

Folding Screens

This is a sample project. Your results will differ, depending on the choices you make. Fabrics, Photos, found objects, leftover bits from other projects – All would work well in this format. Have fun making your choices. The following basic instructions will give you the basic how-to for putting a folding piece together.

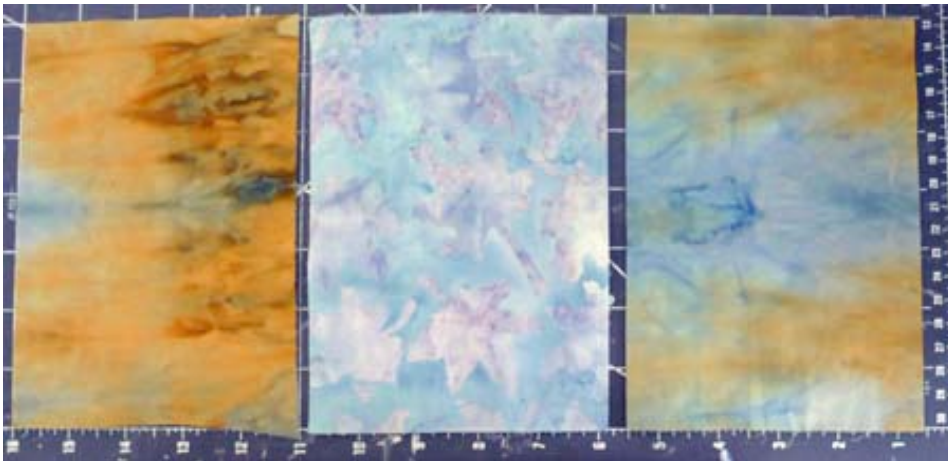


Materials:

For a 3 panel piece with each panel measuring 5" x 7" you will need:

- A stiff interfacing for the core. Peltex, Timtex, Fast-2-Fuse are all good choices for this application. I used 70 weight Peltex, "non-fusible". 6" h x 18" w will give you room to work
- Lightweight fusible e.g. MistyFuse®. About ½ a yard.
- A press sheet is essential – Teflon or Parchment Paper
- Basic sewing supplies
- Foundation fabric
- Fabric scraps
- Embellishments as desired

Cut six panels of the foundation fabrics and three panels of the core pieces. All panels should be the same size.



Create the base Image.

- Here we are using a stack of fabric scraps with MistyFuse applied to the wrong side. A simple leaf shape is drawn on the top layer. Pin the layers together for ease in handling. Cut out the shape.



The stacks are pinned together to keep fabrics from shifting as they are cut.

Other options might include; fussy cut from interesting fabric prints, or to use photos on fabric, bits from other projects, or make a sampler of different surface design approaches, OR???

- **Compose:** Arrange the shapes on your base fabrics. When you are happy with the compositions, cover with a press sheet and fuse.

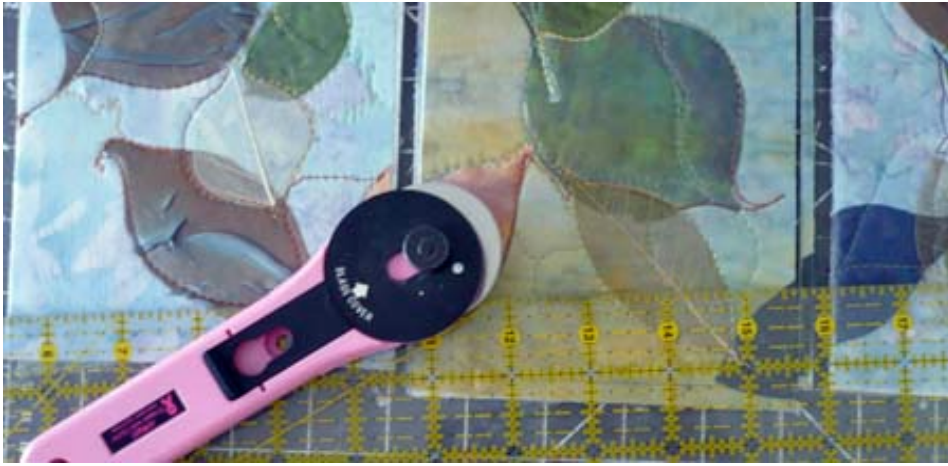


- Stitch if desired



- Fuse panels to each side of the Peltex (or other core interfacing)

Trim Edges



Finish edges. Here a blanket stitch is used.



