

Philofaxy *2009*

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Contents

1	2009	9
1.1	January	9
	New Year, New Filofax (2009-01-05 18:58) - Nan	9
	Free for All Friday No. 25 (2009-01-09 09:03) - Nan	11
1.2	February	21
	Inky's Here (2009-02-24 21:08) - Nan	21
	Free for All Friday No. 26 (2009-02-27 08:20) - Nan	24
1.3	March	25
	Menstrual Calendar Insert (2009-03-05 18:52) - Nan	25
	Daylight Saving Time 2009 (2009-03-08 11:00) - Nan	26
	More Miquelruis (2009-03-11 18:43) - Nan	27
	Free for All Friday No. 27 (2009-03-14 04:41) - Nan	28
	Filofax Collection (2009-03-15 19:35) - Nan	28
	Free for All Friday No. 28 (2009-03-20 15:47) - Nan	29
	Weekend Update (2009-03-21 12:11) - Nan	30
	Travellers Checklist in Detail (2009-03-25 21:50) - Nan	31
	Free for All Friday No. 29 (2009-03-27 12:46) - Nan	33
	More Travellers Tales (2009-03-27 12:57) - Nan	34
1.4	April	35
	Free for All Friday No. 30 (2009-04-03 16:57) - Nan	35
	Miscellaneous (2009-04-04 17:18) - Nan	36
	Memo-ries (2009-04-12 18:20) - Nan	39
	Format Crisis (2009-04-15 19:09) - Nan	41
	Free for All Friday No. 31 (2009-04-17 15:50) - Nan	43
	Customer Record (2009-04-19 21:30) - Nan	44
	Customer Record for Today (2009-04-21 21:58) - Nan	45
1.5	May	45
	Free for All Friday No. 32 (2009-05-01 07:16) - Nan	45
	Inky's Not Going Anywhere (2009-05-15 08:41) - Nan	51
	Free for All Friday No. 33 (2009-05-15 08:51) - Nan	52

	Meetings and Projects (2009-05-16 15:23) - Nan	53
	Holiday Weekend (2009-05-22 16:58) - Nan	54
	Free for All Friday No. 34 (2009-05-29 14:14) - Nan	56
1.6	June	61
	Filo Runner (2009-06-11 14:30) - Nan	61
	Free for All Friday No. 35 (2009-06-12 10:43) - Nan	61
	Creating Top Tabs (2009-06-14 22:35) - Nan	64
	Special Filofax Offers (2009-06-15 19:09) - Nan	66
	More Tab Tips (2009-06-17 10:33) - Nan	66
	Whatever Happened To... (2009-06-21 20:16) - Nan	68
	Welcome Steve (2009-06-23 20:04) - Nan	68
	Filofax on eBay, it pays to be patient (2009-06-25 06:00) - Steve	70
	Free for All Friday No. 36 (2009-06-26 00:09) - Nan	71
	Welcome Laurie (2009-06-29 19:28) - Nan	72
	Is it too early to buy next year's diary refill? (2009-06-30 17:39) - Steve	72
1.7	July	74
	Alternative Filofax Uses (2009-07-01 05:05) - Laurie	74
	The Advanced Day Planner User's Guide (2009-07-04 05:00) - Steve	76
	Filofax – The Missing Manual (2009-07-07 06:00) - Steve	77
	New Organisers (2009-07-09 07:30) - Steve	79
	Free for All Friday No. 37 (2009-07-11 13:08) - Nan	80
	Punching It Up (2009-07-13 15:43) - Nan	81
	Filofax News - New Cherry Organisers (2009-07-16 10:58) - Steve	82
	Lifestyle Packs (2009-07-16 16:50) - Steve	83
	Tweet Tweet (2009-07-17 10:37) - Nan	85
	Filo Adventures in Scotland (2009-07-19 11:03) - Laurie	86
	Men and Sheds (2009-07-20 04:47) - Steve	87
	Cleaning Out the Punch (2009-07-20 21:52) - Nan	89
	Family Organizer Pack (2009-07-21 05:47) - Laurie	89
	Philofaxy Now on Twitter! (2009-07-21 07:27) - Nan	92
	Don't Leave Home Without It (2009-07-22 08:43) - Nan	92
	Filofax - Pens (2009-07-23 07:04) - Steve	93
	New Organiser - Scanda (2009-07-24 05:19) - Steve	96
	Two Great Finds (2009-07-24 06:48) - Laurie	97
	Free for All Friday No. 38 (2009-07-24 09:01) - Nan	98
	It's That Time Of Year Again!! (2009-07-25 03:59) - Laurie	100
	From the web - Monday 27th July (2009-07-27 17:17) - Steve	102
	Post Holiday Planning (2009-07-28 03:03) - Steve	102

	Financial Filofax (2009-07-29 03:00) - Laurie	102
	Telephone Message Page (2009-07-30 13:13) - Steve	104
1.8	August	105
	Philofaxy Flickr Group (2009-08-01 10:33) - Steve	105
	Philofaxy - New Look (2009-08-02 09:46) - Steve	106
	Filofax Compatible: Morning Glory (2009-08-03 20:32) - Nan	107
	How do you use your Filofax in your job or at home. (2009-08-03 22:30) - Steve	108
	Managing To Dos (2009-08-05 03:43) - Laurie	113
	The Postman Always Rings Twice (2009-08-05 18:29) - Steve	115
	Free for All Friday No. 39 (2009-08-07 07:37) - Nan	116
	Organiser Stickers (2009-08-08 05:04) - Steve	118
	The internet's conscientious objectors (2009-08-09 12:00) - Steve	119
	Subscribing to Philofaxy (2009-08-09 12:32) - Nan	120
	As Seen In... (2009-08-10 07:31) - Laurie	120
	From the Web - Monday 10th August (2009-08-10 21:44) - Steve	121
	Week + Notes - Days (2009-08-12 02:30) - Laurie	122
	New Domino! (2009-08-14 03:01) - Laurie	123
	Poll - How much do you spend on Filofax items each year (2009-08-14 11:54) - Steve	124
	Up to 60% off Filofax at WH Smiths (UK) (2009-08-16 18:42) - Steve	125
	Middle Monday of the Month - Free For All....No 40 (2009-08-17 07:22) - Steve	125
	Rapesco Diary Punch 66-P (2009-08-18 15:36) - Steve	126
	Free For All Friday: Confession Time (2009-08-21 02:10) - Laurie	127
	www.philofaxy.com (2009-08-23 03:32) - Steve	129
	Sex and the City Planner (2009-08-23 16:47) - Nan	129
	From the Web - Monday 24th August (2009-08-24 17:25) - Steve	132
	Offer on A4 Folders (2009-08-28 04:54) - Steve	133
	Free for All Friday No. 41 (2009-08-28 07:29) - Nan	133
	Poll Result - How much do you spend on Filofax each year? (2009-08-30 01:20) - Steve	134
	Filofax sighting: Russian Dolls (2009-08-31 08:01) - Laurie	134
1.9	September	135
	Free For All Friday No. 42 (2009-09-04 01:19) - Steve	135
	Recycling - FeuerWear Perry Personal Organiser (2009-09-04 17:01) - Steve	136
	From the Web - Monday 7 September 2009 (2009-09-07 17:26) - Steve	137
	What makes a truly great diary? (2009-09-08 14:50) - Steve	138
	Free For All Friday 43 (2009-09-11 03:34) - Laurie	139
	Filofax is everywhere.... (2009-09-15 15:26) - Steve	139
	Filofax Time Capsules (2009-09-17 10:31) - Laurie	140
	Free for All Friday No. 44 (2009-09-18 00:01) - Nan	142

Sara's Creations (2009-09-19 20:06) - Nan	142
Happy Equinox! (2009-09-22 01:28) - Laurie	143
New Time, New Channel (2009-09-23 21:39) - Nan	144
USA Family Organizer available (2009-09-24 02:21) - Laurie	145
Dodo Stickers! (2009-09-24 08:21) - Laurie	145
Free For All Friday No. 45 (2009-09-25 00:01) - Steve	146
New Year's Resolutions! (2009-09-28 02:15) - Laurie	147
1.10 October	148
Free For All Friday No. 46 (2009-10-02 02:52) - Laurie	148
Exclusive Preview - Filofax Beauty Gift Box Organiser [Updated] (2009-10-03 00:00) - Steve	150
Is it time to put your Filofax on a diet? (2009-10-06 14:31) - Steve	153
Filofax UK - Questions and Answers (2009-10-07 10:00) - Steve	154
Free For All Friday No. 47 (2009-10-09 11:52) - Steve	157
Newest addition! (2009-10-10 09:50) - Laurie	158
Slimline (2009-10-10 12:00) - Steve	158
And the Winner Is..... (2009-10-10 12:59) - Steve	160
New Poll - How many Filofax organisers do you own? (2009-10-10 17:34) - Steve	160
Craft Making and Filofax (2009-10-12 17:50) - Steve	161
Tell us your Filofax sightings! (2009-10-13 02:07) - Laurie	162
Where did I read this??? (2009-10-15 13:48) - Laurie	164
Free for All Friday No. 48 (2009-10-16 00:01) - Nan	165
Famous Filofax Users? (2009-10-17 06:20) - Steve	166
Poll result - How many Filofax organisers do you own? (2009-10-17 12:34) - Steve	167
Filofax Sizes (2009-10-18 05:04) - Steve	168
Using Separate Filofaxes: Work vs. Personal (2009-10-20 03:08) - Laurie	170
Calling the Dog (2009-10-21 16:47) - Laurie	173
Facebook (2009-10-22 17:51) - Steve	174
Free For All Friday No. 49 (2009-10-23 03:48) - Laurie	174
How green is your Filofax? (2009-10-24 07:00) - Steve	176
Roll Call: What's Your Format? (2009-10-26 08:05) - Laurie	177
Poll - What size Filofax Organisers do you own? (2009-10-26 15:34) - Steve	182
Filofax and Amateur Radio... (2009-10-28 15:39) - Steve	183
Filofax UK Adverts (2009-10-29 14:56) - Steve	184
Free For All Friday No. 50 (2009-10-30 01:00) - Steve	185
Beauty Gift Box - Price reduction... (2009-10-30 12:50) - Steve	188
Your Blogs? (2009-10-31 08:36) - Steve	188
1.11 November	189
Filofax Address Book Software (2009-11-01 14:02) - Steve	189

Diary vs. Planner: What Do You Call It? (2009-11-02 07:42) - Laurie	190
Poll Result - What size Filofax Organisers do you own? (2009-11-02 16:47) - Steve . . .	192
What do you write with? (2009-11-02 22:04) - Steve	193
Free for All Friday No. 51 (2009-11-05 18:30) - Nan	195
Goals and Tasks (2009-11-09 03:05) - Laurie	196
Personalised Filofax Refills (2009-11-09 17:18) - Steve	198
Filofax templates (2009-11-10 18:33) - Steve	200
Untidy and Cluttered Life... (2009-11-12 17:03) - Steve	201
Free For All Friday No. 52 (2009-11-13 00:02) - Laurie	202
Dreams Do Come True (2009-11-13 11:36) - Laurie	206
New Product Suggestions (2009-11-16 10:21) - Steve	207
Facebook - Update (2009-11-16 12:58) - Steve	210
Binder cover that folds back? (2009-11-17 02:25) - Laurie	211
One year ago on Philofaxy (2009-11-18 13:14) - Steve	212
Free For All Friday No. 53 (2009-11-20 00:02) - Steve	213
Philofaxy on BBC Radio 5 (2009-11-24 05:01) - Steve	214
Plannerisms blog (2009-11-24 14:57) - Laurie	215
Filofax Freecycle/Loan (2009-11-25 19:00) - Steve	216
Expanding Pens (2009-11-26 17:32) - Steve	217
Free for All Friday No. 54 (2009-11-27 00:10) - Nan	218
The Perfect Size? (2009-11-30 10:41) - Steve	219
Free shipping Filofax USA (2009-11-30 14:28) - Laurie	221
1.12 December	221
Huge discount on Dodo Pad A5 Filofax 2010 diary inserts! (2009-12-02 03:40) - Laurie .	221
Price reduction on Filofax Special Edition (2009-12-04 03:50) - Steve	222
Free For All Friday No. 55 (2009-12-04 03:53) - Laurie	223
Filofax UK - 20% off this weekend only (2009-12-04 11:36) - Steve	225
Filofax maps (2009-12-07 02:01) - Laurie	225
Magic Monday... (2009-12-09 17:27) - Steve	227
Filofax US big sale (2009-12-10 02:52) - Laurie	228
Busy Times & Creating Personal Size Pages (2009-12-10 17:02) - Steve	229
Free For All Friday No. 56 (2009-12-11 00:01) - Steve	231
Free For All Friday No. 57 (2009-12-18 06:27) - Steve	233
Fashion? (2009-12-18 17:59) - Steve	233
Filofax crunch time! (2009-12-23 05:33) - Laurie	236
Dynamic Templates (2009-12-23 15:31) - Steve	237
Filofax UK - Christmas 30% Discount Sale (2009-12-24 06:30) - Steve	238
Merry Christmas (2009-12-25 06:28) - Nan	238

Free For All Friday No. 58 (2009-12-25 07:00) - Laurie	239
New Years Resolutions? (2009-12-26 09:11) - Steve	240
Indexes? (2009-12-26 15:01) - Steve	241
3D Browsing! (2009-12-28 05:34) - Nan	242
The Life of Ideas (2009-12-30 13:35) - Nan	243
2009 a year in review... (2009-12-31 17:16) - Steve	244

Chapter 1

2009

1.1 January

New Year, New Filofax (2009-01-05 18:58) - Nan

Hard to believe that I haven't posted since before Christmas! But the holidays are now truly over, and I'm back to work, including blog work!

One of the things I did during my time away was to start using my new [1]chocolate Personal Finchley Filofax. I left the Personal Finsbury—a bright red thing—pretty much as it was and just copied any information I needed into the new organizer.

The new Filo has had an interesting effect on me, and much more of an impact than I could have imagined. The change of color to a soft brown cover with smooth cream paper makes me feel calm, quiet, and somehow more focused. It made me put aside my turquoise Pocket Finsbury, too, in favor of a small Moleskine diary for my fitness records. It has everything to do with the similarity in color of the cotton cream Filofax paper to the Moleskine paper. I've even abandoned my colorful [2]Miquelrius journals for my personal journaling. (I've brought them into work where I can use them as an adjunct to the A5 Filo I use for work. They may even encourage me to take more and better work notes.) Yes, I've gone back to using a large ruled Moleskine for journaling.

(But I won't post any Moleskine pictures here. That's just crossing a line.)

I also took the Filofax switch as an opportunity to simplify things. I only use 2 tabs, one for to-do pages (alphabetical by category: calls, errands, Philofaxy, etc.), and another with ruled cotton cream notepaper. I then use the A-Z tabs for both phone numbers and alphabetical lists. For example, my Christmas list will go behind "cd". I hand-copied the phone numbers I'll need onto the cotton cream address pages, which gave me the chance to clear out the ones I no longer use. It's amazing how few I really need to carry.

Here's to a great year of life and Filofaxing to everyone!

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3094739318/>

2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/2980226274/>

Miss Charlie (2009-01-06 03:19:00)

It's beautiful! Loved the rest of your photos too - did I notice some hole-punched postcards in there at all? I ask only because I have a couple I use as dividers, and they make fun little keepsakes. :)

Cotton cream's just wonderful, isn't it - if I do proceed with my DIY insert plans (commented the most recent Free for All Friday) then I'll miss that rich, creamy texture...

Claudia Volkman (2009-01-06 09:31:00)

You have inspired/tempered me! What hit me was you saying how calming the cream stock is... and I'm impressed with the simplicity of how you've set up your sections. I may be ordering the TEAL Finchley ... what a great color. I have a couple of questions: 1) How exactly do you set up your work Filofax? I'm in book publishing,

with many projects, and I also have two freelance endeavors I juggle. Do you only use your new personal Filo for personal stuff and keep the business tasks, projects, etc separate? 2) Do you use a basic GTD setup, or is yours a variation of it? Thanks for keeping the Philofaxy blog going - I am an avid reader!

Claudia

Anonymous (2009-01-08 00:26:00)

I just switched from a personal Hamilton (made in England) to a black mini finchley. I carried around so many empty notes sheets and old stuff. With the mini i got just what I need.

Silver_Elixir (2009-01-09 01:55:00)

Happy New Year Everyone!

Inky,I love your idea of using the A-Z tabs for list and the like and filing them alphabetically. I have just streamlined my planner down from 12 to 6 tabs. I am moving toward keeping it more like a Commonplace book as well as a planner and using the A-z tabs would work quite well I think. I re-arranged my planner to have one main notes section where I would write all that I would want to and just flip through, where as before when I had the 12 sections I had more than one place the information could go and that caused me to procrastinate in using my planner like a commonplace book. I have been thinking about using the tabs and how it would work for me... So I am going to give it a go and I am going to think about decorating the tabs too.... Make them bright and inviting....

Laurie (2009-01-13 02:52:00)

Silver Elixir, I like your idea of decorating the tabs. Ever since I started using colored tab labels, it's so much easier to see where things are. My labels are actually the colored tape flags that come on the Filofax sticky notes accessory, which are great because they are removable which makes it easy to move my tab dividers around whenever I need to, which seems to be often!

While I was on vacation for 3 weeks over the holidays I brought my Personal size Filo with me, not my A5 that I live out of. I have converted my Personal into my own travel guide/ reference book combined, and didn't feel like I needed my big A5 with me. But I missed it, and was really happy to have it back when I got home! I rearranged the tabs a little bit, updated my Goals section (all those New Year's resolutions!) and added some things into my calendar. Being away from it made me realize just how much I like it, and how useful it is to me. Absence makes the heart grow fonder I guess!

I had actually planned on switching to a new calendar system for this year (Uncalendar to be specific) and use my A5 as my reference/ address book. The whole time I was on vacation I was thinking about my new Uncalendar and how I would use it, what systems I would put in place, everything I would write into it (most of which I already have written into my A5). I was all set to go with it. But when I got home, my enthusiasm for it suddenly fell. Writing all of that information all over again into a new book when I already have it in my Filo seemed daunting. But mostly, I enjoyed not having a structured schedule so much during vacation. I realized I try to over-engineer my time during the day, when I don't need to. When I use an Uncalendar I tend to micromanage my time unnecessarily. In my A5 I use the horizontal weekly layout, which before seemed too open and unstructured. But now I appreciate that, and like that it doesn't make me feel like I should be filling in a million tasks every week. Maybe I'll change my mind sometime when I get really busy and need more structure to my days. But for now, I'm really enjoying having everything all together in my Filo.

