

## Pocket Flower Press

by [ChrysN](#) on June 30, 2009

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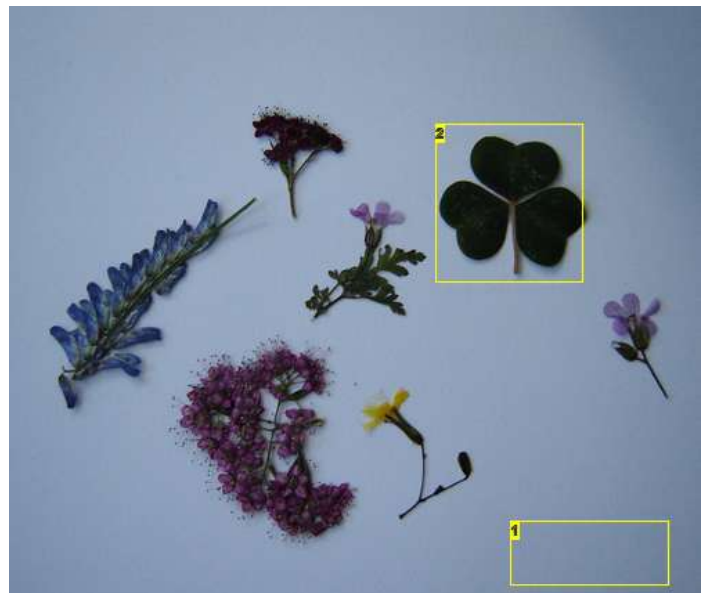


Author: ChrysN

I like sewing and crafts, I also like challenging myself by trying new things. I'm vegetarian and always looking for new recipes. My cat's name is Mirko and likes to be in the centre of things, so you will see him in several of my instructables.

### Intro: Pocket Flower Press

Have you ever been out for a stroll and found some pretty flowers that you want to preserve only to find that by the time you arrive home they are crushed, wilted, and no longer good for pressing. Well suffer no more with this handy pocket-sized flower press, now you can press flowers on the go!



#### Image Notes

1. I tried to decorate it, but I'm not much of an artist.

#### Image Notes

1. Flowers (and a leaf) that I have pressed with this thing. Don't ask me what they

are, I didn't have my plant guide with me when I picked them.  
2. Wood Sorrel.

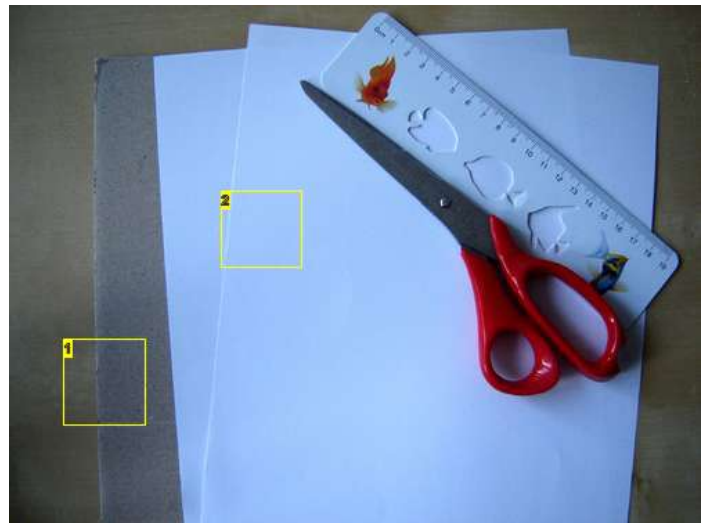
### Step 1: What you need:

#### Materials:

- Plywood
- Thin corrugated cardboard
- Paper (blotting paper/ newsprint/ tissue paper, etc)
- Nylon strap with a metal loop
- Velcro

#### Tools

- Wood cutting and sanding tools (I used a Dremel)
- Scissors
- Needle and thread
- Glue (that white non-toxic stuff)
- Ruler
- Pencil



#### Image Notes

1. Cardboard
2. Sheets of printer paper.

#### Image Notes

1. This is a lid from a jewelry box.



#### Image Notes

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Pocket-Flower-Press/>

1. Nylon strap from a lanyard.
2. I used this metal hoop too.

## Step 2: Preparing the wood

This flower press has an outer layer of wood sandwiching alternating layers of corrugated cardboard and paper. The plywood I used came from a lid from a dollar store jewelry box (the other part, I used for a previous project).

- Cut the plywood into two equal sized pieces, about 9cm X 6cm.
- Sand the corners so that they are rounded.
- Sand the edges of the wood so that they are smooth.



**Image Notes**  
1. 9cmX6cm



**Image Notes**  
1. Round the corners so that it is more comfortable to place in your pocket.  
2. Smooth the edges of the wood.

