

The SECRETS of PAPER-MAKERY

When you've finished with an old piece of paper, rip it up and turn it back into a brand new sheet! It's easy peasy: shred, pulp, squeezey.

STUFF you'll NEED:

An adult to help

This book jacket (and any other bits of scrap paper)

Potato masher or food blender

A big bowl of water

An old pair of tights

A wire coathanger

A stapler and staples

A pair of scissors

Washing-up bowl

A spoon

2 dry tea towels

Rolling pin

OPTIONAL:

Dried herbs, flowers, leaves

Paint

Coloured paper

TOP SECRET RECIPE

Pulping

- 1: Rip your book jacket into lots of little pieces and soak them in a bowl of warm water for a few hours until they're nice and soggy.
- 2: MUSH up the paper with a potato masher. Or, get an adult to help you whizz it up with a food blender, a handful at a time, until - hey, presto! - it looks like a thick, gooey soup.

Framing

- 1: Now you need to make a special frame. And what better use for an old wire coathanger? Ask an adult to help you bend the wire into any shape you like. A good old-fashioned square, a star, a heart?
- 2: Keep hold of your adult. They'll need to help you cover your frame with an old pair of nylon tights. Yes! Tights! Stretch a section of the tights over the frame and staple tightly in place to make a screen. Nifty.

Mixing

- 1: Pour the paper pulp into a washing-up bowl and fill half way with warm water.
- 2: Go wild and chuck in some bits and bobs to customise your paper: non-toxic paint, little pieces of coloured paper, dried herbs, leaves, flowers or petals. Mix and match whatever takes your fancy!
- 3: Stir the contents of the bowl well until the ingredients are even.

Fiddling

- 1: Slide the frame into the water, then slowly lift it up, moving it from side to side, so the pulp settles evenly on top of the screen. Steady does it.
- 2: Lift the frame out of the water, keeping it flat. Let it drip for a bit, then press the pulp gently with your hand to squeeze out any extra water.

Rolling

- 1: Lay some tea towels on the kitchen surface. Quickly but carefully flip the screen over so the paper is face down on the cloth. Gently lift off the screen.
- 2: Place another dry tea towel on top of the paper and then use a rolling pin to squeeze out any more water. Leave the cloth on top when you've finished.

DRYING

- 1: The paper needs to dry out and set, so let it have a well-earned rest. And you can have one, too!

FINISHING

- 1: When the paper is dry, stretch the tea towel to pull it away from the paper.
- 2: Lift off the towel et voilà! Your very own proper paper. Pretty impressive, huh?!

Graduating

Well done, you are now a master of paper-makery. You thoroughly deserve to award yourself a whopping-great home-made badge or certificate!

So, what will you do with your recycled paper?

How about making a little book or another paper plane?

Let your imagination take flight!