Happy 2009 everybody!

Claudia Volkman (2009-01-14 16:37:00)

I'm now waiting for my new personal Finchley to arrive! (Seems to be taking forever!) I've been thinking about the way Inky has two tabs, and I've been exploring something new by the author of Do It Tomorrow, Mark Forster. He has a new system called AutoFocus, where you keep a work list and a home list and cycle through the lists in a very simple but ingenious way. If anyone is interested, you can find out more at www.markforster.net. I'm interested in how anyone on this blog approaches productivity using a Filofax. Cheers, Claudia

Christy (2009-01-24 14:05:00)

I've been reading your blog (including catching up on old posts) ever since becoming a 'Filo-phile'. I have an A5 Finsbury in Red, and am completely addicted. I then received a violet Piazza pocket sized as a gift. Unfortunately, it is NOT my color. If anyone is interested in taking it off my hands for cheap (or a trade for a pocket Finsbury)... I would appreciate it. I just want it to find a home! If this is inappropriate, I do apologize.

yoga and meditation (2009-01-26 18:18:00)

The other part in [1]Yoga and Meditation, is yoga, and there are many benefits that are accomplished with yoga, for example, yoga is the exercise that is going to help you built up a much better body, which is great because it helps you to feel much better about yourself, another thing, yoga will put all of your muscles into action, so you know that when you are doing yoga you are making parts of your body to get stronger and therefore surpassing the test of time, in other words, thanks to yoga, you are going to remain a person with a strong body, regardless of how old you are.

1. <http://www.yoga-and-meditation.org/>

aftershave balm (2009-01-30 12:00:00)

[1]Aftershave Balm

I fodder that this article this is very interesting and tuna but simultaneously believe that the man would be due to apply after shaved a balsam to avoid the irritation by this is due to look for lotions for this. You can find more info at: [2]<http://www.bestaftershaveformen.com>

1. <http://www.bestaftershaveformen.com/>

2. <http://www.bestaftershaveformen.com/>

stationerygal (2009-03-24 18:56:00)

I just ordered the personal chocolate Finchley and can't wait to get it! I have been using a personal red Finsbury...stepped out of my "neutral color box" and I am drawn back to that beautiful brown.....there is nothing better then sitting down with your Filo and a great pen! It is so nice to see others that have a true appreciation of their Filofax!

Free for All Friday No. 25 (2009-01-09 09:03) - Nan

First one of the New Year! Enjoy!

—*Inky*

lovely- rose (2009-01-09 11:35:00)

hi!

i wanted to let you know that i didn't buy a new binder. i decided to stick with the metropol. but i spoiled myself with a portable holepunch, plain white paper, a 2010 vertical yearplanner, ruled paper and new to do sheets. i want to order some adresssheets and a plastic envelope.

and i do want to write down all my happy thoughts in my filo. Strating tomorrow on my sons second birthday.
love Rose

Nan (2009-01-09 21:37:00)

Aw, thanks for sharing this.

Happy birthday to your son!

Debbie (2009-01-09 22:33:00)

I have been the proud owner of a mini-Filofax for several years - the smell of the Italian leather is still strong. Unfortunately, its small size, while nicely portable, was limiting but I resolved to put it to better use this coming year.

While in my local bookstore buying my 2009 refills, I eyed a personal Finsbury - 'the perfect size,' I thought. 'No,

I'll be good' - part of being organized is being self-disciplined, right? I did notice there was a drawing to win the Finsbury - as a lark, I put my name in...and promptly forgot about it, since I am truly the one who never wins anything.

At work on December 23rd, I answered the phone - a nice gentleman was calling to speak to me, stating that he was from my local bookstore. I squealed in delight before he even told me that I won. I won! I won the personal Finsbury!

I had the choice between orange and brown - I generally choose brighter colors but sided with the brown because it seemed more in keeping with my new-found self-discipline - I was a little sad at not having the orange until I saw your brand new brown Filo. Now I love my brown, too.

I'm happy to have discovered phellow philofaxies - this is a lovely blog. I've loved my brown - it has become a trusted companion in these short weeks. I can't wait to see what grand adventures lie ahead for both of us.

Steve (2009-01-10 06:39:00)
Congratulations Debbie!!

Steve (2009-01-10 06:55:00)

A couple of blatant plugs for a group I run

The Yahoo Filofax Group (very low key) is here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/filofax/> please join and contribute

And there are also groups on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=6647946339>

Vidya (2009-01-10 12:21:00)

I usually spend New Year's Eve getting my Filo and my Lizell all cleaned up and ready for the New Year. I'm using my Finchley to track my progress on my goals and am working on a new form to track my progress on a weekly basis.

Here's a question for my fellow Filo-fans (nice alliteration, no?) - do your Filos ever appear in your dreams? I had a dream last week in which I went into a very cool store with the intention of buying a new Filofax. I woke up before I actually made a purchase, but it was such fun to browse in a dream store!

kanalt (2009-01-10 13:25:00)

Vidya - I can't say that I've had dreams about Filos but I also LOVE bags and I have had dreams about shopping in a very large store with endless amounts of money and that was very exciting. I'm sure one of these days I'll get to the Filos. =)

On another note, a friend of mine bought a personal size red domino a few years back, which she ended up never using so I bought it from her. My goal is to have seasonal Filos - one color for each season. The reason for this is that I tend to move from planner to planner and while I've stuck with Filofax since I started with it (almost two years now and a big step for me, sticking with the same brand), I still feel the need to change it up once in a while so that I don't get bored. So now I have the red domino, the blue Finsbury and the chocolate Cross, all personal size. I'm also going to get the soft jade Finchly soon and I should have a complete set.

Miss Charlie (2009-01-10 14:27:00)

Hi Rose, congrats on the little fellow's birthday! I write down happy stuff in my Ffx as well, it's a very nice way of keeping my focus on the positive.

And congrats to Debbie, too - I never seem to win anything either, so I can imagine how thrilled you must have been! :)

I do dream about my Filofax, but then again I also have dreams whereby - not sure if I can explain this! - I'm seeing the dream through a browser window, and have the whole toolbar thing... yes, I really DO need to get out more... :)

The custom-designed pages in A5 are working brilliantly, I really feel that they've made a contribution to my day: I kind of dump everything in there that needs to be done, from work, shopping, and exercise to thoughts to bear in mind that day, then all I have to do is refer to it periodically, and not keep racking my brain for things that have got left out.

After viewing the Philofaxy pool on Flickr, I got inspired and added some artwork - girly hearts, I know, shoot me LOL! - to the pages, and if I decide at the end of the trial to upgrade to A5, I'll try and post a photo of the custom layout.

The only thing now stopping my from leaping into this ahead of the end of the trial, is that I absolutely LOVE the look and feel of my blue Finsbury personal - and since I couldn't find a blue A5 for love or money (well, money, anyway) I'm going to miss its compact, smart look.

Not to mention all my lovingly hand-made dividers... oh well, life moves on!

And while I'm in typey-fingers mode, has anyone else used the Bloomsbury A5, and have any comments or opinions about it - it's probably the one I'm getting from eBay, and that model isn't in the shops anymore afaik.

Yikes - sorry for the novella there folks!

Norway (2009-01-11 10:51:00)

New Filo owner reporting.

I've recently purchased a personal Pak from an Ebay seller.

I decided to go with something cheaper to begin with in case it would end up gathering dust in a closet somewhere.

If I still use it a year from now I'll begin to look into getting one of the lovely leather Filos.

Laurie (2009-01-11 15:21:00)

I recently saw my fantasy Filofax in person, in all its glory—it's the Personal size Deco in Ivory, currently sold out on Filofax.co.uk and not available in the US. It. Is. Gorgeous. Wow!! In my fantasy world I use this as my planner and wallet in one, since it has space for cards, bills, and a popper pocket for coins. But, it definitely doesn't fit in with my lifestyle, where I spend most of my time on the playground in muddy jeans. And, at around 170 pounds sterling, this will remain firmly in the "fantasy" category! But, a girl can dream.

Debbie (2009-01-11 21:03:00)

Laurie,

I saw the same Deco and probably had the same fantasy...perhaps it is a good thing this is not offered in the US. Thank you everyone for your kind words. It is great fun to have an 'everything' book - I always know where to put those 'hard to organize' incidentals [receipts, to do lists, business cards]. Here's hoping I clean it out every so often.

Cheers —

gg (2009-01-11 21:28:00)

Hey, Laurie—

The Personal Deco in Ivory is available on Ebay for \$240, from a seller in Missouri. That is still rather rich, but you can at least look. And you can make an offer – maybe you'll be lucky. I bought a Filo from the same seller and offered about 50 % of the asking price and we went back and forth a bit and eventually I got it for 80 %. You might be lucky. Maybe you could keep it tucked away at home and use it as a journal!

Is your birthday or anniversary coming up?

Laurie (2009-01-12 01:21:00)

Thanks gg!

joffreyca (2009-01-12 23:18:00)

On Personal Deco Filofax:

A few months ago, I requested a catalogue from www.filofaxusa.com. I actually live in Canada but selecting "Canada" from the Filofax.com home page redirects me to the US site. The catalogue shows the Deco, Ikon and Panama organisers in US dollars and with the product codes. So I really think they are available in the US & Canada.

Another interesting thing I noticed is that catalogue is packaged in a manila envelope with my name and address written by hand. Either there's not a lot of request for catalogues or Filofax wants to add some personal/human touch.

Laurie (2009-01-13 02:21:00)

joffreyca, that's interesting. Maybe they just haven't gotten them up onto the website yet. And that is a nice touch that they wrote on the envelope by hand. Always nice to have a personal touch in this digital age!

Miss Charlie (2009-01-13 02:27:00)

A few years ago now I needed a new clear flyleaf for my Pocket sized Finsbury - but I couldn't find one in the shops, despite searching high and low... and I'm in London, so generally lucky for Ffx accessories.

I e-mailed Filofax through their UK site, and they sent me, free of charge, a new flyleaf, also in a hand-written envelope.

Impressive or what?! :)

I don't know if these are exceptions to the rule, but that new flyleaf won me over for life!

Sandy (2009-01-15 12:41:00)

I just recently started a vigorous fit routine and was interested in how your record yours... any tips? I want to track my workouts and my progress.

Laurie (2009-01-15 13:00:00)

Full disclosure: Sandy is my sister! I am happy to report that I turned her onto Filofax (and also Moleskine).

Welcome, Sis!

Anonymous (2009-01-15 21:15:00)

Hi,

recently I have bought a Filofax (slimline, size: personal), but unfortunately I have reasons to suspect that it might be not a genuine Filofax, because it differs largely from the other Filofax models I own.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/34418738@N04/>

(6 photos)

What is your opinion - is this Filofax genuine ??

Thank you very much for your help!

Volker

Laurie (2009-01-16 02:28:00)

Eh, the prominent Made in China tag and the upside down logo "f's make me think it's a fake. Also, normally in a Filofax on the inside cover they have embossed the name of that style, such as Finsbury or Finchley, and I don't see that on yours.

Did you buy this at a retail store? They should be able to tell you where they got it.

Anonymous (2009-01-16 07:04:00)

@ Volker,

Did you buy it as a new model filofax?

- Current filofaxs have their name embossed inside the cover. Older ones differ with the logo stamped on the inside cover.

- Filofax haven't used the "Filofax of England" line for many years, early 90s I think. And I fairly sure they were made in England back then too.

- I've never seen a filofax with a "Made in [Country]" anywhere.

- I have a slimline & personal size filo. The slimline is not as long on the short side, it is the same length on the long side.

On the whole I think it's a fake.

Simon

Anonymous (2009-01-16 07:46:00)

Thank you for your replies!

I bought it used over ebay...

Filofax UK suggested (via email) that this might be Slimline Windsor manufactured 1994 - 1996. But I still can't believe that Filofax could produce an organizer with such a poor leather quality. I have an Ascot of 1994 - it's much much better quality!
I would be very grateful if you have a Slimline Windsor and could post some photos!
Thank you.
Volker

joffreyca (2009-01-16 10:57:00)

Hello, everyone.

Just wanted to share this: I bought a new Filofax. Its a black mini Topaz. I plan to use it as my mobile paper-based capture/list/reference device. I bought it on sale for CDN \$49.99 :-)

My primary/master Filofax is a brown personal size Bromley. But now I'm also thinking (or tempted) to buy a black personal Amazona. I found one on sale for only CDN \$69.99.

Tempting, isn't it?

gg (2009-01-16 11:18:00)

Anonymous, you can see several photos of a Windsor A5 binder on this EBay page—

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem &ssPageName=STRK:MEWAX:IT &item=260336963204>

The first photo, with the name of the binder, is most telling for me, but you could also do a search on Flickr for "vintage Filofax binders" or maybe even for "Windsor Filofax" and you might see more photos.

gmax (2009-01-16 13:02:00)

I've uploaded some shots of my [1]Windsor binder from around 1994. This is a full size "personal" model rather than a slimline one.

I think Filofax UK were about right regarding Volker's binder. The name in the range was *Slimline* rather than *Slimline Windsor*, but it looks pretty much as I'd expect apart from the "Made in China" tag.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/30775101@N04/3202021814/>

Anonymous (2009-01-16 19:39:00)

Just got some additional information from Filofax (USA):

"I am pleased to inform you that your organizer is a genuine Filofax. This item was called Windsor, introduced in 1994 and was available through 1997.

Windsor was one of our first items produced in China, and due to US Customs regulations, a sewn in label of the country of origin was required. At the time "Filofax of England", was embossed on all leather organizers, because we could not emboss "Filofax, Made in England" as previously done on products that were made in England. Windsor was made of a thick durable leather, so it wore very well."

Thank you everybody for your feedback and suggestions.

Volker

gg (2009-01-16 22:00:00)

Volker, it's good to know that your Filo is the genuine article. I didn't know they were made in China. Especially that long ago—I thought that was really early for outsourcing.

I suspect that Filofaxes just aren't the sort of collectors' items with a wide market like Louis Vuitton bags are, and therefore counterfeiting isn't as attractive to scam artists. I've bought several Filofax items off EBay and have been very happy with all of them.

I wonder when Filofax started having their binders manufactured in China, and are all of them made there nowadays?

Laurie (2009-01-17 03:01:00)

One of my sister's friends recently ordered a Personal Deco in Ebony from a retailer in the US. She received it and it was not black as shown on the website, but a dark chocolate brown. She called the retailer and said, I was expecting black. He said no, that ebony is actually a dark brown. Since when?

Last week I saw an ebony Deco at a retailer in the UK, and it was unmistakably black. I am wondering if maybe

the Decos in the US are brown? Or, if maybe this retailer got some factory seconds for cheap where the dye didn't take properly, and he's now selling them for full price.
Luckily, she really likes the dark brown, so she will keep it.

gmax (2009-01-17 08:27:00)

According to Kevin Hall, who has wrote a Chronology of Filofax in 2006 (apparently not available on-line now), all Filofax products were made in the UK until 1990. It seems that the move of manufacturing for Filofax products elsewhere really took hold between 1992 and 1994, although a small number of items continued to be made in England until 1999.

joffreyca (2009-01-18 16:47:00)

I remember reading the Chronology of Filofax and I think I saved a copy. I think it would be great if we can get Kevin Hall's permission to reproduce his original article and post it in this blog.

Does anyone know how to contact him? Can we get him to write a guest post? Does anyone else think that Kevin Hall is the mysterious "Philofaxer"? :-)

Miss Charlie (2009-01-19 08:52:00)

Sandy, I use the graph-paper inserts to record the names of the various exercises I do (like crunches, sideways crunches, hand weights etc) as initials along the horizontal, then have the dates vertically on the left (I fill it in as I go since I don't workout every day) and then put the daily number of reps I do in the boxes beneath.

So say on the 15th of Dec, I can see I did X more crunches/sets than I was capable of on the 15th of October.

I imagine that this could be adapted for runners, cyclists etc, by changing the number of reps for time run/mileage? Hope that makes sense!

Anonymous (2009-01-19 14:35:00)

Miss Charlie,

That does make sense. Thank you for the ideas! Graph paper would be perfect, since it is basically a spreadsheet and keeping the columns aligned is important.

gmax (2009-01-21 02:58:00)

The [1]Advanced Day Planner User Guide describes a very useful, general purpose page design - a 13 column spreadsheet (with the first column wider than the rest) with column headings + 31 numbered rows. Pages like that would make an ideal exercise log.

I've printed some of my own on similar lines.

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2008/09/guest-book-review-advanced-day-planner.html>

Anonymous (2009-01-22 21:31:00)

I am developing a mild case of Repetitive Stress Injury (RSI) in my hands which is probably mainly due to my typing at work but I suspect also due to the heavy bag

I lug around each day.

To give my hands a break, I'll now have to leave my pocket personal filofax at home in order to lighten the weight of my bag.

I admit that it HAS made a huge different (I should proably weight the filo huh?) but I feel so lost without my filofax with me. ;((

kanalt (2009-01-23 09:18:00)

Anonymous - I carry my Filo to work with me, but other places where I don't need it (but in the past worried that I would), I leave it at home. However, I do carry a portable version of my calendar. I recently bought an iPod Touch, which comes with its own calendar application. Every week I manually synch (because I don't have a Mac at home and therefore cannot synch my Google Calendar directly with the Touch) my Touch calendar and my Filo, inputting only the events I have coming up which leaves me free of various other lists and the heavy load of a full Filo that I don't really need with me all of the time. There is also a notes application on the Touch, so should I need to take notes for any reason, I can do this on the Touch and then transfer them to my Filo when I

"synch" the rest (which happens on a weekly basis). This seems to be working for me, at least at this point. So you might be able to something along the lines of a portable (and light-weight) version of your main Filo.

gmax (2009-01-25 17:44:00)

Some more info and an archive link for Kevin Hall's excellent *Chronology of Filofax* can be found in the thread [1]here.

1. <https://www.blogger.com/comment.g?blogID=18497333&postID=6082141033013280164&page=1>

Anonymous (2009-01-28 13:50:00)

Can someone tell me which A5 binder will hold the most? Same question for the Personal size?

