



Week 1

- Rethink Your Scraps
- Repurpose Your Books, Envelopes and Folders.
- Research Multi-Purpose Punching Tools
- **Reinventing the Wheel: Make Your Own Smash Journal**

Reinventing the Wheel: Make Your Own Smash Journal

Supplies:

- Universal Punch Set or Crop-A-Dile
- Craft Knife and Scissors
- Masking Tape
- (3) Book Rings
- An Old Text Book
- Folders, Envelopes, etc.
- Leftover Paper Strips and Scraps
- Ribbon and Fabric Scraps
- Tacky Adhesive or Tape

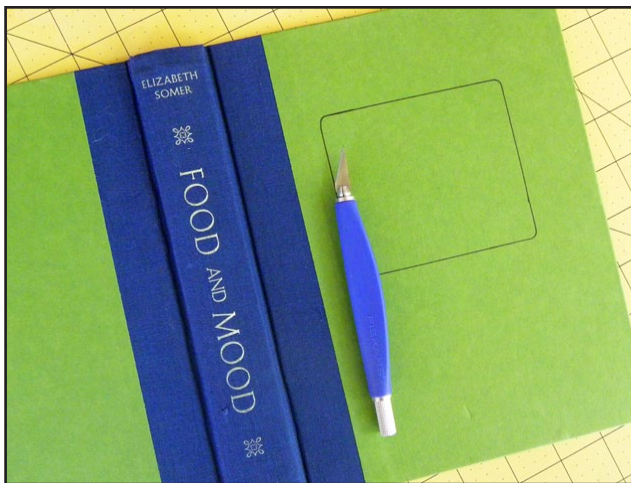
Notes:

- (1) If you don't own a heavy-duty punch or universal set, take your project to your local scrapbook store. They often have these tools available for crops or for demo.
- (2) Your textbook should measure no more than 11" high in order to keep the amount of piecing you'll have to do to a minimum.
- (3) Book rings are fairly inexpensive, however if you don't have any on hand and you'd rather not make the trip--you could repurpose an old three ring binder's mechanism.

**Step 1**

1. Remove the cover from your textbook by using a craft knife to slice through the binding tape that holds the spine on in the front and back of your book.
2. Measure the height and width (front to back cover—including the spine) of your textbook and add an inch to both measurements.

*****Note these measurements for future reference, as these will be the finished measurements of your woven mat. Mine measured 18" x 10" with the extra inch.**

**Step 3**

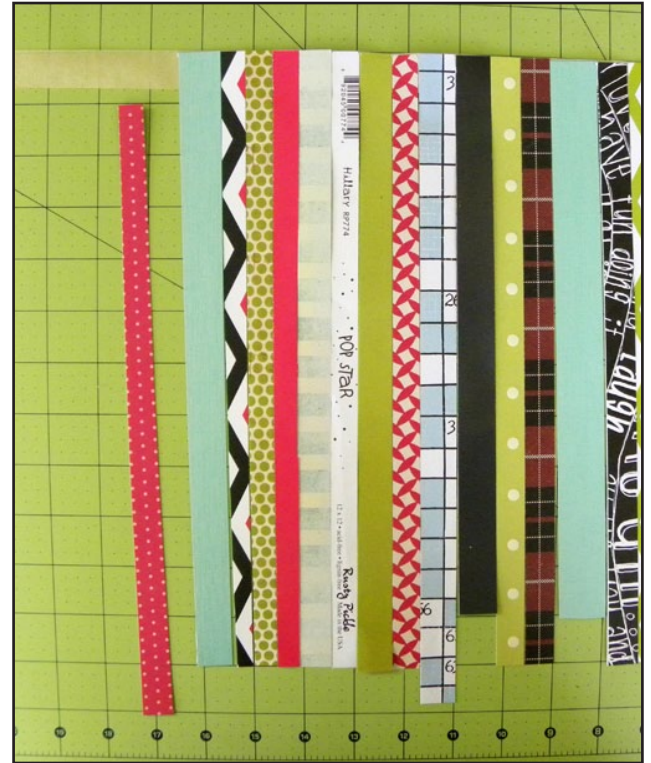
3. If you wish to add a window in the front of your album's cover, then find the center of your front cover and mark an appropriate sized square around it, by measuring equally from the center point in all directions and then using a ruler to connect the dots. Then use a craft knife to remove the square and sand down edges until smooth. You may have to cut over the same area more than once depending on the density of your cover.

4. Sort through your paper, fabric and ribbon strips and decide whether you want to work within a particular color scheme or collection or if you want to stick with all paper, etc. Know that it is also perfectly ok to work with random colors, prints and material--after all this is a project designed to help you use the scraps you have!

