



HOLIDAY CARDS - From Scrap!

by Melody M. Nuñez



申時天乙貴人吉
十八甲寅水室危宜
十七癸丑木危破宜
十九乙卯水壁成宜



THE HOLIDAY CARD CONUNDRUM

I'm sure you'll agree that creativity and a love of paper arts can be both a blessing and a curse around this time of year. If you're like me, the mere phrase "holiday cards" conjures up multiple design ideas for handmade creations – cards you want to send to *everyone* on your list. Never mind that virtually everything you think up would be time consuming to execute and would end up costing much more than store-bought cards.

In the interest of a happier and more economical holiday, I've created a card project that will help you avoid potential card-making pitfalls – including the burnout that comes from making the same card over and over again! These cards, which are simple in design but rich in possibility, make use of all the little goodies you already have in your art stash – and are easy to execute. Though the basic design is constant, the colors, patterns and details are mixed and matched – reducing the tedium of making multiple cards.





ONE FOCAL DESIGN, MANY OPTIONS

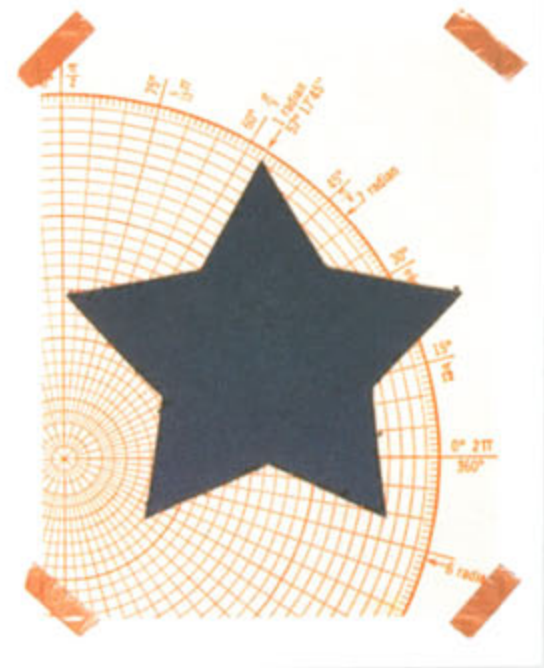
I decided to use the simplest of designs for my cards – a cutout star mounted on a rectangular backing. The star could easily be switched out for any other shape you'd like, though you'll want to make sure it's quick and easy to cut out. You might consider using a tree, ornament, Star of David, or the first initial of your last name. I found it easiest to trace my star shape onto chipboard and then use that piece as a template. The rectangular backings are easily cut with a paper trimmer. I did purchase basic white cards and matching envelopes, that measure 5"x6-1/2" but you can choose whatever size or format that work best for you.

As for the specific materials, I challenge you to make do with what you've got on-hand. I'm pretty sure you've got a scrap drawer of some sort – I do! Scraps of paper, and other odds and ends are squirreled away in my drawer – like the plastic mesh from a produce box, old sheet music, and strips of plastic screening intended for a screen door. I also collect buttons, vintage photos, old postage stamps, metallic tapes, beautiful papers, and fibers. All these things and more, were used to make my cards and I invite you to dig into your stash as well. Don't limit yourself to colors, textures, and patterns that are traditionally used



己酉丁酉生人
 十九乙卯水璧成宜
 申時天乙貴人吉
 十八甲寅水室危宜
 十七癸丑木危破宜
 才虛執





at the holidays – anything and everything is fair game. You'll create the most interesting and memorable cards by going beyond your usual boundaries.

DESIGNED FOR A GATHERING

Because the card's design is simple, making them could easily be a group activity. Consider gathering family around the table the weekend after Thanksgiving, and get a jump on your holiday card making. Or suggest an informal meeting with other artists, where you all pool your resources, create, and visit – reminiscent of old quilting bees.

Sometimes, though we have the very best of intentions, cards don't get made or mailed out – at all. If you don't get around to sending out holiday cards, for whatever reason, consider using this same project idea for other holidays or occasions. Whether you use a heart shape for Valentine's Day, or box with a bow for birthday cards, you're bound to create quick and easy cards that won't break the bank.

Melody M. Nuñez is a mixed-media artist, photographer, and writer who lives Irvine, California. To learn more about her work, visit www.melodynunez.com