Thanks

Anonymous (2009-01-29 09:13:00)

Re Binder capacity – Check the ring size of the binder you're considering. Most of them are 1 inch. I think there were some binders made years ago with larger ring sizes, and you might find one on EBay. For the Personal sizes, the same would apply. The Slimlines have the smallest ring size and hold the least, but the others are about one inch.

joffreyca (2009-01-29 10:38:00)

Re: Binder Size

For the current A5's, Finsbury has the biggest ring size: approx. 1.25in.

For Personal, yes, I believe most of them are 1.0in while some are 0.75in.

Amanda (2009-01-29 18:00:00)

I'm a new owner of a Finchley Personal in Vintage Rose (I luuurve pink!). Oh, it's just beautiful . . . from its lovely smell, through to its Cotton Cream papers.

Like Norway, I started out with a cheapie one (Eden) and said that if I was still using it after a year, I would upgrade to a leather one. And just as I wanted to upgrade, they had them half price on the Filofax UK site! Woohoo!

Amanda

Anonymous (2009-01-29 20:13:00)

Kanalt - I have been thinking of getting an Ipod Touch for the longest time. Your advice might be just the push/justification I need. ;) I am really a pen and paper person but I might just have to give this a try. I didn't know you could take note on a Ipod Touch, that is great to know, since I always jot down random things (another reason why I'm so attached to my filo)...and I suppose having to transfer my notes from the Touch to the Filo would give me some time to think about where to place it in the Filo and might result in a neater Filo..ideally.

Thanks for your advice!

kanalt (2009-01-29 22:23:00)

Anonymous - I love my iPod Touch...the only thing that is a pain (which I didn't think of before buying it) is that in order to connect to the Internet, you have to be on a WiFi system, which is doable, as many places offer it. However, places like Starbucks and Borders (here in the US, East Coast) offer AT &T or T-Mobile, which if you don't have an account with them, you have to pay to use the WiFi. Here on Long Island, I can sometimes connect through Optimum Online but that's only because I have an account with them for my home Internet connection - they offer WiFi in random areas, so it's hit or miss. So if you're thinking about getting one for the WiFi, it's touch and go depending on where you live and how accessible WiFi is (some cities/counties offer it for free). As far as the notes application - it is set up like a small legal pad - you can have multiple "pages" at once. It's good for short, random notes to then transfer to the Filo when you have a moment.

On another note - I don't know how many of you receive emails from Filofax, but as of Feb. 1 (here in the US), they are raising their prices. So if there's something you want, you might want to consider getting it before then. I just bought the personal Finchley in soft jade from Pens and Leather. They're an authorized reseller of Filos

(you can also find them on eBay, but I bought directly from them) at a discount. The one I got was about 20 % off. Plus, I got free shipping with a promo they have going on - you have to "pledge" (basically, just agree to do it) to recycle the shipping materials once you receive the item (I do this anyway), but it's only good on items over \$75. I don't know if this is something they have all of the time, or just for a certain amount of time. You can check their website for details - they have a link specifically for shipping promos. I ordered my Filo around 6:30 eastern time and it has already shipped as of 10 pm! I've never uploaded pictures of my Filo, but maybe when I get the new one, I'll be inspired. =)

Anonymous (2009-01-30 11:01:00)

On hi-tech vs. low-tech note taking:

- It's been my observation that paper still beats digital devices when it comes to quickly capturing information or taking down notes

- Digital devices are good as reference devices or for storing archival information. But I personally find that I'm more focused and can think better about current projects when I use paper.

Gladwell has written an interesting article on the role of paper in today's computer age. Its called "The Social Life of Paper" (http://www.gladwell.com/2002/2002_03_25_a_paper.htm).

On Filofax Prices:

Congratulations to those of you who were able to buy new Filofaxes on sale. Its always good to get something you want for less.

In my case, I was able to get a new personal size black Amazona and it was on super sale. You probably wouldn't believe me but I was able to buy it for CDN \$25.20. Yes. It's true. A personal Amazona for less than \$30!

They're also selling other Filo's at insane prices: personal Finsbury for \$17.50 or \$35 (the \$35 is for the pink one), A5 Topaz for \$120 and A5 Filofax classic for \$67.

Kevin Hall (2009-02-03 10:20:00)

Thank you for the kind comments about my original Filofax Chronology that I wrote some time ago. I have went back through and updated the entire document and is fully referenced so you can be assured that what I've written can be verified. I wouldn't repost the old one, it does have some minor errors in it and some of the references I couldn't re-verify (I couldn't trace the sources) so I removed them completely.

It's almost finished - I'm not sure when I'll make it available as I'm still fact-checking a few things to make it as accurate as possible. I'll post on this blog when it's ready. Sorry I don't have a specific date in mind :-)

Me (2009-02-05 11:51:00)

For all you Filofax lovers, you can buy them direct from the company at <http://www.filofaxusa.com>

I just love my pink Filofax classic

<http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/organiserdetails.asp?display=&sizeId=3&rangeId=86&dsizeId=3>

Miss Charlie (2009-02-06 01:15:00)

Well, I did it... took the plunge and splashed out £80 on an A5 Kendal in the brown leather! [1]Kendal at Filofax's UK site

This was well over twice my original budget, but my parents gave me some money as an EXTREMELY unexpected gift, and I'd been yearning for one of these since I saw it in a stationers...

And, no point in buying something you end up replacing because it didn't *quite* hit the spot - RIGHT?! :)

I've been tinkering with it all day, finally got the right proportion of pages and sections, and made up a big load of my customised daily pages (which were the driver behind upgrading to A5).

My navy Finsbury Personal has been pared down to an appointments diary, phone numbers, and loads of notepaper, meaning I can take it out and about without fearing losing all my to-do lists, projects etc (or a client catching sight of my musings on the relative merits of chocolate or broccoli for lunch!)

I'm really thrilled with it, and glad I invested the money this way - it lies open beautifully flat, looks classy, and the display model I fell in love with before was pretty battered, which only improved its look, so I know it should age gracefully.

I just wanted to share the joy: it's already fitting into my life perfectly, and I'm wondering how I managed without it!

On another topic - where's Inky?!

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?display=&sizeId=5&rangeId=82&dsizeId=5>

Matt Watson (2009-02-07 11:50:00)

Hello All

You may be interested to know what we're up to at Filofax in the UK - we have asked a range of celebrities to customise one of our Breast Cancer Campaign organisers which are then being auctioned off for charity - <http://www.filofax.co.uk/aboutus/news.asp?newsId=85>

Laurie (2009-02-07 13:49:00)

Wow thanks for that Matt!! Those are gorgeous, and what a great cause.

joffreyca (2009-02-12 11:40:00)

Where's Inky?

- I have a feeling Inky is ok but she's just very busy these past few weeks. We can keep this blog alive til she gets back.

Filofax UK:

- I agree with Laurie. Great concept.

Filofax Myths & Pop Culture:

- Just curious, would anyone know which type of Filofax was shown in the movie "Filofax"? And was that story about a WWII soldier being saved by his bullet-proof Filofax real?

Laurie (2009-02-13 03:37:00)

Inky I hope you are okay!!

TOWELNTEXAS (2009-02-21 23:00:00)

Does ANYONE have a clue what happened to Inky?

I'm not a frequent commenter, but I'm a frequent visitor and I find her disappearance alarming and odd. Anyone?

Miss Charlie (2009-02-22 08:51:00)

An update on my new Filofax:

Sunday's my pottering day, when I do all the little chores that I don't have time for in the week, and I've just made myself a big load of inserts for the new A5 I bought recently - a book that's already proven WELL worth the money!

I'm tracking *everything* in it, from meal plans for the week (I like to be organised for shopping etc) to exercise, household tasks like laundry etc, work chores, all those other little things to bear in mind (like birthdays and reminders) and so on.

It's literally become an annexe of my own memory, because I can "download" stuff into it, and then I'm free to focus on other stuff.

I've always liked to make my own printed pages, and it's so easy of course in A5...

The A5 metal hole punch I bought is also proving totally worthwhile, it's probably already recouped half its cost price as I've created a huge diary insert, and being able to re-use paper (like junk mail etc) inside the folder has saved me from having to buy scribble pads for shopping lists etc.

It's a huge success and has made a massive contribution to my daily life, everything from productivity because I'm being mega-organised, though to having a safe place to jot down those bright ideas you get just before falling asleep...

Oh I'm just in LOVE! lol

Miss Charlie (2009-02-22 09:05:00)

joffreyca, there's some info about the Filofax in the movie of that name in a comment on this blog [1]here, which I'll quote:

"Huper Arnion said...

I just obtained a copy of the DVD and the Filofax appears to be a dark, coffee brown "one-off" equipped with a clear plastic window over the entire interior of the front cover. There appears to be at least two different props,

although both have stitched on covers, and leather page lifters. In a scene at an airport payphone, the prop appears to show a complete second cover. Neither prop appears to display a Filofax logo on the exterior spine or on the chrome ring assembly, although the interior of the front cover has a Filofax "reward if found" certificate displayed in the plastic window.

May 17, 2007 3:59 PM

And there's a (rather uninformative) image of the original movie poster [2]here.

I've never seen the movie: is it any good? The reviews I found tend to indicate the poor old Ffx gets all the scorn that was heaped on yuppies at the time, and the protagonist only gets his life back once he dumps the book for good... something in rather pointed opposition to my own recent experiences, as posted above! :o)

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2007/01/filofax-movie.html>

2. <http://www.rarefilmposters.com/product90690107catno1240107.html>

Anonymous (2009-02-23 07:03:00)

I am also alarmed and concerned about the lack of posts from Inky. Is there anything else that she uses online that we could check perhaps?

joffreyca (2009-02-23 10:38:00)

Miss Charlie, thanks for the info. And no, I haven't seen the movie. I was just curious which Filofax they used.

The most recent movie I saw a Filofax featured was "27 Dresses" and I think it was a personal Topaz.

As for Inky, I also hope she's ok. I'm sure everyone here is concerned about her.

I did an online search for her about 2 weeks ago and I found her most recent activity on a work-related support blog. But I won't say what that site is. I'm not sure if its proper to put that here and she did mention she doesn't want this site to be a personal site, if I remember correctly.

Silver_Elixir (2009-02-25 22:21:00)

The Filofax movie that everyone has mentioned looks to me from the poster link in Miss Charlie's Comment like the movie 'Taking Care of Business' with James Belushi (I think) and Charles Grodin. If it is that one I thought it was pretty good and have been trying to get a copy of it for ages without success.

kanalt (2009-02-25 22:26:00)

I saw this movie not too long ago (I was able to borrow it through my library system). Looking at it from a movie-goer's perspective, it wasn't the best movie, although not terrible. From a Filo perspective, it was interesting to see the stereotype associated with those who use Filos and the extent to which they were (and maybe are still) used. For anyone reading this blog, I'd say it's worth seeing. =)

Miss Charlie (2009-02-27 08:12:00)

Thanks Kanalt!

I may have to check it out, if only for a laugh - I remember the way people used to rant about yuppies and their Filofaxes... dearie me, those WERE the days! lol

1.2 February

Inky's Here (2009-02-24 21:08) - Nan



[1]



[2]

Hi everybody.

I would like to thank the kind reader who emailed me at my work and home email addresses – good detective work.

I'm sorry I worried or alarmed some of my longtime readers. Part of the reason for my absence had to do with family illnesses, house and automobile repairs, and other challenges, but part of it was simple neglect.

I really appreciate everyone's concern. I have been stocking up on new and old leaves and still using my Filofaxes to conduct my life.

I love all the wonderful comments everyone has been leaving, and hope to get even more lively discussion going as I start posting more often again.

Here's one of my recent acquisitions – a 1988 England printing of a leaf I'm sure is discontinued, the Traveller's Checklist. Don't forget to pack your Embrocation! I'm reluctant to even open it.

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_H4Rx8LSaPk/SaSrFiESEXl/AAAAAAAAAH8/wXn0q6e8VZU/s1600-h/DSC04155.JPG

2. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_H4Rx8LSaPk/SaSrfsJeDnI/AAAAAAAAAH0/9fznRzIpAKE/s1600-h/DSC04152.JPG

Vidya (2009-02-24 23:14:00)

Oh, Inky, I'm so glad to hear from you! Thanks for letting us know how you're doing.

Laurie (2009-02-25 02:51:00)

Glad you are okay Inky!! Sorry to hear about your family's illnesses, I hope everybody is okay now.

Wonderful find with the traveler's checklist!!!

lovely-rose (2009-02-25 05:26:00)

Welcome back Inky!

I hope everything is ok with your family.

I'm struggling with being a single mom myself. Luckily my filio is helping me to get organised around here.

joffreyca (2009-02-25 10:29:00)

I'm so happy to hear from you again, Inky. :-)

I hope you and your family are ok now.

I agree with Laurie. That checklist is a wonderful find. It makes me wonder what other forms or checklists were available during the 80's.

crofter (2009-02-25 22:18:00)

Glad your back, look forward to your coming posts and the interesting comments from the readers.

I too hope your coming days will be easier, and that things are ok.

Anonymous (2009-02-26 00:40:00)

RE: the traveler's checklist

I love the reference to "cotton wool buds" - how cute is that? (I know that they're just Q-tips, but cotton wool buds sounds like something you'd find in a garden).

Silver_Elixir (2009-02-26 01:46:00)

We call them cotton wool buds here in Oz, or just cotton buds. I think Q tips is an odd name... What is Q about them? What else is on the list?

Silver_Elixir (2009-02-26 01:47:00)

Oops! That was supposed to be COTTON buds!

Laurie (2009-02-26 01:56:00)

Not sure why they are called "Q" tips, but that is the brand name, like Kleenex or Hoover. The "generic" term used is cotton swab, but I almost never hear that.

Miss Charlie (2009-02-27 08:18:00)

Glad to have you back Inky!

I LOVE the way that traveller's checklist has "Alcohol" right under "Alarm Clock" on the Personal checklist - that's my kinda journey... :)

Also: "Hairpiece/wig" - the images conjured up of the typical user they designed this for, just get weirder and weirder!

I also like the surrealism of "Personal Organiser" in the first checklist... the personal organiser, one may assume, that the checklist is in?

Makes my head hurt, time to slip off my wig, rub on some embrocation, and have a little lie down (with some traveller's friend, of course!)

Nan (2009-02-27 16:58:00)

Miss C, you really got me laughing. Now I really am going to have to open it so we can see what else is on there!

Steve (2009-02-28 04:04:00)

Hi

Would it be possible for you to make a scanned copy of the list you show. I love recreating these no longer available pages. I've got a few of my own from the mid 80's which are no longer sold.

I've posted one a Photo Exposure Record on DiY Planner

It's posted here: <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/5444>

The holiday list would be a great addition to the collection...

gmax (2009-02-28 10:55:00)

Some other tantalizing leaves available at the end of the 1980s:

Function planner (Ref. 551)
Home Entertainment (Ref. 803)
Restaurant (Ref. 805)
Recipe Record (Ref. 180)
Bird Watcher's Checklist (Ref. 740)
Bridge Score Sheet (Ref. 183)
Cellar Notes (Ref. 184)
Chess Score Record (Ref. 186)
Wine Tasting Record (Ref. 185)
Bibliofile (Ref. 832)
Cards and Gifts (Ref. 611)
Daily Intake Record (Ref. 179)
Hotel (Ref. 804)
Personal Services (Ref. 801)
Anglers Catch Record (Ref. 618)
Golf Record (Ref. 612)
Running Record (Ref. 616)
Skiing Record (Ref. 613)
Snooker Record (Ref. 614)
Squash Record (Ref. 617)
Windsurfing Record (Ref. 615)
Those were the days!

Nan (2009-02-28 19:47:00)

I won't be able to do any scanning until Monday, but I will scan the traveler's list for Steve et al.

Nan (2009-02-28 19:49:00)

Steve - Thanks for the link. That's a beautiful form you created.

TOWELNTEXAS (2009-03-03 00:18:00)

Inky....I am glad you are well and back. We were truly worried.

Scot

Miss Charlie (2009-03-07 20:49:00)

gmax wrote:

"*Home Entertainment (Ref. 803)*"

Oh, PLEASE tell me that refers to VCRs. I can't think what other forms there were back in the '80s - no Xbox & Wii Fit back then!

"*Personal Services (Ref. 801)*"

Oooh la la! :)

gmax (2009-03-10 05:03:00)

I'm afraid "*Home Entertainment (Ref. 803)*" may not live up to Miss Charlie's expectations there - it was listed, within a group entitled *Entertaining*, as "a useful leaf for entertaining. Record names of guests, caterer, menu, wines, costings. There is a seat planner on reverse."

And, although the catalogue group name *Private Information* lived up to the suggestiveness of the leaf called "*Personal Services (Ref. 801)*", it was in fact intended to "list details of your personal suppliers under numerous headings including: Hairstylist, Laundry, Florist, Doctor, Car Rental, Shoe Repair".

gmax (2009-03-10 06:36:00)

Miss Charlie may be happier to hear that there was a dedicated "Television and Video Planner" leaf (Ref. 283).

Free for All Friday No. 26 (2009-02-27 08:20) - Nan

Have at it, folks!

—*Inky* (feels good to be typing that again!)

kanalt (2009-02-27 12:53:00)

I know we've talked about this a bit in the past but I'm curious as to how many people make their own forms and especially calendars - how do you do this (what program or template do you use)? I know that people make their own when it comes to the A5, but since I have a personal size Filo, I don't know how easy this would be. I often think about it, but figure that the money and time invested might not be worth it (although I'm sure to get exactly what I want)...

Vidya (2009-02-27 14:43:00)

A few weeks ago while I was browsing the 99 Cent Store, I came across some organizer accessories! I got a pad that has 3x6 sticky notes- the backing has 6 holes to insert it into my binder. I got another pad that slides out to increase the writing space and has standard size note paper with 6 holes. It was such a thrill to find useful tools so cheap, so I stocked up. If you have a nearby 99 Cent Store, check it out!

Silver_Elixir (2009-02-27 20:48:00)

I use my excel spreadsheet to make pages for my personal planner. I have spent a bit of time working out the sizing, and if you want the details I am happy to share. I am able to print four pages to one a4 page if my printer co-operates and prints them back to back for me. I have made quite a few pages, including a weekly diary format, notes pages, address pages, a yellow pages for often used numbers, a budget page, personal information page, meal plan pages, company details page and more. I have also made A5 pages.

