

Grab & Go Craft Kit: Shrinky Dink Lapel Pins

Supplies

Included:

- 5 designs on white shrinky dink paper
- frosted shrinky dink paper to use for your own designs
- Colored permanent markers
- Colored pencils
- Pin backings
- Superglue
- Aluminum foil
- Designs you can trace

Not included:

- Oven
- Scissors or x-acto knife
- Sealer, optional
- Additional designs, optional



Instructions

Making a lapel pin using shrinky dinks is very easy – color, bake, glue. However, the devil is in the details☺

- Consider using a scrap piece of the shrinky dink paper to test colors, baking, finishing, and sealing.
- Be aware that even though designs have been printed with permanent marker, designs may smear – be very careful as you color/handle/work with the paper. Basically, avoid touching the designs throughout the entire process.

1. Color your design.

- a. Colors will appear darker once baked – keep that in mind as you decide where you should use dark markers or colors.
- b. If you want colors other than those included in your kit, you can use any colored pencil or *permanent* marker.
- c. Add your own flair/words to the designs – for example, add “love” to the Kansas design or stripes to the vote pin.

2. Cut out your design.

Cut close to the design or add a border – whatever you want.

3. Bake your design.

- a. Preheat your oven to **320 degrees**. You can also use a toaster oven. I would *not* recommend using a heat gun – it’s harder to control the curl as it bakes.
- b. Cut the aluminum foil in half. **Place your colored designs on one of the piece of aluminum foil.** Keep your designs far apart so that when they curl up they won’t accidentally overlap.
- c. **Put the aluminum foil with your design on it in the oven** and turn on the oven light.
- d. Okay – here it goes! **Don’t walk away** from the oven because the shrinking literally takes less than one minute. Watch the designs as they shrink – they will curl up and then lay flat again. **Once they have shrunk and are again flat-ish (you can see how mine still has a tiny curl on the edges), pull the foil with design out of the oven.** Here are some pics in order from left to right of one of my shrink dinks as it cooks – please excuse the foggy view through the oven window.



- e. Lay the foil on a flat surface that can handle the heat. Immediately put the other half of the foil over the baked designs. **Being careful of the heat, press down on the baked designs to make them flatter.** Designs will cool quickly so do this fast. If you miss the opportunity, stick your designs back in the oven for a bit to soften. I use my bare hands, but **you can use an oven mitt to protect yourself from the heat.**



4. **Optional: seal your design.** After the designs are cool, sealing your design ensures over time your colors won't fade or run. This kit does not contain a sealer, but here are options what I found through trial and error.
- Cheapest and most available: aerosol hairspray.** Just spray your design a couple of times with some aerosol hairspray. This gives a matte finish.
 - Best if you just happen to have: resin, modge podge dimensional magic, spray sealer. These are nice because they give a nice shiny finish – and the resin and dimensional magic add a nice domed surface.
 - I wouldn't recommend: regular modge podge, glue, clear nail polish – all of these caused my colors to run together (which could be very cool if that's a look you want). Glue was just a gloppy mess. Whenever I used a brush to apply anything, it caused the colors to run.
5. In a well-ventilated area, use the superglue to **glue on your pin back.** Let it dry *completely* before pinning to anything – let it dry completely or your pin will be glued to your purse/strap/backpack/whatever. While that seems logical, I actually did this so make sure you give the glue plenty of time to dry.

Make your own design using the frosted shrinky dink paper.

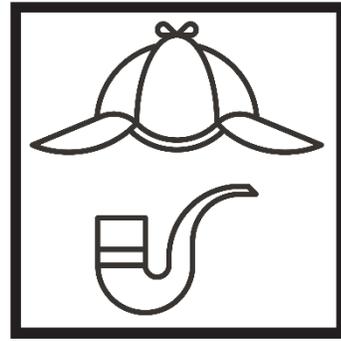
Trace a design.

- Use the designs enclosed or create your own. Trace your design so that you are writing/coloring on the frosted side of the paper (not the shiny side).
- If you like the shiny side for the front of your pin (this may be an option if you don't have a sealer that you like), you can do this simply by **tracing the mirror image** – our extra designs' mirror images are included. This allows words and images to be oriented correctly.

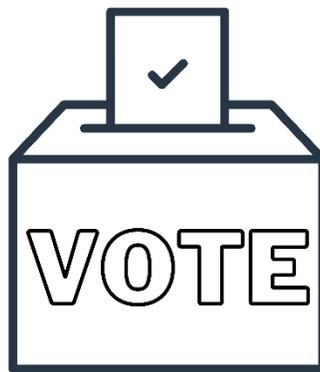
Customize it:

- Make your design bigger or smaller – the designs below are the same size as the other lapel designs but you can change the size.
- Add words – write "Peace" on the piece sign or add your favorite title to the book spine.
- You are able to trace on this paper because it is frosted, not solid white like the enclosed printed designs. Keep in mind that this background remains transparent after baking which means you'll be able to see the pin back when it's glued on. To hide the pin back, simply color your background.
- If you run out of pin backs, you can use shrinky dinks for key chains, pet tags, or charms. Use a hole-punch before baking to add a hole to your design so that it can easily be added to necklaces or key chains.

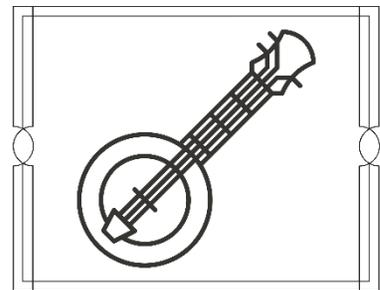
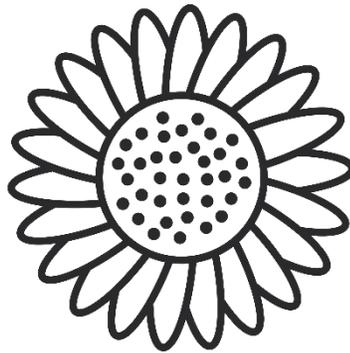
Designs to celebrate September's **Library Card Sign-up Month**, **Banned Books Week** (Sept 27th – Oct 3rd), or Edwin Hill's **The Missing Ones** mystery book talk.



Designs to create an action pin.



Designs to make you smile.



Mirror Images (see instructions – under Make Your Own Design, Trace a Design - for why you may want to use mirror images) & Our Designs Included in Kit

