

CLEANING UP YOUR KITCHEN DISASTER

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The cardinal rule of cooking is that your kitchen must be clean but the times when you crack an egg in a mug of milk and add a dollop of nutella, generous spoonfuls of sugar and put it in your microwave oven because you are trying to be creative or are super hungry, expect a kitchen disaster, a very messy one.

My worst kitchen disaster took place at 2 in the morning. No surprise. I had just watched a video on how to make a mug cake. Though I had successfully made mug cakes several times before, this recipe was a little different. It was in fact a cross between a mug cake and a lava cake. The cake was supposed to be an egg-less one and the recipe had used chocolate more than usual. So, instead of sitting there and salivating, I decided to try my hands at it.

The egg-less mixture was dry and lumpy. It was far from a smooth batter and I had put chunks of chocolates



before completely melting them as stated in the recipe. I put the mixture in the microwave for 2 minutes and took it out to check. The pieces of chocolate were still solid and the mix surely had not cooked. I put it in for another minute and just when around 45 seconds were up, I smelled something ghastly. I saw steam coming out from the inside of the closed oven door. I quickly switched it off and tried to open it but the gooey and



sticky mess had flooded the insides of my oven and had almost sealed the door. I ran and opened all the doors and windows and switched on the exhaust fan. My parents were awake by then and the smell had taken over the entire house.

My Mom somehow managed to open the oven door. A look on the inside filled me with horror. The batter was burnt black and it steamed like it was water over a hundred degrees. I took out the

mug and it had bubbles. I had boiled a cake mixture, WOW and when I say this, trust me, there's perhaps nothing in your house that smells worse than burnt chocolate.

I was out of wits but thank God for in-house superheroes known as mothers. The oven was cooled down first. Then a mix of diluted dishwashing liquid was applied to clean the inside. Make sure your oven is completely cool and the switches turned off before you use water to clean it. The mug too was dipped in hot water and after hours of softening the hard and sticky substance, it finally could be scraped off.

When you cook, you must feel like a warrior. You can't win the battle without causing a bit of havoc. So, go ahead and take over your kitchen. Just Google a few safety tips beforehand or ask your mom. She knows everything.

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TRASH TO TREASURE
BY LABIBA MUSTABINA

Revamping Notebooks

Going back to school is the ride where halfway through we're all going down the same old rabbit-hole, begging for a break. For some of us, the only thing that makes this ride easier is being tricked into believing that beautiful notebooks fix everything. Thereby, presenting a few styles to try out for customised notebooks:

YOUR NOTEBOOK PERSONALITY

This is the most basic way to go about refurbishing your everyday notebook. Use A4 sized white paper cut to size and glued to each side of the notebooks' covers to wipe off any sign of the shabby old cover. Then it's a matter of simply printing out patterns and prints that appeal to you and speak of your personality. Here are a few but you can go crazy with mix and match and create your own kind:

The traveller: If wanderlust is your middle name, how about having a set of notebooks that each pertain to one country? Print out vintage postcards belonging to your favourite places for the covers of your

notebook along with your favourite words/quotes (perhaps in native language). If you happen to have stamps from these countries, feel free to adorn your notebook with them to complete the look.

The artist: If you're crazy about art, putting prints of the paintings by your favourite



