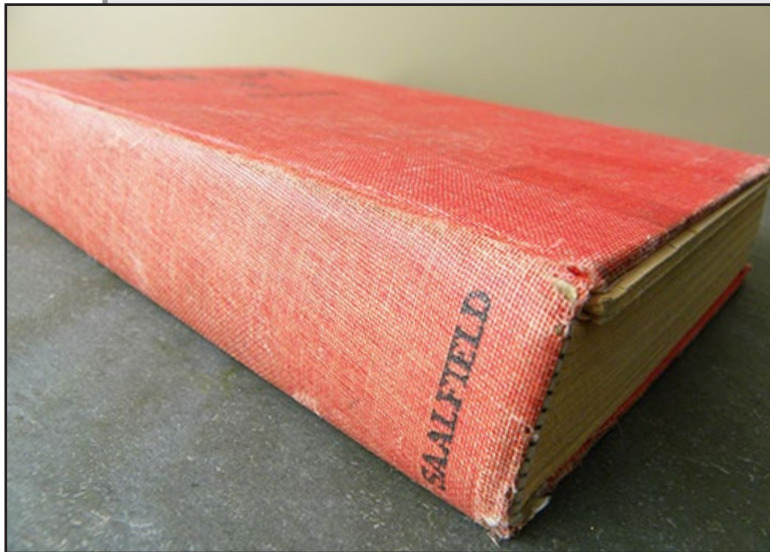


Repurposing Your Books, Folders and Envelopes

Repurposing our old belongings is a lot like training our minds to use our scraps. We simply have to open our minds to the possibility that these household items have the potential to be something greater. Today we're going to take a closer look at the hidden potential of our old books, folders, and envelopes. These items can play an important role in our organizing efforts, as well as bring an interesting effect to our scrapbook pages.

Week 1

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

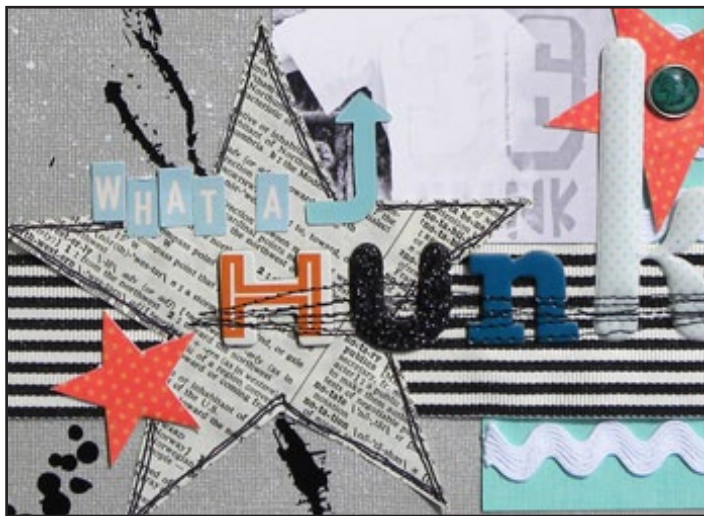


Finding Ways to Use Your Old Books in Your Pages & Projects

Using the print, illustrations and covers of your unused books in your scrapbooking can be a great way to bring a new look to your pages and projects depending on how you choose to use them. Whether it's a vintage feel you're going for or a more contemporary look, there are a number of ways to use repurposed books in combination with your supplies to get the look you're going for.

Quick Tip:

Check out your local schools, universities, libraries and book stores for books they intend to discard. This is a great way to add old and tattered dictionaries, encyclopedias, textbooks and even chapter books to your collection!



Let's look at few ways you can put those old books to use:

1. Create your own patterned paper designs using the pages of your book in combination with paints, inks, mists, masks, stencils, etc. This can add a nice personal touch to your page.
2. Use the pages of your book to make charming handmade embellishments like rosettes, posies or pinwheels.
3. Cut out words from your book to piece together journaling, titles, etc.
4. Make your own journals from the covers of old books.
5. Use definitions, illustrations or excerpts from old dictionaries or encyclopedias to support your theme.
6. Cut die cuts from your pages to create your own vintage ephemera.



How Reusing Folders Can Benefit Your Scrapbooking

Folders can be used to help you get a better handle on your current supplies or as a way to spice up your page's design. Whether you use the folder as a whole or in part, there are several ways to repurpose them in ways that can be both fun and functional.

Now for some ways you can put your repurposed folders to use in your pages and projects:

1. Try using half of a folder as a mat on your layouts. Cover them with paper, paint, etc to add a bit of punch or use them "as is" to create a nostalgic or vintage look.
2. Re-purpose the tabs from your folders as accents on your pages.
3. Dress up your folders and use them to organize scraps, clip art cut outs, collage sheets, and even inspirations, etc.
4. Create tabbed pages for your handmade address books, planners and journals.
5. Use the manila-colored paper of your folders to bring a vintage effect to your die cuts, journaling and more.



Quick Tip: Don't worry about folders you've written on! You can always use a stylish label or accent as camouflage --or even cover your folder anew if necessary!

Utilizing Envelopes to Add an Element of Surprise to Your Pages and Projects



Envelopes are another office supply that can easily be repurposed by scrapbookers, both to pretty our pages and for functional purposes as well. They can also help us organize our smaller mementos and trinkets, which at times need a bit more security.

Here are just a few of the ways you can put your repurposed envelopes to use for you:

1. Make an envelope mini album or banner.
2. Use envelopes to hide your journaling.
3. Use them as an embellishment or mat.
4. Use them as a template to create designer envelopes from your patterned paper.
5. Store smaller memorabilia in them until they can be secured to a page or project.
6. Use your postmarks as accents on your pages.



Your Assignment:

Head on over to Pinterest:

And check out my [Repurposed Board](#) for more great ideas on repurposing these types of everyday items! Not a member? Leave me a note in the classroom post for this lesson and I'll send you an invite!

In the Forum:

Give us your take on repurposing everyday items in your scrapbooking--have you already tried it in your own pages? Are you inspired by the idea and excited to give it a try? Or are you still not sure if it's for you?

In the Gallery:

If you're feeling adventurous, give it a try! Show us how you can repurpose your books, folders or envelopes in your scrapbooking by using one of the ideas presented in this lesson or in another way that inspires you!