

Parts of a Junk Journal

There are only 2 basics parts of a Junk Journal, the cover and the signatures.

The Cover

The cover of a Junk Journal can be created in a variety of ways.

- 3 ring binder
- mat board
- cardboard box (think cereal box)
- Paper Pumpkin box (yes, I have)
- old board games
- layers of fabric
- “gutted book”

Almost anything that will stand up to being opened can be used.

Creating the Cover

The easiest journal to create would be one that uses a binder. Binders come in a variety of sizes and patterns. Your pages would simply be punched and put in the binder.

A cover using old board games or cardboard box can also be made easily by using ring binders. You would simply punch holes and insert your pages.

When using an existing book, you can choose to use the pages that are already in the book and cover them, paint them... When I use a book, I use just the cover. With the Little Golden Christmas book, I pulled the cover off. I created a new spine from heavy card stock and covered it with fabric. You need a strong adhesive to attach the spine (score tape is my preference).



My example here uses a vintage board game box for the front and back covers. I made the spine 1.5" to accommodate 3 signatures. Notice that there is a small space between the covers and the spine. That allows room for the book to close. After attaching the spine to the covers, I covered the card stock with fabric using Fabri-Tac or 3 in 1 adhesive.

Creating the Signatures

No - not signing your name! In bookbinding or journals, the signature is a set of pages nested inside one another. This creates one section of the book. Signatures can have just a few pages individually sewn into the book.



This is one of the covers for a signature. I used a heavy card stock. The size was determined by the size of the cover.

I love using a variety of paper in my signatures. Most of the time I will also vary the size of the paper. Remember, in Junk Journals there aren't any rules! This junk journal used copy paper, card stock, lined notebook paper, doilies, scrapbook paper, graph paper and ledger paper. Some of the paper is tea or coffee dyed and some of the edges have been inked.

Most often, I embellish the pages before I sew the signatures in the book. I love to use my sewing machine to add details and attach ephemera.

Tuck Spots

A tuck spot is exactly that, a spot to tuck a piece of ephemera. This signature uses paper, ribbon, lace, paper bags, an old matchbook and even a Chili's utensil bag as tuck spaces. Some are glued, some are stapled and some are sewn.

I had so much fun being creative using the
Chili's bag!

I have had a blast getting the pages ready. Part 3 of this blog will be sewing the signatures into
the journal and adding final touches. I can't wait to show you the direction this journal has taken!



My love for creating has taken many twists and turns, or as Anne would say, the Vortex! I have been crafting as long as I can remember. Sewing, quilting, stamping, card making, and most recently, Junk Journal creating. As a retired teacher, my heart is in helping people be successful. The wonderful thing about Junk Journals is that there are no rules!