

Who's Queen?



# buzzing bees

Upcycle old junk into a piece of fun home décor with a bee theme.



## Project by: Katy Leitch

Katy is editor of this fine publication and has been stamping for 10 years. She's on the DTs for Stampendous and DecoArt and enjoys a real ale - or two.

**Blog:** [postcardsfromtheattic.blogspot.co.uk](http://postcardsfromtheattic.blogspot.co.uk)



**W**e all know that crafting can be an expensive hobby (it certainly is the way I do it!) but you can offset some of the cost of buying new stash by making good use of recycled materials in your work. This piece has been built up from a selection of stuff from my 'junk' box, including the back off a used notebook, some packaging I salvaged from a piece of IKEA furniture and a box that originally contained some wooden embellishments. I love taking old rubbish and making something new from it.

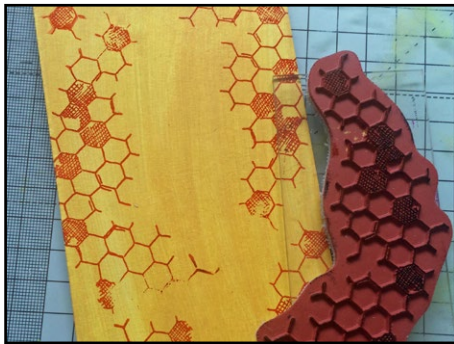
I've used what might be my favourite stamp (well, one of them) which is Jo Capper-Sandon's bee for Stampotique. It comes in three sizes and I've used all three here. I've combined it with another favourite set from JOFY (PaperArtsy) and some rich, warm colours of Distress and Archival Ink. There are no difficult techniques here, just some encouragement to go bin-diving and look creatively at what you throw away!

I have a real soft spot for bees and am saddened by their decline. My piece is an homage to these beautiful creatures that deserve our respect and protection. I've added a playful, whimsical touch by placing their queen centre stage and giving her a glittering crown.

## Materials

- Stampotique Jo Capper-Sandon stamps: Big Bee, Medium Bee with Tiny Bee, Crown
- PaperArtsy stamps: JOFY30
- Ranger Archival Inks: Jet Black, Monarch Orange, Saffron
- Ranger Distress Inks: Wild Honey, Rusty Hinge, Mustard Seed
- Ranger Distress Spray Stain: Rusty Hinge, Mustard Seed
- DecoArt Media Fluid Acrylics: Hansa Yellow Light, Yellow Oxide
- DecoArt Metallic Lustre: Gold Rush
- Ranger Stickles: Platinum
- Gold gel pen
- Chipboard scrap
- Corrugated card
- Wooden box (this one originally contained wooden shapes)
- White stamping card
- Cheesecloth
- Metal leaves, brown sewing thread, printed quote

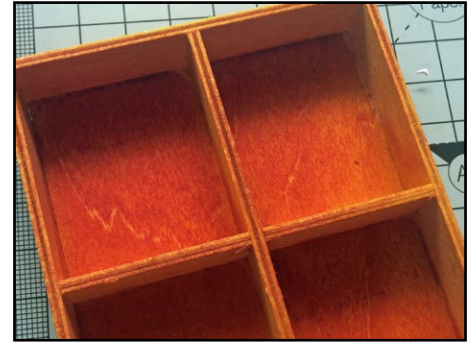
# step-by-step... buzzing bees



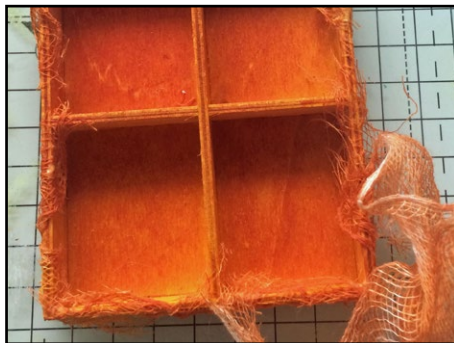
**1** Cut a piece of chipboard from the back of a notebook. Undercoat with gesso then paint with yellow acrylics. Stamp over the honeycomb image with Monarch Orange Archival Ink.



**2** Cut a piece of packaging material a bit bigger than the back piece. Spray with Mustard Seed Distress Spray Stain and when dry highlight with Metallic Lustre. Tear off the back layer of card.



**3** Take a wooden box (this one held some embellishments) and spray with Mustard Seed and Rusty Hinge Distress Spray Stains. Sprays are an easy way to colour something like this that's an awkward shape.



**4** Soften the edges of the box by spraying some cheesecloth with Rusty Hinge Distress Spray, then cutting it into small pieces and adhering to the box with gel medium.



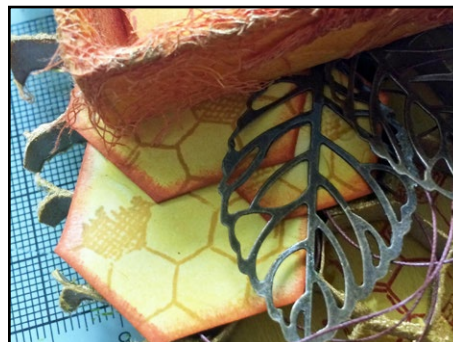
**5** Cut panels of paper to fit the apertures. Stamp the honeycomb in yellow Archival then ink with Wild Honey Distress Ink. Stamp two with bees.



**6** Stick coloured cut-out bees on top of the stamped bees with the wings raised. For the other two apertures create little stamped honeycomb pieces and add on 3D foam.



**7** Stamp Big Bee twice onto card. Cut out a whole bee and the body from the second bee and colour. Stamp onto acetate, cut out wings, add Stickles. Stamp a crown. Layer up the bee and glue to the box.



**8** Stamp and ink some hexagons. Stick the layers of the project together adding the hexagons, metal leaves and coiled lengths of thread between the packaging and box layers.



**9** Stamp and colour some Stampotique medium bees, add Stickles to the wings and use them to embellish the piece. To finish I added the printed out words 'Who's Queen?' below the big bee.





Using lots of textures helps to give this project plenty of interest. I combined soft cheesecloth with the structured shapes of the wooden box and hexagon-shaped packaging. Coils of cotton thread add a different texture again - I picked up this idea from Riikka Kovasin at a workshop and I pretty much now add thread to everything! It's a great way to add extra shape and detail without any visual weight.

"I love taking old rubbish and making something new from it. It gives you a real sense of achievement and it's good for the environment too!"

## Helpful Hint

Ranger's Archival Ink is perfect for stamping over acrylic paint as it's permanent and will stick to the glossy surface.

## where to buy...

Stampotique stamps available from [www.stampotique.com](http://www.stampotique.com)

JOFY PaperArtsy stamps available from That's Crafty! [www.thatscrafty.co.uk](http://www.thatscrafty.co.uk)

Ranger products are widely available from good craft retailers