

## Love Photo Frame for a Man

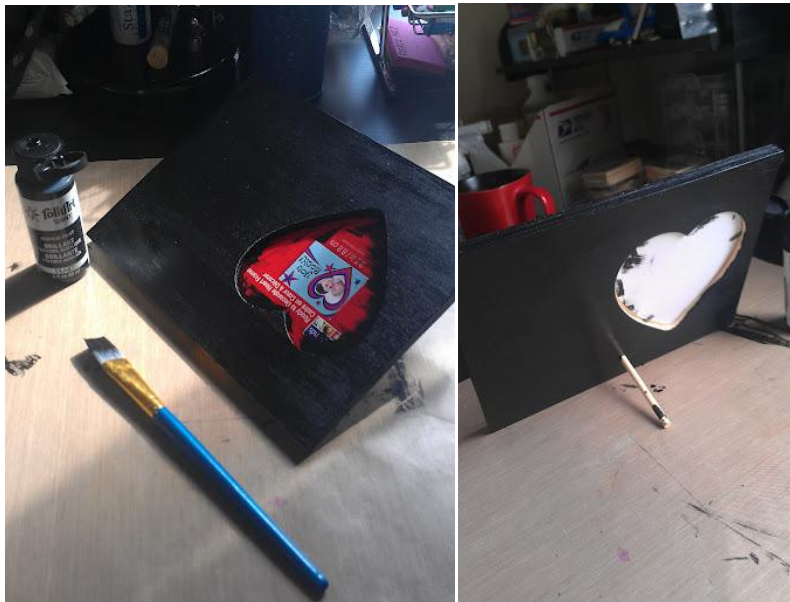


OK, so now that you have seen that...on to how I got there! First off, here are the supplies you will need, written in the order of which I used them:

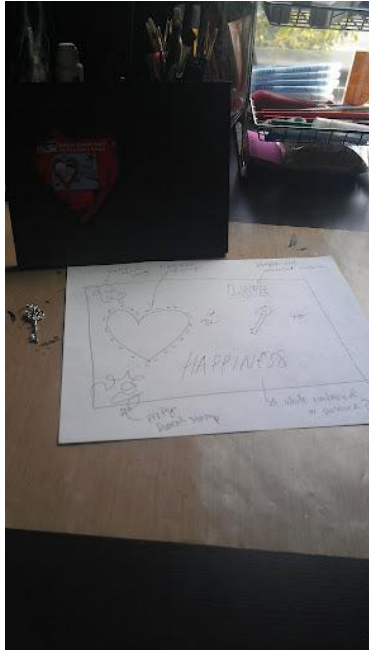
1. Blank wooden picture frame ( I got mine at Michael's around V-Day, so I'm not sure if the heart ones are still there)
2. Black Glossy Acrylic Paint w/ paint brush
3. White Fine Embossing Powder w/ Versamark and Embossing Heat Gun

4. "LOVE" Stamp
5. 3-D Metal Key
6. Craft Foil and Tim Holtz "upon a time" Alterations Decorative Strip die w/ die-cutting machine
7. Stickers to spell out "TO". Mine were EK Success from my 3-4 year old stash!
8. Metallic Silver Cardstock (mine was Recollections 65lb) and Tim Holtz "Vintage Market" Alterations Decorative Strip die
9. Some red rhinestone bling (One big, two medium, two smaller)
10. A nice white corner flourish rub-on (Mine came in an American Crafts book that was a Christmas present)
11. Something to cut paper with , whether it's just scissors or an actual guillotine.
12. A ruler
13. Non-Stick Craft mat or a surface you don't mind getting paint and other things on
14. A hot glue gun with glue in it
15. Glossy Accents or other quick drying strong glue

Alright! Let's start this little journey. Obviously the first thing you want to do is paint your frame. I normally do not paint the backs of items because having an unfinished back doesn't bother me. However, since I was making this for my boyfriend and I know he doesn't like that, I made sure to paint the back.



Since painting took a little while I had time to think about exactly how I wanted to set up my frame. I already had the phrase in my head and I knew I wanted to use an actual key in place of the word "key", but up until that point I didn't have a layout figured out. By the time I was done painting ideas were flowing through my head. I figured it would be a good time to trade in the paint brush for a pen and doodle some of this down (no laughing! Haha)



You probably can't tell from the picture, but I ended up still changing some things in my design as I went along. With a plan in action, I moved on to embossing the word "Love" onto the frame.

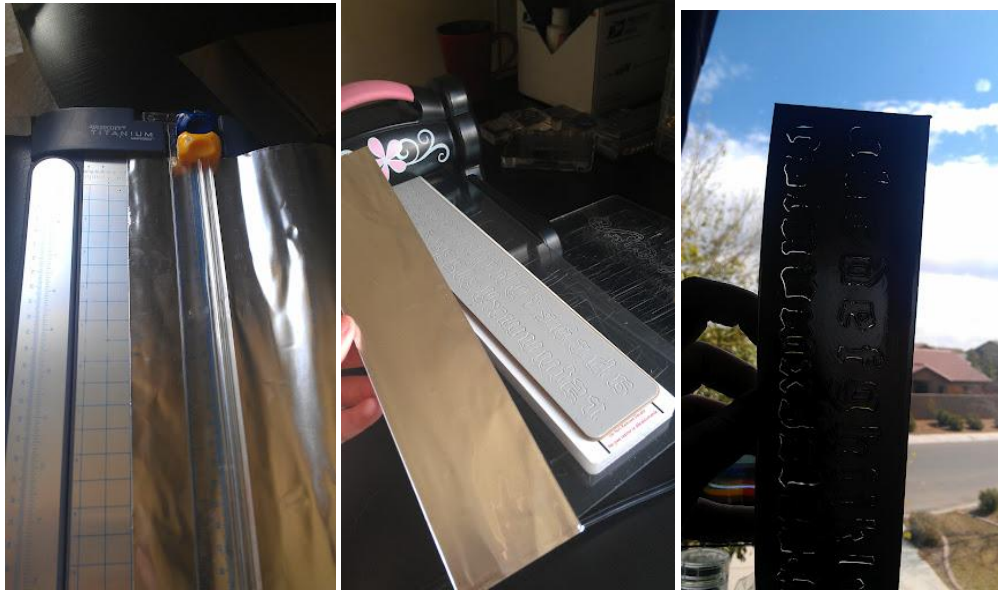
*Just a Note: I didn't wait the hour for the paint to dry. When I touched the paint and saw it wasn't coming off I just moved right along. I was in a rush trying to finish before the BF got home. If I made it again, I probably would wait since it seemed like every piece of dust and left over embossing powder was trying to get itself embedded in my frame!*



