

# 40 Newspaper Craft Ideas

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1. Cut out geometric shapes: squares, triangles, etc.
2. Make a paper mosaic from torn and cut newspapers.
3. Cut out letters, words and numbers and study different typefaces.
4. Using the travel section, cut out transportation motifs: boats, planes and trains.
5. Make a collage of newspaper items, photograph it and blow it up to a life-size mural.
6. Cut a silhouette from a newspaper and paste over a colored background.
7. Trace photographs of sports figures using pen and ink for cross contours, horizontal and vertical lines.
8. Teach a color lesson on tints and shades by tracing a picture. Glue the picture alongside the traced version, then color in the traced picture using darkest to lightest tints.
9. Use ads and/or photos that depict "out the window," "window and sill," "out the veranda," "out the porthole," etc. and have the students draw in a scene that each of these shots can look out upon. Students can also do the reverse and draw a scene looking inside the window, sill, veranda or porthole.
10. Take an existing photo and expand it, build around it.
11. Create a Part II about oneself. This may be a photo montage of one's life.
12. Use the crossword puzzle to create items with Indian motifs, e.g. jewelry, headbands, pottery, etc.
13. Expand and stretch the idea a headline gives with a drawing.
14. On one page of the newspaper where there are lots of words, find the letters A-Z, then draw lines connecting the letters alphabetically. You now can create an alphabet monster.
15. Blow up a balloon and cover with newspaper maché. When it is dry, pop the balloon through the paper maché, retaining the shape of the balloon. Decorate and/or make a basket for a hot air balloon.
16. Draw a design on white paper that is placed over a printed newspaper page. Look at the reverse side when finished and color in the newly created design.
17. Take a piece of wax paper and rub white crayon over waxed side. Place same side face down onto newsprint. Draw a picture of a haunted house, then place window areas over photos of people. Using a popsicle stick or tongue depressor, rub over the window areas. The white crayon will pick up the newspaper ink on the photos to form "ghostly" figures.
18. Create pop art sculpture by taking sheets of newspaper, making several rolls, then sculpting them together with twine, staples, rubber bands, etc. The rolls can be used to make people, tables and chairs or just plain objects of art.
19. Use crumpled newspaper dipped into ink or paint to print designs or patterns.
20. Create a portrait by cutting out different sizes of type from the newspaper and using them for shading.
21. Use colored pages to create a mosaic.

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22. Teach the concept of enlargements by taking a photo or cartoon and redrawing it onto grid paper.
23. Create geometric patterns with the classified pages by coloring in the boxes of ads and outlining columns.
24. Take a dozen pages of the paper. Open up the newspaper pages and starting with the long side, roll the paper tightly. Take scissors and make several cuts four to six inches down on one end of the roll. Pull out from the cut end to create a palm tree effect.
25. Write calligraphy over the horizontal classified columns using a popsicle stick and/or a calligraphy pen.
26. Make a puppet from rolled and crumpled paper that is taped and glued.
27. Create a skyline of buildings by cutting out the individual classified ads and placing them on paper in a way that creates different size buildings.
28. Use pictures and art in parts of the paper to create a skyline.
29. Paint above newspaper-created skyline and add glitter to give the appearance of night.
30. Use clips, photos, headlines, etc. to create a collage of someone famous.
31. Cut strips of newspaper and weave them together. Combine woven sections to make a free-form sculpture.
32. Create origami with newspaper and add glitter and color.
33. Take sheets of newspaper and close the ends up with tape or staples so it may be stuffed. Make different shapes and place together to create a figure or first cut into shapes for stuffed sculpture such as kites, hearts, clovers, etc.
34. Make box kites, Japanese kites, or dragon kites from newspaper.
35. Use newspapers to create a piñata.
36. Using two sheets of newspaper, cut out the shape of a puppet. Glue all curved edges together. Take colored pages and cut out eyes, nose and mouth to give the paper a face. Complete.
37. Trace figures that appeared in the newspaper onto paper, then try and design a costume to go along with the figure.
38. Make a sculpture by crumpling newspapers, one or two sheets at a time, then connecting them.
39. Make a still life by using the different type faces in the newspaper and by turning them sideways, upside down, etc.
40. Curl and cut newspaper and paste to a drawn face or body to form eyelashes, hair, fringe, etc., to give it a three-dimensional look.

