Make Invisible Ink with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Invisible Ink
(upbeat music) - Hey everybody it's Courtney from Creativebug coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you like our page and follow us on Facebook you should get a notification when we go live, which means you can write in and ask us questions. And I've been kind of dabbling with the idea of making some invisible ink. I've been using a Nib pen a lot recently for drawing and painting. And I've tried acrylic ink and water-based ink and dye-based ink and pigment-based ink but I've never tried invisible ink. And I knew that there were recipes on the internet for making your own. And there about a dozen or so recipes mostly using a Q-tip as your applicator as opposed to a Nib pen which is I'm, what I'm gonna show you. And I'm also gonna show you with some water color brushes how to apply your invisible ink. The two inks that I liked the best out of all the different methods were just regular milk, so I've got a little cup of that here and lemon juice. So super, super easy. The lemon juice will keep for a little bit. The milk obviously is only good for your time writing and then you need to toss it. Or if you really want to make your own homemade cheese Liana said that you can mix your milk and your lemon juice together and that makes curds. So, multi-purpose. Make sure that your Nib pen is nice and clear if your gonna do that. I also have some index cards here to practice on. You can write your little notes on this. You could do this for a love note. You could write a secret message to a pen pal. I really wish I had had this recipe or had known about this when I was a kid cause I think making a treasure map would be really awesome. As an adult you can do that for a kid or another adult in your life. Really the possibilities are endless. It feels very much like Harry Potter. I was really excited to play with this. So I want to show you both the milk and the lemon juice and a few different ways to reveal the invisible ink, which is using heat. So the first thing we're gonna do is let's start with the Nib pen. If you've never used a Nib pen, it's like a metal tipped pen. It splits at the tip so when you apply pressure that opens and creates a thicker line and when you release pressure it closes and writes a thinner line. Maybelle Omasa-Stukuls who teaches our calligraphy classes this is what she uses is a Nib pen. You can also use a little skinny paint brush. And for this one let's just draw some hearts. You can hear that Nib pen. Alright. I'm gonna write what this is. This one is milk and we'll come back to it. I'm gonna do a quick little rinse. This is really not the proper care for your Nib pen but for this purposes it works totally fine. And then we're gonna dip into our lemon juice. And we're gonna do hearts on here too. I think straining your lemon juice if it's fresh squeezed would work even better so that you don't get any pulp stuck in your Nib pen. I did not do that. So if you get any pulp, it just creates a thicker little bit. The other reason I'm writing on here is because once this dries you absolutely can not tell that you've drawn on the paper whatsoever. It's really truly an invisible note. There are some other methods using like baking soda and grape juice concentrate. Which I'm not even sure where you buy that. And you can kinda tell that there's been something on the paper because it's ripply but this is really seamless even with a fine paint brush or especially with a Nib pen. So we'll set those aside to dry. And while those are drying, I have a few others that have been drying and this is the fun part because I don't even remember what I drew on them. They've all been sitting here. And we're gonna try a few different methods for heating them up. One is a candle. One is a heat gun like you would use for embossing. If you've ever seen any of our embossing classes or some of our live shoots where we show how to emboss. We use a heat gun. And the other is an iron. And I think they

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all have their merits and they're maybe faux pas and so forth. You definitely don't want to light anything on fire but they're really fun to use. So let's start with this. I'm not sure what it says but I wrote it with lemon juice and I'm gonna try it with a candle. So it does take a minute to heat up the surface of your card. Especially if you're using a thicker card like we are. I'm using a card stock. And I just trimmed this so the flame wouldn't been insane. It does have to get warm for it to start to appear. - [Liana Voiceover] And Vanessa would like to know. Do they have to be dry before applying heat? - Yes, I would recommend them being dry otherwise what happens is you get like these little bubbles and the edges get dark and the centers stay light. So I think this is the stars which is really hard because I can't remember where I drew my stars. So I'm not sure where to apply the heat. But you can start to see it come up which is really, really fun. That's the beauty of the invisible message, is the surprise. Thanks Vanessa for the question. There's another little star. I did this with a tiny paint brush so that's why you get kinda darker lines on the outside and we have a little bit of a thicker line. Ooh I think it would be so fun to like throw your message on a fireplace and read it really quickly and then all the evidence is burned away. That's some super secret stuff right there. I don't know if I have any more stars on this. We can come back and hit it with the