Scrape Painted Greetings

STEP BY STEP

Ever heard of scrape painting? It's a fun, explorative painting technique that involves placing dots and lines of paint on paper and then scraping over them with a squeegee to create an unexpected, colorful finish. We think it's the perfect, festive look for a holiday greeting. Abstract designs in holiday colors can be a beautiful way to test out this technique. We have also prepared some holiday-specific schematics for you to try out.

Step 1: Gather Supplies

Gather all of your supplies. Lay parchment paper or another protective covering on your work surface. Be sure to have old rags or paper towels nearby for excess paint. This is a playful but messy technique!

Step 2: Plan Out Your Card

Decide which schematic or personal design you'd like to use for your scrape painting. Do you need to mask off any areas with tape to keep them blank? Visualize how the paint will streak as you pull the squeegee across it. Determine your scraping direction and double-check that your work surface is protected.

PRO TIP: Practice your design on scrap paper first to get a feel for the process. Do this as many times as you need to until you land on something you love. (Even for Hallmark artists, practice makes perfect!)

Step 3: Create Dots and Lines

Using the paint tubes, draw your design with dots and lines. Use enough paint to carry through the entire design when scraped but try to avoid large globs that may spread too much under pressure or leave too much excess paint behind.

Step 4: Scrape!

This is the fun part! Apply even pressure across the squeegee and pull it at about a 30-to-45-degree angle in your desired direction.

PRO TIP: Feel free to experiment with gentle waves or curves as you scrape but keep the movement minimal on a card-size project to avoid an overly busy design. For bolder effects, try this technique on a larger surface, such as a gift bag.

Finishing Touches: Gold Pen Details and a Meaningful Message

Once your painted masterpiece is fully dry, add decorative details or a hand-lettered title with a gold pen.

PRO TIP: Complete your thoughtful greeting with a genuine message inside. Use the Hallmark Writing Tip PDF Sheet as a guide and let your heart speak.

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Card & Letter Writing Tips

Holiday cards & letters are fun to write and lovely to receive. So, let's try out a few different ways to craft the perfect holiday sentiment this season.

1. Open it up.

Begin with "dear" or "dearest." Or try "hi" or "hello" or the old-school charm of "greetings." Add the recipient's name or nickname and you're off!

2. Say why.

Let them know why you're thinking about them this holiday season.

PRO TIP: Be specific, like "I heard [name of song]" or I "baked [type of cookie] with your recipe" or some other true, real-life nugget.

3. Go on a bit.

Add a line or two more about why you're writing. Add a compliment, a wish, or a shared holiday memory.

PRO TIP: Focus on the recipient and what they might want to hear from you. If they had a particularly good or bad year, acknowledge that in a supportive way.

4. Reaffirm your relationship.

Finish with a little reminder of why they matter to you. It can be as simple "you always make me smile," as serious as "I care about you very much," or anywhere in between.

PRO TIP: Be you! Your thoughts in your handwriting are what make this special—not big words or flowery sentiments. (Unless that's you!)

5. Say it again.

End with a quick reminder of your reason for writing. It's kind of like a bookend or closing of one of those five-paragraph essays from high school.

PRO TIP: It's perfectly fine to repeat "congratulations," "thank you," or "hope your holidays are happy."

6. Finish strong.

There are so many wonderful ways to close a letter. Try one of the phrases below…and then sign your name. That's it!

