

Instructions for Creating Your Handcrafted Bookmark

(As described in Christine Elder's online workshop)

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1. Gather your supplies as listed in the separate materials handout.
2. Decide on the design of your bookmark using the Celtic knot and typography handouts, taking into account where the hole will be that the ribbon will be strung through.
3. Decide on the paint color(s) you'll use and where you will apply the gold leaf.
4. Trace your design in black ink onto tracing paper cut in the same dimensions as your bookmark.
5. Transfer your design onto your previously cut bookmark using graphite transfer paper.
6. Wash your hands thoroughly to remove grime that would stick to bookmark paper and repel paint.
7. Prepare the gold gilding adhesive. Tip: I find it easier to see where I've painted the adhesive if I've added a bit of red watercolor or food coloring to the adhesive. Also, I suggest placing the adhesive bottle in a tray or ramakin to help prevent accidental spills of this sticky fluid.
8. Use a small, fine tipped brush to carefully paint the adhesive onto the areas where you want the gold leaf to go.
9. Wash the brush immediately after you're done in hot, soapy water to remove the glue.
10. Let adhesive dry until it's not shiny but just a little tacky, which will be about 10 minutes. If it dries too much, you can reawaken it by breathing on the glue with your warm breath.
11. Apply gold leaf, using tweezers to lift the leaf sheet or smaller pieces onto the adhesive.
12. Burnish the gold onto the bookmark by covering with wax paper and rubbing gently.
13. Brush the excess gold off the bookmark with a flat dry brush, saving the bits of gold in a jar or baggie.
14. If there are any spots where the gold didn't adhere, repeat the process of adding adhesive and gold.
15. Outline your designs with a medium-tipped permanent black ink pen.
16. Apply paint color(s) using any water-based medium including watercolor, gouache, acrylic, tempera.
17. Add any additional decorations, like the dots I applied, using a fine-tipped opaque white pen.
18. Once dry, decide on a design for the other side of the bookmark. In my demonstration, I simply glued decorative paper onto the back.
19. Cut a hole near the top center of your bookmark and add your decorative ribbon.
20. Ta-dah! You are finished. Now make some more! They make excellent gifts and tree trimmers!