



STAMPIN' VINTAGE STYLE

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An overview of elements and techniques that comprise the Vintage and Vintage Nouveau styles of stamping

Defining Vintage and Vintage Nouveau:

The term “vintage” originally meant the year a wine was bottled, but has come to be applied to automobiles and even clothing over time. Often used interchangeably with the word “antique,” which technically means something at least 100 years old. The look that we call vintage is hard to define (know it when you see it), but has several major characteristics:

1. Many layers of textures, patterns, mediums and embellishing details
2. Period artwork and font styles
3. Authentic colors from the era
4. Fading, weathering or distressing techniques meant to imply age

Nouveau simply means “new”—a new take on an older style. The current Vintage Nouveau movement is a new take on the popular collage-style in stamping and scrapbooking from about ten years ago. Vintage Nouveau artists often include one or two unexpected elements into an otherwise traditional vintage piece, such as a non-period color, a surprising technique, or a modern embellishment or ribbon. Sometimes it occurs with a lack of distressing or ageing techniques.

Mediums (materials): cardstock—preferably textured; double-sided designer papers in patterns and colors of a bygone era; newsprint or old book pages; vinyl, paper or flocked wallpaper; fabric such as tulle, velvet, tweed, wool, felt, satin and lace; chipboard; wood sheets; velvet paper; glittered specialty cardstock; muted metallic cardstocks. Nothing too shiny, overly glittery, plasticity or with modern patterns or colors.

Period-Evoking Colors: faded, soft or grayed-out versions of just about any color. Use vanilla or khaki instead of white. Projects often make use of two or more neutrals. Oranges and yellows are best steered away from. Stay away from bold brights. Use colors sparingly. Vintage designs sometimes pair surprising colors together that we might not in the modern age. Monochromatic tones suggest elegance and age.

Techniques: distressing of all kinds such as ripping, torn edges, crumpling; use of tools such as the Cutter Kit, sanding blocks, files, bone folders; misting with water or paint sprays or spritzes; spattering with inks, water, alcohol, perfume or paints; texturizing with the Big Shot; sueding or separating of paper layers; ink weathering techniques such as sponging, direct-to-paper, edging; heat embossing; bleach stamping; paper piercing; faux metal tags or faux enamel charms.

Art Styles: line-drawn naturalistic images of fruit, flowers or animals; sketched images of people or landscapes; “wood-cut” or “engraving” style images; fonts that evoke old newsprint or typesetting; calligraphic handwriting; highly embellished monogram style alphabets; realistic flower images; toile, sanded or script backgrounds; ornate stylistic elements such as flourishes, medallions, frames, filigree; collages made with era-appropriate stamps.

Embellishments: use of border punches with lace-like edges or scalloped or ornate corners; buttons; ribbon and textiles including satin, taffeta, hemp twine, organdy; twill tape, linen thread, cotton lace, velveteen, metallic cord; paper or silk flowers; pearls; rhinestones; Build A Brads; antique brads or Hodgepodge Hardware; punched and layered flowers; tiny metallic ornaments such as charms, small buttons, safety pins, hat pins; sewing or stitching.

Ribbon Techniques: ruffling or ruching; unraveling the ends; snipping ends at an angle or into a reverse point; layering different styles of ribbons; tying ribbons off to one side with linen thread or hemp twine; inserting hat pins, stick pins or safety pins into the material; tying on small charms, tags or ribbon slides; dyeing or sponging to antique the material; spritzing or misting with paint sprays; tying into small bows or very large knots; stamping on the ribbon; ribbon flowers.