



Joomchi

(felted mulberry paper)

VIDEO PASSWORD: **JOOMCHI**



Where sections in the text are marked with * it means that the point being discussed is explained in greater detail on the accompanying video.

You can access the video via the website **www.untangledthreads.co.uk**

The video is password protected and is only available to individuals who have purchased the kit. Please do NOT share the password.

With this Kit you will:

- Learn about the unique properties of mulberry paper.
- Make several samples of layered and felted mulberry paper.
- Stitch into the felted paper to give added softness and contrast of texture.

Remember to read ALL of the instructions before starting.



www.untangledthreads.co.uk

VIDEO PASSWORD: JOOMCHI

Contents: *Please check that you have all of the items (Email: untangledthreads@aol.com if you have any items missing).*

5 sheets of Thai mulberry paper (A5)
2 skeins of Viscose/Silk thread
1/2" paintbrush
Embroidery needle (No 5)
2 pieces calico 12cm x 18cm
Greaseproof paper
Bubble wrap

What is Joomchi?

Joomchi is a 500 year old Korean paper-making technique that uses water to seal several layers of thin, handmade mulberry papers (Hanji) together to form a single, strong sheet. A wonderful source of inspiration is the website of Joomchi Artist - Jiyoung Chung.



www.jiyoungchung.com

The paper which is traditionally used (Hanji) is relatively expensive and quiet difficult to source in UK, whereas Thai mulberry paper is readily available from craft shops and comes in a huge range of colours. Thai mulberry paper IS MUCH MORE FRAGILE than original Hanji, and it is very easy to overwork and tear it - so you will need to be GENTLE.

Thai mulberry paper is sometimes called 'silk' paper, but this is a misnomer. It is made from the pulp of mulberry leaves, (which is what silkworms feed on!). Having said that, you might sometimes find it with silk fibres laid into the surface.

I have developed my own fairly fool-proof method of making Joomchi with Thai paper, combining wool felting and joomchi techniques. Once felted and dried, the paper becomes strong and flexible, and can be stitched like a soft fabric. The process of Joomchi uses ONLY WATER. There is no glue or other fixative used.

GETTING THE WORKSPACE READY

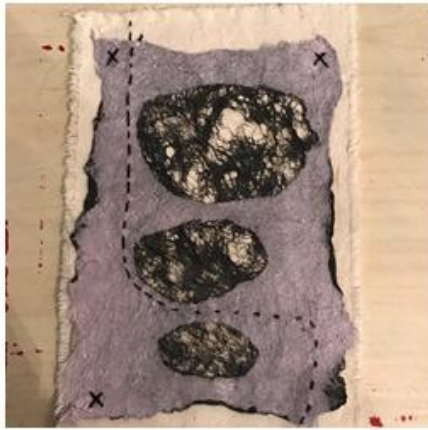
- You will only need a small amount of water for this process (a cup or a glassful), but I do suggest that you put a waterproof covering over your surface before you start.
- You may want access to an iron and ironing pad if you are impatient about drying!
- You will also need a thin watercolour paintbrush to help with tearing the paper. (see below)

TEARING MULBERRY PAPER

You *can* tear dry mulberry paper, but because of the long fibres in its construction it is very difficult to get it to tear in the direction you want it to. THE TRICK is to wet the paper along the line you wish to tear*



