

General Word Book Scrapbook Tutorial

Specific file information is included with each kit.

General Instructions:

- Cut the base. The heavier your base and decorative papers, the sturdier your scrapbook will be. Most die cutters can cut lightweight chipboard, about the weight of a cereal box.
- Choose the decorative papers for the front of the letters and pages. What I do is lay out the papers in two rows, with the letter paper in the top row and the page paper underneath, then put the paper for the last page at the end. Here's an example for a beach themed book:



- Cut the front decorative papers. Lay them on top of each other as they will be in the scrapbook.
- Turn each letter page and choose the paper that will be on the back of the pages and cut it. Generally you won't need paper for the back of the letters.
- If your decorative papers are the same size as your base, you can ink the edges or paint them with acrylic craft paint. If using the file that allows a margin around your decorative papers, you will want to paint the edges. Don't forget the edges of the holes, if using that set of files. One 2 ounce bottle of craft paint is enough for the edges of two or three word books. Let dry.
- Glue the decorative paper to the front of the letters and pages. Let dry. Glue decorative paper to the back of the pages. Let dry. Glue the letters to the front of the pages. Let dry. Be sure to get glue all the way to edge of the papers.
- Bind the scrapbook with loose leaf binder rings, ribbon, twine, or a binding machine.
- Embellish as desired with stickers, charms, ribbons, buttons or any other embellishments, and add your photos.

Hints, Tips and Ideas:

- If painting the edges you can cut apart cereal or cracker boxes and use those for the chipboard.
- Inking the edges of your decorative papers will help the letters stand out.
- If you want extra pages, cut more of the last backing page.
- Embellishments are a great way to hide mistakes.
- Mod Podge applied with a foam brush works well to glue the decorative papers to the base and get glue all the way to the edge. It does dry fast, so you'll have to work fairly quickly.
- Resize the files to about 25% of their original size to make matching greeting cards.
- Make sure your sticky mat is quite sticky, and your blade is clean and sharp, when cutting chipboard. If the mat is less sticky or the blade is not in good condition, the cutting blade will push the chipboard just slightly and the starting and ending cuts can be slightly off. If the chipboard does get pushed slightly, say 1/8 inch or so, you can generally still use the pages by trimming the corner with scissors.
- Apply decorative paper to both sides of the letters, punch holes in the top, and create a matching banner.