

A free project, compliments of...

Two Creative Studios

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Cereal Box Booklets by Sue Bleiweiss

Like most households we have recycle bins for paper and plastic and make it a point to toss in whatever we can to reduce the amount of waste that goes into the trash bin. I noticed recently that there was a pretty big pile of cereal and cracker boxes along with brown paper bags building up in the bin and so I pulled a few out and decided to bring them into the studio to see if I could turn them into something.

Use a light weight cereal, cracker or snack box for these booklets. You want to choose a box that has been made with cardboard that bends easily. The heavier cardboard boxes won't work very well for this project.

Start by opening up your cardboard box so that it lays flat.



Since all cardboard boxes are not the same size you'll have to decide what size you can make your booklet based on how much cardboard you have. The directions that follow assume that you can cut a piece of cardboard from your box measuring 4" x 10".

Supplies

- Recycled light-weight cereal, cracker, or snack box
- Decorative paper or fabric
- Glue or Mistyfuse
- Bone folder
- Paper for inside pages
- Awl
- Craft knife
- Tapestry needle
- Twine or floss

If your cardboard isn't big enough you can just create a smaller booklet.

After I cut the cereal box open, I cut it apart at all the seam folds. You can use the side flaps of the box to make mini booklets if you like.



Working with one of the larger pieces of cardboard from the box, cover each side with a decorative paper using either liquid glue or a glue stick; whatever you prefer. I'm using some old wallpaper samples for my booklet in this example.



Make another score line along the excess that extends beyond the booklet when it's folded. This is the flap. Fold the flap in along the score line.



Take a look around the house and I'm sure you can find some paper to use to cover your cardboard. Use whatever paper you have on hand such as paper bags that you've painted with craft paint or embellished with rubber stamps, gift wrap, collaged paper torn from magazines or old maps and other ephemera.

After covering the cardboard on both sides with paper, cut a piece measuring 4" x 10". With the inside facing up, make a score line 4" in from the left edge and then fold the booklet along the score line.



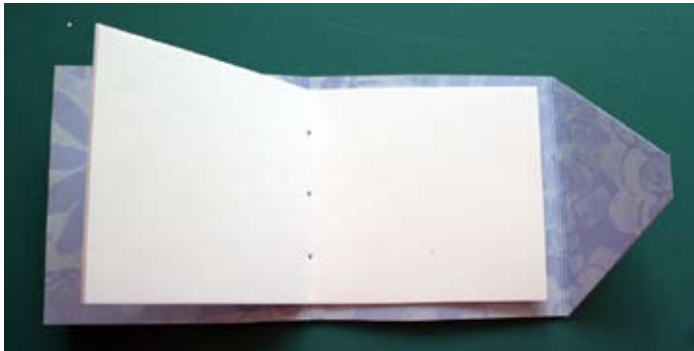
Open the flap back out and cut off the corners leaving about a 1/2" notch at the tip.



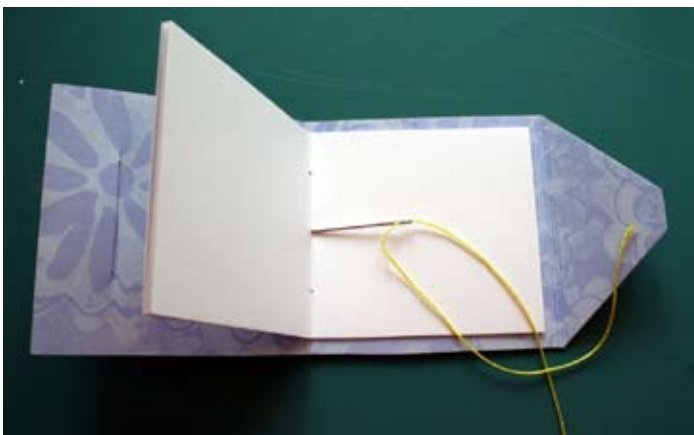
Open out the booklet and cut a 2" slit, one inch in from the other edge.



Cut some paper 3 1/2" x 7 1/2" for the inside pages of your booklet. Fold them and stack them to create a signature. Center the signature inside the booklet along the left fold and use a sharp awl to punch a hole in the center and then 1" from the center hole on either side.



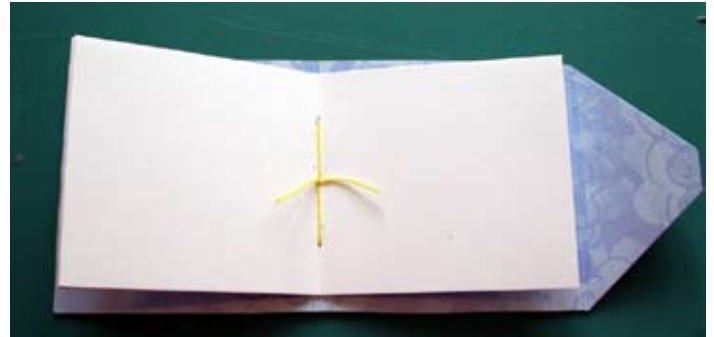
Thread a tapestry needle with a length of twine or floss and starting from the inside, sew through the center hole through to the outside of the booklet leaving a tail measuring about 3" on the inside.



Sew through the top hole back to the inside.

Sew through the bottom inside hole, back through to the outside.

Sew through the center outside hole back through to the inside and then tie a knot using the tail you left hanging when you started sewing.



Close up your booklet and it's ready to use!



Optional: You can add an eyelet on the back of the booklet and slip through a ball and chain loop.



Got some fabric scraps on hand? Sew some strips of fabric together randomly using a zigzag stitch like I did with this piece below:



Fuse a layer of Mistyfuse fusible web to the backside and then fuse the fabric directly to the cracker box cardboard. Fuse a piece of fabric to the other side and then follow the directions to make the booklet:



You can also use paper bags to make your booklets. Cut open the paper bags and then paint them using whatever paints you have on hand. Add embellishments with rubber stamps, glue the paper to the cardboard and then follow the directions to make the booklet:



Use paper bags for the inside pages of your booklet too:



I think you'll agree that these little booklets are a great way to use up that stash of scrap papers and fabrics. Make a stack of them to have on hand to add to gift packages as an extra treat, toss one in the car so you'll have paper on hand if you need it and throw one in each of your bags and the next time an inspired idea strikes, you'll have some place to write it down!