

Owl Party Invitations and Placecards

Whoooo will be coming to your Wizard party? Just about everyone is sure to turn up once they receive a fabulous jumbo Halloween party invitation. Each owl invitation fits nicely into an A4 envelope.

More owls are on hand for the party itself. For the placecards, an owl is perched on a "scroll of parchment" and inscribed with your guests name. The owls are crafted using opulent gold and silver markers from Pilot. There's even a marker with a special calligraphy point that makes easy work of the fancy lettering.

You will need:

Pilot Super Color Silver Markers: Fine, Extra Fine, and Calligraphy points

Pilot Super Color Gold Markers: Fine and Extra Fine points

Olfa Art Knife Pro, Model Ak-4; self-healing cutting mat

Card: white, red, purple

PVA glue; cocktail sticks

Scissors

A dry fine-point pen; metal ruler

Pencil

To Make Up:

Invitation

1 Enlarge the pattern pieces on a photocopier. Trace the owl onto a piece of red or purple card. Trace the invitation onto a piece of white card. Also trace the invitation strut - the support so it can stand up for display. A good method of tracing is to impress the design using a dry fine-point pen as a stylus. (This works especially well for dark colours.)

2 Draw the owl using the gold markers. Go over the outlines, using the extra- fine point marker for the details - such as feathers and claws - and the fine point marker for the bold outlines (including the spectacle-like eyes).

3 Plan out the lettering on your invitation in pencil. Aim for uniform size and spacing. Lightly pencil the lettering in place on your invitation. Go over the lettering in extra-fine point gold marker for most of the details. The words "Wizard party!" and "R.S.V.P." are worked using the silver calligraphy marker. This helps you to achieve thick and thin lettering. (To learn more about the art of beautiful lettering, take out a library book on the subject of calligraphy. It will include alphabets for you to copy.)

4 When you have finished the lettering, outline the scroll using a fine-point gold marker. To draw perfectly straight lines, you can run the marker along a metal ruler. Wipe the ruler clean with a piece of kitchen roll after each swipe. (A cork-backed ruler is best, because this raises the ruler above the surface of the card, eliminating the possibility of smears.)

5 Cut out the owls, the scroll and the strut. Adults should use a craft knife held over a self-healing cutting mat for a professional finish. Hold the craft knife against a metal ruler to cut straight lines. Children can use scissors. Score the strut lightly with a craft knife held against a ruler, as marked (an adult must do this).

6 Assemble the invitation. Glue the owls claws onto centre top of invitation, as marked. A cocktail stick makes an ideal glue applicator. Fold the strut and glue the strut tab onto the back of the invitation, tab aligned with centre top edge (behind the owl). Use the strut to prop up the invitation, for display.

Place cards

To make up:

The placecards are made in a similar way to the invitations. For variety, two different styles of owls are given, with wings in different positions.

1 Make up each placecard, following steps 1-4 of the Invitation instructions, above. The lettering on the placecard is worked with the silver calligraphy marker.

2 After you have outlined the placecard scroll in gold fine-point marker, score the top edge using a craft knife held against a metal ruler. Cut out the sides and the bottom edge of the scroll using a craft knife or scissors. Fold the card down along the scored top edge. Mark the back of the card by pencil-tracing around the card front outline. Cut out the back of the card along the pencil lines.

3 Cut out the owl and glue it onto centre top of the placecard.