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## **Cricut Crafts: Make Decorative Painted Plates** with Courtney Cerruti

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Courtney. I'm an artist and an author, and I'm also an avid collector. I love to go to thrift stores and to flea markets. As your collection grows, you may wanna rotate things out. So, this DIY is just for you. I'm gonna show you how to work in the Cricut design space and scale your template for whatever piece that you're gonna be painting onto. We're gonna use contact paper to create a stencil, and then using a bit of spray paint, you'll transform your granny's dishes into these really modern and graphic bold pieces. You can do it in the kitchen, or in a dining room. You can use these decoratively in a tablescape for a party. They're bright, and bold, and super fun to make.

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

- To make your painted plates you're gonna need a few materials. First off you'll need your computer and Cricut Explorer. I like to use the low tack or light grip mat which is gonna be the blue one. You'll need some stick backed vinyl. I'm using just some left over contact paper and I've cut it down into 12 by 12 inch sheets 'cause that's what fits on our mat. A variety of spray paint that will work on ceramic or porcelain. And most of them do, just pick a variety of colors that you like. I've got a magenta color and a pistachio color. It's nice to have a pair of vinyl gloves and then your thrifted or collected plates in a variety of sizes. I like doing this on blank ones as well as ones with patterns. You wanna make sure that they don't have a really deep curve inside like a bowl because that'll be harder to work with when spray painting. It's always a good idea to have your Cricut tools on hand. And you can find these materials at Michael's or your local craft store.

### **Chapter 3 - Make Decorative Painted Plates**

#### Create stencils with Cricut

- To create our stencils we're gonna be working in the Design Space. So you wanna go to [cricut.com](http://cricut.com) and then select Cricut Design Space. Here you'll see a gallery of thumbnail images for project inspiration. You're gonna select, create new project. And this will take us into the actual design space where we're gonna work with our template. On the left you can select, insert images. There'll be a link in the PDF for the exact template we're using, but you can also find it by searching, Creativebug in the search bar and we're gonna be using this geometric pattern here called medallions. Select insert images. And then your template's gonna show up in the design space. It's gonna be really small so we have the opportunity to scale it to whatever size that we like. So click and drag it up to the left-hand corner. And then select the little dot on the corner and you can click and drag this to scale it up. That won't change the proportion of the actual shapes. If I were to click on the bottom, you can see that this would stretch out the shape itself. If you wanted to change this pattern, you absolutely could do that. I'm gonna select undo 'cause I wanna keep the proportions exactly how I have it designed. And we're gonna open this up so it measures just about 12 inches wide on this top ruler here. You can see the rulers on the top and on the side. Our cutting mat is 12 by 12. Our contact paper is 12 by 12. So 12 is the maximum dimension we can go. Once we have it scaled to the size we like we're gonna select, go. Even though our mat is 12 by 12 and the size of our

contact paper is 12 by 12, you want your template to scale down just under the 12 inch mark, because if it hits the 12 inch mark the Cricut thinks it needs to be a bigger mat and a bigger piece of paper. So just scale it back just a tad under that 12 inch mark here. I'm not worried about the bottom dimension. It's at eight and a half, that's fine. Once you have it scaled to the size that you like, select go. And then a pop-up mat preview will appear. And this is where you can choose to do more than one cut. You could increase it here. We're just gonna do the single cut. You'll notice when the cut preview pop-up comes up that the template has changed orientation. It's gone from horizontal to vertical and that's fine. The Cricut does that automatically for the most efficient cuts. Select go again. And then a new pop-up is gonna appear and from here on out both the computer and the machine is gonna prompt us for our next step. So if we look at the computer, it tells us to load our mat. There's a little flashing arrow button for loading our mat and this will also be our eject button. We're gonna load our mat with our contact paper or sticky-backed vinyl. I just have some leftover woodgrain paper here from a previous project. This will work just fine. We're gonna line it up just so that it fits within our grid. And smooth it down. We're using that light grip mat which will help us later. Once the vinyl's attached, we're gonna load the mat. Just feed the mat under these tabs here. Press it right up to this roller bar and then press the flashing arrow button. (click and whirring) Before you actually start your cut you do need to select the depth of the cut and that's where your dial comes in. It has all these different settings on it. We're gonna be cutting vinyl, which is the same as contact paper. Press your flashing C button and that will begin your cut. Now just sit back and relax. (clicking) Once the machine's done cutting you can hit the eject button to eject your mat and then we're also gonna select finish on our screen. (whirring) From here you can save the project if you wanna make more of these and then put away your machine and your computer because next up we're gonna spray paint and that's gonna get messy.

