SAR IS BACK

Who knew it would be so hard to get back into the swing of things? Sandy really got spoiled doing her knitting, crochet and Hasty Lace™ pattern designing. You can check her blog for details. Shown below is the design that she has been dying to do for a few years now. We think she’s a little strange (but cool).

Sandy says "The overall effect of the elaborate frame and all the little motifs in the center make the design very rich and playful at the same time. Check those funky corners! I love it." If you would like to have her make templates of this design send her an email or comment on the blog.

NEW PRODUCTS

The Article in this issue of The Paper News features several new Hasty Lace™ designs. It describes four helpful methods for designing beautiful frames. One trick is to use a mirror to visualize reflected patterns. This technique can be used with any of the Hasty Lace™ templates. It’s fun, give it a try!

The piece below measures about 22”x22”.
Q: Can I use the dies in a Cuttlebug cutter?

A: Yes. The Wizard? Yes. Any of the larger roll-through machines will work quite well. The smaller roll-through machines such as the Sidekick (aka Tag-A-Long) will cut the small and medium size dies. We don’t recommend the press-together machines, but many people have used the original Sizzix machine successfully by pressing several times to cut through the whole design.

By the way, you can cut more than paper with the dies. Plastic is a popular material for the Snow Globes. We recommend using Mylar® (We now have Dura-lar® available on our website.) For details about cutting against a harder plastic see Issue no. 5 of The Paper News.

Lately I have been cutting felt with dies. The Snowflake pieces that don’t have any slots are beautiful. You need to use a good quality, preferably wool, felt. The very inexpensive craft stuff does not work well. Needle felting is quite popular right now, and the Snowflakes can be needle felted onto another piece of wool. They are very pretty just by themselves too!

Q: I’m having trouble getting the cut paper out of the die.

A: I have tried every strategy out there, and I can safely say that the most reliable method is to use a fine pin to stab and lift the paper out. Waxing the dies helps as well. I used to use small bits of foam to lift a corner, but the foam leaves an indentation in the paper which I didn’t like. We have considered making the dies with holes in them where you could poke the paper out, but this also leaves an indentation. The Needle Tool for Hasty Lace™, because it is so fine, is perfect for stabbing the paper without making a hole in it.

Q: How was your trip to Switzerland?

A: We loved it so much we didn’t want to come back! Four days after we arrived I came down with one of the worst colds I’ve ever had, and it lasted for six weeks! The weather was pretty awful too, so we did most of our traveling in May. If you want to see some of the places we visited you can check out my blog. Little, by little I am getting the details posted. Check it out.

NEW DIE SUPPLIER

In order to keep selling our dies we have had to change suppliers. We are currently out of stock on several sets, so please be patient. It will take about a month to get the new supply in.

NEW HASTY LACE™ TEMPLATES

Sandy is working on templates for parts of the large Madonna altarcloth design. If you are interested in reproducing the whole design, let us know and we will make templates for that purpose. She also has some great Border designs and a lower case alphabet to go with the Monograms. We haven’t forgotten about a new catalog. That project will begin in earnest this summer. She was having too much fun in Switzerland to work on such a huge task while there. She hopes to make it a project book as well as a catalog.
The website is desperately in need of an overhaul. This is going to take a while. In the meantime, please note that there are several products on most pages which are listed as "Options." The options were intended for color choices, not product choices. Because if its design it is not possible to have the different prices appear in any of the forms generated by the website. Your email announcement will show the basic product for that page and you won’t see the option that you chose. Rest assured we can see the options and will correct the prices and do our best to make sure the right things go into your box.
Please don’t worry when you see the order confirmation and shipping notices. Please don’t panic! We are a tiny company, and all orders are filled by hand. On the invoice that we print out and ship with your order we can see the options that you chose, and we make the corrections manually. If we have a question about your order we will contact you.

Designing a Hasty Lace™ Frame

While in Switzerland I spent some time (OK, a lot of time) on working out a large Hasty Lace™ design. You can see what it looks like on my blog. The design has a strange frame around it and this got me thinking about frames in general and how to design them. I was once a picture framer, so I like frames.

There are many ways to mount your Hasty Lace frame, but in this article I want to concentrate on just the design part. The following samples are made on thin vellum (17 lb.) with the embossing technique. They were scanned with a colored paper behind, and nothing more.

