

Maker Monday: Book Wreaths



Maker Monday is a recurring program at my library. Monthly, we host 15-20 patrons to make something new. Popular programs, like vision boards and book wreaths, repeat multiple times based on patron demand. This class has filled up each time we offered it and had a substantial wait-list.

In this program, we created book wreaths using withdrawn library materials. While some patrons were nervous to tear apart books, many enjoyed upcycling materials.

Program Duration: 90 minutes

Budget: \$1.50 per person, \$30 for 20 participants



Equipment: hot glue gun, scissors, Sharpie marker or similarly sized object, X-ACTO knife (optional), ruler (optional)

Consumables: 10-inch foam wreath rings, hot glue sticks, ribbon/twine/yarn, withdrawn books, wet glue (optional)

Note: Foam wreath rings are available at most craft stores, but can be quite costly. I found them at the Dollar Tree in my town for \$1 plus tax. The store manager was nice enough to put in a bulk order for me.

Step One: Wrap the foam wreath ring with book pages. To do this, you will take small strips of book pages and begin wrapping them around the wreath ring.

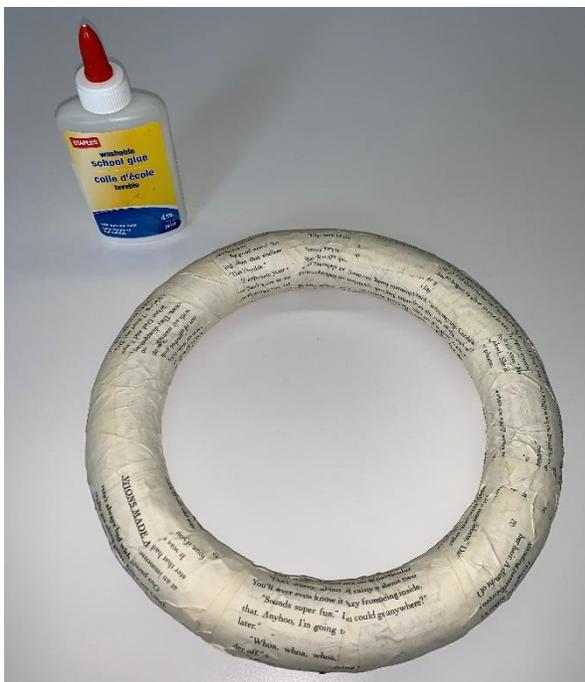
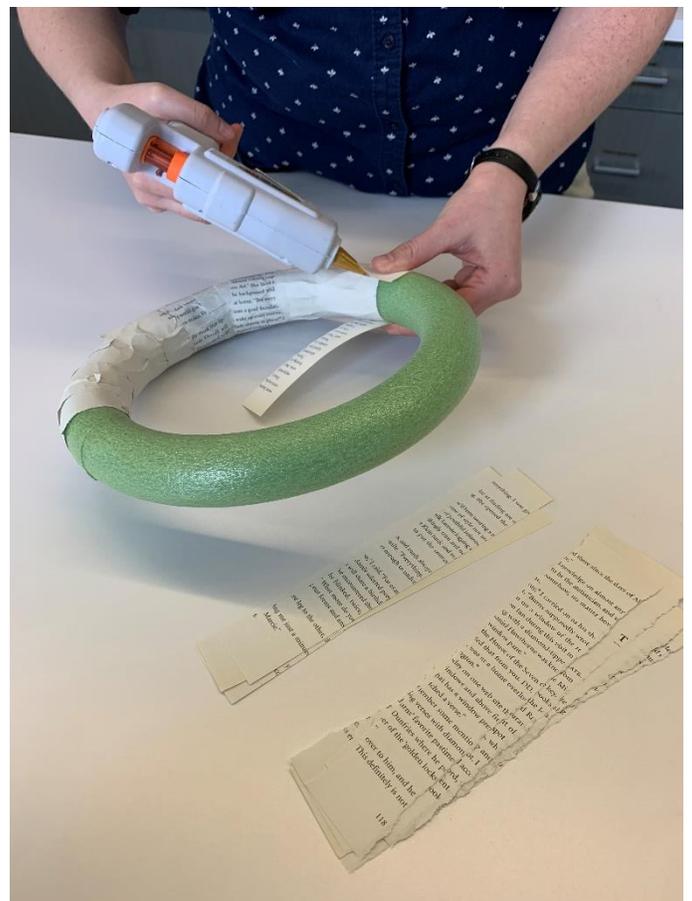


When working on this project, I carefully ripped pages from the book and tore the pages into strips.

