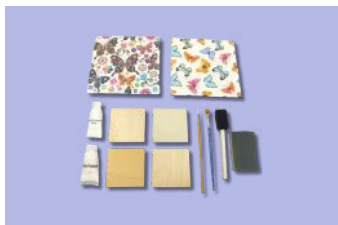


ART of HEART DECOUPAGE KIT

INSTRUCTIONS

Step By Step





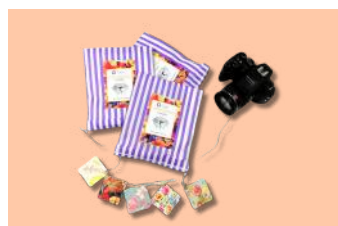
**Coaster Kits
Butterfly**



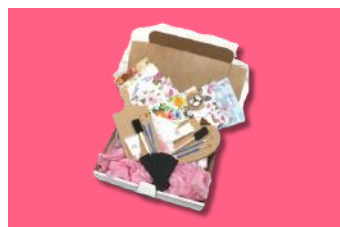
**Coaster Kits
Floral**



Mini Starter Kit



**Fairy Light Bottle Kit
Heart of Art
Decoupage Kit**



**MORE KITS ARE AVAILABLE
ON OUR WEBSITE**

CONTENTS

DECOPAUGE COASTER STARTER KIT



- 2 - 2 Strips of Wet & Dry Sandpaper
- 2 - Bottle White Scola Paint
- 1 - Bottle Mod Podge Glue & Sealer
- 4 - Blank MDF Heart Shapes (in 4 different sizes)
- 2 - Pasting Brush
- 2 - Detail Brush
- 2 - Foam Brush
- 2 - Paint or Glue Pots
- 1- Step-by-Step instruction Booklet
- 1 Length of Jute Twine (for hanging)
- 10 - 10 Different PAW Design 3-Ply Napkins

Each heart has two pre-drilled holes for easy hanging with the provided jute twine.

Additional Items You May Need (Not Included in the Kit):

- Small Cup of Water
- Paper Towels
- Palette or Disposable Plate (for paint)
- Cling Film or Saran Wrap (for smoothing the napkin)



Our Story: A Crafting Adventure

It all began during the strange, quiet days of the second COVID lock-down. As I approached retirement age, the thought of endless days of relaxation didn't quite sit right with me. I craved something practical, something creative.

My initial quest was simple: find an affordable and reliable way to transform old computer monitors into chalk and whiteboards (coming soon to our website!) as I had a mountain of them left over from a computer project I had set up and managed and I wanted to colourfully upcycle and repurpose them. Enter decoupage – the art of decorating objects with paper cutouts. I purchased a mountain of napkins and a newfound passion for decoupage. The results were surprisingly impressive, and I found myself decorating everything in sight.

One day, over a casual lunch, my daughter had an "aha moment." She suggested we sell Decoupage Kits. The spark was lit, and after gathering a few more supplies, the Decoupage Coaster Starter Kit was born.

The response on Etsy was fantastic. We received heartwarming feedback and realised there was a big demand for high-quality crafting kits. So, we expanded our range, adding mini starter kits, coaster kits, and bottle kits, all designed for beginners and experienced crafters alike.

Then, our journey took a timely turn. Crafty Clocks came into existence, featuring a variety of upcycled CD clocks and elegant wooden wall clocks. Each clock is meticulously handcrafted in our workshop, combining sustainability with style.

My granddaughters were roped in and have played a major part in making video's and booklets it is their hands that can be seen in many of the instruction book photo's.

Brian

The Products we Use

At Crafty Kits, we believe that quality starts with the best materials. That's why we carefully select premium supplies for all our products.

we ensure that every item meets high standards. We're committed to using only the finest materials to deliver products that are both reliable and inspiring, so you can enjoy crafting and decorating with confidence.

Children Should Always be Supervised by an Adult When Using Crafty Kits



Mod Podge - Our Glue & Sealer of Choice

It is a standout choice for crafters because of its versatility and ease of use. It's a non-toxic, water-based adhesive and sealant that dries clear. We have tried many other glues and have found Mod Podge to be the very best. We buy it in bulk and transfer to smaller containers. It is also child friendly.

Safety Sheet - www.plaidonline.com/Plaid/files/7a/7a63d01d-1412-4da6-8b76-820e954b715a.pdf



Scola - Artmix White Paint

Scola Artmix White Paint is a fantastic choice for any crafting project due to its rich, high-quality formula. It offers excellent coverage and a smooth, even finish. Its vibrant, opaque white color enhances the brightness of your designs and provides a clean, professional look. Plus, it's easy to clean up and non-toxic, ensuring it is safe for crafters of all ages. Child Friendly used by schools. We buy in bulk and transfer to smaller containers.

