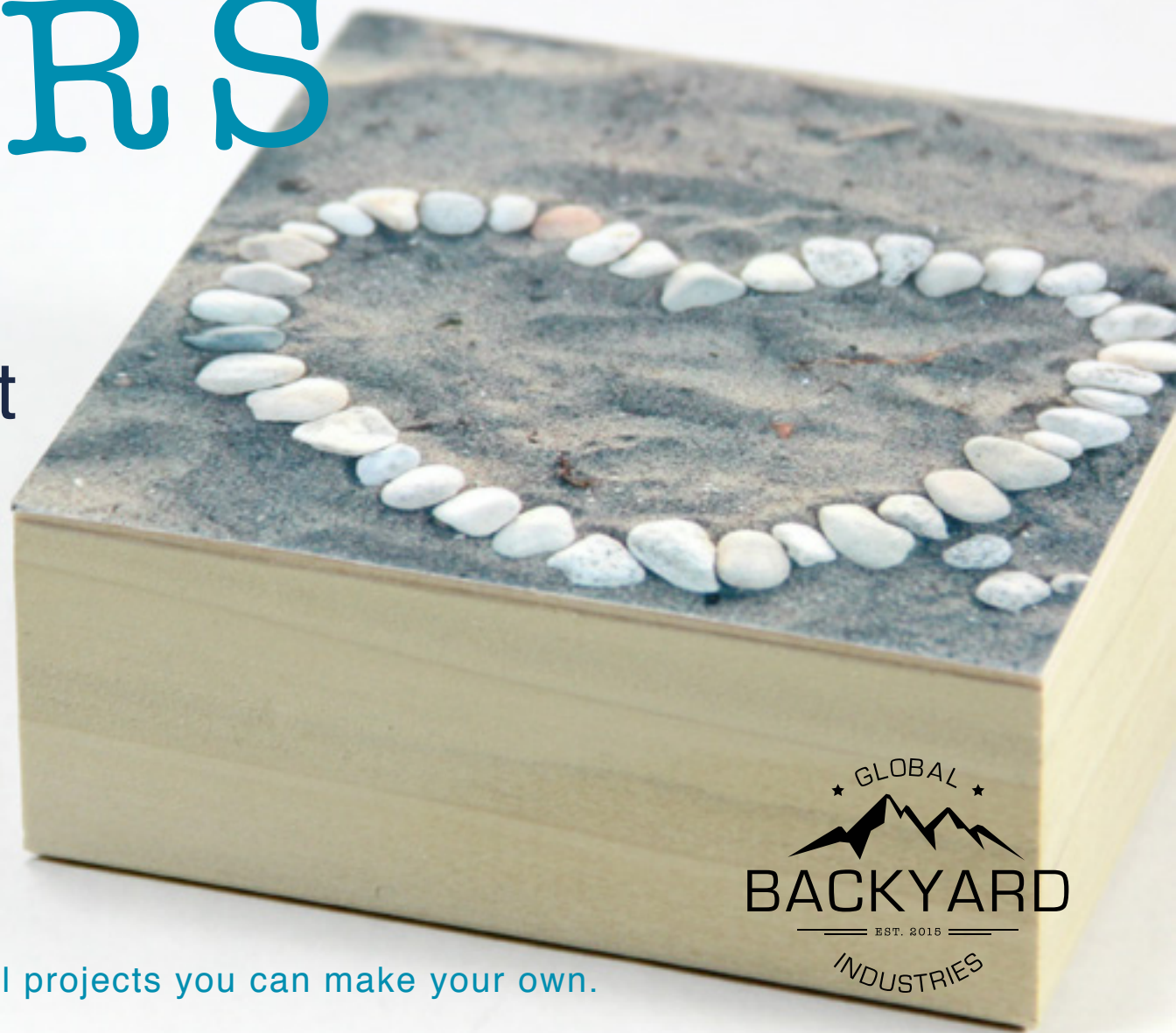


# MAKE IT YOURS

Digital Photo  
Decoupage Art



How-2 instruction books for cool projects you can make your own.