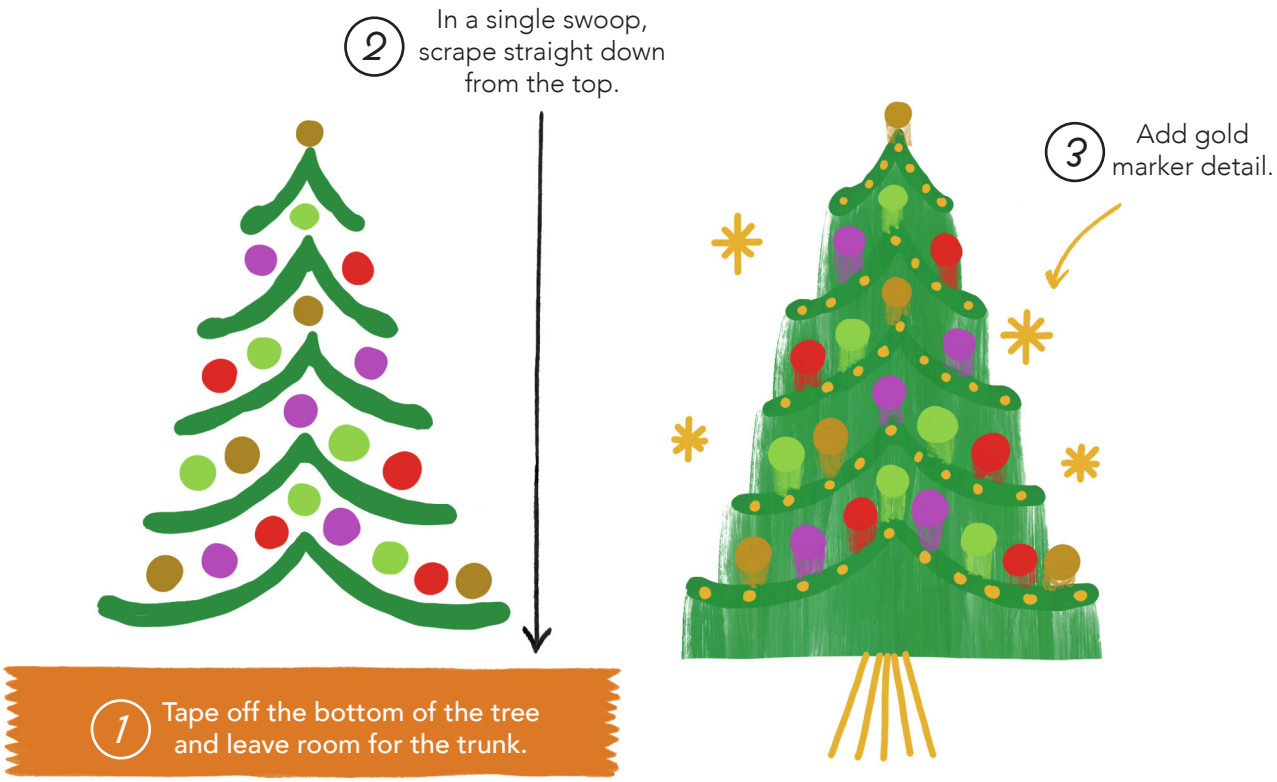
Sincerely • *XOXOXO* • *Love* • *Best wishes* • *Yours truly*

