



## Painted Gift Tags.

CELIA LISTER

Ever wanted to make your own gift tags or small cards? There are a variety of effects you can make using watercolour or poster paint, salt, candle and cling film, on watercolour paper or good writing paper adding string, twine or ribbon as gift tag ties. I have thought what you might have at home already.

Be as adventurous as you like and take these ideas as a starting point, the colours I have used you don't need to stick with them, have fun and

experiment.

### Rock Salt Texture

Just for ease, the size of paper I have used is folded in half A4 paper This now becomes A5; 148 × 210 mm or 5.8 × 8.3 inches, but use any size you like.

This makes an exciting effect.

Mix 3 colours to a rich colour on a plate or pallet, working quickly to prevent the paint drying out and leaving a bit of white between the bands of colour.

Use coarse grain sea salt and sprinkle on to the wash while it is wet, the salt will soak up some of the colour straight away! Leave to dry completely before brushing off. When dry you might need to flatten the paper leaving it under a book overnight.



### Cling Film Texture

Mix 3 colours to a rich colour on a plate or pallet, working quickly to prevent the paint drying out, apply the cling film in a crinkly layer so it can be moved about on the paint, twist and drag it about to create the desired pattern. Leave to dry, could take sometime, then remove the film.



## Candle Wax Resist Texture

Taking a candle make a pattern on the paper, could be hearts, stripes, flowers or a random design, you can just see the marks you make by looking at the paper in a bright light.

Mix 3 colours to a rich consistency, watercolour will dry lighter, cover the paper with your colours.

The candle acts as a wax resist and the white of the paper shows through.



## Folding and adding the ties

### PAPER

When your papers are dry, you might need to flatten the paper by leaving it under a book overnight.

Check the grain of the paper; The grain refers to the direction of the fibres of the paper.

Gently curve the paper first one way then another, you will feel more resistance one way, folding for your gift tag should be the direction of least resistance so the paper easily folds over and then you will get a good crisp fold.



### CUTTING & FOLDING

The paper I have used is A5, 2 gift tags from one sheet, checking the grain of paper first, carefully mark out half way with a ruler and pencil marking on the blank side of the paper then cut with scissors. For thin paper you can fold in half and cut along the fold.

You can experiment with different sizes, or make small notelets.

### HOLE & THREAD

Use a two hole punch if you have one, or needle and thread, you could use ribbon, twine or wool.

Have fun experimenting. Stay safe, best wishes Celia Lister [Wilcove WI]