# Pressman's Hat

Oklahoma Publisher



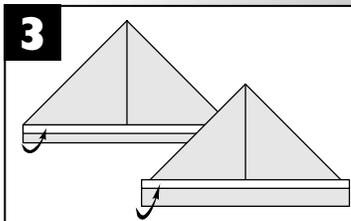
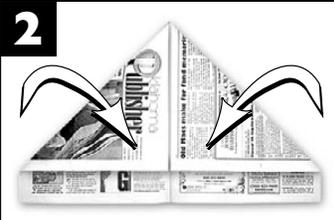
**1**

With a **BROADSHEET**, start with 1 whole sheet (4 pages), turned sideways.  
With a **TABLOID**, start with 2 whole sheets (8 pages), unfolded.



**2**

Fold the top two corners into the center, so that they meet.



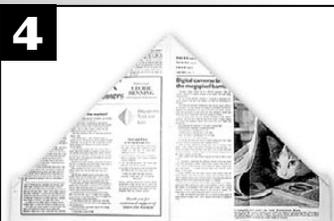
**3**

Fold the bottom area of the top sheet in half, until it just meets the bottom edge of the folded corners. Then, fold that sheet up again at that edge.



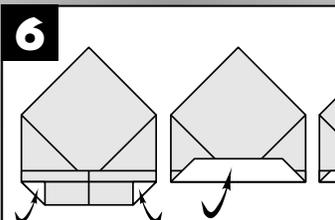
**4**

Now flip over to the opposite side.



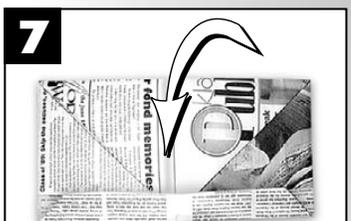
**5**

Fold the two sides straight into the center, so that they meet.



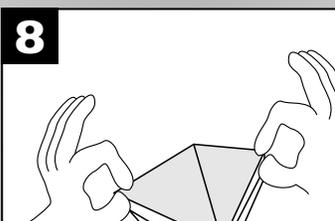
**6**

Fold up the little left and right corners on the bottom flap, as shown. Then, fold up that flap and tuck the top of it into the band. Crease it flat.



**7**

Fold the top point straight down and tuck it into the band.



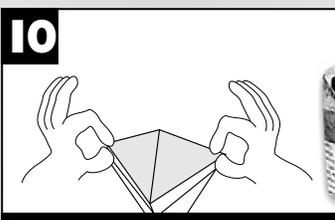
**8**

Tug on the band to open up the hat, then flatten it into a square, this way.



**9**

Fold the top point down, and the bottom point up, into the band.



**10**

Tug on the band to open the hat into its proper shape. Congratulations, you're officially a pressman!



# Arts & Crafts Organizer

The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)

You can use this organizer as a handy carrying case for all your lightweight tools, such as glue, tape, staplers, crayons, paints, paint brushes, blunt-nosed scissors, etc.

Supplies: Full-size newspaper section (3)  
Scissors  
Stapler  
Tape

1. To make each compartment, fold a sheet to page size. Crease across the center of the page. Then fold top and bottom to the center crease, until the page is folded in a six-inch strip with the top and bottom edges folded to the inside. Fold the strip in half. Tape the folded edges together on the outside. Flatten and crease folds. Open to form box shape.

