

# MATCHBOOK MINI JOURNAL

By Roxanne Coble

## Project Description:

This project takes you through the construction and creation of a miniature art journal using a matchbook! Whether it's a new, used, or vintage matchbook, you will be transforming it into an accordion-style art journal. The project begins by sizing your paper to the 'lid' of the matchbook. After gluing, folding, and then cutting your paper down to the appropriate size, you can then fill up your mini journal using leftover ephemera, acrylic paint, and details in pen. These matchbook minis are perfect for using up random leftover supplies and are a fun way to create miniature artwork!

## Materials:

- A matchbook, this can be new or vintage
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Graphite pencil
- 8.5x11 sheet of bristol paper (with a vellum finish if possible, it holds media better than a smooth finish!)
- Small sized ephemera: paper scraps, magazine cut outs, tea tags, fortune cookie fortunes, found paper, etc.
- Acrylic paint in various colors
- Matte gel medium
- Small sized paintbrushes, and at least one paintbrush dedicated to your gel medium
- Pens for detailing: gel pens, pitt pens, sharpies, etc.

## Instructions:

- 1.) Begin by examining your matchbook – the staple must be intact at the bottom portion of your matchbook! Also be sure that the 'lid' of the matchbook still closes and opens with ease.
- 2.) Once you know your matchbook is okay to work with, remove the matches from your matchbook. Pull out the matches individually first, and then trim the remaining cardboard that might be sticking out over the paper edge of the matchbook. Gently do this using scissors, as you don't want to remove the

cardboard completely. As you trim, always be checking that the lid your matchbook will still close. Also remember to keep the staple intact!

3.) To create the pages of your journal, first determine the size of your pages by tracing the lid of the matchbook onto your Bristol paper. To keep it simple, align the lid of your matchbook to the corner of your paper. Then using a ruler – you can draw a straight line from the top edge of your matchbook cover to the opposite end of the page (creating a long rectangle shape that is the height of your matchbook lid). Using scissors, cut along the line you've sketched in pencil, leaving you with a long strip of paper.

4.) After your paper is cut, adhere your strip to the inside lid of your matchbook cover using gel medium. The corners of your paper and edges of your matchbook should line up. Allow the paper to dry prior to moving onto the next step (which will be folding the paper that is hanging out).

5.) Once your lid is dry, begin to fold the strip of paper in an accordion-style. Take your time folding, and press firmly on the crease of your folds when you see that the fold of your paper aligns with the lid of your matchbook. The goal of this step is to create your pages so that they hide behind the lid of your matchbook when closed. While folding, occasionally close the matchbook to ensure your paper is fitting. How many folds (or pages) you can achieve will vary based on the size of the matchbook you're working in. A standard size matchbook will usually accommodate about four folds. When you are done folding (and know that your matchbook still successfully closes), trim your remaining strip of paper that is sticking out of your matchbook.

6.) With the construction of your matchbook journal complete, you can now fill it up with whatever media you wish! As a general tip – it's helpful to start by adhering your ephemera in first with gel medium. This will help your pages build up their thickness, and allow you to quickly add elements to your pages with little thought (especially if you use it as a place to 'dump' your paper scraps while working on other projects!). With ephemera added, you can then add paint or pen details, or even tiny illustrations to your matchbook journal. The possibilities are truly endless!

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