



Make a Masterpiece

Create Your Own Découpage

See [this activity](#) on our YouTube channel.

Découpage, the art of decorating an object with layers of glue and paper, offers many opportunities for creativeness and experimentation even for the youngest of artists.

What you need:

- An object to découpage onto such as a jar, vase, bowl, wooden box, picture frame, etc.
- Mod Podge or diluted Elmer's Glue (Mix together three parts Elmer's Glue with one part water. Stir well.)
- Cup
- Water
- Spoon
- Foam or bristle brush
- A variety of papers such as tissue paper, wrapping paper, scrapbook paper, napkins, magazines, greeting cards
- Scissors or an X-ACTO knife to cut paper (with adult supervision or assistance!), or simply use your hands to tear
- A protective covering such as a placemat to protect your work surface



What you do:

1. Select your paper(s) and use scissors to cut, or your hands to tear, into small pieces.
2. Spread a thin layer of découpage medium onto your object using a foam or bristle brush.
3. Lay the small paper pieces onto your glued object and smooth the pieces with a brush and/or your fingers.
4. Repeat this process adding several layers of glue and paper onto the item to add dimension.
5. Paint a final layer of découpage glue over your entire project when done.
6. Let dry overnight.

Helpful Tips:

- Experiment with various textures and paper types. Different thicknesses will give you unique effects.
- When selecting an item to découpage note that the background color may show through.
- Thicker papers may require thicker layers of découpage glue between coats.
- The paper bits may stretch or bubble up initially, and if so, smooth out air bubbles with your fingers and then go over area again with a foam or bristle brush. Minor wrinkling will shrink and flatten as your project dries.
- Adjust the measurement of glue to water ratio until you find a consistency that works well for you.
- Use recycled materials such as magazines, greeting cards and images to make great cutouts for your découpage project.
- When cutting out intricate designs or special shapes, an X-ACTO knife or scissors work well. *Use caution and adult supervision as blades are very sharp!*

Find more at-home activities at <http://discoveryacton.org/discovery-home>.