

It's fun to send these "little gifts" for special occasions. Postcards provide a small canvas to create upon. They are not a big commitment. They are easy to make and stretch your creative brain just enough to still be fun. When mailing fabric postcards use a regular "forever" value postage stamp.

Supplies

- Pellon Peltex 72F – Double-Sided Fusible Ultra Firm Stabilizer – cut into 4"x6" pieces
- Lightweight Double-Sided Fusible Web such as EZ-Steam II or Steam-A-Seam 2
- Fabric – various scraps
- Thread – black and/or various colors
- Sewing Machine – with zig-zag stitch and the capability to drop feed dogs
- Scissors – sharp with fine point tip
- Iron – with steam option
- Parchment paper – to keep fusible goo from sticking to your iron and ironing board
- Paper for back of postcard – heavier than regular copy paper – cut into 4"x6" pieces
- Marker such as Sharpie with ultra fine point
- USPS regular "forever" stamps
- Rotary cutter, cutting mat, and acrylic rulers are helpful but not essential
- Toothpick or little pokey thingy to help align very small pieces

Directions

1. Think about the general design or scene you want to create on your postcard.
2. Gather several fabric scraps to work with. If you want the background to be one piece of fabric, include scraps that are at least 4"x6".
3. Cut Peltex into 4"x6" pieces. It usually comes in 20" width so if you cut off a 6" wide strip, then you can sub-cut that strip into five pieces, each 4" wide.
4. Choose fabric(s) to use as the background of your scene. This could be one piece of fabric (a little larger than 4"x6") or you could use several pieces of fabric. The goal is to cover one side of the Peltex piece completely.
5. Lay your selected background fabric(s) on one side of the Peltex piece. Place the Peltex + background, with background fabric(s) up, on top of parchment paper on your ironing surface. Press approximately 10 seconds with a hot iron (wool setting) using steam to secure the background fabric(s) to the Peltex. Let cool 15 seconds or so.
6. Trim the extra fabric away from the edges of the Peltex as needed so that your design surface measures 4"x6". You don't want to design on a surface that will need to be trimmed later.
7. Cut pieces of lightweight double-sided fusible web slightly smaller than the un-cut fabric scraps you will use to create your scene.
8. Peel off the paper from one side of the fusible web pieces and press the webbing to the wrong side of your un-cut fabric scraps following directions for the type of fusible web you're using.

9. Cut shapes from your fusible-backed fabric scraps to create your desired scene.
10. As you cut out your shapes, peel off the second piece of paper from the fusible web. Arrange the shapes you cut out on top of your background. If using EZ-Steam II, you can lightly finger press the shapes to the background as you go along and gingerly peel them up to move them around as desired. Other products sort of allow this but not as much as EZ-Steam II.
11. Once you're happy with your creation, carefully transport the postcard to the ironing board. Lay your postcard on top of parchment paper with your scene facing up.
12. Press straight down with a hot iron (cotton setting) with steam for a few seconds, being careful not to move your pieces. In other words, don't slide the iron around. I use the tip of the iron to carefully press little pieces that might move before I press down on the whole design. Press until you are confident the pieces will not come off. Your design will appear very "flat" once the pieces are fully fused.
13. Stand back and admire your work while it cools. Think about how or if stitching would enhance the design and what color thread you'd like to use. Often just using black thread is adequate.
14. Go to your sewing machine. Decide if you want to use straight stitching or "free motion" stitching with the feed dogs down. Alternatively, you could hand stitch if you like. Stitch enough to create a pleasing secondary design and to further secure the fused fabrics. I believe the fused fabrics are joined forever to the background but I don't want to chance jamming a postal machine so I usually add stitching.
15. Cut a 4"x6" piece out of plain paper that is slightly thicker than regular copy paper.
16. Lay the postcard face down on the ironing board on top of a piece of parchment paper. Place the plain paper on the back of the Peltex, lining up the edges carefully. Place a piece of parchment paper over the top of this. Press straight down without sliding the iron too much until the paper adheres to the back of the postcard.
17. Go to your sewing machine. Change feet as needed for zig-zag stitching. Play with your zig-zag settings to achieve a fairly tight zig-zag that is approx. 1/4" wide or maybe a little wider. Choose the setting that pleases you. Zig-Zag stitch around the entire postcard. The goal is to secure all four edges.
18. With a fine tip marker, "name" your postcard at the top left. Write POSTCARD at the top middle. Draw a line to separate the address area from the message area.
19. Send your creation to your Fabric-Postcard-Worthy friends and family!