

How-To Make Paper Flowers and Paper Bags Using Old and Recycled Magazines

by Ratna Singh

How-To Make Paper Flowers

Materials:

Old and recycled magazines
Scissors
Glue sticks
Skewers
Pencil & Ruler

Instructions:

1. Tear off a page of your choice from a magazine and trim the rough edges to make them smooth.
2. Fold the paper in half vertically and cut along the fold to cut it into two pages. We will use one of the halves to create the stem and the other half to create the petals.
3. To make the stem, take the first half of the paper and roll it diagonally onto a skewer. Make sure you hold the skewer and roll the paper diagonally from one corner. Make sure that it is rolled tightly. Once you get to the end, use some glue to help hold the rolled paper together. Remove the skewer.
4. To make the flower petals, take the other half of the paper and fold it vertically once more. Glue it shut. After it has been glued shut, fold and unfold the paper 3/4 of the way horizontally to create a small crease. Now use a scissor to make a series of small cuts from folded side, cutting up to just before the crease to create a fringe. You may cut your fringe wider or narrower. Cutting it narrower will make your flowers look more dynamic.
5. It's now time to attach the flower to the stem. Put some glue along the rolled stem and along the uncut side of the petal strip. Wrap the petal strip tightly along the paper stem moving downwards up until the middle of the stem.
6. Now you are ready to decorate your space. You can put your flowers in a gift bag or magazine paper bag.

How-To Make Paper Bags

Materials:

Old and recycled magazines
Scissors
Glue sticks

Instructions:

1. Tear out two pages of your choice from a magazine and glue them together to create a thicker base.
2. Fold the paper horizontally leaving about 1 inch on one side. Next, fold in the remaining 1 inch paper and glue it.

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How-To Make Paper Bags cont.

Instructions:

3. Prepare the bottom of the bag by folding the bag 2 inches from the bottom and creating a crease along the line. Next, open up the bottom of the bag where you made a crease and fold it up until you see two triangles on either side. Fold the two flaps in towards the center to create the bottom of the bag and glue them. Both flaps should overlap one another.
4. Create the handles for the bag. Take another page of the magazine and cut horizontally a 2-inch strip of paper. Next, fold the strip and glue it together. Fold it in half and glue it to the paper bag. You may also use a ribbon, yarn, or other stringy materials for your handle.
5. Now your paper bag is ready. You may add flowers to decorate.

