



Catching the Dream | Natalie Elphinstone

Inspired by the idea of a dream-catcher, I decided to try and create my own paper version on a layout. The Hello Hello Scrapbook Kit contained all the base 'ingredients' with the Maggie Holmes doily paper and the feather foam stamp being the main players. But it needed a few other details along the way too. Let me show you how I ended up putting it all together.

SUPPLY LIST :

Hello Hello Scrapbook Kit - Papers, Foam Stamp, Gold Labels, Mask; Bonjour Add On - Kraft Butterflies, Silver Hearts, Puffy Stickers; Hola Add On - Yellow Alphabet; Ni Hao Add On - Papers; Studio Calico Craft Die - bow; Color Theory Inks; Mister Huey's Spray Inks; Water Color Paper; Wink of Stella Clear Glitter Brush

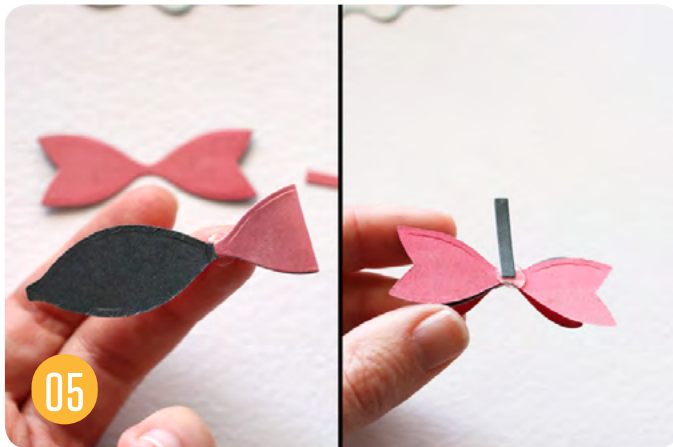


Step 01 : First, let's do some background work on some plain white cardstock. I do all these wet layers first so I can continue working on the layout details whilst it dries. Take the calendar mask and tape it into place with washi so it doesn't move whilst you spray. Make sure the tape is in a place that's going to be covered up later, otherwise the marks will show.

Step 02 : Once the grey spray is dry, remove the mask and drip and flick some more vibrant mist colours down the page. To do this I take off the lids and dip a paintbrush in the top. This way I can effectively use them like water paints. Set all this aside to dry.

Step 03 : Fussy-cut out a large doily from the Maggie Holmes Styleboard paper from the Hello Hello Scrapbook Kit. This is going to form the main base of the dream catcher and therefore needs to be big enough to have lots of feathers hanging off it! An alternative would be just to use a doily. Saves all that cutting!

Step 04 : Create some bows with the Studio Calico Craft Die. I use mine in a Cuttlebug and I've attempted to show you the layers you need to get a good cut. On the bottom is the A Plate, then the C Plate. Next you need the Die facing up and place the paper on top of that (note: it's the opposite in the picture). Lastly is the B Plate.



Step 05 : The bow comes in three pieces and I assemble mine using glue dots because I find that the least messy! One glue dot to hold the 'wings' of the bow down, and one on the back to wrap the middle bit around.



Step 06 : Now it's time to crack open that fabulous feather foam stamp! I used lots of Color Theory Inks and stamped onto watercolor paper because it gives a softer image and is nice and thick. To get a two-toned effect in each feather I tapped the stamp onto two different (complimentary) colors of Ink. For example, I inked up the tip of the stamp with Blush Crush and then 'bounced' the remaining part in Sunny Day. Most of the time it blended really nicely as I stamped it, but occasionally if I was concerned it was going to leave a distinct line where the two stamp pads met I would blend it in a little with my finger before stamping.



Step 07 : Another fabulous way of blending the two ink colours together is to wait until after you've stamped the image and then use a Clear Wink of Stella Brush over the top. Because the inks are water soluble they will blend together nicely using this method. Plus it also gives a lovely shimmer effect!



Step 08 : Now it's time to assemble your layout and start placing the elements of the Dream Catcher where you want them to be. Stick everything down as you normally would, but leave the feathers until last. Arrange them nicely and then lightly adhere the feathers to the paper. Pierce some holes both through the 'stalk' of the feather, and then directly above it on the dream catcher. You can use a ruler to help line the holes up if it helps.

Step 09 : Use some embroidery thread to join the dots and give the illusion that the feathers are hanging. Repeat the process for the second chipboard piece and you're left with two album covers.

Step 10 : The very last step is to stick down some Puffy dots which gives it some more texture and are supposed to represent jewels or beads that are commonly hung from Dream Catchers. And there you have it... a water-color paper-based Dream Catcher for your layout!