

Jesse's Guide to Choosing a Book to Alter:

- ❖ Choose a **hardback** book that you feel comfortable altering and that is in good structural condition
- ❖ It must have a solid binding – glued pages are easier than sewn pages, but both can work
- ❖ The pages should not be yellowing, nor should they have visible signs of mildew/mold/deterioration
- ❖ The theme of the book can be incorporated into your altered work of art, if you choose. I typically use outdated encyclopedias and textbooks, unless I want specific content from the original book. Your book's thickness is dependent on your plan to include drawers, pop-ups, many doors/windows or imbedded objects. Books with "architecture" should be at least 1" thick. If you would prefer to collage/draw in your book without these kinds of structural features, you can choose a thinner book.

Additionally, you are invited to gather important artifacts you want to include in your book (letters, photos, small objects). **You may also wish to choose some fabric for your cover.** Upholstery weight fabrics *without stretch* are best. Cotton prints are okay.

Altered Book-Making Suggested Supply List ~ Items in bold are especially useful:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sentimental or meaningful objects such as letters, photos, small objects, bookmarks, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Upholstery-weight fabrics (for covers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beacon's Magna-Tac 809 (cheapest online) – for fabrics, paper, more! | <input type="checkbox"/> Xacto knife and blades | <input type="checkbox"/> Ribbons and embellishments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lineco Poly Vinyl Acetate (PVA) – used to glue several pages together into one "board" page | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorative papers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dritz Fray Check – to keep edges on fabric and ribbons from fraying | <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting mat/board | <input type="checkbox"/> Matchboxes (for drawers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E6000 glue | <input type="checkbox"/> Gesso – for priming a page for acrylic, or for softening the content of a page (use lightly, with some water added) | <input type="checkbox"/> Beads/buttons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent glue sticks | <input type="checkbox"/> Watercolors (if you enjoy dry cakes, I recommend Pelikan watercolors – either the opaque or transparent set) | <input type="checkbox"/> Glitter glues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hot glue gun and glue | <input type="checkbox"/> Artists' (if you enjoy dry cakes, I recommend Pelikan watercolors – either the opaque or transparent set) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mini-Misters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bone folder | <input type="checkbox"/> Artists'/Painters' tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Stirrers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Binder clips/bulldog clips of various sizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Spine repair tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Artist inks |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> (Disposable) palette paper or wax Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Droppers |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Mat board/book board | <input type="checkbox"/> Rubbing alcohol |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Cardstock | <input type="checkbox"/> (Cheapo) brushes for glue |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sakura Glaze gel pens | <input type="checkbox"/> Acrylic or tempera paints |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Micron pens | <input type="checkbox"/> Watercolor/acrylic brushes as needed |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent markers | <input type="checkbox"/> Sumi brushes for watercolor |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors – (dedicated) fabric and paper |