

Hand-Covered Photo Album

An easy project that will be fun and useful for years to come.

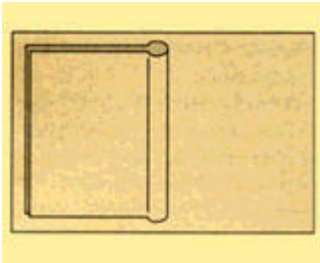


If you have photographs lying around waiting to be mounted. Here is a quick and simple way of converting that inexpensive photograph album that you purchased into a unique, distinctive and useful gift.

The Materials You Will Need:

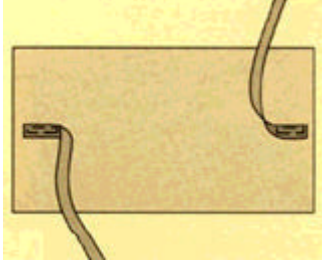
A photo album with spiral binding
Craft batting, a bit larger than the complete album cover (back and front).
Fabric, 1 1/2 inches larger all round than the album cover.
1 yard of ribbon, 1 inch wide, to color coordinated with the fabric
Heavy duty wrapping paper or poster board that will coordinate with the fabric.
Sewing needle
Tape measure
Scissors
White glue
Wax paper

Applying the Batting



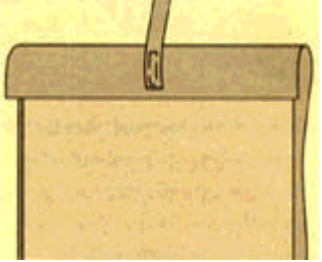
1. Evenly coat the outside of the front cover of the album (include the edges and the spine) with a thin layer of white glue.
2. Lay the piece of batting flat and position the glued front cover of the album on it, with the edges just inside the edges of the batting.
3. Repeat step 1 for the outside back cover of the album.
4. Bring the batting over the spine, keeping it taut and smooth, and press it down over the glued back cover.
5. If necessary, trim the batting so that it will just wrap around the edges of the cover. Clip the corners so that they will not be bulky, and press the batting down onto the glued edges. Allow the glue to dry.

Covering the Album



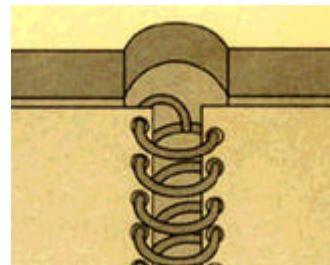
1. Cut the ribbon in half. With right sides facing, lay one piece of ribbon over the fabric with the end centered on one short edge of the fabric. Stitch a 1/4 inch and 1 1/4 inch rectangle to hold the ribbon flat and secure.

2. Repeat step 1 to attach the second piece of ribbon to the opposite edge of the fabric, and then trim the ribbon ends at an angle to prevent fraying.



3. Open the album. On the inside cover, mark the center point of the vertical edge. Run glue along this edge from top to bottom. Press the wrong side of one short edge of the fabric onto the glued area, aligning the stitched end of the ribbon with the center point. Let the glue dry.

4. Turn the album over and repeat step 3 on the other side, pulling the fabric firmly over the cover with the album as nearly closed as possible. Close the album, placing sheets of wax paper between the cover and the pages in case of glue leakage. Let the glue dry thoroughly.



5. If necessary, trim the fabric at the spine so that it will tuck down flat behind the spiral binding. Glue the top and bottom of the inside of the spine and stick the fabric down.

6. Apply glue to the top and bottom edges of the inside front cover. Stick the fabric down, mitering the corners and ensuring that the fabric covers the outside of the album smoothly. Repeat this step on the inside back.

Finishing

1. To finish the inside front and back cover, cut two pieces of heavy duty wrapping paper or light weight poster board 1/4 inch smaller all round than the inside dimensions of the cover. Glue each piece of paper or poster board to the insides of the covers to conceal the raw edges of the fabric.

2. When the glue is dry, close the album and tie the ribbon in a bow.