## Step 3: Preparing cardboard and paper

### Cardboard

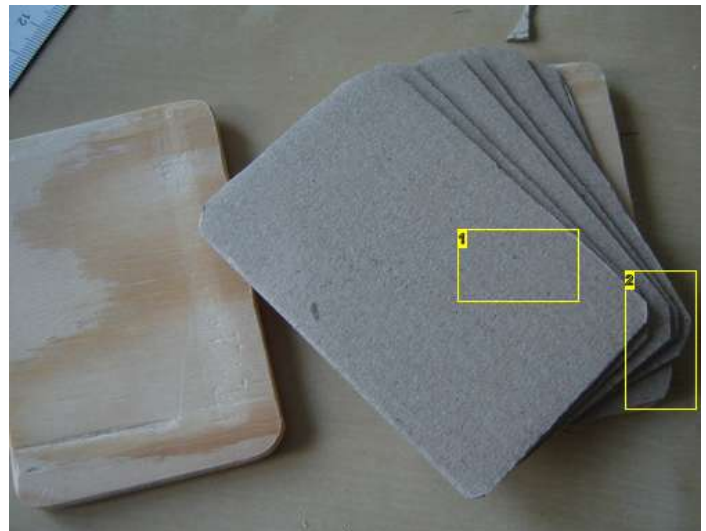
Corrugated cardboard is recommended for pressing flowers since it allows for more air flow, improving drying, on the downside it can leave lines on the flowers from the cardboard ridges. I've used corrugated for my press, but try it and see how it works for you.

- Cut six pieces of cardboard, 9cm X 6cm (the same size as the plywood in step 2).
- Trim the corners so that they are rounded.

### Paper

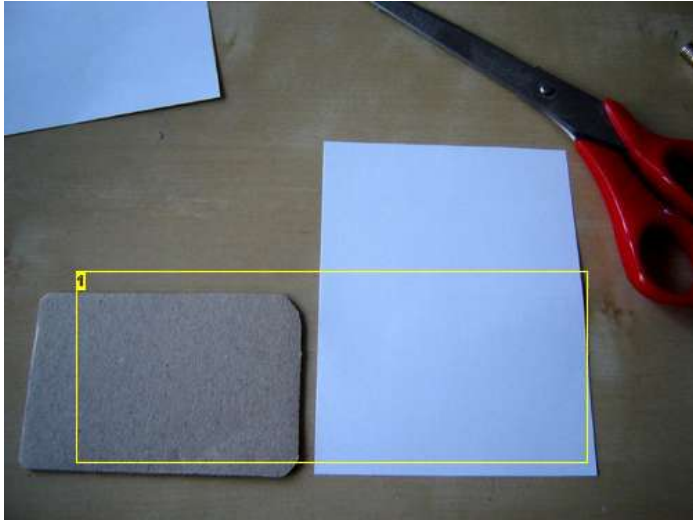
For my press, I just use regular white recycled paper that I use in my printer, but you can use other types too, for example: newsprint, tissue paper, blotting paper, etc. (Avoid using paper with ink on it, like newspaper, it may rub off on the flowers, also avoid paper towels since they can leave impressions on the flowers).

- Cut five pieces of 9cmX12cm paper.
- Fold in half (so they become the same size as the cardboard).
- Trim the corners so that they are rounded.



