

# HOW TO MAKE A PHOTO COLLAGE ON A WOODEN LETTER

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A step by step guide to the ultimate DIY gift!

# Step 1:

Purchase the wooden letter, number or shape that you will use for your project. You can find a variety of options at [www.collageandwood.com](http://www.collageandwood.com)

# Step 2:

Purchase these items:

1. "Glossy" Mod Podge.
2. Scissors and/or an Exacto knife.
3. 1 inch foam brushes (a 20-pack is great!)
4. Small jar of acrylic paint (I prefer Folk Art).
5. Cardboard (to save your table from the knife!)

## Step 3:

Paint your Letter: Front, sides, and back. A lot of people think this is all very simple, and it's true. But I want to stress to you: gift recipients are going to turn your collage over - and you want it to have a finished feel. Acrylic paint dries pretty quickly - so use thin layers and you can work faster.

## Step 4:

Print your pictures. You can open a word document and resize so that you can fit 3-5 images per page.

Tip: Use your phone's photo editor to brighten your phone images. Then airdrop them or email them to yourself and download them to your computer. Then open in word!

## Step 5:

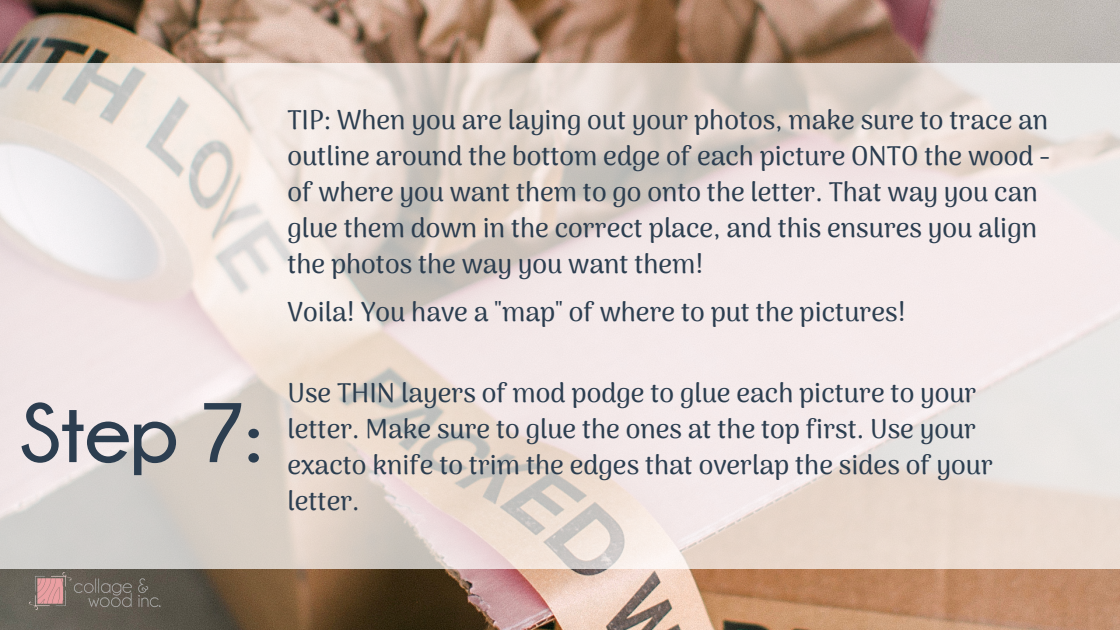
Prep Your Pictures. I learned the hard way that using mod podge on my pictures BEFORE handling them works best. The mod podge gives them a little extra strength and stability PLUS you don't have to worry about smearing ink or damaging the photos as you move them around.

TIP: Use thin layers and try not to "over-wet" the papers.

## Step 6:

Cut Out Your Photos and Arrange. This step always takes me the longest. When I first began making collages, I just laid them out as I went. (And received great feedback!)





TIP: When you are laying out your photos, make sure to trace an outline around the bottom edge of each picture ONTO the wood - of where you want them to go onto the letter. That way you can glue them down in the correct place, and this ensures you align the photos the way you want them!

Voila! You have a "map" of where to put the pictures!

## Step 7:

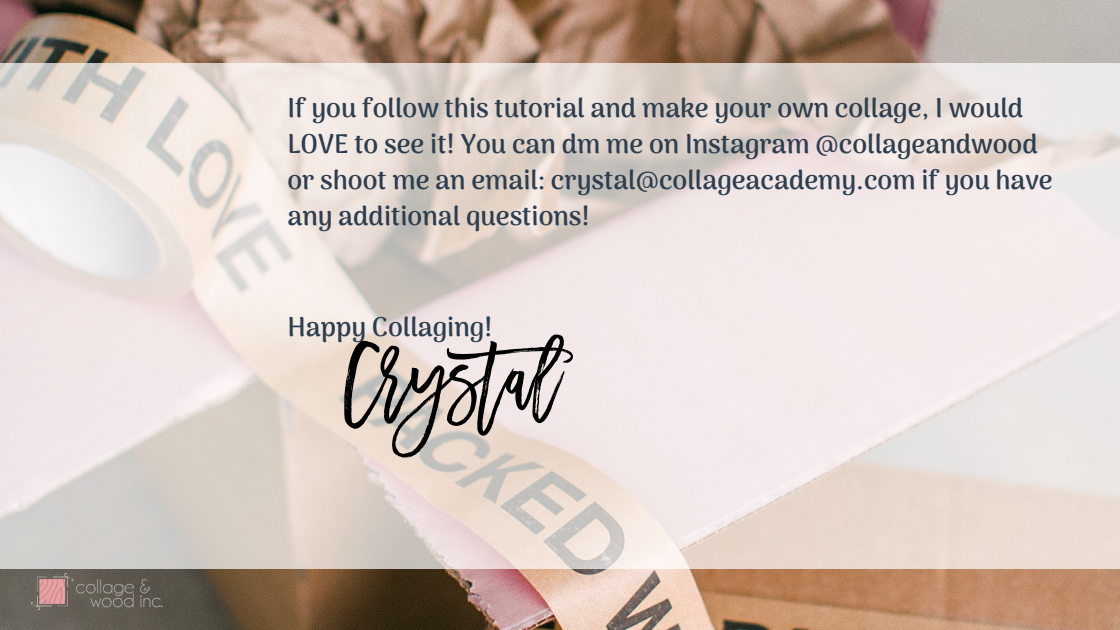
Use THIN layers of mod podge to glue each picture to your letter. Make sure to glue the ones at the top first. Use your exacto knife to trim the edges that overlap the sides of your letter.

## Step 8:

Cover all glued photos with thin layers of mod podge. Another important attribute about mod podge that I've learned is that is very forgiving! To maximize this, use THIN layers and let each application dry for about 3-5 minutes and then apply another thin coat. Three coats minimum have yielded the best results for me. With mod podge, less is more - but the greater the buildup of layers, the better the effect. It will really start to look like a puzzle masterpiece!

## Step 9:

Let your design dry and give it as a thoughtful gift or display proudly in your home! If gift wrapping, wrap in cellophane - but BEWARE: do NOT use bubble wrap directly on the collage - it will indent your decoupage finish!

The background is a collage featuring a roll of yellow tape with the words "WITH LOVE" and "CHECKED" printed on it. There are also pieces of brown crinkled paper and a light pink card.

If you follow this tutorial and make your own collage, I would LOVE to see it! You can dm me on Instagram @collageandwood or shoot me an email: [crystal@collageacademy.com](mailto:crystal@collageacademy.com) if you have any additional questions!

Happy Collaging!

*Crystal*

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