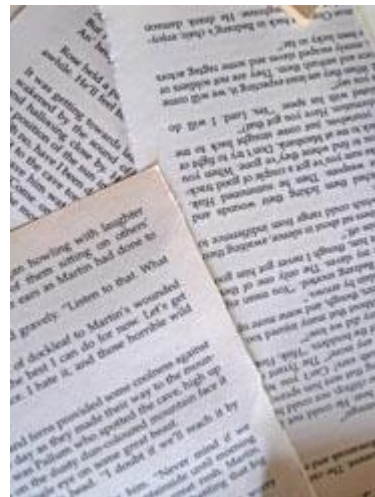


Frame It Up

Who doesn't love family photos? Cameras are so sophisticated today, that anyone can take pictures like a professional photographer. But if you are like me, most pictures stay on my computer and I only print hard copies when the event or person is really special. My great nephew's first birthday is next month. I know his parents take lots of pictures of their only child. To celebrate the occasion, I decided to make a special frame to commemorate the date.



Goodwill stores are a great a source for frames in every size, style and finish. I needed a simple wood frame without any curves or ridges to suit my design scheme. This one was in new condition for \$1.99.



My plan was to make a collage from torn paper. I simply needed decoupage adhesive, a discarded book (you can get old books from Goodwill too) and a paint brush.



Decoupage was popular in the 1970's as an alternative to painting or pasting decals on wood items. Although that look is passé, decoupage adhesive is simple to use, dries fast and is water soluble. The whole project took about an hour.

STEPS

- Tear passages out of a book. You can use scissors, but I preferred the rugged look of ripped paper. You can choose a book that suits your subject.
- Tear pieces to fit the frame
- Brush on the adhesive
- Set the paper in place
- Top with another coat of paste
- Smooth out any bubbles with your fingers
- Repeat until the entire frame is covered



Once the glue is dry, you are free to add all kinds of things: little charms, photos or special words from a book, paint a message or add trim. I decided to make it personal and kept it simple. I dug out letters from an old Scrabble game (also found at Goodwill for \$2.99) and glued them to the top edge.



It will be a special keepsake for our littlest family member.

