

Mini-Albums

Make a scrapbook with ONE sheet of paper



DIANA HIRSCH

The power of paper. We crafters can make awesome things from a sheet of paper: origami, rosette flower, “cootie catcher”, snowflake, Zentangle, and even a mini-album. “A complete album?” you ask. Yes, indeed, a mini mini-album that can be completed in an hour. Sounds too good to be true? Well, it’s not.

These albums may be compact, but they have an impressive “wow” factor because of their size. The sturdy cover supports 3-D elements like chipboard, flowers, buttons, jewelry and funky trinkets. They allow for dimension, discovery and delight. Grab a piece of your favorite cardstock and follow these directions to make one of your own mini mini-albums.

Step 1: Scoring. On a 12-by 12-inch piece of heavy stock paper, measure at the 3-inch, 6-inch and 9-inch points along one edge. Using a heavier paper reduces the possibility of tears and increases the durability of your finished product. At each of those marks, score vertically top to bottom. At this point you will have 4 columns, each 3 inches wide. Rotate the paper 90 degrees and repeat the measuring and scoring process.



1

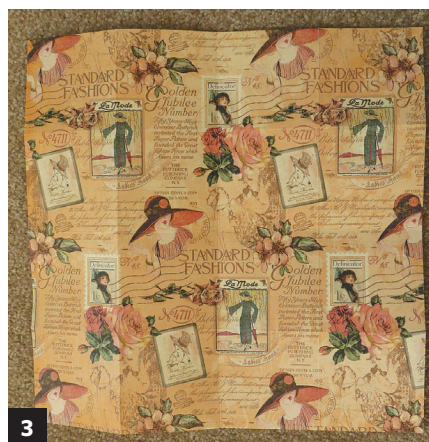


2a



2b

Step 2: Folding. Accordion fold one side of the paper. Rotate the paper 90 degrees and repeat the folding. When you are done, each side will have one peak and two valleys, much like the letter “W.” Keep this “W” in mind for future steps.



3

Step 3: Alignment. If you are using direction-specific patterned paper, place the paper face up in front of you. Rotate the paper once to the left so that the images now face left. This rotation guarantees that the book cover will be facing the intended direction. Note that when completed, the book will have 3 inside spreads that will be right-side up and 3 that are upside-down.



4

Step 4: Cutting. You will make a total of three cuts. Do not worry if the cuts are uneven; this will be smoothed over later. Just make sure you do not cut the paper completely in half. Start at the top of the middle fold and cut down along that line stopping 3/4 of the way down at the last horizontal score line. Rotate the paper 180 degrees. Repeat the downward cut on the left and right score lines, both times stopping at the last horizontal score line. Your paper once again looks like a “W.”

Step 5: Folding. With the “W” facing you, accordion fold each square. Starting in the upper right corner, fold the first square towards you (5a). When you reach the end of any column, fold the paper underneath (5b) and continue (5c). When all folding is done, the reverse side of the paper will be facing you (5d). Any uneven folds will be disguised in a later step.



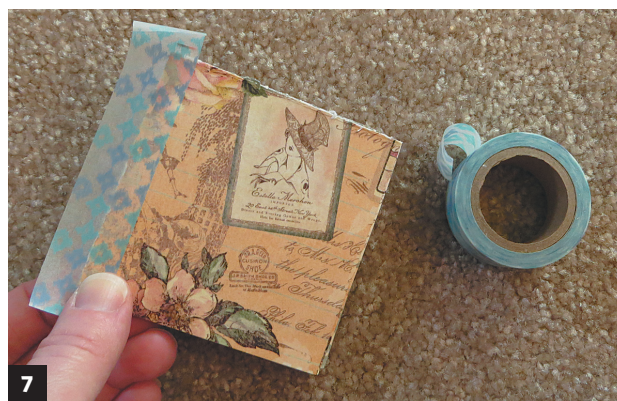
Step 6: Assembling the covers. Hold the paper stack so the top square opens sideways like a book. Trim a small vertical strip off the end of that top square only. Flip the album over and repeat that cut on that first square. Trimming these squares will make assembling the book covers easier if anything is uneven or off-center.



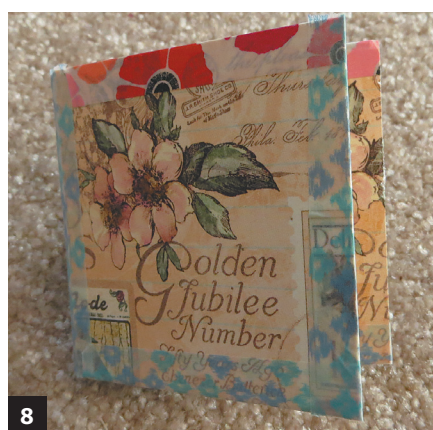
To make the front cover, unfold the book so that the first three squares face you. You will adhere these first three squares together, two at a time. I used double-sided tape to make this step easier to see, but any type of dry adhesive or glue stick will work.

The back of the paper will still be facing you, and the trimmed square will be on the right. Apply adhesive to those first two squares and fold the reverse sides inward to each other. Repeat that adhering process on the two remaining squares facing you.

The three squares are now adhered into a strong front cover. Turn the book over and repeat to complete the back cover.



Step 7: Binding the spine. With the front cover facing you, attach a strip of Washi or paper tape to the left side, leaving some hanging off the edge. Wrap this around to the back cover. Cut off any excess tape along the top and bottom of the book. You have now secured your spine. If you choose not use Washi tape for this step, sticky fabric or canvas strips will work just as well.



Step 8: Securing the book pages. Apply a strip of Washi tape to the top and bottom of each page in the book, folding over to secure each page together. In my example, I used red floral color tape for my top and blue along the bottom. You may choose to wrap the right side of the cover, but do not tape the right sides of the inside pages together. When complete, there will be three alternating solid and pocket pages. Ta-dah! Your book is complete. Embellish at will!

These palm-size books are treasured keepsakes. I have presented these petite projects as “Thinking of You” mementos for friends. I collected quotes in one I selflessly made for myself. Create a collection of your child’s wallet-sized annual school pictures. Add a unique twist to traditional gift card holders with the peek-a-boo pockets included. Personalize a wedding or birthday party with these as favors. Compile a tiny travel book stuffed with receipts, tickets, and parking stubs. Replace gift tags on presents. Whether using themed paper or plain cardstock, the creative possibilities are endless.

Diana Hirsch is a Certified Zentangle Teacher and an award-winning writer. To inquire about classes or writing availability, contact her at diwolf@aol.com or visit her blog at www.wolf-howlings.wordpress.com.