

**TECHNIQUE:**  
Working with skeleton leaves

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# Beyond BE-LEAF!

Skeleton leaves always make an attractive background - but how about doing something a bit more interesting with them? These diaphanous items really come into their own when shaped into butterflies, dragonflies and fish!

## GET READY...

### Fish

- ✓ White card 28x14cm
- ✓ Skeleton leaves in yellow, purple and green
- ✓ Green shimmer paper 14cm square plus scraps of dark green thin card for reeds
- ✓ Sequin confetti fish and bubble shapes (or use fish and hole punches)
- ✓ PVA glue and solvent glue
- ✓ Tracing paper and scrap of card for template
- ✓ Craft knife

- ✓ Wobbly eye
- ✓ Double-sided tape

### Emperor dragonfly

- ✓ White card 17.75x25cm
- ✓ Two white skeleton leaves
- ✓ A5 Celadon shaded card
- ✓ Scraps of dark green thin card for reeds
- ✓ Sequin confetti dragonfly shapes (or use a dragonfly punch)
- ✓ PVA glue and solvent glue
- ✓ Brown chenille pipe cleaner
- ✓ Selection of green and blue beads
- ✓ 26 gauge (or similar) gold wire

- ✓ Pliers for cutting and snipe-nosed pliers for bending wire
- ✓ Tracing paper and scrap of card for template
- ✓ Craft knife
- ✓ Double-sided tape
- ✓ Yellow craft foam (or use yellow card)

### Butterfly

- ✓ White card 21x21cm
- ✓ Skeleton leaves in red, orange and yellow
- ✓ Pale blue shaded card (long thin shape)
- ✓ Packet of flower and leaf shapes
- ✓ Scraps of dark green thin card for stems

- ✓ Butterfly stickers (or use a butterfly punch)
- ✓ PVA glue and solvent glue
- ✓ Brown chenille pipe cleaner
- ✓ Pliers for cutting wire
- ✓ Tracing paper and scrap of card for template
- ✓ Craft knife
- ✓ Double-sided tape

## GO

### Fish

- 1 Score and fold the white card to 14 cm square. Cover the front with green shimmer paper and leave to dry.
- 2 Select a yellow leaf to form the fish body and, using the templates, cut out along with other pieces from different coloured leaves as specified. Assemble to look like the picture and fix to the shimmer paper. Add a wobbly eye with solvent glue.
- 3 Cut out some wiggly shapes from dark green card to form reeds and add some fish confetti, stickers or punched shapes including a few silver bubbles coming from the fish's mouth.

### Emperor dragonfly

- 1 Score and fold the white card to 17.75x12.75cm. Cover the front with Celadon card and trim to fit.

- 2 Select two matching white leaves and cut each in half along the central stem; try to retain a little of this stronger middle on each half.
- 3 Thread about 30 blue beads onto the wire and curl the end around so they won't slip off. Add seven green beads, a larger bead for the head and another green bead. Curl the wire around at the top and cut with pliers.

- 4 Cut three 5cm lengths of wire and curl each end. Twist each one around the green beaded body section to look like three pairs of legs. Cut a small piece of double-sided tape and attach the wing pairs to the body.

- 5 Cut and attach some stems and leaves from dark green card for the bulrushes and irises as shown. Two 5cm lengths of brown pipe cleaner form the heads of the bulrushes while shapes cut from yellow foam or card make the iris flowers. Add a couple of dragonfly confetti shapes, stickers or punched shapes before sticking down the dragonfly with double-sided tape.

### Butterfly

- 1 Score and fold the white card to make a 21x10.5cm. Cover the front with pale blue shaded card (dark at the bottom, light at the top) and trim to fit.
- 2 Select two large matching red leaves and another smaller pair. Using the template cut out two of the larger shapes from orange leaves and stick these onto the larger wings, then four of the smaller shapes from yellow leaves attaching two on top of the orange shapes and two on the smaller pair of wings. Fix the wings together (the larger set overlapping the smaller) with double-sided tape.

- 3 Cut a 5cm length of brown pipe cleaner for the body and fray the top so the two wires stick out like antennae. Attach above the wings and leave to dry.

- 4 Cut out some stems from dark green card, and stick down the leaves and flowers from the packet (see suppliers below). Add a couple of butterfly sequin confetti shapes, stickers or punched shapes then fix the butterfly with double-sided tape.

## SOURCE

Shimmer paper, punches and shaded card from Cardcraft Plus Ltd (Tel: 01772 272572), log onto [www.cardcraftplus.co.uk](http://www.cardcraftplus.co.uk).  
Leaf and flower shapes from Lakeland Ltd (Tel: 015394 88100), log onto [www.lakelandlimited.com](http://www.lakelandlimited.com).  
Skeleton leaves from Papermania are available at most Docrafts stockists. For your nearest store visit [www.docrafts.co.uk](http://www.docrafts.co.uk).

## Fish