**Image Notes**

1. Cut the cardboard the same size as the wood.

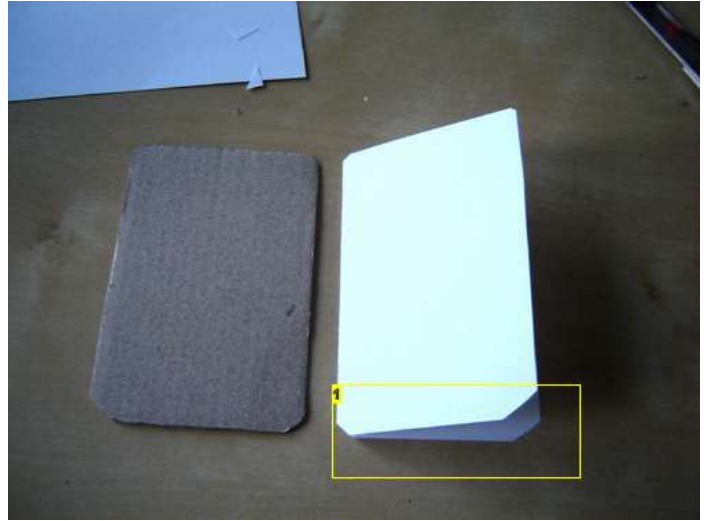


**Image Notes**

1. Cut the paper the same width and twice the height.

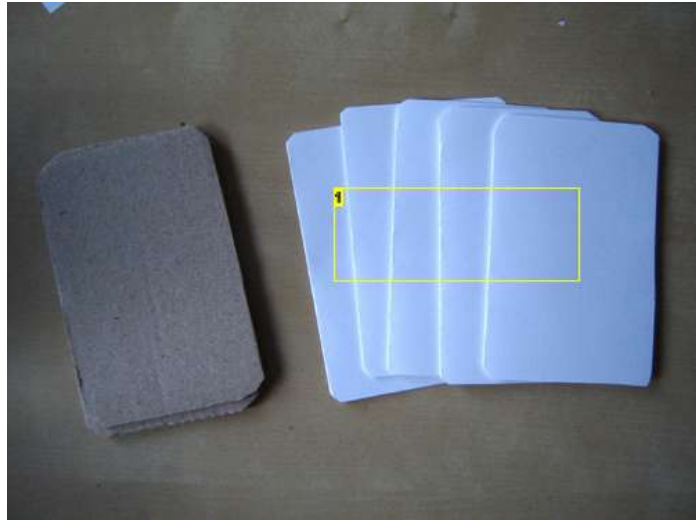
**Image Notes**

1. Six pieces.
2. Round the edges.



**Image Notes**

1. Fold the paper in half and round the edges too.



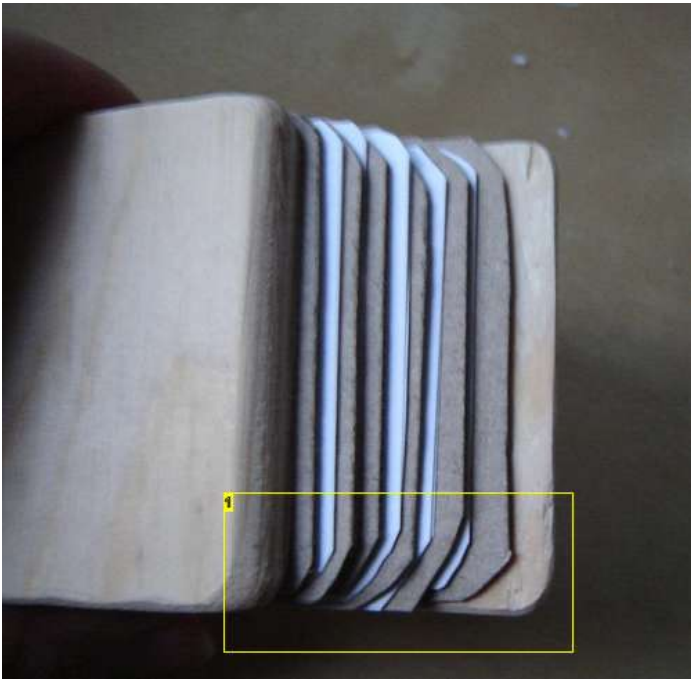
**Image Notes**

1. Five pieces

**Step 4: Layers**

Each layer of paper should have cardboard on either side and the folds should open on the same side. There should be a layer of cardboard at each end next to the plywood. So you should have:  
wood-cardboard-paper-cardboard-paper-cardboard-paper-cardboard-paper-cardboard-paper-cardboard-wood!

This will give you five spots to place you flowers/leaves. You can add more or less paper/cardboard if you want the flower press thicker or thinner (how big are your pockets?)



**Image Notes**

1. Alternating layers.

**Step 5: Nylon strap**

Many models of flower presses use bolts and wing nuts on each corner, to press the two pieces of wood together, this works great, but it is not something that you could comfortably stuff into your pocket. Instead, this flower press uses a nylon strap that you can sinch tight.

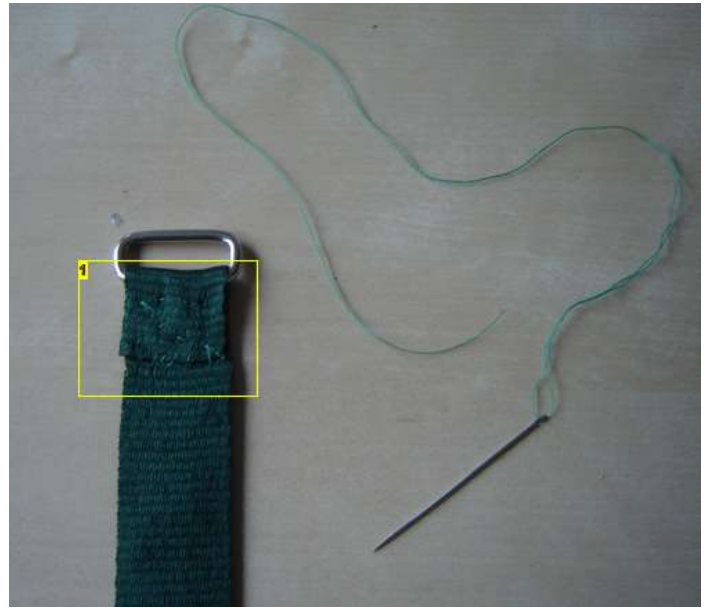
- Sew one end of the nylon strap around the metal loop.
- Mark on the strap where the velcro(loops) should be and sew in place.
- Find placement of the other velcro piece(hooks) and sew in place.
- Cut off excess nylon, leaving about 2cm from the end of the velcro.
- With a flame singe the end of the nylon to prevent fraying, fold over and sew in place.

