



## TECHNIQUES

### “Hand Cast Memories”

Designer: Mary Kortemeyer

## Distinctive Album Covers For Weddings, Anniversaries and More!

Today more than ever it is the unspoken “must” to have special handmade tokens at your wedding or special anniversary celebrations. What better way than to have an album cover that incorporates the colors, textures and feelings of that occasion – a unique place to keep those visual memories. Easy-to-Do and durable are the key concepts with this project. It does involve drying time and a few steps – so be sure to start more than just a few days before the event!



### Ingredients:

- Celluclay® Bright White Instant Papier Mache – 1 Lb will make several covers
- Dried or Pressed Flowers (substitute potpourri of the same color if desired)
- Fabric – slightly larger –2-3” than the total cover of the binder or book to be covered.
- Ribbons or trims
- Ring Binder for Album/ Guest Book or Journal for other mementos.

### Optional:

- Acrylic Paint to Tint Pulp
- Glitter – especially Snow Dazzle® Giant Flake Glitter

- Photocopied Images of the original Occasion (for anniversaries)
- Colored Art Pencils
- Mighty Tacky® Glue
- Silk or Dried florals for accents.

### Equipment:

- Zip-Lock freezer Bag
- Bowl
- Whisk
- Paper towels
- Active-Wire Mesh®
- Measuring cup

ACTIVA PRODUCTS, INC. P.O. BOX 1296 MARSHALL, TX 75671 USA 800-883-3899 FAX 903-938-3899

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- Cookie sheet with sides larger than the cover to be made (or oven liner pan).
- Glue Gun and sticks
- Rolling Pin

#### Optional Equipment:

- Precut frame mat board
- Heavy Lace or Doily

**Process:** Make the cover components. Let dry, then assemble. Please read the entire directions and assemble your ingredients before you start to work.

#### Step 1

Mix Celluclay® according to package directions – using 4 cups of hot water for the whole pound - 2 cups if using half – 1 cup if using a quarter (etc). Put Celluclay and water into the zip-lock bag and knead together until smooth and pliable – pulling away from the sides of the bag and forming a cohesive ball. Set aside.

#### Step 2

Measure the outside dimensions of the binder to be covered. Decide if you are doing a whole cover or a partial one that will allow for the fabric to show. Cut a piece of Activ-Wire Mesh® several inches larger than that – and fold under the edges to avoid the sharp wires to get in the way. Wearing gloves while folding under the edges is recommended.

#### Step 3

Place prepared Celluclay® into bowl and add 3 times as much water as you originally did. (Hot water works better) Whisk or beat until Celluclay® goes from looking like clay to looking like a tissue that got left in a pocket in the wash – very loose and pulp like. The finer the detail you desire – the more even this mixture needs to be. If you desire to color the pulp – take out the amount you want to tint and add small amounts of acrylic color to the mixture – whisking it in to be sure it is even in color. If absolutely deeply and evenly colored pulp is desired – add the color to the original mix water. Adding at this point will provide a mottled color pulp. Add potpourri or glitter to the pulp at this stage as well.

#### Step 4

On the cookie sheet place several layers of paper towels. Then the prepared wire mesh. If using pressed flowers or lace or other texture to cast a pattern place it on top of the mesh. Mark the area that is to be the size of the finished cover. Flowers or other things to be imbedded go face down – textures or other things to be

removed – face up. If you want a more crisp edge to the sheet – place a pre-cut mat board frame of the appropriate size on top to form the edge. Sheet can also be cut afterwards when wet – or for an exceptionally crisp edged – after it has dried.

#### Step 5

Pour pulp over the mesh with the items on it. You need to make a fairly thick layer (about ½ inch) as it will compress as you finish forming the cover. If you desire to have a pulp painted effect – apply the colored pulp in the areas desired. Color can also be applied to the wet pulp before the next step for a more intense and specific color area. Dilute the acrylic color with water before applying.

#### Step 6

Cover pulp with additional paper towels and roll with a rolling pin to push out the excess water. Use additional towels or lift the mesh (leaving the pulp and inclusions layered and intact) – remove and wring out those under it as well as those on top and repeat layering of towels and repeat the rolling until you can't see any more water running out when you roll.

#### Step 7

Peel back the mesh and the compressed pulp layer from one another – it is stronger than you think. Set aside to dry, thoroughly. If it curls while drying – you will want to flatten it out by spraying it with a light mist or warm water and ironing it from the backside to re-flatten it after it has dried.

#### Step 8

Cover the binder with fabric – using Mighty Tacky® Glue or a glue gun as desired. Folding the fabric over the edges to make a finished edge. (See Mighty Tacky® Transfer Technique sheet if you want to embellish the fabric with a photographic image – this process is done before this step)

#### Step 9

Add Celluclay® cover – scoring the places it needs to bend after wetting it at that place. Score to the inside of the fold. Apply with either Mighty Tacky Glue® or a glue gun. Press in place until glue has dried/set.

#### Step 10

Finish with Ribbon and or floral accents as desired.