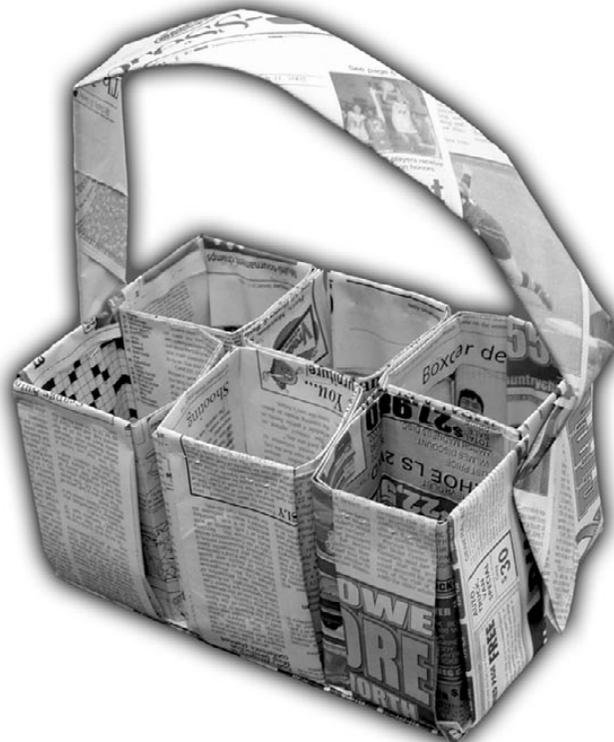
2. Make six of these. Staple together in rows of three each. Then staple the two rows together.

3. To make a sturdy bottom, fold a sheet of paper to page size. Fold the page in half horizontally. Then fold it in half vertically.

4. To attach the bottom, make three strips the length of a newspaper page and two strips the width of a newspaper sheet. Make each of the three lengthwise strips by folding a newspaper sheet in quarters vertically. Make each of the two widthwise strips by folding a sheet in quarters horizontally. Arrange the strips so the three shorter ones are centered on top of the two longer ones.

5. Center the folded bottom sheet on top of the strips and staple it into place. Place the six compartments on top of the folded bottom. Fold the ends of the strips over the top edges of the compartments and staple them to the insides.

6. For the handle, start at one corner of a sheet of newspaper and fold on the diagonal to make a one-inch strip. Staple to the outside of the organizer.



# Purse

The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)

Supplies: 8-10 page full-sized newspaper section  
 Tabloid section (insert)  
 Scissors  
 Stapler  
 Tape  
 Optional plastic wrap to waterproof inside of bag

1. Open an 8-10 page full-sized section and lay it flat.

2. Make a small decorative pleat in the center of both sides of the section running vertically. Tape the pleats flat.

3. Open a tabloid section, such as an advertising insert or magazine insert, and center it on top of the open full-sized section. Tape the tabloid in place.

4. Fold the sides of the full-sized section over the sides of the tabloid section. Tape them in place.

5. Fold the corners of the full-sized section over the corners of the tabloid. Tape them in place.

*Step six is optional if you would like to waterproof the insides of the bag.*

6. To make the lining of the bag, fold a newspaper sheet to match the shape of the joined sections. Cover the folded sheet with plastic wrap. Tape the plastic over the folds. Glue the lining sheet to the joined sections, so that all the folded edges are hidden.

7. Bring the sides of the bag together. Tuck the bottom flat and fold the sides over it. Staple them together.

8. To make the handle, put 3 sheets of newspaper together. Fold them on the diagonal until they create a 1-inch strip.

9. Staple the handle to the bag.



# Folding Fan

The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)

You can fold this fan for convenient storage. Be sure to choose attractive paper since you will want to keep it a long time.

Supplies:     Advertising insert (glossy paper)  
                  Scissors  
                  Glue

1. Find a colored advertising insert printed on glossy paper. (The finish on this paper gives it a little extra crispness.) For this project, we chose an insert that was 10 1/4 X 11 inches, but sizes may vary.

2. Open one sheet of the insert so that it is two pages wide.

3. Pleat the insert sheet in 3/4-inch pleats across the two-page width. Use a straight edge to crease the pleats.

4. Fold the pleated page in the middle.

5. Glue the inner edges together.

6. To make the handles, fold an insert sheet to page size, roll it from corner to corner and tape it in place. Repeat this step to make the second handle.