Steve (2009-02-28 16:47:00)

Kanalt the problem is that the number of pages of different types that are on sale these days is somewhat limited compared to what was for sale back in the 1980's.

Look at the post and comments for 24 Feb 2009 on here, you will see a list of some of them.

Yes it's tricky to print Personal size pages, but you can use the pre-perforated paper sold by Filofax to ease the process of producing pages.

Steve

gmax (2009-02-28 16:47:00)

It's fairly inexpensive to get a 6 hole punch and a guillotine to cut the sheets.

I often print reference pages like phone lists using a "4 pages per sheet" printer setting, doing only one or two pages at a time. Then you can cut them down to *personal* filofax size.

I also print my own blank 13 column spreadsheets leaves using Excel.

kanalt (2009-02-28 17:22:00)

Hmm. Thanks for all of the comments. I still haven't made up my mind as to whether or not I'll try my own papers, but at least it gives me something to think about and look into. And I'll definitely be checking out my dollar store.

kanalt (2009-03-01 17:58:00)

Someone just uploaded a picture of a to-do list to the Philofaxy Photo pool - the list was made using Microsoft OneNote according to the poster (don't know if he/she reads this blog). Does anyone use this software to create lists and templates? I have the software on my computer but have never used it. I'm going to try and get a book on it from my library since the Microsoft tutorial seems a bit confusing, but I thought I'd also post the question here.

Kevin Hall (2009-03-05 04:32:00)

I find unless you have really good reasons, trying to make pages to fit the personal size Filofax is a savage amuse-

ment. It's very hard to cut the paper to appropriate size and even harder to duplex print them. I had a few tries with the A5 Filofax and the results weren't too bad and easier than the personal size.

gg (2009-03-05 05:09:00)

I love that phrase, Kevin-savage amusement! I've tried making my own forms for personal size, too, and it was frustrating and a waste of time and money. A savage amusement, indeed!

I don't really like writing in personal size binders anyway and have decided to just use them for lists and notes, using the Filofax paper and a calendar for reference only.

But I've had great results with the A5 size by having a ream of letter paper sliced in half and printing on that.

1.3 March

Menstrual Calendar Insert (2009-03-05 18:52) - Nan

Here's another find from the 1980's, printed in England. I'm not sure why old inserts like this turn up in online or brick-and-mortar stores from time to time, but they do. Where have they been sitting all this time?

I don't plan on using this product, just keeping it as a collector's item. I bought this Pocket 1980's one (copyright 1988) and a newer Personal one. They were marked down, probably because the item has been discontinued. I can't find it on either the UK or USA Filofax website.

I've uploaded photos to Flickr, and since I can seem to embed a picture right now, here's [1]a link to get you started.

1. <http://flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3332062718>

Anonymous (2009-03-06 12:35:00)

I bought this years ago. While it is quite a clever idea, it wasn't very easy to use. I have some inserts from the 80's where Filofax produced "workbooks" based on popular magazines. Does anyone remember magazine called "Slimming"? The insert is bound, but hole punched to fit in the personal size. It has weight and exercise tracking pages along with some helpful hints about living a healthier life. Great stuff! I'll try and get some pictures this weekend.

gmax (2009-03-06 16:31:00)

I'd been thinking that the Filofax brand had become a bit more female-oriented of late, but, on this evidence, it seems that's not such a recent thing after all.

Miss Charlie (2009-03-06 17:26:00)

Wow - that's... odd, actually!

I always mark my cycle on the year planner - I'm not ttc, it's just so I can avoid anything but chocolate for a few days a month... :o)

I like the way they also still have the moon phases in the diary - obviously useful for that small-but-important minority of users with *lycanthropy*!

Anonymous (2009-03-10 13:20:00)

That's funny! I always add to my calendar each year by noting the moon's astrological placement. May sound silly, but it's more accurate than any horoscope. The moon's placement in astrology and the placement regarding gardening are quite different. I note those too.

I'd better stop before we get on with a subject that may offend some!

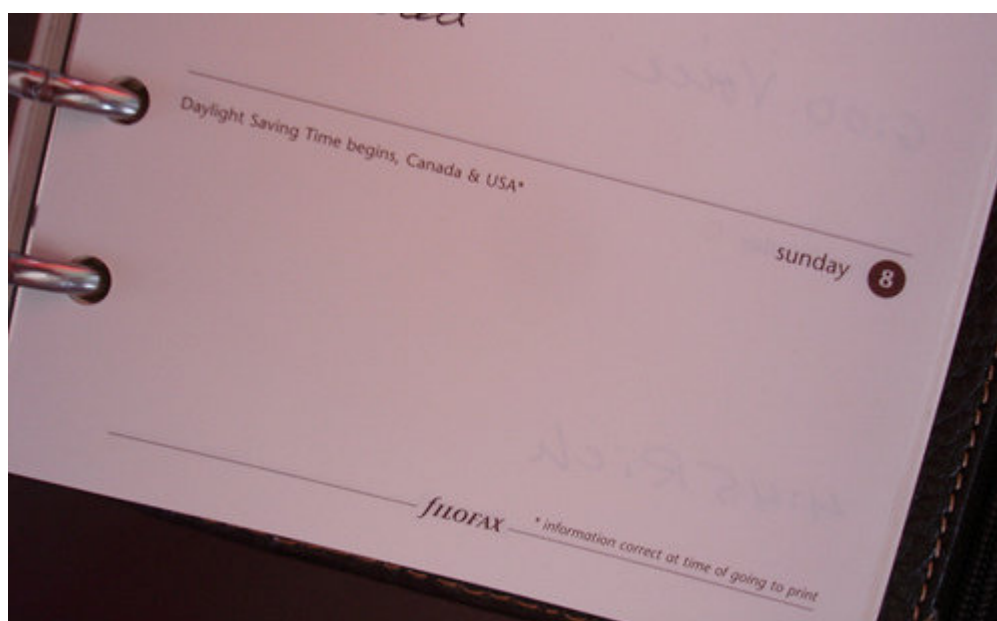
Thanks, Miss Charlie! Your comment was quite fun!

Nan (2009-03-11 18:42:00)

Anonymous - I lust after inserts like that! Franklin Covey also used to do packets like that, such as health records and a wedding planner, but they've discontinued a lot of them.

Miss Charlie gets the word-of-the-week award for "lycanthropy"!

Daylight Saving Time 2009 (2009-03-08 11:00) - Nan



[1] Here's Filofax's kindly reminder to me to turn my clock an hour forward. The USA and Canada (but not Mexico) are again observing an extended DST period - March to November. That means 8 months DST – twice as much as Standard Time! Maybe we should call this Standard Time and the other four months Winter Darkness Time!

I was listening to the BBC in the middle of the night, and found that, after the time change at 3:00 AM, that the east coast of the U.S. is currently only 4 hours behind GMT, since the UK (home of the Filofax) doesn't change to Summer Time for another month. Somehow, 4 hours feels like a much smaller time difference than the usual 5 hours.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3337485725/>

Steve (2009-03-08 12:21:00)

UK changes to BST on the morning of the 29th March.

Steve

Nan (2009-03-11 18:40:00)

Thanks, Steve!



[1] Miquelrius A5 notebooks are my everyday notebooks, because the paper is interchangeable with the paper in my A5 Filo. I especially love the plastic-covered ones (the cardboard covers are too thick and stiff for my taste), designed by Agatha Ruiz de la Prada.

The only drawbacks are the expense – US \$7 or US \$8 per book – and limited availability. I used to have to go to a large chain bookstore or The Container Store to find them. Imagine my surprise when I found them at the Fed-Ex Kinkos store just a few blocks from my house!

This Kinkos has increased its office-supply and book stock and cut down on space devoted to self-service copiers and computers. I guess they've decided they make more money from retail sales. In addition to Miquelrius in A5 and A4 sizes, I also found Mead notebooks and composition books (well made, but the paper is way too thin), Cambridge notebooks (Mead's high end), Black and Red notebooks, and a rare (in the US) A4 Topps notebook.

I bought 2 each of the red and blue patterns shown here, plus a dull, professional pinstriped one for work. I wanted to buy them up to encourage the store to continue carrying them.

I still can't find Miquelrius A5s at less than \$7, but I figure it's the price of a glass of wine in a nice restaurant, or 1.5 glasses of wine in a lousy restaurant. Well worth the price, since I can use each notebook for a couple of months, while the wine lasts me maybe 1/2 hour per glass.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3347109253>

joffreyca (2009-03-12 10:04:00)

1/2 an hour for a glass of wine? Either that's a huge glass or I'm drinking wine too fast :-)

mincostflow (2009-03-12 14:31:00)

Have you tried Rhodia/Clairfontaine notebooks? Also, Graphic Image has beautiful A5 coilbounds. I like using good quality paper because it minimizes the bleed-through from my fountain pen.

Nan (2009-03-12 17:20:00)

Joffrey, well, I probably drink the *first* glass faster than that! ;)

I'm thinking about the average time when I'm lingering over a few glasses over the course of an evening.

Nan (2009-03-12 20:18:00)

Hi Mincostflow - I know those are all great notebooks. I look for ones that come in an exact A5 size and is perforated. I haven't found a Rhodia or Clairefontaine that meets those requirements.

Miss Charlie (2009-03-13 10:53:00)

Those are some NICE notebooks! :)

Paperchase here do some stunners - I have a spiral bound pad with a gorgeous lily on the cover, and it has all sorts of PVC pockets between the sections too, very like a Filofax, which I use for notes about my work - handy for keeping receipts etc all in one place.

I replaced the original notepad in the back pocket of my A5 Ffx with Rhodia's #16 "5x5" A5 graph paper pad, and use that to track my diet, plan meals etc.

They're £1.85 here from Paperchase, so are cheaper than the Ffx notepads (which retail here @ £3 each) and more importantly, better suited for what I use 'em for, since you can tear the pages out easily once they're finished with.

And I've started carrying the original Ffx A5 notepad with me when I'm out and about, so I can jot stuff down then file it straight in my Kendal when I get home.

Boy am I glad I spent the extra cash on that folder, instead of going for the Finsbury - every time I use it, it just makes me so happy!

Nan (2009-03-13 17:14:00)

Miss Charlie, thanks for all the great ideas, like replacing the pad in back with a Rhodia. It's like having 2 books in one. I love the Filofax A5 notepads, too. With the paper cover, you can carry it separately!

Anonymous (2009-03-19 11:32:00)

Does anyone know of a notebook-perforated sheets, etc-that would fit the personal filo?

Free for All Friday No. 27 (2009-03-14 04:41) - Nan

Happy Filofax-filled weekend!

—*Inky*

gmax (2009-03-15 08:11:00)

For any fans of vintage Filofax, I can recommend the wonderful photos in the [1]fILOFAX Collection.

Perhaps someone can give more insight into the background for this collection?

Many of the images are actually hyperlinks that open up other pages, so there's a lot to explore.

1. <http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/~m-task/index.htm>

gg (2009-03-17 11:37:00)

Somehow I came across that site last year, and enjoyed looking through it, but there is no commentary and even if there were, it would be in Japanese. It does make me curious—they must be really a super collector, to have so many Filo's.

Filofax Collection (2009-03-15 19:35) - Nan

With thanks to reader "Gmax," who found this link to a Japanese website called [1]"Filofax Collection." The page contains links to close-up pictures of made-in-England Filofaxes, as well as Day Runner (Harper House) and Time/System binders.

Clicking the "blog" link at the bottom of the page takes you to a Japanese-language site which appears to be a listing of the organizers in the photographs. Clicking the links on those pages, however, takes you

to some sort of commercial site which appears to be selling items completely unrelated to Filofaxes. Anyway, enjoy. And if anyone knows more about this site, please let us know!

1. <http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/~m-task/index.htm>

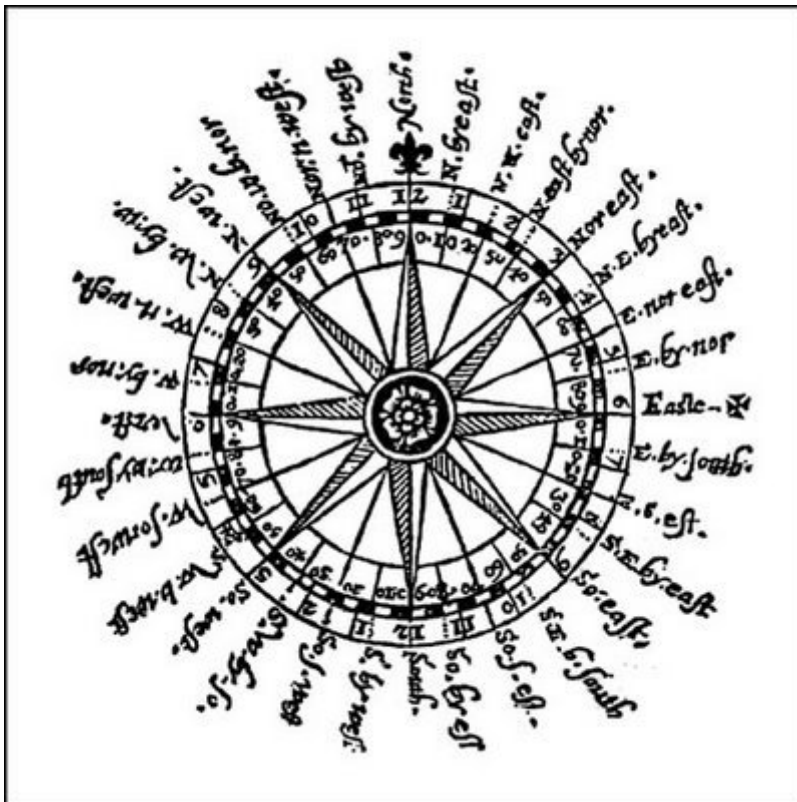
mincostflow (2009-03-17 15:33:00)

I love how all the tags say "real *enter animal name here*" instead of "genuine *enter animal name here*"...It makes me wonder if it really is real.

onigiri (2009-03-19 20:08:00)

What an awesome collection! I personally fell in love with the DeskFax and the Bamoral. too bad they're discontinued.

Free for All Friday No. 28 (2009-03-20 15:47) - Nan



[1]

Today's the Vernal Equinox – the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere – according to the World and Time page in my Filofax. It's the Autumnal Equinox, first day of autumn for our antipodal friends. Although I heard from one of my Gothamite friends that New York City had snow for about an hour today.

But we don't have to talk about the weather. Leave comments about whatever you wish.

—Inky

P.S. I finally managed to scan the Traveller's Checklist, and will be posting that this weekend. More scans coming soon!

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_H4Rx8LSaPk/ScP1fMUXF6I/AAAAAAAAAIE/z76G9DC01Ts/s1600-h/Compass_thumbnail.jpg



[1] I had planned to upload the scanned Traveller's Checklist today, but it turns out the scanned document is a PDF, which I can't upload to either Blogger or Flickr. I will have to figure out a way to convert it to JPEG.

Meanwhile, I'll talk about my most recent Daily Planner order.

- Pocket size 2009 2-days per page for my fitness filo. My diary ends in July, since it's academic year. I've decided to buy a 2009 calendar to finish out the year so I don't have to worry about finding academic ones from now on. Also, I'm switching from week-per-2-pages to give myself more room to write.

- Pocket page marker, frosted plastic. Mine broke as I was pulling it out recently!

- 2 notebooks. One Rhodia and one Miquelrius in sizes similar to the Personal Filofax. One reader asked whether there's a notebook whose pages can be inserted into a Personal, so I've ordered these two to test them.

- A5 2009 week-per-page with notes (on the facing page). I think this might solve the problem I've been having with my work filo, which is currently week-per-2-pages (without appointments). I need a way to keep a list in front of my face, and even without the appointment slots I don't fill up each day's space. The week-per-page gives a truly tiny amount of space per day. We'll see if it's too little even for me!

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_H4Rx8LSaPk/ScrjI4QEeHI/AAAAAAAAAIM/sKjJ3IR00bU/s1600-h/DSC04200.JPG

Silver.Elixir (2009-03-22 01:55:00)

Hi All,

Inky, I have used the week on one page with notes facing in the past and I think I find it one of the best page layouts. At the time I was not overly busy, so I didn't need to write a lot in my appointments page but the notes page was really useful for recording bill payments, menu plans and quotes I found or my to do list for that week. I even played around with sectioning the page off for different areas. This is easy to do as the lines are so faint. Last year I made my own version of this, but I flipped it so that my notes page was on the right side to make it easier to write on.

Steve (2009-03-24 15:20:00)

Hi

Look forward to the travellers JPG, I'm getting quite good at recreating these old, no longer available pages. You have seen and commented on my Photo Exposure page. I will make them available on DiY Planner and also the Yahoo Group, as it has a convenient files area.

