

Step-By-Step Matchbook Album

Whilst many Matchbook Albums are considered to be of the mini album variety, I have adapted the concept and made this one that measures approximately 5 x 7 inches.



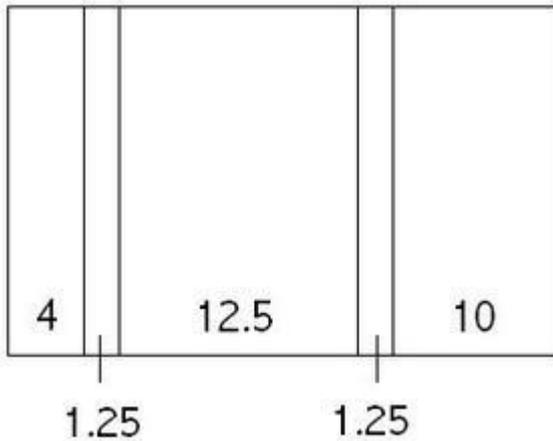
Like all papercraft projects, use these step-by-step instructions to provide you with the basics of making the album and then add your own creative license wherever you so desire. Your finished album will be one you will dearly treasure because you have made it all yourself!

Materials

- 1 sheet of pattern paper
- 4 sheets of cardstock (1 sheet will be used for the cover of the album and the other 3 will be used for the internal 6 pages - if you would like additional pages inside your album, you will require more cardstock)
- Ribbon or heavy duty string to tie your album together
- 4 Eyelets (in a colour to compliment your pattern paper)
- Adhesive (I used double-sided tape)
- Hole punch
- Corner Rounder (if you have one)
- Scor-It-Board (or Bone Scorer)
- 5-7 photos (measuring approx. 3" x 4" each or a combination of more smaller ones - of course this will depend on how much journaling you would like to include throughout your album too - you very well may like to add more photos than this)
- Additional Supplies: Embroidery Thread, Chipboard Letters, Buttons, Brads, Stickers, Tags, Inks, Paints, etc. (depending on how you want to decorate your album)

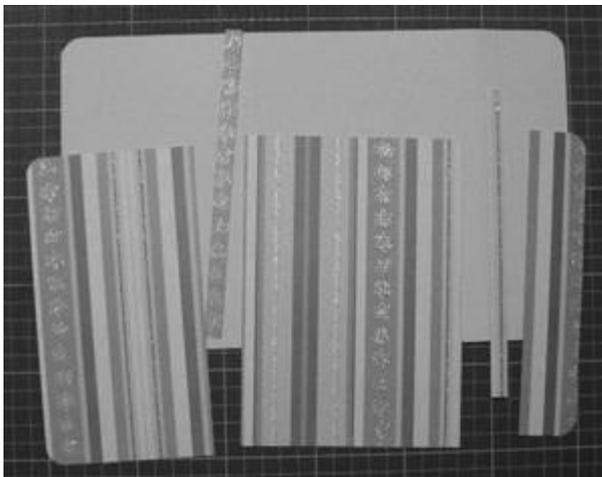
Now that you have all your supplies gathered up, let's begin by making the cover!

You will need to cut a piece of cardstock measuring 29cm x 18cm and score it at the following measurements (all in cm):



If you'd like to have rounded corners on your album, you can do this now by either using a corner punch OR by hand cutting with a pair of scissors.

I have found it easiest to decorate the front of the album with pattern paper before going any further with its assembly; of course if you only want cardstock for your cover, you can skip this next stage.

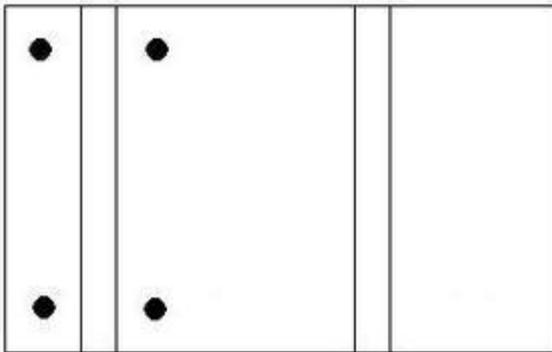


I have actually cut 5 separate pieces of pattern paper for covering my cardstock album. Each pattern paper piece is 2.5mm or so smaller on all sides so that it allows a little of the cardstock colour to show around the outside. For example the first section on the left measures 4cm x 18cm (the height of the album), so I've cut my pattern paper to measure approx. 3.5cm x 17.5cm - as you can see it's just slightly smaller and allows the cardstock to show on all sides of the pattern paper piece. I've continued in the same manner with all 5 sections and then used double-sided tape to stick the pattern paper pieces to the album cover.

