

How to use embossing powder for "How did you do that ?!"

In the many years that I have been creating cards, one of the most frequent questions I receive after handing out an embossed card is, "How did you do it?" Basic paper-making technique used to create raised images or sentiments. It's easy and requires only a few supplies.



Embossed powders are available in a wide variety of colors, textures, and formulas. Among the most common are white, light, and black. Powders are available in fine details, matte finishes, sticky powders to use with glitters, foils, microbeads, and much more.



Supplies you will need:

- Sentiment Background and Stamps (I used the Background from My Favorite Things from the Garden Flourish and Pretty Quotes from Paper Smooches)
- VersaMark ink
- White and gold embossed powders.
- Heat tool
- Tool powder or bag
- Cardstock and vellum

- Two-sided tape
- Copic marker slightly darker than cardstock
- Waste paper

Embossing powder tutorial

Step 1:

Cut the cardstock to 4 "x 5 ¼". Generously apply the powder over the entire surface.



Step 2:

Apply VersaMark ink to the background stamp.



Step 3:

Place paper over the stamp and apply pressure to the entire surface to transfer the ink to the paper. It can help to place scrap paper on the card stock and apply pressure with a bone binder.





Once the stamp paper is removed, you should see a very clear impression of the design (shown above). Be sure to clean the VersaMark ink from the stamp.

Stage 4:

Sprinkle white [embossing powder](#) over the entire card stock surface. Tap off excess.



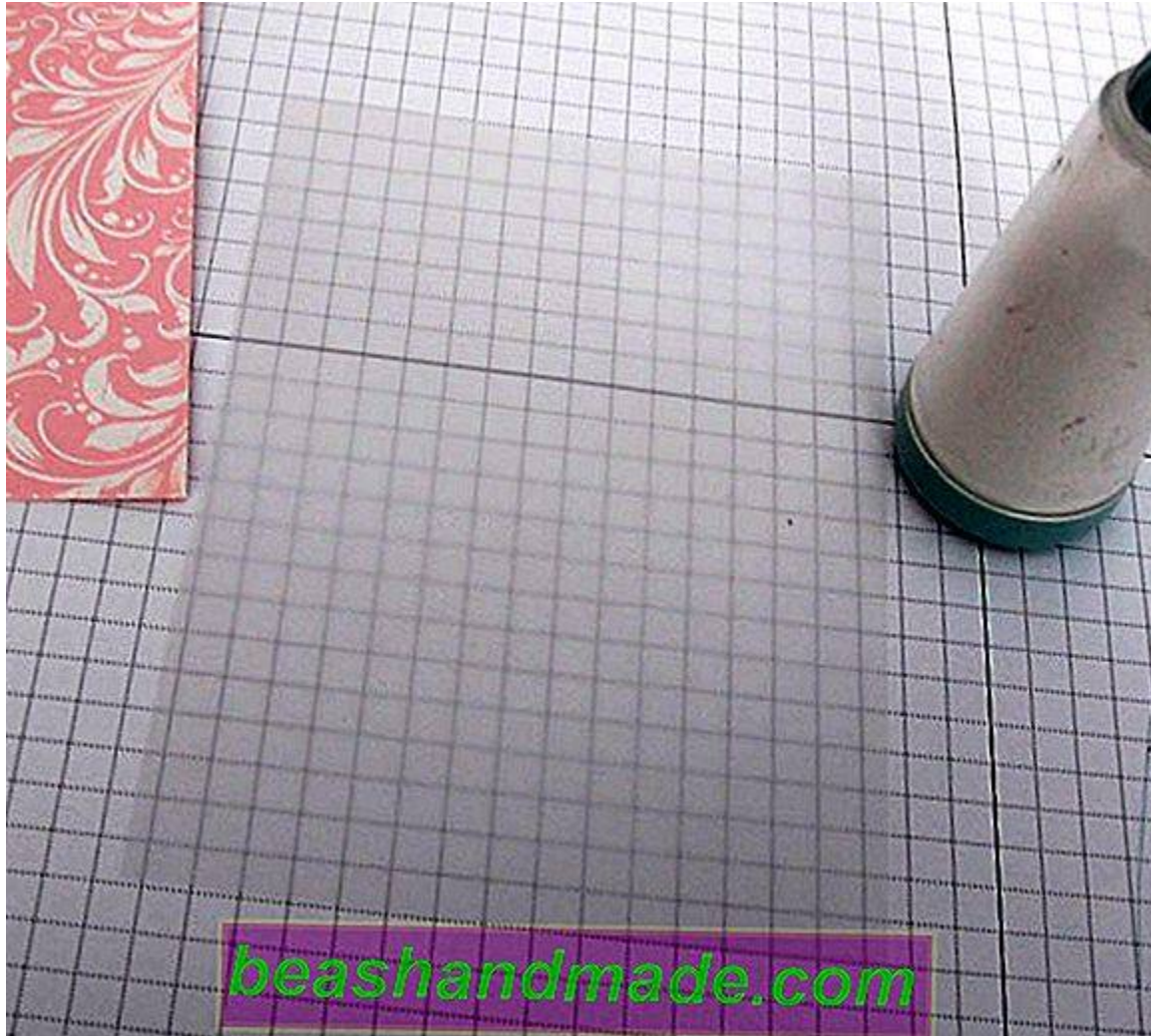
Step 5:

