

Decorated Bookends

It's easy and fun to make your own bookends! Use them for your own book collection or for your library books.

Materials:

Purchase an inexpensive set of plastic bookends or recycle a used pair of bookends from home. Any type that has a straight up and down side and a flat bottom will work.

Your favorite papier-mâché recipe – there are many available on the internet. Paper strips will work better than paper pulp.

Tempera paint

Optional (glue, buttons or beads for decoration)

Procedure:

Cover the original bookend by wrapping strips of papier-mâché around the frame, smoothing corners and edges. You may need to do a few layers; make sure each layer dries thoroughly before you add the next layer. Check that the bottom stays flat and is not bulky.

After you've applied the final layer, dry thoroughly before you begin to paint. Paint a solid color as a base and then you can decorate with dots, stripes, flowers or whatever design you want. Or add beads and buttons as decoration.

To help your new bookends last longer, seal them with a varnish or acrylic sealing spray when you're finished painting them.