

Upcycled Dahlia Wreath



Inspired by: <https://awonderfultought.com/dahlia-book-page-wreath/>

Introduction

These Upcycled Dahlia Wreaths are a fun and eco-friendly craft using commonly found (and discarded) materials. They make a wonderful indoor decoration, too! These dahlias do not have to be perfect and are a great avenue for creativity. Have fun with it! You can make them with plain pages, but you can also decorate the “petals” or use old pages from damaged art books. As long as you can cut them and glue them, most books will work just fine. Just try to avoid super delicate paper.

*A note on repurposing books – it can be very challenging to tear apart a book; it goes against everything we’ve been taught about how to treat and respect books. The books used in this project are from books with damaged covers and pages. They are not in any condition to donate or recycle and will most likely end up in the landfill.

If you’re making this craft at home, the cutting and gluing of the cones will be rather time-consuming. Put on your favorite show or audiobook and enjoy the process.

Supplies needed

- Old book(s) cut into 4x4” and 3x3” squares – see preparation instructions below
 - Could also use 5x5” squares
 - You will need more of the larger size than the smaller size
- Paper cutter (recommended) or scissors (will take longer and hurt more, but still works perfectly fine)
- Hot glue gun with glue sticks or strong craft glue
- Large piece of cardboard
- Compass (the kind used to draw circles) or large round object like a plate (12” and 10”, approx.)
 - The wreath can be any size you’d like and the circles do not have to be perfect
- Ribbon or handle from a gift bag
- Tape, optional
- Stamps and paints, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare your base

1. Using a compass or large round object, draw a 12" circle on your cardboard.
2. Cut out the circle.
3. Draw a 10" circle inside of the 12" circle. This will be your guideline for gluing your first row of paper cones.



Prepare your cones

1. Tear pages out of the book.
 - a. If you would like to decorate the cones, it is advised to do so before gluing them. Only the top inch or so of the page will be visible once rolled.
2. Cut 4x4" squares from the pages using scissors or a paper cutter.
 - a. You will need approximately 100 squares for a 12" circle
3. Cut 3x3" squares from the pages using scissors or a paper cutter.
 - a. You will need approximately 10 squares for a 12" circle
4. Create a cone shape by bringing two opposite corners of the square together and then overlap them.
 - a. Don't worry if there's a gap at the bottom, you won't see it in the finished piece.
5. Using hot glue or strong craft glue, glue the cone together where the seams overlap.
 - a. Please use caution with the hot glue.
6. Continue until all of the cut squares are glued into cones.
 - a. Although it's not difficult to tell the sizes apart, it's recommended to keep the smaller cones separate as they will be used toward the end of the project.
7. If you decided to decorate your cones, make sure they are dry before creating the wreath. You can also decorate them at this point in time, but be gentle with the paper so that it doesn't rip.



Creating the wreath

1. Start gluing the larger cones around the outer circle of the cardboard. Use the 10" circle as a guide.
2. Leave approx. one inch between each cone. This space allows the next layer to nestle in between the previous layer
3. Continue gluing down the layers in circles, laying the top layer in the spaces between the previous layer.
 - a. As you get toward the middle, you may have to fold or glue more of the cone to the cardboard.
4. When you approach the center of the circle, layer in the smaller cones.
 - a. You will probably have to finesse some of the other layers to make them fit.



Finishing your wreath

1. Once all of the cones are in place, make sure the glue is dry before adding the ribbon or handle to the back of the cardboard.
 - a. You can also *gently* shake the wreath to make sure the cones are securely attached.
2. Using tape or glue, secure the ribbon or bag handle to the cardboard to use as a hanger. Applying the hanger slightly above center is recommended for ease of hanging, but it depends on how you'd like to hang it.