



Series 100

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Jenn Mason creates a recycled pocket journal.



Recycled Pocket Journals



These little journals fit easily into your back pocket or can be enlarged to create bigger sketchbooks. If you like to work with other media, simply change up the type of paper that you bind in your book.

Materials

- Cardboard (I used old cereal boxes.)
- Scissors or paper trimmer
- Acrylic paint
- Sakura Pens: Permapaque®, Glaze®, Souffle™, Microperm®, IDenti®-pens, Gelly Roll®
- Watercolor Paper (I used a 140-lb. hot press.)

- Metal edge ruler
- Pencil
- Bone folder
- Awl
- Waxed linen thread (12")

Optional

- Paintbrush
- Scrap paper and glue stick (for lining the book)

Creating the Cover

1. Cut a piece of recycled cardboard to your desired size. (I like 3½" x 5").
2. Use a paintbrush or your fingers to paint the printed side of the cardboard. (This side is the outside of your journal cover.)
Note: If you want, you can paint the unprinted side of the cardboard (inside of the journal cover), add scrap paper with a glue stick, or leave it blank.
3. Use a combination of the different pens to doodle, journal, and decorate the outside of the journal cover.
Note: You can doodle on the inside of the cover, too.

Making the Book

1. Use a metal ruler to tear a piece of watercolor paper to 3³/₈" x 13³/₄". To do this, measure the paper with the ruler and mark it lightly with a pencil. Line up the ruler with the pencil marks and pull the excess paper up against the edge of the ruler to tear it. This gives the paper a nice deckled edge. Alternatively, you could use scissors or a paper trimmer for a clean, sharp cut.
2. Lay the watercolor paper horizontally in front of you, and use the bone folder and the ruler to score lines at 2³/₈", 4³/₄", and 9¹/₄", and from the left-hand edge.
3. Flip the paper over from top to bottom (keeping the left edge of the paper on the left-hand side) and use the bone folder and the ruler to score lines at 7", and 11½" from the left-hand edge.
4. Fold each of the score lines made in steps 2 and 3. The score lines should all be at the top of a mountain fold.
5. Score the middle of the inside of the cover and fold on the score to create a cover that is 3½" x 2½" when folded.
6. Place the first valley fold of the watercolor paper in the fold of the cover and use the awl to poke three evenly spaced holes in the fold through the watercolor paper and the cover.
7. Lace the waxed thread from the outside of the journal through the center hole, leaving a 4" tail. Go out the bottom hole, back in through the middle hole, out through the top hole, and then tie the thread end to the tail at the middle of the spine, trimming off any excess twine.
8. Fold the remaining four panels of the watercolor paper into the sketchbook.

Partners



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