

MARTHA STEWART'S Encyclopedia of Crafts

AN A-TO-Z GUIDE WITH DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS AND ENDLESS INSPIRATION

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MARTHA STEWART'S
Encyclopedia of Crafts

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Some of the craft instructions in this book have been previously published in slightly different form in [Martha Stewart Living](#) magazine.

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Bubble petal flowers, made out of tissue paper.

To all crafters and artisans,
who keep valued traditions alive





A variation of the [shell-covered pot](#). These terra-cotta pots are adorned with scallop, white cay cay, violet clam, and tiny white cap shells.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book represents the creative genius, hard work, and tireless efforts of many talented people at [Martha Stewart Living](#) Omnimedia.

The brilliant crafts editors at [Martha Stewart Living](#) deserve high praise and thanks for creating the content that appears within these pages. The editors continue to inspire and delight us with each new issue, and they conceived, created, and produced the craft projects in this book.

Marcie McGoldrick, editorial director of holiday and crafts, and Jodi Levine, a longtime MSLO editor and crafter, carefully reviewed every page of this book to make sure it is accurate and useful. Laura Normandin, long-standing member of our crafts department, also lent her expertise. Of course, we are indebted to our executive editorial director of crafts and original crafts editor, Hannah Milman, who currently oversees the practical and popular crafts merchandise for the company, along with Megan Lee, another very talented crafter. We'd like to thank current members of the crafts department, including Nicholas Andersen, Marissa Corwin, Corinne Gill, Morgan Levine, Athena Preston, Blake Ramsey, and Silke Stoddard, as well as past crafts editors whose contributions appear in these pages, including Anna Beckman, Shannon Goodson Carter, Bella Foster, Katie Hatch, Sophie Mathoulin, Charlyne Mattox, Shane Powers, and Kelli Ronci.

Our special projects group wrangled 17 years of crafts content into one concise, well-written volume; for that we are grateful to editors Amy Conway, Ellen Morrissey, Sarah Rutledge, Kimberly Fusaro, Christine Cyr, and Stephanie Fletcher, as well as interns Megan Rice and Gillian Mohny. A note of thanks, as well, to Jessica Cumberbatch.

As much as it is thoughtfully organized and written, this book is beautifully designed, thanks primarily to Amber Blakesley. Amber worked under the guidance of William van Roden and Eric A. Pike, and was dutifully assisted by Aimee Epstein and intern Eleanor Kramer. Thank you to George D. Planding, Dora Braschi Cardinale, and Gael Towe for their help, as well.

Photographer Ditte Isager captured the beautiful cover image, and many other photographers (too many to name here) also contributed their work (a complete list appears [here](#)). Thank you as well to Heloise Goodman and Alison Vanek Devine of our photography department.

We have worked for many years with our original book publisher, Clarkson Potter, a division of Random House, to produce our cookbooks and other lifestyle books, but this is our first joint venture with the enthusiastic team at Potter Craft; they are Rosy Ngo, Erica Smith, Chi Ling Moy, Marysarah Quinn, Derek Gullino, Kim Tyner, and Thom O'Hearn. Many thanks to them, as well as to Jenny Frost, President and Publisher of The Crown Publishing Group, and Lauren Shakely, Senior Vice President and Publisher of Potter Craft.



Lacquered wooden cubbyholes provide storage space for many supplies in Martha's craft room at her home in Bedford, New York. All of the desks are topped with a pressed-linseed material that absorbs nicks and scratches.

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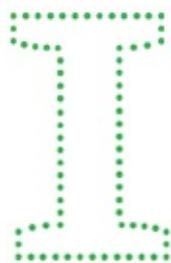
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INTRODUCTION



In 1988 I had what I thought was a brilliant idea to create a series of beautiful how-to books on a wide assortment of practical, useful, and inspiring topics for the homemaker. I envisioned tomes on flower arranging, on collecting, on every holiday, on gardening, on sewing, on embroidery, and on a vast number of crafts, beautiful crafts.

