

Teachers' Gifts

Beaded and embellished,
under-a-dollar,
back-to-school treats

By
The Discount Diva



Perhaps you're like me: there are times when you want to do something more than sending a card, but less than spending a fortune. I love surprising people with little gifts, but my budget isn't always prepared for it.

This is where handmade gifts fit in perfectly. It IS the thought that counts, but giving a gift that looks expensive is nice too. Whenever I want something that looks like it came from a specialty boutique, I ask, "What can I embellish with Kreinik beads, tape and threads?"

Start with items under \$1

With a group of my teacher-friends heading back to the classroom this month, I wanted to give them back-to-school treats. Needing 10 gifts, I limited myself to school supplies that were under \$1. I'd take them home and embellish each uniquely and lavishly with Diamond Beadlets® and Kreinik's colorful metallic threads, thus transforming the stock supplies into personalized presents.

Wal-Mart had a bounty: I bought pencils, pens, blank books, glue, and binder pockets (great organizers) for less than \$1 each. Check out the "Before" picture of some items, shown above. Now let me show you how easy it is to transform these plain objects.

Blank books

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- PURCHASED BLANK BOOKS
- SHEET OF TREASURE TAPE™ RED-LINER DOUBLE-STICK TAPE
- DIAMOND BEADLETS®
- MRS. K'S DIMENSIONAL THREADS, #12 BRAID, IN COLORS TO MATCH YOUR PROJECT
- WAX PAPER, SCISSORS, PAN OR TRAY

I picked blank books with cover designs that were colorful and had motifs I could easily tape over and trace with threads.

1 Using wax paper placed on top of your book cover, trace the area you want to embellish. Cut out this shape, and attach it with a small piece of household tape to the top of the red-liner double-stick Treasure Tape™ sheet (this just helps it stay with the red liner tape while you're cutting). Cut out the shape following the wax-paper pattern.

2 Remove the white backing and lay the cut piece of Treasure Tape™ over your area to embellish. Peel off the red liner to expose sticky tape.

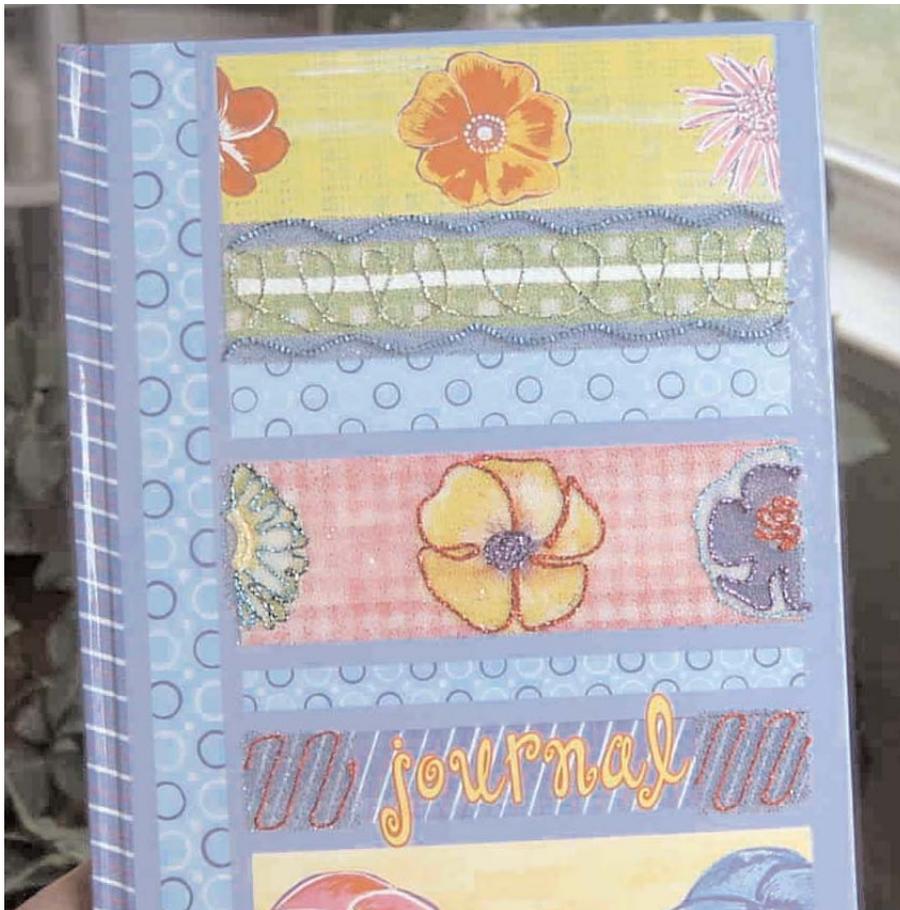




3 In this sample, I laid Mrs. K's #12 Braid in 005 Black along the bottom of the purse image, following the squiggly lines, and around the border of the purse. Then I used 002HL Gold Hi Lustre to trace the handles. Press the thread as you go, making sure it adheres to the tape. Continue embellishing as you'd like with Mrs. K's Dimensional Threads.

