INSPIRATION
These cards are always a hit!

Invitations and greeting cards in pink and purple

Self-made invitations and greeting cards can add a touch of originality and creativity to any occasion. Having a plan in mind, before you start, is always a great idea. And we have some fantastic ideas to help get you started including: party invitations, birthday cards and thank you cards. All you will need is some different coloured sheets of paper and edding matt paint markers. We recommend the white colour as being especially striking on purple card or any other dark surface.

To create your greeting cards you will need:

- Several sheets of different coloured paper (we've used purple and pink)
- Some small strips of white paper (you can cut these yourself)
- **edding 4000 matt paint marker** (white is great on dark surfaces)
- Scissors, a glue stick, a ruler and a graphite pencil
- Carbon copy paper (or tracing paper), a hole punch and thin ribbon
- A copy of the flower or vine template (enclosed)

Step-by-step instructions:

- Cut the coloured paper to the desired card size. (For folding cards remember to double the dimensions).

- For cards that open out from the middle: Cut the card to double the desired size (landscape format), then fold the right hand edge into the middle of the card, repeat the process for the left hand edge (see Invitation Card).

    For the decoration:
- Use a photocopier to enlarge the flower or vine template to the desired size. Then copy it onto the coloured paper using the carbon copy paper (if required). Then simply trace over the lines with the white matt paint marker.
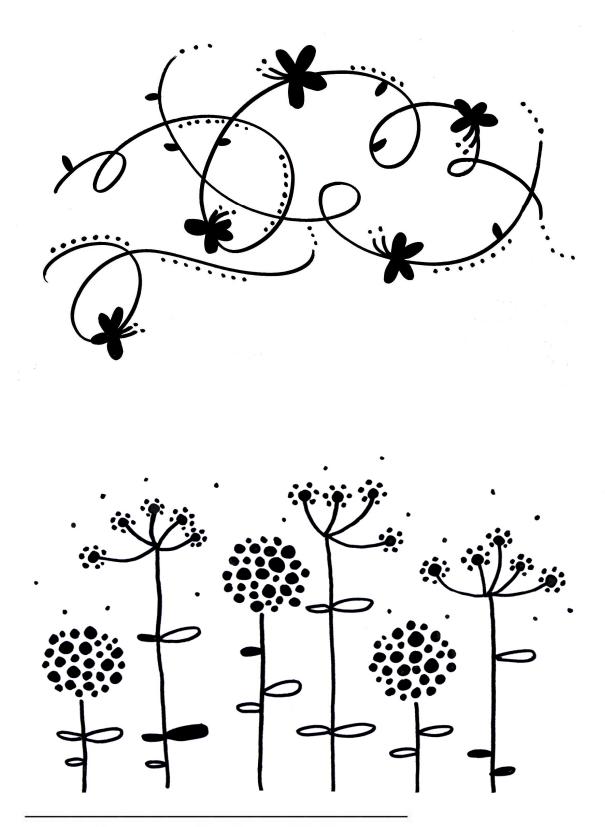
    Hints & Tips:
- For cards that open out from the middle, draw the decoration so that is runs across the opening for a particularly great effect.

- When you're ready to "seal" the card use a strip of white paper, (at least double the width of the card plus an extra bit for the overlap). Then using the glue stick, fix the overlap in place to "seal" the card. For an added dimension, why not write a greeting on the paper strip using an **edding 4000 matt paint marker** (we used a violet shade to match the card colour)
- Finally punch a hole through the finished card and attach a co-ordinated coloured ribbon to add that finishing touch.

    Hints & Tips:
- An especially striking effect is to cut different sized cards, in complimentary colours, and then combine and overlap them.

Here's how to activate the edding matt paint marker:
1. With the cap on, vigorously shake the matt paint marker.
2. Next, place the nib of the marker on a piece of test paper. Carefully pump the marker nib by pressing it on the paper until the ink appears in the nib.
3. Make a couple of marks on the test paper with the marker.
4. Don't forget: always replace the cap after use.