

## Dying Acrylic Gems and Chipboard with Alcohol Inks – Tessa Buys

About a year ago I moved (in the US) from Northern California to Wyoming. Wyoming is very rural, and we love it, but I am hundreds of miles away from any kind of scrapbooking store. I've learned to adapt, and how to online shop, and I would love to share with you today one of my new tricks.

I love to use bling to accent my projects - especially colored bling. When I moved, my stash of clear rhinestones was rather large, but I quickly ran out of my colored gems. I discovered that I could use my alcohol inks to custom color my clear jewels, and shortly thereafter I experimented with chipboard, too.

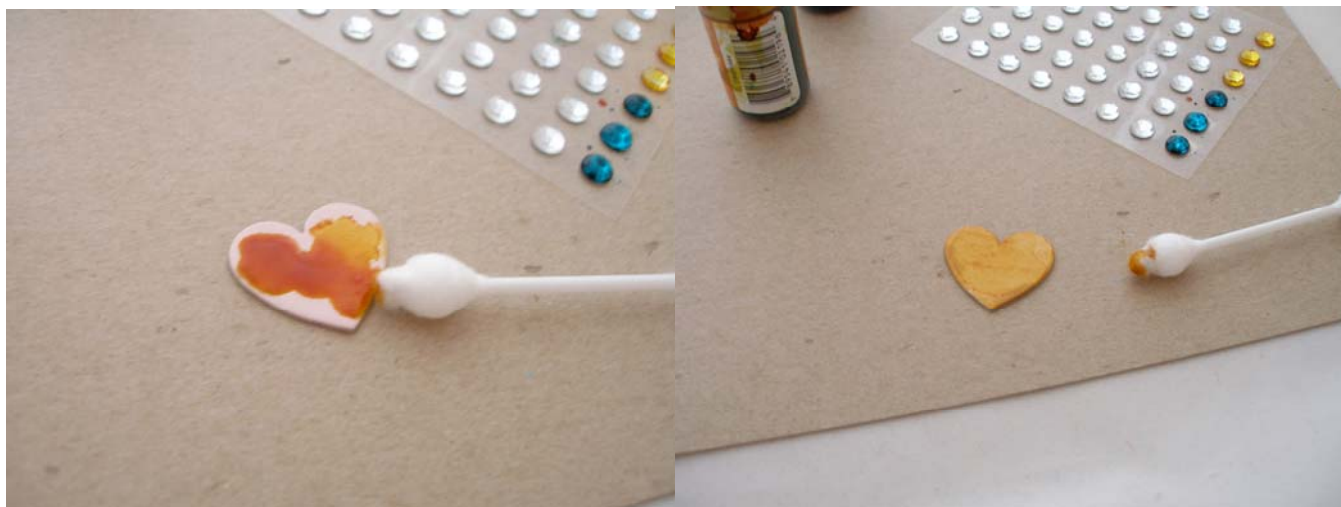
First, gather together clear acrylic gems, alcohol ink, cotton swabs, and protect your surface. Many people who use alcohol inks like to wear gloves.



Drop a little bit of ink on the rhinestone. For a more saturated look, be generous. If you want a lighter look (like I did this time), use a cotton swab to soak up a bit of the ink. Allow your gem to dry before touching. You can also mix or layer colors for beautiful results.



To color chipboard, you need shapes that already have a design or colored coating on them (chipboard is very porous and will soak up a lot of ink). Trickle several drops of ink onto the surface of your chipboard, then using the cotton swab (or other tool - like Tim Holtz's applicator) spread the ink around. I love the watercolor effect that results from allowing little puddles of ink to set in. Again, allow to dry before touching.



Simple to do, but with a bold and beautiful result! I used my gems and chipboard heart on this card.



Clear rhinestones wouldn't have looked as pretty, and now I have embellishments that match perfectly. I hope this little technique is helpful to you!