

## Making Paper from Fabric

### Materials:

- Muslin
- PVA or white glue (Elmers, Sobo, Planatol BB, Crafter's Pick) optional: acrylic medium
- Craft tissue paper
- Images – gift wrap paper, magazine illustrations, calligraphy done in non-waterproof ink or gouache, paper napkins, newspaper, copied photos, etc.
- Brush for glue
- Inks or dyes; acrylic paints
- Optional: glitter or other embellishments (non recommended if sewing)
- Optional: stamps & stamping supplies, metallic rubs, etc.

### Step 1

Iron muslin pieces to butcher paper to stabilize. OR: lay on plastic surface. This prevents the fabric from sticking to the work surface, so you can peel it off.

Choose a palette or theme and gather your images and tissue papers.

### Step 2

Mix the PVA/glue with water. You can influence the finish. For a softer finish, add more water; for a stiffer finish, add less. 50/50 PVA and water gives a medium heft. 75 glue/25 water gives a stiff finish. Mixing white glue with acrylic medium also gives a nice flexible finish.

Paint the fabric with the diluted PVA/glue and then place your decorative papers onto the fabric. Press the papers into the glue. You can cover the fabric entirely or leave spaces. You can use colored tissue paper to build open space, too.

### Step 3

Paint a layer of the diluted PVA/glue over the whole piece and embed torn strips of white tissue on the new glue layer. Remove air pockets.

### Step 4

While the glue is still wet, paint on dyes or inks with a brush or sponge. This is also a good time to add glitter, if you wish. You can add white tissue layers to tone down areas, too.

Let dry or dry with heat gun. Peel from freezer paper.

### Step 5 (optional)

Modify the surface as you wish with acrylic paint wash, stamping, metallic rubs, etc.

Cut and sew or use for collage. Use for book covers, wearable art, wall hangings, etc.

Sources: Meredith Arnold, *Quilting Arts* magazine, Beryl Taylor