# DIGITAL PHOTO DECOUPAGE ART

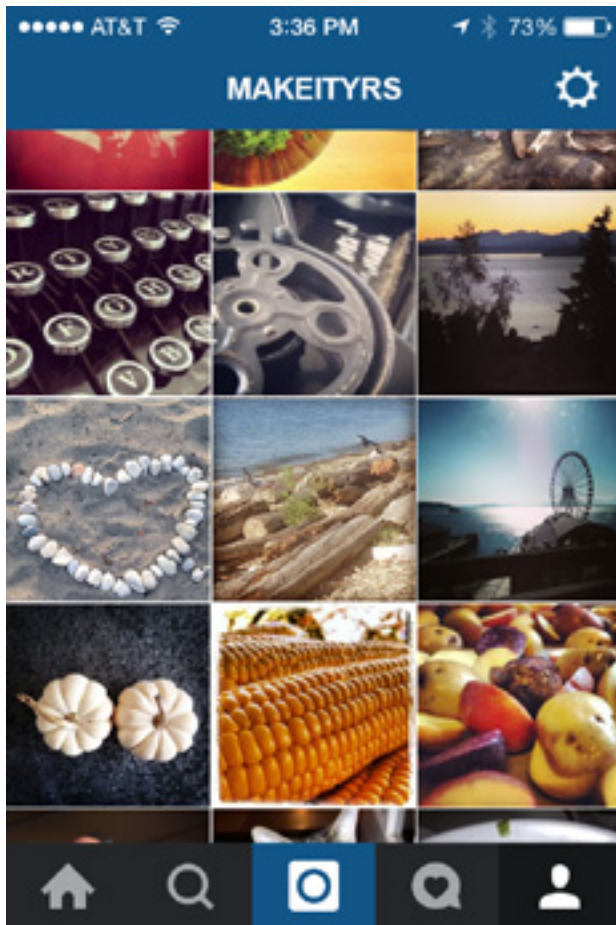


This project is a fun, easy way to take those digital photos and make them into your own works of art — and they look great hanging on the wall in groups.

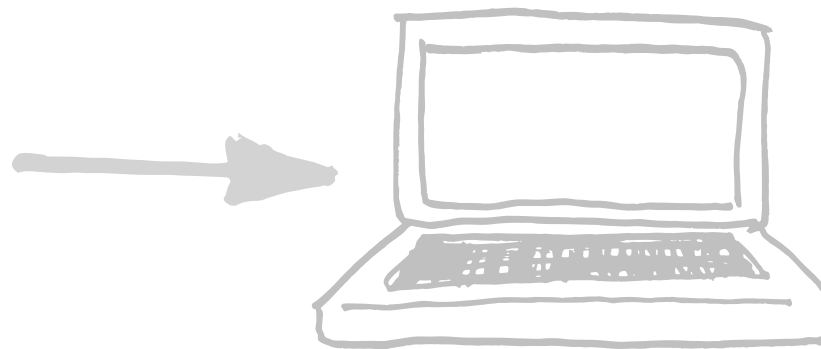
## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Computer / Internet Connection
- Digital photos you would like to use
- A program you can use to re-size and print your photos (most word processing programs will work)
- Decoupage medium (Matte or Gloss)
- Foam Brush
- Surface of your choice for mounting photos (we're using a 4"x 4" Birch Painting Panel)
- Ruler and craft knife, or scissors
- Small disposable cup, bowl, or dish

# 1 GET THOSE PHOTOS!



**You know how to take a great photo - now we just need to get those gems off the internet or your computer and onto your custom art pieces...**