Other options would include a satin stitch, a decorative stitch, or perhaps sealing the edge with an acrylic medium.

Join the panels: Butt the adjacent edges, leaving a little space in between them for ease in folding. Using the widest stitch your machine is capable of, join with a stitch that crosses both panels.





Voila! A standing, folding piece!

In our next session we will discuss other finishing options, including making upright supports and beaded feet.

Folding Screens: Three Options for Presentation/Finishing

This is a sample project. Your results will differ, depending on the choices you make. The following basic instructions will give you some options for presenting the folding screen.

Materials:

These will vary, depending on the approach you choose to take. At the very least, you will need basic sewing supplies. Specific suggestions and options will be noted in the different parts of the lesson.

When we left off in the first lesson, the screen was joined at the vertical edges with a wide stitch.



This is fine. It works. Sometimes though, we want the piece to have more presence, or to stand off the surface. Also, there may be structural issues. For example a folding piece that is bigger than about 5x7" may not be strong enough to support itself – or if the core material is not substantial enough, the piece may be floppy.

Using upright supports can help with these issues.



Twigs are used here. They are stitched to the sides of each panel.



Supplies are heavy embroidery thread and a suitable hand needle and interesting twigs.

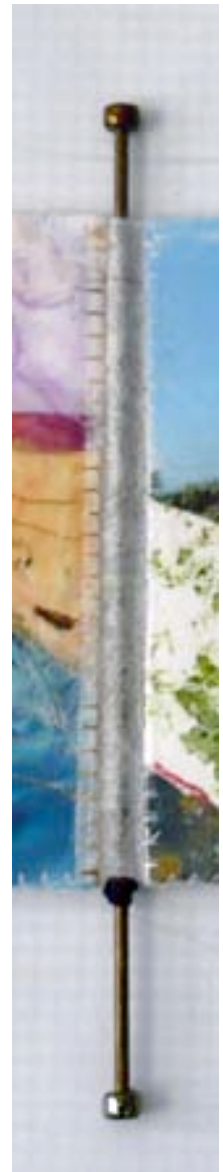


An overcast knotting stitch is used. Once you have the twigs in place, pull the stitch snug but leave enough space for the units to fold easily.

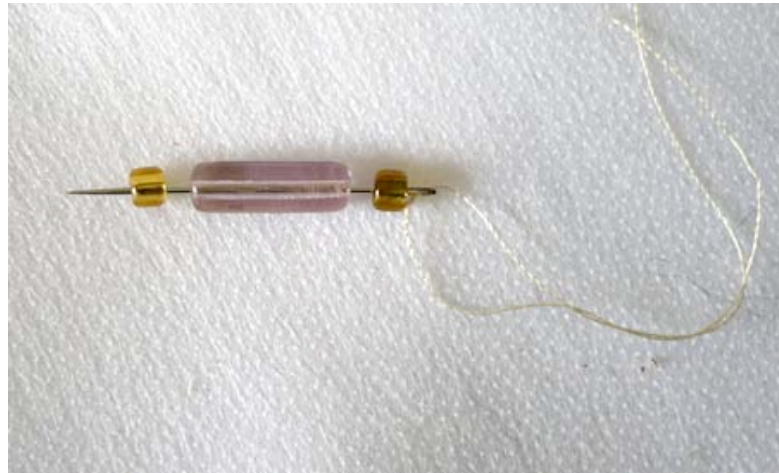
Another option with uprights is a “sleeve” or tube to encase the uprights. This is effective if dowels, chopsticks, rulers or other uniformly sized supports are used.



