

Garden Journal



4. To achieve a distressed finish, sand the edges of the journal cover so the wood shows through. Next, sand the center area to soften the green and allow the white to show through. Following manufacturer's instructions, apply antiquing gel over the whole painted surface, then rub off until desired color is achieved. The journal cover will be darker on the areas where the wood shows through. Mix water with black paint and fill an old toothbrush with the watered-down paint. Rub thumb over the bristles to add black paint splatters to the journal cover. We suggest that you practice this technique on a piece of paper before trying it on your journal cover. If splatters are too heavy or large, use a cotton swab to remove unwanted splatters before the paint dries. Allow cover to dry completely.

5. Determine the placement of the banner, seed packets, pressed flowers, and foliage by laying them on the journal cover. Do not start gluing until the various elements have been placed as desired. Following manufacturer's directions on the découpage glue, begin gluing elements to the cover, making sure that items underneath other pieces are glued first. Pressed flowers tear very easily so apply the découpage carefully. When the first coat of découpage is dry, add another coat to the entire surface.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Wooden journal (available at craft supply stores)
Wood sealer
Pressed flowers
Vintage Seed packets
Découpage glue
Glass beads
24-gauge brass wire
Leather string
Crackle medium
Watercolor paper
Rusted-tin decorative banner
Matte spray varnish
Acrylic paints: black, antique white, medium green
Dark brown antiquing gel
E6000® glue
Assorted brushes

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Take journal apart and remove the hardware.
2. Seal all the wooden areas following manufacturer's directions. Dry completely, then sand until smooth.
3. Paint the front of the journal antique white. When dry, lightly sponge the center area of the journal with medium green, referring to photo above. Allow to dry completely.

* Available from
NK Lawn and Garden
3701 Amnicola Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37406
(800) 848-6290





6. Using a purchased rusted-tin banner as the background, tear a piece of watercolor paper to fit on top of the banner. Distress the watercolor paper by wetting it and applying a little of the antique white paint and some antiquing gel to the edges. When dry, spatter with black paint. When spatters are dry, paint or stencil the words "Garden Journal."

7. Glue the painted watercolor paper on the banner then glue the banner to the journal. A heavy-duty glue such as E6000® will be needed to affix the banner. Two decorative beads were glued over the holes on the banner.

8. Paint the back and the binding edge of the journal black. When dry, apply crackle medium according to manufacturer's instructions. When crackle medium has "set" according to the instructions, paint surfaces with medium green to create the crackle.

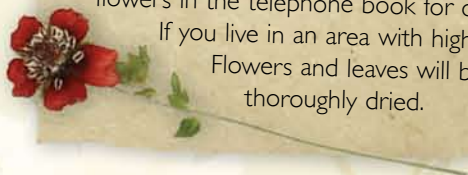
9. When dry, spray two coats of a matte spray varnish over all the painted and decoupage areas. Reassemble journal.

10. Rather than use the posts provided, we chose to use a leather string to bind our journal. Use a fine gold-colored wire and attach glass beads to the leather string. Wrap the wire around the beads creating a wire-and-bead design. Just tie the leather string at the back of the journal. Pages can be easily changed and added to the journal with this easy binding method.

Pressing Flowers and Leaves

Hobby stores offer a variety of flower presses, including ones that can be used in microwave ovens. Flower presses are also easy to make using peg board, blotter paper, and screws with wing nuts. Look for directions on how to make a flower press on the Internet or in hobby books. We pressed most of our flowers and leaves by carefully positioning them in old telephone books. It took a little longer for items to thoroughly dry, but the results were excellent. We left our flowers in the telephone book for one week, two weeks for leaves.

If you live in an area with high humidity, it may take longer. Flowers and leaves will be brittle when they are thoroughly dried.



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