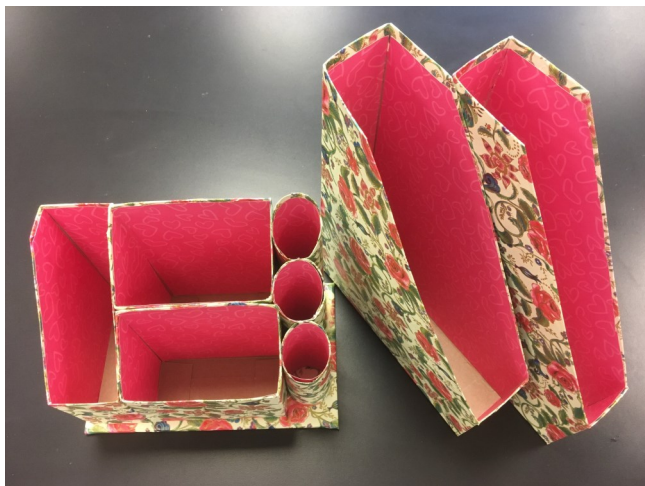


Cereal Box Organizers

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Supplies:

- Assorted Cardboard (Chipboard) Boxes—Cereal, Crackers, Cookies, etc.
- Paper Towel & Toilet Paper Cores
- Sheet of Cardboard or Foam Core Board for the base
- Wrapping Paper, Wall Paper, Card Stock, and/or Scrapbook Papers
- Tacky Glue
- Scissors, Exacto Knife
- Pencil, Marker
- Ruler, Measuring Tape
- Masking Tape
- Binder Clips, Clothes Pins
- Optional Items for Decorating: Duct Tapes, Washi Tapes, Ribbon, Labels, Decorative Add-ons



Directions:

Think about what you have to store, how you will be using it and how the boxes you do have will work best. Play around with layouts and how you want it to look when you are finished. Decide how many boxes will work together to create the organizer you wish to create. There are lots of ways to create good storage units with simple items like boxes and tubes. Up-cycling is a wonderful way to use what we have around the house and give them a longer use. They can also be done beautifully that will enhance your home and add enjoyment to your work area. Read through these instructions first for ideas and techniques.



Magazine File:

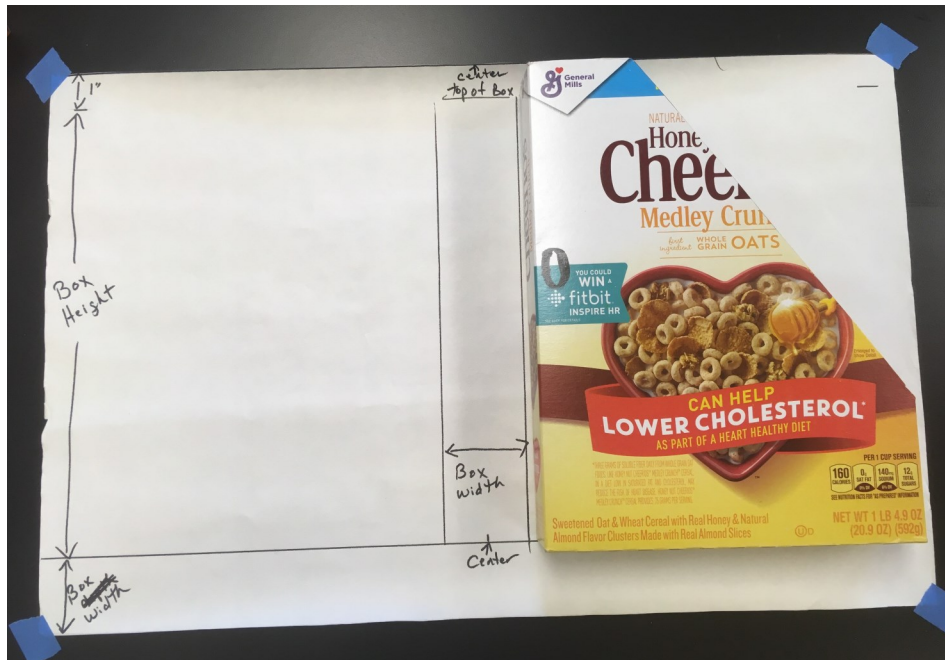
Choose a taller box for a Magazine File. Cut off the top flaps and trim the top of the box at an angle to create a cut away profile. If you need to reinforce the bottom flap, tape it securely with some masking tape.

Using the ruler and your pencil, measure out the wrapping paper that will be used to cover each box. Check to be sure that the paper's pattern will be right-side up when you glue it into place. You will need to measure the box's height, width and depth and allow extra wrapping paper as follows:

- + 1" allowance for the top edge
- + 1" allowance for the circumference
- The box's depth

See the next page for a photo that illustrates these measurements.

Cut out the paper. Lay the wrapping paper face down onto the table, and tape the corners down for easier handling. Determine where you want the back of your magazine file to be, this is where the paper will create a seam. Generally that would be the back of the taller side of the box. Find the center point on the wrapping paper and mark that with your pencil and ruler. Lay and center the front side of the box on that center line and draw around it to indicate where it will be positioned.



NOTE: In the above photo, I drew in the back of the box and had the seam overlap in the front of the organizer. This is an **“Oooppsss!”** After this one, I used the smaller front of the box to mark the center portion of the project. No worries!

