

Make a History Inspired **Valentine**

Handmade Valentines became popular and commercialized in the United States during the Civil War thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit of Esther Howland, sometimes known as “the mother of the Valentine.” At a time when European Valentines were only available to the those of great wealth, Esther Howland used true “DIY” methods and mass produced Valentines for sale to the public. She set up an all-female assembly line in her home and contributed to the Valentine industry with several innovations including the “lift-up” style card and messages on the inside only.

Follow these steps to create your own DIY Valentine – Esther Howland style!

- ❖ Gather papers, scraps, glue, scissors, ribbon, lace, and a pen.



- ❖ Cut, trim, design, glue and repeat! Add layers and dimension. Don't worry if it gets heavy – just design a lift-up style card! NOTE: No writing on the front of the card, per Esther!



- ❖ Write a verse or special note on the INSIDE and share your DIY Valentine – Esther style!