Safety Sheet - www.scolaquip.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Artmix-SDS-1021.pdf



Wooden Heart Shape Blanks

At Crafty Kits, we take pride in the quality of our wooden shapes, manufactured by a family-run UK business using high-grade MDF. Each heart shape is laser cut to precision, ensuring smooth edges and durability.



PAW 3 Ply Napkins

Our PAW 3-ply napkins are known for their premium quality and beautiful designs, making them perfect for decoupage. The vibrant colors and detailed patterns add a professional touch to any project, giving your creations a polished, eye-catching finish.



Other Items

Whenever possible, we strive to support other small UK businesses by sourcing our materials locally. However, due to pricing and market competition, some items may be sourced from suppliers in China. Regardless of the origin, we prioritise quality and ensure that only the best products are selected for our kits. All our kits are carefully assembled at our workshop in Orpington, Kent.

ART OF HEART DECOUPAGE KIT

STEP-BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS



Step 1 Prepare For Painting

You will need: Heart Blank & Wet & Dry Sand Paper

Before starting, make sure you have a clean, flat surface to work on. Gather all the materials from your kit and any additional items you will need.

Fun Fact:

Decoupage is an art form that became popular in Europe in the 17th century. The word "decoupage" comes from the French word "découper," meaning "to cut out." It's a fun way to decorate and personalize objects!

Step 2. Sanding the MDF Heart Blanks

2a: Select a Heart Blank: Choose one of the MDF heart blanks to start with.

2b: Sand the Surface: Use the wet & dry sandpaper from your kit to gently sand both sides of the MDF heart. This helps create a smooth surface for painting and decoupage.

Tip: Sand in a circular motion for an even finish.

2c: Wipe Clean: After sanding, wipe away any dust with a damp cloth and let the heart dry completely.



3. Step Painting the Heart Blanks

You will need Heart Blank, Foam Painting Brush & White Paint

You can choose to paint and decoupage one side of the heart or both sides, using different designs for each side. If you choose to decorate only one side, it's best to paint the edges for a finished look.

Apply the First Coat of Paint:

3a: Use a foam painting brush to apply a thin, even coat of Scola Artmix paint (or any acrylic paint) from the kit to one side of the heart blank.

3b: Let this side dry for approximately 30 minutes.

3c: Lightly Sand Between Coats:

3d: Once the first coat is dry, lightly sand the painted surface with fine sandpaper to remove any raised grain or imperfections.

3e: Wipe away any dust with a dry cloth.

Apply the Second Coat:

3f: Apply a second coat of paint for better coverage.

3g: Allow this coat to dry for 30 minutes.



Step 3 Cont. Painting the Heart Blanks

Paint the Other Side (Optional):

3h: If you choose to decorate both sides, repeat steps 1-3 for the other side. You can use a different color for each side to create a contrasting effect.

Tip: Two coats of paint usually provide good coverage, but add a third or fourth coat if needed for a more solid color & higher finish.

Paint the Edges:

3i: If you are only decorating one side, use a detail brush to carefully paint the edges of the heart for a neat, finished look if you are going to decorate both sides always paint the edge.

FUN FACT

Decoupage on Almost Anything

You can decoupage on a wide variety of surfaces—wood, metal, glass, ceramics, fabric, plastic, and even shoes!



Step 4. Preparing the Napkins

4a: Choose a Design: Select one of the 10 different PAW design napkins that you would like to use for your project. If decorating both sides, choose two different designs.

Separate the Layers:

4b: Napkins typically have three layers. You will only need the top, printed layer.

4c: To separate the layers, gently rub the corner of the napkin between your fingers until the layers start to separate. Carefully peel off the top layer

Tip: If you're having trouble separating the layers, try using a small piece of clear tape to help pull them apart.

Tearing the Napkin:

4e: Place the napkin over the heart blank to determine the area you want to cover. and line up the part of the design of napkin you wish to use

FUN FACT

Poor Man's Art

In the 17th and 18th centuries, decoupage was known as "the poor man's art" because people used it to mimic the elaborate and expensive inlaid lacquer work found on high-end furniture.



Step 4 Cont. Preparing the Napkins Cont.

4f: Use a detail brush dipped in water to outline the area you want to tear from the napkin. If this is the first design you are applying to the heart, leave an overhang of about 1.5 cm around the edges.

This will allow the napkin to wrap over and cover the edge of the heart, avoiding any visible white edges if you do not wish to leave it white.

