

finishing notes



Now that your desk is piled with little pictures, printed word cards and a few other little bits and pieces, it's time to put it all together and finish this little book before 'This Year' is passing us by at lightning speed!

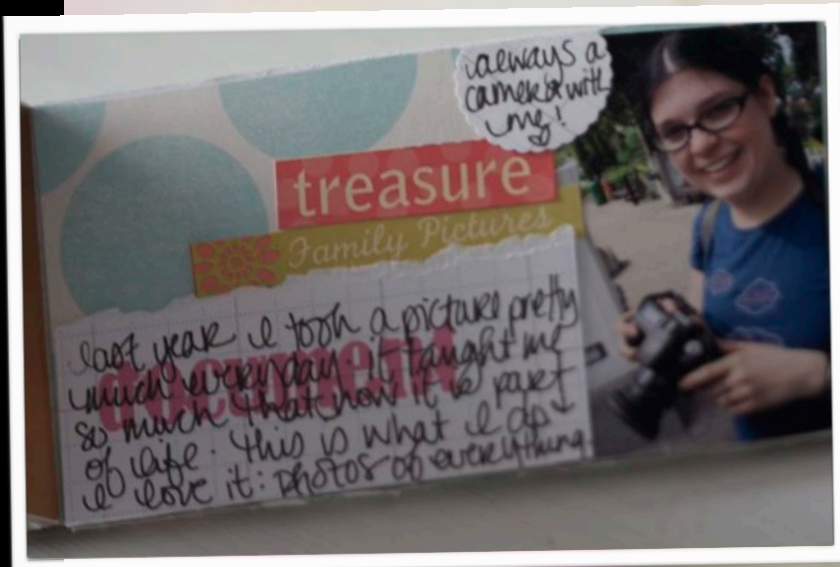
Start with your word cards and photos. You're going to glue these straight onto the pages you've covered with patterned paper. I tended to layer them so my photo was just a little underneath the word card, as you can see in the two pages above. You can make every page the same or change it up as much as you want. Just don't worry too much. I mixed straight edges with torn edges, just working with whatever made it easiest for things to fit well yet still show some of the patterned paper behind. Wherever elements go to the edge of the page, we'll sand those edges just like we did with the patterned paper. You can do this as you go or wait until the book is finished and just give every page one last sanding.

Next, add your word stickers and a few other small embellishments. Where you have straight edges of your photo or word cards, line up the word stickers along those straight lines and you can't go wrong. When you have torn edges, tuck the word sticker behind the torn edge, ever so slightly. Once you're happy that your word stickers are stretched throughout your book for a coordinated feel, choose another element of embellishment that you can use in more than one way so it can

repeat without looking the same every time. I used a small scallop circle punched from the same patterned papers I used on the page backgrounds. Sometimes I layered the circle on top of a paper daisy, then used the small letter tiles on top of the circle. Other times, I used the scallop on its own, but cut off one edge so it could run off the top of the page. I also used the scallop in the background on some pages -- with a smaller paper daisy or a small circle sticker on top. So the same accent works four ways in this case -- perfect for making each page unique but having something new to look forward to with each turn. Your accent can be anything you have on hand -- just take a few minutes to look at different ways it can be used.

With all that embellishment in place, you're ready to start writing. The basic idea is to write on the notecards, straight over the words you printed, so they show in the background but your writing is still legible over the top (hence the reason for the words to be paler or in a different colour than your pen). Use your worksheet to help you find what to write or write what naturally comes to mind. If you want to use this as a resolution or intention book, then go for it, but my aim for this was to document what I *am* doing rather than what I *hope* to do -- if that makes sense. That's the 'right now' concept -- Right Now, I am loving...except for this book, we're documenting it in a slightly different way, that in 2009, we are loving the following things that we've listed in the book. Okay, so it's maybe just a slightly different angle, but I figured it was worth pointing out so you had the option of what best suited you.





I started each page's writing with 'Last year...' to give a bit of a recap -- after all, I am using some pictures that were taken last year because it's only January right now! It also helps to put things in perspective. The page at the left uses the word 'document' in the background. The photo on the left page is one I took as part of a documenting project and the small photo on the right page shows me with my camera in hand. The writing explains that last year I took a picture pretty much every day and I learned a great deal from that -- so this year I am loving the chance to document day to day life with my camera. Simple enough? So your writing will show what you're loving right now with a bit of perspective about why you're loving that particular thing. If we were talking about resolutions, often they are things we don't particularly love doing -- eating less, exercising more, being more organised -- yes they are things that would make us happy in the end perhaps, but they tend to be hard work at the beginning. So let this book have just your happy things right now and leave the hard work for somewhere else -- that way this can be your pick-me-up book!

what about the... **cover?**

Even though I didn't use much in the way of dimensional embellishments, this book is naturally going to want to sit open -- which for most books is fine, but I want to be able to keep this in my bag or a desk drawer or somewhere I can look to it for that little bit of a happy note-to-self. So I added a length of ribbon all the way around the book, held in place with strong adhesive so I can tie it closed and keep everything in place. From there, layer on lettering and a few embellishments that coordinate with what's inside. Make sure you sign and date the back of your book -- you may want to add a self-portrait here too. Even if it's just your feet! Give all the edges a final sanding and double check that everything on the cover has plenty of sticking power so it won't get mangled with a bit of handling. Tie it closed on the side and you're all finished!