7. Slightly flatten the top part of each handle.

8. Glue the handles to both sides of the fan. Leave a 1-inch space in the middle, so your fan can open and close easily.



# Newspaper Bow

The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)

Almost everyone has thought of using newspaper for wrapping paper. But, did you know that you could make a fancy newspaper bow as the final touch in newspaper wrapping?

Supplies:     Advertising insert (glossy paper)  
                  Scissors  
                  Tape

1. Find a colorful advertising insert.
2. Take 4-6 insert sheets folded inside each other, and measure 7 inches away from the fold. Cut off any remaining paper.
3. Cut narrow strips (about 1/4-inch wide) into the open edge of the folded sheets. Be careful not to cut through the center fold. Leave about 1/4-inch from the fold uncut.
4. Unfold the insert sheets. Roll the sheets from top to bottom. Tape in place.
5. To curl each of the cut strips, use one hand to hold the strip at the center while you use the other hand to pull the strip against the blade of an open scissors. (Young children should have adult guidance with this step.)
6. You can vary the size of your bows by the number of pages you use and the length of strips that you cut. You can also make newspaper bows out of regular newsprint; however, it is best to begin with the glossy pages of advertising inserts since they are a little bit stronger.



# Finger Puppets

The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)

These puppets are quick and easy to make. So you can have a whole cast of characters for your puppet theater.

Supplies: Full-size newspaper section  
 Scissors  
 Tape  
 Glue  
 Crayons, colored paper, yarn, buttons, etc.

1. Fold a sheet of newspaper into a 1 3/4-inch strip the length of the page. (Hint: your strips will look better if you fold the outside edges to the inside and use a straight edge to crease the folds.)

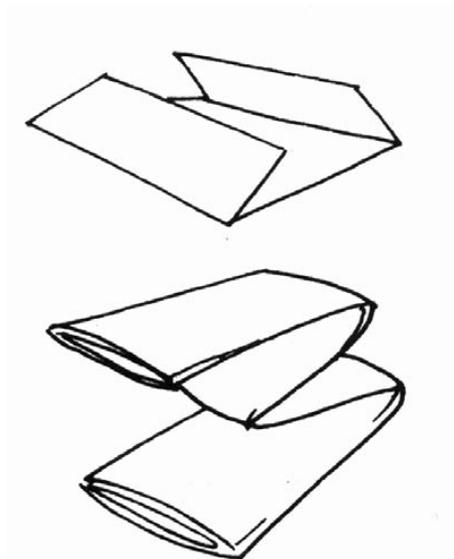
2. Cut the strip in half, so you have two 11 1/2-inch strips. Using small pieces of tape spaced several inches apart, tape the strips closed.

3. Fold each strip in half.

4. Fold back each half about 1 1/2-inches from the center fold.

5. To try your puppets on for size, put a thumb and finger inside each strip. Practice making the strip "talk." If the strip is too long, trim it to fit.

6. Decorate your puppets to give them character. Use crayons, bits of paper, yarn, small buttons, beads, and other "found objects," as well as lots and lots of imagination. Have fun!



# Folder

The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)

Here is a handy folder you can make to keep all your papers and ideas in one place.

Supplies: Full-size newspaper section  
Scissors  
Tape  
Glue

1. Find a newspaper sheet that has equal column widths on the outside edges. This will save you the trouble of making any measurements. (The classified ads and stock market reports are often laid out in small uniform column widths.)

