

Melted Crayon Bookmarks

Project 2

Supplies and Tools

glue stick (1 for each participant)	paper plates
hole punch	parchment or waxed paper
iron	pencil (1 for each participant)
ironing board (optional)	ruler (1 for each participant)
masking tape	scissors (1 pair for each participant)
Styrofoam trays (large size; 1 for each participant)	vegetable peelers (1 for each participant)
towels (2 old ones to use as pressing cloths)	white glue

Materials

colored card stock or premade blank bookmarks	embellishments (beads, sequins, etc.; optional)
crayons (the children's librarian may have some leftover stubs that you can scavenge)	markers (optional)
	tassel materials (cord, embroidery floss, twine, etc.)
	vellum quotes (optional)

Step 1: Preparing the Crayons

Using the vegetable peeler, grate crayons onto paper plates. Changing the pressure on the peeler or the length of the stroke will change the consistency of your shavings. Remember to use a different paper plate for each color.

Many varieties of crayons are available now, and different types will yield different results. Try glitter crayons for a subtle sparkle. Artist pastels will melt a bit thicker for a more textured look.

Step 2: Applying the Colors

Place a strip of masking tape along the left side of the fold on the bookmark blank. This will be the back of your bookmark, and you'll want to keep the crayon from getting on this side.

Next, sprinkle crayon shavings onto the front of the bookmark blank. It's better to use less of the crayon shavings than you think you need. You can always add more in a second layer, but if you have too much, you'll just end up with a messy, waxy blob.

The way in which you lay down your colors will give you different results. Sprinkling a lot of different colors on at once will blend the colors when they are ironed, whereas putting down one color, ironing, then putting a different color over that and ironing again will give a more layered effect. Single colors can also give a nice effect, especially on colored card stock.

You can also arrange the pattern of the shavings, but very minimally. It's best not to try for specific shapes when putting down your shavings, but you can create stripes of color or more abstract representations.

Step 3: Ironing

Once you have a layer of shavings ready to iron, *carefully* carry your tray over to the ironing station. Place the unfolded bookmark on the ironing board or towel, being careful not to shake off the shavings. Cover the bookmark with a piece of parchment paper or waxed paper, and then cover that with a thin towel or pressing cloth. Set the iron's temperature on high and firmly run the iron over the pressing cloth. *Do not use steam.* Press for about thirty seconds. Lift the pressing cloth to see if the crayon is melted. If not, press again.

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If the crayon shavings aren't melting the way you'd like, try running the iron directly over the parchment paper. Be careful, though, of any wax running out from under the paper.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 as needed until you get the desired effect.

Step 4: Gluing

After letting your bookmark cool briefly, remove the masking tape and fold along the crease. Apply glue with the glue stick to the inside of the bookmark. Fold over and glue together. This should give you a cleaner back and a stronger bookmark.

Step 5: Embellishing

Add character to your bookmark with embellishments. Use the markers to draw or write your own quotes, or use white glue to attach vellum quotes and other decora-

tions (e.g., sequins, small beads, etc.). Keep any three-dimensional embellishment small and lightweight so as not to damage the book or make the bookmark too heavy to use.

Step 6: Tasseling

To make a tassel, wrap twine or embroidery floss around a ruler or a square of cardboard (1 inch wide at least), leaving a 4½-inch-long tail at the lead-in. Wrap ten to fifteen times, leaving another 4½-inch-long tail on the end. Clip off the excess. Loop the tails under the wrapped strands and bring them back around to tie a knot, gathering the wrapped strands together. Knot the tails at their loose ends and clip short. Turn over the ruler or cardboard and clip the wrapped strands in the middle.

Punch a hole at the top center of your bookmark. Thread the tassel tail through the hole. Using a slipknot, attach the tassel to the bookmark.

Note: You may need to demonstrate how to do this.