

EASY-PEASY RINGBOUND JOURNAL!

© Cathy Johnson

It doesn't get much simpler than this! Just cut paper the size you like to work—I had some leftover from another bookbinding project that just begged to be made into a simple journal, but you can cut up whatever you like! Some people use laid paper, some card stock, but if you're planning to work in watercolor or watercolor pencil, you'll probably want watercolor paper of at least 90 lb.

140 lb. works great here too, since there's no folding or sewing!

I cut a couple of backing pieces from the back of an old used-up pad of drawing paper, just slightly larger all around than my pages, and covered them with scraps of marbled paper...



Binder rings work well to hold the pages—and you can always have someone else punch the holes for you!



...but you can use whatever you want, or nothing at all. You can use plain cardboard, matboard, or bookboard and draw, paint, or collage on it later, for covers. This isn't the same kind of journal, but it WAS fun collaging images from inside the book to make the commercial journal more my own!

Since the book we're making now isn't bound, you can even cover it with the paper of your choice later, if you want. You might want to use the cover of a discarded book—that's fun, too!



Mark where you want the holes, and punch or drill them—it'll take a bit of work to get through the heavier cover, but you should be able to do several inside pages at once.

I ended up using smaller rings because the book was easier to open that way—the metal isn't as big around. If you have a larger punch, that should be no problem.

Or have your local printer punch them for you...the bookbinders' punch I used isn't inexpensive, but it will be handy for other projects.

If the rings get in the way when you work, you can always take a page right out and then put it back in when you're finished.

* Some people add their own paper preference, cut to size, in old dayrunners or other organizers. Works fine, and some even have pockets to keep your pens, pencils, and other supplies all together.

Whatever works for *YOU*...

