

WHAT GOES WHERE?

(getting started with collage)

SO YOU'VE COLLECTED ALL THIS STUFF and your scissors are sharpened. Now what? If you've never tackled collage before, I suggest you start simple. It doesn't take a lot of elements to make a successful composition. Start with a few handpicked things that you love and remember that there's more than one right way to place things.

A greeting card for a friend is the perfect excuse to practice collage. Don't wait for a special occasion—think of your collage as a “just because” gift in and of itself. Your stories can take you as far as you want to go.

BASIC NEEDS

- color copies of your favorite photos
- found paper for background choices
- detail-cutting scissors
- smaller ephemera
- double-sided adhesive
- craft glue
- paint palette
- fine brush (for gluing)
- recycled novels (for cutting out text)
- cardstock in color of your choice
- craft knife
- small decorative punch (optional)



hiddentreasure

When I was little, I loved receiving letters from my grandparents in Sicily, who sent their notes tucked inside these colorful envelopes. Don't assume you will only find inspiration from a photo or pretty postcard. Sometimes it's the most simple pieces of ephemera that trigger the best memories.



1. Trim the excess paper away from your color-copied photos, so it's easier to play around with them and to find a pleasing composition.
2. Select different backgrounds to consider.
3. Hold different photos over the assorted backgrounds until you find something that clicks.
4. When you have decided on the photo and background you want to use, trim the subject itself from the rest of the photo using detail-cutting scissors.



5. Choose other elements to tell your story, selecting items that look good together. Then start playing with composition. Attach larger elements with double-sided adhesive.
6. For smaller elements, pour some craft glue onto a paint palette and apply it to the paper with a fine brush. (This might be easier if you thin the glue with just a bit of water.)
7. You'll find great text in old novels. Purchase several from the used book store or a garage sale so you will always be able to find just the right words.
8. Sometimes I will adhere the small bits of cut-out text to a piece of cardstock and then trim the individual words just to give the text some definition.





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9. Arrange the text over the collage and, after you've placed the words where they look best, adhere them using a fine brush and craft glue. Use the tip of a craft knife to both pick up and move around the text.



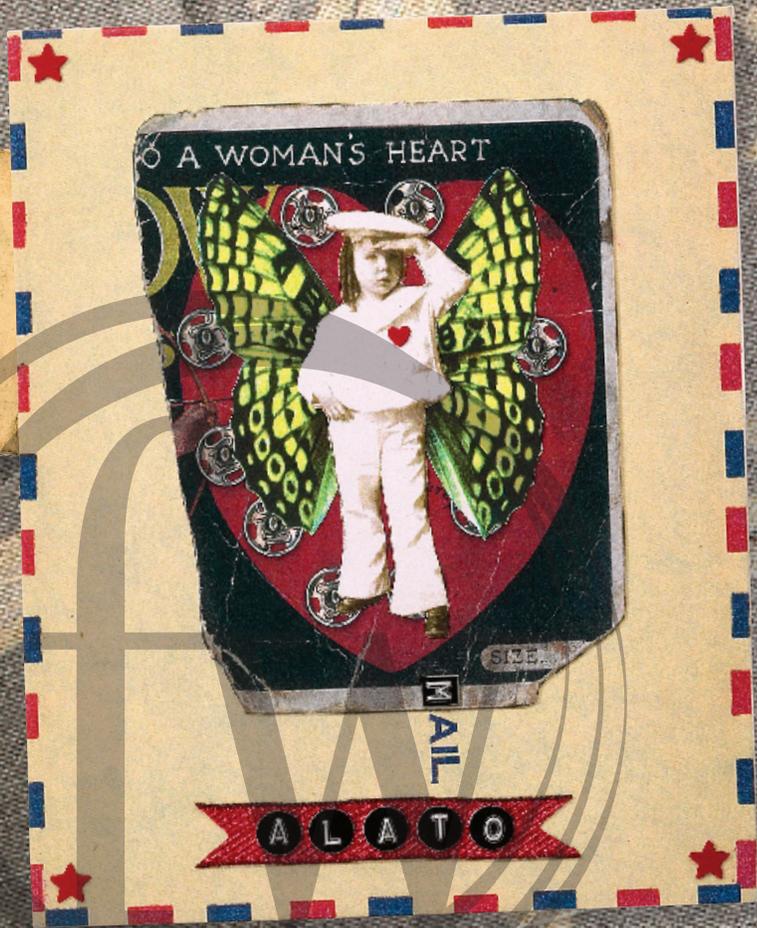
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10. As you adhere your elements, your collage begins to take shape and it becomes easier to visualize whether or not you would still like to add additional elements. Sometimes all that's needed is a few tiny details, like hearts punched out of cardstock with a decorative paper punch.



for this card, I combined vintage lace, punched-out dymo letters and photo corners. the background is vintage hair net packaging, and I hand-colored the baby image with colored pencils. this was one of my first collage creations!

The background layer immediately behind the sailor girl includes a notions card, with original snaps still in place, atop an endearing heart. I love how the little girl seems to be searching the horizon for a clue to her heart's desire.



i imagine this gentleman caller to be peering longingly through the lens of the camera at the woman. i chose this photo of a woman because of her protective companion and his spiked collar.



my dad, "sailor joe," was in the italian navy, and you will see him as an inspiration in several of the pieces in this book. it was nice having an old italian postcard available to use as the background.

this piece started with an antique magazine ad for a pram. the dictionary text covering the slide frame lends unexpected whimsy, which may have gone unnoticed had i not highlighted a special term with the tiny red heart. a final touch of ribbon added a pretty texture.