SAMPLE 1: SIMPLE 2 LAYER JOOMCHI WITH HOLES



1. Take 2 pieces of mulberry paper. Cut or tear some holes into ONE of the sheets. The holes can be placed wherever you like. (Keep the pieces of mulberry paper you have removed for sample 2.)
2. Lay the SECOND sheet of mulberry paper onto the bubble wrap (bubble side up), and using the paintbrush provided, wet the sheet of paper all over. You will see where the water has been absorbed because the colour of the paper will darken considerably.
3. Carefully turn the paper over.* Repeat on the other side to ensure that the water has fully penetrated the paper.
4. Now, lay the FIRST sheet (with holes) on top of the wet sheet of paper.
5. Add more water to the surface using the brush, taking care not to crease the top layer.
6. Fold the bubble wrap in half over the top of your paper layers (like a sandwich with bubbles towards the paper)*
7. Using your fingertips, rub/massage the bubble wrap*
8. Turn it over and repeat on the other side.*
9. Roll the bubble wrap and paper into a tube and continue to massage (gently). After about 30 secs, unroll your tube and take a look at the paper. You should find that it has begun to form into one layer.
10. It is now up to you how much you want to massage the paper. You can put more emphasis on certain areas to make the paper disintegrate at different speeds.
11. Add more water as necessary.
12. *I would recommend only massaging the paper inside the bubble wrap until you are more familiar with its properties.*

13. *Authentic Hanji paper is much more robust and the bubble wrap is my own development to enable the felting of the more tissue-like Thai mulberry paper.*
14. When you are happy with the result, you need to dry the paper. You can either do this by hanging it up and leaving it, or you can iron it dry. You MUST use layers of greaseproof paper to protect the iron and the ironing pad! Dye will come out of the wet mulberry paper!



You can slow stitch onto your joomchi directly, or place it onto the calico and stitch through. Try doing a sample of both? You will find that the paper becomes supple and soft as you stitch it. Remember to focus on the changing texture and on the beautiful contrast of the shiny viscose/silk thread against the matt paper.

SAMPLE 2: Multi Layered Collage



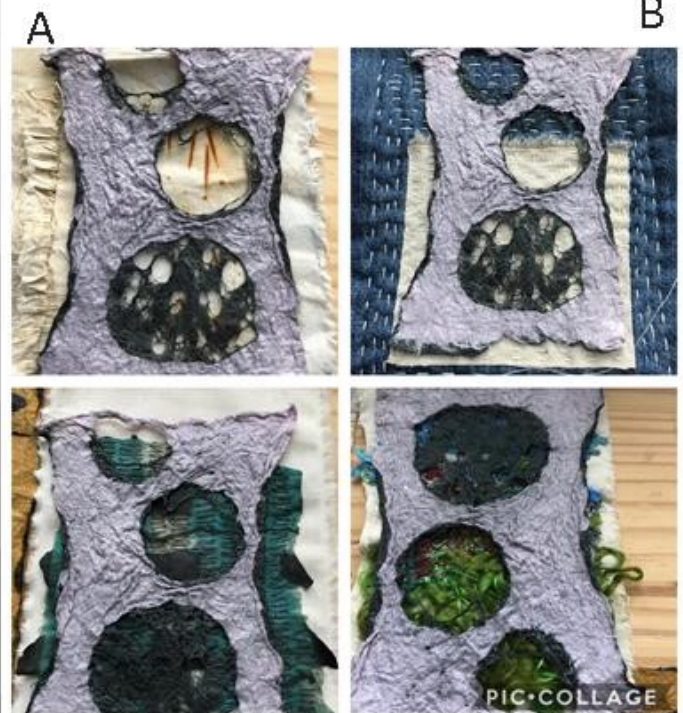
It is possible to build up layers of Joomchi in different ways. Firstly, if you have a piece of simple two layered Joomchi you can felt that again, from wet or dry, onto a new layer of paper. Simply repeat the process in sample 1, using the already layered paper as if it were a single piece of paper.

You can place several layers of paper to form a design from the start. Remember to **WET BETWEEN** each layer. Then massage in the bubble wrap as before. The areas which have fewer layers will begin to disintegrate first.

You can stitch layers of Joomchi together, either onto more Joomchi, or onto a backing fabric.

The example below shows the same piece of Joomchi laid on top of: a) rust stained fabric, b) quilted sashiko, c) stitched joomchi and d) textural fabric using water soluble film. This technique is so versatile, the only limit is your imagination.

Please note: Joomchi is paper, even though it feels and sews like fabric. **DO NOT USE YOUR BEST FABRIC SCISSORS** on Joomchi., and be aware that sewing needles will blunt much quicker, particularly machine needles.



C

HAVE FUN

D

and let me see your results!!