













Materials and tricks of the trade

Almost anything can be used to create collages. From the promotional flyers that fill our letterboxes, to your bus ticket, the latest fashion magazine, an old book you haven't looked at in ten years but which has really gorgeous illustrations, black and white family photos that you found in Granny's biscuit tin....

It can all be turned into first-rate material - collage is a great way to recycle!

Having said all this, it you prefer to look for a specific material with a definite aesthetic, I advise you to turn to a preloved source, like a flea market, or a second-hand bookshop. Books and magazines from yesteryear are a visual treasure trove for our projects.

Old (or current) photographs can also result in an exquisite material, because they house memories and experiences; if it pains you too much to part with them, you can always photocopy them... that way you can leave the originals intact in the family album.

When it comes to tools that you're going to need, go about it in the same way; any clean, well-sharpened scissors you have around the house will work perfectly well for cutting out. And for gluing, anything you have to hand will be useful: glue, sticky tape, a stapler...

If you'd rather use more professional materials, I'd recommend that you head to an art supply shop, where you'll find cutters of all types (for cutting straight lines as well as curves), special scissors, tweezers, rollers for smoothing out joins, cutting plates and other products such as double-sided sticky tape and rubber glue which doesn't leave stains or wrinkles on your paper.

But, if you don't have a good pair of scissors at your disposal, don't worry, you have your own hands for ripping paper, crinkling it, separating it, etc.: sometimes, improvising brings us the most surprising results.

And, apart from all these materials, remember that you can make a collage from any scrap of fabric, packet of chewing gum, piece of wrapping paper, matchbox, wadding... anything really!

Get experimenting!