Spread Tacky Glue onto the front side of the box and spread it out with your fingers. This will give a nice smooth application as Tacky Glue can sometimes be bulky. Keeping a damp paper towel handy is very useful to keep your fingers and spillage cleaned up. Line up your box with the lines on the wrapping paper and press it down, smoothing out any air, wrinkles or creases. Only glue and secure one side of the box at a time. After it has sat a little while, go back over it and smooth it out again. Paper tends to buckle and move around a bit after it absorbs the glue’s moisture.



Un-tape one side of the wrapping paper from the table and glue that side down. Repeat for the other side. Then glue the back side of the box, one layer at a time. Your paper should overlap by $\frac{1}{2}$ ”.



Draw a 1" allowance along the angled edge of the box onto the wrapping paper and cut away the excess. This will be wrapped and glued to the inside edge of the box. Be sure to smooth this out well. Clip the corners of the wrapping paper to where it meets the box and glue down one section at a time.

Glue down the bottom of the box, clipping the corners down to where it meets the box and securing well.



Using your pencil and the decorative paper you want to use for lining your magazine file, trace around each section. It is best to trace the largest pieces first, then the smaller ones. Cut these out and do a dry fit to see how they fit before gluing them into place. You may need to trim off as much as 1/4" off of each edge in order for them to fit properly. Do this in small increments so that you don't cut off too much in one cut. Once all pieces are the correct sizes, glue them into place and smooth out any bubbles or wrinkles. After a bit, smooth the papers down again.





Desktop Organizer:

Play around with stacking your boxes and tubes into a pleasing arrangement. Trim away the top flaps and any excess box. Angling your box tops like the one pictured above creates a pleasing flow and will aid in placing your items into the organizer and being able to see them well. Use your ruler and marker to place cutting lines accurately. I used the largest box as my inspiration for this cascading sized arrangement and adjusted the boxes heights to fit together well. I then cut the paper towel tubes to match the box sizes at an angle to continue that flow and appearance.

If you need to reinforce the bottom closure of the box, tape it well now with masking tape.

Use the steps for the wrapping paper measuring, cutting and wrapping as stated in the Magazine File on pages 2 through 4. This is done for each box individually first, then they are assembled together on a base.



The Tubes: Wrap the tubes with wrapping paper with an $\frac{1}{2}$ " overlap and glue down and leaving an 1" allowance at the top and the bottom of the tube, trim off any excess. Use the scissors and make $\frac{1}{2}$ " clips all around the openings and glue these down to the inside of the tube. Smooth them down well.

To line the inside of the tube, cut paper to the length of the tube X 6" wide. (the inner circumference of the tube is 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ").



Roll the lining paper with the design on the inside to fit into the tube. Straighten and align the edges, mark the angled edge of the liner paper and trim away the excess. Realign the paper with the edges straight and spot glue in place along the top and the bottom of the edges as best you can.



The Base: Dry fit your organizer together on top of your cardboard base or foam core and measure out the size you will need. Be sure there is about $\frac{1}{2}$ " allowance all the way around so that it adds stability to your project. Cut this out with an Exacto Knife and wrap with the paper of choice. I choose to use the same wrapping paper as the rest of the boxes, but a coordinating or contrasting paper would look really nice too. Cut the paper to size, glue it down and wrap the side edges to the underside of the base. I used masking tape for the final folded edges and pressed it down well.



Assembly: Starting on one side of the organizer, glue each box into place with ample tacky glue, being sure to run a line of glue along each edge and smooth it out with your finger before placing it where you want it to go. Firmly press it into place and smooth it down from the inside of the box if you can. Repeat with the box adjacent to the first one and place glue where ever it will touch the box(s) and base and press it down well. Large paper clips and or clothes pins work really well for keeping the boxes together while they dry.



Let your organizer and magazine files dry overnight before using.

Options to Decorate:

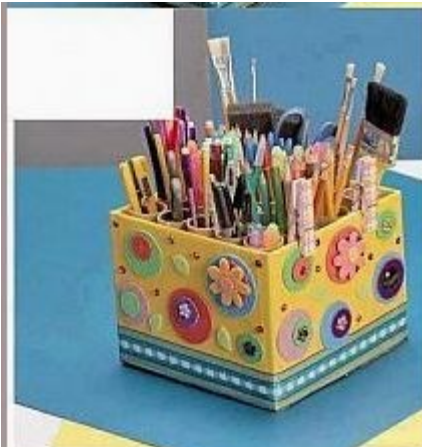
There are lots of ways you can decorate and customize your organizers and magazine files. You may want to do some of these before you assemble everything together.

- Duct Tape—run it along the top edges of each box. Use it to bind the assembly together along the base and/or the top edges for stripes.
- Washi Tape—there are so many designs and decorative options with this wonderful tape! Go crazy with it and have fun!
- Cut Outs—If you have scrapbooking supplies, dig into them and use some. If you have some pretty paper with designs you can cut out and glue on, that would be fun too.
- Gems—a little sparkle, a bit of glue and all will be right with the world!
- Ribbon—use it like tape and glue or tape it down along the edges. Make a pretty bow.
- Labels—to be really organized, create some labels and glue them on

Below are some photos that I found on Pinterest to help spark you with ideas. Perhaps you will find just what you need here and if not, take a look on Pinterest for even more. I searched with the phrase “cardboard box organizers” when I was looking for inspiration. Have fun!



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