



Handmade Items Step by Step Guide

This document is to help guide you on the steps you need to take in creating your handmade items. Contained in this document are the different categories of handmade items you can create. Each has an outline on the cost, materials and equipment needed, a step-by-step guide and things to consider.

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Sewing

There are a large variety of small and large sewing projects you can do. Some of the things you can sew are scrunchies, bags, cooking aprons, skirts, pencil cases, baby bibs and blankets!

Materials and Equipment:

- Patterns of what you intend to sew
- Fabrics
- Scissors
- Measuring tape
- Sewing needles
- Sewing machine
- Cotton
- Pins and cushion
- Safety pins
- Quick unpick
- Iron



Outline:

1. Decide on what you would like to sew.
 - a. Consider the time, skills, materials and resources you have.
 - b. Consider how much you are going to spend on the different equipment and resources you will need.
2. Find a pattern you want to use to sew.
 - a. Think of the amount of fabric you will need for the project you are wanting to make. Ensure the pattern is in your skill and experience range.
3. Gather the appropriate equipment and materials you need to create your project.
4. Once you've decided on a pattern, find a flat, clean surface to lay your fabric out on. Place the pattern on top and pin it to the fabric.
5. Trace around the pattern and cut it out.
6. Take the pins off the pattern, and put the pattern aside.
 - a. Ensure your sewing machine is set up with the correct thread, that it is matching the fabric and the machine is threaded properly.
 - i. Practise sewing on a scrap piece of material before beginning your project.
7. Once you are satisfied with your sewing; using the cut out pieces, begin sewing according to the pattern guide. Continue to follow the instructions from the pattern you have chosen to create your project.
8. Once you have finished sewing, evaluate the time it took for you to sew that project and where you need to make improvements.
 - a. If you are happy with your final product, consider what steps you can take to change the way you approach how you sew for next time.
9. Evaluate your final product and figure out how much you are intending on selling it for.
 - a. Factor in how much you spent on materials and how long it took to make it.
10. Take a photo of your final product and share it with your friends and family to get your product known so you can sell it effectively.

Things to Consider:

- **Patterns of what you intend on sewing:** You can find different patterns at Spotlight, or on the internet, where there are many different sewing patterns you can go by - from small projects like scrunchies, to large projects like making quilts.
- **Fabrics:** There are many different types of fabrics you can choose from: cotton, denim, fleece, etc.
- **Preparing your material:** Before sewing you should iron out your material. Getting rid of the creases will make sewing easier and a cleaner finish.
- **Needles:** Different thicknesses of needles will be needed for the different thicknesses of fabrics you use. For instance: denim, you will need a thicker needle to get through the fabric.
- **Sewing machine:** Before sewing, ensure you have threaded the machine correctly, the bobbin is threaded properly and placed in the machine correctly, and ensure the right sewing needle is in its place, suited to the fabric you are using. Once you have done this, practice on a small scrap piece of fabric, in case you accidentally make a mistake on the nice fabric you intended on using.

- **Cotton:** Ensure you match the cotton with the colour of the material you use, for a cleaner looking finish.
- **Pins and cushion:** Using pins will help for your fabric to stay in place when you are using the sewing machine to sew the fabric. The pin cushion will help you to keep all of the pins in one place.
- **Quick unpick:** Will help you to unpick any mistakes you make.



Bookmarks

Bookmarks can be made out of different materials and have many different designs. Think of the different bookmarks you can make and what resources you have that will enable you to make them.

