

# Mini-Albums

## Toilet paper roll albums: Recycle paper board tubes into scrapbooks

Recycling to preserve Mother Earth is a good thing, but there is scrapbooking fun to be found by rescuing toilet paper rolls from your cardboard pile. By using adhesive, simple folding techniques and 6- by 6-inch paper pads, you can create an entire mini album. Each page has room for journaling and at least one photo or embellishment, as well as a built-in home for surprises like decorative tags. Since only one sheet of paper is used to create each page, those coordinated paper stacks will go a long way.



DIANA  
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Imagine the look on people's faces when you tell them what the album is made from. They will never guess because each raw brown roll is disguised by colorful paper. The ends are secure with a finished look to them. A simple twist on technique described in this article, plus ones you already know, will yield some additional creative interactive elements.

If the thought of reusing toilet paper rolls gives you the heebie-jeebies, then cut down an empty paper towel roll to 4-inch segments. It does not matter if there is some paper or glue left on the roll because it will be covered by paper.

To start, flatten each roll to create your base page. You can use your hand, a bone folder or a brayer. You can place the roll under heavy books or slide them one at a time between plates through a large embossing machine. Each page will be approximately a 4- by 2-1/2-inch piece when flattened.

Follow these instructions to create your own toilet paper mini-album. For this example, I used Simple Stories "Generations" paper pad.

**Step 1-**Flatten the cardboard roll.

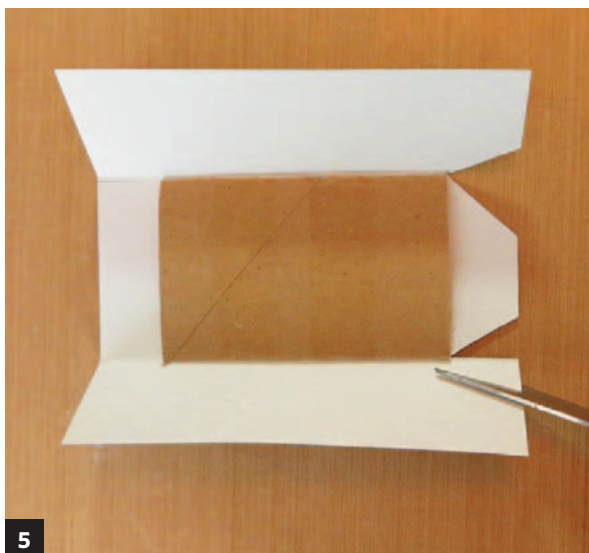
**Step 2-**Place the 6- by 6-inch paper pattern-side down, being mindful of any directional designs. Place the folded roll in the center of the paper. You do not have to be exactly in the middle, but do work to keep the roll straight. Adhere the backside of the roll to the paper. Because you are adhering paper to cardboard, use a strong wet or tape adhesive rather than a regular glue stick.

**Step 3-**Fold the top and bottom of the paper around the roll to create a seam, facing you, in the middle of the roll. Crease the folds, but do not adhere yet.

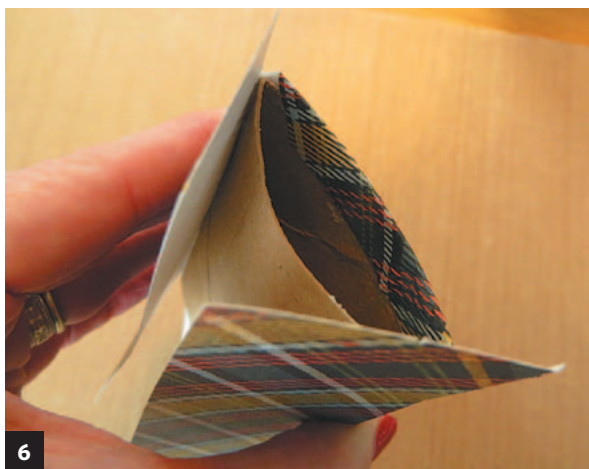


**Step 4-**Cut a straight line along each of the four folds from the paper edge to the roll.

**Step 5-**Cut a diagonal line from the outside corner of the pa-



per into the corner of the roll along the width side. You will have cut four small triangles, which you can set aside.



**Step 6-**Pinch the roll together to open it slightly. Place adhesive on the two tabs that are attached to the back/reverse side of the roll. Fold them inside one at a time and press down to adhere, thus covering each end openings.

**Step 7-**Adhere the top strip of paper to the roll first, and then adhere the bottom strip. Repeat the previous step to adhere the

### Website Extra

- Be sure to check out [MichiganScrapbooker.com](http://MichiganScrapbooker.com) for advanced techniques to add to this project.



tabs inside the roll.

Once all paper is adhered, you may choose to seal the side that will be bound. If so, use double sided tape on the inside of the left side. Press together and hold to secure.

This is a finished toilet paper mini album page. Once you know the basic construct of a page, you can unleash your creativity and embellishments. Make as many pages as you like. The pages are sturdy enough to add depth and dimension by incorporating funky interactive elements like flip-up doors or attached accordion albums.

One easy yet impressive element that will have people asking "How did you do that?" is to create a built-in pocket that is the perfect size for a gift card or artist trading card. This is simple because it follows the steps above with one change in the directions.



**Step 8-**To create a folder pocket page, repeat the previous steps 1-7. After adhering the top paper strip, punch a half circle out from the bottom paper strip.

**Step 9-**Fold the bottom paper strip over, but only adhere the two tabs to the inside of the roll. This leaves an open paper pocket, the perfect place to slip in a gift card or ATC.

You can complete the album by making a cover using chipboard cut larger than the rolls. You can also tape two folded toilet paper rolls together side by side and cover with two sheets of 6- by 6-inch paper. Bind the rolls together with a binding machine or punch holes through the left side and attach with O-rings.





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This can be completed in a short amount of time during a get-together with friends or an afternoon with kids. It is a good size for large or small hands. All this creativity and you are saving material from a landfill. Recycling and a completed scrapbook: it's a win-win project!

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