). This is a fun two-sided stamp with three frame images across the top row and a fourth frame centered underneath. The stamped and embellished image can be cut up and folded to create little frames for tiny photos or stamped images and/or to create a little locket. You will also find stamps to create tiny decorative boxes that can likewise be folded together.



If your stamping tastes lean more to the photographic than line images, Repeat Impressions has added a whole line of very nice "Legacy" images based on photographs - both of people and of antique cars, keys and other objects.

If you are looking ahead to the Fourth of July, there are patriotic images. Or maybe you want to travel to exotic places. The travel images are very nice - including maps and a compass, images from Africa (both drawings and photo-based images), the Far East and India. These are very tastefully done and include some fun postoids inspired by each part of the world.

Wendy says, "Repeat Impressions participates in approximately twelve conventions a year. Upcoming shows include: West Springfield, MA and Orlando, FL in June, Monroeville, PA in July; Portland, ME and Gettysburg, PA and Virginia Beach, VA in October, and Long Island, NY in November.

I am at work designing several new series. New designs will be announced on our web site as they become available."



Repeat Impressions stamps are nicely etched red rubber on hardwood mounts. They stamp nicely. They are available mounted or unmounted (plus selected sheets on the web site and at shows.) Prices range from \$2.99 to \$17.99 with unmounted stamps half price.

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Wholesale/Retail
Ships Overseas
Catalog \$6 (comes with a coupon for \$5 off purchase of \$25 or more. The same holds true for wholesale catalog requests.)

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If you would like your catalog/products reviewed, send a copy of the catalog and a sample stamp/product. If you sell mounted stamps, send a mounted sample so I can cover the mounting. Stamps and other products sent for review consideration will be returned if you include return postage. I will contact you 1-2 months before the review is run to arrange scheduling and ask questions. For quicker response, include a self-addressed postcard to confirm receipt.

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An Empty Wallet Is No Fun.

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