

Treasure *the memories*

In this age of digital photography, a family photo album is a real treat. Make this personalised keepsake for your mum this Mother's Day and add some unique touches to show how much you care. KELLY DOUST shows you how.

One of the most special gifts to receive is a photo album filled with treasured snaps. And what's more, this is a gift that's bound to be cherished for years to come and one which can be appreciated by the entire family.

Choose fabric in a timeless design that you know your mother will love, such as this Japanese Floral design by Florence Broadhurst, which is available from Signature Prints at signatureprints.com.au. Pair the fabric with a matching ribbon and some gorgeous wrapping paper for seriously stylish endpapers.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Approximately 0.5m upholstery fabric or fabric in a heavy weight, such as canvas or denim. The extra weight of the fabric is important, as this will protect the album and cover the original hardback with a professional-looking finish.



- Cotton thread to match the fabric.
- 0.5m length of ribbon.
- Photo album or hard-bound art book; the album we used here is 30cm wide by 34cm high. Look for an album with a stitched (rather than glued) spine, as they are more able to take shimmying into the cover, will hold onto the pages better and lay flat when opened.
- Dressmaking scissors (plus a rolling cutter and cutting board if you have them).
- Ruler or quilting ruler.
- Pins.
- Sewing machine.
- Wrapping paper or parchment to fit the cover at the front and back, and the first and last pages of the album, plus a small square of parchment for the book plate.
- Pencil.
- Paper scissors.
- Glue.
- Photo corners – the corners we used here are Classic style in black, from Scrapbook Adhesives By 3L.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILLIP CASTLETON. STYLING BY KELLY DOUST.

This beautiful photo album is easy to make and sturdy enough to withstand the many times it will be passed around in the years to come.



STEP 1

STEP 1: MEASURE UP

Make sure your fabric is freshly ironed and then lay it out – wrong-side up – on a flat surface. Place the photo album, open, on top. Fold over the edges of the fabric to create flaps for both the front and back covers, centring the best part of the fabric design on the front cover.

Turn your fabric over so that it is facing right-side up and make a note of roughly where the centre of your front cover should be before placing the photo album down again in this spot. Now fold the flaps over.



STEP 2A

STEP 2A & 2B: GET CUTTING

Use your dressmaking scissors to cut around the album, leaving a seam allowance of at least 4cm at the top and bottom of the album. You can make the flaps as short or as wide as you like – the flaps for this album cover are 19cm wide at the back and 22cm wide at the front, where I have left the selvedge unhemmed to show the fabric's make and design. Remember to leave a few centimetres for

the seam allowance if you want to create a hem for the front or back flap. I've created a rolled hem for the back flap to hide the raw edge and simply left the selvedge exposed at the front. You could also use a quilting fabric cutter and cutting board to ensure edges are perfectly straight.

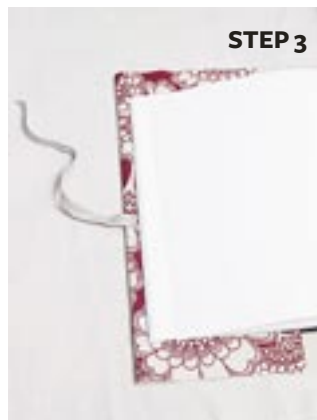


STEP 2B

STEP 3: ADD THE RIBBON

Take your 0.5m length of ribbon and cut it in half, creating angled ends. Unfold the front flap, fold under the straight end of the ribbon and pin it in place so it sits at the centre of the flap, just inside the front cover. Repeat with the remaining length of ribbon for the back cover.

Use your machine to stitch the ribbon into place at both the front and back of the cover, with the raw edge tucked underneath.



STEP 3

STEP 4: HEM ANY RAW EDGES

Roll over the edges of the flap and sew a straight line along to create a hem for the front or back (or both) flaps.



STEP 5

STEP 5: CREATE THE FLAPS

Now, fold over your flaps again and pin along the top and bottom. The wrong side of your fabric should be visible. Consider which side you will be sewing on with the machine and pin in the right direction for easy removal as you sew. Now, sew along the pinned edges of the flaps, removing pins as you go, and reverse a few times at either end for strength. Turn right side out, so the fabric design is facing outwards, and carefully place aside so as not to crease the fabric.

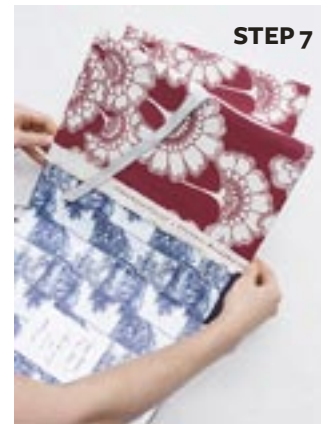


STEP 6

STEP 6: GORGEOUS ENDPAPERS AND A BOOK PLATE

Take your wrapping paper and fold it to create the endpapers for the front and back of the album. Use your ruler and pencil to work out the exact amount required, and scissors to cut around it. Glue into place on the front and back covers, leaving half the sheet unglued to create the first page. Now, glue the small square of parchment

to the front endpaper to create a bookplate. This is where you can write a personalised message.



STEP 7

STEP 7: SLIP YOUR ALBUM INTO ITS COVER

When the glue has dried on the endpapers and bookplate, shimmy your album into the completed cover. Be careful not to crack the spine – you want the album to last a long time!



STEP 8

STEP 8: POP IN YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

Choose your favourite photos and lay them out first to find the best formation, then insert them into the photo corners and stick them to the pages. If your photos are digital, you can take them to a Harvey Norman PhotoCentre, where they can be printed, enlarged, colour photos remade in black and white, and much more.

Your album is finished! ■

Kelly Doust is the author of *The Crafty Minx* and *The Crafty Kid* (available in June), published by Murdoch Books. For more hints, tips and supplier details, visit thecraftyminx.com.au.