



STEAMPUNK TAG & COLLAGE JOURNAL COVER TUTORIAL





STEAMPUNK TAG & COLLAGE JOURNAL COVER

Make your own unique papercraft and collage journal cover with the supplies, materials and step by step instructions here. Check our [website](#) for more inspiration and ideas.

Please, be safe! Read and follow all manufacturer instructions and use the appropriate safety gear. By their nature, arts and crafts are individual and unique so your results may be different, though equally beautiful.

Materials and Supplies

- [Steampunk Time Passing Tag Set](#)—Digital File
- Plain notebook with spiral binding (*See project note in first step.)
- White Letter Size Paper—1 sheet
- Acrylic Craft Paint— Metallic Bronze, Cream, Orange
- Elmer's White All-Purpose Glue
- [General's Chalk Pencils](#)—Blue, Gray and Dark Green
- [Elmer's Glitter Glue](#)—Red
- Artificial flowers and leaves—2 or 3 pieces
- [Krylon Matte Spray Sealer](#)
- Paint Brushes
- 1/4 inch Hole Punch
- Paper Scissors



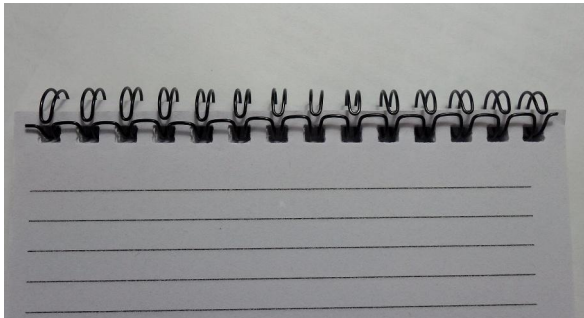
Any product links are for convenience and to show items used in this project; they are current at the date of publication. Your purchase from them may result in a small payment to DigitalPapercrafts.

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Remove Notebook Covers

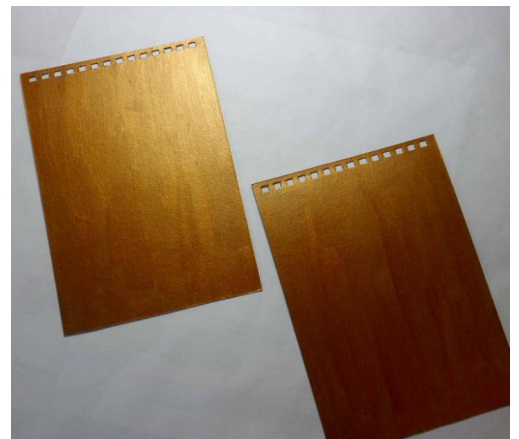
*Project Note: Choose a looped spiral binding as opposed to a continuous spiral so you can remove the covers to work on them. It's much easier and not as messy.



Carefully separate the upper loops and lift the cover out through them. Work down the length of the cover to remove it completely.

Basecoat Covers

Paint both sides of your notebook covers with the metallic bronze paint. Don't worry if they curl a little, it all straightens out at the end.



Print Tag Sheet



I used the [Steampunk Time Passing](#) Tag set for this project. You can find it here from DigitalPapercrafting on [Etsy](#). After unzipping the files, simply print the tag sheets on plain white paper. Then cut out four tags with paper scissors and punch the hole in the grommet.

For tips on printing and working with digital files, download the Digital-Papercrafts [Tips Sheet](#).

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Glue Tags in Place

Using white glue, glue the tags in place on the covers.



Apply Crackle Base



Instead of commercial crackle medium, I used plain white all-purpose glue as a crackle medium. It's a good idea to start with the back side of the covers to make sure it works as planned. Apply a medium to thick coat of glue all over the surface to be crackled. The thicker the coat, the larger the cracks.

Use an old paintbrush and wash it thoroughly as soon as you're finished with the glue. I just rinse mine in my water bucket and use it for the next step.

Let this coat sit until it's tacky but not dry. The sooner you paint over it, the larger the cracks. I usually only let it dry for a minute or two: just until the glue "sets" a bit.

Paint Crackle Coat

Using the cream color paint, paint a thick layer over the glue. Really glob the paint on! The thicker the better as it accentuates the crackle effect and the paint goes on easier.

Let dry completely.



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Add Embellishments

This is where you really add your own personality. I used white glue to add a strip of lace at the bottom corner, a larger lace flower appliqué and artificial leaves and flowers.



Adjust and Tone

Using your artist's eye, assess your project and see what it needs. The orange is too concentrated in one place, so I put spots of it around the cover.

The corner lace disappeared, so I rubbed it with blue and gray chalk pencils to make it more prominent,



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Final Adjustments

Now, the orange was too bright overall, so I toned it all down with a light brushing of the ivory paint.

To bring out certain areas, I drew around the tag outlines with dark green chalk pencil and semi-outlined the leaves and flowers with red glitter glue to bring them out .



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Apply Sealer and Reassemble

Spray both sides of the covers with clear spray sealer to seal the chalk and make the cover more durable.

The sealer can react with certain elements so test if you're not sure. On this project, the sealer dulled the finish of the glitter glue a little and reacted with two little pearls on the flower appliqué, clouding them. I didn't find it objectionable, but test if you're concerned.

Reassemble your notebook by re-inserting the covers into the binding.



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