Materials and Equipment:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ● Card and coloured paper (or newspaper) | ● Pencil and eraser |
| ● Ribbon | ● Stickers, stamps and any other materials you can use for the designs of the bookmark |
| ● Scissors | ● <i>Optional:</i> Laminator |
| ● Hole punch | ● <i>Optional:</i> Magnets (for magnetic bookmarks) |
| ● Glue | |
| ● Ruler | |

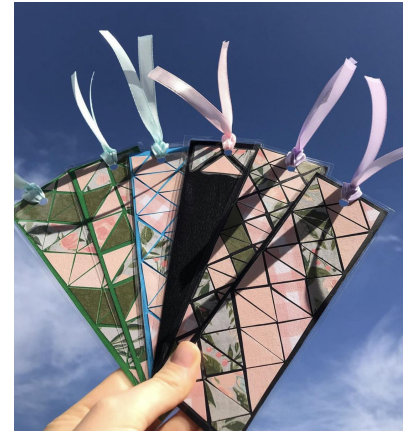
Outline:

1. Brainstorm and decide on the type of bookmark you would like to make.
 - a. Do you have the resources, equipment and materials needed to create your bookmarks?
 - b. What size would you like for your bookmarks to be?
 - i. Consider using a book to measure how long and wide you would like your bookmark to be. During this step, factor in what your budget is and how much you intend on selling your bookmarks for.
 - c. Ensure that when you sell your bookmarks, you are covering the cost of the materials you have bought.
2. On a flat surface, measure and cut the bookmark to the size you would like for it to be.
3. Gather the materials needed for the design you intend on having on your bookmark.
 - a. Use a scrap piece of paper to lay out your design or to sketch your designs so you don't waste the bookmarks you have already cut out.
4. Lightly draw your design on the bookmark with a lead pencil. If you choose not to draw your designs, use the appropriate materials for your designs such as stickers, stamps, paints, watercolour, etc.
5. After you have finished your design, and have let it dry (if necessary), and consider laminating the bookmark, which will make it last longer.

- a. Depending on the type of bookmark you have chosen to create you can add a hole in the middle at the top and add a tassel, pom pom or ribbon to make it eye-catching.

Things to Consider:

- **Laminated bookmarks:** Laminating bookmarks you have made from card is a good way for them to stay in good condition for longer. Laminated bookmarks can have a tassel, pom pom or ribbon at the top which can make the bookmark easier to find when it is in the book, and can enhance the final overall look of the bookmark. For the designs of the bookmark, you can have different bible verse, quotes or drawings on the front.
- **Magnetic bookmarks:** These types of bookmarks have 2 sides and hold a page with the magnet sandwiching the page.
- **Corner bookmarks:** Go on the top corner of the page and can have different designs such as a monster or a love heart.



Cards

From birthdays and engagements to simply saying thank you - there are many different occasions where cards are purchased to celebrate milestones, or encourage others.

Materials and Equipment:

- Card and coloured paper
- Materials for the design e.g. water colour, brushes, textas etc.
- Envelopes
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil and eraser

Outline:

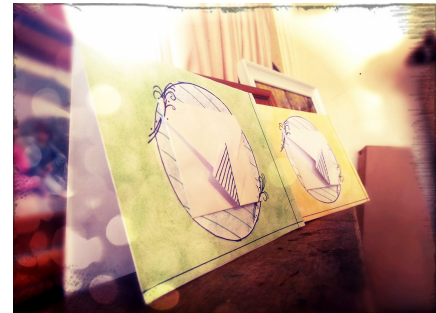
1. Decide on the type of card you intend on making.
 - a. On a scrap piece of paper, brainstorm and draw the design you could have on your cards.
2. Brainstorm and collect the materials and resources you need (keeping the end product in mind).
 - a. Consider how much you intend to spend on materials and equipment and how much profit you will make from the cards.
3. Once you have collected the materials and equipment needed, find a place such as a table, where it is clean and where you can measure and cut the card to the correct size.
 - a. Consider what size envelope you would like for the card to fit into and make the size of the card a fraction smaller to enable it to fit in properly.

4. Using the scrap piece of paper where you brainstormed your designs, pencil lightly your design onto your card. If you press too hard it will be very difficult for you to remove your mistake and will be noticeable in the end product.
5. Use other materials you have to enhance the design on your cards.
 - a. Stickers, water colour, other coloured paper, etc.
6. When you finish your card, put it aside to dry (whether that be from the glue, watercolour, paint, etc).
7. Take a photo of your end product and share with others, include the cost and any additional costs there may be for postage and delivery (if you choose to include this).

