

Altered Books with Katherine & Robin

Syllabus & Notes for Week 6: Embellishments

Handouts of examples available from instructor.

Embellishments can be anything added into the book. Here we're talking mostly about non-paper/non-ink additions. Some techniques mentioned below are more suitable for covers or niches due to their thickness.

Some possibilities:

Foam craft sheet heated up (heat gun) and dry-stamped will "deboss" the image into the foam. You can finish off with rub & buff (a thick gilding paint) and it looks a bit like leather.

Plain window screening (hardware store) can be colored with pigment inks or you can use embossing ink and powder (then heat set as usual) for a neat effect.

Air-dry or oven-bake **craft clay** (i.e. Fimo) can be rolled flat and stamped into for an image or texture. You can also press it into molds (samples are faces and letters). You can paint it or use shoe polish or rub & buff for highlighting.

Shells can be used *au naturel* or painted or stained with alcohol inks.

Glass slides can sandwich images &/or text. Seal edges with copper tape. Glass can be colored with alcohol inks. If you want to go even farther, you can solder the edges and add jump rings (for beads or ribbon, etc.). You can also use pre-made frames which have a ring at the top already [supplies provided for in-class samples].

Photo slide mounts are great little frames. They can be decorated in a myriad of ways and used to frame anything small.

Metal label frames can be used as-is to frame an image or text on a page. They can also be turned into a charm by backing with cardstock (or other sturdy but cuttable material) and filling in the frame with Diamond Glaze (or other similar product).

Bottle caps can be fun to use also. Punch a 1" circle of image or text to fit. Add Diamond Glaze, a bit of glitter or tiny beads as desired.

You can glue on **clear glass pebbles** to highlight a word or image. Colored ones are great as just decoration. Because of their weight, they do need sturdy backing (eg. on the cover or in a niche).

Metal tape (or heavy-duty foil) can be applied to matboard and decorated with metal stamps (used for metal and leather-working). You can also sand, scratch, and "age" (with diluted paint wiped mostly off). Aluminum tape is available at the hardware store (look for aluminum ducting tape) and copper is available in the garden supply (as a slug deterrent).

Attach flat things decoratively with **brads or eyelets**. Eyelets are also useful for reinforcing holes for lacing or jump rings. Both come in a staggering array of colors and shapes. Brads are easier to attach, but eyelets give a more "finished" appearance on the back.

More ideas:

Rhinestones, sequins, and glitter for a bit (or a lot) of sparkle.

Game pieces (Scrabble tiles, puzzle pieces, dominoes, playing cards, etc.)

Buttons

Charms

Beads or costume jewelry components

Office supplies (plain or fancy paperclips, plain or colored staples, etc.)

Ribbon or lace

Keys

“Silk” flowers and leaves

“Natural stuff” (eg. twigs, feathers, seeds, pressed leaves or flowers, etc.)