With the word "Love" embossed, I placed my key where I would want it and figured out how I could place my letters around it. That's when I picked up the "Upon a Time" die and my craft foil.

*I have to note that the Decorative Strip dies are NOT made to cut through anything else than regular cardstock. It's at your own risk if you want to run craft foil through it. It did not screw up my die as far as I can tell though. I like pushing my supplies to the limit to see what I can do with them and I know I am risking ruining them in the process. I am willing to take that risk and this is one of the times it paid off for me! It did seem to warp my acrylic plate, but I just ran it through the opposite way the next time and it seems fine.*

OK, so I cut the craft foil to 2.5" x 12" to run it through my Big Shot.



As you can see, the die didn't make it quite all the way through the foil. However, it only took some easy bending and a few pokes with a craft pick to get the letters out. I didn't even have to take the scissors to it. It didn't look like it went all the way through to me, but it seemed too easy to get them out for it to not have gone all the way through. Apparently I am still arguing with myself about this, lol. I adhered the metal letters to my frame very carefully using glossy accents in a generous thin layer.



Next, I went through my stickers and found some that I felt looked good in that small area. To get these on as straight as I could, I got out my ruler and my self-healing cutting mat to line up everything. I actually used that technique to try to line up “is” and “the” too.



To glue down the key, I originally tried glue dots, but they didn't feel stable, so I knew I needed hot glue. *I am not sure why, but hot glue scares the crap out of me! It's probably the fear of getting burnt, mixed with long ugly strings of dried hot glue in all the wrong places, mixed with the fact that if I screw up I don't know how to fix it with hot glue, and those ugly huge globs! Alright, I take that back, I guess I do know why.* Anyways, the way I made myself gain some confidence with my hot glue gun was by pushing down pretty hard on the key so it would make indents of where it hit the frame. Once I had these spots, I knew that I just needed to put dots there and it should look great!



Right after gluing down the key is when I got stuck for a little while. It made me wish that I had put everything on the frame to start with instead of doodling and then kind of making up the rest as I went. I got a little frustrated that I couldn't do some of the ideas I had come up with for the lettering for "Happiness". Here are some pictures of my other ideas that I tossed. Perhaps I can use them in the future?



I tossed out this idea since the spacing between the first part of the phrase and where it would say "happiness" was way too wide. It just seemed out of place.



I so badly wanted to use this huge chipboard letter and the smaller letters I had that matched perfectly, but that too would have been too far spaced out. I was planning on using one of these paper pads shown, but none of these papers really worked with my theme. I knew I had to move on. I rummaged through my solid colors and found a metallic silver/grey that I thought would look great. That's when I decided to stick with the die I had picked, but I'd have to pass on using the larger chipboard piece. *Just a note: When making your die cuts, don't forget to put the side that you want up on your project, down on the die. Otherwise, you will end up with all those weird indents from your acrylic plate on the side that you wanted to show. I forgot this and ended up having to re-do it so I could have letters without random indented shapes on them.*



The above picture shows the first time I ran it through with the shiny side UP. OOPS! I didn't think it would be a problem, but dang could I see those ugly indents . Good thing I had extra paper! I had to run this die through a few times anyways since I needed multiples of some of the letters. Once I had my

letters I arranged them on my frame. I first arranged them straight and quickly came to realize if I wanted them straight, I would once again have a large gap in the phrase. I seriously did not want that! Time to improvise again...

After arranging the letter multiple different times, I finally came up with an arrangement I liked. I whipped out my ruler and glued them on one by one with Glossy Accents.



I decided to apply the red rhinestones only to the top. Since this is a frame for a man, it is a possibility that I shouldn't have put any bling on it, but I really like the way it looks. I figured at least I didn't put it around the whole heart like I originally planned! After putting on the bling I went in a search for white floral rub-ons that I was planning on putting on both of the corners on the left side. That plan changed when I ran into a nice large corner rub-on that looked not too girly.





That's what I finished off with. I know I could've definitely put more, but since it is for a guy, I didn't want to go overboard. Here's an angled shot to try to show some of the gloss and glimmer:



I hope you enjoyed seeing how I made this picture frame! I had so much fun making it. I finally got a new desk from IKEA on Saturday and today was my first day using it. It was amazing to have a ton of work space, the natural light, be able to look out the window, and hear the birds chirping in the morning. A great Sunday morning!

If you have questions or comments, please share! I would love to hear from you. While I started scrapbooking a while ago, I just started crafting in October/November of 2011, so there's so much I have to learn. Thanks for looking!