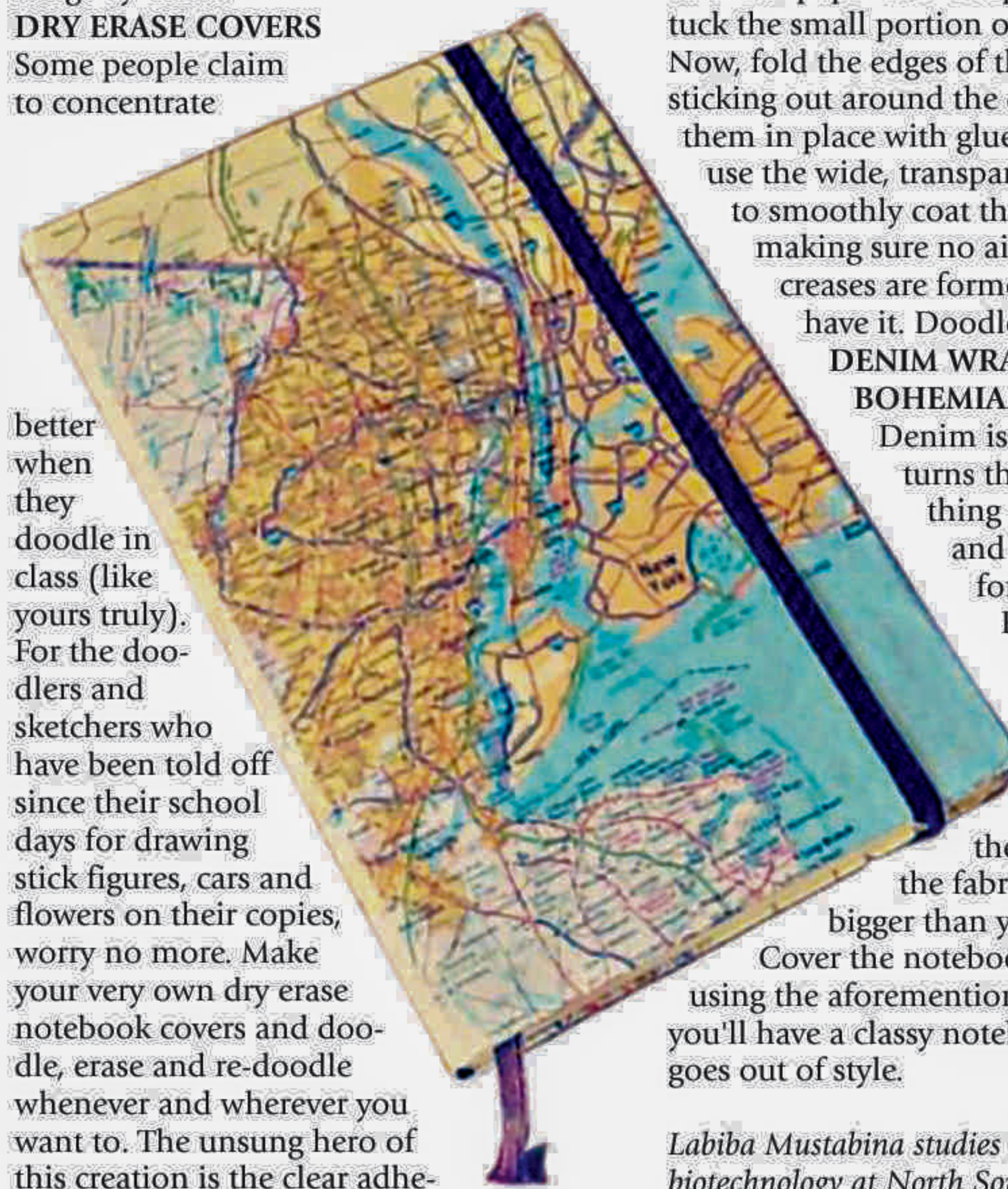
artists on the notebook covers will be a masterpiece in itself. Before you know it, you'll be able to carry your favourite paintings around in your backpack which will be no less than an art museum.

The musician: Dear music fanatics, this is your chance to show off your favourite musical maestros on the covers of your notebook. The front cover of the notebook could be dedicated to an album cover or the picture of your favourite

singer/musician/band. Scribble out your most favourite lyrics from their songs onto the covers and the back cover could be dedicated to a playlist of your favourite songs by them.

DRY ERASE COVERS
Some people claim to concentrate

better when they doodle in class (like yours truly). For the doodlers and sketchers who have been told off since their school days for drawing stick figures, cars and flowers on their copies, worry no more. Make your very own dry erase notebook covers and doodle, erase and re-doodle whenever and wherever you want to. The unsung hero of this creation is the clear adhesive tape or as we call it – scotch tape. To give your notebook a genuine white



board look, cover it with calendar paper. To do this, open your notebook and cut out calendar paper 1 inch bigger than the notebook. Cut 2 slits at the middle of the calendar paper at the top and bottom and tuck the small portion of paper inside. Now, fold the edges of the calendar paper sticking out around the covers and seal them in place with glue or staples. Now use the wide, transparent scotch tapes to smoothly coat the calendar paper, making sure no air bubbles or creases are formed and there you have it. Doodle your heart away.

DENIM WRAPPED

BOHEMIAN NOTEBOOK

Denim is something that turns the look of anything up several notches and will do the same for your notebook. For this all you need is old, worn out jeans (the thinner the better). Cut out the legs of the jeans and lay out the fabric to cut it 1 inch bigger than your notebook.

Cover the notebook with denim using the aforementioned steps and you'll have a classy notebook that never goes out of style.

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