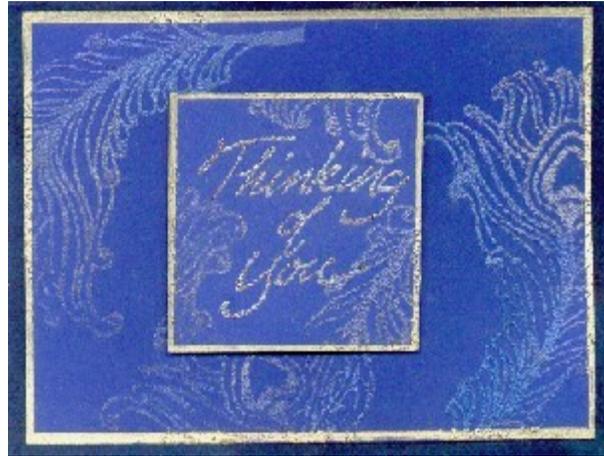


## Pearl Ex with Heat-n-Bond Embossing Powder

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There are many techniques for applying Pearl Ex or similar pigment powders in rubber stamp art, including Versamark ink, clear embossing ink, and glue pads. While there are pigment powders on the market that contain a binding agent in them, Pearl Ex is a pure pigment powder without any binding agents, so it will not naturally adhere to surfaces without first applying an adhesive or medium of some kind. My favorite technique is to use the Heat-n-Bond embossing powder method because it adds a slight amount of texture and provides the most striking contrast. In the sample, everything except the “Thinking of You” which was embossed with “Hopi” embossing powder, and the gold edging (gold paint pen) was made with this method. Scans and photos don’t pick up the metallic sheen well.



While you can use any cardstock for a base, I prefer dark colored cardstock, because then I can use any of the pigment powders, including the interference powders, to achieve beautiful results. If using light colored cardstock, avoid using the interference colors as they are formulated specifically to use on top of dark backgrounds. .

1. To begin, rub the cardstock with an anti-static bag. This not only helps in the embossing process, but also in reducing the amount of pigment powder that will naturally tend to cling to the cardstock .
2. Ink your stamp. The more absorbent your cardstock, the more ink you will need to apply to your stamp. Experiment with a scrap piece before applying to your final project.
3. Apply the Heat-n-Bond or similar heat-and-stick powder. Heat with a heat tool. It is important to avoid over heating. The powder will turn slightly glossy, and it takes virtually no time to reach this stage. If it has lost its gloss, it is overheated and will have lost its adhesive properties. These adhesive powders can lose their adhesive qualities over time. Be sure to store them in a dry place, tightly covered for maximum shelf life.
4. With a small dry brush, apply the pigment powder or powders over the embossed images. Only very small amounts are needed. With a large soft brush, like a used blush brush, lightly burnish the powder into the image. If it is important to keep the colors distinct, you will need to use a separate brush for each area, or clean the brush before moving to the next region. The first color applied to the adhesive will tend to be the predominate color in that area, however.

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5. Lightly re-heat the image(s). This will slightly melt the adhesive and adhere the pigment powders to the image(s).
6. When completely cool, buff the card with a Swiffer or similar dusting cloth. This will enhance the sheen of the image(s) and remove excess pigment powder from the background. The powders are very fine, however, and depending on the cardstock and weather conditions, it may be impossible to remove all the excess from the card.