iron. I should have done something right in the center so we could look. Alright so that's our flame we'll keep working with other flames. Let's do lemon juice with the iron. I've got my iron hot. No steam for this just hot iron. And this one I actually found I didn't love. You'd think that because it gives nice flat even heat that this would be a great way to heat up your invisible ink but I feel like I just got kind of a weaker result. You can also put a little stack of cards underneath to give this a little bit of cushion. That could help. I had to say that I think my favorite way to reveal your secret message is actually using the heat gun which we're gonna do next. Let's see. - [Liana Voiceover] We have two paper related questions whenever you're ready. - Yes. We have two paper related questions so why we're waiting for this to heat up, which does take a minute, I will answer those. - [Liana Voiceover] Okay, Brianne wants to know does it matter what type of paper you use? - Hey, Brianne I think if you wrote in before nice to have you back. Does it matter - [Liana Voiceover] She's a winner. - Yes, I thought so. You were a winner. Congratulations. And you're asking what kind of paper you can use. You can use typing paper like bond, copy paper very lightweight. That's totally fine. You can use binder paper. You can use card stock. This heating up process takes a little bit longer because you're using a thicker paper. You have to disperse that heat a little bit more but you can use anything. So whatever you like. Don't do anything that's glossy or coated in plastic. Like metallic papers are coated in plastic. That's what makes them you know gold or like photo paper which has a gloss finish. You don't want anything cause you're gonna be applying heat to it. Alright, so there's the iron. And you can see that that lower heart came out a lot and the top parts are a little softer but still pretty good. And clearly my iron needs to be cleaned. Let's try this. This is with lemon juice and we're gonna do this with the heat gun. And this is an embossing gun if you've never used one. It blows out really high heat with not a lot of force so unlike a hair dryer which is lower heat, greater force. The embossing gun is a great all purpose craft tool. We use it in the beeswax collage class. We use it for embossing. And it works for revealing your secret message. (heat gun drying) So you kinda have to heat up the whole surface and once it's all warm then kinda specific heating works. (heat gun drying) This is my favorite way to reveal a secret message cause I think you kinda get a little bit of all of the message which I like. Well there's a little heart down there. (heat gun drying) Nice. So those were all with lemon juice. Let me show you some with milk. Let's draw one together. - [Liana Voiceover] Okay, we have a couple more questions. - Oh yes, more questions. - [Liana Voiceover] More bearing in the technicality. - Great more questions. - [Liana Voiceover] Okay so

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one is, is it better to use lighter paper as opposed to tanish paper? - Yeah, good question. You definitely want to stick with a white or cream maybe a pale yellow paper because obviously this ink gets kinda like a warm brown color. It's not gonna go super, super dark. So if you do a darker paper there's less contrast so your writing will be harder to see. So I would definitely go with like a light to medium tone. If you look at my table here you can see that some of these papers are cream. This is a Strathmore drawing paper which is one of my favorite papers to work with. It takes paint okay so it's fine for applying this liquid lemon or milk. In general it's nice. I just really like the color of it. I use it a lot for print making and other things. So the Strathmore drawing paper I love. I also like the index cards because they're very handy and they come in four by six and five by seven which you can mail like a postcard in addition to this small three by five size. - [Liana Voiceover] Okay, Connie needs a clarification. - Yes, Connie. - [Liana Voiceover] Were you ironing the same side that you wrote on? - Yes, good question. I was ironing the same side. You could iron from the backside too. That's fine. You just want to make sure that your message is completely dry before you apply any of the heat because if you get any little like bubbles or pools where that liquid is not fully dry in the process of heating it up especially if you have the image flipped over you can smear your message or it won't show up at all because it's liquid and so it kinda evaporates as opposed to like drying and then being heated. Okay come back to that. Alright, let's see what else we have. This is milk so we just did three different ways to reveal the lemon juice and we used the flame, and the iron and the heat gun. Now we're gonna do the same thing except with the milk ones. And I wish my flame was a little bit bigger. Let me pour out some of this wax and see if that will help. There we go. Let's try it again. You kinda have to heat everything up to start. I extinguished the flame. (laughing) There we go. Don't smother your flame. I think that's probably a lesson in love in addition to (laughing) secret message writing. Here we go. So it looked like the paper was just kinda burning but now you can see that it's really just heating up where there is milk. And when I was practicing this earlier one of our camera guys Aaron was saying like um smells good in here. And I was telling him that when people make pastries you can do like an egg