(see images below)



**Image Notes**

1. Metal loop.



**Image Notes**

1. Sew.



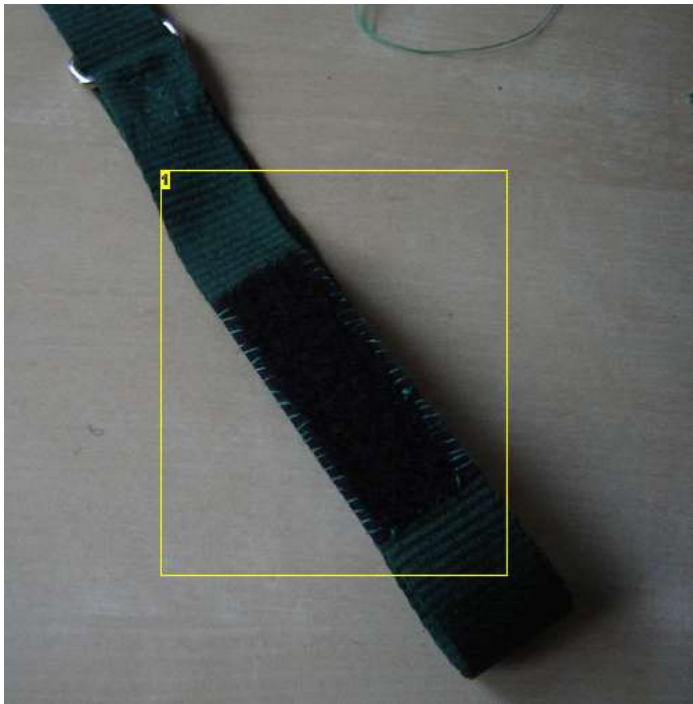
**Image Notes**

1. Place in middle, pull free end of strap through and place around flower press.



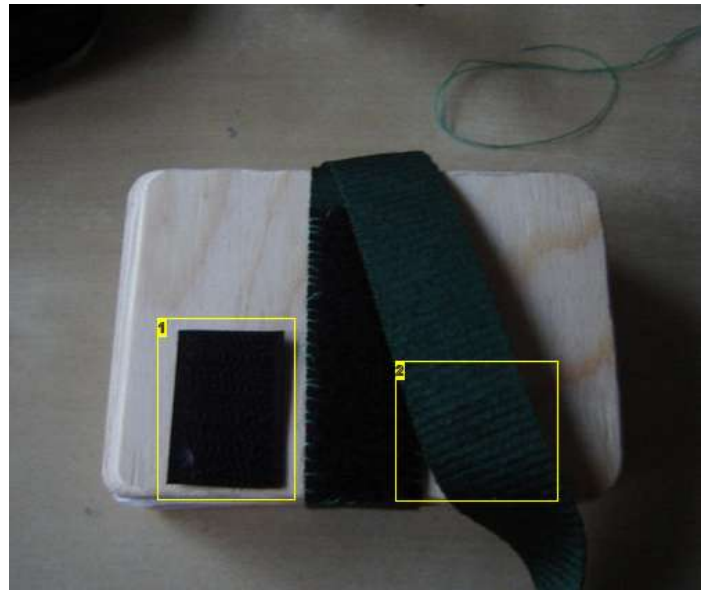
**Image Notes**

1. From the previous picture, flip the press over. On this side of the strap you will want to have a piece of velcro (loops) covering most of it. Mark position on strap and sew in place.



**Image Notes**

1. Velcro sewn on.



**Image Notes**

1. Velcro piece with hooks. You can round edges if you'd like.
2. Velcro piece with hooks should be sewn on underside of this part of strap.

