



## Collaged Tea Box – Approximately 2

**col-lage** /kə'läZH/

Noun: A form of art in which various materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric are arranged and stuck to a backing. The term collage derives from the French "coller" meaning "glue."

### Supplies and Tools You'll Need

- Unfinished Tea Box from Create & Craft – the collage base (called the substrate)
- Acrylic Paint – to use to cover seams and edges
- Perfect Paper Adhesive™ (PPA) Matte from USArtQuest
- Cardstock – scraps work great!
- Archival ink to ink the edges of your cardstock pieces
- Paint brushes (sponge, flat and round)
- Cups for paint, PPA and water
- Paper towels
- Non-stick craft sheet or newspaper – to protect your work surface
- Heat gun – optional, to speed up the drying process
- Brother ScanNCut

### Instructions – Read These Through Before You Start

- 1. Protect your work surface with newspaper or a nonstick craft sheet.**
- 2. Prepare the tea box.**
  - a. Remove the insert grid and set aside.
  - b. Remove the screws and hinge and set aside.
  - c. Wipe any dust from the box using a cloth.
- 3. Apply acrylic paint to the outside corners, edges and bottom.**
  - a. Use the sponge brush to apply paint to the outside corners, edges and bottom of the box.
    - i. *Tip* – if you are repurposing something, consider using Gesso as a base coat to give the some “tooth” for the paint to adhere to. Do this before painting and let it dry completely.
  - b. Let dry completely.
- 4. Prepare cardstock for collage**
  - a. Cut or tear pieces of cardstock in to pieces.



- i. *Tip* – It’s easier to work with smaller pieces rather than large pieces. They cover the small parts of the box better and are easier to place to give a real collage effect.
- b. Ink the edges of the cardstock to hide the white core.
- c. Place the paper in a small tray of water to relax the paper fibers.
  - i. *Tip* – Test a piece of cardstock first to make sure the ink doesn’t run in the water. A quality cardstock will not bleed. Archival ink will not bleed.

#### 5. Collage

- a. Remove a piece of cardstock from the tray of water and lightly pat it dry with a paper towel.
- b. Dip a small flat brush in water, then in PPA, and apply it to an area of the project slightly larger than the cardstock piece you are going to use.
- c. Lay the cardstock piece on the PPA.
- d. Dip the brush in water, then in PPA, and apply it to completely coat the top of the cardstock and along the edges.
  - i. *Tip* – work from the center out, like you do when you roll out pie crust.
  - ii. *Tip* – Some find it easier to arrange larger pieces first, then collage smaller pieces around them.
  - iii. *Tip* – “Wrap” the cardstock around some of the edges by folding it over. Since it’s wet and the paper fibers are relaxed, it should fold easily.
- e. Continue this process until the entire outside of the box (top and sides) are covered. Let dry completely.

#### 6. Finish Coat (optional)

- a. Apply PPA (Matte or Glossy) over the entire surface of the box to give it a “top coat.”

### Take It Up A Notch!

Since PPA is an acrylic medium, you can use other mediums with it! Collage and assemblage is all about layering.

- Paint on it with acrylic paint!
- Give it a crackle finish, and then ink the cracks!
- Stamp on it, with ink or acrylic paint!
- Use the Brother ScanNCut to create words and phrases.
- Add words, phrases and other embellishments with Artist’s Cement 101 Heavy or 101 Light to turn your *collage* in to an *assemblage*!
- Put feet or a knob on your tea box!