



Designer:  
Jo Firth-Young

# Second Lease of Life

I am a hoarder. There, I admit it. I save all sorts of bits and pieces hoping that at some point (who knows when?!) they might come in useful or they would be the perfect embellishment, accent or basis for a creative project of some kind. You never know when you might need that head off a broken zipper, or the tiny box that four chocolates came in, or the purple netting that once contained kiwi fruits from the supermarket!

I've recently described it as a 'Wombles' approach to creativity – those lovely resourceful little furry creatures of Wimbledon Common who collected rubbish and put it to good use – I like to think I'm doing the same. Take a fresh look at the things you might be throwing away or sending to the recycling. For example: bottle tops – washed, flattened and

filled with an image or beads make great embellishments, spare buttons from clothes, ribbons attached to clothes for hanging, cardboard from packaging, bubblewrap – the possibilities are endless.

I've chosen to use corrugated cardboard in my projects. It has a great smooth surface under which is the lovely ripple effect. It comes in various depths, colours, strengths and even sometimes the ripples vary in depth. It's great for adding colour and stamping to. And it will run through a die cutting machine! Versatile and in ready supply.

So before you send the next cardboard box for recycling why not give it a second lease of life and make a decorative panel or a card with it.

**“ I find working with recycled and found objects very liberating. When working with these elements the creation of a piece is quite organic – the piece will just grow and adapt. An element I choose to use may not be quite the right size and so I have to work around it and change my original idea to suit. It's about improvisation and resourcefulness. ”**



Jo Firth-Young shows you how to make a pretty piece of wall art from found materials.

## Materials

### Stamps Jo used...

- Hero Arts Italian Poetry background (S1832)
- PaperArtsy Mini 28

### Other materials...

- Heavyweight corrugated cardboard
- Lightweight corrugated cardboard scraps
- Bubblewrap
- Ranger Archival Ink in Black
- Adirondack Acrylic Dabbers in Pitch Black and Silver

- VersaColor ink in bronze
- Copper embossing powder
- Tattered Angel Glimmer Mists: Graphite
- Tim Holtz Masks 'Timeworks'
- Fiskars Sunburst border punch
- Cuttlebug Harlequin die
- Feather butterfly (designers own)
- Copper/bronze brads
- Optional: Copper wire grid for mounting

### I want... I want... I want...

Glimmer Mists; Tim Holtz masks available from Craft Obsessions, [www.craftobsessions.co.uk](http://www.craftobsessions.co.uk), 01202 896995

Acrylic Dabbers available from Card Inspirations, [www.cardinspirations.co.uk](http://www.cardinspirations.co.uk), 01438 717000

Cuttlebug dies and embossing folders available from Cutting Edge Crafts, [www.cuttingedgecrafts.co.uk](http://www.cuttingedgecrafts.co.uk)

Stamps used available from Blade Rubber Stamps, [www.bladerubberstamps.co.uk](http://www.bladerubberstamps.co.uk), 0207 7831 4123

## WHY NOT TRY

Stamping with textured surfaces for a different effect, such as the bubble wrap as used in this article.

## Stamp... Wall art



1 Cut a square of corrugate cardboard and tear off some of the top layer to reveal the ridges.



2 Cut a piece of bubble wrap and stick to an acrylic block bubble side up. Randomly and liberally add silver acrylic paint to the bubble wrap and stamp onto the cardboard.



3 Lay one of the Timeworks masks onto the corner of the cardboard panel and spritz with Graphite Glimmer Mist.



4 Wipe the corners of the panels with acrylic paint in black and silver.



5 Stamp the text stamp onto the panel with Archival ink in black. Archival ink is recommended for this project because it is permanent and water resistant.



6 Create a border strip from a used envelope using the Fiskars Sunburst punch. This border will be attached to the reverse of the main panel.



7 Cut three centre flourishes from cardboard using the Cuttlebug Harlequin die. Paint with black acrylic paint. Stamp with PaperArtsy Mini 28 and emboss with copper powder.



8 Take all the created elements, and lay them onto the base structure – move them about until you are happy with the layout. Attach using glue dots and brads.



9 Cut a piece of copper wire grid slightly bigger than the cardboard base panel. Bend the ends over of any cut wire to make safe. Attach the wire grid to the cardboard on the reverse using a hot glue gun.