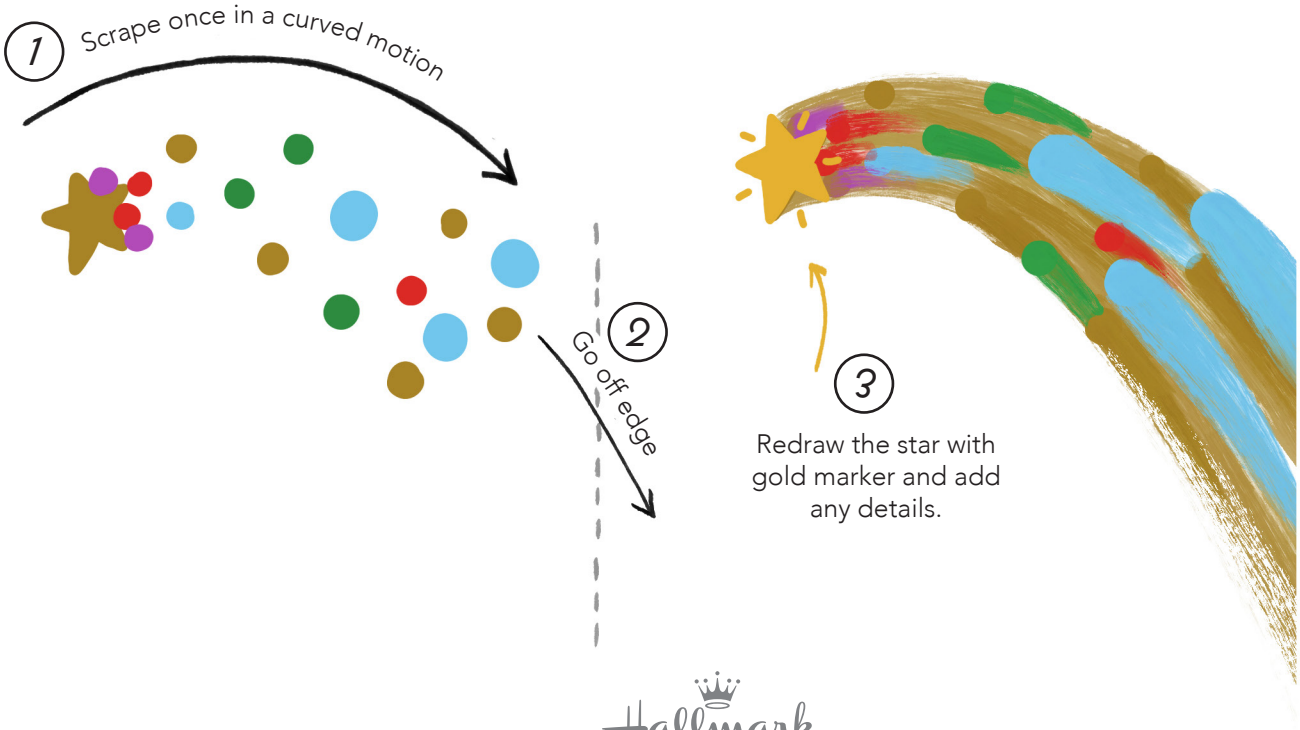
Your friend • *Cheers!* • *Warmly*

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Tree and Star Paint Scraping Schematic