Regards

Steve

Filofax Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/filofax/>

adriatikfan (2009-03-24 18:09:00)

Since stumbling across this blog a week or so back and reading back through all the back entries, I find myself hooked again, So I dusted off my old 4-ring Pocket filo, bought some refills (the really nice cotton paper is only punched for the newer 6-ring pocket!!) and am having a great time experimenting. My main system at the moment is Circa/Rollabind - very expensive to import into the UK I might add. I've used everything over the years but

$$[1]$$
[2]
31

L47000		L47001		L47002		L47003		L47004		L47005		L47006		L47007		L47008		L47009		L47010		L47011		L47012		L47013		L47014		L47015		L47016		L47017		L47018		L47019		L47020		L47021		L47022		L47023		L47024		L47025		L47026		L47027		L47028		L47029		L47030		L47031		L47032		L47033		L47034		L47035		L47036		L47037		L47038		L47039		L47040		L47041		L47042		L47043		L47044		L47045		L47046		L47047		L47048		L47049		L47050		L47051		L47052		L47053		L47054		L47055		L47056		L47057		L47058		L47059		L47060		L47061		L47062		L47063		L47064		L47065		L47066		L47067		L47068		L47069		L47070		L47071		L47072		L47073		L47074		L47075		L47076		L47077		L47078		L47079		L47080		L47081		L47082		L47083		L47084		L47085		L47086		L47087		L47088		L47089		L47090		L47091		L47092		L47093		L47094		L47095		L47096		L47097		L47098		L47099		L47100		L47101		L47102		L47103		L47104		L47105		L47106		L47107		L47108		L47109		L47110		L47111		L47112		L47113		L47114		L47115		L47116		L47117		L47118		L47119		L47120		L47121		L47122		L47123		L47124		L47125		L47126		L47127		L47128		L47129		L47130		L47131		L47132		L47133		L47134		L47135		L47136		L47137		L47138		L47139		L47140		L47141		L47142		L47143		L47144		L47145		L47146		L47147		L47148		L47149		L47150		L47151		L47152		L47153		L47154		L47155		L47156		L47157		L47158		L47159		L47160		L47161		L47162		L47163		L47164		L47165		L47166		L47167		L47168		L47169		L47170		L47171		L47172		L47173		L47174		L47175		L47176		L47177		L47178		L47179		L47180		L47181		L47182		L47183		L47184		L47185		L47186		L47187		L47188		L47189		L47190		L47191		L47192		L47193		L47194		L47195		L47196		L47197		L47198		L47199		L47200		L47201		L47202		L47203		L47204		L47205		L47206		L47207		L47208		L47209		L47210		L47211		L47212		L47213		L47214		L47215		L47216		L47217		L47218		L47219		L47220		L47221		L47222		L47223		L47224		L47225		L47226		L47227		L47228		L47229		L47230		L47231		L47232		L47233		L47234		L47235		L47236		L47237		L47238		L47239		L47240		L47241		L47242		L47243		L47244		L47245		L47246		L47247		L47248		L47249		L47250		L47251		L47252		L47253		L47254		L47255		L47256		L47257		L47258		L47259		L47260		L47261		L47262		L47263		L47264		L47265		L47266		L47267		L47268		L47269		L47270		L47271	
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100

Checklist, an English printing copyrighted in the late 1980s.

Clicking these images will deliver you to the Flickr page. To read the fine print, click to go to the Flickr page and then click the All Sizes button just above the main image. On the next page that opens, click the Original link to see the full-size image, which is the most legible.

- gg (2009-03-26 08:34:00)

Steve (2009-03-26 16:33:00)

Steve (2009-03-26 18:03:00)

<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6485>

Steve

Steve—

I'm eagerly waiting for the DIYPlanner post to be approved by the gods there. Lists like this are brain ticklers, I think – meant to give us a way to see if we've forgotten anything we need. In addition we might need a list specifically for a particular trip listing special things for that. We could drown in lists, but if I'm going off across the country or overseas I'd like to feel sure I've got what I need.

Thanks for providing a Word file – really helpful! I just broke my arm and can't type much.

Free for All Friday No. 29 (2009-03-27 12:46) - Nan

Have a great weekend and comment on any subject you wish!

—*Inky*

Anonymous (2009-04-02 02:41:00)

Hey,

every Day I'm looking forward to read this blog, it's great.

I got my first Filo 5 years ago, it was a brown Metropol.

Now I'm using a Personal Barock in Pink, don't know if it's available in the UK, I think not.

I bought it a month ago, it has really soft leather at the outside, and at the inside, a stronger leather with a Barrock pattern.

It's really nice.

I'm looking forward to buy a Finchley in Jade, and then switch from time to time.

In the hole I have, let me thing, ähm 8 Filofax an i love them all.

Sorry my Englisch is not as good as it can be, I come from Germany.

Greetings Jenny

Johannes (2009-04-07 02:51:00)

Hi Jenny,

you are not the only reader from Germany here.

I'm using my Filo for only three month now (a brown Personal 'Cuban'), and really love it. I don't think I will ever change back to a palm which I used before.

Greetings, Johannes

Anonymous (2009-04-07 03:48:00)

Hello Johannes,

are you from Germany?

Greetings

Jenny

Johannes (2009-04-08 04:38:00)

Yes, I am - living near Düsseldorf.

Yours, Johannes

Anonymous (2009-04-09 01:25:00)

Great,

I'm living near Frankfurt/Wiesbaden.

Yours Jenny

Johannes (2009-04-09 11:28:00)

Hi,

Ob wir hier auch auf Deutsch schreiben dürfen, oder ist das unhöflich gegenüber den anderen Mitlesern? Jedenfalls wünsche ich Dir schöne Ostertage.

Gruß, Johannes

Anonymous (2009-04-12 03:47:00)

Hi,

ich denke das ist einmal nicht so schlimm...

Ich wünsche dir auch schöne Ostertage, schönes Wetter haben wir ja :-)

lg

Jenny

More Travellers Tales (2009-03-27 12:57) - Nan



[1]

Philofaxy reader Steve has done something wonderful—created a travel checklist that you can print out for your own Personal size Filofax and similar binders.

It lives on D*I*Y Planner at [2]<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6485>.

*(At this writing, the D*I*Y Planner link isn't working yet. It takes time for new uploads to become available for viewing. Just keep trying!)*

Good travels to you all!

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_H4Rx8LSaPk/Sc0GB1NwGWI/AAAAAAAAIU/ofg6_Pp03P4/s1600-h/oklahomapost2.jpeg

2. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6485>

Steve (2009-03-27 16:13:00)

Thanks Inky

Also available here:

<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6488>

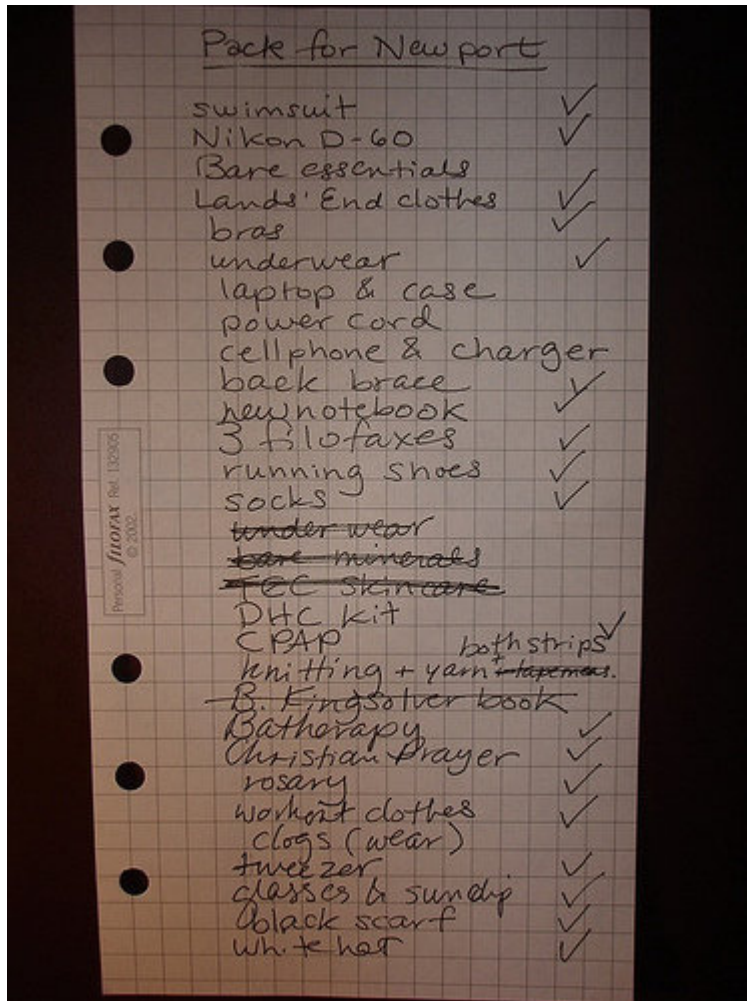
Steve

Steve (2009-04-01 00:58:00)

<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6485> is now live....

1.4 April

Free for All Friday No. 30 (2009-04-03 16:57) - Nan



[1]

Hi everybody!

I'm back from a week on vacation. I have some new posting ideas, and thought I'd share my handwritten version of the packing list we've been talking about recently.

Yeah, this was just for one week.

—Inky

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3410387496/>

Steve (2009-04-03 17:54:00)

Welcome back Inky. There appears to be an 'h' too many in the image link to your list picture.

I've discovered the reason for the two columns of check boxes. My late father in law, who I suspect was a Filofax user during WWII created his own holiday packing list in the late 1950's, which had the two check boxes per entry. The first column was used to indicate that he had gathered together each item that they were going to take on holiday.

The second column was used to indicate that each item was packed.

My wife created a similar list on the PC for our camping holidays in France and she followed suit with the two columns of check boxes and I didn't connect it until I saw the Filofax page that we have recreated. Sort of a circular story.

Steve

Nan (2009-04-03 17:58:00)

Ooh, thanks for pointing that out, Steve! The image worked OK on my computer, so I didn't catch it. I've fixed

it now.

You can also use the 2nd column to indicate that the item is packed for your return.

Miscellaneous (2009-04-04 17:18) - Nan



[1] A little while ago, a reader asked whether there's a bound, perforated pad whose pages are compatible with the Filofax Personal page size. I write in perforated A5 Miquelrius notebooks so that I have the option of punching and transferring the pages to an A5 Filofax. It makes sense that some folks might want to do that with a Personal Filo.

I thought the small Miquelrius spiral-bound, perforated 4 x 6 notebook might work, so I ordered one. I also ordered an A5 Rhodia top-bound notebook, to see if I can use it with my A5 Filo.

Well, the Miquelrius 4 x 6 doesn't work with Personal. Not only is it too vertically short, but the torn-off size is 4" wide. I was hoping that the 4" width included the spiral binding, so the perforation would be closer to the Personal 3-3/4" width. Nope.

With the Rhodia A5, I found the opposite problem. The bound pad is a perfect A5, so when you tear off the sheet, it's much shorter than A5 and not suitable for hole punching.

Oh, well. It was worth a shot.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3410387422/>

Anonymous (2009-04-06 12:39:00)

If you use a rhodia number 19 pad (I think it is #19, it might be #18 - I haven't used A5 for a while), you can cut it in half and have 2 A5 sheets of graph paper. I love graph paper.

Anonymous (2009-04-06 14:13:00)

Thank you for this information—it will save some of us from a buy that might not work out!

Lately I find that I am suffering from a sort of FF ADD. This is where I am using, say an A5, and then for no really good reason, I become dissatisfied and switch to the personal size. This is not easy to do—I spend time updating info, adding and subtracting things, etc. After a few months, something will happen and I will think that the bigger size is more user friendly and switch back! To make things more complicated, I will become enamored of a NEW FF—such as the Eton (it has a pocket)—and really want to purchase it. I have several already and don't

need anymore, but there you go.....do you have such struggles?

Anonymous (2009-04-07 03:55:00)

Hello Anonymous,

I have the same problem than you,

I have to switch my Filo from time to time, if i do not i get disapointed with my planning system.

The Eton is a wonderful organizer, but its still to expensive to me.

Sometimes I´m switching from Mini to Personal, from Personal to Mini...

Big differences but sometimes is works.

What´s your favorite Filo?

Greetings Jenny

Anonymous (2009-04-07 15:17:00)

Hi Jenny,

My problem is that I like them all, but I go back and forth between personal and A5. Personal doesn't give me all the room I like to take notes, etc. but it looks great and is not bulky. The A5 can be too big/heavy in my bag. But the A5 is great for notes and printouts since it is the size of a 1/2 sheet of paper, so I can fold papers from work and they fit nicely. And you are correct, the Eton is much too expensive—but I still like to look!

Anonymous (2009-04-08 02:44:00)

Personal ist the perfekt size for me,

becouse i don´t use it for my work a lot...

Another great timer is Waverly Pocket...but the same as Eton, toooooo expensive..

Anonymous (2009-04-08 14:48:00)

I'm in the rpocess of trying to get my planner smaller and more compact. I've been playing around with a slimline, an office supply 1/2 inch mini binder and a pocket moleskine and I just can't get it right. I'm wasting a lot of my time when really, I should be doing some of the things on my to do list instead of trying to control my feelings of chaos with the perfect planner. Any suggestions on how to get out of this perfectionist bind and into real life? My husband says that this is like a hobby for me and I should just fuss away at my planners as much as I want. I keep waiting for him to laugh at me but he never does. I also think about people who neer walk around with their planners and wonder how they get through life like that. I wish I could remember and organize all the things I need to do without paper. Then again - I realy like paper and all things related. I'm a hopeless case but then, my husbad is right, I do get a lot of enjoyment out of this.

Miss Charlie (2009-04-11 18:41:00)

I'm a hopeless case but then, my husbad is right, I do get a lot of enjoyment out of this.

Anon: you're a nutter. Please, be cool with that fact - so many of us are!

Since when did a "normal everyday joe" ever change **anything**?

(Least of all, their own lives...)

Lecture over: what are you looking to get from your organiser?

And, as important. what level of CHAOS - scary word, I SO know! - can you live with?

I like your post - it's intriguing, challenging, and just that little bit crazy!

Apols if I'm out of line (to anyone) posting this: just, I recall a time when my generic 6-ring organiser was all that stood between me, and chaos...

Ffx love is all good, and you deserve to find the right way forward...

Chet (2009-04-12 09:16:00)

I made a Circa notebook out of the pages I tore from my A5 Rhodia top-bound notebook. It required 7 Circa discs, while a regular A5 requires 8.

Anonymous (2009-04-12 16:46:00)

Hi Anonymous

I think I am an even worse case FF ADD as I change from week to week! Please help! Pocket size works perfectly for me in my handbag but I feel I really prefer the Personal size where I keep addresses, password, notes, lists etc. but don't like to carry all that stuff around with me so I switch to Slimline to just keep the current daily plans, year plan, contact numbers etc. But then I get a question regarding long term stuff or I need an address that's in the big personal at home and I'm stuck – I don't know why the Pocket is not satisfactory; its cute, nice to use practical and works, but.....

Does anyone have a way round this? For example does anyone use one size out and 'download' to another at home? My husband would be delighted not to see me swapping yet again!

(To cap it all, I'd really like to use A5 at work but they insist on us using Outlook – which I hate – its fine for just appointments but not for planning!!!)

Thanks Confused.

Anonymous (2009-04-13 21:23:00)

Confused–you are my twin. I do alot of what you do. I am constantly switching back and forth! I hope someone answers you with some good suggestions.

Thanks, Ally

kanalt (2009-06-05 10:17:11)

Confused - I don't know if this will help you - Is the reason you don't like Outlook because it's Outlook (versus a different software program) or because it computer based? What I do is this:

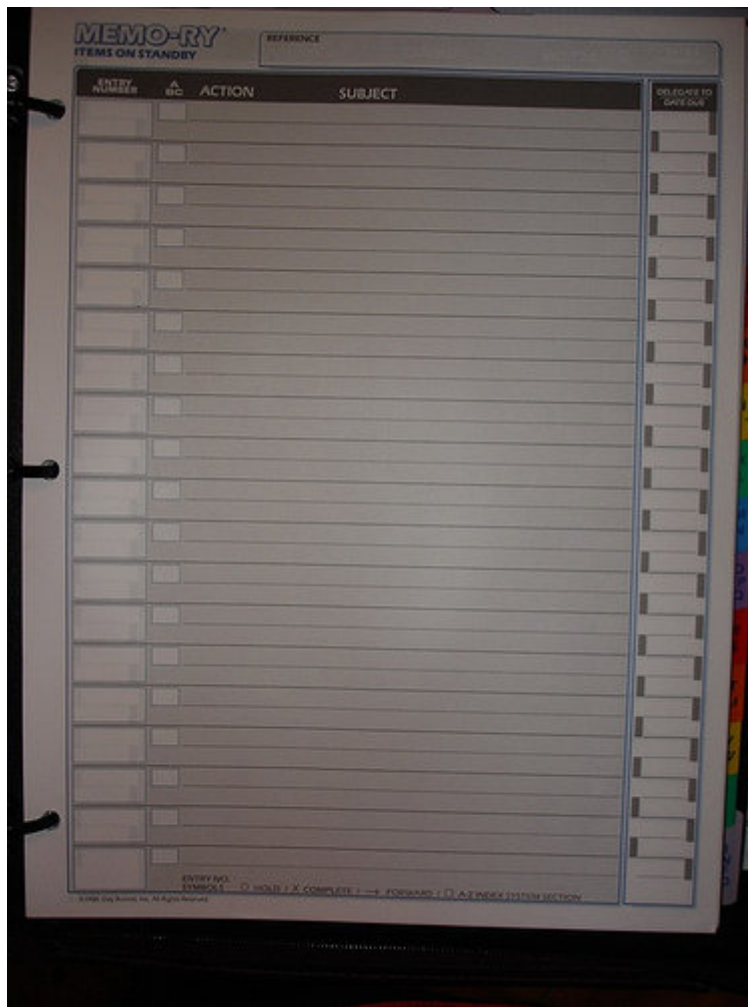
I use a Personal size as my main organizer. In here, I keep appointments, to-do lists, projects, shopping lists, birthdays/anniversaries, phone numbers, basically, anything you might use a paper organizer for. As a portable solution, I use my iPod Touch - computer/digital based but it's small and easy to carry, plus I can get online where WiFi is available, which I like. But in addition to my Filo, I keep all of my appointments and important reminders (anything I might need on the go) in my Google calendar which is compatible (while offline) with my iPod. This way, if I need to see appointments, I can easily do that. There's also a "notepad" so if I need to jot something down, I can do that too. Then I just transfer the information to my Filo. It's more work for me in the end, a lot of maintenance, but for me, it works. It's the best of both worlds, paper and digital and satisfies the portability issue.

You could do something like that, or even use your pocket filo for the same portability - appointments and necessary information while on the go only and then transfer the information you need in your main filo. Outlook can be used this way too - use it for your appointments and meetings only (for the powers that be at work) and your Filo for yourself, whatever you'd like in there. Of course, if they insist you use Outlook for your to-dos (or everything, really), it might end up being more work for yourself to keep all items in two places. Just an idea though.

Let me know how it works out.

antsias (2009-07-27 16:06:23)

Has anyone tried Whitelines A5 graph wired or glued notebook? I have also tried the Rhodia A5 but does not fit in my Filo Classic A5 as well as the Filo version. I just recently noticed Whitelines on ebay and on their website. Anyone have any experience with this paper and your Filo?



[1]

Happy Easter!

You may have noticed the lack of a Free-for-All Friday this past week. I've decided to make them only every other week, to cut down on the number of posts.

In other news, I've been mourning DayRunner lately. It was my 2nd organizer, after my first Filofax, and, even though I run a Filofax blog, DayRunner still has a special place in my heart.

