
Fold-and-Sew Paper Wallet with Arounna Khounnoraj of bookhou

Chapter 1 - Paper Wallet

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Arounna Khounnoraj, and I'm from Toronto. I have a business called Bookhou and I'm a fiber artist. And today we're gonna be making a washable paper wallet. I'm gonna show you how to work with washable paper, and we're gonna create an original painted design. And to finish it off, I'm gonna show you how to install a snap. What's really unique about the design of this wallet is that with a few folds and a few stitch lines you create a wallet that has multiple sections. What I love about this wallet is the material, the washable paper, it's a really nice alternative to leather, and it's very strong. And I like that you can customize it with your own pattern, as well as how quick it is to put together. (upbeat music)

Materials

- The materials that you will need for the washable paper wallet is the washable paper, which comes in many colors. We're using gray and black here. You will need a clear ruler, a marker to trace out your template, and a piece of cardstock paper. You will need a cutting mat, an X-ACTO knife, an awl to make a hole for the snaps, some craft white glue, a weight, which is a brick that we covered with paper here, a hammer, some snaps, as well as a snap setter, and you also need a surface to hammer the snaps on to. This is just a scrap piece of wood. A container with some water to clean your brushes, and some paper towel to dry your brushes. You will also need a tray to mix your colors on, some brushes, some round and flat brushes, acrylic paint. I like to use the mat medium to extend the paint a bit so that it has a better flow, and you will also need a sewing machine.

Cutting and painting the wallet

- The paper wallet is made from one single piece of paper and what I like about it is that once you have it sewn up, it creates these three sections. So I'm gonna show you just a quick sketch of how I created the design. So I based the design on the size of the bill. So the size that I came up with was three and a half by six and a quarter. The shape of the pattern is the same shape repeated. So there you have it again, the three and a half and then that gets repeated on the sides that create the sections of the wallet. So if you add this all up, the size that you would have for the total height would be 10 and a half and the total width is 18 and three quarters. So you're probably gonna wanna make more wallets so it's a good idea to create a template. So using the card stock, I'm gonna draw out the template referencing the dimensions that I have there for my drawing. The height is 10 and a half inches. So what I will do is mark it there and then slide it up. And mark it again up here. And then what I'll do is use the ruler to cut it. So line up the ruler to the two marks that you've made and then cut that with the X-Acto Knife. And now what I'm going to do is I'm going to measure the width of the pattern so it's 18 and three quarters. So I'll do the same thing as I did on the other side. I'm gonna mark two spots and then I'm going to take the ruler and line up with those two marks and then cut it. So now you have the general shape of the overall pattern. So what we're going to do next now is cut out those corners. The dimension that we have is six and a quarter by three and a half. So now what I'm going to do is measure out six and a quarter. And what I'm going to do for this part is I'm actually going to draw it out, that way you could see it better. So I'm gonna line up those two points and then put the ruler to three and a half and, so this type of ruler, you don't have

to do the mark, you can just trace it right there on the corner. And I'll do the same thing on the other side. And now what I'm gonna do is cut these corners out. And it's really important that when you go to cut out these corners that all your angles are right angles and you don't have wonky lines because when you go to sew up the wallet, it's going to fold up much nicer and it'll look cleaner. So what we're gonna do now is we're gonna take the template that we created and trace it onto the washable paper and start with the surface design. I'd like to line up the template right to the corner there, that way you're only cutting the one side. So now what I'm going to do is trace the corner onto the washable paper and use these marks as a guide to cut out. I'm using the marker so that you could see better on camera but if you like, you could trace this out with pencil so that could erase it out afterwards and you won't see it. You'll notice too when you get the washable paper that they have two different textures on it and either side works fine. There isn't like a right or wrong side to the paper. Now it's time to create our surface design on the paper wallet. I tend to create a lot of patterns that I call mark making. So there isn't really a specific pattern that I follow, I just kind of start painting and go with the flow. The type of patterns that I create are I consider mark making. So I don't really follow a specific way of creating the pattern. Sometimes I create patterns where they are a little bit smaller motifs and you see a lot of the negative space on the paper. And then sometimes I fill it in so the paper that is showing through becomes a secondary color. This one is simple brushstrokes and the color that I chose for this one is really bright so then it contrasts from the black background. When you paint your pattern, you could choose to paint on the center part which is the front and back of the wallet or you could paint the whole entire surface so that the insides are also painted. Using a small flat brush, I laid out the color that I'm gonna choose which is this blue here as well as the matte medium. And the matte medium is to be used mixed in with the paint so that you have a better flow. So I'm gonna add a little bit to that so that I have some to work here. And what you wanna do is you don't wanna add too much of the matte medium because then the paint will get too washed out and you don't get the boldness of the paint color. So I'm using a half inch flat brush to create my strokes pattern. You wanna use a good amount of paint and you just wanna start spacing them out. And then the next row, I'm just gonna kind of go in between them. And what's really nice about mark making is that there's a lot of freedom to the shapes and design. You don't have to be perfect with your strokes and that's what makes it really nice and unique. And if there's any painting blobs, you should go back over and just pick some of that up. It'll just make the piece dry faster. So I'm just painting a little bit over into the flap so that when it gets folded, you're not left with just the paper showing. You see a little bit of the pattern peeking through. Once you're done painting, let it dry.