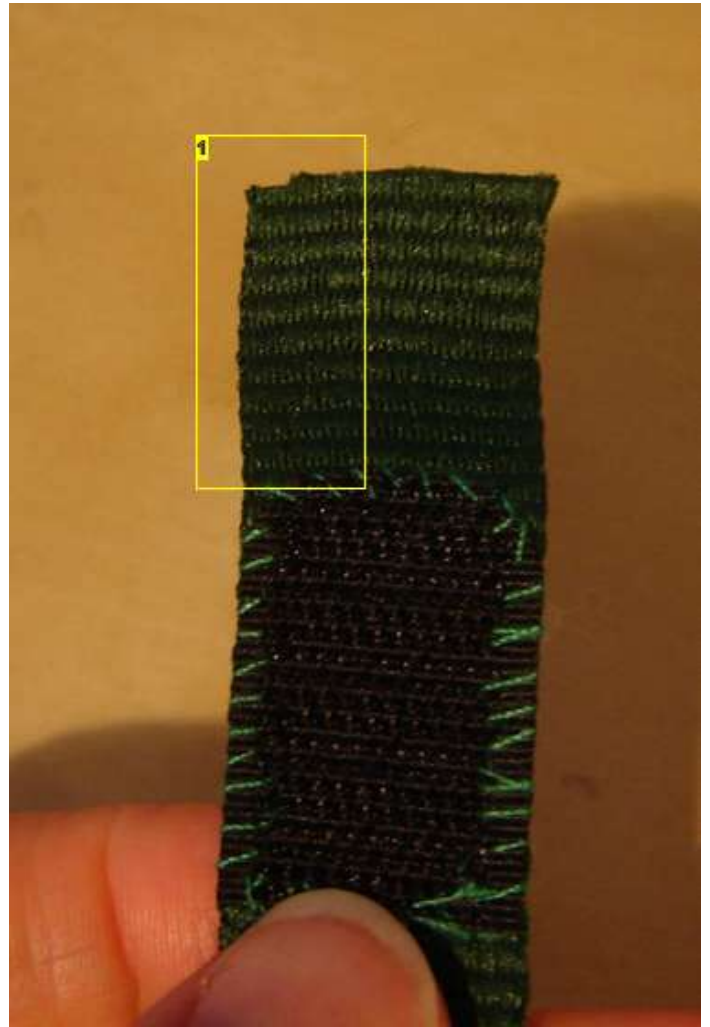


**Image Notes**

1. Velcro(loops).
2. Velcro(hooks).

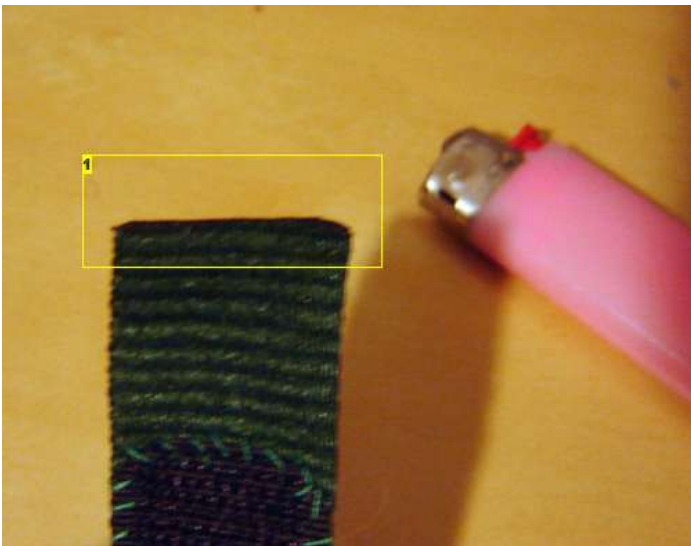


3. Metal loop.



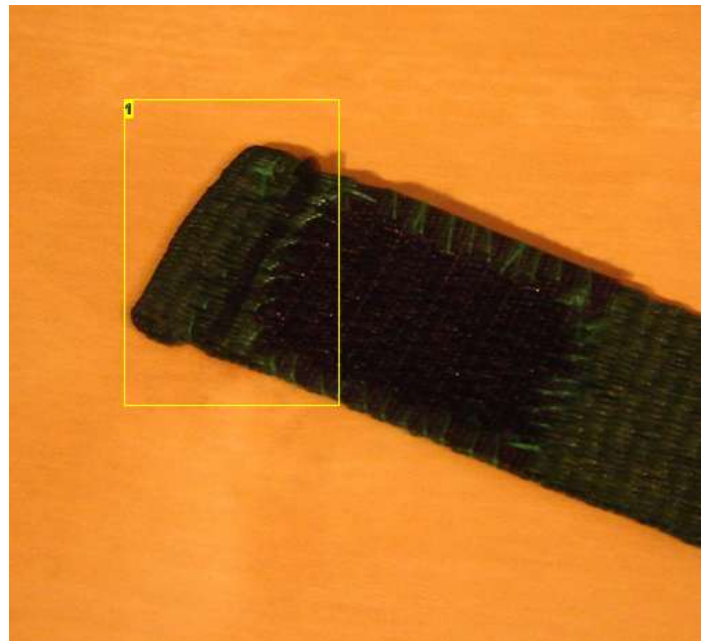
**Image Notes**

1. Roughly 2cm.



**Image Notes**

1. Singed with lighter. Be careful!



**Image Notes**

1. Fold over and sew.



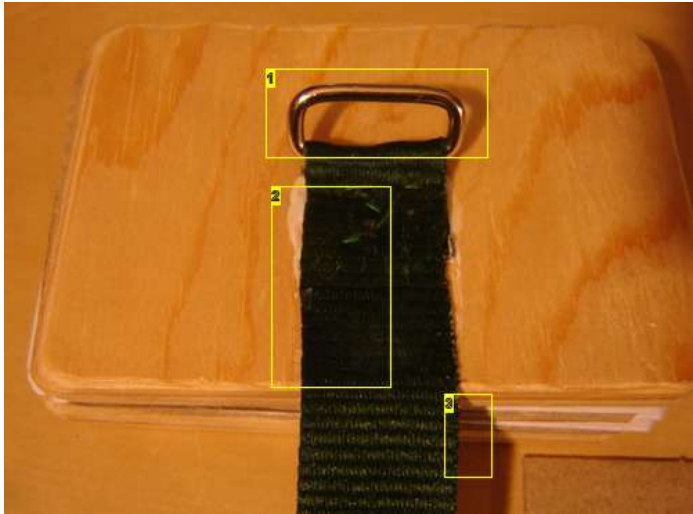
## Step 6: Finishing up

Gluing the nylon strap onto the press

- Place the end of the strap with the metal hoop about halfway up the side of the wood.
- Glue in place.
