



BASIC CRAFT

JOANN'S FIELD GUIDE

NAME

JOANN



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Introduction

Hi there! Welcome to JOANN's Field Guide to Basic Crafts.

If you picked this up, you must be interested in the wide world of crafting. Maybe you have a specific interest in clay, paper-mâché or wood burning. Maybe you want to find the right glue for your project. Regardless, we're here to help. Just getting started? Lucky for you, we've got lots of tips!

For specific projects and inspiration, make sure to visit joann.com/projects. But if you need some basic information to get started, you've got the right guide in your hands. After reading through this information, you'll be able to select the appropriate tools and supplies for your craft project and learn some techniques to get started.

Make sure to check out the classes we offer at joann.com/classes. And, as always, we can hardly wait to see what you make. Share with us! #handmadewithjoann

Basic Tools

There are some basic craft tools all crafters need in their arsenal. Before diving into the world of crafting, it's useful to round up some of these items and keep them in one place--like a craft caddy--for convenience. There's nothing more frustrating than having to stop in the middle of a project to hunt down a tool you need!

Even if you're just getting started, you probably already have many of these things around the house, such as:

- Rulers
- Hole punches
- Tweezers
- Duck tape

- Craft knives
- Cutting mat
- Wood craft or frozen pop sticks
- Paper plates and plastic cups
- Pencils
- Wax paper and freezer paper

ADHESIVES

BASIC GLUE TYPES

Adhesives and glues are a necessity for crafting. There are several types of glue. One size doesn't fit all, so choose an adhesive based on the material or substance you're crafting. The following are the most common types:

White craft glue -- Sometimes referred to as school glue, this is a good, general glue for paper, cardboard, wood, Styrofoam and kids' crafts. It can be cleaned up with water and is typically nontoxic. White craft glue dries clear and is slightly flexible. Fine glitter, food coloring and the like can be added to create decorative effects. Not recommended for scrapbooking as paper can bubble or warp when wet.

Tacky glue -- Can be used with paper, fabric, wood, metal, glass, ceramic, china, Styrofoam and most plastics. Tacky glue dries clear. Not recommended for scrapbooking as paper can bubble or warp when wet.

Hot glue -- Good, general-use glue with quick setup. Available in cool, low and high melt options, hot glue is applied with a glue gun. Hot glue helps add dimension to crafts and is often used in floral arranging. Not recommended for high strength applications. Hot glue can yellow and become brittle over time.

Spray adhesive -- A contact adhesive that is applied by spray. Once two items are placed together, repositioning is minimal or nonexistent without ruining the bond. Spray adhesive can be used with paper, foam board, felt, fabric and photos. Protect surfaces from overspray before getting started. Use in a well-ventilated area.

Fabric glue -- Made specifically for bonding fabric. Often bond lasts even after washing or dry cleaning. Available as liquid glue and in a web form that must be ironed on. Fabric glues are a great solution for the non-sewer and for quick fixes. Some fabric glues produce a stiff result while others are more flexible and allow the fabric to drape. Be sure to read the product so you can choose the right fabric glue for the project.

Super glue -- Forms a strong, quick bond. Super glue works best on materials with low impact strength requirements, such as metal, plastic, rubber and ceramic. The items must fit well together. Too much or too little glue can affect the bond. Dries clear. Super glue bonds quickly and easily to skin and can be difficult to remove once dried. See Basic Adhesive Tips for removal instructions.

Glue stick -- Glue in a solid form that comes in a plastic tube. It is dispensed like a lip balm by turning a knob. Glue sticks are great for kids as there is minimal mess. They are a low-bonding adhesive and are best for various types of paper. Glue sticks can come in blue or purple so you can see where it is applied but still dries clear.

Epoxy -- designed for high performance bonding. Usually a two-part application that's mixed at time of use. Can be formulated to suit many applications and provide durable adhesion. Must be allowed to completely cure, or dry, before touching or bond will not hold.

Archival quality glue -- Acid free glue that dries clear and won't yellow, become brittle or discolor surfaces. Archival quality glue is designed for

use with preservation of paper, photos, precious documents and book bindings. One glue specifically made for scrapbooking is Zip Dry Paper Glue. It dries fast, will never wrinkle paper, yet is strong enough to bond metal, trims, jewels and wire to scrapbook paper.

