



MARK YOUR PLACE

Bookmarks became popular in the 18th century when more people had access to books. They were made of silk or other fine fabrics.



Make a painted paper bookmark

What you need

- Kraft paper or newspaper
- Heavy paper, like cardstock or watercolor paper
- Masking tape
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paint scraper, putty knife, or an old credit card
- Scissors
- Hole punch and ribbon (optional)

Instructions

1. Cover a table with kraft paper, newspaper, or other materials to protect it from getting messy. Tape your cardstock or watercolor paper to the kraft paper or newspaper to keep the paper steady while you paint on it.
2. Squeeze some small blobs or droplets of paint onto the cardstock or watercolor paper. You can use a few colors, if you like, and squeeze the blobs on a few areas of the paper.
3. Hold your paint scraper at the top of the paper, with the edge of it resting on the paper. Push the scraper over the blobs of paint to move the paint around on the paper. You can pull the scraper in straight or curvy lines, squiggles, circles, or an arc, like a rainbow. Experiment with how hard you press the scraper down when you pull. This will change how thick or thin the paint appears. For more or

less blending of the colors, try experimenting with the spacing of the paint blobs.

4. After your design dries, you can add more blobs of paint if you wish. Continue scraping the paint around to layer the paint stripes and shapes. For instance, you can make a plaid design by criss-crossing stripes over one another.
5. After your artwork is complete and dry, you can cut it into strips to make bookmarks for yourself as well as for your friends and family.
6. If you'd like, you can punch a hole at the center top of each bookmark and add a ribbon. Cut a 9-inch piece of ribbon and fold it in half. Push the folded end through the hole. Feed the two cut ends through the resulting loop and pull them to tighten. Trim the ribbon ends at an angle.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK HOLD A BOOK SWAP WITH FRIENDS

At a book swap, you can trade books with friends to read new stories for free. You'll also help the planet by exchanging books instead of discarding them. With an adult's permission, you can host your own book swap. Pick a date and time and a comfortable place, such as your home, a local park, or a community space at the library. Make a guest list and send out invitations, asking everyone to bring between one and five books they're willing to give away. Set up a spot for guests to "check in" books as they arrive. Once everyone has gathered, start swapping. For every book each person has brought, they can take one of their choosing.



Keep books out of landfills.