



Stone Cold Design presents
a Bookmark Tutorial
highlighting the packing tape transfer technique

I signed up for a bookmark swap and had to make 9 of the things! I decided that I would use one technique and make 3 different designs instead of racking my brain to come up with 9 originals.

I decided that the technique was going to be packing tape transfers.

Supplies:

Watercolor paper

Inks or acrylic paints

Handmade papers/hand dyed paper napkins

Gel medium/Modge Podge

Stamps/permanent ink (Staz-on)

Gold leafing pen

Clear packing tape (I had 1 3/4" wide tape)

Printed images (I used inkjet images on matte paper)

Self sealing laminate pouches

1/8" or 3/16" grommets plus setter

Yarn/beads/scrabble tiles



Let's get started!

1. Paint your watercolor paper on both sides. I used more than one color and just swirled them on. You can use paint or inks. Then cut it to shape—I made mine 2" wide by 6" long. I

would suggest making them 1 3/4" wide if you're going to use the small laminate pouches though. Glue on some lacy paper or decoupage on some hand dyed paper napkins. You can round the corners now .

2. Cut out your images and lay them ink side down on a strip of packing tape. How much ink eventually transfers will depend on your ink and the paper you use—it's all different. Now burnish the image with the back of a spoon or a bone folder or something—you want the ink to adhere to the adhesive. I used Dover clip art from a book called Reading and Writing Illustrations.



3. Once burnished well, put the images into water to soak. Leave 5-10 minutes. If you leave them too long you might have the paper slip off like a decal—that happened to me with one of these and was I ever surprised! I was able to make another



transfer with the original though (once it dried). Here's the one that slipped off—you can see that the original (on the left) has a lot of ink left on it.



4. Anyhow—now you need to start rubbing off the paper. Just use your finger and start



rolling the paper off. Pay attention to how much ink is left on the tape—you don't want to lose your main image. Also decide how much of the background

paper you want to show. I left quite a bit because of how dark my backgrounds are. You can see three different tape transfers below.



5. You need to let the transfers dry. I am impatient so just blotted mine dry. Be careful that you use something that won't transfer fibers to the tape if you do that.
6. There will be some adhesive left on the tape but you'll still need to glue it down to the

bookmark. I used Modge Podge; lots of mixed media artists like to use Gel Medium. I happen to be out of it at the moment. I put the image where I



folded half of it down over a piece of scrap paper—then spread a thin layer of glue. Repeat for the other side.

7. Then brayer it well and wipe away any excess glue. I use

a polymer clay roller as a brayer. Whatever works, eh?

8. Now take your permanent ink and stamp your saying on the bookmark. If it isn't really clear due to the paper on the background use a Sharpie to go over the words. You can see that a lot of the background shows through her apron on this transfer. But I left a lot of paper at her head to bring attention to her reading her book. (Ignore the plastic and the grommet—I got ahead of myself when taking photos!)



9. Decorate the back if you wish. I stamped another saying and signed them.
10. Use a gold leafing pen and go around the edges of the bookmark. You can also use the side of an ink pad and wipe it along the edges. This will help if you decide to sew around the laminate like I did.
11. I bought Scotch self sealing laminate

pouches that were for 4" x 6" photos. I found that these weren't big enough for two bookmarks. But I didn't want a ton of plastic sticking out the sides either so I decided just to use them anyway and sew the plastic down. I



enclosed them in the pouch per the instructions. Then I used an open toe foot on my machine and just sewed slowly. The gold leafing gives you a good line to sew along. Stop and pivot at the curves. Dot glue on the thread line where you start/stop.



- Now you can use a rotary cutter or a craft knife and separate the two bookmarks. Trim the plastic if you wish and round the corners.



13. Time to add the eyelet/grommet. I use a tool called a Crop-a-dile—it punches the holes and sets the eyelets. Awesome tool and so easy to use. No hammering involved!

- Now just add the finishing touches. I threaded fibers through the eyelet and tied on a scrabble tile that I had drilled a hole through.



Aren't these awesome?

I made extras so I can keep a couple for myself!

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Judi Wellnitz, April 2008

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