I especially miss the Memo-ry page. A DayRunner is more structured than a Filofax but less pre-programmed than Franklin Covey, and the Memo-ry page is the fulcrum on which the system rests. An idea that's brilliant in its simplicity. It's a to-do list, idea list, and tickler all in one. You just write things down as they come to you, with or without assigning a priority or due date.

One of the ingenious ideas is the box at left, where you can number the memos. Then you can simply use that number to refer to the memo in other parts of the organizer, without having to rewrite the entire item. Something else I love: the tab for the Memo-ry section is at the top, not the right, so you can flip to it instantly.

The DayRunner pages use light gray to delineate lines, rather than harsh black and white, which makes it easy to overwrite boundaries you're not using.

Here's a history of DayRunner: [2]<http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Day-Runner-Inc-Company-History.html>

Click the picture for a Flickr tour of a vintage DayRunner (8.5 x 11 size) that I found recently on Overstock.com.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/sets/72157616591735675/>

2. <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Day-Runner-Inc-Company-History.html>

Claudia Volkman (2009-04-13 06:41:00)

Thanks for sharing these photos - what a find! I have been experimenting with DIY forms for my Circa, and these DayRunner pages you show really appeal to me, from the Memo-ries (love it!) to the daily page, contacts, projects, and objectives pages. I went to Overstock, but did not see this exact organizer, so maybe you got the only one....

Claudia

gg (2009-04-15 09:18:00)

Whew!! I was worried for a while there--thought DayRunner had gone out of business. But I found their website still up and the office supply store still has their products.

I really like their Pro Series products. But could never work the Memo-Ry pages into my life, tho they do seem to be a good idea.

Nan (2009-04-15 23:18:00)

Thanks, Claudia, I wish Overstock had more. Wouldn't it be nice if there were a stash of a couple hundred of these somewhere?

If I use this organizer, I'll eventually need to replace pages. DIY forms would work. I'm also wondering if I can't just scan these pages, and use the resulting PDF to print from.

I think it would have to be a laser printer, which I don't have, since inkjet ink has a tendency to smudge if it gets wet.

GG - DayRunner (the brand is now owned by Mead), has much fewer products available. Basically just calendars and note paper. I really miss not only Memo-ry, but the Projects, Meeting, Contacts, and Receipt Envelope. They also used to have fold-out year calendars, as does Filofax.

gg (2009-04-16 10:21:00)

Come to think of it, Inky, that's true. Tho since I've started making up some of my own forms, I hadn't noticed. But this year one of the calendars I tried was their Nature weekly. I liked the concept but the way they executed it wasn't so great - Sunday start on one view, Monday on another, some of the type was too small to read, and some too faint. But it was fine for my daughter, so I punched it for her Filo and she's using it at work.

You've got me thinking about the Memo-ry pages - maybe I'll start using something like that. But for it to be worthwhile, you would have to be consistent about using it to capture everything, wouldn't you? That doesn't come naturally to me, so I hesitate to start with it.

I think it would be great, by the way, to make people feel comfortable about using this website to comment on any paper-based planning system, or problems with planning, etc. The DIYPlanner site has its focus, and the David Allen site is about GTD, so seems to me that there should be a place to discuss other issues, or at least to widen the focus a bit.

Anyway, it's good to see you back. This is one of the websites I visit every day in hopes of seeing some activity, so thanks for keeping it going.

Anonymous (2009-04-27 18:49:00)

I had the identical attack of nostalgia last year. My first planner was from Time Systems (I don't think it's the same company as the one that operates under that name today). They had a tab for every day of the month, which was easy to use but really heavy and cumbersome. I went to Day Runner next, and I really liked the Memo-ry concept but I hated the bright colored tabs and the quality of the binders. Anyway, I used Franklin for a decade+ after that, but my tasks are not day-specific so it was never a great fit. I bought a Day Runner Pro on eBay last year, and I remembered how much I liked the format. Anyway, I was thinking that maybe I could use Filo To Do pages to perform the Memo-ry function, but I wouldn't have that top tab. Maybe 2 page finders would work - one for to do/memo-ry and one for today ?

Format Crisis (2009-04-15 19:09) - Nan

I guess it's no secret to anyone who's been reading between the lines in this blog or clicked through to [1]Flickr that I'm having a format crisis. Me, Ms. Filofax A5 USA has taken an 8.5" x 11" DayRunner into her home.

My current system isn't working as well as it could. Which wouldn't be a problem but for the fact that I'm not working as well as I could. Just today a wise person said to me, "don't let the calendar overtake you," and I realize that's what's been happening. I haven't written down a new idea in weeks, and I'm starting to wonder whether it would help to have a Memo-ry page to write them down on. Would I be able to have better information at my fingertips if I were able to print and carry documents in the standard American 8.5" x 11" size? Would I take better notes if I had a full-size page to do it on? Why am I using a blank sheet of paper folded into my week-on-2-pages Filofax for a daily to-do list when I could be using a page-per-day? And if I had a big, month-in-view calendar to look at every day, would it be less likely to overtake me?

I'm thinking, yes.

When I joined this blog in 2006, I had been spending at least a year changing systems as often as every 3 months...Palm Pilot to Circa to Moleskine. Then I laid down some ground rules when it comes to switching formats:

- 1) I can only switch twice a year—in January, or, as a last resort, the beginning of academic year calendars in July or September.

- 2) I must commit to using any one system exclusively for at least 6 full months before switching at all. Since I've been using an A5 Filofax for work consistently for 3—that's right, 3—years straight now, maybe I can change the rules and start the new format now.

Or, can I take what I need from the DayRunner system and do it with my existing A5? Most of the forms I need are in the DIY Planner's basic A5 kit. And NOT, I might add, in the 8.5" x 11" letter size. I could create the templates myself, but wouldn't sticking with my existing A5 format be the more elegant solution?

And yet part of me thinks that making the letter-size switch will make me feel free! Powerful! Creative! Maybe a change is just what I need in my life right now!

And so I'll go to meet the friends I'm supposed to meet right now. We'll all be having drinks, and we may all have an angel and a devil on either shoulder, but I bet only mine will be whispering to me about paper formats.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/sets/72157616591735675/>

Miss Charlie (2009-04-16 08:22:00)

I feel for ya - this is exactly the inner struggle I had running for MONTHS before going from Ffx Personal to A5. Doubly so coz the A5 I *really* wanted was £80, and money's not flowing too readily right now.

All I can say is, I made the leap, and have never regretted it for a moment - I was folding A5 notepad sheets in half, or having my "To Do" list split between Ffx and spiral bound notepads, then keeping my diet tracker in a Rhodia A5 elsewhere...

I battle chaos enough anyway on a daily basis, and getting it all into one place, big enough for my needs and with room for more... **paradise!**

One idea though: try having a standard wall calendar maybe that you can cross days off like normal, and also some of those thin Post Its that you can write appointments etc on, and place on the calendar?

I can't show a photo of mine without heavy editing for client confidentiality reasons, but it really works and gives you a visual feel for how your month's looking.

Another thing I've always done is if there's a BIG date coming - holiday or big deal social event, whatever - I do a countdown on my week-(or day-)to-view pages under the date, so I'm aware daily that time's a-flying!

Good luck whatever you decide, and do remember that the amount of inner turmoil :o) you experience over choosing the right format is more than repaid by the support your organisers give you over the years!

Steve (2009-04-16 16:06:00)

I too have a split Filofax existence! A pocket one for carrying around with my calendar and todo lists. An A5 for my journal and other information.

I found that the standard refills for any size didn't suit my own method of working, so I have devised my own over time, might not work for anyone else. But it works for me.

Steve

Anonymous (2009-04-16 19:21:00)

A planner is much like a computer program, you can't base your business around the program, but the program has to be built around your business. It is stifling ones imagination to much if you don't. I have designed many of my own forms, and it takes time, but it becomes truly a personalised system. It also gives me quite a bit of a boost when someone comments on it. In itself it becomes a work of art. Just stay with a loose leaf system I think is the main thing.c

Laurie (2009-04-17 08:34:00)

Hi Inky, I feel your pain. I have been absent from Philofaxy for awhile now because I haven't been Filofaxin' very much lately. My Filos are now my reference books, which stay home. They just got too out of control for me to use as my planner/ all in one book. I have a bad habit with Filos, stuffing them full of things I think I need. Then they become way too big and bulky to be portable.

So I cut myself off from Filofax as my planners and switched...to various things. For January I tried a page per day book, which totally broke down. So I used my weekly Uncalendar until my Exacompta Visual arrived. I used it about a month before I abandoned it for lack of space to write notes each week. I like having my lists and to-dos visible on my weekly page. Now I am back to my Uncalendar until July, when I will start a large Moleskine week + notes.

I like the Uncalendar, and it works well for me, but it is just not portable enough for me. They do have an 8 1/2 X 11 3 hole punched system if you want to check it out. I really enjoy the Uncalendar system but am looking for something more streamlined. If you are looking to expand, you might check it out.

Good luck finding what works for you! I am still searching.

Laurie (2009-04-17 08:35:00)

Oh and by the way, the monthly calendar in the Un has really big boxes for each day, and an extra box at the beginning of each week which is really nice to write in goals, reminders, or whatever. Good luck!

Nan (2009-04-17 20:11:00)

Hi Miss Charlie – You've hit upon an important point. When I was using an electronic organizer, I could print out large monthly calendars. When I made the switch to Filofax, this piece dropped out. I'm thinking I can print out calendars from iCal or Entourage. I've also ordered Filofax month-on-2-pages calendars to try those.

Hi Laurie – Great to hear from you again! I've checked out the Uncalendar Web site but never ordered any. I think the people doing it sound really cool. Thanks for reminding me of this option if I go to the letter-size format. I can so relate to the Catch-22 that you describe...If I put everything I need into a Filofax, it becomes too big to carry around! Or it outgrows the rings.

stationerygal (2009-05-10 16:23:00)

I too seem to be in a pattern of switching my organizer of choice every 3 months. So here I sit, with my new Filofax catalog full of new organizers! I do not need a new organizer but am seriously thinking of ordering the pocket Finsbury in teal. I am currently using my chocolate Personal Finsbury but think I may like the smaller size for my to do lists, etc...my husband was just saying today how I seem to change every quarter...something he and I are complete opposites on. He still uses (and loves) the bomber leather Franklin Planner I got him 10 + years ago! Wow! I can't even imagine that!

sarahbeth (2009-05-17 01:09:00)

I feel for you too. I went through the same thing for three years. It was the opposite for me. I tried bigger but needed to go back to my pocket filofax. I work from home and it is my portable everything. I had used the pocket

filofax from 1981-2004. Thank goodness I am using it again. Why I changed to something else I'll never know. Now I have all this circa, and other systems to get rid of... I hope going back works for you

Free for All Friday No. 31 (2009-04-17 15:50) - Nan

Talk about your Filofax...or talk about the weather! Whatever you like.

A commenter asked recently whether we can open up the discussion to other kinds of organizers, or planning in general. As far as I'm concerned, we've **always** been open to these topics!

Most of the time, I'd like to keep our focus on loose-leaf systems like Filofax as opposed to, say, M***skines, but that seems to be happening naturally. I've never had to ask anyone to change the subject.

So chatter away!

—*Inky*

megn (2009-04-17 21:24:00)

I'd love to see posts about other organizers, just don't try to talk me out of using my Filofax!

We all know who invented the personal organizer, it was Filofax. As far as I'm concerned they're the best, but I'd still like to listen to what others have to say.

Laurie (2009-04-17 21:31:00)

I always enjoy hearing how people use their planners as a life-planning tool. Goal setting and breaking down those goals into monthly, weekly and daily tasks is a favorite topic of mine. And, I love to hear how people work on the daily details while still keeping their eye on the big picture. Another topic I enjoy is juggling multiple roles: work, family, personal. I like to learn about ways I could use my planner more effectively to help in these areas. Anybody have any wisdom to pass along?

Anonymous (2009-04-18 03:02:00)

Has anyone used the new "Family Organizer" pack yet? What are your thoughts...is it worth the money? Does it help?

chris (2009-04-18 17:01:00)

My Dad was one of those people who used a Filofax in the 50s. It's still going strong. I have a question: Does anyone know how it is possible to get a Filofax diary which is only sold in a foreign market? I really, really want the Russian/English diary, but it looks like Filofax only supply it within Russia. In our multi-cultural world you'd think there'd be profits in making it easier to obtain such rare items. Any ideas?

Steve (2009-04-20 16:58:00)

Another of my re-creations.. An A5 Day planner, available here:

<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6498>

Steve

gg (2009-04-20 18:07:00)

While looking through the refills on the Filofax site I saw Work Planner templates. There were no detailed views, however. Has anyone got any information about them?

Thx

Anonymous (2009-04-22 10:25:00)

Hi,

i recently ordered an new Filo, a Jade Finchley. It was 40 % off at the German Filofax-site.

What a good offer :-)

Greeting Jenny

I thought about using a Filofax especially since there are so many different page and accessory options but I e-mailed the company and they said Filofax pages are not acid-free/ acid neutral. :(

[illegible]

I'm fascinated by this form because it can hold so much information. Basically, there's a space for everything you need to know about one of your customer's accounts. I'm especially fascinated by the back side (click the image to get access to it). There's a table for tracking several years' worth of monthly purchase amounts, like a miniature Excel spreadsheet.

1) At one time, it was truly possible to conduct all of your business with a Personal Filofax (this form is copyright 1996).

In other news, I calmed down on my format crisis when I realized that I don't have to do everything all at once. I've decided to stick with the A5 format "for now." I've ordered the pieces I need to implement the DayRunner forms that worked for me—a month-on-two-pages and a day-per-page calendar.

- 44

hidnseek (2009-04-19 23:15:00)

i just picked up a pack of these at my local refill store in town they had more left at about 5 \$. checked and mine are dated 1996 too.

Steve (2009-04-20 04:26:00)

Updated versions in A4/A5 format also available here:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/filofax/files/> for you to print off yourself.

Steve (2009-04-20 12:22:00)

Also available here:

<http://diyplanner.com/node/6518>

Regards

Steve

Customer Record for Today (2009-04-21 21:58) - Nan

Reader Steve Morton has come through again. After I posted the scanned Customer Record page, he has given us the gift of Word and PDF versions of this useful page in A4 and A5 that all of us can download and print.

The Word and PDF documents are available for free at: [1]<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/filofax/files/>. (You will have to create a Yahoo account if you don't already have one, and join the Yahoo Filofax group, which is, in my experience, a well-managed and spam-free group.)

You can also find them on D*I*Y Planner at:[2] <http://diyplanner.com/node/6518>.

1. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/filofax/files/>

2. <http://diyplanner.com/node/6518>

Steve (2009-04-22 09:42:00)

Thanks for your comments Inky and the links :)

If anyone else has some 'old' pages that are no longer available and they can scan them in I would be interested in recreating/updating them and making them available to all.

Regards

Steve

1.5 May

Free for All Friday No. 32 (2009-05-01 07:16) - Nan

Every other week, Philofaxy has an open thread. Funny thing, we always seem to end up talking about Filofaxes.

—*Inky*

Steve (2009-05-01 17:15:00)

What size Filofax suits you most and why?

Steve

Silver_Elixir (2009-05-01 19:24:00)

I use a personal size Filofax - a chocolate brown leather Kendal. I have 6 sections in use at the moment, but I am thinking of re-arranging them today. First is COLLECTION where I keep lists of authors, books to read, books to get, a design section, goal ideas and tips, magic moments, ideas, home ideas, parenting goals, motivation, movies to get, a list of DVD's I've got, music to get, names, phrases, people, products/things to look for, project ideas, parenting quotes, general quotes, sudoku puzzles (printed out and cut down and stuck 3 per page), thoughts, wish list, words, websites. This is sort of alphabetical, but I need to find a way to tighten it up. Next is section is LIFE where I have written all the things that I want to change in my life, where I detail projects to do, where I keep my TO DO list with an easy access top tab. Next is HOME where I write my shopping lists, keep track of my budget, and weekly bill payments. I have a grid menu so I can choose what to cook each week, a few pages dedicated to info about the house - window and drawer measurements, when the pest control is due etc. Next is DIARY. It is here so that it is even on both sides to write on. Next is a section with stuff related to my son - health info, school info and routine, school sight words, cute things he's said, a few pictures and activities we can do together in different categories. Last is INFO. This is my address book with yellow pages of often used numbers, work numbers, and a page I made to keep insurance and registration and company details I may need away from home. Also any phone call info goes here. I am thinking of pulling my planner apart and tweaking it. How do you arrange your planner and how many pages do you hold in your planner? I will count and post it later....

hidnseek (2009-05-02 10:34:00)

I have the personal finchley teal that I also use as a wallet. Carries everything! Also a A5 black classic that sits on my desk at home as a family manager, medical, calendar and such. Looking at the family planner for the A5 and wondering about feedback on it.

Steve (2009-05-02 15:40:00)

On the topic of contents and what sections to have. There's no hard and fast rule, that's after all the main advantage of Filofax. You can vary the contents to fit your individual needs.

If you look on David Allen's website the guru of Getting Things Done (GTD) there are some free downloads, one of which is about setting up a paper organiser. This is a direct link to the paper:

<http://tinyurl.com/azs5od>

You might have to set up an account to download the document, but that's not difficult.

Take a read it has some useful tips and ideas in it.

Steve

Miss Charlie (2009-05-03 05:19:00)

On another topic... I bought my first Filofax hole punch (Personal size) in 2002 - quite pricey, but it proved invaluable over the years.

After mucho dithering, some of which I mentioned in comments here, I upgraded to A5 recently, and after even MORE dithering bought the A5 punch - because those puppies are pricey and money's tight right now (yeah, me and half the planet!).

The main reason against buying it was the difficulty cleaning out the scraps....

Okay, you may have seen this one coming - MuppetHead, aka Miss Charlie here, only just figured out last night that *you can slide out the base plate*, and it makes cleaning out the bits ridiculously simple!

The only possible word for this is: **D'OH!!!**

I apologise if anyone thinks this is a waste of good pixels btw, but I really am gobsmacked that I didn't notice this small fact before - I nearly jammed up the A5 punch because the end farthest from the cap would NOT clean out...

