

MAKE YOUR OWN: V&A INSPIRED CHRISTMAS CRACKERS



Create your own Christmas Crackers using our V&A inspired stencils. Why not have a go at designing your own patterns too!

TO MAKE THE CRACKERS

You will need:

- Safety mat
 - Brown paper cut to A4 size
 - Cardboard
 - V&A stencil printout (or your own stencil design)
 - Three cardboard tubes per cracker
 - Paints
 - Double-sided tape
 - String or ribbon
 - Ruler
 - Scissors
 - Scalpel (optional)
 - Chalk
 - Glue
 - Pencil
 - Paintbrush
 - Cracker snaps
 - Cracker hats, jokes and gifts
- STEP 1: Apply a generous layer of chalk to the reverse of the stencil printout and place chalk-side-down onto the cardboard.
 - STEP 2: Using a pencil, firmly trace over the pattern outline to transfer the design onto the cardboard.
 - STEP 3: Remove the stencil to reveal the chalk outlines on the cardboard. Using scissors or a scalpel, carefully cut around the shapes. If using a scalpel, hold it like a pencil and always be sure to draw your hand towards you as you cut, using your other hand to steady the cardboard.
 - STEP 4: To create a stamp, cut out cardboard squares slightly larger than the stencils, and glue the shapes to them.
 - STEP 5: Mix paint colours on a palette of choice. If using acrylics, water down slightly.
 - STEP 6: To create the white base layer stamps, paint the circular/oval shapes (not the stamps containing design detail) white. Place onto the brown paper and press firmly. Repeat, and leave to dry.
 - STEP 7: Once dry, paint the remaining detailed stamps with chosen colours. Layer on top of the dry white stamps and press firmly. Repeat and leave to dry.
 - STEP 8: Turn the wrapping paper over and using the ruler and pencil, measure the middle. Measure the middle of a cardboard tube and place in line with the middle of the wrapping paper. Place an extra cardboard tube either side and place a strip of double sided tape across the top length of the paper.
 - STEP 9: Roll the wrapping paper around the cardboard tubes, and secure with double sided tape. Insert the cracker snap and secure with tape or glue.
 - STEP 10: Slightly pull one cardboard tube out of the end, to create a gap between itself and the middle tube. Turning one hand clockwise, and the other anti-clockwise, gently twist the wrapping paper around, and secure with a ribbon or string.
 - STEP 11: Put the hat, joke and gifts into the open end of the cracker and repeat step 10. Pull out any creases in the paper to neaten.
 - For more stencil designs, visit:
<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/make-your-own-va-inspired-christmas-crackers>