FRAME 1: MITERED CORNERS

This technique is simply the way picture frames (wood, metal) are normally made, the most true to this form is to run your pattern in one direction and "chop" it for the mitered corners. The advantage of this method is that it allows you to make a frame of any size. The random quality of the design can give the frame a lot of life.

I find that the best way to mark out the frame is to lay the vellum on a ruled cutting board and
use a fine pencil to draw the inner hole for the picture. Then draw another rectangle, about 1½ inches wider all around. When you draw a line through the two points in each corner, you should have a 45° angle. Place the marked vellum over the template and fill in one side (gray area above) tip to tip. Turn the vellum to the next side and continue filling in the marked shape. You can align the holes of the side borders with your drawing to keep the pattern from wiggling about.

The example frame was made with the Thorny Rose Border template set. They come as a mirrored pair so that you can also reflect the motif.

FRAME 2: MIRRORING
If you want to create a more formal look you can choose a part of the design and reflect it on itself by mirroring it on the sides and the corners of the frame. This frame has been reflected through the center of each side and through the corners. The repetition of the design does restrict it to incremental shapes and sizes. It might seem limiting until you see the beautiful variations that can be achieved.

Here is the same motif in a tighter configuration to make a spectacular decoration. All the border templates include a line that runs alongside the motif. The frame above uses these lines to contain the design. Notice how the absence of containment in the decoration makes the design livelier and more sculptural.
And here is the actual motif for the **Baroque Border**. It also makes a wonderful background pattern.

Here is another corner with the same pattern.

A mirror can also help you to figure out where to reflect the center of a side of the frame.

The easiest way to visualize what will happen when an area is reflected is to use a real mirror! If you emboss the entire motif and hold a mirror up perpendicular to it you will see a kaleidoscope of designs emerge along a diagonal for the corners, or horizontally or vertically for the frame or a background.

Below is an example of the Rose Border being reflected. As you move the 45° angled mirror along the strip you get an array of very different look-
And if you need a wider strip or an overall background pattern a mirror will help you to see possibilities that might not be obvious.

FRAME 3: STRIPS

One of the easiest techniques is to run strips of pattern that either run into each other or off the frame. Unlike the mitered technique, one pair of strips needs a border for the other sides to run into. This type of layout begs for symmetry. Reflecting two opposite sides is a natural. Reflecting the pattern in the center of a pair of strips works well too. Since the symmetry is contained in the individual strip the opposing strip does not need to have the same reflection. Below is an example of the technique. It has a stately feel. The sides are a reflection of each other. The top and bottom strips are each a different center-strip reflection. Since the edge borders are minimal, the pattern dominates with its lacy effect. A stronger edge will emphasize the structure of the frame and give it more solidity.

This technique is an excellent choice when the size and shape of the frame are the first consideration in the design.

Here are the strips for the Dragon Border. The swirly design also lends itself well to backgrounds and diagonal reflections.
FRAME 4: ALTERNATE CORNERS

You can expand your repertoire of frames by including other template designs with the border. Running the designs up to a square corner can have very different effects. In the next sample I have used a scroll border. I reflected each side in the center and continued the design up to each corner. The corner design is from the Lozenge Frame template. The division between the strips and the corners is subtle, which gives the frame a flat and lacy look. The strips are reflected through the center of each side.

The next illustration shows the same border with a different corner treatment. The sides are mirrored pairs (to keep the frame from "twisting") and the corners are quite bold. To further set of the corners the sides stop before butting against them. Notice how the frame becomes much more sculptural with this design. The corners were made with the center of S4.

Another variation on this theme is to reflect two diagonally opposite corners and use another motif for two of the corners. Here is one such variation with butterflies. Small changes in the reflecting pattern can give you some very interesting results!
Note: When you reflect diagonally you will always get a square frame. The border templates can be used to make a single strip for an edge of a card. They also make wonderful bookmarks and background patterns.

They are a lot of fun to play with!

TIP: Any Hasty Lace™ pattern can be used to make a frame. Some have frames within the design and the ones that don’t (ie. Snowflakes) can be repeated to make a frame or border.

TIP: When mitering, mirroring, or running a pattern together, start at the joint and work away from it. That way you won’t forget and go too far along the pattern before you realize it. (Been there, done that.)