

THE MINITIME MACHINE PRESENTS

HOW TO

A SERIES OF
PROJECTS FOR
THE BEGINNING
MINIATURE MAKER

SEPTEMBER 2018: MINIATURE PHOTO ALBUM



Materials and Supplies:

Thin cardboard or cardstock for the album cover
Attractive complementary papers
Tacky Glue
Glue Stick
X-acto© knife
Scissors
Strip of soft, thin leather or fabric
Ruler

Miscellaneous:

Small prints of your selected photos, various sizes
Decorative elements to embellish the cover, if so desired

Instructions:

Select your various papers for your exterior papers, interior papers, and album pages.



Select papers that have a complimentary palette, or ones which match the theme of your photos (if you have one). I chose some lovely and delicate handmade papers for the interior and exterior album covers.

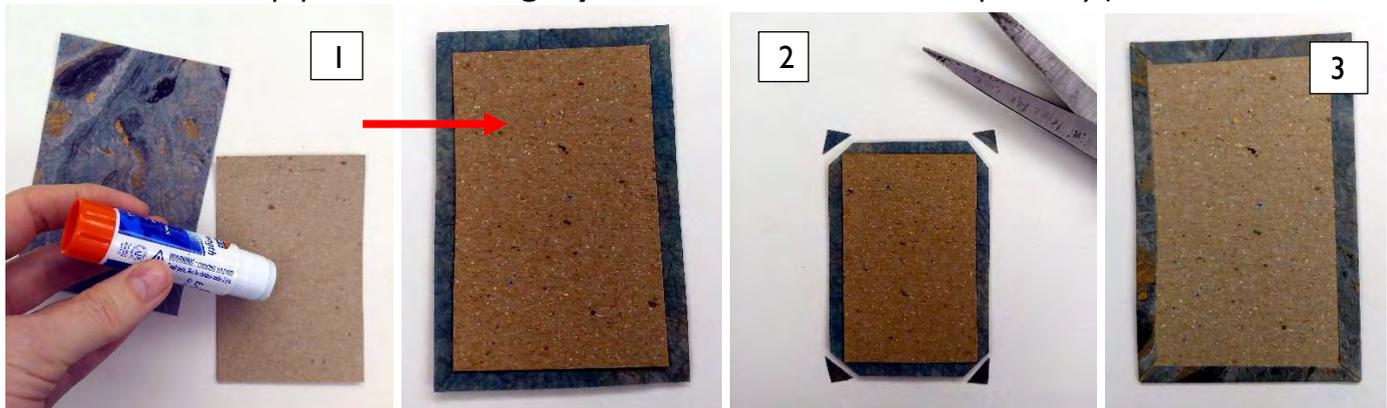
Tip: You'll want to make sure the album cover papers are not too thick or your cover will become bulky!

The leather strip I used was extremely soft and thin – you could also use a pretty piece of fabric or canvas.

I used the same paper for the accordion-fold strip as I did for the album pages – you might want to select a different paper for a pretty contrast in the binding.

Determine the size of your album.

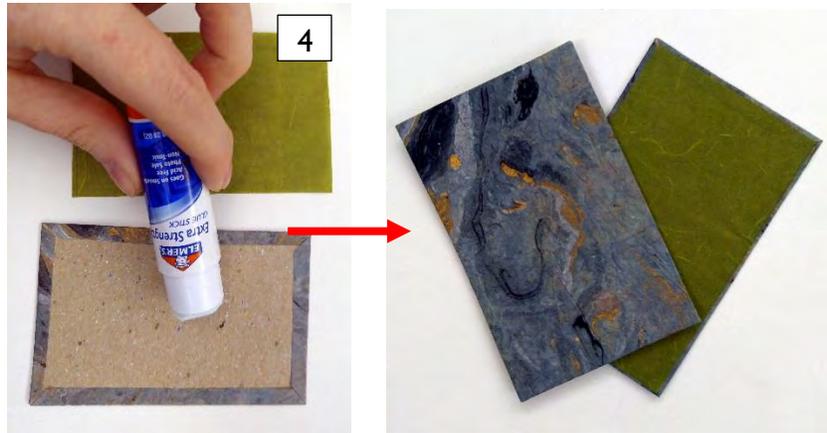
I chose to make an “oversized” photo album suitable for a 1:6 scale dollhouse (commonly known as Playscale). You'll start with your cardboard (or cardstock) album cover pieces – once they are measured and cut, all of your other measurements will be based off of this size. **My cardboard pieces are 3 ½” x 2 ¼”.** I cut my **exterior** album cover papers to be **slightly larger** than the cardboard pieces by ¼” on all sides. My **interior** album cover papers were cut **slightly smaller** than the cardboard pieces by just 3/16” on all sides.



