



Offerings by Artist in Residence, Jill Buckley

Quilted Greetings

Have you made a quilted postcard yet? Quilters have been sending fabric postcards flying through the mail over the past few years. Why not join in and give it a try, they are a fabulous way to test out ideas or try new techniques. At just 4 x 6 inches in size, you will find that very little investment of time or supplies is required (you likely have all that you need in your sewing space already).

To get you started, here are the basics:

Just like a quilt, each card consists of 3 layers.

The top layer or “front” can be something as simple as a fun, whimsical print. You can draw, paint, appliqué, stamp, stencil, paper piece, create miniature blocks...whatever you like. Your options are only limited by your imagination. As you can see from some of these examples, the top layer doesn't even necessarily have to be made using fabric.

The second layer or “centre” of the card needs to have a little stiffness to it. Products like Timtex, Pelon or Flexi-Firm work best, but a couple layers of a good stabilizer can work, as well.

The final layer or “back” of the card will need to be something you can easily and clearly write on; it can be made from a light coloured, solid fabric or even cardstock works great as it can be run through the printer or photo-copier and gives a little added stability.

Please note: the post office requires the word “Post Card” be written on the back of each card, with a separating line down the centre.



Your return address and greeting goes on the left side, with the recipient's address and postage placed to the right.

Go ahead and have fun creating a little art piece you can share. Gather your supplies and make your own version of this example. For the card you see here, I began with a piece of painted paper towel as my top layer, but of course you can use a piece of fabric from your stash. The first step was to baste the top to the middle layer along the outer edges (feel free to use fusible web for this step, if you prefer).

I then did an all-over free-motion quilting stitch. I find these cards are great for getting in extra FMQ practice.

Next, small fabric squares were stitched in place: 1, 1.5 and 2-inch squares. With a rubber stamp and a multi-coloured ink pad, I added a design that could be further enhanced with a few beads (this was done on yet another piece of paper towel).

Tip: It is much easier to trim your piece to its finished size before you begin adding the desired embellishments.

The embellishments added to this card are simply a few beads and bits of broken costume jewellery.

When you are satisfied with the look of the front of your card, place the front and back, wrong sides together, and using a zigzag stitch, enclose the outer edge.

That is all there is to it...how easy is that?



More tips:

- It is easier to begin with pieces roughly 5" x 7" and then trim the finished card to 4" x 6" when you are ready to join the front to the back.
- Store a needle used to stitch paper inserted through paper to easily see what it was last used for.
- A pre-cut photo mat with a 4" x 6" opening works great for auditioning the finished look of your design.
- All embellishments used should be small, flat and very securely attached.
- Always remember to "heat set" any inks, paints, crayons or pencils you might use.
- Once your card is finished, addressed and has the required postage, cut the closure off of a zip-lock type sandwich bag, insert the card and use clear tape to securely close. This will help protect the card and its embellishments as it travels through the postal system along the way to its destination.