This sleeve is made from an interfacing material that cuts clean. You can use anything you want for this purpose but finish the edges accordingly. Cut the long rectangle the length of your panels, fold in half lengthwise, stitch each edge to a side of the panel. The width of your sleeve depends on what you are using for the supports. In this example, beads were used at each end of a ¼” dowel. A drop of white glue secures the bead. A wrap of embroidery floss (also sealed with white glue) is placed at the bottom of the sleeve to keep the panel in position.



Yet another option is to stitch your panels together and make “feet” to keep the screen off the surface of the table.



Use any long bead or button, with spacer beads to either side. The foot should be placed to the side of the fold.

Your choices on presenting the folding screens can be made based on the materials you have available and what suits the screen you are finishing. The method and effect can be fun, whimsical, understated or very sophisticated.

Next we will explore embellishment and oddball approaches to the surface of the panels.

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Materials: The supplies for embellishing your pages will depend on what you have on hand, what you enjoy working with and the image itself. Here we have skeleton leaves, leaves scanned onto Tea Bag paper, beads, basic hand sewing supplies, fabric paint, pigma pens, water color pencils and water color crayons. (not shown: stamps, textile medium, paint brush and water).



Below: My first step was to stamp a leaf texture on the pages. Color was mixed to a soft buttery consistency, brushed on the stamp and applied to the pages. I stamped on the tea bag paper first to remove excess paint.



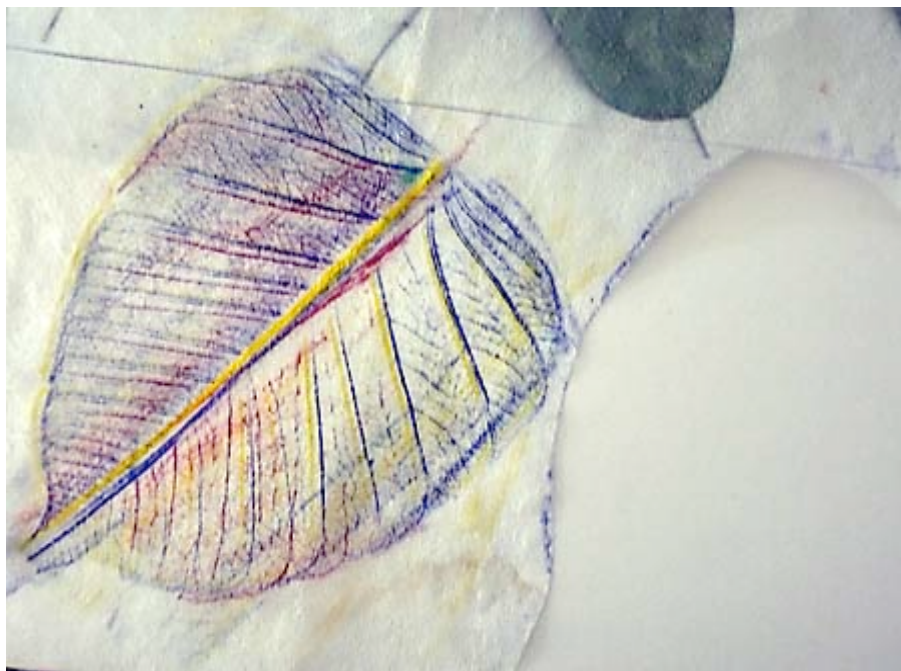
You can see the subtle “leaf texture” on the pages below.



Once the paint dried, additional color was added, using watercolor pencils and crayons. A 50/50 dilution of textile medium and water was brushed over top of the applied color. This allows the pigment in the watercolor pencils and crayons to bind to the fabric and paper. It also helps protect the surface of the pages.



Then a rubbing of leaves was made on the tea bag paper, the shape cut out and glued to a page. Textile medium was used for the glue. It dries clear.





Additional skeleton leaves were applied, using the textile medium as an adhesive. (You can see the wet medium in the lower right corner above. It looks milky, but that changes as it dries.)



Beaded elements were created using jeweler's findings and beads and suspended from the uprights.



Pony beads were used for “feet” for the uprights. The twigs may have to be carved down a little to fit the size of the bead. A drop of white glue on each bead helps secure the foot.