



Why I wrote this Guide

When I started out on my card-making journey, I made mistakes buying things I didn't need and buying poor quality products that just didn't work. I don't want you to make the same mistakes. That's why I put this guide together for you, with everything I wish I knew before I got started.

Why Stampin' Up!

When I started cardmaking in 2003 whilst living in the Western Australian Goldfields, Ebay was my 'go to' store. One day I happened to buy a second hand set that was from Stampin' Up! I had never even heard of them back then, as the products weren't available new in Australia at the time. The first time I inked that rubber and put it to card, I was immediately impressed by the quality of the crisp, sharp finish from the fine-lined and detailed stamp. As I learned more about the company and their products, the more I fell in love with them. I have literally used nothing else since. Stampin' Up! make it so easy to make gorgeous cards, why would I use anything else?



1.) Stamps Sets

If you are just wanting to get started with a minimal spend, I'd recommend going for one with a couple of non-specific sentiments that you can use for multiple occasions. Sets with natural images tend to be appropriate for any gender and often have a multitude of designs to keep things interesting. If you can afford it, two or three sets will make life easier.

Stampin' Up! offer 2 different types of stamp sets.

Photopolymer stamps are made out of a translucent material which makes it super easy for '2-step-stamping'. This is where you layer stamps on top of one another for depth and contrast in your images. These stamps will also absorb some of the ink, especially red pigments. Don't worry though, once cleaned, even though the stamp is stained, that colour will not come off on your next project. These stamps are best cleaned with either 'Stampin' Mist' or just clean water. If your photopolymer stamps get quite grubby and lose their stickiness, just give them a gentle wash in a container of room temperature water and dish detergent.

Cling stamps are made of an opaque rubber which has a foam base. These stamps tend to give a more crisp image and work best for finely detailed images. When using these for '2-step-stamping' you will need to use a stamp positioning tool also. (I will teach on these at a later time.) They can be cleaned with 'Stampin' Mist', clean water or 'Stazon' cleaner if required.

2.) Acrylic Blocks

Acrylic Blocks - once you've selected your stamp set/s you will see that there are block size suggestions to help you choose. As a general rule, the block must fit an entire stamp on to ensure you get even coverage of ink onto the stamp, and therefore even ink on the card. However, this doesn't mean you just get the biggest one and leave it at that. If your blocks are over-sized, it's very easy to ink the block as well as the stamp (messy) and difficult to get even pressure when stamping.

3.) Cardstock and Envelopes

Cardstock - your colours of choice. I make a lot of cards, so what I choose may be different from your needs. I use Basic White Thick cardstock for my card base, as it's stronger, ensuring the card holds up well and I use the Basic White (thin) cardstock for any other layers on my card as it's more economical to do that. After that, my colour choice depends on when stamps I'm using and the overall affect I'm looking for. If I were just starting out, I would look at the catalogue to see which colour combinations appeal to me the most and choose those colours. You can always add to your collection as you go.

It's really important that once you make a gorgeous card, you put it in a nice quality envelope. Using a poor quality envelope really will detract from your card.

4.) Ink Pads

This one's pretty simple, you'll need a black, Memento - Tuxedo Black is a good one to start with and then look at getting the inkpads in the same colours as your cardstock. In time you may choose to get markers and blendabilities, but there's a lot of ways you can use the ink from your inkpads. So just start with those.

You can either go with the standard size inkpads or you could get the small Uninked Stampin' Spots and re-inkers to colour them up.

5.) Adhesives

While there are a few options here, I really think when you are starting out, you really just need 'Tear and Tape Adhesive' (double-sided-tape) and a Multipurpose Liquid Glue.

6.) Paper Trimmer

Because cutting straight lines with scissors just isn't going to 'cut it'.
(Sorry, couldn't help myself.)

Try before you buy

If all this is a bit much to start with, Stampin' Up! have kits just perfect to get you started. The kits contain everything you will need to make a limited number of cards. Some kits even have stamp sets and acrylic blocks that you can then use later if you decide to keep making cards afterwards.



- ✓ Everything you need to make the complete all the cards in the kit.
- ✓ Instructions with all the pre-cut pieces, meaning you need no other tools at all!
- ✓ A variety of kits available at all times, with new kits being added often.

FAQ's

Can you help me choose the exact things I need?

Of course I can! Just send me an email to hello@simonecollins.com.au and we can arrange a time to discuss what will suit you best.

How do I find what Stampin' Up! offers?

You can download a digital catalogue [here](#) or contact me and I can send you a hardcopy.

I don't live in Australia. Can you still help me?

I can definitely still help you, however I can't order supplies for you. Go to www.stampinup.com and select your country from the dropdown menu. From there you can find a Demonstrator near you.

Do you give lessons?

If you live near to me, in the Perth Hills, I am happy to organise a time to do lessons. I don't hold scheduled classes at the moment, but may do in the future. I am happy to hold classes and demonstrations with you online, if you live further away.

Just get started!

The best thing about card-making is that there are no rules. You can start with just the basics and grow at your own pace. If you feel like you are still needing a bit of direction, I'm happy to schedule a call, or even a one on one online workshop using either facebook rooms or zoom. I'm just so passionate about you finding joy in YOUR OWN natural creativity by creating art pieces (because that's what each card is) that you are truly proud to send!

LEARN MORE



Simone

