

Hats Off to Denise Oleson

By Diane Pineschi

Anderson, South Carolina, is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. At one time, it was a Cherokee hunting ground and is known to be the pioneer city for using hydroelectric power to transmit electricity over long distances.

Currently living in Anderson is a very talented lady by the name of Denise Oleson, who transmits her stamp art over long distances, sending cards to family and friends.

Her creative juices were inspired when working at a local stamp and scrapbooking store. Sadly it closed. Since the nearest stamp convention site a long drive from Anderson, Denise has turned to the Internet to find stamping supplies. And she's found plenty!

A charming technique

Denise developed a beautiful technique using stamps, stencils and a mask to make the cards shown here. The

idea for this technique came to her when in a scrapbook store—yes, the one where she worked for a short time. After purchasing the Lady with the Hat stamp, she thought it looked rather plain and decided to add a background and spruce the lady up a bit.

The results are awesome! You, too, can follow Denise's steps to make a similar card. The focus here is on the Lady with the Hat image by Dyan Reaveley. However, think outside the box (or the hat) and consider using this technique with any stamp that includes a large, open space.

Step-by-step instructions

1. Stamp the image three times: once on cardstock, once on book text (be sure to place the lady's lips on a blank area, so they show up well) and lastly on a piece of masking paper (a sticky note will work, too).

2. On the book-page image color in the face, lips, and accessories. For Denise's example, that includes the



GRAY HAT WITH FLOWER / Denise Oleson
(Stamp credit—Dyan Reaveley.)



TURQUOISE CLOCHE / Denise Oleson
(Stamp credit—Dyan Reaveley.)





WIDE-BRIMMED HAT / Denise Oleson
(Stamp credit—Dyan Reaveley.)

pearl necklace.

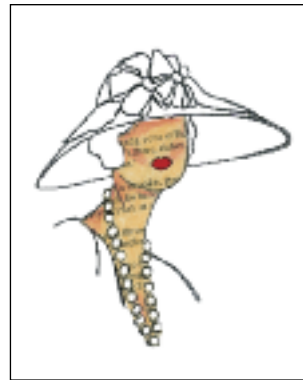
3. Cut out the book-page face and throat image along with the accessories. An X-Acto knife with a mat behind the page works well. Scissors also work.



Step 2
Color in the woman in hat image stamped on book text. (Step 1 not shown, see instructions on facing page.)



Step 3
Cut out part of the image from the book text. (Step 4 not shown, see instructions on this page.)



Step 5
Place the colored image within the woman in hat image stamped on white cardstock. Color in the rest of the image.



Step 6
Mask the woman in hat image on the white cardstock. Stamp or stencil a background image or design.

4. Next, cut out the lady on the masking paper/sticky note. Be sure to include the whole image this time. This will be your mask.

5. Place the colored book page face on the cardstock image, line it up and glue it down. You may now color the rest of the lady (hat, dress and hair). Or, if you like, you can color the hat, dress and hair first, then glue the cut-out book-text face on it after you finish.

6. Place the Lady with the Hat mask on the cardstock image, line them up and flatten the mask down.

7. Place the stencil over the cardstock with the masked Lady in the Hat image. Denise used a screen type design from Crafters Workshop for this card. Add color through the stencil to create the background for the card.

Notes from Denise

From beginning to end, the whole process should take about 45 minutes to an hour. Most of this depends on the time spent cutting out the various sections and mask. The time you spend coloring can also be a factor.

Denise was extremely proud of her first set of Lady with a Hat note cards. “Stamping is a stress reliever,” she says. “Anyone can stamp. You don’t have to be an artist to produce beautiful, creative work.”

For many years, Denise thought of an artist as Picasso, Renoir or other famous painters. Now she thinks more broadly about art and respects anyone who puts their feelings into their work and makes a statement, too. For Denise, every rubber stamper is an artist.

Diane Pineschi is a dental hygienist. She lives in Los Angeles and participates in numerous ATC swaps. “I love to learn new techniques,” she says.