

Marquetry Straw Valentines Card

Sweet 'n Simple - a special card for that special person.



You will need:

Tools

- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- If you use straw that needs splitting:
 - a seam ripper or a Hindenburg.
 - a flat bladed knife or a smoother.

Materials

- Glue stick (not runny glue)
- Hollow stems of straw, preferably coloured red
- Printable templates for this project
- Paper, coloured pink or even a textured handmade paper with petals in it. Mulberry paper is ideal for this project.
- Card blanks or coloured card

Method for making the marquetry heart card 1



Extra materials

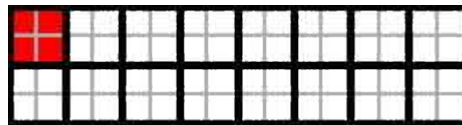
- Graph paper

Step 1

On the back of the template sheet go over the heart shape with a pen so that you will be able to cut it out later.

Step 2

Draw out on your graph paper one block of sixteen squares arranged in two lines. Each square will be made up of four small squares on the graph paper making up a square of 2cm (as shown in red in the diagram below).



Step 3

Place glue on the pith side of your straw ribbon and stick it on the blank side of the long strip of graph paper. One straw ribbon will not be sufficient to cover the paper so you will need a second strip or even a third strip. Make sure the additional strips butt the other strips hard up against each other so that no paper shows through.

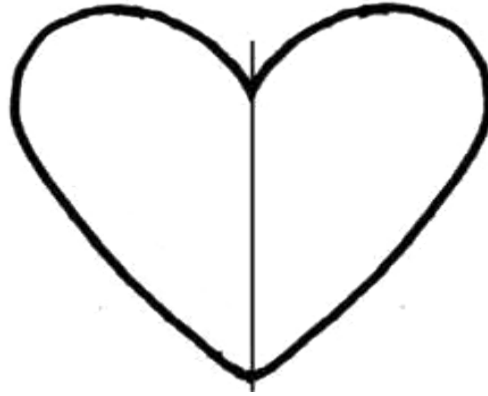
Step 4

Turn the paper over and carefully cut across the lines. This will give you sixteen identical straw squares.

Step 5

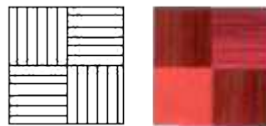
On the template sheet mark a line vertically in the middle of the heart.

THE GUILD OF STRAW CRAFTSMEN



Step 6

Now carefully stick four of your small straw squares in place using the centre line as a guide BUT stick one square with the grain of the straw horizontal, and the one next to it with the grain vertical. Most important of all is to ensure that the squares meet in the centre. The outside edges are not as critical as they will be trimmed off. Now repeat this process with the other straw squares until the heart has been covered.



Step 7

When all the pieces have been stuck down leave it to one side to dry.



Step 8

Once it is dry, cut out the heart shape and mount it on your chosen card.

Step 9

To finish off cut four thin strips of straw and make a border around your card.

Method for making the marquetry heart card 2



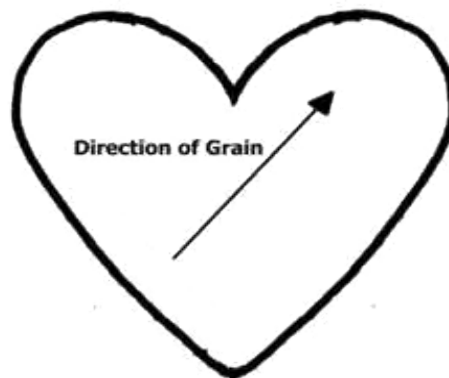
For this card you will need a card that has a heart shaped aperture, this can either be made or bought from a craft supply store.

Step 1

On the back of the template sheet go over the heart shape with a pen so that you will be able to cut it out later.

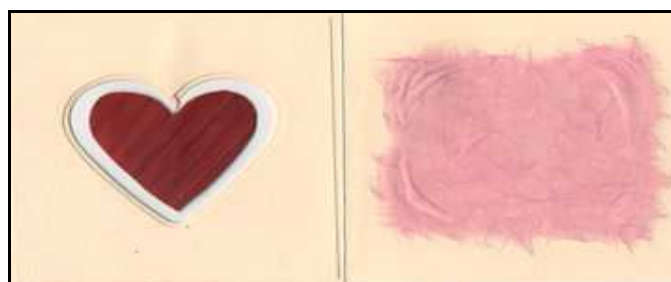
Step 2

Place glue on the pith side of your straw ribbon and stick it on the template with the grain of the straw running diagonally from right to left. Start in the centre of the heart and butt the other strips hard up against each other so that no paper shows through.



Step 3

Allow to dry. Whilst it is drying glue a piece of pink paper inside the card as shown in the picture of the finished card below. I have used Mulberry paper which has fibres running through it. The feathery edge is achieved by drawing a line with water and tearing rather than cutting with scissors.



THE GUILD OF STRAW CRAFTSMEN

Step 4

Cut out the heart.

Step 5

Before you cover the other side of the heart tie a thin piece of paper to a short length of red cotton. Glue this piece of paper so that the cotton is vertical in the middle of the heart.

Step 6

Now, glue the straw ribbon to the other side of the heart with the grain of the straw running diagonally from left to right. Again start in the centre of the heart and butt the other strips so that no paper shows through.



Step 7

When all the pieces have been stuck down leave it to one side to dry.

Step 8

Once it is dry trim the edges being very careful not to cut the piece of red cotton.

Step 9

Tie the free end of cotton to another small piece of paper and glue it to the inside of the card making sure that the heart swings freely in the centre of the cut-out.

Step 10

Glue the backing sheet to the card to hide the cotton. (A backing sheet is a second sheet with an identical heart shaped aperture; a commercial card may have a loose backing sheet, or it may be part of the card. If you have made the card yourself, you will either have to make a backing sheet, or make sure the strip of paper in Step 9 matches the colour of the card itself.)

Step 11

To finish off cut four thin strips of straw and make a border around your card.