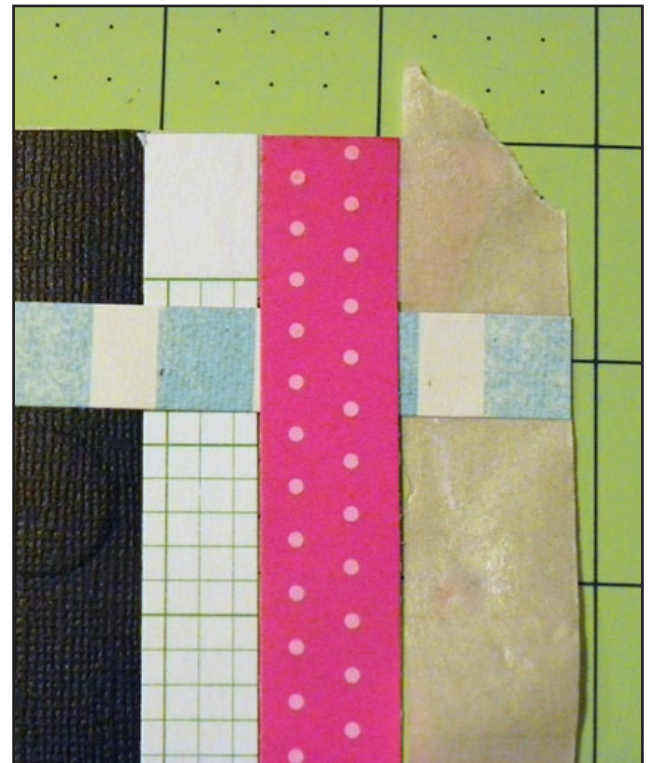
**Step 5**

5. Begin cutting/sorting strips whose lengths correspond with your noted height measurement. The widths of your strips should range from ½" to 1". Your strips can be different colors, materials and widths. Those strips that you are piecing together do not need to be composed of identical paper/material or even coordinating paper/material, however it would be ideal if they are consistent in width throughout the entire strip.

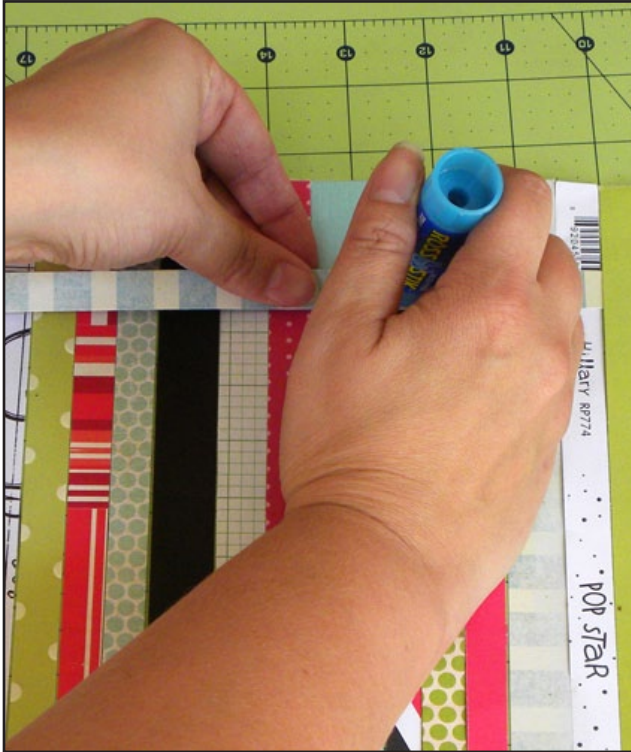
6. If you have chosen to use fabric strips or ribbon strips as well as paper strips, try starching or reinforcing them to give them a bit more stability.
7. There are several weaving patterns you could create with your strips, I've used a basic over-under approach. You can experiment with different designs, but it is helpful to be familiar with a pattern's technique before beginning the weaving process.
8. On a large flat surface, measure a length of tape that is equal to the noted width measurement of your cover and place it sticky side up. I used my cutting mat to build my woven mat on. The measurements made it easy to get the perfect width and the guidelines helped me to keep things aligned.
9. Begin placing your strips across the length of the tape, with the top edge of the strip flush with the top edge of the tape and making sure that each strip is butted up against the next.
10. Now tear a length of tape that is equal to the noted height measurement of your album and place this piece of tape sticky side up, squaring the edges of your new piece of tape with the existing strip to create an "L."
11. Refer to the Video: "Paper Weaving Techniques" for a closer look at the basic "over-under" technique that I used for my album cover, or begin weaving your strips using your preferred design method.