BASIC ADHESIVE TIPS

- Glue can dry out quickly. To prolong the shelf life of most glues, squeeze the air out completely. Immediately clean and cap the container. Store glue bottles upright in a cool, dry away from sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- Apply adhesive evenly and remove excess quickly from surface.
- For optimum bonding, ensure surfaces are free of residue and dust before applying adhesive.
- Lightly sand or score some materials like metal, some plastic, ceramic and wood to aid adhesion and create a stronger bond.
- Read the product label to ensure the items being bonded are appropriate for the chosen glue.
- Hot glue, super glue and epoxies are not recommended for children.
- To avoid glue soak through, cover work surface with wax paper, coated freezer paper, aluminum foil, plastic sheeting, an old tablecloth or shower curtain.
- Use a blow dryer to remove hot glue webs when project is complete.
- Store hot glue sticks in the freezer to cut down on strings forming when in use. For other types of glue, coat the tip of the glue applicator with petroleum jelly. Occasionally reapply.

- Do not use a low-temp glue sticks in a high-temp glue gun. The glue gun's high temperature will make the glue very runny, difficult to control and increase the risk for burns. There's also a greater chance the glue will back up in the glue gun, causing it to jam and prevent it from feeding forward.
- Low-temp glue be used in a dual-temp glue gun, but it is recommended that the gun be set on the low temperature setting.
- For clogged glue tips, remove the top from the bottle and cover the bottle of glue with plastic wrap. Soak the cap in warm water, then use a small craft stick to clean the lid.
- For hard to open tubes, coat the threads with petroleum jelly. This helps prevent glue build-up and allows you to remove dried glue easily.
- Soak fingers bonded with super glue in warm, soapy water. Gently massage fingers back and forth in a rolling, peeling motion to separate the bond. Do not attempt to pull fingers apart.
- To prevent glue pieces from slipping, apply a thin layer of glue to both objects to be adhered. Allow them to partially dry for 2-3 minutes until a light sheen appears.

MOD PODGE

courtesy of Plaid

Decoupage is a common craft technique that uses a special adhesive called Mod Podge. Almost any surface can be used to create a decoupage project, such as wood, paper-mâché, terra cotta, tin, cardboard, glass and craft foam. Only some plastics are suitable for decoupage. We recommend testing a small area before completing your entire project to make sure that the Mod Podge will adhere.

MATERIAL PREPARATION

Glass -- Wash and dry with a lint-free cloth to remove surface oils.

Tin -- If it is an older tin surface, clean with a 50/50 vinegar and water solution. A wire brush can be used on stubborn rust spots.

Wood -- Sand unfinished wood surfaces with fine grit sandpaper until smooth. Fill any holes with wood putty and sand again. Wipe clean with a damp paper towel.

Fabric -- Wash and dry the fabric but do not use fabric softener. Iron and then lay out on a covered work surface. Wax paper is ideal. Using a brush, paint a light coat of Fabric Mod Podge onto your fabric. Allow to dry. This will allow you to cut the fabric like paper without frayed edges.

MOD PODGE TIPS

- Apply a medium coat of Mod Podge to the surface. Too little Mod Podge, and you will get wrinkles. Too much? Wipe away excess Mod Podge with your brush.
- For very small elements, brush adhesive onto the project surface and apply each element with tweezers.
- Keep smoothing until all of the bubbles are removed. When working with large pieces, smooth outward from the center. For smaller items such as trays, use the squeegee, which was developed specifically for getting into corners.
- For a very smooth finish, wet a piece of #400 grit sandpaper with water and sand lightly between coats. Wipe dry and polish with #0000 steel wool on the final coat. To avoid tackiness, use a clear acrylic spray.
- The number of coats you finish with is up to you, but at least two coats are recommended.

SCISSORS

courtesy of Fiskars®

Which scissors work best for your favorite types of crafting? Check out this guide to make sure you have all the pairs you need:

- 4 and 5 inch detail scissors have shorter blades that are ideal for intricate details and tight spaces.
- 8 inch scissors offer excellent all-around cutting performance on fabric, craft materials and more.
- 9 and 10 inch scissors have more substantial handles and longer blades for long cuts and added leverage.
- Non-stick blades have a special coating that makes it easier to cut tape and sticky adhesives without catching, jamming or gumming.
- Mixed media scissors are ideal for thick and heavy materials. Use on jewelry, paper-mâché, upcycling and collage projects.
- Pinking shears have saw-toothed blades instead of straight ones. Pinking shears are used to add a ravel resistant, or zigzag, finish on fabrics. They can also be used to add decorative finishes.

CRAFT SUPPLIES

Finally, there are so many great materials to embellish your craft. It's fun to collect lots of different items. Keep them organized in jars and storage containers so they're ready for your next project. Here are just some of many of the items you can consider:

- feathers
- googly eyes
- craft sticks

- chenille stems, also known as pipe cleaners
- pom poms
- foam
- felt
- felt stickers
- beads
- Perler beads and accessories
- cording
- faux fur
- glitter
- adhesive gems
- chatons
- bells
- string/rope
- magnets
- cork
- mesh tubing

Craftable Surfaces

courtesy of Darice

Just about anything can be used as a craftable surface, including metal, wood, glass, Styrofoam, fabric, ceramics, paper and paper-mâché. To learn more about surface prep and painting, refer to JOANN's Field Guide to Paints & Finishings.