- Wrap the nylon strap around and glue in place on the other side. (All of the layers of cardboard and paper should be in the press to ensure the correct thickness).
- Wait for the glue to dry before you use (I waited until the next day.)

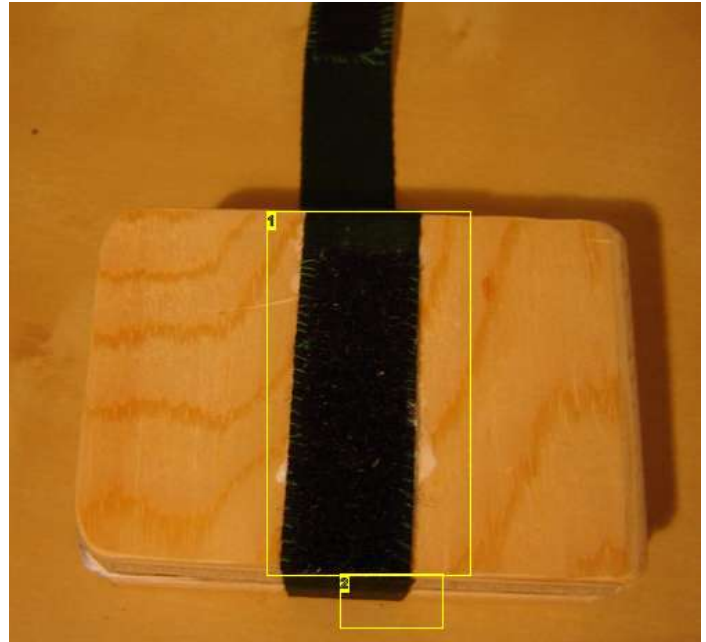
-Feel free to decorate however you like with paint, sharpies, pyrography, glue pressed flowers on, etc.

-Add a small pencil and bring along a plant guide if you are a budding naturalist, so you can write down the name and location of your specimens.



