



## TOP 3 WINNING COMMENTS

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE- CAROLINE KELLY

Having had an accident which resulted in significant disabilities suddenly I lost my job, my life as I knew it, my ability to believe in myself, my sense of purpose and achievement to name but a few.

One day while flicking through the tv channels and not actually wanting to watch anything I came across create and craft. From the offset it was almost like having a friend / friends in my living room. I began my just watching and finding that I looked forward to watching more. Then I became a member of the create and craft club which opened even more interesting doors for me. After a few months of watching and reading articles / blogs in your magazine and members area I decided to give crafting a go. Some were too difficult for me to manage physically and financially but after trying a few crafts I found creating cards suited me. Initially there were some real disasters but after watching create & craft demonstrations, taking note of the very useful tips the presenters and guests share and of course learning from my past mistakes one day something just clicked. Inspiration came from the oddest places and there is now a notepad beside my bed to record ideas dreamt throughout the night. Slowly my confidence has returned, when I show or give cards the reactions give me a fantastic sense of achievement and after exploring card making techniques I have stretched my boundaries to make embellished and personalised cardboard bunting and artwork that could be displayed in frames. Again this has received some great feedback and I've had a few commissions for something special but different from my friends. This has allowed me to explore more possibilities, push my myself and try out different techniques, materials and mediums I have seen / bought through create and craft. My latest purchase was a scan and cut machine which I can only describe as amazing!

It was a slow process, but what started off as just enjoying watching the C&C channel to attempting to make cards and pushing myself to explore different things I could employ card making techniques to I have found a new purpose for my changed life. But the best thing is I may actually be able to start a business that will allow me to work from home lying down at times to suit me and my pain be it in the middle of the night or during the day, card making is both flexible and forgiving of my disabilities which I can sadly say is not the case in the industry I built my career in.

I love card making because it has allowed me to see there is life after my accident, there is a sense of purpose and achievement for me to grab that I just couldn't see before. I know many people say card making has changed their lives, with me card making has given me a new life to enjoy, to test me and hopefully one day to financially support me. This was a wish I had given up on. Thankyou from the bottom of my heart!

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### 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE- JULIA JONES

You are transported to a different dimension, where every thing is perfect in your crafty place. Unicorns play beneath the rainbow, with fairies touching flowers to make the perfect colours. Your crafty teapot is always full and hot, and the cakes have no calories. When you are in this place your imagination runs wild, and your creations show your thoughts for your card recipient, scrapbook pages flood you with memories of that special time spent with others or certain places. Fabrics and threads weave together, encasing your love and thoughts in a permanent reminder with your special project.

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### 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE- SUSAN ASHWORTH

I am not the most eloquent person, but I can give you an example of why I love being creative and making my cards. A few days ago after quite a tough year, my daughter was trying hard to explain to my 8 year old grandson that this Christmas there would not be very many presents. His response warmed my heart. He said "yes mummy but I will still get one of Nanna's special cards won't I. And all was well. I can't think of a better reason to do what we love can you?"