There are several pre-cut/pre-made blanks that are just waiting for your creative touch – from blank masks to premium wood crates to wood letters to paper-mâché boxes. Here are a few tips and techniques for crafting with wood letters:

PRE-PAINTED

- Best for embellishing with accessories like rhinestones, buttons, washi tape and more
- Glitter using Mod Podge
- Wrap with jute or yarn

UNFINISHED WOOD

- Can be stained to reveal natural wood
- Sand edges and surface with a sanding block to distress
- Paint on a pattern with craft paint and a stencil

MDF & PAPER

- Prime first for best results
- Spray paint with any color or hammered metallic paint
- Lightweight and easy to hang

Clay

There are several different types of clay. For the purposes of this guide, we'll focus on the tools and techniques used for polymer clay, the most common type of clay for basic crafting.

Polymer clay is a modeling material that doesn't significantly shrink or change shape during the modeling process. It's called clay because it can be manipulated the same way but it usually doesn't contain any clay materials.

COMMON CLAY TECHNIQUES

Pinching - A fundamental pottery technique. Make a pinch-pot by pressing your thumb into a ball of clay and drawing the clay out into a pot with repeated squeezing clay between your thumb and fingers.

Coil - Long, snakelike ropes of clay can also build the walls of a pot with a series of coils stacked into the required shape.

Slab - Clay slabs are cut to shape and joined together using scoring.

Relief - A type of sculpture in which formed shapes become the background. There are three types of relief: high, low and sunken.

- In high relief, the forms stand far out from the background.
- In low relief, also known as bas-relief, they are shallow.
- In sunken relief, the backgrounds are cut back and the points in highest relief are level with the original surface of the material being carved.

Scoring - Making scratches in pieces of clay to be joined together.

CLAY TOOLS & SUPPLIES

- Keep leftover clay moist and malleable by storing it in plastic bags or airtight containers. Plastic bags are polymer safe, keep dust out and can be labeled.
- Work surface - a variety of materials will serve, such as a ceramic tile, acrylic board, pane of glass (tape the edges to prevent cuts) or a piece of wax paper taped down to a tabletop.
- Cleaning supplies - rubbing alcohol or baby wipes work well for cleaning tools and surfaces that come into contact with polymer clay.
- X-Acto® or other craft knife - the usual #11 blade.
- Needle tools - long needles set into wood, metal or plastic handles. Used for cutting, piercing, incising, measuring depth, scoring and finishing details.

- Ball stylus - used for making decorative holds and adding tiny dots of paint.
- Long scraper blade - used for chopping, lifting, shaving, cutting shapes and cutting clay off a new block.
- Clay roller - designed to roll out even sheets of clay and smooth clay surfaces. Available in acrylic or plastic. Do NOT use a wooden rolling pin because the clay's plasticizers will soak into the wood.
- Extruder - metal tube through which clay, in combination with different dies, can be pushed to form various shapes.
- Mixing cup - a container used for mixing paints and stains.
- Molds - used to make perfect reproductions of 3-D objects. Molds make it possible to repeat patterns and forms, sometimes multiple at the same time.
- Mold release and conditioner - prevents polymer clay from sticking where it's not wanted, like to rubber stamps or molds. Also cleans, conditions and extends the life of molds.

CLAY TIPS & TRICKS

- Hand sanitizer will clean clay off your hands.
- Use white scrap clay to clean your hands and work surface. It picks up any small pieces of colored clay while keeping your white clay pristine.
- A bit of cornstarch on your finger is great for smoothing fingerprints off your clay creations.
- Don't use nail polish, spray paint or any solvent-based paint to color your clay creation. The solvent will begin to soften and dissolve polymer clay, even baked clay, making your clay sticky and gooey over time.

- Don't use permanent markers as they fade on polymer clay.
- You can change the texture of polymer clay. Make it harder by putting it between two sheets of paper and placing a book on top of it. The clay's plasticizer leaches into the paper and out of the clay. Conversely, you can soften clay that is too hard by mixing in a small amount of baby oil, liquid polymer clay or clay softener.
- Crumpled up aluminum foil makes a good core for beads and other larger objects.
- If you don't have a clay roller, running clay through a pasta machine first will smooth it out and eliminate any bubbles.

Wood Burning

courtesy of Wood Hollow

Wood burning lets you make beautiful designs with fine details on wood. You can create varying effects using different tips, including calligraphy, extra fine, shading and all-purpose tips.

WOOD BURNING TIPS & TRICKS

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT WOOD BURNING BEFORE I BEGIN?