Understanding that almost each and every one of us is interested in some or all of these subjects, I thought that most publishers would jump at the chance to work with me on this series. Well, like many good ideas, even though the basic concept was sound, the project was rejected. I was told that my concept was too expansive, too all-encompassing, too ambitious for one author to undertake.

After returning to the drawing board, I revised my plan and created not books, but a beautiful how-to magazine, the ubiquitous *Martha Stewart Living*. It has consistently provided some of the best content on myriad how-to subjects for almost eighteen years, and each story and project has been enjoyed and attempted by many thousands of readers.

Crafts has been an extremely popular area, and our crafts editors have developed an amazing library of projects that clearly display our talent for adopting and adjusting historical and established techniques. Quilling, marbled paper, candlemaking, block printing, botanical pressing, silkscreening, and soap making—each is an ancient craft that has been practiced by professionals and amateurs alike. Today, with our ideas and our creativity, and with modern tools and materials, we have brought these crafts into the twenty-first century. Now they have a more contemporary feel, a more modern perspective, and a more pleasing aesthetic, making them appropriate for inclusion in this wonderful encyclopedia.

Whether you wish to craft from paper and glue, or shells, or wax, or paint and canvas, or any other materials, you will find hundreds of wonderful, instructive, and endearing ideas in this book. Many of the projects are directed at adults, but quite a few can be enjoyed by children, too.

At *Martha Stewart Living* Omnimedia, crafting is inherent in our DNA, as you will certainly realize when turning the pages of this book. We hope that you will love using all of these ideas as much as we loved developing them.

Martha Stewart



how to use this book

This book is divided into 32 chapters of individual crafts techniques. Within each chapter, you will find an overview of the particular technique, including brief descriptions of the basic supplies you will need. Generally, step-by-step instructions follow, then several pages of projects. The projects cover a wide range of skill levels: potato stamp T-shirts can be easily mastered by children, whereas calligraphed labels and note cards admittedly require a bit of practice.

For those new to home crafting, however, keep in mind that practice is often the most important first step. Whether you are dot-painting patterns or monograms onto china and porcelain, rubber stamping a set of stationery, or carefully folding origami paper to make a delicate crane, you may not achieve the intended result on the first try. Practice a bit and soon you will get the hang of it. With each project you complete, you will gain confidence and an eagerness to tackle something new.

Most individual projects will contain a short list of supplies that are in addition to the basic supplies at the front of the chapter. Toward the end of the book, you will find a section called XYZ, with illustrated glossaries and descriptions of our favorite tools and materials, templates to help you complete many of the projects, and lists of trusted vendors and other sources to help you find everything you need. Happy crafting!



Fabric-covered boxes contain a variety of scrapbook papers. Martha stores the boxes in a row on a bookshelf.



ALBUMS, SCRAPBOOKS, AND MEMORY BOXES

If a picture is worth a thousand words, an album filled with photographs and mementos is worth many more. It offers tangible links to the past: The viewer has the chance to unfold a crinkled letter, trace the surface of a punched train ticket, or read a faded newspaper clipping. The scope can be small or large, focused or loose, a chronological narrative or a visual montage. An album or scrapbook is a place to gather anything you don't want to lose, from musings on a particular experience to family recipes to souvenir postcards.

Family history is always an engaging subject for an album. But more current topics, such as a vacation, a wedding, or a baby's first months, are rich in material and possibilities; a scrapbook, after all, provides a way to bring labels, sketches, cards—all the little items that evoke moments past—out of the shoebox and onto display. Try to capture events and emotions while you're experiencing them or soon afterward, rather than waiting until the memories have faded. You can embellish the pages with homemade and store-bought flourishes. Even so, the best part of the scrapbook will still be the photographs and trinkets you've gathered, and the story they combine to tell.