Next week: Water - WET! :o)

On a happier note - Silver_Elixir, do you love that Kendal leather as much as me? :)

It just looks better every day, and shrugs off scratches & marks like magic...

Silver_Elixir (2009-05-03 19:28:00)

Miss Charlie the Kendal leather is awesome. I love the smell of it. As for any scratches or marks they just rub right off. Like magic. :-) At first I was paranoid about keeping it in perfect nick, but I have come to realize that using it and handling it just gives it more character. It can handle pretty much anything!

marcuspajp (2009-05-07 15:52:00)

I just got one of these:

<http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem &ssPageName=STRK:MEWNX:IT &item=270383007436>

Can any of you experts tell me anything about it? It seems to be a Pocket with 4 rings, but these seem to be able to take a lot of the inserts still made. Any other insights would be great

Marcus

Laurie (2009-05-08 02:33:00)

Inky, so what did you decide (or are you still debating) about your format crisis?

I am still casting about for my ideal planner format. I had a falling-out earlier this year with Filofaxes, and ditched them for my planner needs. The Personal page size is just too small for my planner-ing needs (and a page per day just does not work for me, I have finally determined!). The larger page size of the A5 is nice, but the book is just too big and heavy for me to want to carry around everywhere. And for both sizes, I have the bad habit of stuffing them until they are ridiculously fat and unwieldy.

Then a couple of days ago I had to make a phone call, and looked up the number in my trusty Filofax. I thought, why did I ever give up using my Filofax as my Everything book? Then I remembered my issues detailed above. Back to the drawing board. Why do I torture myself so????

Laurie (2009-05-09 16:44:00)

Silver Elixir, what format do you use for your diary? I am looking for inspiration, and am curious as to what works for other parents.

Thanks!

Silver_Elixir (2009-05-09 20:21:00)

Laurie I currently use a week on two pages as my diary. I am thinking about changing to a week on one page with notes on the opposite. I have used this in the past and I find that I would prefer the pages to be swapped, with the notes on the right and diary on the left. I am trying to make a page of my own that could be daily or weekly that would provide room for appointments, menu plan, errands, a section to write things related to school and my son. I would also like to have an area to write expenses and a few comments on the day. To fit all this on personal size pages I would need to use two facing pages. I am not an overly busy person but I would like to have a better record of my days, and something with room for all the above would be good. What do you need/use for your diary? I just thought that maybe one page or diary section would be enough if I was to use a code/reference system to refer back to other areas where info could sit - like menu plan in home area, school term overview in my son's section etc. Does that make sense?

Laurie (2009-05-10 02:47:00)

SE, ever since I've had kids and had more people to keep track of than just myself, I have found the Personal size diary pages too small for my needs. I think you have a really good idea to use some kind of reference system where you can keep some of the information off the weekly page.

I read somewhere on this blog awhile ago that later this year the Mom's planner (which is available only in A5 size in the US) will be available in the Personal size in the UK. I like the format of the diary pages, with space for your day, family, and it looks like there might be a space under Family, possibly for Dinner? There is a small space to the left of Monday for a list, then further lists could be kept in a separate section. I have been thinking about this and wonder if this format would work for me.

Good luck finding what works for you!!

Laurie

Silver_Elixir (2009-05-10 05:17:00)

Laurie do you make your own pages? Could you possibly take the elements from the Filofax Mum's planner and other pages you like to create one that would work for you? I like looking at all the different page formats that are available, and of ones that have been created and taking elements from them to make a more personal page. I only have one child to keep track of so things don't get too busy. I have thought of using prompts to gather information about my day as a record but that feels too forced as opposed to a few notes about the day. What do you keep in your planner?

Laurie (2009-05-10 06:50:00)

I don't make my own pages per se, but I do have hand written information pages. I have pages of medical info, insurance, activities, and all of that. My main issue is the weekly planner pages. I am yet to find a format in the Personal size that allows me to have enough room to write appointments, tasks, lists, and notes and still see a week view. The day per page 1) makes my book too fat to be usable, 2) doesn't let me plan ahead for my week like I need to, and 3) forces me to re-write tasks throughout the week. I definitely need a week view.

To be perfectly honest, I now leave my Filofax at home as my household reference, and use a M***skine large week + notes planner as my calendar. It has as much space per page as my A5 size Filo, but is so much smaller. It's much slimmer and lighter than even my Personal size Filo, with twice the space per page. But, I miss being able to add and remove pages, move around my lists, etc. That's why I think, if only I could find a weekly planner format for the Personal size that works for me, I could be content. But, this is an issue that has been plaguing me for years so I'm not sure I'll find an adequate solution for it. I might just need more space per page than the Personal size provides.

Laurie (2009-05-10 07:00:00)

SE, just curious, what is the thickness of your Filo? When I have everything I *think* I need in my Personal size, it is 1 3/4 in thick!

Silver_Elixir (2009-05-10 18:06:00)

Thanks for all your details Laurie. I think it is really interesting to hear how other people use their planners. Mine is about the same thickness as yours. I have been meaning to weigh mine too. I have a few ideas... I am not sure if they will work considering the size and thickness constraints. I will throw them out there and maybe you can adapt them... 1) What if you used a week on one page as an overview of your week, with all the fixed details and then behind or beside it a page with your lists, task and notes. You could even use a page from a smaller Filo with 'fixed' list of tasks or notes if some things don't change. 2) Could you try using two diaries in your planner? Maybe the weekly overview one and the a day per page with the necessary details? 3) Another idea is to use the A-Z to file everything - D for diary, I for insurance, K or their initial for the kids info, etc.

I am not sure of these ideas are of any use to you... but I hope they can help in some way. Do you have any pictures of your Filo to share?

Laurie (2009-05-11 03:13:00)

Thank you for your suggestions. When I have used my Filofaxes as my planners in the past, I have used several different calendars simultaneously for different views: weekly for the details, monthly for month overview/ bills due/ deadlines, and annual fold-out for long-range and travel planning. In the past I have used the week + notes format, which is nice to have the whole page for lists and notes, but the day spaces are way too tiny in the Personal size. This is actually the format I am using now with my large M-skine, and it works well for me because each page is twice the size of a Personal page so I have plenty of space to write.

I have thought of using a week on two pages and then inserting a blank page in the middle of the week for notes, but I think it would break up my view of the week too much. I have also thought of having my week view planner and then having that week's lists and notes behind a separate tab. But, I am very "out of sight, out of mind" so I prefer to have it all on a two-page spread to keep everything in view.

Last year I upgraded from Personal to A5 Filo so that I could have the larger weekly pages, and I thought that would solve my problem. But then the book was too big, especially for travel.

Like I said, I don't know if there will be a satisfactory answer for me regarding using the Personal size as my planner. One of the main draws, for me, to a Filofax is that my needs change frequently. I live overseas with my

family, and we travel internationally about 4 times per year. So the things I need at home are not necessarily the things I need while traveling, and vice versa. And when we do travel, it is often for several weeks at a time so I need things like everyone's medical information, insurance of all kinds, addresses and contacts, etc. What I am currently testing is having my planner book as just my planner/ calendar system, and then my Personal size Filofax as my Travel book with all of the information I need while traveling and also maps of the area where I am going, transportation and lodging information, etc. That way there is a separation between what I need every day (planner) and what I only need while traveling, so I don't carry around a big fat book full of information that I don't necessarily need all the time.

I have two international trips coming up in the next two months, so those will be a good test of this system.

After I decided I didn't want to use my A5 as my planner, I changed it to a home/ household binder that contains information that I only need at home like financial, lists, my main addresses and contacts, Christmas lists, magazine subscription information, etc. This is information that I need to have easy access to but I don't need to carry around with me.

So my books are:

A5 Filo for household/ home use

Personal Filo for travel

Planner for daily planning/ calendar use.

I have been using a Filo-type binder system as my planner since 1996, so this will be my first year trying to use a non-ring bound system as my actual planner. It will be an adjustment, not being able to add and remove pages. I think there are a lot of people who use some kind of electronic calendar system as their planner and then a Filofax for their addresses and other info, so maybe my system of separate books isn't so different?

I am very open to any suggestions!

Silver_Elixir (2009-05-11 06:09:00)

Laurie I have had another idea regarding pages and fitting in all required information. Picture your Filo open to your current diary week view, or a week you can 'play' with to see how this idea works. Lay them on the table as they would be in your Filo. Now take a piece of lined or blank filo paper. My idea may be to fiddly to use but here it is. I thought that if you lined up the good edges of the paper and tape them together so that they can fold, and were to trim the holes off of the non diary page to allow it to fit, then you would have a fold out that could hold notes or info. It would be hard to write on this page in the Filo unless it is folded over but you could write on it before taping it on the the diary page. The way I see it is that you could have monday tuesday wednesday lists etc on the added page on the left and the rest of the week on the right. You could write on the back of the list page or that could be for the following week. Its an idea, but a bit fiddly I think. If I have not explained it clearly let me know and I will do it and take photos and put them on Flickr.

You sure seem like a busy person with a need to keep track of lots of stuff. I think the idea of a travel Filo is a good one. All your info in one place and if you were to need it in your day to day planner then you could just reference it or copy what you need onto a pocket page and insert it somewhere that wouldn't take up too much room.

I don't know it turning you planner 90 degrees and having the days running down the page would work. Is there anyway you can streamline your info to just a reference number/colour/dot sticker or something? I'd love to see a pic of your planner.

gmax (2009-05-11 10:32:00)

Marcus - your *Pocket* wallet may be a "Sherwood" model from around 1992. This format was introduced in 1989, and the leaves were designed to be compatible with the *Personal* and *Professional* organisers.

The pages were 120mm x 81mm.

"Sherwood" was a "Deluxe, soft kid leather wallet" with 16mm rings and available in Black, Burgundy and Brown.

marcuspa.jp (2009-05-11 12:11:00)

@gmax: thank you for the comment. My Filofax has arrived now and it is a bit different from the picture in the auction.

It is burgundy and has the same layout with 4 rings, 2 slips on the left and 4 card holders on the right but the leather is smoother and it doesn't have the stamped logo but the more common(older?) gold painted Made in

England and "Real Leather", rather than Calf or Kid skin.

It probably was a cheaper model than the Sheffield but for the price I still like it a lot more than the contemporary versions.

Anonymous (2009-05-11 13:58:00)

A good discussion about many things "Filo". It would seem to me that the size limitations being discussed are a common complaint that have at times frustrated me too. I just carry 4 months of my planner at a time, but have the fold out yearly planner in back. I find in my case, the time I need are the current month, one month back and 2 months ahead. If I need to make a note of something further out than 2 months, I make a note in pencil on the fold out and then write it in later. I have used a personal, and make my own planner sheets and this really works for me. Trying to carry it all is like trying to park a Bentley in a garage designed for a Mini. Just doesn't work very well.

Laurie (2009-05-11 14:22:00)

Well put, Anonymous.

Thanks for the idea SE. It does sound a bit fiddly, but after my trips in the next couple of months if I'm not satisfied with my system I might try it.

gmax (2009-05-12 09:41:00)

Marcus - The smoothness of the leather you mention suggests it could be the "Lincoln" model rather than the "Sherwood". The colour range for that one was the same. The original list price of "Lincoln" was a bit cheaper, but I expect you still have a classic & vintage wallet there.

Anonymous (2009-05-12 15:15:00)

Having seen all the comments here regarding pages folding over others etc. has anyone ever looked at Timesystems? I was issued with one for business a long time ago but the company is now totally Outlook based (yuck!) It's an expensive system but there are some good hints and tips on how to use the system and there might be something you could transfer over. I'd be interested to know what you think. <http://www.timesystem.com/>

joffreyca (2009-05-13 11:46:00)

I use 2 Filofaxes: a black mini Topaz and a black personal Amazona.

I use the mini as a mobile reference/information capture device. The personal is my primary organiser.

However, I also use a letter size clipboard, Google Notebook and RememberTheMilk for managing references and projects. I use paper for my active projects and archive finished projects in digital format.

And in an unrelated note, I found out that you can use OpenOffice with the Sun PDF importer extension (both free software) to "edit" a PDF file. What it does is import the PDF as an image, edit it in OpenOffice and you can then export it back to PDF. OpenOffice supports password and print protection for PDF's.

Anonymous (2009-05-13 20:30:00)

Most of this blog is only "free for all friday". Inky go home. We miss the days of philofaxer. Those were excellent posts.

gmax (2009-05-14 08:43:00)

Inky - I'm sure you have a busy life. Please ignore hurtful remarks and keep up the fine work you do here.

Laurie (2009-05-14 09:08:00)

Come on now Anonymous. We all have lives beyond Filofax. If you don't like this blog, don't read it.

Anonymous (2009-05-15 16:26:00)

I'm new to Filofax and just received my 1st this week It's a A5 Siena and I am so delighted!

It was kind of expensive but compared to a Frankin, well there's no comparison.

Loveit, love it, love it.

Now if I can learn to use it properly I'll be on my way.

Nan (2009-05-18 20:47:00)

To the "May 15" Anonymous: Thank you for your post. Please ask any questions you like about using your Filofax. Hope you come out of hiding soon.

Inky's Not Going Anywhere (2009-05-15 08:41) - Nan

Hi everybody and thanks for your support.

I think the ratio of positive to negative comments on this blog speaks for itself – and I don't even moderate them!

I do have an exciting (I think) new post planned, but I haven't been able to get good enough pictures yet (I will this weekend).

For the curious, in my most recent communication with Philofaxer, he indicated that he had moved on from this blog. Although he's welcome back any time, and his writing was the best!!! That's one thing we can all agree on.

One of his reasons for staying away (Anonymous, if you're listening) was having been offended by negative comments. Please take that to heart if you truly want the original Philofaxer to come back some day.

Laurie (2009-05-16 03:51:00)

I agree that Philofaxer's posts were clever and funny. But, I have to say Inky is better about discussing topics like different formats, using other notebooks and systems concurrently with Filofax, and various Filofax forms and pages. These are all topics that I am highly interested in. And, I feel like Inky and I have issues in common like trying to find the system that works best for our needs. (Don't we all have that to some degree??)

Inky, we all know that your life is very busy, yet you keep this blog not only alive but also interesting. Thank you! It's why we all keep coming back to Philofaxy.

crofter (2009-05-17 12:12:00)

I posted as anonymous, but I was the one that used the analogy of parking a Bentley where a Mini should go, and not the other one who was so negative. I enjoy all the posts and comments on this site, and rather than have Inky go, I would much prefer that the other person kindly take his leave.

crofter

Anonymous (2009-05-17 15:18:00)

I am Anonymous, the negative one. I will not leave. Since years, I read every single word on this blog. By the way. Did you ever consider replacing your Filofax with an Iphone?

Nan (2009-05-17 19:54:00)

Crofter - Thanks for coming out of hiding. It was definitely not your post I was speaking to! Thanks for your support.

Anonymous - Thanks for being a faithful reader and for kicking me in the butt when need be.

To answer your question...I'm coming at this from the opposite direction. I used Palm Pilots starting in 1999. In 2003/2004, in the pre-iPhone days, I was using a Palm T3 for all work and personal organizing, and using IR to connect it to the Internet through my cell phone. I even read newspapers that way.

I went back to paper because I was spending 4 hours per week just troubleshooting all the hardware and software for this system, and I wanted to stop wasting that time. Also, I found my palmtop system was limiting my thinking by forcing me to see everything through a 2.5 x 2.5 inch screen. Even my vision was suffering.

I'm still using the same cell phone from 2003, but I want to get a smartphone – but an Android rather than an iPhone.

Miss Charlie (2009-05-18 17:31:00)

Holy Guacamole, take everything on the net on an "as is" basis is my personal guideline - whether it's a blog that doesn't update as much as you'd like, or a commenter who gets their strop on.

And don't change sh*t, or worry, or fret.

Because - *not everyone is like you*. And that's a good thing: strangely, in increasing and inverse proportion to how cool we can all be about it!

JMO, anyway! ;o)

Nan (2009-05-18 20:13:00)

Thanks, Laurie and Miss Charlie, my friends! :)

Free for All Friday No. 33 (2009-05-15 08:51) - Nan

It's that time again!

On [1]FFAF #32, our readers got a really great thread going about their preferred Filofax sizes and how they use them. If you haven't checked it out yet, it's really great reading!

—*Inky*

1. <https://www.blogger.com/comment.g?blogID=18497333&postID=7579849784911717302>

Steve (2009-05-17 08:04:00)

Does anyone else remember or have a Filofax Duplex binder?

<http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/~m-task/duplex.htm>

Not made any more, and I've not seen any on Ebay either?

Steve

gg (2009-05-17 14:48:00)

I saw one on EBay in January or February. It wasn't in great shape, but I would have liked to get it. But early on it went up fairly high, and I think it went for over \$100.

gmax (2009-05-17 16:26:00)

They do have quite an allure, but I'm not totally convinced about their practicality.

Anyone with a desire to try a duplex binder could consider the example available [1]here. Of course it's not so luxurious as a vintage leather model, although Filofax themselves also used to offer non-leather duplex variants.

1. <http://www.lansdaleltd.com/prod.php/prod/EXORG>

gmax (2009-05-17 16:51:00)

On a different subject, I enjoyed the column [1]here on index cards, which have a lot in common with the good old filo.

I guess cards encourage you to lay them out and arrange them, and have more of a physical "presence" because of their thickness. They don't have such a convenient binding mechanism though.

(BTW The "alarming effort" mentioned in the column can be found more conveniently [2]here.)

1. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2009/may/09/health-and-wellbeing>

2. <http://www.tinyurl.com/cfmttq>

Steve (2009-05-18 15:55:00)

Different topic.. Twitter... no Filofax related Twitter!

Do a search for Filofax on Twitter, it gets a few mentions.

Also I follow @Filofax_UK http://twitter.com/Filofax_UK

Follow me if you wish @stevemorton

Steve

eringrrlmblog (2009-05-19 13:21:00)

Hey all!

Has anyone seen a Piazza organizer that didn't have the suede inlay? I ask because I recently won an eBay auction for one that has a leather inlay with a crosshatch pattern on it. Definitely not like I'd seen in stores. This was also not obvious from the photos.

I'd like to think this is authentic but can't be sure. The quality is top notch tho!

Has anyone seen one like it?

Thx! :)

D (2009-05-19 20:15:01)

I have a personal Piazza in citrus that has the leather inlay with crosshatch pattern. I got mine directly from the Filofax website. I love mine, hope you enjoy yours too!