Things to Consider:

Size: When making the cards, ensure they fit in the envelopes that you choose to use.

Relevance: When making a card for a specific occasion or event, ensure the picture or design on the front is relevant to the saying you have chosen.



Stationery Tins

Do you find that your pen and pencils are in random places and you don't have a central place to store them? Many people probably have this same struggle, so why not create stationery tins? You can repurpose food tins such as spaghetti and corn tins to make stationery tins.

Materials and Equipment:

- Tins
- Paint, wool/string, ribbon, paper, or any other materials you choose to decorate your tins
- Glue

Outline:

1. Collect different sized tins (corn, spaghetti, beetroot, etc) that have no dents and are cleaned out thoroughly. To ensure you don't cut yourself on the rough edges of the tin, use some sandpaper to smooth it down.
2. Once the tin is dried completely, use the materials you have chosen to decorate the tin. Ways of decorating your tin could look like:
 - a. This could look like wrapping the string around the tin, spiraling it around starting from the bottom and making your way up to the top of the tin.
 - b. Sticking things like ribbon, fake flower petals or different coloured paper.
 - c. Painting the tin and putting a clear coat of lacquer over the top to protect the paint from peeling off.
3. Once you have finished creating your stationery tin, put it to the side to completely dry. During this process, work out a price you intend on selling it for.

4. Once it is completely dried, put some pens and pencils in it to take a photo and share it with your friends and family.

Things to Consider:

Glue: You could use a hot glue gun, or craft glue but the type of glue you use depends on what you are intending to glue to the tins.

Coasters

Drink coasters help protect your furniture by allowing you to rest your drinks on them. Coasters can be made from tiles, wood, cork, just to name a few types of material.

Materials and Equipment:

The materials you choose will depend on the type of coaster you choose to create.

- **Ceramic tiles:** Ceramic tile, photo or pretty patterned paper (that is the size of the tile), cork (for the base), craft glue/mod podge, scissors, and a sealer (lacquer or clear coat).
- **Wood:** A square of wood, wood burner, lacquer/clear coat, glue and cork (for the base).

Outline:

1. Decide on what type of coaster you would like to make.
 - a. How much are you going to spend on equipment and resources for it?
2. Once you have decided on the type of coaster you are going to make, gather your supplies.
3. The different coasters will have different processes:

Wood coaster:

1. Cut the wood to the appropriate size, for a cup to be able to rest on it.
2. Draw a design on a spare piece of paper, then using the wood burner, burn your design on the wood.
3. Once the wood has its design on it, measure and cut the cork to the size and glue it to the base.
4. Once the cork has dried, put at least one clear coat of lacquer over the top of the wood.



Ceramic tile coasters:

1. Measure and cut the photo or patterned paper to the size of the ceramic tile.
2. Using the glue, stick the paper/photo to the ceramic tile.
3. Once the photo has dried, put a clear coat of lacquer over the top so the photo/paper is protected from any spills that may occur.
4. Once the coat is dry, measure and cut the cork to the correct size and glue to the base of the ceramic tile.
5. Once you have finished your tiles, decide on a price you will be selling it for.
 - i. Ensure you factor in how much you spent on supplies and ensure the cost is covered. Take a photo, share with your family and friends and post on social media - to help promote your product.

