Making a Book Using Shutterfly

by Valerie Interligi

1-Make an account so you can easily sign in & out and save work (indefinitely till you can return to it).There is no hurry to finish, and I strongly suggest that you take your time and review your choices as you go to ensure that your finished product will be exactly what you envisioned it to be.

2-Choose "Custom Path", or "Simple Path"which does it for you. For this demo we will be choosing the Custom Path.

3-Choose the Style, size, and cover type.

*At this point I need to tell you that ANYTHING can be changed at any time even after Saving. To Save, just keeps you from losing your work, it does not make it permanent!!

4-Save As, and give it a title. Whenever you open up your Shutterfly, it will be there in your "Projects".

5-Now that you have chosen the book to make, you need to load your images into the picture strip.

6-Now it's time to begin creating your covers and pages. Do one page at a time by 1st placing your images, frames and stickers for personalization and finishing touches and then your text. This order works for me.

7-When 1st clicking on a page, you might find a layout of boxes already there.Go to the bottom left side of the screen and click on Customize Page".Now you can click on any and all boxes and drag off the page to eliminate them. Now you should have a blank page to create.

8-You might want to select a background to start. On the left side of the screen, you will see a strip marked "backgrounds". It will only have 1 or a few there, but if you go to the bottom of that strip, you will see an option to click for more backgrounds. A window will open with pages and pages of backgrounds. You click on any that you might like to use, and they will all be added to your list for use only with this book. Most of these are free, but some are for a small fee. There are plenty to chose from that are free though.

9-At the bottom of the screen, you should see a picture strip, and a page strip. The picture strip has all the images you chose to put in the book, and the page strip has all the page layouts already done and blanks left to do. Drag the image onto the page and it will appear in a box with handles to resize and move for placement. As moving, you will see guidelines for centering as well as pop-up boxes to stop you from being too close to an edge. If you don't like the image here, just drag it off the page and it will return to the picture strip.If you want to use an image as the "Background", the background page strip must be highlighted, then at the bottom of that strip, you click on the option to "Use picture as background".

10-After your images are on the page, you can add frames around them. There is a strip on the left labeled "Embellishments", which has frames and stickers. There will be only a few as was with the backgrounds. At the bottom of those options, you will see an option to click on for "More" of these. A window will open with pages of these to chose also. Just click on a bunch that look good and they will be added to your lists for use. Framing the images gives them a nice finished look.

Also, if you would like to overlap a couple of images, place them overlapping a little bit, then click on "layer" on top left. The dropdown menu will give you the option of which one you want to be "in front" or "behind" the other. The image that is highlighted will be the one that is being directed.

If you want images in alignment, the site brings up guidelines that are very helpful with that. As you move them around, you will see the guidelines pop up.

11-Last thing to add is text. In the upper right corner you can click "to add a text box" or click inside an existing one. The box has handles so you can size them to suit your needs, and to move for exact placement .

12- At any time, you can "preview" all the work to see how it flows.

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A couple of things I make a habit of doing: I save each page as I go, in case the computer decides to crash or just give me problems!!!! You don't want to lose work you have put time into!! And I keep reviewing what I've done the next day with a fresh mind. When you sit for a long time doing this (and it gets addictive, that you will do that), you get tired and miss mistakes. I always come back to it with a fresh mind, and I usually find something I don't love and would like to change for the better.

After all the time it takes to create this beautiful book, you want to be proud of it and make it the best it can be!!

Any questions, feel free to e-mail me, Valuch@aol.com

HAPPY CREATING!!!