

## Create an “Old” Book

Collage is really good at making something brand-spanking new look old, almost ancient even. And in this project, collage artist Josie Cirincione will teach you to make an “old” book from scratch.

Josie Cirincione, author of *Collage Lost and Found*, assembles a unique collection of supplies and materials (including hardware store staples like gasket material and gaffer’s tape) and creates an aged looking book from the bottom up. You’ll learn to create and embellish the cover and pages, and you’ll learn how to bind your book too.

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To learn more about or purchase *Collage Lost and Found* by Josie Cirincione, [click here](#).

[www.CreateMixedMedia.com](http://www.CreateMixedMedia.com)

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*Collage Lost and Found* is published by North Light Books, an imprint of F+W Media, Inc.



# BOOK OF SECRETS

(creating an "old" book from scratch)

**GASKET MATERIAL IS ANOTHER ITEM** that just seemed to pop off the shelf when I was in search of inspiration at the hardware store. It is perfect for book covers, since durability is important. Strong and easily distressed, gasket material comes in a roll, accepts color nicely and remains flexible and malleable.

Unlike duct tape, gaffer's tape is made of cloth but has the same strength and staying power. It's also easy to write on and comes in a few different colors. I prefer black for binding books and finishing off edges. This product is used in the film industry and can be found easily online if there's not a set and lighting supply store in your area.

## BASIC NEEDS

- matboard  
(enough to make front and back covers, the size of your choice)
- craft knife
- ruler
- cutting mat
- gasket material  
(found in hardware stores)
- double-sided adhesive
- scissors
- black inkpad  
(StazOn)
- Sienna inkpad  
(Ancient Page)
- paper towel
- duster brush  
(optional)
- gaffer's tape
- sandpaper
- found or decorative paper  
(for the inside of front and back covers)
- 1/16" (2mm) anywhere punch
- hammer
- 1/16" (2mm) long eyelets
- eyelet setter
- cardstock  
(enough to make pages for the book—they will be folded in half)
- pencil
- heat gun  
(optional)
- 28-gauge annealed steel or aluminum wire
- wire cutters
- assorted beads
- collage material for the front cover



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1. Using a craft knife, a ruler and a cutting mat, trim two pieces of matboard to the size you wish to have your book covers, and a piece for the spine as well.
2. Trim one piece of gasket material so it's  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13mm) larger on all sides than each of the cover pieces (not the spine). Crumple up the pieces, working them in your hands until they are fairly soft and pliable. Apply double-sided adhesive to one side of one cover. Smooth out a piece of the crumpled paper and adhere the board to the paper, centering it.
3. Use scissors to notch out the corners.
4. Wrap the paper around the board, securing it to the back of the board with more double-sided adhesive. Repeat for the other half of the cover. Using the black StazOn (or permanent) inkpad, rub color over the front of each covered piece.



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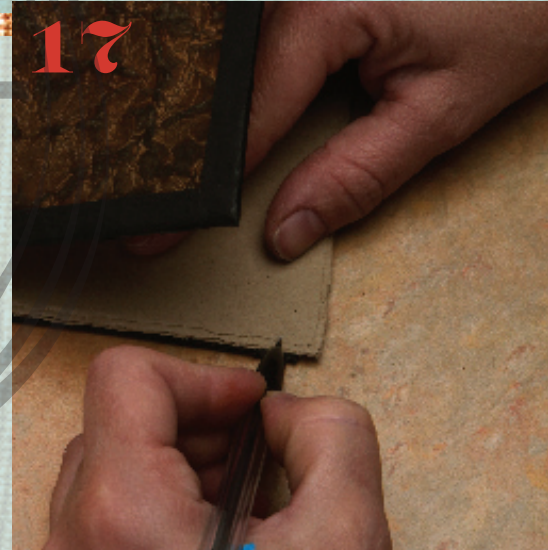
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5. Repeat with the Sienna inkpad and wipe off the excess ink with a paper towel. (Use a duster brush to add additional spot color, if desired.)
6. Use gaffer's tape to wrap the edges of the cover pieces. The tape should extend over the front of the cover about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm).
7. Using scissors, trim the excess tape that extends beyond the ends of the cover.
8. To connect the spine to the covers, set a piece of tape sticky side up between the two covers, so the tape extends  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) onto the backs of the covers. Center the spine onto the tape (there should be about  $\frac{3}{16}$ " [5mm] of space between either side of the spine and the covers).



9. Wrap the excess around to the front, and trim so they are even with the edges of tape around the covers.
10. Center another piece of tape over the front of the spine.
11. Wrap the edges around to the inside. Work the cover, folding it back and forth to work in the tape around the spine.
12. Sand the taped edges of the cover to knock down the shine. (If any white shows through the tape, go over it with the duster brush using the black inkpad.)

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- 13.** Trim some found paper of your choice to cover the insides of the front and back covers (about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " [3mm] smaller than the cover). You may wish to decorate the paper with rubber stamps or colored pencils, or you can collage it with images. Adhere the papers to the inside of each half of the covers with double-sided adhesive.
- 14.** Using a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (2mm) anywhere hole punch, punch three holes down the center of the spine.
- 15.** Insert a long eyelet through the front of each hole.
- 16.** Turn the cover over. Using an eyelet setter and hammer, set the eyelets from the inside of the cover.
- 17.** Trim or tear eight to ten pieces of a paper to the size of the unfolded cover less  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm). Fold the pages in half and stack them together to form a signature. You may wish to trim the inner two or three pieces a bit if they look like they will extend beyond the edge of the cover when they are folded and sewn into the book.



- 18.** Center one piece of folded paper in the cover, and use a fine pencil to mark the holes through the eyelets. With the  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (2mm) anywhere punch, punch holes at the marks on the fold. Use this as a template to punch the remaining pages. (You can punch 2–3 sheets at time.)
- 19.** Dip the edges of each sheet into a pigment inkpad. I like to use either red or black. Set aside to dry or dry it with a heat gun.
- 20.** Trim about 1 yard (91cm) of 28-gauge annealed steel wire and use it to sew the pages to the cover. Go through each hole a couple of times, ending with the wire ends on the outside.
- 21.** Add a second, shorter piece of wire in order to have one piece of wire coming out of each of the three holes, weaving the ends through the rest of the wire to secure them. Trim the excess wire off, on the inside.
- 22.** Thread beads onto each wire, and wrap each wire end to finish. Embellish the front of the book as desired.