

Make!

MAKING TRACKS

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR HOLIDAY MAPS: CREATE GORGEOUS KEEPSAKES INSTEAD

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Whether you're a day-tripper or more dedicated traveller, you're sure to feel affection for that most faithful of companions: the map. It is, however, something of a summer romance. Once you've returned home and the sun and the memories begin to fade, the trusty map often gets relegated to a little-used drawer.

These simple projects help your map to live again: as coasters, a passport holder and a cover for a travel notebook. They'll hopefully revive some fond memories of favourite trips, or perhaps inspire a few more adventures.

Memorable coasters

NAVIGATE YOUR COFFEE TABLE: MAP COASTERS MAKE HOMES FOR MUGS

You will need:
sponge brush
maps (works with pictures, too)
Mod Podge sealer (buy it at www.hobbycraft.co.uk)
bathroom tiles
pencil
scissors
craft knife
resin or polymer coating (Kraftex Pratligno, from Amazon and eBay)
ice cream stick
toothpicks

- 1 With a sponge brush, paint the front of the maps with a thin layer of Mod Podge and leave to dry. This strengthens the paper.
- 2 Using a tile as a template, mark and cut out the maps or pictures.
- 3 Paint the back of each map with Mod Podge.

- 4 Position the pictures, face-up, on top of each tile.
- 5 Paint another coat of Mod Podge over the pictures and remove any air bubbles by gently pushing down from the centre of the tile and out toward the edges with your fingertips. Seal the edges with a final coat of modge podge then leave to dry completely.
- 6 Use a craft knife to cut away any extra paper from the edges.
- 7 Prepare the resin or polymer coating according to the pack instructions. Mix enough to coat all the tiles. Pour the resin onto the tiles and make sure it reaches the edges, but does not overflow. Spread it carefully into the corners with an ice cream stick.
- 8 Gently prick and remove any air bubbles with a toothpick and leave to dry and harden in a dust- and draught-free area.

Almie Louis is a South African based in Stratford-upon-Avon, who uses her blog, Grand Recycler (www.grandrecycler.com) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/thegrandrecycler) to share craft projects with an up-cycling theme. Her book *From Drab to Fab* (Struik Lifestyle) explains how to turn unwanted items into beautiful décor.

With these map coasters you can revive your travels every time you have a cup of tea



NEST | WEEKEND PROJECT



Travel journal

For a journal with a difference, this geographically gorgeous cover was made by weaving together strips taken from two old maps, and applying them to a notebook with a clever use of double-sided tape. It was created by Emma Bonsall of Ruby Murrays Musings, a blog celebrating recycling, refashions and all things super crafty. See the full tutorial on her blog, www.rubymurraysmusings.blogspot.ca

Passport holder

Cat Morley and Tom Waddington's book *Cut Out + Keep* (Laurence King, £17.95) charts a US road trip with a difference, as the couple created a memento for each state they visited. This 'Vacationland passport holder' was made in honour of Maine ('Vacationland' is the State's nickname) and will keep your passport looking smart on trips by plane, train or automobile. To make one for yourself:

- 1 Trace around your passport on to a piece of card to make a template, leaving a 1.5cm margin around the outside. Cut out with scissors.
- 2 Cut two rectangles slightly bigger than your card template from clear vinyl. Cut out two thinner rectangles that are the same height but half the width.
- 3 Trace around the template twice on to an old map, then cut out photos and scraps to decorate your holder with.
- 4 Glue the two map pieces together, with right sides facing out, and decorate with the cuttings.
- 5 Place the map piece between the two vinyl rectangles and position the two half-rectangles on the inside piece at the very left and right sides.
- 6 These will hold your passport in place. Sew around the outside edge of the map on a machine.
- 7 Cut any excess vinyl from the edges.
- 8 Put your passport inside.



Use maps and mementoes from previous trips (top) to make a holder for your passport on your next adventure (above)