

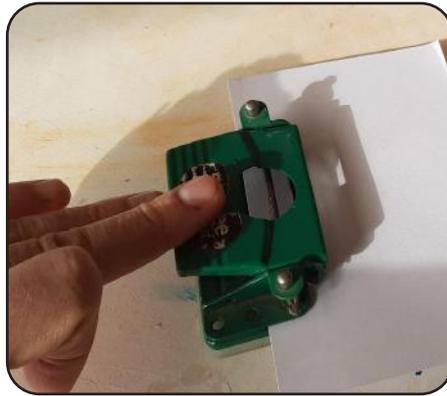
ACTIVITY GUIDE

- RUSTIC LEAF COVERED SKETCHBOOKS



Connecting creatively to the
landscape of the Wye Valley AONB and Forest of Dean

RUSTIC LEAF COVERED SKETCHBOOK



Create a bespoke rustic sketchbook or diary using found leaves for the cover and fill it with an assortment of coloured and interesting papers of your choice. An everyday reminder of nature that you can use to keep your art, photographs, notes, pressed flowers and memories.

Activity rating

Suitable for all. Assistance may be needed for some to align the hole punch, folding the A4 paper and threading the paper binders through the pages.

Time required for activity (2 parts)

A - Making the Sketchbook and pages – 45mins-1hr.

B - Adding the pages into the sketchbook after it has dried – 20-30mins.

Preparation time

10-15 mins to set the table.

Shopping list

- Assortment of fallen autumnal/winter leaves,
- Card (greyboard or similar)
- Scissors,
- Assortment of different papers (plain, coloured, patterns, music scores etc, old books etc.)
- Ring binder clips (3cm diameter or nearest)
- PVA glue and brush,
- Tea bag stewed in small amount of water.

RUSTIC LEAF COVERED SKETCHBOOK

Step by step instructions

1. Take an A4 piece of paper and fold twice to reduce it down to the size of a postcard (A6). Now tear or cut along the fold lines to create a number of mixed smaller pages that will go into your sketchbook.
2. Using your hole punch, take your smaller pages and carefully centre them and make the two holes. This is a standard size which you can always use and can easily repopulate your sketchbook at any time with new pages.
3. Cut your greyboard covers to size. Place 1 of the postcard (A6) sized pages over the board and mark out around it leaving a 5-8 mm border so that the cover will be slightly bigger than the pages inside.
4. Soak a tea bag in cold water and squeeze out the excess. You can then hold the teabag and use it like a brush to paint over 1 side of each cardboard cover. This is optional but will give the sketch book insides, a more harmonious colour in keeping with the leaves. Leave to dry.
5. Next you need to cut out the sections of the leaves. Depending on the leaves you have, you can choose a number of patterns when you stick them down upon the sketchbook cover. If you have a large leaf like in the illustrations, you can mark up or directly cut out large rectangular shapes the same width as the sketchbook cover. If you have smaller leaves, consider creating a chequered or herringbone pattern to cover the surface of the sketchbook cover.
6. Take your individual pieces of leaf and apply a generous covering of PVA on both the sketchbook cover (non tea stained) and the smoothest side of your chosen leaf. Stick them down and smooth out any air bubbles or lumps. Repeat this process until you have covered both outside facing covers and leave to dry overnight.
7. Consider if you would like to put on another layer of PVA glue to act as a type of varnish and further seal the leaves. This will of course require another 24 hours drying time or possibly if you are working with a group, a member of staff could quickly paint each outside cover for the group as it is quick and easy task to do.
8. Once the covers are dry, use the hole punch to create two holes to align with your paper.
9. Now take your random assortment of pages and using the clip binders, feed them through the holes of the cover and individual pages. Connect the clip together to complete your leaf covered rustic sketchbook.

Top Tips

- You will need 24 hours to allow your glued leaves to dry.
- Use a porous card like greyboard or similar.
- Put a second coat of PVA on the covers after they have initially dried to act as a 'varnish' and seal the leaves further.