wash on top for glossy pastries but you can also do a milk wash. So I think whatever is in the milk and also in the lemon juice the reason you can heat it up and it turns this brown color is there's something in it right that's burning that allows you to have to reveal this message, right. So I'm not sure what it is. If it's casein or proteins but it works. The milk and the lemon juice are the two things that work the best for this. The flames a little slower going but it's so romantic to reveal your love message with a flame. (laughing) I would say if you're doing this for treasure maps for little kids instead. I would go with the heat gun or maybe the iron too would work. It would be a little bit safer. - [Liana Voiceover] Courtney, would a blow dryer work? - I wouldn't use a blow dryer. The questions could you use a blow dryer and that's a question I get all the time with the embossing gun just for other craft things. The embossing gun again it's higher heat, lower force in air and the hair dryer is the opposite. So I don't think the hair dryer would really get hot enough but you could try it. You could try it and then write in on Thursday and tell us how it worked out. Thursday's live show I'm really, really excited about also. I think love is in the air in general with craft making right now so on Thursday we're gonna do some really awesome painted cookies using kinda of an edible dye that looks just like water color. Liana and I are gonna do that. It's gonna be so, so fun. Okay so there's our heart with the milk. Let's try this next one with milk and using the heat gun. I think this is brush lettering. (heat gun drying) (coughing) Smells like baked goods. (heat gun drying) And you can play with how much pressure you're putting on the brush and how much like saturation of milk or lemon juice you're getting. You can see some letters are darker than others and I think they just had more milk or more lemon. This happens to be the milk. So you

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can experiment with going back over your lettering when you're using a brush. I think the Nib pen gives you the most consistent application of the liquid. Alright and then I think we said we would do one with an iron. We haven't done the milk with an iron. Let's try this one. Oh wait no let's see. We've already did the candle. Let's do this one. This one says candle but we already did the candle. So we'll do the iron on this guy. Again, my iron is just set to high heat, no steam because I don't want to ripple the paper. And this is with milk as opposed to the lemon juice we did earlier and you can see actually this is giving you a nice golden color, which is pretty fun. I think for something like a really long letter or like a treasure map or kinda a more intricate drawing the iron might be the way to go too. That looks pretty good. Let's see. I have another one here. This is really fun cause I have no idea what I drew on these. Let's try the heat gun for this guy. (heat gun drying) It's really amazing like how invisible the liquid is on the surface. Ooh it's a little face. (heat gun drying) Some writing here. This is with the Nib pen. I got pretty even distribution of the ink but maybe I could have done a little bit more. I could have come maybe come in with my brush pen to get some thicker lines. (heat gun drying) It's fun to draw with it. (heat gun drying) Oh my God that's so cute. I love it. Alright, we've got another one here. Let's try the iron one more time. Does anybody know why the invisible ink works with heat? Like do you know what's in milk or in lemon juice? I was just guessing. - [Liana Voiceover] Enzymes? - Liana says enzymes. I was saying like the casein in the milk maybe or the protein but I'm not sure for the lemon. Maybe it's acids. - [Liana Voiceover] We actually have some people on the thread here who were wondering about tinting the ink. If you want it to not get brown. - You could - [Liana Voiceover] And you could like add Kool-aid to it - You could tint it but then it wouldn't be invisible so. In which you case you could just make your own ink and you can do that with water and you add a little bit I think of I wanna say like clove oil so that it doesn't mold. If you're actually gonna create your own ink and let it stand for a long time. Like put it in a little in a little you know bottle or something but this is invisible ink so we don't want to add any tints to it because we want it to look just a regular piece of paper and it has a secret message. Like this one says, dinner at our spot 6:00 p.m. Sunday. So I just think it'd would be a fun little kind of thing an interesting alternative to a store bought card or like I said a really fun treasure map. Can you tell that's what I really want to do with this is just make a treasure map? (laughing) Thanks you guys for joining us live. I hope I answered all your questions. Thursday's is gonna be so amazing. I'm so excited to paint cookies. It looks just like water color. Liana is gonna be joining me. So tune in on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. You can ask your questions then. Try this and let us know how it went and you can write in on Thursday and maybe even post a picture of your secret message. You can always tag us on Instagram at Creativebug or hash tag Creativebug. If you want to get notified for these live shoots just follow us on Facebook and we bring this to you twice a week. So if there's anything you want to see let us know and we'll see you on Thursday. (upbeat music)

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