ABOUT THE MATERIALS

ALBUMS AND PAGES Look for acid-free, archival materials. A scrapbook's shape, size, and style are integral to its message: A luxurious 12-by-12-inch (30.5cm x 30.5cm) cloth- or leather-covered album suits a collection of wedding photos, while a small journal might seem right for commemorating a new baby. You can choose a decorative cover or one meant to be embellished. Post-bound and binder-style albums let you add and remove pages so you can expand or edit as you go; they

also offer the flexibility needed for bulky pages, displaying three-dimensional objects. Pages can have pockets or be designed for writing and affixing decorations. Page protectors are worth using. Some pages let you punch your own holes; for those that are prepunched, make sure the holes in the album and pages match up precisely.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND CLIPPINGS You may want to display copies of truly valuable or irreplaceable items in the scrapbook, and tuck the originals away someplace safe. Old photographs can be scanned and printed. Newspaper clippings and documents can also be scanned and printed, or simply photocopied onto acid-free paper.

PAPERS Use decorative papers for backgrounds, borders, trimmings, and more. Look for patterns, colors, and textures that suit the theme of your scrapbook.

CUTTING TOOLS AND PUNCHES Good, sharp scissors and a craft knife are necessary for making clean cuts. Use decorative paper edgers and craft punches to make custom decorations for pages.

GLUES AND TAPES Archival glue sticks, photo adhesive tape (which is double-sided), lay-flat paste, and white craft glue should suffice for most memory-keeping jobs.

EMBELLISHMENTS Scrapbooks often include much more than photographs and mementos—you can use ornaments and trimmings to decorate pages and communicate your theme. See the [Embellishments Glossary](#) for more details.

BASIC SUPPLIES

albums and pages

photos and mementos

papers

cutting tools and punches

glues and tapes

[embellishments](#)



Sorting through memorabilia is one of the most enjoyable steps in making a scrapbook.

EMBELLISHMENTS GLOSSARY

Here's a sampling of the products available (as shown in the image that follows) to customize your creations.

1. RUB-ON LETTER AND NUMBER TRANSFERS These come in a range of fonts and sizes. Easy to apply (rub them with a craft stick or stylus, and the characters will transfer to the paper underneath), the letters and numbers can be used to affix names, dates, and more onto pages.

2. STORE-BOUGHT SCRAPS Scraps come in all forms. Maps and printed papers can be used as backgrounds or to create pockets. Old-looking scraps (such as the seed label shown), postcards, and other ephemera are available from scrapbook stores, flea markets, and online auction sites.

3. TAGS Transform these stationery-store supplies into tiny frames for photographs (color-photocopy the pictures, then cut to size, and glue to surface). You can also use the tags as write-on labels. Fasten them to pages with brads or eyelets.

4. RUB-ON BORDERS These decorative imitations of sewing-machine stitching and calligraphic flourishes can keep pages looking lively. Apply them around photos and scraps, following package instructions.

5. PHOTO ADHESIVE TAPE AND PHOTO CORNERS Acid-free, double-sided photo tape is safe to use on photos. Photo corners provide another way to mount pictures without damaging them, and they give a scrapbook a vintage look.

6. BASIC TOOLS Keep a pencil on hand to make marks, a white (or other light-colored) gel pen to label dark pages, a bone folder to neatly score and fold pages or inserts, and a ruler to take measurements and neatly position scraps.

7. LABELS AND AIRMAIL ENVELOPES Frames for small photos can be created by cutting out the decorative borders of labels. Airmail envelopes can be used to create evocative [Travel Scrapbooks](#) for travel souvenirs.

8. RUBBER STAMPS AND INK PADS Press the stamps into colorful or metallic inks and use them to add words, numerals, or artistic details to album pages.

9. VINTAGE-STYLE PAPERS Faded papers are available at scrapbook stores; these can be used as backgrounds for smaller scraps and to make pockets. You can also make your own antique-looking paper by dipping it in tea or coffee for 10 seconds (longer for darker shades). Look for old, falling-apart books and magazines at tag sales and used bookstores.

10. EYELETS, SETTER, AND HAMMER These metal rings can be used to secure tags, pockets, and other sturdy scraps to pages permanently (follow package instructions

to set them), or to make reinforced holes for threading twine or ribbon.

11. BRADS AND JUMP RINGS These familiar fasteners come in traditional brass, and in bright colors and even whimsical shapes. They can be used in the same way as eyelets but are removable. Jump rings are little metal loops that can be used to suspend items from eyelets.