

SUPPLIES: - DESIGN + CREATIVITY

Some general supplies that you can use for creative projects can often already be found around the home, in your recycling bin, or from local shops (e.g. 99p store or convenience stores) without the need for any specialist shopping...

IDEAS FOR GENERAL CREATIVE SUPPLIES

You can make jewellery directly from these items, or use them for exploring shapes and model making in preparation for making a final piece in other materials.

Paper and card

Newspapers, magazines, cereal boxes, boxes from online deliveries, old envelopes, printer paper, postcards, playing cards, tissues, baking paper

Strings and threads

Parcel wrapping, kitchen string, old fabrics / unwearable old clothes, ribbon, discarded hanging loops from clothing

Metals

Aluminium foil, Used (clean) drinks cans

Wires

Wire coat hangers, garden wire, twist-ties, paper clips, spiral bindings from old notebooks, stripped old electrical cables

Natural Items

Leaves, feathers, twigs, stones, shells, nuts

Man-made Items and other useful bits

Takeaway cartons, food packaging, found objects, discarded toys or gadgets, spare old keys, screws, dowels or other items from completed DIY projects

Connections

Sellotape, pins, safety pins, paper clips, treasury tags, elastic bands, glues, staples, parcel tape, string

Mark Making

Pencils, pens, crayons, chalks, old make up, paints, food dye, tomato paste

Modelling materials

Blu-tak, plasticine, home made (salt/flour and water) dough, epoxy putty (e.g. Milliput), polymer clay, candle wax, soap, erasers, foam

TIP - You can use any materials to make jewellery from - you can treat trash or re-purposed objects in just the same ways as precious materials and if done well, they can create just as beautiful and professional looking jewellery - it is all down to your imagination and how you work with things....

Tools

Knives, blades (e.g. scalpel, utility knife, skewer) emery boards, foot (dry skin) files, manicure or pedicure sets, cocktail sticks, cotton buds, lolly sticks..

FOR MORE FORMAL DESIGN WORK

Technical Drawing

Graph paper - I like the 2mm / 10mm square ruled pages

Tracing paper

Super sharp HB or 2H pencil (or a technical drawing / mechanical pencil)

Ruler

Compass

Useful, but not essential to have circle stencils, and/or stencils for any other shapes you may regularly use.

Sketchbooks

I like A4 size sketchbooks, but A5 (smaller) is also great if you want something that is easier to fit and carry around with you, for example.

Spiral bound is easier to open wide if you are someone who likes to collage and add lots of bits into your sketchbook.

Thicker paper will be more useful if you like to use marker pens, sharpies, or paints, to stop them showing through to the next page.

Find a book that you like the look and feel of - you'll be much more comfortable using it!

I find it useful to also have either some double sided tape or glue stick, so that I can stick bits into my sketchbook to keep them together if I have photos, drawings I've done elsewhere, magazine or paper cuttings or anything else I find useful.

Design Rendering (Presentation Drawing)

Traditionally done on a thick grey cartridge or smooth grey watercolour paper - grey gives a great contrast for different metal colours, but of course you can work on any paper.

Rendering can be done with coloured pencils, or with paints - often traditionally done with gouache paints, but any medium that you can achieve the fine details needed with is fine.

A tracing of your completed technical drawing is a great place to start from

THE ESSENTIALS

If all the above is too much to think about right now, then the key things that will be most useful to you are a **pen or pencil, and some paper, any paper!**

Ideally also some way to collect or keep your ideas together - this could be a sketchbook, or just a folder, envelope or box.

If you have something you can model with, that is also helpful - it could be paper, card, plasticine, sticky tape, wire, or whatever you have.