2. Tape this sheet on top of two more sheets.

3. Using the outside column widths as guidelines, fold the outside edges in one column width. Tape down folds.

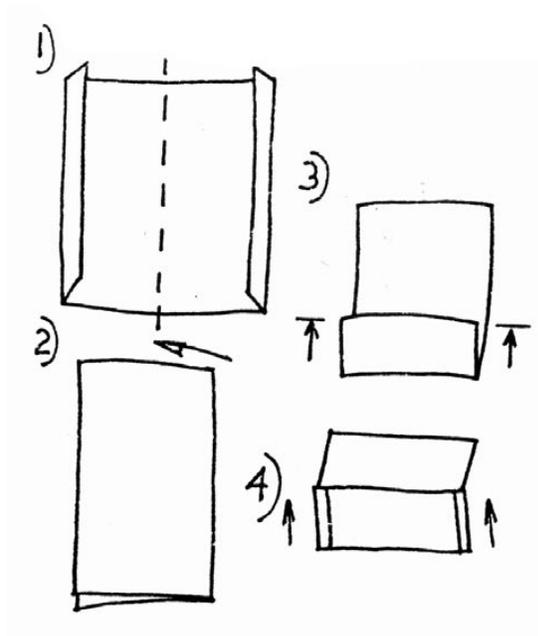
4. Using lines of type to guide you, fold the top and bottom edges in about 2 inches. Tape down folds.

5. Fold the newspaper sheet in half on its original vertical fold.

6. Bring the bottom edge to the center line. Fold again. Then glue, tape or staple the sides.

7. Fold the top edge down.

8. You can decorate this folder with paints, crayons, felt-tipped markers or colored paper. But you might like to leave it just as it is.



# Newspaper Basket

Oologah Lake Leader

## IT'S IN THE BAG

Folded strips of newspaper can be woven into a variety of useful items. White glue and staples can be used to add strip to strip for longer sections and to hold segments in place.

The design shown below is fine for a smaller bag, but for a large one, the strips crossing at the bottom may become unwieldy. A bag can be constructed of the envelope type where strips forming the body do not cross but are placed next to each other along each side. An end piece must be added in this configuration. Depending on the size, double handles may be helpful.

## Carry-all Bag

You can carry this useful bag over your shoulder or hold it by the handle. Choosing an "appropriate" section can add a decorative look and be fun. For example, use comic strips for a child's carry-all, or a book review section for a student.

Begin by making 14 straight bands, each from a sheet of newspaper. Each finished band measures about 1 1/2-inch wide. To make a straight band, fold a sheet in half, top to bottom. Fold the long sides in towards the middle. Always try to keep the raw edges of the newspaper on the inside of the folds, presenting a crisp, neat edge. Keep folding the sides into the middle until you reach the required width, then close

the band along the center fold as shown. Each band will be closed with glue or staples or used as is, according to the project directions.

Make the frame by stapling the ends of one band together to form a ring. Insert the ends of 8 bands inside the open ridge of the ring band and staple them in place. Each band goes from one side of the ring to the point opposite. When you finish, the bottom of the frame is criss-crossed with bands.

Weave the remaining bands over and under the bands of the frame starting at the top (this is called tabby weaving). When the ends meet, glue them together. If you want a tapered look to the bag, cut the last 2 bands a little shorter and use them to weave the bottom of the bag.

Make a handle from 2 sheets put together, one on top of the other so they can be folded as one. Fold these into a straight band about 1 1/2" wide and glue it closed. Glue the handle in place along the sides of the bag as shown.

(Make a straight band by folding the outside edges into the middle until you reach the width you need.)

# Paper Boat

Here is a paper boat you can make that floats in the water.

Supplies: Full-size newspaper section

1. Fold a double sheet of newspaper in half.
2. With the center fold at the top, bring the top corners together and crease
3. Fold the bottom edges up on both sides.
4. Open up the paper, bring the outer ends together, and flatten it into a diamond shape.
5. Turn the bottom points up on both sides. The shape is now a triangle.
6. Again, open up the bottom, bring outer ends together and flatten.
7. Gently pull out the top center points.
8. Your boat is now ready to set sail!

# Christmas Wreath

Killeen Daily Herald (Killeen, TX)

Supplies:    Newspapers  
               Scissors  
               Florist Wire  
               14-inch wire wreath form (box wreath)

(Select the size wreath form you want to use and vary the size of the newspaper square accordingly.)

1. Cut newspaper pages into approximately 8-inch squares. Depending on the diameter of your wreath form, you will need at least 100 squares.
2. Fold squares like a paper fan but make folds one to one and a half inches wide (about 3 to 4 folds per square).
3. Fold fan in half and wrap around wire.
4. Wrap florist wire around the newspaper as close to the wire form as possible.
5. Repeat until the wire form is full.
6. Hot glue ribbon, Christmas balls or other accessories to the newspaper wreath.

