Make a desk organiser

DID YOU KNOW?
The UK uses more than 12 million tonnes of paper each year.

You can create your own designs.

What you need

- Cardboard boxes and tubes
- Scissors
- A4 paper (white and coloured – try to use scrap paper if one side is blank)
- Textured surfaces
- Coloured pencils
- Double-sided tape or a glue stick
- A ruler
- Sticky tape
- Plastic lids (optional)

1 Choose some boxes and tubes in different sizes for making your organiser. Carefully cut the tops off the boxes or tubes if they look too tall.

2 Lay a sheet of thin paper over a textured surface then rub over the top with a coloured pencil. Thinner paper works better for making clear patterns on rubbings and it is easier to wrap round the containers. Printer or photocopier paper is ideal. Rub smoothly and firmly, holding the pencil at an angle. Make sure you hold the edges of the paper as you rub over the top or fix it in place with tape. Make more rubbings using different surfaces to create a selection of patterns in different colours. Try rubbing over sandpaper, concrete, plastic mesh (such as a sieve), metal with holes (such as a tea strainer or colander), wooden floorboards, a cheese grater, textures on plastic boxes, soles of trainers, toy bricks, coins. Experiment with different colour combinations of paper and pencils. When rubbing over small areas of texture, carefully move the paper after making each rubbing to make a continuous pattern.

3 Cut the patterned paper into strips measured with a ruler. For bigger boxes, join two or three matching strips together. Stick pieces of double-sided tape on the back of the paper (or use a glue stick) then wrap the strips around the containers so they overlap.

4 Finally stick the containers together. Add bases to cardboard tubes by sticking a card circle or plastic lid on the ends. Not only have you made a place to keep your stationery organised, you've created something colourful to brighten up any room.

Rub over different surfaces.

Print it!

Printing is another interesting way to create your own unique designs for covering containers. Dip pen tops, plastic lids, tyres on toy cars or cotton buds into paint, then press firmly onto paper to make a pattern. To print with bubble wrap or strips of corrugated card, it's easier to apply paint onto the textured surface with a sponge.

Got an idea? Made something cool? Share it with us at ***hello@theweekjunior.co.uk***

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