Things to Consider:

- **Ceramic tiles with cork board bases:** When deciding on different patterned paper to use for the coasters, consider what people would want that will match things in their home. Consider having simple designs such as dots with a light coloured background, or similar.
 - **Wood:** Consider using hardwood, as it is more durable and will last longer than using softwoods.
 - **Packages/multiple:** If you make multiple, consider selling them as a pack, tying a ribbon around them so they are a bundle.
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Tie Dying

Do you like a splash of colour? Light up your world with tie dying. This is an easy way to get creative with different pieces of clothing or white fabrics that you can add some colour to. Below are some ideas of what you can tie dye:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| ● Shirts | ● Neck ties and bows |
| ● Socks | ● Shoes |
| ● Bed sheets and pillow cases | ● Scarves |
| ● Ribbons | ● Jumpers |
| ● Baby onesies | ● Caps |

Materials and Equipment:

- Rubber bands
- Tie dying dye
- The item(s) you intend on tie dying
- Gloves
- Zip-lock bags
- Garbage bags (to cover your work surface)



Outline:

1. Brainstorm how much you will be spending on your products.
 - a. Purchase and collect the item(s) you wish to tie dye, as well as the materials and equipment you need for tie dying.
2. Prepare the surface where you will be tie dying by laying the garbage bag on a clean flat surface. Have all the materials ready for you to easily access. This would include having the dye ready to use, zip-lock bag ready and a garbage bag for the used gloves.
3. Lay the item flat on the garbage bag. Pinch the middle of the fabric and twist the middle. Use elastic bands to put around the item tightly to hold the item in place.
4. Squirt the dye onto the item, ensuring you have an adequate amount to cover the item. Change colours to get a different design.
5. Once you have finished using the dye, place the tie dye item into a zip-lock bag and leave overnight in a cool place for the dye to set in the item.
6. The next day take out the elastic bands and rinse the item until the water runs clear from the item.
7. Wash your item(s) separate from other clothes, as the dye will run into other clothing. After the load is washed, hang it out to dry.
8. Once you have your final product, work out how much you can sell it for.
 - a. Ensure when selling your product(s) you cover the cost you spent to do your tie dye items.
9. Take a photo of your end product, ensuring you have good lighting. Share with your family and friends, or on social media to effectively sell your items.

Things to Consider:

Inspiration: Check out Youtube videos, or Pinterest on how you can have different tie dye designs on your items, and for different tips and tricks when tie dying.

Surface: When dying your item(s) ensure your work surface is clean, or use the garbage bags to cover the surface to ensure you don't stain the surface or get your white item(s) dirty.

Gloves: To protect your hands from the dye. Ensure you change your gloves when using a different colour, particularly colours like yellow where it can ruin the overall look.

First wash: Make sure the dye is rinsed and ensure the first wash you do after dying the item(s) is done separately from other clothing and wash the items in cold water, this will ensure that the dye doesn't run into the other clothes.

Knitting and Crocheting

Do you have a set of knitting needles or crochet hooks laying around the house? Knitting and crocheting is a relaxing way to learn a new skill and to create handmade items to sell. Keep in mind the skill level you have, which will inform what you can create. Here are a few ideas of what you can create:

- Blankets
- Scarves
- Beanies
- Toys

Materials and Equipment:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Knitting needles or crochet hook
- Guide on what you are knitting or crocheting



Outline:

1. Decide on whether you will be knitting or crocheting and decide on the budget you will have to spend to create the product.
 - a. Brainstorm the time you have to spend on knitting or crocheting and what kind of product(s) you would like to make.
2. Understand the skills you have and spend some time practising knitting or crocheting.
3. Once you are confident, follow a guide(from the internet, or book) which will outline what you need to do to create your product.
4. Once you have finished creating your product.
 - a. Assess the price you would like to sell it for
 - b. Take a photo of your product and share it with family and friends. Post a picture and the price of your product(s) on social media - this will help promote your product.

Things to Consider:

Time: When knitting, see how much time you can use to knit or crochet. Keep in mind that when you are knitting or crocheting you will need to concentrate to ensure you don't drop stitches.

Guide: Having a guide on what you are knitting or crocheting will help outline what stitches you need to do (stitch, pearl, etc), and how many you need to do. Youtube is a great resource to help you understand how to knit or crochet, and can guide you on making different patterns. Otherwise Google or different books can help guide you in this. Grandmas and mums may have a good idea of



knitting and crocheting, and may be able to show you the ropes to creating something.