## NOTES:

- Newspaper will yellow with age, but storing the wreath in light tight box or black plastic garbage liner will minimize this effect when it is not in use.
- When wreath does yellow, you can spray it green or perhaps gold or silver and add a new coordinating ribbon and other trim.
- Looks great with Newspaper Chains and Newspaper Christmas trees.

# Peat Pots

The Windsor Star (Windsor, Ontario)

Is your class planning to start seedlings for students in the spring? Make the pots out of newspaper.

Supplies:     Tabloid-size newspaper section  
                  Potting Soil  
                  Tape  
                  Stapler

1. To make small planting pots to start flowers and vegetables indoors, use tabloid-size sheets of newspaper (about 14" x 23"). Fold in half lengthwise, then in half again.

2. Wrap the strip around your fingers, using a little more than half of it. Then fold down, bringing the strip under the cup and back to the top through the inside, tucking and stapling the end into the top opening.

3. Use tape and staples to make the pot more water-proof.

4. Fill with potting soil and place seed or seedling in soil.

5. The newspaper retains water and keeps soil moist for days. When transplanting, place entire pot into the ground. The newspaper will slowly disintegrate and make good mulch. The zinc in the ink protects the plant roots from grubs and other insects.

# Making Paper from Newspaper

The art of paper-making and recycling the newspapers in your classroom can be fun. A few basic steps are involved and using a blender will make it go faster. (This will not hurt your blender.) An egg beater may also be used. This is a great activity to teach about recycling or for Earth Day.

## Items you will need for this project:

- \* A blender or an egg beater
- \* A tub or bucket
- \* Water
- \* A picture frame covered with window screen wire
- \* Newspapers (some torn up, some whole to use as pads)
- \* An old household iron (If you use a household iron that you use on clothing, you will need to clean it well before ironing clothes)

## Classroom Activity: Make Recycled Paper

1. Tear some of the newspapers into small bits.
2. Soak the bits of newspaper in water. Rinse several times. The more you rinse, the whiter the recycled paper will be.
3. Fill the blender about 3/4 full with water. Place torn and rinsed paper bits into the blender with the water. Blend into a slurry.
4. Put a layer of slurry on the screen on the picture frame and pat the water out of the slurry using a couple sheets of newspaper.
5. Cover the slurry with a pad made from several sheets of newspaper. Quickly turn the frame with the paper and slurry over and remove the screen wire frame.
6. Make another newspaper pad and put it on top of the slurry. Press with an old iron. Turn the paper over and iron on the other side. When the pads start to dry out, replace them with more dry pads. The paper made from the slurry will dry and you can peel away the pads and iron right on the paper.

The paper you made can also be pressed into molds. The recycled paper may be used for an art project or as note paper.



# Make a News Boat

1. Start with a single sheet of newsprint. Fold it in half horizontally. If it looks square, cut a couple of inches off one of the long sides).
2. Fold the sheet in half again lengthwise and crease well to mark the center of the sheet, then unfold that fold.
3. Lay the sheet out so that you have one horizontal fold at the top of the sheet. Fold the two top corners in at a 45 degree angle to the center crease.



4. Starting at the bottom, fold the top layer only up so that the bottom of the sheet lines up with the bottom of the triangle at the top. Fold it up again, making the crease at the bottom of the triangle. Flip it over and do the same thing on the other side.



5. Now comes one of the hard steps! Grab the center bottom of the front and back layer and open up the triangle. You should have a diamond with ends sticking out front and back. Tuck one of the ends under the other on both the front side and the back side. You should now have a diamond that lies flat.



6. Fold the bottom point up to the top on both the front and back.

7. Along the bottom, grab the center point of the top layer and bottom layer and pull apart. Flatten it so you once again have a diamond.



8. Grab the two upper ears and stretch apart. Flatten the boat to create a crease across the bottom.

9. To waterproof your boat, seal the folds on the ends with permanent glue. Paint the boat with acrylic paint or spray enamel. Give it several light coats.