4g: Gently tear along the wet line. Tearing, rather than cutting, helps the napkin blend seamlessly without creating a harsh edge.

Tip: Tearing the napkin creates a feathered edge that blends smoothly into the background, giving your project a more professional, polished appearance. Cutting with scissors leaves a sharp edge, which can stand out and be more noticeable.

FUN FACT

Hollywood Glamour

Old Hollywood stars like Jean Harlow and Mary Pickford were known to decoupage in their spare time as a creative outlet.



5. Apply the Napkin to the Heart

Apply a Thin Layer of Glue:

5a: Using a pasting brush, apply a thin, even layer of decoupage glue (or Mod Podge) to a 3 cm strip of the heart where you want to place the napkin.

Tip: Avoid using too much glue, as excess can cause the napkin to wrinkle or tear. A thin, even layer works best for smooth application.

Position the Napkin:

5b: Carefully place the napkin onto the glued area.

Tip: Hold the napkin just above the surface and gently position it over the glued area. If you plan to wrap the napkin around the edge of the heart, make sure there is enough overhang beyond the heart's edge.

5c: Take a piece of cling film (Saran Wrap) slightly larger than the napkin-covered area and place it over the napkin.

Start smoothing from the center with your finger (you can also use a credit card or roller, but be gentle). Smooth outwards from the center to one edge, then repeat from the center to the other edge. This will remove any air bubbles. Let it dry for a few minutes.

FUN FACT

No Two Projects Are Alike

Even if you use the same materials, no two decoupage projects will look exactly the same —each one is a unique work of art!



Step 5 Cont. Apply the Napkin to the Heart

5d: Next, apply another 3 cm strip of glue to the heart, ensuring you lightly glue over the edge of the napkin you've already placed.

Repeat this process, gluing and positioning the napkin in sections, until the entire heart blank is covered. Let it dry for at least 30 minutes.

Gluing the Edge:

5e: Tear the napkin overhang at 1.5 cm to 2 cm intervals all around the edge, up to the heart's border.

5f: Once you've torn the napkin all the way around, fold the strips away from the edge of the heart.

Apply a small layer of glue to a 5-6 cm section of the heart's edge using the detail brush. Carefully fold over the first torn strip and smooth it down with the tip of the brush. Be gentle to avoid tearing the napkin. Continue this process around the entire edge.

Tip: Let the glued edges dry before placing the heart on a surface to prevent lifting. After completing a 5 cm section, use clean cling film to gently smooth the edge for a neat finish.



Step 5 Cont. Applying the Napkin

5g: Once completed, let the heart dry for 30 minutes before proceeding.

5h: Now, use the wet & dry sandpaper to remove any excess napkin from the edges of the heart blank. Hold the sandpaper and, with short, sharp downward motions, gently sand the edges. This will neatly trim the napkin from the heart.

Repeat the process around the entire heart blank until all excess napkin is removed. You may need to sand some areas more than once to completely cut away the napkin.

Seal with Another Layer of Glue:

5h: Once the napkin is fully dry, apply a thin layer of Mod Podge (or decoupage glue) over the entire surface you've decorated. This will seal and protect your work. Let it dry for 30 minutes before handling.

Covering Reverse Side of Heart Blank

5i: If you wish to cover the reverse side of the heart blank (this is optional—you can leave it blank if you'd like), as long as it has been painted, simply repeat the process from Step 4 onward.



Step 6. Adding Details and Finishing Touches

Making Mistakes

Don't worry if you make a mistake—it happens to everyone at first. You can simply wipe off the heart blank with a damp cloth and start over. Just be careful not to soak the MDF blank, as too much water can cause it to swell and become unusable.

Smaller Mishaps

6a: Minor errors can be easily fixed. Apply a small amount of glue to the affected area, then tear (don't cut) a piece of napkin in the same color, slightly larger than the mistake. Place it over the area and use the detail brush to smooth it down. Gently press the napkin with cling film to blend it in. Your fix will be virtually invisible.

Finishing the Edges

6b: For a polished look, lightly sand the edges of the heart once the glue is completely dry. This will help blend the napkin edges, making them flush with the surface.

Tip: You can also use a small amount of paint on a detail brush to touch up any areas if needed.

FUN FACT

Ancient Art

Decoupage dates back to East Siberian tomb art in the 12th century, where nomadic tribes used cut-out designs to decorate the tombs of the deceased!



Step 6 Cont. Adding Details and Finishing Touches

Cut the Jute Twine:

6c: Measure a length of jute twine based on how long you want the heart to hang.

6d: Cut the twine and thread it through the pre-drilled holes in the heart.

Tie Knots:

6e: Tie a knot at each end to secure the twine in place.

