

# Altered Backgrounds

By Aileen Roberts

<http://www.outsidethemargins.com>

There are so many beautiful scrapbook papers offered now days that the temptation is too great even for an altered artist like myself not to buy them and embellish them further. I usually look for papers that are lighter in color with less busy designs such as script designs. A favorite way for me to alter a background is to stamp with gesso, which works as a sort of resist and then spray with illuminating watercolors. The gesso really pops against the color.

## Materials

Scrapbook Papers

White Gesso

Foam Roller or brush

Foam Stamps (Duncan)

Rubber Stamps (Stampington)

Heat Gun

Color Mists Sprayable Watercolors (<http://www.outsidethemargins.com/colormists.html>)

Gold Leafing Paint or Pen

Wax paper or Acetate

PYMI (<http://www.precision-blue.com/>)



Once you've settled on your Scrapbook paper you wish to alter lay it out on a surface with waste paper large enough to contain any over spray from the Color Mists sprays.

Load your brush or roller with gesso and begin stamping your paper,

turning the stamp and the paper various directions alternating if you desire with different stamp designs, yet still leaving enough of the background design to show through.



Next use the heat gun to dry the gesso; it usually will dry rather quickly.



When stamping your paper you've used the Color Mists colors. Be careful



not to over spray your paper and muddy the colors, spray lightly (blot with a paper towel if necessary) then dry with the heat gun.



Once you've achieved the look you want by spraying with the Color Mists and the paper has dried make a small puddle with the gold leafing paint onto wax paper or acetate and slide your rubber stamp across the acetate to load the stamp with paint (work quickly because this paint dries fast.) and begin stamping randomly onto your paper you've been working on. Dry it again with the heat gun being careful you do not over heat the paint and cause it to bubble.

Now you can either stop here or add even more layers by stamping further with gesso and spraying with more Color Mists.



Once your completely done seal your paper with [PYMI](#) to keep your paints from bleeding through

# Altered Composition Notebook

By Aileen Roberts

<http://www.outsidethemargins.com>



Now that we have created a cool background paper let's put it to good use by using it to alter a composition notebook.

## Materials

Altered Scrapbook Paper

Composition Notebook

White Gesso

Foam Roller or brush

Rubber Stamps (Stamping ton)

Color Mists (<http://www.outsidethemargins.com/colormists.html>)

Chalk Inks

Bisque Heart (<http://www.outsidethemargins.com/>)

Ribbon

Adhesive (Xyron and a multi -surface adhesive)

Rub on

Heat Gun

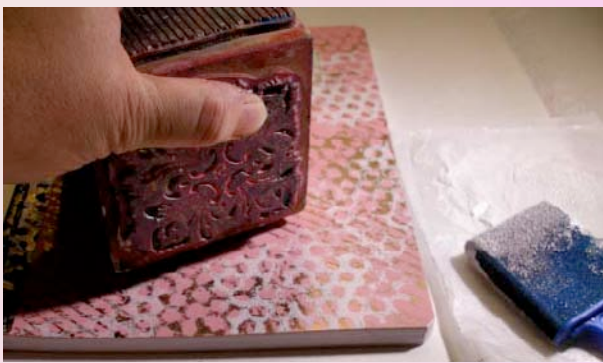
Gold Leafing Paint or Pen

Wax paper or Acetate

PYMI (<http://www.precision-blue.com/>)



Start with your altered background paper we made previously and a plain composition notebook found in the school supply section. Set the paper aside for safe keeping and we'll begin altering the comp. book.

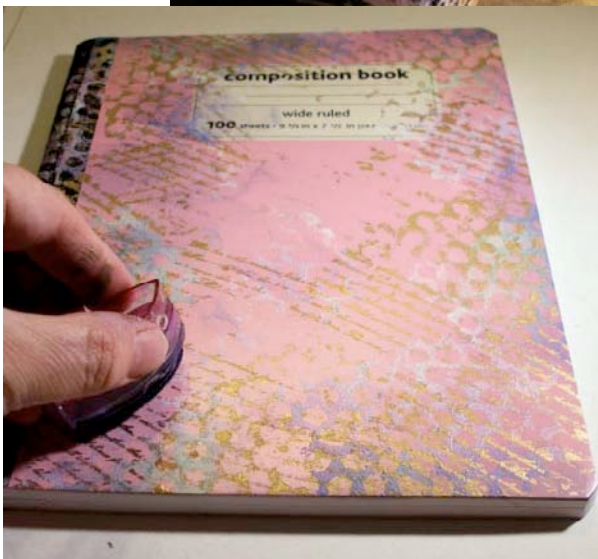


Load your rubber stamp with gesso being careful you don't over load it with too much paint (it's important that you wash your stamp right away with a brush and not allow the gesso

to dry on it. Now begin stamping directly onto the notebook. Use the heat gun to dry between stampings.



Next pour or pump out a small puddle of the gold leafing paint onto some wax paper or acetate and



Once the gesso and leafing paint is dry, use complementary chalk inks color outer areas of the notebook. Heat Set.

Heavily spray the bisque heart with various Color Mists colors and dry with the heat gun. Repeat several times until colors are dark enough.



Select a rub on heart or design and burnish it onto the dried heart.



Seal the heart with [PYMII](#)



Run your paper through the xryon or use a glue stick to adhere your altered background paper to the cover of the notebook.

Add a small piece of ribbon through the heart hole. Using a multi-surface adhesive adhere the heart onto the note book and seal the note book with another coat of

[PYMII](#) to seal and complete your notebook.

