How to make Recycled Egyptian Paper in 10 easy steps

Supplies you will need:

1. Electric blender
2. Newspaper
3. Water
4. Any type of dried flowers – petals, stems, etc. (if using pre-dyed, end product will take on the colors of flowers)
5. Framed wire mesh screen (example – old window screens approximately 18”x12” in size work well)
6. Plastic or metal tub ~ must be large enough to fit screen inside

Step 1

Hand rip / shred the newspaper into approximately 1 to 2 inch wide strips. (Note: I do not recommend using construction or heavy duty paper or your end product will be too thick.)

Step 2

Fill blender 3/4 (three quarters) full with separated paper shreds. Important: keep the paper loose, do not pack down the paper shreds in the blender.

Step 3

Fill blender almost to the top with water and place lid securely on top.

Step 4

Begin blending, start on a low speed and gradually increase to the highest speed possible. (Note: entire blending process should take only approximately 1 ½ - 2 minutes)

Step 5

Add crushed dried flowers and blend on high again for approximately 30 seconds to mix well.

Step 6

Pour solution into tub. The solution should have a very watery consistency.
Step 7

Follow steps 1-6 above until tub is approximately 2/3 full. Stir solution well prior to Step 8.

Step 8

Holding the screen on the sides slowly slide the screen into the tub until completely submerged. Lift the screen directly upward, pausing just above the tub to allow extra water to drain through the screen. (Note: I found it more suitable to use the flat side of the screen which made for easier removal of the paper once dried. However, you can experiment and put solution inside the screening frame which will make for cleaner borders).

Step 9

Place screen in a warm/dry place ~ preferably outside in the sun ~ to dry. (approximately 5 hours)

Step 10

Gently remove the dried paper from the screen by either lifting off, starting at the corners, or loosen edges and turn screen upside down.

Your Recycled Egyptian Paper is now a finished product ready for multiple uses.

Some ideas:
A. Use as a display background for awards, metals or pins.
B. Draw a hieroglyphic cartouche.
C. Calligraphy in Arabic.
D. Glue pressed or dried flowers in an arrangement.
E. Write your favorite saying or phrase on it.
F. Make it into a special card for someone.
G. Use it as a picture border or matte.

Be innovative and imaginative. This a great opportunity to express your own individual creativity!

Acknowledgment and special thanks go to the Association for the Protection of the Environment. Cairo, Egypt
July 2004