Assembling the wallet

- The paper wallet takes three steps to sew, so you're sewing the center and then the two sides. Before I do that, what I like to do is I like to flip this over and work on the inside of the wallet. And the first fold that I create, I pull it so that it lines up to the edge of where the flap is. And then I fold it back on itself, back to that edge. And I give a nice crease, so then that becomes the guideline to where you're sewing. You could mark it with a pencil, but I find the crease makes it a lot easier. And then what I do is I line it up to the other side of the edge. Once you've lined this top piece to the bottom piece, we're gonna take this to the sewing machine and gonna sew along where this crease is. Make sure that you don't crease this part of the wallet. You want to keep it round like this. I'm using a straight stitch at the four length, we're gonna sew along this folded line here and it's important to backstitch the beginning and at the end. (sewing machine whirring) Trim your threads.

Before you go to the next step of sewing, what you want to do is lay this flat. So you're going to push down on the area that you've sewn as well as on the edge of the wallet here. You just want to push it down. And once you have that flattened out, you're gonna bring this bottom edge here to this edge over here. Then you just want to push it down. And I find when you first have it, it is going to be a bit stiff, but as you use the wallet it's gonna soften up. We're gonna sew the left and right side of the wallet, so we have to pull this back. This paper wallet is very durable, so don't feel like you're going to wreck it when you fold it. So I fold this back like this. I fold this paper back so that I have access to this edge here, and I'm going to sew it a little bit bigger than a quarter inch seam. I marked the machine a little bit bigger than a quarter of an inch, and this machine here, the position of the needle is on the left-hand side. Make sure that you backstitch the beginning and at the end. (sewing machine whirring) So trim your threads, and then you're just gonna fold this back over. And there you have it, it creates this middle part of the pocket. Repeat those two steps on the other side, and then you'll have the edges sewn here and you can see how it's created these three pockets. When I make these at home, I create a whole bunch. I paint them all first and then I sew them. And next, I'm gonna show you how to attach the snaps.

Adding a snap

- To finish the wallet, I'm gonna show you how to attach the snaps, but there's a few things that I wanna do first. Because the top part is the part that you get used the most, I like to reinforce it by folding it over about 1/2 an inch and placing glue on it. And I wanna do this process before I attach these snaps. So just use a small amount of glue. And once you put the glue on, what you wanna do is have it dry for a few minutes. So this is where the weight comes in. So you place the weight right on top of that fold and then just wait a few minutes for it to dry. The weight is good to hold down the paper, because if it's not fully dry, it's gonna pop up. Once the glue is dried and stuck on there, we're gonna attach the snaps. I just wanted to talk to you about the different snaps that are here. So these two parts here, they go together. And this is for the front part of the snaps, and then this part here goes for the bottom part of the snaps. So what you wanna do is you wanna find the center point. So you're gonna be attaching the snaps just below where the fold is here. Since it's 6 1/4. About 3 1/8 is around here, and that's about the center point. And you can see it's right in the center where the stitch line is here. And you would take the awl and just poke it and just create a hole. Depending on the size of your snaps, you might have to wiggle the awl around just to create a little bit of a bigger hole. Once that hole is created, you wanna fold the flap, and you wanna mark where the next hole is going to be. So there's the mark. And you just stick it in, and same thing. Just wiggle it around. So once you've created the hole, the snap has two parts. One has a post and one has a dome. So the post part is the one that you put on the inside of the wallet. So you wanna take the part that has the post and slip it into the back and then just push it through the hole. And you take the part that has the dome. And the dome part is the part that's facing towards you. And the part that has the indent is the part that you put against the post. This piece here is your snap setter. So you can see there's a part here that has a post and this part here that has an open part. That is the part that you put against that. And then you take your block of wood and you put that inside. And once you have that inside, you take the hammer, and then you just lightly hammer. (hammer clangs) And you can see that it's attached. So now I'm gonna rotate it for the other side. And there are two parts here for the snap. So this part here has a flat side, and then this part here has the open side. And this flat side is the part that you are going to put on the front of the wallet. So you just stick that onto the hole. And then you're gonna flip this over and you're going to put this on the wood. So

this portion here that has the writing is the part that is facing up. So you place this right on top of the post, and then you take the snap setter that has the part that's sticking up, and you stick it inside. You just lightly hammer it. (hammer clangs) So make sure that you don't see any spaces between the paper and the snap there, and that means that you've hammered it hard enough. Check to make sure everything is okay by just snapping it closed. (snap clicks) So as you can, this all came together fairly quickly. The design of the wallet helps you to create this piece that has multiple pockets with very simple and easy sewing. And then the painting makes it able for you to create customizable images for your pieces. So here are some examples of some other ones that I've created. So my favorite thing about this material is that it's washable. So let me show you a demonstration on how it works. So here is a small piece of what I've painted earlier. I'm gonna show you by just sticking it in the water. And you could crunch it up. And you could twist it. And the image stays intact and the paper doesn't rip or tear. Because of the design of this wallet, you could customize it to different shapes, like a square one, or even larger. And it would be really cute if you were to create a zippered pouch and stick it in here and you can hold your coins in it. These are easy and fun to make, and they would make a great last-minute present.