Some creators were more precise and preferred to use a ruler and X-ACTO knife to get cleaner edges.

Once you have your strips cut, you can start wrapping them around the wreath ring and adhere them with hot glue.

Another method for this step is to do a papier-mâché method with wet glue. This takes much longer to dry and is not recommended for a 90-minute program. You will notice papier-mâché looks sharper.



Step Two: Shape the pages into clusters.



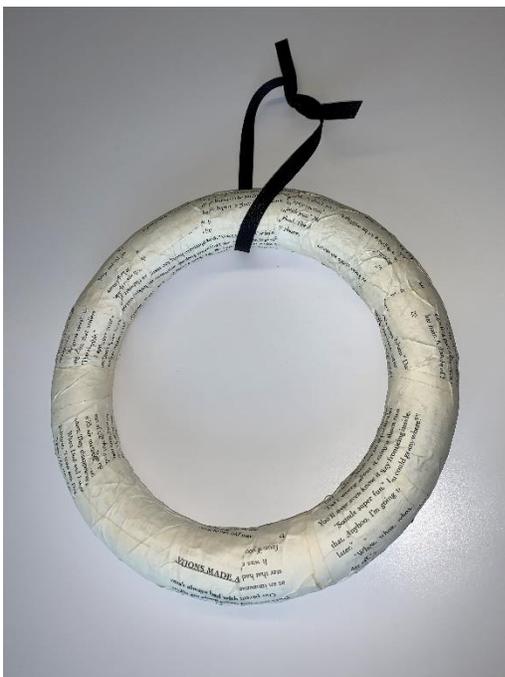
To start, set the book page in your hand and place a Sharpie marker (or something of similar size) in the center of the page. Wrap the page around it and shape it into an almost cone shape.

This step will vary widely by creator.

Some creators neatly made their pages into cones. (This took a lot more time and is not recommended for a 90-minute program.)

Some creators made their pages into accordion-style clusters.

Step Three: Tie a loop around the wreath ring for hanging your book wreath.

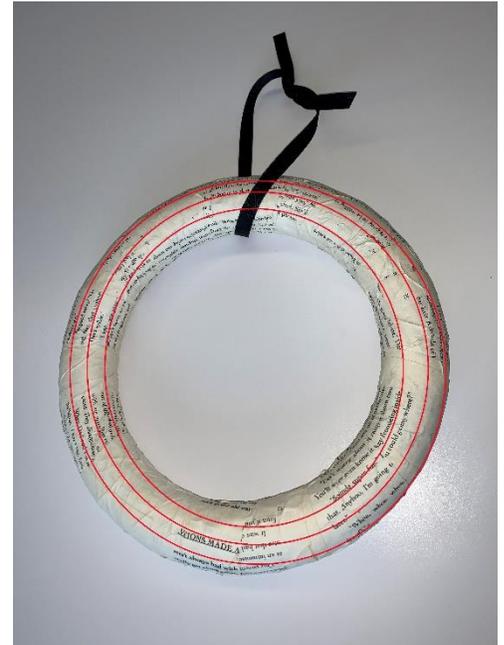


You can use ribbon, twine, or yarn. This step can be done at a later time, but it's easiest if done before gluing page clusters.

Step Four: Glue page clusters onto the wreath ring.



Start by gluing concentrically on the outside of the ring and work inward. You can space the clusters 1-1.5 inch apart. Once the ring is populated, it will look much fuller.



Most wreaths were done with three layers of rings. Pictured right is the approximate location of where the layers were added.

Step Five: Fluff the page clusters and fill in with additional page clusters as needed.



Notes: Additional ornaments can be added to the wreath to adapt the program for different holidays – hearts, flowers, etc. One way to add color to the project would be to spray paint the edges of the pages. This would need to be done prior to the beginning of the program.

Encourage patrons to bring their own hot glue guns and refill sticks if they have them at home. This is easiest if everyone or every 2 attendees have their own hot glue gun. You might also try to have both the small and large glue sticks available to accommodate for different sizes of hot glue guns.



The wreaths pictured above were sent to me after the program by attendees who further customized their wreaths.

This craft was adapted from: <https://www.sparklesofsunshine.com/book-page-wreath-made-in-3-easy-steps/>.