



## How to Alter a Book -- Simply!

It's so easy! Anybody can do it -- even those who think that they are not "artistic" or "creative." An altered book is one that you may or *may not* write your thoughts in, may or *may not* draw in, may or *may not* glue mementos into. In other words, you take a hardbound book and you do to it what you feel like! There are no rules -- do whatever you want! Paint, draw, glue magazine images, color, write with a pen, add envelopes, add pictures -- anything!

In altering a book, It becomes your creation, your creative expression of yourself -- and the place where you can play, experiment, let your imagination go wild. Shake your creativity loose! And you may or may not want to show anybody what you've done -- but by the time you have filled it up, you will be proud of your efforts. You will!

### ***Basic supplies you may want to have on hand:***

1. For an altered book, choose a hardback book that has a strong, intact spine. Sometimes it is fun to pick up a used one that has a great title or chapter titles that you can play off of with your artwork. You can find used books at bookstores, yard sales, libraries, school sales -- even your own bookshelves!

2. Get an assortment of fun pens in different colors. But make sure you have at least one Fine Point or Ultra Fine Point black Sharpie, which allows you to write over different mediums.



3. A glue stick. These are a twist up paste glue – nice to work with and hold paper collage items just fine.



4. For coloring the pages: rubber stamp ink pads (I like ColorBox Cat Eyes or Versacolor minis), pastels – chalk or oil, watercolors, crayons, colored pencils, markers. My favorite coloring item is



Portfolio water-soluble oil pastels!

5. Magazines to pull images and words from.
6. Personal mementos: photos, letters, stamps, tickets, business cards; any little thing lying around the house that you want to save and haven't known where to put it (until now)!
7. Scissors – a big pair and a small.

### **Getting Started:**

1. Prepare your pages by gluing three pages together at a time. This makes the paper thick enough to hold the glue and collage images. You can gesso the pages for added strength or to blank out the text.

2. Take one of the magazines and cut out any images that you like looking at or mean something to you: landscapes, buildings, people, animals, objects, words, and captions.
3. Rip out strips of patterns or colors that you like and glue on the borders or on the page.
4. Apply images to your page with the glue stick.
5. Color the blank spots with your ink pads, pastels, pencils. (You can also lay down color before you get started.)
6. Add a caption, or write your own. Leave space in the center or on part of your page so that you can make a journal entry later. Or fill the entire page!

***Collage Guidelines:*** Pick images that feel good. Colors that please you. Throw them together on the page. Ignore your head. Tear, tear, tear. Give yourself permission to make it ugly. In doing so, you'll most likely make something beautiful. If not, you can always RIP IT OUT!

## **Have Fun!**

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