Practice: Use a little bit of yarn beforehand to practise on before starting, doing the different stitches, and finishing off. This will help you not to waste the resources you buy. You can always do a test product and see what areas you need to improve in.

Jewellery Making

In the lead up to events like Mother's Day, jewellery making would be a great product to create. Some of the different things you can make are:

- Necklaces
- Earrings
- Bracelets

Materials and Equipment:

- Pliers
- Ruler
- Tape measure
- Wire cutters
- Jewellery wire (and some excess to practise on)
- Beads
- Clasps and closures
- Jump rings

Outline:

1. Brainstorm and decide on the type of jewellery you would like to create.
 - a. What size and coloured beads do you want for the jewellery?
 - b. Will you sell them as an individual product, or create a set of earrings, a bracelet and necklace to sell as a set?

You can find some inspiration on Pinterest or YouTube where you can find tutorials on jewellery making! You can also find some useful things on the internet to help you with sizing for different sized bracelets and necklaces, to get the correct measurement.

2. Collect the materials and equipment you need.
3. Use a scrap piece of wire to practice the simple jewellery making techniques, such as cutting the wire, wire working, stringing, opening jump rings, etc. Once again the internet is a great resource to help you understand the basics of jewellery making. If you are a visual learner, consider watching some YouTube videos.
4. Once you are confident to make your own jewellery, create an assembly line of the materials and equipment you need. This may look like placing the beads out on a flat surface in the order you would like to use them.

Here is a small outline on how to make the following jewellery:

Making Bracelets and Necklaces:

Materials: Beads (*of your choice*), wire cutters, closing clasp, jump rings and crimp beads

Determine the length you would like for your bracelet/necklace to be. When you have an idea of what beads you would like on your bracelet/necklace, feed them onto the wire. Before cutting the wire to your desired length, ensure you have plenty of wire to attach the clasp and jump ring. Once you have attached the clasp, jump ring and crimp bead, you want to thread the wire back through the end crimp bead. Once the wire is threaded through, the jump ring should be pulled tight through.

Making Earrings:

Materials: Pliers, 2 crystals/charms or beads, 2 jump rings and 2 earring findings

Using the pliers, open the jump rings then feed the crystal/beads etc, through the jump ring. Ensure you have a clear distinction of what the front and back is of the earring. Add the earring findings onto the jump rings then use the pliers to close the jump ring.

5. Do a practice of the jewellery you intend on making, and evaluate your end product on where you need to make some improvements. If you are satisfied, continue creating your jewellery.
6. Once you have finished the overall product, determine the amount you would like to sell your product for. Factor in the cost of the equipment and resources you bought, and how much you can sell it for in order to be making a profit.
7. Once you know how much you are going to sell it for, take a photo and share it with your family and friends.

Things to Consider:

- **Jewellery kit:** This provides you with the basics for jewellery making and can be a cheaper option, rather than buying everything separately. This will largely depend on the type of beads you would like, the type of jewellery you intend on making, and the thickness of wire you would like to have.
 - **Making jewellery sets:** Consider making jewellery that match each other. Match the earrings, bracelet and necklace with the same coloured beads.
 - **Packaging:** Consider gathering small drawstring bags which you can put the jewellery in. This will help to keep the jewellery in a central place and will prevent you from losing any of your products.
 - **Lay beads out:** Laying the beads prior to putting them on the wire will help you to have a better understanding of what your overall product will look like and whether the beads match each other.
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Miscellaneous

Still unsure what to create? Here are some miscellaneous ideas you can create:

- Candle making
- Soap making
- Bath bombs
- Keyrings
- Pottery
- Jewellery trinkets



Consider using Pinterest for more inspiration, and Google or YouTube for 'how to guides' on making different things.