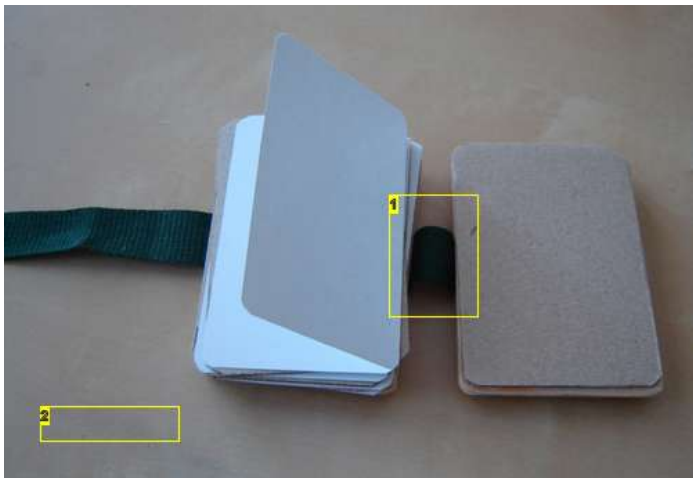
### Image Notes

1. Don't glue metal.
2. Glue strap.
3. Don't glue here.



### Image Notes

1. Glue here
2. Don't glue here.



### Image Notes

1. This part was not glued to wood.
2. When opened it should look like this.





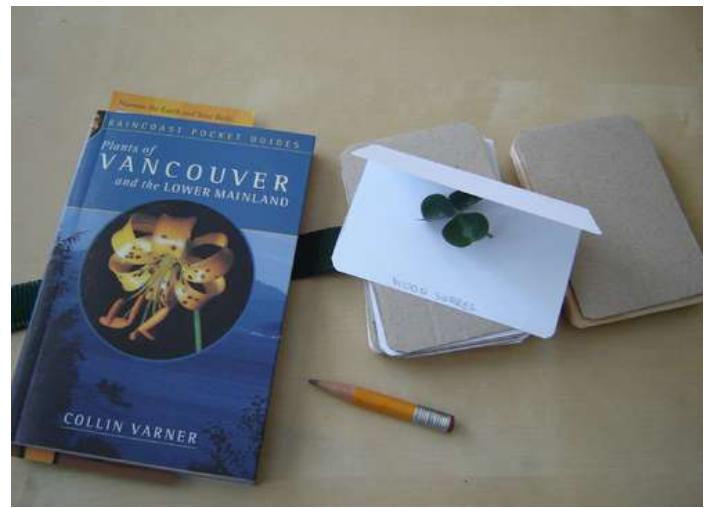
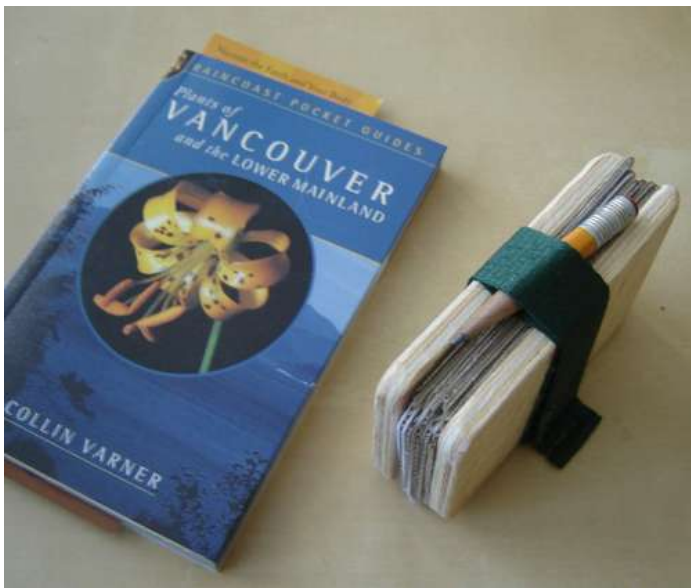
#### Image Notes

1. I tried to decorate it, but I'm not much of an artist.

### Step 7: Pressing flowers

- For best results pick the flower/leaf you wish to press in the morning.
- Make sure it is dry, no raindrops or dew on it (or little bugs).
- Place the fresh flower or leaf in a fold of paper.
- If you like you can jot down on the paper it's name and the location it was found.
- Close press and sinch nylon strap as tight as you can.
- You can leave it in the press, or transfer the fold of paper to a phone book when you get home.
- It takes about a week to dry, but it can vary.
- Replace paper as needed.

**Be careful when picking wildflowers, there are some restrictions around picking plants in national parks as well as plants that are endangered.**



## Related Instructables



**Pressing Flowers made Easy!** by raquel1098



**How to Draw a Flower** by goodnplenty



**fresh flower tote bag** by ClockworkMonkey



**Simple flower pressing book** by nickodemus



**Pretty Paper Pansies How-To** by kolleenk



**Dirt Garden** by trebuchet03

## Comments

[26 comments](#) [Add Comment](#)



**carterburwell** says:

i can't get over how adorable this is! you have quite a talent.

Jul 26, 2010. 7:41 PM [REPLY](#)



**ChrysN** says:

Thanks!

Jul 26, 2010. 8:31 PM [REPLY](#)



**1arrow24** says:

Nice! One of those things you just wish you had when feeling like a little naturalism on a walk- great for a pocket, up there with a hand lens and jars!