1. Using a glue stick, glue the exterior album cover papers to the cardboard album covers. Remember to glue them right-side facing outward – show off that pretty paper!

2. You'll be folding the edges of the exterior paper over the edges of the cardboard. To achieve a clean fold, snip away the corners of the paper.

3. Using the glue stick, apply a thin coat of glue to the paper's exposed edges and then fold them over the cardboard.



4. Next, use a glue stick to attach the interior album paper to the inside of the cardboard album cover. You'll have two pretty album covers once complete!

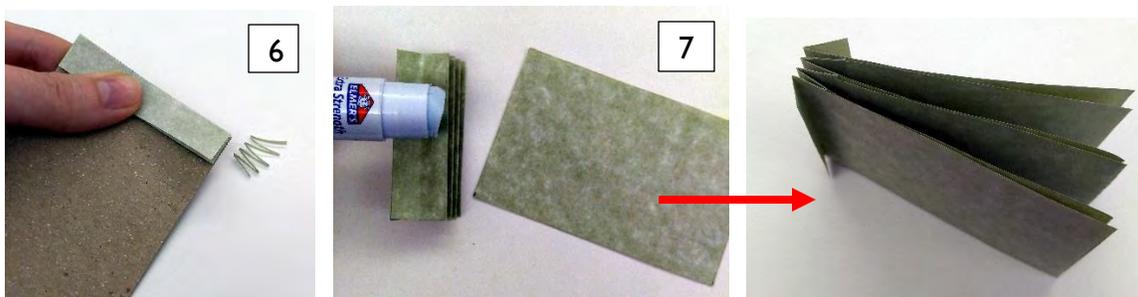
Album Pages and the Accordion-fold Strip

Your album pages should be the same size as your **interior** album cover paper; that is, just **slightly smaller** than the album cover, itself. The accordion-fold strip will be the same height as the pages (along the spine of the book), but the length will determine how many times you can fold the paper. The longer the strip = more folds = more room for album pages.



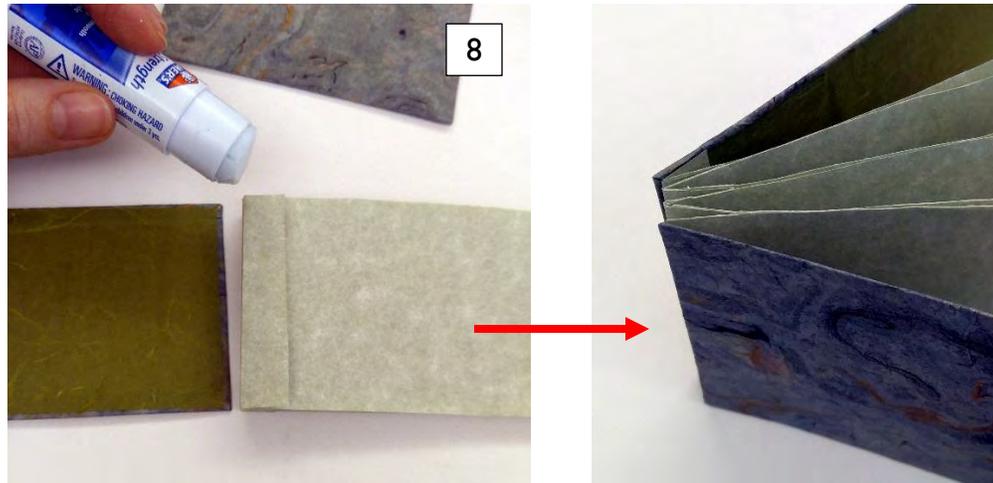
5. To keep things simple, I cut my accordion-fold paper to be the exact same size as my album pages. I folded it in 1/4" accordion folds. I was able to get three complete "folds." **Each "fold" can attach two album pages**, one on the "front" of the fold and one on the "back" of the fold. So, I cut **6 album pages**.