4 Lay the book in a pan or tray, then cover with Diamond Beadlets®. Swirl your fingertips on the tape area to make sure it's covered with beads.

5 Remove from the pan and tap the side of your book to dislodge any loose beads.



Another example

Here's another blank book embellished with Kreinik beads, tape and Mrs. K's thread.

MATERIALS USED:

- FIRST BAR: Kreinik Facets™ in light blue, 1/8" Ribbon in 100 white, #12 braid 045 confetti gold, 1-inch Treasure Tape™ red-liner double-stick tape, Diamond Beadlets®

- SECOND BAR: #12 braid in 003 red, 012 purple, 091 star yellow, 029 turquoise, sheet of Treasure Tape™ cut to size, Diamond Beadlets®

- THIRD BAR: #12 braid in 003 red, 1-inch Treasure Tape™, Diamond Beadlets®



Binder Pouches

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- PURCHASED BINDER POUCHES
- CIRCLE OR HEART SHEETS OF TREASURE TAPE™, RED-LINER DOUBLE-STICK TAPE
- DIAMOND BEADLETS®
- MRS. K'S DIMENSIONAL THREADS, #12 BRAID AND 1/16" RIBBON, TO MATCH YOUR PROJECT
- SCISSORS, PAN OR TRAY

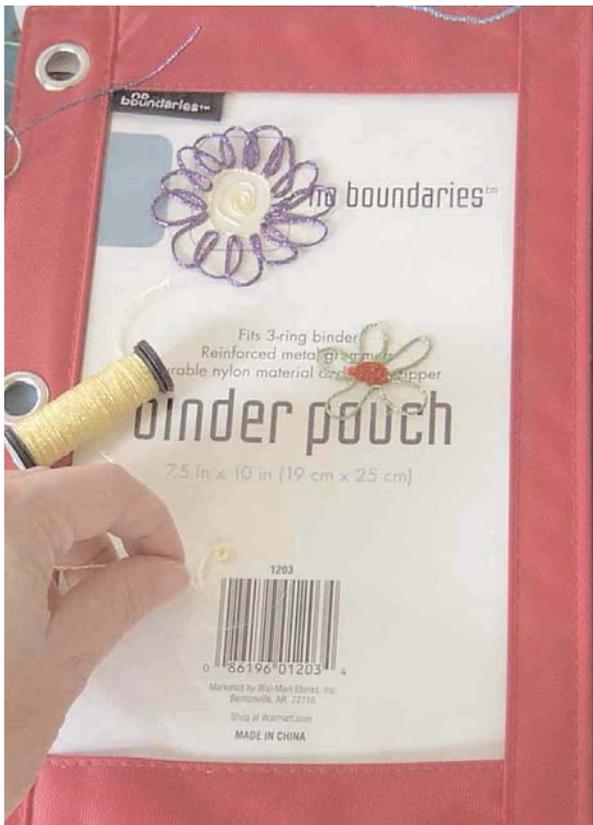
1 Remove Treasure Tape™ shapes from the sheet and place randomly on the binder pouch surface. Circles were used in my sample.

2 Working one shape at a time, remove red liner and begin to decorate with Mrs. K's Threads. I like to make flowers with the circle shapes: start by winding a center with one color of #12 Braid, then doing the petals with another color in the 1/16" Ribbon.

3 When thread decorating is complete on all of your circles, place the pouch face up in a pan or tray, and pour Diamond Beadlets® on top. Swirl fingertips over tape areas to make sure they are fully covered with beads.

4 Remove the pouch and tap to dislodge any loose beads.

5 Admire and enjoy!



For more teacher-themed gifts, you can embellish pens, rulers, calculators, binders, and so much more. Make a visit to your local discount store and look for items under \$1. Then buy the beads, tape, and thread from www.kreinik.com and see how elegantly you can transform your purchases. You'll have fun too!



Kreinik Consumer Information: 1-800-537-2166
Order online at www.kreinik.com