

IMAGINATIVE IDEAS FOR INSPIRED LIVING

Somerset **Life**™

MARYJANE BUTTERS'

Perfect Picnic

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HANDCRAFTED CANDLES

For the *Season*

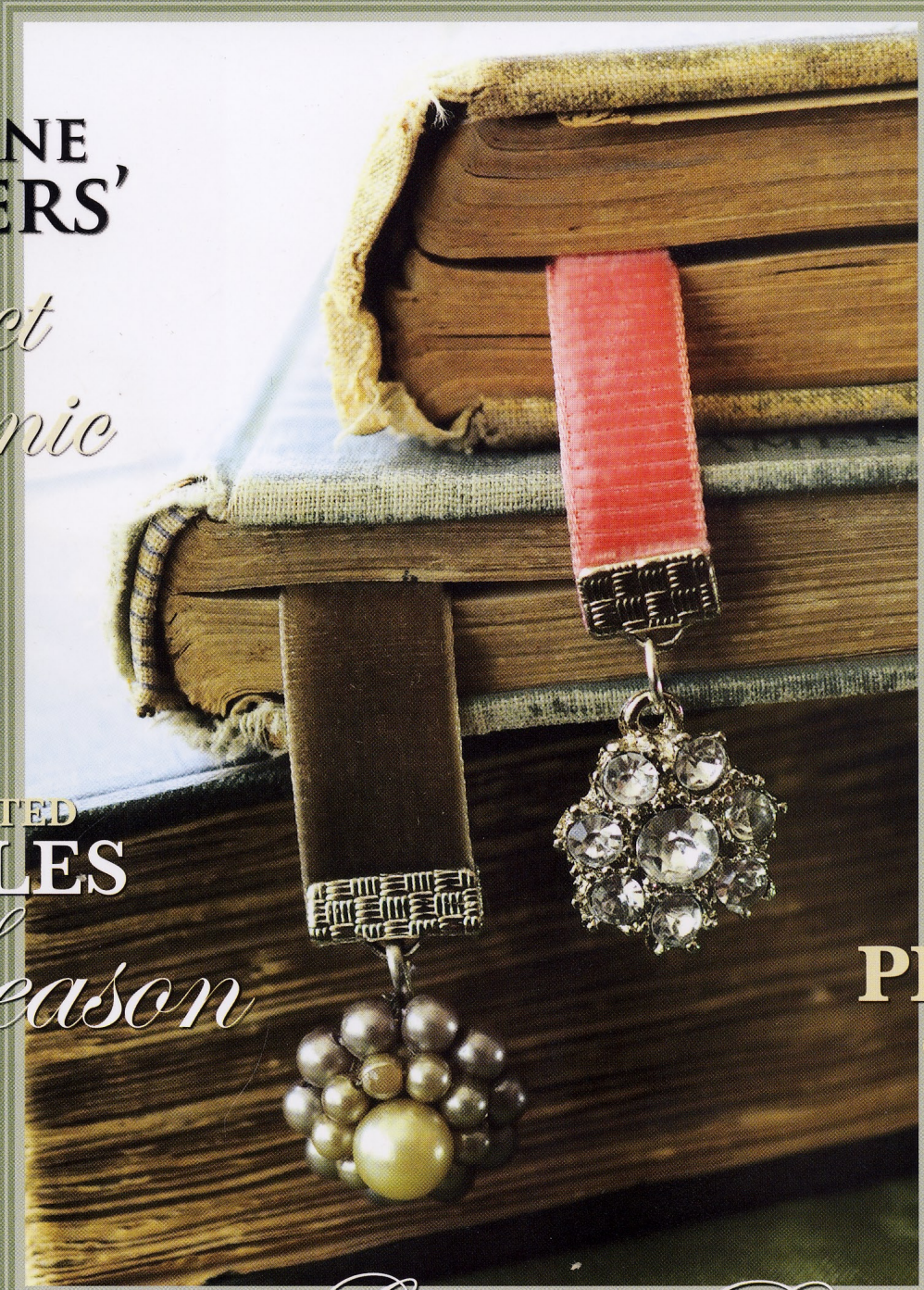
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French-Inspired Stamped Ribbons

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PRETTY & Petite PUMPKINS

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Gifts for the Reader:
BEJWELED BOOKMARKS

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OCT/NOV/DEC 2009 \$14.99 US • \$15.99 CAN



Bejeweled BOOKMARKS

by Andrea Singarella

Word-By-Word

One day while relaxing and reading a book on the sofa, I took a break and found myself reaching for a used dryer sheet from a nearby basket of laundry. I needed a bookmark, and this was the only thing I could find nearby. How sad, I thought, that such a beautiful book should have an ugly old dryer sheet tucked inside its pages. Suddenly inspired, I headed to my craft room to create some pretty bookmarks.

Books are such magical things, aren't they? Whether it's an incredible work of fiction that transports us to another place or a reference guide teaching how to crochet, books remind us to slow down. We're forced to, actually, as we read word-by-word, page-by-page. We anxiously turn the page to see what lies ahead. Our cherished books deserve a little something special to mark the page.

Functional & Pretty

In the craft room, I began digging through baskets of ribbons, and finally settled on the velvets, as I almost always do. This project was inspired by the ribbon bookmarks that sometimes come attached inside cookbooks or journals. I thought that using ribbon to mark a page would not only be functional but also pretty. Upon gathering a collection of favorite ribbon colors, I placed them out on the table like stripes of candy, thinking what to do next. I envisioned a charm or jewel dangling from the end of the ribbon but didn't know exactly how to make that work. Then it occurred to me to use the same ribbon clasps that I sometimes use in my jewelry designs. You're not going to believe how simple this is. Got five minutes and a little creativity? Come on, I'll tell you how ...






A Ribbon You Love

First, choose a ribbon you love, and cut it to the desired length. You may prefer your bookmark to dangle a few inches out of the top and bottom of the pages, or you may prefer to cut it shorter, so only the charms are visible when the book is closed. (Obviously, this also depends on the size of your book.)

Next, place a ribbon clamp on each cut end of your ribbon, using jewelry pliers to tightly secure them in place. The ribbon clamps can be purchased at www.jewelrystupply.com and are available in several different widths in both gold and silver. Make sure your ribbon width matches the width of the clamp. Then attach a jump ring to the loop on each ribbon clamp.

The fun part comes next. Your bookmark needs a little something to dangle from the ends. Really, anything that can be attached to a jump ring is an option here. Consider vintage earrings, charms, buttons, religious medals or Milagros. Attach your chosen trinket and admire your new bookmark.

This little project couldn't be any simpler, but it can be addictive. In no time at all, I had a dozen of these bookmarks sitting on my worktable, just waiting for a book to hide inside. Pretty and useful. Form meets function. Don't you love when that happens? 

Andrea Singarella is proprietor of One Hundred Wishes. To learn more, visit www.onehundredwishes.com or www.velvetstrawberries.typepad.com.

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