

Once you have made your post, you are ready for the important step of pressing. This helps the fibres interlock and adds a quality finish to your handmade paper.

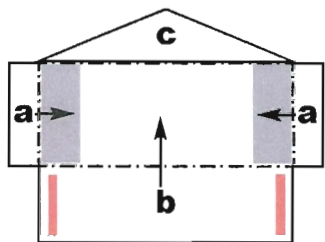
- ▶ Place the post into a press. Tighten the press and leave for at least half an hour; **OR** place it between two flat boards, put some heavy weights on top of the boards and leave overnight.
- ▶ Remove the post from the press and carefully separate each felt. Hang each piece on a line (or lay on a carpeted area) to dry.
- ▶ When dry, peel the paper away from the felt, stack the paper and press it once more overnight. This will flatten the paper and help to remove any wrinkles.

handy hint

FOR A SMOOTH (HOT-PRESS) FINISH, USE AN IRON ON A LOW HEAT SETTING.

folding envelopes

This kit includes a vinyl shaping tile to make envelopes. When dry, fold and glue as follows:



- ▶ Fold in flaps **a**.
- ▶ Glue flap **b** as per red lines, then fold in and apply pressure.
- ▶ Fold top flap **c** down. When you are ready to seal the envelope, glue the top flap and apply gentle pressure.

cleaning up

- ▶ It is important **not** to empty the slurry down the sink, as this could cause drainage problems. Instead strain the pulp through some nylon netting, such as an old curtain, and keep it for future use or use it in your garden.
- ▶ Rinse all equipment to remove pulp residue and allow to dry before packing away.
- ▶ Vinyl shaping tiles should be laid out flat when storing.

suggestions

Glitter, dried flower petals and **dried herbs** make great additions to your hand-made paper. Try experimenting with **plants** from your garden. For coloured paper, recycle **coloured cardboard or serviettes**, or try adding **natural dyes** such as **tumeric, coffee** or **tea** to your slurry. (Remember that the colour will fade slightly as the paper dries.)

Petals - soak the dried petals in hot water for a few minutes then put a small handful in your blender with 2 cups of water. Blend for a few seconds and add to your slurry. Swirl, mix well and then form paper as usual.

Felts - for extra felts, try using material such as linen or hessian for different textures.

ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE TO ENHANCE YOUR CREATIVE PAPER-MAKING SKILLS

- WOODEN PAPER PRESS ■ LACE EMBOSSEMENT PACK ■ VINYL SHAPING TILES
- DYES ■ TEXTURED CLOTHS ■ MARBLING MEDIUM
- ESSENTIAL OILS ■ MAGIC NYMPH DUST ■ MICROFLEUR FLOWER PRESS

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Paper Nymph

Dear Friend,
Welcome to the wonderful world of paper-making and congratulations on your choice of a quality Paper Nymph Kit. Making paper is easy and fun for all ages. Handmade paper is unique and this kit will help you discover the exciting and rewarding Paper Nymph method of turning scrap paper into beautiful, personalised stationery. Recycling helps to care for our environment, too! Just follow the step-by-step instructions and let your imagination be your guide.
Happy paper-making!

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about paper

Paper is made from natural fibres, usually plant-based, from a huge variety of materials, including cotton, hemp, rice, seaweed, hessian and tree bark. Most modern paper comes from wood pulp and is made by machines. Making paper by hand is an ancient craft, first discovered by the Chinese in 105 AD. Legend has it that the Japanese were introduced to this idea some 500 years later by a divine maiden on the banks of a mountain stream - the first Paper Nymph perhaps?

Handmade paper utilises recycling and is made from scrap paper such as old schoolbooks, notepaper, shredded computer paper or photocopy paper etc. The better the quality of paper to begin with, the better the final result. Paper with a high acid content (such as newspaper) produces a lesser quality paper.

Paper is made by breaking down paper pieces into a watery slurry (called fibrillation). The framed screen (mould and deckle) is scooped into the slurry and lifted out. The water passes through the screen, leaving a thin layer of pulp in the form of a sheet. The resulting paper is then carefully rolled and pressed to remove excess water and, when dry, is ready to use.

Our Mission:
TO PROMOTE THE ART OF PAPER-MAKING AND TO HELP OUR ENVIRONMENT BY RECYCLING