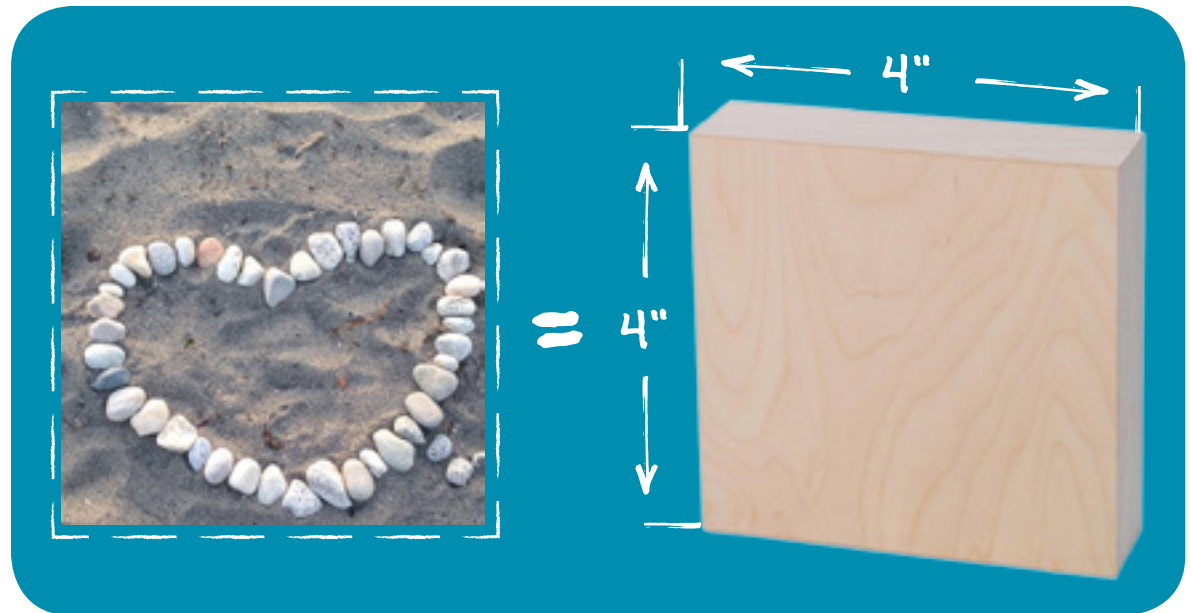


## 2

# SIZE TO FIT

**You want the printed photos to match the size of the boards that they will be mounted on. (example: 4"x4")**

If you have an image editing program you can use to resize your photos, great!



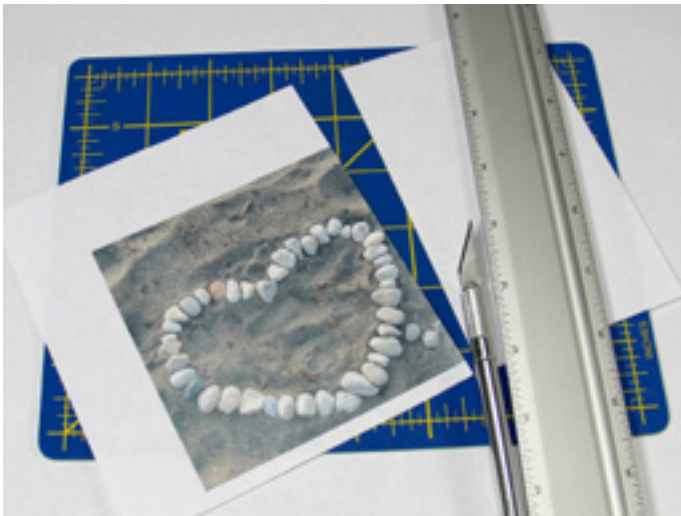
If you don't, no problem – most word processing programs will work just fine for this, too.