### Spray paint design

- To peel this template away, first we're gonna take the entire template off of the sticky mat. And that's the thing I love about the vinyl setting on the Cricut machine is that it actually creates a sticker that has an intact backing. That means you could cut lots of these and save them. So we're gonna peel this off. And then from here we have a positive and negative shape. So you have these individual little pieces that I like to use on plates that have little more texture and dimension. These curves are sometimes hard to lay over a sheet of template. So it's easier to use these individual stickers that have been created. So we'll use these. This is the way you could paint something like a bowl that has like a lot of curvature in it, is by using these little individual shapes. Just work around the plate. Try to evenly space your stickers if you can. And make sure everything is really stuck down. We don't want any ripples or gaps because spray paint can get underneath that. So that's good. You could add one more sticker here in the center. Just consider where things are lining up, if you want things to fall in line. I'm gonna do something like that where we have the point kind of intersecting in between here and sort of lining up here. I think that guy is ready for spray paint. Let's do another plate using the negative space. We'll peel away the sheet this time instead of the individual shapes. And just peel slowly so you don't tear anything. If you have some of these stickers that are still stuck inside the template, that's fine, you can just press them out with your finger or use any one of your Cricut tools to keep them in line. I'm gonna peel this entire sheet but if you're working on a really tiny saucer, you could actually just cut this template down to the size that you need. You can save all these shapes for another project or additional plates. We're gonna work with this large sheet for this second plate. The sheet has this big band here where the design doesn't

continue. I'm actually gonna use that to create an asymmetrical design on the plate. So carefully lay down your sheet. You're gonna have to do some readjusting. You wanna make good contact in one space usually toward the center. Kind of pick up the template and let it fall naturally and just press it down in place. There's gonna be some spots where you have the curvature of the plate and that's gonna cause some issues in the template. We're gonna fix that just by pressing and manipulating the template into place. So lift up just so you can make really good contact in these spots. Once that edge is nice and crisp, it doesn't matter what this looks like. This is just masking off. It's this edge that we wanna make sure is nice and clean and really flat down on that plate. Do the same thing to the other side of the template. Just allowing this to fall as naturally as possible and then coming in and just pressing to get really good contact. That looks good. Just try to get out any air bubbles, use your fingernail if you have to, you can use your little burnishing tool that comes with the Cricut. We've got this one little spot where we have a sizable fold here, and that's okay, it's at the edge of the plate. We still have a pretty continuous shape on both sides. I'm just gonna leave that sticking up so that it doesn't create a shadow when I'm spray painting. Once your template is entirely stuck down, go outside, grab your rubber gloves, and some scratch paper, and you're gonna start spray painting. I'm spray painting in my studio so that you can see this process but you definitely wanna be doing this outside. There's no need to cut off the excess template. It's not really usable because we've distorted the center of it but it's actually gonna help us peel away this once we've actually done the spray painting. When working with a larger template like this that's a full sheet, you definitely wanna look for plates or crockery that has less curves and ridges, it's gonna make it easier for you. So this one's pretty good. It has a really nice soft curve. Let's start with our little plate. Put on your gloves. Give your spray paint a shake. And then we're gonna do lots of passes that are lighter in touch than going really heavy-handed 'coz you can get a lot of drips that way. Depending on your spray paint, you may have a preference on when you wanna peel away your template. I actually like to peel when it's wet. I feel like I get less mistakes that way. Sometimes it's better to peel when it's dry. It just depends on the color you're using, how many layers you've done. So experiment with just one little piece. I like to use this tool, it look like a dental pick, to peel up my stickers. Do be careful about getting your gloves in this wet paint. Bring it to a clean area. Carefully use the pick to peel up the sticker and remove. Just do this carefully with each little piece. You wanna be careful. I'm having a little trouble with this particular sticker, and because it's wet, I got a little bit of residue here. You can come in with a Q-tip and some acetone to remove that. I love how bright that raspberry color is against that really traditional blue and white pattern. So you get that geometric kind of peek-a-boo that's playing with what you had underneath. Just really striking. We're gonna set that aside. And then spray paint our white plate in exactly the same way, short, light passes until we've got it fully covered. This one will be easier to peel. But still be careful because everything is wet. I love that unexpected pattern on a portion of the plate but still living some of this white negative space in this asymmetrical design. I could easily make dozens of these. You wanna make sure they kind of cure overnight before you put a plate hanger on the back of them and do like a wall installation. And together these are super cute but I've made some other ones to show you what it would look like for an entire collection. Here's a tiny little saucer again with the pistachio. We've got the negative and positive of that same pattern. I've got a complementary piece to the raspberry-colored one we just did. This one in gray on oriental pattern. I've got some more gray. This time I used that entire sheet and I just took out two of these little positive shapes to create a different kind of interesting new pattern within that which is another way that you can change the look. And in this one, I actually just used another template entirely. If

there's something that you find, a pattern that you like, you can do the same project just using a different template, really the sky is the limit. These look really cool on a wall in a kitchen or in a dining room. They would make an amazing photo booth backdrop for really sweet vintage wedding. Remember these are decorative so I wouldn't use them for plating up food but they could be part of a tablescape in other ways. You could put a little dome on top and nestle some succulent plants underneath. There's so many things that you can do with these. They're supper fun and easy to make because you've thrifted them or collected them. It's really an inexpensive project. And it's a great way to introduce a modern twist on a really classic item like crockery or dishware.