TIPS FROM HALLMARK ARTISTS



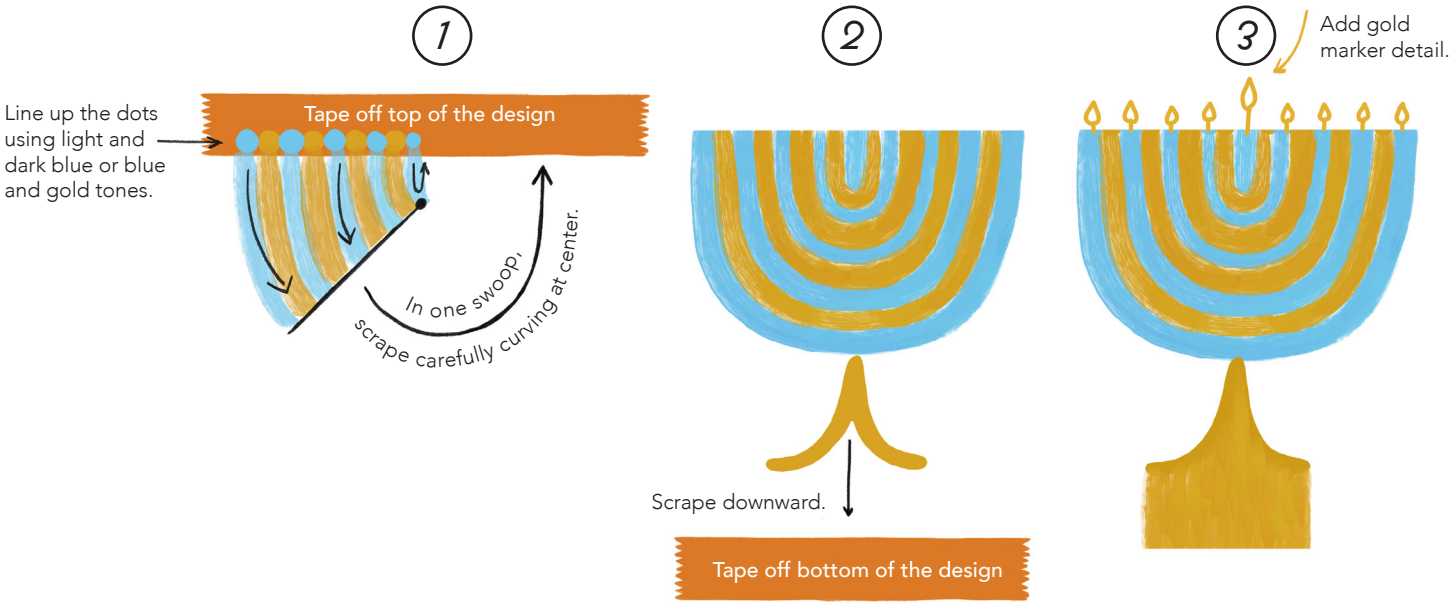


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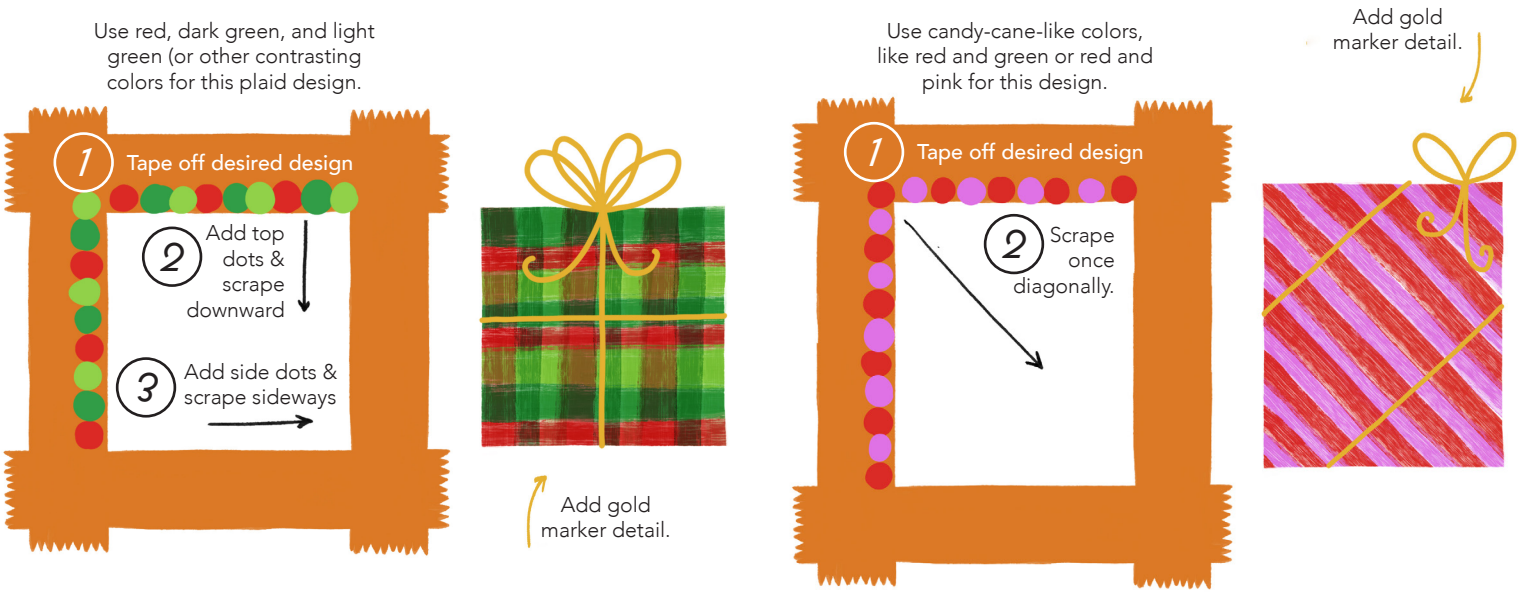
Menorah Paint Scraping Schematic

TIPS FROM HALLMARK ARTISTS



Plaid and Stripe Paint Scraping Schematic

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