**Insert your photos into a new document and make sure the image size is set to the size of your surface.**

# 3 PRINT OUT & CUT OUT

**First, print out your photo.**

**Now gather your cutting tools** and find a table or other flat, stable work surface.



Using a straight-edge ruler and a utility knife, **carefully cut out your photo so that it matches the size of your art board.**

(You may want to use a cutting mat to protect your table.)  
If you don't have these things, use a pair of scissors.  
**Try to make your edges as precise as possible.**

**Decoupage can smudge inkjet prints!**

**You can avoid this by printing photos on a laser printer.**

*No laser printer? Take your ink jet prints to a copy center and make photo copies.*

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**Alternatively you can use a sealant prior to decoupage - this will protect your photo from the dreaded smudge.**

*Sealants include spray fixatives, brush-on polyurethane — even hairspray can work to seal inkjet prints in a pinch.*

# 4 PREP THE SURFACE

**Next we're going to prepare your board so that we can adhere your photo.**



*Be careful not to make it too thick – just enough to lightly cover the surface.*

**Shake up your decoupage and pour a small amount into bowl or jar.**

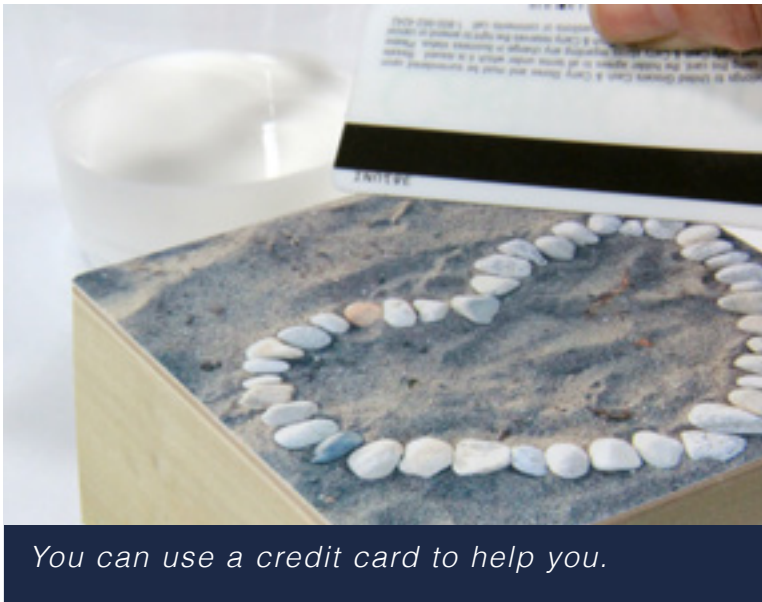
**Using a foam brush, spread a light, even coating of decoupage out onto your surface.**

**Tip:** A disposable bowl or plastic party cup works great.



# 5

## STICK IT DOWN



**Carefully place your photo onto your surface while the coating is still wet.**

**Starting at the center and moving gently outward, press the photo down and smooth out all air bubbles.** You can use a credit card to help you — just be careful not to tear your photo! Make sure all of the edges are stuck down.

**Don't put decoupage onto your photo yet! Let it dry for at least 30 minutes.**

*This is a really important step. If it isn't completely dry first, the photo could wrinkle!*

**Don't touch it while it's drying — your fingerprints could show.**

While you wait, cover your bowl or tray of decoupage so it doesn't dry out. Rinse your brush or cover it in plastic wrap so it doesn't harden — we need it for the next step.

# 6

## DECOUPAGE TIME



*The decoupage looks white when you brush it on, but don't worry! It will dry clear.*

**When your piece is completely dry, then it's time to move to the final step.**

**Gently & evenly spread a thin layer of decoupage on top of your photo with the foam brush.**

**Make sure you always move your brush in the same direction.** Keep in mind that anything like dust, pet hair, or uneven brush strokes will show up in the finished product.

**Now wait and leave it to dry completely again.**

While it will be superficially dry after about 30 minutes, it really works best if you leave it for 48-72 hours (then you won't have a sticky finish).

**Tip:** Your drying time depends on your environment. Really humid climates mean a longer drying time.



# YOU ARE A ROCK STAR!



**Congratulations!**  
**Project complete – now you can show off that digital photo gold!**

**We hope you enjoyed this project!** We're planning more cool *Make It Yours* projects for the future.

Thank you!



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