Jan 4, 2010. 1:48 AM [REPLY](#)



**handprints** says:

This is perfect! I built an herbarium press for my daughter (to be published). She's doing a science research project. The press is 11 in x 16 in, about the standard size of herbarium vouchers. We went on a loooong hike to find a special tree fern (with a permit of course). She carried the press in her backpack and I carried the collecting tools and water. Poor girl... the press alone weighed almost 7 or 8 lbs! add the fern specimens (The fronds are can be 6-8 ft long and over 3 ft wide) and after 5 hours...I was dead tired. I can only imagine that she must have felt like a burro. What a trooper! I was considering making a lighter, smaller press for future collecting trips and then bringing the plants home and putting them in the big press to dry. I like your design a lot!!!

Nov 14, 2009. 1:05 PM [REPLY](#)



**handprints** says:

Hey Chrys,

What do you think about connecting the corrugated pieces with duct tape so it could fold up accordion style and then tucking your folded papers into each of the grooves. Or even connecting your top and bottom boards to the corrugate?

Nov 15, 2009. 3:40 PM [REPLY](#)

One of our problems with the press was that the corrugated pieces and the papers kept moving around alot.. Especially when I was trying to strap those babies in.

I think I'm going to try it as soon as I figure out my dimensions and collect enough cardboard.

I REALLY like your design! Oh, did I say that already??



**ChrysN** says:

The duct tape is a great idea, I had that problem too with the pieces moving around, taping them will definitely help.

Nov 15, 2009. 6:31 PM [REPLY](#)



**ChrysN** says:

Thanks, I'd love to see the press you made.

Nov 14, 2009. 2:41 PM [REPLY](#)



**handprints** says:

posted...nowhere near as nice as yours!

Nov 15, 2009. 3:41 PM [REPLY](#)



**tonictina** says:

this is going to be my next project. thx for the instructable! excellent idea!

Jul 28, 2009. 4:44 PM [REPLY](#)



**ChrysN** says:

Thanks

Jul 28, 2009. 6:29 PM [REPLY](#)



**Miscelinious** says:

This is great! I've always been going on walks and looking at the flowers thinking how pretty they are... Especially when I've been at camp with nothing to press flowers with, not even a book. :( Thank you for the idea!

Jul 16, 2009. 8:54 PM [REPLY](#)



**mastermaker** says:

hey this is a really good idea,im thinking of using some sort of really fancy wood and polishing it too, i love to make gifts for my mom, grandmothers and my sister so i usually need to press and dry flowers a lot!

Jul 9, 2009. 3:36 PM [REPLY](#)



**ChrysN** says:

Thanks!

Jul 9, 2009. 6:23 PM [REPLY](#)



**MrBrownThumb** says:

Really cool.

Jul 6, 2009. 10:02 PM [REPLY](#)



**ChrysN** says:

Thanks!

Jul 6, 2009. 10:07 PM [REPLY](#)



**loximuthal** says:

It looks like you glue the strap to both pieces of wood. Doesn't that interfere with the covers pressing equally all around when you cinch up the strap? I would think that you'd end up only squeezing the "open" side.

Jul 1, 2009. 9:40 AM [REPLY](#)



**ChrysN** says:

Yes,that's true it would give uneven pressure. When you open the flower press, there are a lot of loose pieces, so I thought by gluing the the strap to both pieces of wood, it would be a bit more held together.

Jul 1, 2009. 10:39 AM [REPLY](#)



**loximuthal** says:

I plan to make one for my daughter's birthday. I might try gluing a loop of strap to the other cover and run the main strap through it. That way the two covers will stay together, but still be able to give even (-ish?) pressure.

Jul 1, 2009. 3:05 PM [REPLY](#)



**ChrysN** says:

That sounds like a great idea.

Jul 1, 2009. 3:37 PM [REPLY](#)



**loximuthal** says:

Here is my build. Two changes: loop on the back I mention above and strap is \$ store dog collar (bonus reflective threads!) My daughter will decorate it when she gets it for her b-day.

Jul 6, 2009. 7:25 PM [REPLY](#)



**ChrysN** says:  
That looks great, I'm sure your daughter will have fun decorating it!

Jul 6, 2009. 10:01 PM [REPLY](#)



**Ninzerbean** says:  
Oooooooh I love this, thank you.

Jul 3, 2009. 4:45 AM [REPLY](#)



**omnibot** says:  
I'm loving this one.

Jul 2, 2009. 1:54 AM [REPLY](#)



**carterburwell** says:  
sooo COOL!!

Jul 1, 2009. 7:30 PM [REPLY](#)



**ChrysN** says:  
Thanks!

Jul 1, 2009. 10:07 PM [REPLY](#)



**snideprime** says:  
I think you could use a couple big binder clips to hold it together. Just flip the handle parts to lie along the plywood, and it'll still fit in your pocket.

Jul 1, 2009. 1:37 PM [REPLY](#)