

A close-up photograph of a field of purple flowers, likely globe amaranths, with a soft, blurred background. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and their colors range from deep magenta to bright purple. The bottom half of the image features a reflection effect, making the flowers appear to be mirrored on a surface below. The overall mood is serene and celebratory.

a little book about you

this year

prompt one...

getting

ready

I have come to admit that I have far more crafting supplies than I really need. An amount of crafting supplies that probably wouldn't surprise anyone who is reading this, but an amount that makes outsiders take one look at my crafting gear and stare at me in disbelief. Admittedly, I could wallpaper my home...and probably every home in which I have ever lived...in 12x12 patterned paper. There is nothing wrong with that. The only problem I have is when I start to work on something, it can be a little overwhelming to choose from everything, so at the beginning of a project I tend to gather my supplies and my photos so I am working with a smaller base of supplies. Of course, if inspiration strikes I can always add something I didn't gather at the beginning, but it's useful to have a framework to help things start to click in place. With that in mind, here's a supply checklist so you can gather the stash you want to use for making this book. The links will take you to see these products for sale online -- but you do not have to buy anything to participate in the project. You can shop from your own stash for similar things that will work for you if you prefer.

One blank book. I've used the [Coffee Break chipboard minibook by Maya Road](#) for my album. Maya Road and other manufacturers make [chipboard books in a variety of sizes](#) -- choose one that works for you. A chipboard book isn't required to make the project (there are never any firm requirements -- it's crafty fun!) but the construction notes will focus on using the chipboard base, so you might find it useful.

Two to five sheets of patterned paper. I'm using designs from the [Paperie collection from Making Memories](#). You can choose any patterned papers you like! The Paperie collection works well because it has a mix of small repeating patterns and larger designs all in coordinating colours -- like a small floral and a large dot.

Small letter stickers. I'm using these [tiny tiles from Making Memories](#) -- they are so easy to use that I include them on so many projects. You could also use a [small set of stamps](#) if you prefer.

Large letters. You'll want something for adding a few titles. Choose a set that will suit the size you have chosen for your book. These can be stickers or stamps.

Labels. I'm using [these](#) because I love the colours. You can use any labels or journaling spots you love.

Word stickers. I never get tired of word stickers like [these](#) by Making Memories or [these](#) by 7Gypsies. You could also print your words or handwrite them.

Journaling pen. The [American Crafts Precision Pen](#) in .03 is my all-time favourite. I have about six in my handbag at any given moment.

Index cards. These can be plain or lined, coloured or white -- just depends on what you fancy! I am using white cards with lines in 3x5 inch size. If you don't have any index cards handy, you can easily use plain cardstock.

A chunky font. We'll be printing large words on the index cards in a pale colour, then writing over the top. This will work best with a thick, solid font. I'm using the font in the title above -- [Heffe](#). You can use any solid font you like.

You may also want some ribbon, a needle & thread, a few brads, a black or brown ink pad, a file or sandpaper, a pen that can write on photographs, a sheet of clear acetate, edges scissors or a border punch, paper flowers, circle or flower shaped punch, acrylic paint and a sponge or brush to apply it...along with your **scissors, trimmer and adhesive!** Aside from those last three, these little things will be elements you can include or ignore as you see fit, so don't go looking for something you don't have in your collection for these. You'll be able to choose and adapt as we go. If these items aren't your style, you can choose the things you like and make it the way you want!



what about the... **photographs?**

There is a great deal of flexibility for your photographs, so start by knowing there is no wrong way to do this. This is the process I used to choose my photos and print sizes, so you can do something similar if you want to order prints. If you want to wait and print at home, you can do that too.

How many pages are in your book? You'll want roughly the same number of photos as there are pages.

What size are your pages? Take half of your photos and print them at a size that will take up all or most of the page size. So for a 3x5 book, I would start with a 4x6 print and trim it down to fit. For a 6x6 book, you could use a 4x6 print and have extra space to cover with paper or print the photo at 6x6 or larger and cover the page. You should have enough large photos for half the pages in your book. Print the remaining half at a smaller size, like 2x3 inches or so. They can be rectangular or square, and should be smaller than your page size.

What do you want to include in your photos? Definitely include a picture of yourself that is current. Take as much time as you want making silly faces in front of the camera, holding the camera in front of you or using the timer or getting someone else to click away for you. Don't feel like you have to get it right on the first snap -- you can delete all the shots you dislike so long as you get one you're happy to include in your book! The remaining photos should be things that represent your life right now and how you'll be living this year -- pictures in and around your home, pictures of family or friends, pictures that show your favourite things, favourite colours. Pick from your existing photos or take a bit of time to just walk around snapping pictures. Choose the shots that make you smile the most!