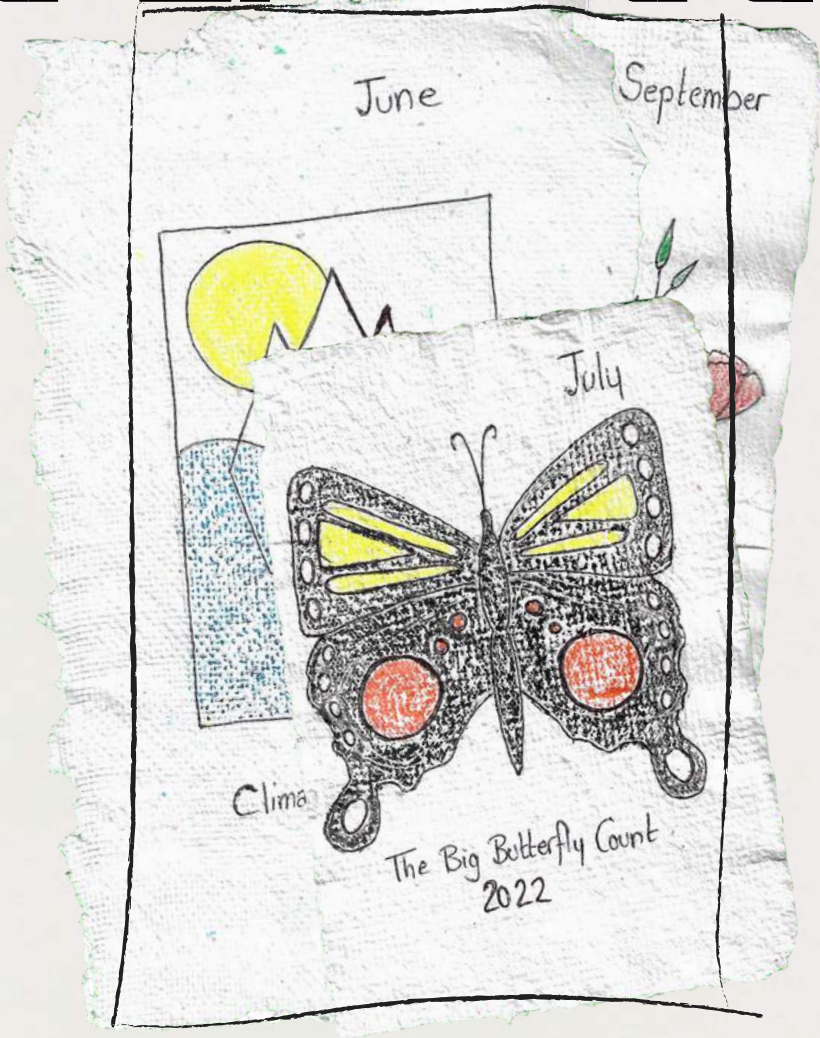


# PAPERMAKING



BY JO MARY WATSON



**A GUIDE TO  
MAKING  
BEAUTIFUL,  
HAND-MADE,  
RECYCLED  
PAPER  
FROM SCRAP  
PAPER**

## INGREDIENTS

Mould & Deckle \*

Scissors

A cup

*(a big tea mug, empty & cleaned gherkin glass)*

Recycled paper

Printing paper

Newspaper

*(avoid glossy paper)*

Bucket

Water

Mixer

*(electric hand mixer, blender)*

Plastic tub – big enough for the mould

Plastic foil as a base

*(e.g. a garbage bag)*

Felt sheets or cotton towels

*(tea towels, bath towels)*

Rolling pin

Extras to add to paper if wanted:

*pressed flowers, flower seeds,*

*herbs, herbal/fruit tea,*

*water colours/food colouring,*

*biodegradable glitter, etc.*

## PROCESS

Pour the mixture into a blender, add more water, and blend OR blend the mixture in the bucket with a handheld mixer until smooth.

Spread out a wipeable tablecloth/plastic cover on the floor and put the plastic tub on it.

You will also need the felt sheets or cotton towels, as well as your mould and deckle.

Lay a towel out by the tub and place a tea towel/half of the felt sheets on top.

Pour the pulp into the tub and add some water.

Depending on how much water you add to the tub, the paper will be thicker or thinner.

The key here is to just try it out: the more water you add the thinner the paper will be.

## PROCESS

Stir and immediately dip the mould into the water at an angle, align it horizontally and carefully lift it out of the liquid again.

Let the water drain well (*about 5 minutes*).

If you want to decorate your paper, now is the right moment: for example, place pressed flowers, flower seeds or herbs on the pulp in the mould.

Carefully turn over to get the wet paper onto the tea towel.

*(Attention: If you added colour to your paper, please be aware that the towel can take on the colour of the paper)*

## **PROCESS**

Now it's time to 'couch'.

Dab the surface of the net with another cloth so that as much water as possible is absorbed.

Then carefully lift the mould and detach it from the paper.

If the paper sticks to the mould, you can carefully dab onto or blow through the net to remove it.

Repeat the process until there is no more space on the tea towel/felt sheets.

Cover the papers with a second towel/the remaining felt sheets and roll the rolling pin over them firmly several times to squeeze out excess water.

## **PROCESS**

Leave the paper between the towels/felt sheets and let dry completely.

The quickest way to do this is in direct sunlight.

Alternatively, you can let the paper dry in the room/on the radiator, or carefully hang it up on the clothesline.

Optionally, you can iron the dried paper.

This is the quickest way to dry it and it also makes the paper even smoother and softer.

Dispose of the pulp. If you don't use up the mixture in the tub completely, do not pour this down the drain.

Instead, pour it through a fine sieve, let the water drain out, and dispose of it in the trash.

## RESOURCES

\* You can find other how to guides on paper making (*including how to make your own mould & deckle*) here:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Paper-at-Home>

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-crash-course-basic-papermaking>

<https://www.instructables.com/Homemade-Paper/>

<https://www.paperslurry.com/2014/05/19/how-to-make-handmade-paper-from-recycled-materials/>

DIY Mould and Deckle:

<https://www.paperslurry.com/2014/08/01/make-mould/>

\*\*Adding colour to the paper: add food colouring before you let the paper soak in the water. You can also add some red cabbage leaves, carrot skin, beetroot juice etc. to the mixture (*make sure to remove any cabbage leaves/fruit/veg skin before you blend the mixture into your pulp*)



For online resources, go to:

**[theatreintherough.com](http://theatreintherough.com)**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**P. H. HOLT**  
FOUNDATION

Produced by **Theatre in the Rough Festival**, March 2022

Registered Charity No. 1133246

Part of the 400 Parts Per Million Project