

Elegant Organization

Craft expert Melissa Neufeld shows how to transform an antique velvet photo album into a desktop organizer



Want a home office that's organized—and pretty? Take a cue from paper-craft artist Melissa Neufeld, who combines ordinary file folders with exquisite antique finds. ABOVE: An old photo album finds new purpose as a place to file mementos and letters, or even bills and recipes. Look for vintage photo albums at flea markets and tag sales or on eBay.com. For how-tos, turn the page.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WENDELL T. WEBBER. PRODUCED BY MONICA MICHAEL WILLIS. STYLING BY BRIAN ANDRIOLA. WRITTEN BY SAMARA O'SHEA.

how to:

STEP 1: Carefully cut out photo album pages using an X-acto knife. To add the ribbon tie (shown on previous page), use a hot-glue gun to secure the ribbons to the inside of the album covers. For a stronger hold, cut the ribbon long, and glue it deep inside the album.

STEP 2: Place file inside the album. Using a hot-glue gun, run glue along the edges of one side of the file. Attach to the album by holding in place until glue dries. Repeat on other side.

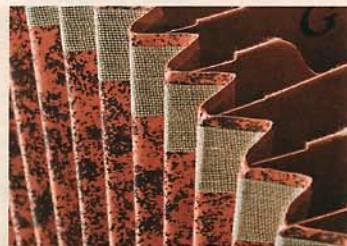


Artful Alternatives Most books that catch your eye will work for this one-of-a-kind project. Leather albums, old ledgers, even ornate hardcover books make a statement.

{ supply list } Invoice-sized expanding file, antique Victorian photo album, X-acto knife, hot-glue gun, glue sticks, Fabri-Tac, ribbon for tie or border



SHOPPING TIPS: Most of the supplies for this project are readily available at your neighborhood craft shops and office-supply stores. Invoice-sized expanding files, with built-in alphabetical, monthly, or numeric indexes, fit most vintage photo albums. To ensure a proper fit, take a file with you when searching for photo albums. (Pendaflex's Open-Top Indexed Expanding File is similar to the one shown here; find it at staples.com.) To discover more about Melissa Neufeld's projects and television appearances, visit melissaneufeld.com.



IN THE DETAILS: Consider adding a ribbon border for a subtle accent. Before gluing the file into the album, open the file as wide as possible. Line the top edge with a layer of Fabri-Tac glue, then cover with a pre-cut strip of ribbon. Repeat on the other side.