- Use fine graphite powder to help prevent the point/tip from sticking in the tool.
- The wood burning tool is a very hot tool. Never touch the top or metal parts.
- Always unplug the wood burning tool and let it cool before replacing points.
- Practice safety. Tape the holder on a table or other flat surface to prevent the tool from sliding, especially when not in use.

- Always turn the wood as needed so that your hand and arm are comfortable while wood burning.
- Use sandpaper to clean off the point as needed.
- After wood burning is complete, seal wood. You can fix paint or oil pencil mistakes easier if wood is sealed.
- Let the heat from the tool do the work. Don't use pressure.
- The slower you move the tool points on the wood, the darker the wood burning will be.
- It's easier to wood burn by pulling the tool towards your body.
- Use the back or bottom of your wood piece to practice.

HOW DO I PREPARE MY WALNUT HOLLOW SURFACE?

- If you are wood burning, simply sand the surface lightly and transfer your pattern onto the surface. After the wood burning is complete, seal the wood.
- All types of wood can be burned, but some are better than others. The wood should be light in color, such as basswood or pine, so that the wood burning stands out.
- Wood preparation is important for your project. Unless you are covering your surface with fabric or paper, you will need to seal the wood with a wood sealer. Regardless of the brand or type of wood sealer you use, you need to let it dry thoroughly. After it is dry, sand the wood lightly with the grain of the wood.

- During the manufacturing process, nails are sometimes used. The process leaves a hole that needs to be filled with putty. After filing holes, let dry, then sand lightly to smooth the surface. The wood product is now ready for sealing.

HOW SHOULD I TRANSFER MY PATTERN ONTO THE WOOD?

- Place pattern on wood. Slip transfer paper (shiny side up, carbon side down) between pattern and wood surface.
- Use stylus or pencil to transfer pattern.

HOW CAN I ADD COLOR TO THE WOOD BURNED PROJECT?

- Before adding any color, seal the wood burning first.
- Usually, oil color pencils are used with wood burning. The colors can be blended as with paints, but they are transparent so the wood burning shows through the color.
- If you paint the wood burning, use transparent paints or washes of color so you don't cover the wood burning.

SHOULD I VARNISH MY COMPLETED PROJECT?

- For a protective finish, varnish your project with 2 to 3 coats of spray or brush-on varnish. Dry thoroughly between coats.

Basic Craft Tips & Tricks

- Cutting chenille stems makes scissors blunt, so you may want to use an old pair. Wire or floral cutters also work great.
- Use salt and pepper shakers to store glitter and shake out just the amount needed for your project.
- When crafting with glitter, always work over a piece of paper to catch the excess to reuse later.
- When cutting Styrofoam, wax the knife blade with an old candle for easier, smoother cuts.
- Newspaper is a large and inexpensive media for making patterns.
- To transfer a pattern, sketch or print the design on paper. Then, shade the entire back of the paper lightly with a pencil. Lay the paper, pencil shaded side down, over the surface you want to transfer the design to and go over the design with a pencil. The shaded outline will transfer to the new surface.
- To assure there are no bugs in natural materials collected outdoors, place them on a cookie sheet covered with foil and heat them in a 200 degrees Fahrenheit oven for 15 to 30 minutes. Pinecones and other plants open up more, so try a sample to see how it reacts before heating the whole supply of collected materials. You can also put the materials in a plastic storage bag in the freezer for a couple days.
- When your paper edger gets dull or sticky, sharpen it by cutting wax paper.
- Store your ink pads upside down. The ink will settle near the pad surface. Stamp this ink on a label on the bottom of the pad so you can easily see the color.

- To make tan or natural color paper, soak white paper in coffee or tea until a little darker than desired. Finished color will dry lighter. Place on a cooling rack or flat surface to dry. For a textured finish, sprinkle coffee grounds on top of the damp paper. Cover dry paper with a press cloth and iron it to flatten it if needed before crafting. Fabric can be stained in the same way.
- A simple way to transfer an outline of an image to a surface you want to craft is to rub the back of it entirely with a pencil, then place the image on the surface and lightly tape into place. Trace the image with a stylus, pressing firmly. Lift the paper off, and you'll have an outline. Fill in with paint.
- Use a sticky-back lint roller to pick up spilled glitter or fuzz from chenille stems, felt or yarn.
- Paint staples with a gold paint pen before using for a more glitzy look.
- Remove creases and wrinkles from ribbon by rubbing it gently over a clean, lit lightbulb.
- To remove sticker or duck tape residue from surfaces, use a blow dryer to soften it, then scrape it with an old credit card.
- Use a paper towel holder to store ribbon or tape.
- Use an ice cube tray to store small objects like googly eyes or beads.
- There is no right or wrong way to craft. Let your creativity loose. Before you know it, you will have created something new!

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FREE