Step 8

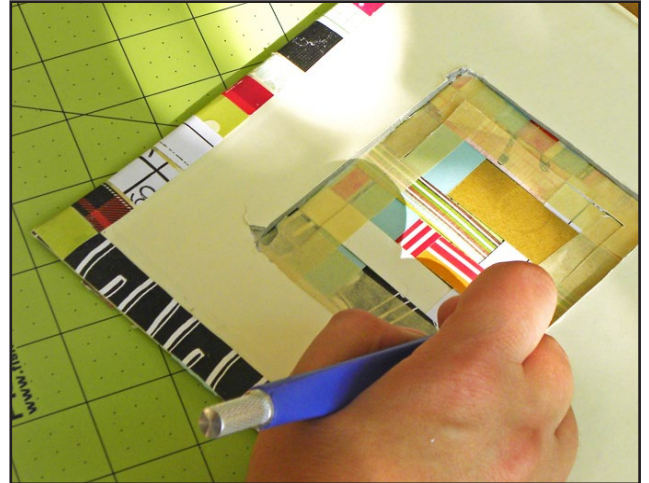


Step 10

**Step 12****Step 17**

- 12.** As you work across your mat of strips you will have to extend your horizontal strips as you weave them. Do this by using a bit of adhesive at the end of each strip and adhering a new strip that is similar in width.
- 13.** Continue weaving and extending the horizontal strips as you work your way across and then down the mat, until you've reached the length and height needed for your finished mat. Wait until after your mat is complete to trim any remnants. This way you ensure that each of your strips are long enough, as the weaving may cause them to end up shorter than you anticipated.
- 14.** After you've weaved together a mat that meets the size requirements for your textbook, finish the edges by adhering tape to the back of your unattached side and to the back side of the bottom of your woven scrap mat. This will give you a nice finished edge to work with when wrapping your textbook.
- 15.** Cover the right side of your textbook –front to back—with an adhesive and carefully lay out your woven mat of strips over top of your textbook, making sure it is centered and that there is at least a half inch of overhang all the way around.
- 16.** Now flatten your mat over your textbook smoothing out any bubbles and making sure it is secured.
- 17.** Cut notches in the corners of your overhang, to aid you in wrapping your edges onto the backside of your text book. You'll want to use a tacky adhesive and work with one section at a time to make sure the excess is secured, before moving onto the next. You might also leave it under something heavy to dry for few minutes so it's crisp and ready for you to continue working with.

18. To remove the part of your mat that is covering the open square in your textbook's front cover, tape off a square inside your window to give yourself a nice clean edge to work with and to help prevent tearing. Then use your craft knife to cut down the middle of your tape until the square is removed. Cut diagonal slits in the corners so your can wrap those edges back, just as you did with the outer edge of your cover.



Step 18

19. If you wish, you can use a larger piece of scrap paper or fabric to make a contrasting spine for your journal cover. You can also cover the inside of your journal to give it a clean finish if you are so inclined. I attached my spine with my sewing machine to give it a polished look and to add stability.



Step 19

20. Now measure and mark the holes you will need to install your three book rings in the spine of your textbook. You will need three sets of two holes punched across from one another, spaced evenly down the spine. Consider the size of your book rings and the size of the pages you want to accommodate and plan accordingly. (You may want to use an 8"x8" sheet protector or an 8.5 x11" piece of loose leaf notedook paper as a template for your spacing).

21. Finally, using your Crop-A-Dile or hammer and punch set, punch your holes through the spine of your cover and then thread your book rings through the holes, with the clasp coming together on the inside of the cover. I set eyelets in my holes to provide reinforcement. But you'll want to make sure that your book rings will still fit through your eyelets first!



Step 21



I used random-sized pages to eliminate hassle and use up more scraps!



I inserted tabbed dividers and pocket-pages for added function and style.

Now you should have a functional journal cover--so here are a few ideas to help you piece together your pages!

- Download and print the pages from this week's printable to add to your journal. These are 8.5" x 11" printable pages--if you're working with a smaller or bigger page you could scale the print size down or mat the printable onto a larger page.
- Paste, sew or collage scrap pieces together to make your pages.
- Use a variety of different-sized pages to utilize your larger scraps and eliminate the fuss of cutting or finding a home for more scraps.
- Utilize folders to make divider tabs and envelopes to hold memorabilia.
- Use larger scraps to make pocket features and flaps on your pages.
- Don't forget your window--make a fun title page for your journal to peek through.
- I also added a vertical elastic band to my journal, to help hold my book together and keep things secure so that I can carry it with me in my purse--this of course is totally optional--but a little extra security never hurt!

Once you've filled your journal with pages and decorated it to your heart's content you are ready to start filling it with all of the creativity and inspiration you see fit.

Your Assignment:

Don't forget to upload your journals to our class gallery once you've finished. I'm eager to see what you've all come up with!