Attaching Album Pages to the Accordion-fold Strip

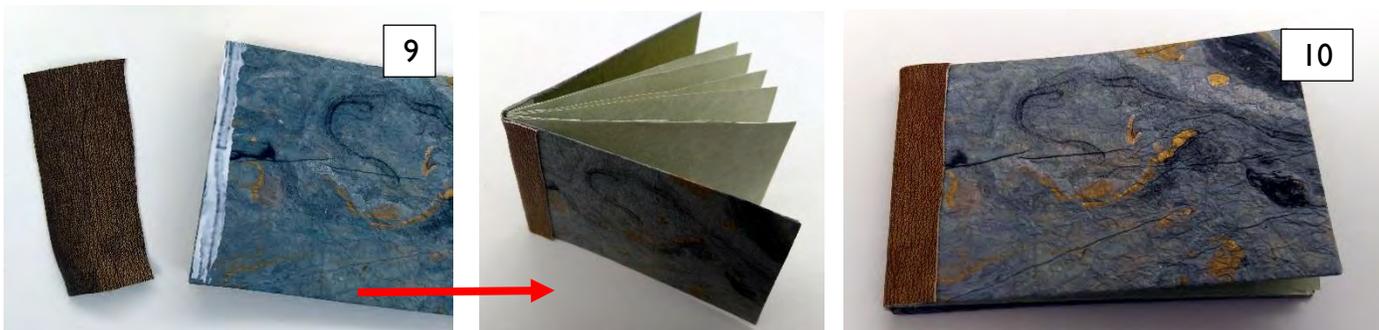


6. Once you have completed your accordion folds, you'll want to hold it up against one of the album covers, to make sure that it will fit. You may need trim it slightly, using an X-acto knife – the folding process can cause slight variations.

7. Now you can glue in your album pages! Use the glue stick and adhere two album pages per fold – one on the “front” and one on the “back.” Be sure to leave the first and last accordion flap for attaching to the album covers.



8. Using a glue stick, apply glue to both the first and last accordion flaps, to attach them to the front and back covers, respectively.



9. Using tacky glue, adhere the strip of leather (or fabric) to the front and back cover. This will keep your covers bound together, instead flopping about from the accordion fold. The length should be exactly the same as that of the album covers, but the width is really up to you – however much of the leather you'd like to see. I wanted 1/2" to show on either side, so my strip was 1 3/16" of an inch wide (to allow for the width of the album itself).

10. Now begins the fun part – making your alum! I recommend rummaging through your craft drawers to turn up unusual little odds & ends that might be a nice addition for your album cover. I wanted to keep mine simple this time around (that paper is gorgeous on its own!) so I opted to just print out the word “Photos” for the album cover. (See step 11)



Printing Photos for Your Album

11. Printing photos scaled to size is very easy thanks to a computer. Print your photos in a variety of tiny sizes, to reflect the variety you'd find in a full-scale album. You could also print out tiny captions for your photos, using a size 8 font (or smaller).

12. After you cut out the photos, try different arrangements on the page before gluing them down, to find the best fit. I was able to fit 15 photos on just two pages!

You might want to leave a few pages blank, so you can add more photos as time goes by!



You don't need to have a dollhouse to enjoy a mini photo album – they make a unique and thoughtful gift for any occasion. The best part? They fit in an envelope, making them the perfect size to drop in the mail and send to someone special!