

## **ABDConsultants postcard swap tutorial**

### **Postcard Guide**

The minimum card and letter size for US Postal Service mailings is 3-1/2" x 5". Most postcards are 3 1/2" x 5" or 4" x 6" and can be mailed using one self-adhesive first class stamp.

Keep fabric postcards 1/8" or less thick to stay within weight limits; cards over 1/4" thick require an extra fee for their depth and will weigh more.

You can make cards that are larger and heavier, but postage will be higher.

### **Artist trading cards or ATC's**

Artist trading cards are 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" and are exactly 1/2 of the smaller post card format. ATCs are mailed within an envelope. Collectors of ATCs usually keep their collections in a notebook with vinyl photo sheets that have pockets slightly larger than the trading card size, which limits the thickness of your card.



I use a cardstock template for both postcards and ATCs to audition fabrics and layouts for my cards.



Fabric postcards have a top layer, a filling and a back, just like a quilt: Timtex & fast2fuse is a rigid product that works as a filler, fusible webbing may be applied to your fabric or you can purchase your rigid product with the fusible finish. I have also used stiff craft felt for the center and I apply the fusible webbing to the fabric then iron to the felt. Pellon is used as fusible webbing, and has the paper on the back, which stabilizes the fabric well enough to do detail cutting of your designs. The stitch witchery is used for the fabric on the front between the foundation and the fabric for addressing.



### Front & edges of Postcard

The front can be pieced, applique, any design application that will go through the postal delivery system. When using embellishments' keep in mind the thickness limitations.

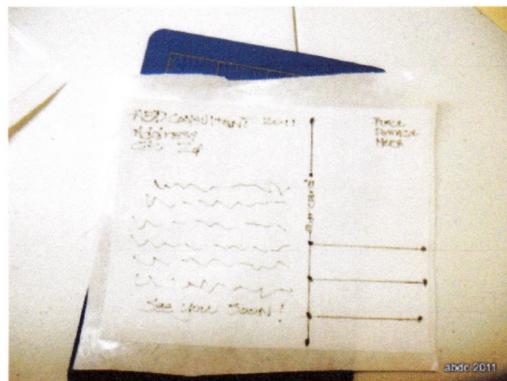
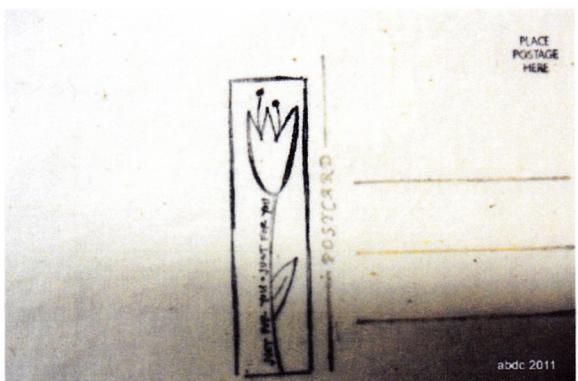
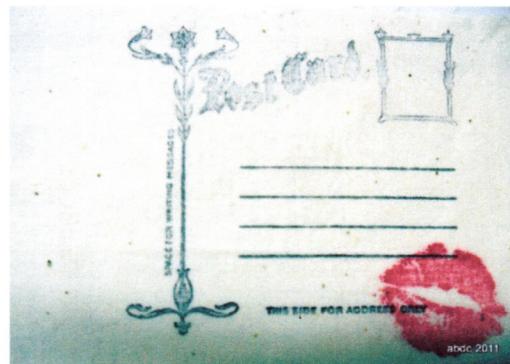
The edges must not have pockets that will be snagged in the process of canceling. I usually do a satin stitch, and I've never had problems with sending them through the mail . I use a very narrow zig zag stitch the first time around the card, then increase width of the stitch and shorten the length of the stitch , for a total 3 rounds, or until I'm happy with the finished product. You can also bind the edges with fabric or ribbon.

### Adding the address side of the Postcard

I have used various applications when it comes to the backs of the fabric postcards;

- Purchase ready to address backs.
- Iron freezer paper onto the back of my fabric and send thru the printer, 4 to a sheet.
- I have used my ink & stamps on light colored fabric..
- Draw freehand with a permanent ink micron pen.

The most important thing to remember before applying the back; Finish all of your stitch work on the front. Once the fabric back is applied with Stitch Witchery or a light weight bond, then you can finish the edges.



I use this freezer paper for making patterns & stabilizing fabrics for printing and drawing.



I just had to show you one of my thrift shop finds....

I never use steam.



Iron your fabric to the shiny side of the paper, medium heat.

## A Reason to keep your scraps;

I have scraps that I use especially for small projects. When I cut out a pattern, I will continue to square off what fabric is remaining, any selvages are gathered and slipped into one container, then I will cut squares 5", 4" 3" 2" and the smaller bits go into another container. This means I have my scraps close by, all the time. I cut my scraps of Temtex in the same manner and I keep any unusual shapes remaining after cutting patterns. I use them for making my magnets and doll pins and small projects



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This is a folding needle case made with Temtex, I usually sq off my pattern apply fabric both sides then cut the pattern as shown then I do my decorative sewing, and finally satin stitch the edges. I keep the scraps which allows me to do small simple quick projects for gifts.



Here are just a few;



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All of these were made with Temtex