Preheat the heat tool for about 20 seconds, then start hot setting the embossed powder, hold the heat tool about 2 inches from the paper and move it in a circular motion. As the powder melts, the color will become more vibrant and brilliant.



Step 6:

Cut vellum about 3/4 inch to 1 inch higher than card stock panel. Generously dust the vellum and stamp the sentiment with VersaMark ink.



Step 7:

Apply embossed gold dust over stamped sentiment. I place my cardstock (vellum) on scrap paper or hold it over a coffee filter before serving.



Step 8:

Remove excess dust. Use a small brush to remove dust from unwanted areas. In very tight spaces, I used the tip of a craft knife to carefully push small dust spots into or away from the stamped / dust lines.



Step 9:

Return excess powder to container.



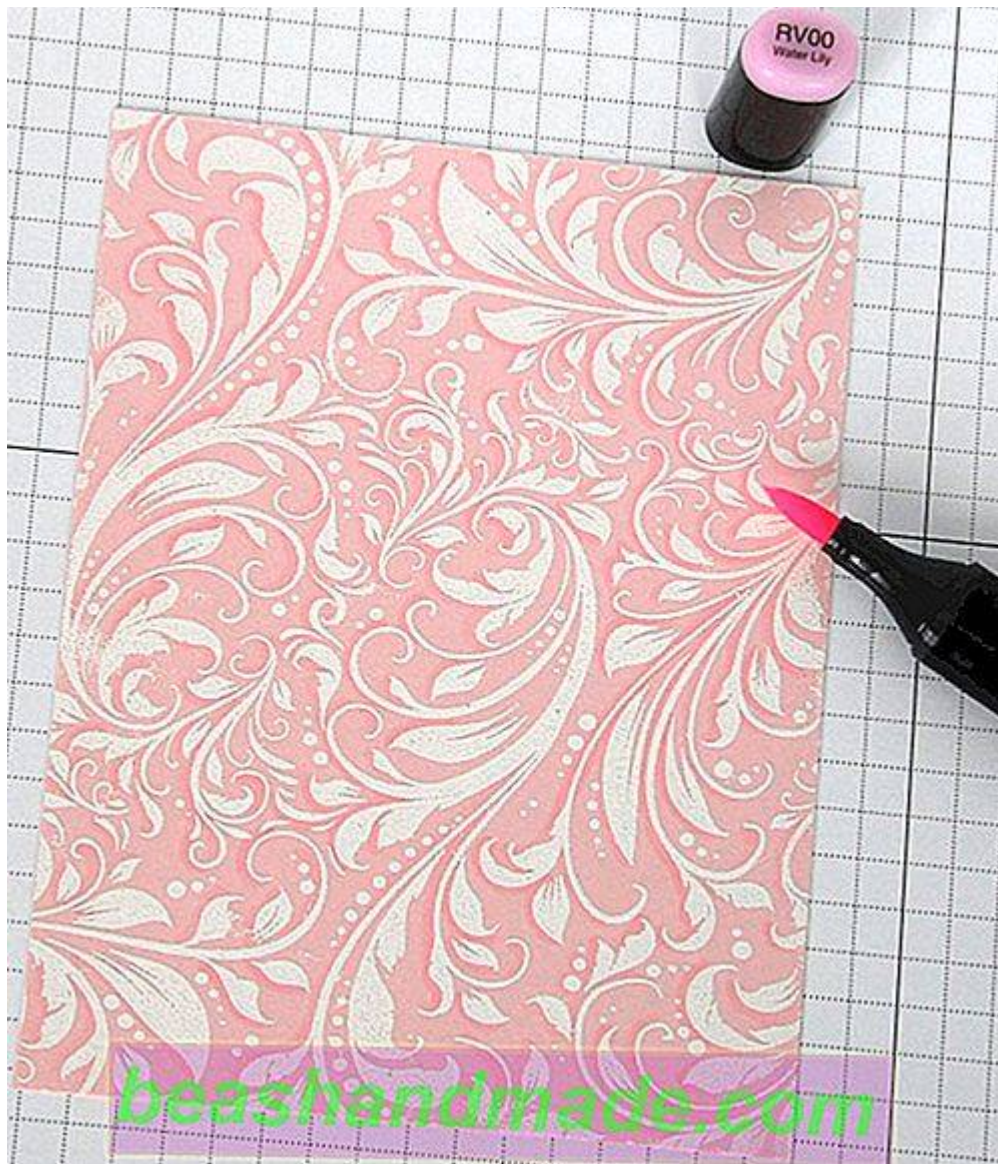
Step 10:

Apply hot stamping powder by preheating the heat tool and moving the heat quickly across the area. To minimize warping, it may also be helpful to keep heat further away from the paper.



