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Etched Snowflake Coasters

Designed by Pat Reteguiz
Sponsored by Armour Products



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Rub'N'Etch stencils from Armour Products are single-use stencils made specifically for use with Armour Etch Glass Etching Cream. The stencil will fall apart and wash off at the end of the process, leaving you with permanently etched glass. Etching glass can be addictive. Once you try it, I know you will be thinking of all sorts of things to etch for yourself and for your friends.

Supplies

- **Armour Products**
Etchable Square Coasters (clear), #60-3909 (3-1/2" x 3-1/2") set of six
Beveled Octagon Mirror Coasters, #28-5014 (4"), six
Armour Etch Glass Etching Cream
Coaster Stencils: Snow Flake 1, Snow Flake 2, Snow Flake 3, Snow Flake 4 (each 3" x 3")
Rub 'N' Etch Stencil: Snowflakes, #20-0484 (7/8" each)
- **Amaco Rub'n Buff Metallic, Silver Leaf**
- **Miscellaneous:** baby wipes, dish detergent, glass cleaner, masking tape, old onion bag, old paintbrush, paper towels, protective safety glasses or goggles, rubber gloves, scissors, water source

Note: Follow all manufacturers' label safety cautions and read product usage instructions before beginning this project.

Tips and Techniques

Note: Before beginning this project, read through the following tips and techniques section.

Work in a well-lighted and well-ventilated area near a water source, and use rubber gloves and protective eyewear. Be certain to read *safety instructions* on the Armour Etch Glass Etching Cream container *before beginning* your project. Armour Etch Glass Etching Cream will not etch plastics and Pyrex. When in doubt, test the material before starting.

When etching glass, it is important to remember that the etching cream is active and will start to etch *immediately* upon contact with the glass. With this in mind,

you want to keep a clean work area. Keep your baby wipes and paper towels close by. A tiny drop of etching cream on your finger can result in a permanent spot on the glass; you *cannot* undo the etching. If you are new to this process, testing on old glass (from a garage sale or dollar store finds) is recommended before moving to your final project.

Armour Etch Glass Etching Cream is *deactivated* with water. If you are etching several pieces in one sitting, make sure that you *do not* allow any water to get into the cream container. Use one brush for applying the cream and be certain that the hairs contain no water. Dipping a brush dampened with water into a jar of etching cream can deactivate the entire jar.

I use an old onion bag that has been tied into knots to wash off the etching cream in the sink. The rough surface of the bag helps to scrub off any remnants of the stencil. When I am finished etching, I wash the bag and store it with my etching supplies.

Preparation

1. Use the glass cleaner to remove all grease, dust, and fingerprints. Do not use cleaning solutions that are "fingerprint resistant," as these cleaners leave a film on the glass that will hinder the etching process. Once clean, avoid making fingerprints on the area of glass that you intend to etch. Dry thoroughly.

Note: If you do not want the lettering of the stencils on your coaster, tape off that area before adhering the stencil to the coaster.

2. Carefully cut the stencil sheet and the frosted backing sheet together in order to avoid touching the back side of the stencil sheet (the blue part). Plan carefully to determine where you will place the stencil on the glass.

3. Separate the blue stencil sheet from the frosted backing sheet. Put the frosted backing sheet to the side, as it will be used later.

4. Place the stencil sheet on the glass with the blue (tacky) side touching the glass. To keep the stencil sheet from shifting, secure it to the glass with masking tape.

5. Using the wood stick enclosed with the stencil, transfer the stencil from the sheet to the glass surface by rubbing firmly over the design using smooth, even strokes. Rub left and right, and then up and down. *Do not* dig into the stencil. You will be able to see the stencil being transferred by the change in color from a dark blue to a lighter blue. When rubbing near the edge of the stencil, be careful not to lift the stencil. When the entire stencil has been adhered to the glass, carefully remove some of the masking tape and slowly peel back the clear top sheet. Peel from the side closest to you, and pull the top sheet back. This will enable you to see if any blue parts of the stencil are not adhered to the glass. If the stencil has not been entirely adhered to the glass, put the top sheet back down and rub that area again until all pieces are adhered. When the stencil is secure, discard the plastic. Apply a border of masking tape around the entire stencil, overlapping the tape on the blue stencil

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by 1/16" to 1/8"; be careful not to overlap the design. This overlap prevents the etching cream from contacting the glass and etching unwanted areas! *Note:* If a very large area of glass needs to be protected, use strips of adhesive-backed shelving vinyl. You also want to tape up to one of the edges of your glass object. This will allow you to have a runoff area, so that when you are washing off the etching cream, the cream will not have a chance to spread onto an area that you do not want etched.

6. When all sides of the stencil have been taped, use the *white frosted backing sheet* to lightly rub over the entire stencil area, including the edges where the tape overlaps the stencil. You want to make sure there are no gaps where the etching cream can leak onto unwanted areas. The sheet is great, as it will not stick to the blue stencil. Check the stencil for small tears or holes by holding the project up to the light. If any holes appear, cover them with small pieces of tape, because the stencil will tear if you try to remove it.

Glass Etching

Note: For best etching results, the temperature of the room, the etching cream, and the object that you are etching should be over 70°F.

1. Shake the Armour Etch Glass Etching Cream thoroughly. Use a dry brush to apply a thick layer of Etching Cream to the open areas of the stencil; do not paint the cream on — you just have to “plop it” onto the open areas of your stencil. Stay within the taped area. To check to see if you have applied enough





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cream, pick up your piece and look through it.

2. Allow the etching cream to remain on glass for *only* one minute — no longer. Then, immediately wash off the etching cream using lukewarm water. Some of the stencil will be removed during this rinse. After all traces of the etching cream are washed away, remove all the remaining tape and stencil pieces.

3. Clean the glass using the glass cleaner, and let dry completely.

4. The etched area will show as the glass dries. To enhance the image, apply Rub'n Buff over the etched area. Because the etched areas have "tooth," Rub'n Buff will stick to the etched area. Simply wipe Rub'n Buff over the area with your finger, and let it sit for a minute or two. Wipe with a paper towel to remove excess on glass area. Then turn the

paper towel to a clean spot, and wipe again. This should remove all but that which you wish to cover the etched area. You can apply several coats; allow adequate drying time between applications.

Note: The items for this project can be purchased at your local art and craft store, as well as online at www.etchworld.com.