Create a Birthday Invitation – Happy 40

Create a stylish pocketfold invitation with a hand-painted watercolour look, gold accents, and a matching seal. A creative and personal design that's sure to impress.

1 Start with an A6 sheet of watercolour paper. Use a water brush and plain water to paint a freeform shape in one corner. Make sure the paper is nice and wet.

2 Choose or mix a watercolour paint colour and apply it to the wet area using dabbing and swirling motions. Let the paint flow freely in the water for a playful effect.

3 Let the paper dry completely. Then repeat the same process in the other corners until all four have an organic watercolour shape.

4 Take three more sheets of watercolour paper and paint just one corner on each sheet in the same way.

5 Take a sheet of double-sided adhesive paper and use a die-cutting machine to cut out the appropriate numbers — in this case, 4 and 0.

6 Use letter dies to cut out the words 'happy', 'invite' and 'rsvp' from matte gold paper.

7

Use glue to stick the words 'invite' and 'rsvp' onto two of the sheets from step 4. Layer them in order so both words remain visible. Trim the bottom of the front card so the bottoms line up evenly.

8

Take the sheet from step 3 and stick the word 'happy' on it. Below that, add the die-cut numbers using the double-sided adhesive paper. Peel off the protective layer and apply gold flakes with your finger. Rub until the numbers are fully covered in gold.

9

Use an old, stiff brush to clean up the edges of the numbers for a neat finish.

10

Stick this sheet in the center of the inside of a pocketfold card. Place the two other sheets with text into the right-hand pocket.

11

Take the third painted sheet and punch out two circles.

12

Stick one circle on the outside flap of the card. On the inside, add a small piece of double-sided hook-and-loop fastener so the card can be opened and closed easily. Use the second circle as a seal for the envelope.