Step 11:

To add just a bit of dimension / detail to the background design, I traced most of the embellishments along the left side using a Copic marker.



Step 12:

Trim vellum to desired height. To adhere the vellum without showing the adhesive on the front, apply double-sided tape to the left and right back edges.

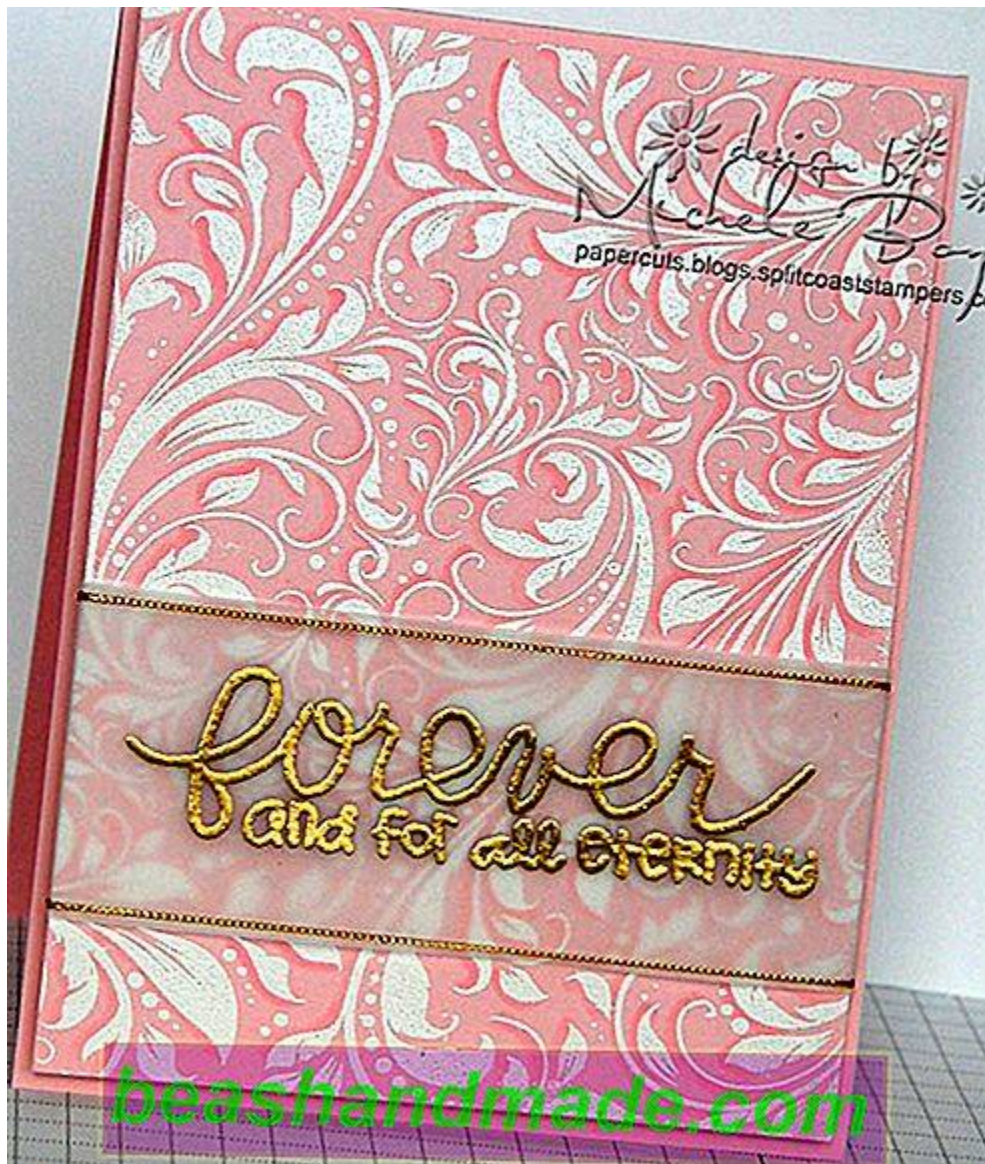


Step 13:

Remove the adhesive backing, place the sentiment in the desired position, and fold the edges to the back.



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Step 14:

To finish the card, I attached two gold cords to the top and bottom edges of the vellum strip, securing the edges to the back with additional double-sided tape. The entire panel was then attached to a standard 4¼ x 5½ inch card base using foam tape.