

COOL IDEAS FOR RECYCLING PROJECTS



Reusing and recycling aren't the only environment-friendly alternatives for used paper. Artisans and out-of-the-box thinkers everywhere are RE-PURPOSING newspapers, magazines, wrappers — and yes, yearbooks — to make cool projects with extended lives.

Decades of crafters have cut, woven and decouped paper into cards, boxes and other projects. They've torn, folded and stamped onto flexible fibers to create new masterpieces. They have preserved photos and other images, clippings and memorabilia with shellac, varnish and glue.

And you don't have to look very far to find an array of projects that put a really fresh spin on some of these ideas. Many galleries and gift shops feature boxes, vases and other vessels crafted from folded magazines. Why not yearbooks?

Because of their durability, foiled snack wrappers were first used to create "gum wrapper chain" purses, but word on the street is that using clear mailing tape or contact paper expands the possibilities for that project to include newsprint, magazines and yearbooks.

Newspaper totes, purses and other bags usually feature dailies from New York, Paris or some other great destination or promote a reader's favorite section (like style, travel or the comics), but what would be cooler than having a clutch that reminded you of yearbook every time you used it?

Even Nike sees the cool factor in reusing paper. In January, they premiered shoes made of recycled magazines as part of their spring collection. The repurposed shoes align well with their other eco programs. For more than 20 years, the sportswear giant has also recycled shoes, using components to create tracks and basketball courts around the world.

Yearbook adviser Carol Neal knew she had a great idea a few years back when she imagined turning yearbook pages into beaded jewelry for the very people who worked on the book. "It

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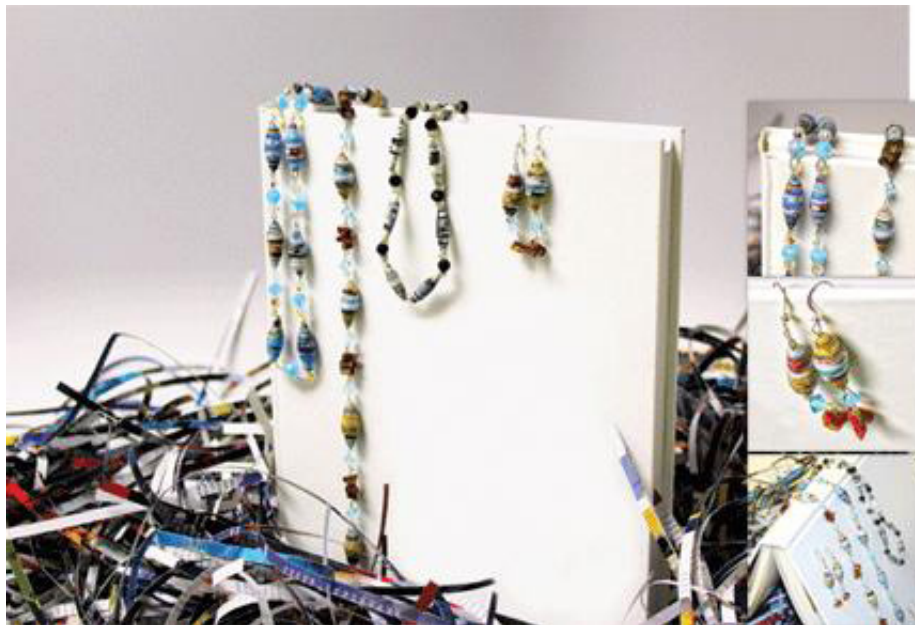


was one of those projects,” said the long-time adviser from Westminster Christian Academy in Fort Lauderdale, FL. “I knew it would be amazing and I started collecting the tools and supplies we’d need, but it took awhile before it happened.”

At first she pitched the idea to her middle school staff, suggesting they could make beads for older siblings on the high school staff. But after they made the beads, they loved them so much they wanted a set of their own. In the last four or five years, they’ve experimented with bead size and shape, the incorporation of other beads and links and the options of different kinds of necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

MAKE YOUR OWN!

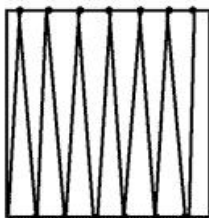
To make amazing jewelry from your own yearbook (use a damaged copy or one you cut up for contest entries or tearsheets), see the instructions below.



MAKE YOUR OWN YEARBOOK JEWELRY IN 5 EASY STEPS



STEP 1. Carefully cut a page out of an extra yearbook. If your book has a white border or no bleed, cut off the white margin at the top and bottom of the page, otherwise all beads will end in white.



STEP 2. Draw triangles lengthwise on the page, spacing them 6 picas apart. For a neater bead, make the tip of the triangle approximately 1/2 pica wide instead of coming to a true point. You can also make smaller beads by spacing them 3 picas apart. (See the diagram to the left). Cut the triangles.



STEP 3. Roll one strip at a time around a coffee stirrer or toothpick, beginning at the wide end. Start applying glue when you're about 1/3 of the way (to prevent it from adhering to the stick when it has dried.) **NOTE:** Plastic stirrers tend to be easier to remove after the glue has dried and/or you can snip the ends and leave them in place since the stirrers have holes in them.



STEP 4. Using a small paint brush, generously cover the entire bead with matte or gloss Mod Podge®. Place your bead sticks in a secure location and let them dry overnight. Then remove the toothpicks or stirrers.



STEP 5. It's up to you how fancy you want to make your jewelry. Thread and store-bought beads can be purchased to embellish your "page beads." You can also use other items to add more individuality to your design. Have fun with it!