You might notice on my pattern paper, I have added some hand stitching - if you are going to add any to your album, make sure you do this before you adhere the pattern paper to the cardstock to ensure that no stitching is visible from the back.

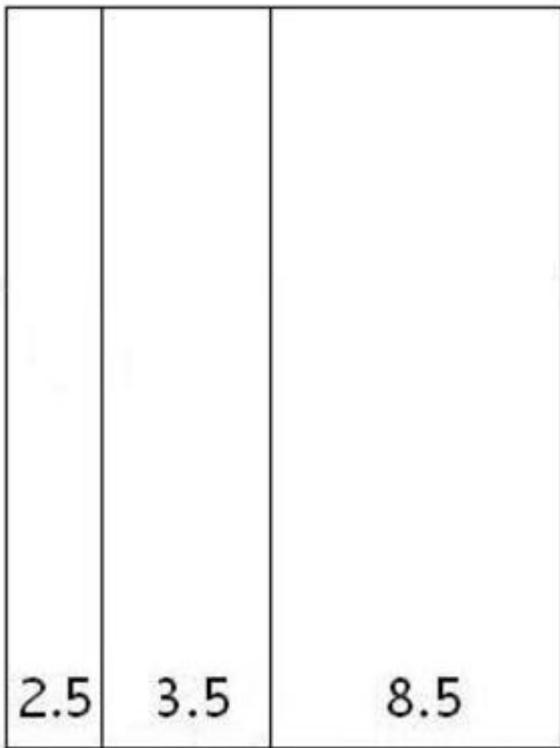


Now it's time to add the holes that we will use to tie the album all together. I have measured 4cm in from the top & bottom and 2cm in from the inside spine (the 1.25cm section) of the cover to find my centre points. NOTE: You'll only want to make a hole that is a suitable size for the eyelet that you are going to set in its place.



Once you have punched your holes, set your eyelets and then sit your album cover aside whilst we begin work on the inside pages!

Each of the inside pages measures 17cm x 14.5cm. Each one has a re-inforced edge that consists of double thickness cardstock, to ensure that the pages don't end up pulling out of the album. Once they are cut to size, make sure you have each piece in a vertical position with the 14.5cm length across the bottom and score the folds on them as follows (once again all measurements are in cm):



You will then need to fold each of the pages of your album so that the profile resembles this diagram (looking from the top of each page) - remember the narrow section at the end is the re-enforcement piece to strengthen each page in your album.



Now, stack all your pages together, ensuring that the 2.5cm re-enforcement piece is tucked behind the 3.5cm piece, and hold the pieces inside your album in the position that they will sit when the album is complete, fold the piece of the album cover with the eyelets in it, over the top of them and carefully mark with a pencil where the holes need to be punched. You'll only need to mark the top page and then use it as a template so you know where to punch the holes in all the other pages.

Once you have punched the holes, it's a good idea to double check that the holes are correct and make any adjustments before you hole punch all the pages - speaking from experience, a slight adjustment to the holes won't affect how the album goes together either - *grin*.

If you'd like to add rounded corners to your album pages, you can do this now before you move onto the album assembly.

Once all your pages have holes in them, it is then just a simple matter of using ribbon or a heavy duty string to tie the album together. I used a string on mine and laced it through the holes 4 times before threading on some buttons and then tying it all off with a knot on the front. Be as creative as you like with how you tie your album together, just make sure it is secure (for example, if you are going to tie a bow with ribbon, make sure you tie a knot first and then tie the bow to help ensure that the album doesn't come undone!



And . . . viola! You should have one complete album that is ready to complete with photos, journaling or whatever your hearts desire.

Shirley