6f: Tip: For a rustic look, leave a bit of extra twine at the ends of your knots.

6g: Hang and Enjoy:

Step 7 Care and Maintenance

7a: To keep your decoupage hearts looking their best, avoid placing them in direct sunlight or areas with high humidity. Wipe them gently with a dry cloth to clean.

Congratulations you have now finished your first heart blank, now you can make a start on the others in the kit.

Please let us know what you think of the kit and share photos with us on our website
www.craftykits.co.uk

DECOUPAGE TIPS & TRICKS

1. Choose the Right Paper

- Start with thin papers like napkins, tissue paper, or decoupage paper, which adhere well and are easier to work with.
- Avoid thick or glossy papers at first, as they may wrinkle or bubble more easily.

2. Prepare the Surface

- Ensure the surface is clean, smooth, and dry. Sand down rough or uneven areas to help the paper adhere evenly.
- If working on wood or other porous surfaces, apply a base coat of paint or primer.

3. Use Decoupage Medium Sparingly

- A little glue goes a long way. Apply a thin layer of decoupage medium (like Mod Podge) to the surface and avoid overloading it.
- Too much glue can cause wrinkling and make it harder to smooth the paper.

4. Work in Sections

- If covering a large surface, work in small sections at a time to avoid the glue drying out before you apply the paper.

5. Smooth Out Bubbles

- After placing your paper on the surface, gently smooth it out using your fingers, a sponge, or a brayer. Work from the center outward to push out any air bubbles.



6. Seal in Layers

- Once the paper is adhered, apply several thin layers of decoupage medium or varnish over the top, letting each layer dry before applying the next.

7. Patience with Drying

- Let each layer of glue and sealant dry completely before adding another. Rushing can result in smudging or wrinkling.

8. Use Sandpaper for Finishing

- For clean edges, you can use scissors or water brush to trim the paper close to the edge of your object.
- Then use fine-grit sandpaper to gently sand away excess paper along the edges after it has dried, creating a polished look.

9. Experiment with Layers

- You can layer different papers, images, or even materials like fabric. Just be sure to apply glue and sealant between each layer.

10. Avoid Overhandling the Paper

- Wet paper can tear easily, so handle it gently once the glue is applied. It's better to reposition it with care or use a thin brush to guide it into place.

11. Watch for Wrinkling

- Lightly misting thicker papers with water before applying them can help prevent wrinkling. Just be careful not to soak them.

DECOUPAGE TIPS & TRICKS CONT.

Tearing decoupage napkins is often preferred over cutting them with scissors or a knife.

1. Blends Edges More Seamlessly

- *Tearing creates a soft, feathered edge, creating strands of paper which allows the napkin to blend into the background more smoothly when adhered. Cut edges, by contrast, tend to stand out and create more defined lines, making it harder to achieve a seamless look.*

Experiment using Different Paint Background Colours.

1. Alters the Vibrancy of the Paper Design

Light Colors: *light-colored background (like pastels or beige) can still maintain much of the vibrancy of the design but may slightly soften the overall look compared to a white background.*

2.Dark Colors: *Dark backgrounds can dramatically change the appearance of the paper's colors, especially if you're using thin materials like napkins or tissue paper.*



Follow our crafting Blogs on our website for great decoupage Tips & Tricks

Trimming Round Corners & Edges

When working with round surfaces like bottles, always tear the napkin instead of cutting it. Create multiple small tears along the edges of the napkin to allow the paper to overlap smoothly without causing wrinkles. If you're working with a delicate design, make the tears closer together.

For trimming around edges, make tears about 1 cm or less apart, then glue them down carefully. This technique helps prevent wrinkling and avoids the sharp, visible edges that scissors or knives leave behind.

Fixing Mistakes

If you make a mistake, don't worry—you can always clean it off and start again. Decoupage is quite forgiving, especially with issues like tears or gaps.

Simply tear a piece of napkin slightly larger than the affected area, matching the color or design. Lightly apply glue to the spot, and use a fine detail brush to place the patch onto your project.

Cling Film

Cling film is a great tool for quickly smoothing out air bubbles and small wrinkles in your decoupage project.

Simply place a piece of cling film slightly larger than your napkin over the area, and gently smooth it out with your fingertip, a credit card, or a roller. Be sure to use a clean piece each time—if you use one that already has glue on it, you risk lifting the paper off the surface.

We hope you have as much fun creating your projects as we had putting this kit together! CAUTION: Crafting and hoarding craft supplies may lead to an incurable addiction—don't say we didn't warn you! But seriously, have an amazing and creative crafting journey! (We bear no responsibility for your overflowing craft room!)