

Stamping With Photo Realistic Stamps

The new Stampin' Up!® DistINKtive stamp lays down the ink at different opacities giving the finished image more depth, therefore, creating a beautiful photo-realistic image. *Heartfelt Blooms* from the 2018 SAB Catalogue is one such stamp. A little prep work, making the correct Cardstock & Ink choices will make the stamping of this image a breeze!

Quite often, the first impression from a stamp will not be satisfactory due to the traces of releasing agent still left on the die from manufacturing. This means there may be certain steps to take to achieve a crisp, clean stamped image –

- Clean your stamp first
- Ink & stamp several times direct onto scrap paper
- Gently rub any areas on the stamp that are not showing up in your stamped image
- Gently rub any places on the stamp design where the ink is puddling
- Once the stamp is completely clean, it should be free of islands & puddles

Choosing Your Ink

For the clearest image, choose a dye ink that's not too wet. It's not generally wise to emboss photo-realistic stamps, since the combination of embossing or pigment inks and embossing powders tend to blur the very fine details of the stamp.

Choosing Your Paper

To get the sharpest detail from your stamp, choose a paper that's not too absorbent. Photo-realistic stamps look great on Glossy Paper, Shimmery White or paper with a matte coating. Avoid papers with texture, since this will blur details, such as Water Colouring Paper. Also avoid plain copy or printer papers, since these tend to be designed to absorb inks.

One word about glossy papers: if your stamp has a large area of solid colour, your ink may puddle. There's not really a cure for this, since glossy paper does not absorb the ink evenly. Try a matte coat paper or cardstock instead.

Stamping Your Image

To get an even coating of ink, place your stamp on its back on your work table, and pat the ink pad onto the rubber. Be sure every surface of the rubber gets an even coating of ink. A good trick is to hold the stamp up to the light and make sure all the raised surfaces look shiny before making the impression.

To stamp your image, keep the stamp perpendicular to your paper, so that all the rubber surfaces touch the paper at the same time. Press your stamp down onto your paper firmly, without tilting or grinding. A good, firm push will give you a clean image. Lift your stamp straight up, holding your paper down with one hand. You should have a nice, clear image.

In general, these stamps don't respond well to double stamping as the lines become too thick and look blurred.