Steve (2009-05-27 13:05:39)

Graph paper any type and size you want... useful for folks that just want a few sheets and not have to buy a pack of 20 sheets:

<http://www.incompetech.com/graphpaper/>

Steve

Meetings and Projects (2009-05-16 15:23) - Nan

Meeting Planner and Project Planner are two forms that I made heavy use of when I was using the Day Runner system. Filofax had its own versions of these forms, but the company has discontinued them. I've gotten my hands on one pack of each in A5 size. If we're lucky, our resourceful reader Steve will create printable versions.

I've scanned the forms and added them to [1]the Flickr Philofaxy set.

UPDATE:

Here are the forms for download from DIY Planner, courtesy of Steve:

Project Planner:

[2]<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6582>

Meetings Planner:

[3]<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6581>

Thank you, Steve!

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3534264889/in/set-72157594177080225/>

2. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6582>

3. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6581>

Steve (2009-05-16 17:35:00)

Hi Inky

Yes... I've already got that one on the stocks (Meeting Planner) mine has a different reverse side. But it won't take long to edit it, to match.

Likewise I have a day planner already here: <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6498>

The Project Planner will be fairly easy to do... I will post the links soon!

Inky: I think we might need a dedicated page to link to all these pages soon! Just a thought...

Regards

Steve

Nan (2009-05-16 20:39:00)

Hi Steve – Thank you so much for doing the forms! It's OK if your Meeting Planner deviates from the one I scanned...whatever you see fit.

You've also given me a nudge about something I've had on my "Eventually" list for a while...moving Philofaxy

from Blogger to Wordpress. Doing so would make it easier to create a dedicated page...which I agree we need so people can easily find all the forms.

Steve (2009-05-17 18:27:00)

I've just up loaded both pages to DiY Planner, I will post the links here once they have been accepted.

Else you can download them from the Filofax Yahoo Group files area here:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/filofax/>

I'm now working in A4 size because it scales easily to A5 and other formats with a bit more work.

Steve

Steve (2009-05-18 13:48:00)

Project Planner: <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6582>

Meetings Planner:

<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6581>

Regards

Steve

Tim (2009-05-26 08:47:02)

In the UK Filofax still does a Meeting Planner, Results Planner and Project Planner in the A5 Time Management range. The holes are standard so will fit any Filofax A5 binder.

http://www.filofax.co.uk/timemanagement/refill_stationery.asp

Holiday Weekend (2009-05-22 16:58) - Nan



This coming Monday is Memorial Day

in the U.S. and Spring Bank Holiday in the U.K. One of things I love about Filofax diaries is that they show the holidays for many countries, and I'm fascinated when multiple holidays to fall on the same day. There's usually a connection.

In this case, there isn't.

For most American workers, it's the first holiday of the year since New Year's Day (unless their employer observed Presidents' Day in February). It started out as a day to honor fallen Civil War soldiers and now includes all American war casualties. As with all holidays, the true meaning is being lost in the name of frivolity and commercialism.

Traditionally, the day is marked by local parades, cookouts (hot dogs and hamburgers grilled and eaten outdoors), and the year's first trip to the beach or pool. Retailers, especially car dealerships, often have big Memorial Day sales to encourage people to spend the day off spending money.

Solemnly, the day should include a visit to veterans' graves, and leaving flowers there. Supermarkets sell ready-made bouquets for this purpose, often in red, white, and blue. In a moving ceremony, the President lays flowers on the [2]Tomb of the Unknowns. Oh, and if you have a flag, you should fly it at half-mast, as shown here.

I couldn't find anything about the reason for the Spring Bank Holiday. Perhaps the Spring and Summer Bank Holidays started out as a way to get a day off from work while the weather is nice.

And that's something we could all use a lot more of!

1. http://farm1.static.flickr.com/231/471156229_82951cc07d.jpg?v=0

2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomb_of_the_Unknowns

gg (2009-05-22 20:21:53)

I agree that the international holidays are great features of the Filofax (or any other calendar). I like being reminded of all we have in common. It helps if the holidays don't take up too much space and aren't too boldly printed, so that I can see them and read them but not be distracted by them.

Silver_Elixir (2009-05-23 20:29:50)

Do you have Easter Holidays in the states? Like Good Friday and Easter Monday as public holidays?

Nan (2009-05-23 20:35:33)

Hi Silver - Those days are not public holidays in the U.S. Some very devout Catholics may ask for Good Friday off, but it's a matter of using an individual vacation day.

I attended Catholic school as a child, and we had to attend classes on Good Friday. But we'd stop at noon to go to Mass.

Silver_Elixir (2009-05-24 05:20:56)

That's interesting Inky. Good Friday and Easter Monday are public Holidays here in Australia. A four day long weekend. Pretty much all the shops are closed on Good Friday and they only trade Sunday hours on the Monday I think. We have a most of our public holidays in the first half of the year with not many in the last half.

Anonymous (2009-05-24 15:00:59)

Hi, Can I just say I post anonymously but only because I haven't got round to getting an identity, but I'm not the negative anonymous, I'm the one that posted about Timesystems and size re slimline/pocket etc. On this topic I just wanted to say the origin of this Bank Holiday in the UK is Whitsun which is something to do with Pentacost and is counted a certain number of days after Easter, but the meaning has been lost over time, I guess particularly if you don't attend church regularly. Someone else might know more.

Meanwhile I must get myself an identity - how do I do that?

Keep going Inky, this blog is great.

Nan (2009-05-24 16:56:06)

Hi Anonymous - Thank you for the comment. I will use it as inspiration for a Whit Monday post tomorrow.

You can do one of 2 things: Click the button next to Name/URL. A space will open up to type your name (real

or whatever you want to call yourself).

Or, you can go to www.blogger.com and create an account. If you do that, you can log in and it will remember your name until you log out.

Tim (2009-05-26 04:45:15)

I've only recently discovered your Blog. There's some great stuff - well done!

Whitsuntide is one of those holidays that appear in international Filofax pages. It comes from the Christian festival of Pentecost, celebrated on the Sunday which falls on the 50th day after Easter. The name Pentecost comes from a Greek word which means 'fiftieth'.

Pentecost became a favourite day for baptism - known as White Sunday, because people were baptised dressed in white. White Sunday became Whitsun! Whitsuntide is the week following Whitsunday.

In the UK the Bank Holiday was always the Monday in Whitsuntide. However, a few years ago, the May Day Bank Holiday was introduced here. As Easter (and therefore Whitsun) varies from year to year, there was the possibility that, in some years, May Day and Whitsun bank holidays would follow closely together. As a result, May Day Bank Holiday is always the first Monday in May and the Spring Bank Holiday always the last Monday in May. It had to be renamed as it no longer always coincides with Whitsuntide. This year is a good example as Pentecost (White Sunday) is not until 31st May.

Hope this helps!

Tim - Yorkshire UK

Free for All Friday No. 34 (2009-05-29 14:14) - Nan

Time for you readers to contribute your own comments and questions!

—*Inky*

Steve (2009-05-29 17:37:31)

I blogged...

<http://stevemorton.blogspot.com/2009/05/filofax-my-own-story.html>

Steve

gg (2009-05-29 20:09:20)

Steve, I enjoyed your blog entries. The photos are indeed lovely eye candy!

Earlier this year I bought several used Personal Filos on Ebay. And a used A5 to get my daughter started off right in her career. Unfortunately she's encountering the problem that if she doesn't look at it every day she doesn't get the benefit of it—she just missed a doctor's appointment. They charge \$50 for missed appointments after the first, so perhaps she will be more motivated to check it from now on.

Thanks for the templates you've posted. I've downloaded them all and am gradually adapting them to my own purposes. The Travel Checklist is really great—I enjoy looking over it so much.

—Glenda

Laurie (2009-05-30 04:50:30)

Silver _Elixir, are you there? I have decided to use some of your suggestions and get back into using my Personal size Filofax as my planner again. In the past I have found that the personal size weekly pages are not big enough for my weekly lists etc. But I have decided to try your ideas of 1) putting a notes page in the middle of that week's spread for lists and notes, and 2) keeping some of the lists behind a tab (which I have labeled To Do). I found that I tended to re-write some of my lists each week (such as personal things I wanted to accomplish like exercise 4x/ week, or things to do in the house, etc). I realized I can have categorized lists like Personal, Home, etc. behind my To Do tab, then everything that really needs to get done that particular week can go on the week page or notes page between.

One thing I want to avoid is opening my rings all the time, because I think that will cause them to break eventually. I might rip out the notes page and use the tattered edge to put into the rings, so it will more or less stay in place

without me opening the rings.

Any other suggestions for making a Personal size calendar work for a busy person are much appreciated!

I decided to try it again with my Personal size because I really need the portability of the smaller size. I will be traveling a lot over the next year, and I like the idea of being able to add in maps and information pages that I need for the trip, and then when I get home take them out and put them in my storage binder. Also, my planner/information needs change all the time, and I'm beginning to think that only a ring binder like Filofax has the flexibility to adapt to my needs throughout the year(s). I have used a Filofax-style system for 13 years now, and for the past 4 years or so (since I became a parent) I have been looking for something that can handle more. But, I'm starting to think that if I just adapt my techniques and use it smarter, it can handle what I need.

Thoughts anyone?

gg (2009-05-30 10:28:30)

Laurie, I don't like to open my rings either, mostly because they are so noisy and it's so fussy to put a page in one place and maybe later find that it should have gone somewhere else. So I "circa-fy" lots of my pages by snipping through the margin to the holes in the paper. With a six-hole binder that's a lot of snipping but it works well and gives me more flexibility. I can move a to-do list from one week to the next so easily.

Plus this keeps the pages neat. Sometimes I get distracted by something like the tattered holes and start fussing with them instead of doing what I need to do.

If you snip the holes at an angle, rather than straight out at a 90-degree angle to the side of the page, they will tend to stay in better, especially in a three-ring binder.

-Glenda

Steve (2009-05-30 13:37:35)

Glenda

I will admit to keeping important reminders/appointments on my cellphone calendar so at least it beeps at me in advance of a something I need to do.

I have a terrible short term memory so even if I've written it down I'm not likely to remember it later!

Steve

Laurie (2009-05-30 14:27:41)

gg thanks so much for that tip! It hadn't occurred to me to cut through the edges so I could slide the page onto the rings. Perfect!

Silver_Elixir (2009-05-31 02:25:03)

Hi Laurie, I am here. I am glad my ideas may be of some use to you. I also really like Glenda's idea of snipping the pages to make them stay in place but easy to remove - I will be using that idea!

I suggested this idea to a friend who needed to get more space out of a personal size planner when she wanted to change from an A5. Why not try using two diary sections in her planner? In her situation it was a way to keep appointments and list of things to do but ALSO as a day to day record of her life - food diary, exercise, weather etc - in the second diary. I thought that it could be done with 2 tabs and 2 page finders.

I sometimes use smaller Filofax pages for a notes/reminder page through the week. If you wanted too, you could trim the holes off a note page to make it a bit narrower and tape it to the top of your diary page so it would flip up, still allowing you to view your week.

Laurie, what sections/info must you have and what would you like to have if you could?

Laurie (2009-05-31 06:52:59)

Hi SE! I use a lot of calendar formats simultaneously, for different purposes. I use the fold-out annual calendars for long-range planning of trips, holidays, etc. Month view calendars for payments, upcoming events, and things I have to plan ahead for. Weekly (I have tried many of the formats over the years and prefer the cotton cream week, because the daily spaces have enough room for my needs and I love having the This Week box for to dos) for the details. Then if I have a particularly busy day I can stick a page between the week pages for that day, extra lists, etc. I keep a Today marker in the month calendar and another one in the week. Also I have a Birthdays/Anniversaries section, with a page per month. This is really useful year after year to not have to re-write everyone's

birthdays all the time.

After my diaries/ calendars I have a sticky notes page, which I use all the time to jot notes. Sometimes I use a sticky note on my weekly page, or use them for traveling lists that I can use that week then move to a different section later. I use the colored sticky tabs as labels for my tabbed dividers, so if I need to move the tabs around I can just remove and re-label tabs easily. Saves me a lot of money by not writing directly on the tabs, because I can use the tabs over and over for different purposes. Also lets me keep the tabs all in a row down the edge, which looks neater and makes things easier to find.

Then I have a tabbed section for Emergency information and Medical, with brief medical summaries for each of us like when we are due for vaccines, etc. Then I have pages for dosage charts for children's meds like ibuprofen and acetaminophen. As my kids' weights go up, I like having a ready-made chart as a reference to see what the correct dose is. Because we travel so often, I like having these charts in my Filo as opposed to at home somewhere. Next tab is Insurance with our info for all our policies: medical, prescription, cars, household, life.

Next tab is To Do with categorized lists. I have long-term projects, personal things to work on, household things to get done, etc. These are things that I don't need cluttering up my weekly page, but I still need to keep together. Next tab is Goals, with my personal goals for the year, and also my kids' learning goals and activities. They don't go to preschool yet and I am home all day with them, so it helps me to have some direction as to learning activities we can do at home.

Next is Notes, where I can jot something quickly. My Filo doesn't have a notepad in the back, so this is where I turn for a quick note or piece of paper. I also keep my calculator in this section if I need to do any calculations. Love my calculator!

Next is Lists where I keep all my random lists: to buy, things to save money for, packing lists for upcoming trips, etc.

Next is international. On a daily basis I keep a world map, a Europe map (which is so old it still has Yugoslavia, I am waiting for them to produce an updated map!), airline numbers. When I travel I put in maps and info pages for the place I'm going, then when I get back home I take them out and put them into my storage binder. I really like this method of having what I need at all times, but not carrying extraneous things.

Laurie (2009-05-31 06:53:48)

My post was too long! Here is the second half of it:

Then are my A-Z tabs with addresses, lists of doctors and dentists, and whatever other contact info I have. Behind that are my business card holders, very useful. I recently added Filofax Organizer Stickers which I found on Filofax UK, which are my new favorite thing. The stickers are little round icons, for example a plane to indicate travel, birthday cake for a bday, etc. Really helps to quickly see on my weekly pages when there are special days.

Sorry so long! There is the rundown of my Filo contents! Like I said, I have been using a Filo for such a long time and have found it to be very adaptable, and especially great when traveling to have everything I need in one portable book. In the past the small page size for the weekly planner has been the weakest link, let's see if I can make it work this time!

Let me also say that I use my A5 Filo as my household book for things I only need at home like my Christmas card lists, record of online purchases, financial info, etc. This helps me keep my Personal size book a reasonable size. That was my downfall in the past, trying to keep everything in my life in the Personal size. But now that I have divided and conquered, my book isn't so packed full.

Steve (2009-06-01 12:30:51)

Some very individual Filofax's are being auctioned off by Filofax in UK. More details here:

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/aboutus/news.asp?newsId=85>

Steve

Miss Charlie (2009-06-01 14:34:17)

WOW - thx Steve!!!

(Won't be bidding probably - but drooling? Oh yes, I will be doing *that!*)

Silver_Elixir (2009-06-01 18:04:07)

Laurie it sounds like you are amazingly organized. Do you have any pictures of your Filo you could share? I thought that maybe you could make a weekly overview page that could hold anything that is fixed each week - things that re-occur like swimming lessons or playgroup. You could rule up a blank page into 5 or 7 sections one for the week with or without the weekend. Or if you don't want to rule up a page you could use the week on one page with notes facing to do this.

Do you use the front/back of your dividers to hold information? Not written directly onto, but a page with info - like your medicine dosage - that could be stuck there with removable tape or on a sticky note?

From your post you sound like you are very organized!

Laurie (2009-06-02 04:10:52)

Hi SE,

I have sort of learned the hard way that I have to be very organized with my Filo. A couple of years ago I took a long trip back to the US without it, and for the entire month I was there I kept needing addresses, contacts, or other info that I keep in my Filo but did not have in the spiral bound planner I was using at the time.

After 13 years of Filo use I have discovered what kinds of tabs and systems work for me, although I have to constantly rework it because my needs change frequently. I am pretty optimistic that I can get the weekly view to work for me now. The rest of the book works so well for me, that if I can just make the weekly planning work then I will have everything I need with me all the time.

Sometimes I do use a sticky note on my tabbed dividers for quick-reference things, which I find very handy.

I don't have any pics of my Filo at the moment. I don't have a blog or anything like that for showing pics online. To be honest I don't think I want to post pics of it, too personal. It would be like letting someone read my journal!

Laurie (2009-06-02 04:16:14)

Has anyone seen in person/ held a Filofax Urban? I'm looking at the personal size in Olive. There's nowhere near me that sells Filofax so I've been looking at it online. I wonder what it feels like, how sturdy it seems, etc.

If I do stay with my current Filofax as my planner, I will need a new Filo to use as my UK guide book. I had been using my Personal size Filo as a self-made guidebook for Scotland/ UK, where I travel 2-3 times each year. But now if my Filo becomes my planner again, I'll need another book for my UK book. I like the Urban in particular because I like that pocket inside the front cover for holding tickets, and the zip pocket on the back for storing currency and coins. Has anyone seen one in person? Can you tell me about it?

Laurie (2009-06-03 04:43:16)

Hey everybody, let's have a discussion. WHY do you Filofax? Why Filofax in particular? Why not Franklin Covey or some other binder system? Why not a bound book planner, whether weekly or daily? What is it about Filofax that you prefer?

Anonymous (2009-06-03 05:20:04)

Hey, hello Laurie,

i don't know Franklin Covey. I come from Germany and never heard of it.

I like Filofax because of its quality and its bright colours. I like to have a lot of different inserts for everything, but there could be more...

I use an Personal soft jade Finchley, but i like to switch from time to time.

I haven't found my perfect-dream-Filo yet :-)

I also have some in Size Mini, and an Personal Barock in hot pink.

I use it only for personal things, and only a bit for business...

Do you know where i can get some special inserts for the Personal size?

Greetings

Jenny

Anonymous (2009-06-03 05:38:48)

<http://www.bibledesignblog.com/2009/04/how-i-roll-for-the-moment.htm> l

A rather unusual use of a Filofax. A real nice old "Real Calf - Made in England" Filofax. Enjoy.

Anonymous (2009-06-03 09:18:23)

Hi Laurie,

I use filofax because I like the idea of having a 'fixed' book that I keep my life in more than getting a new diary each year. I found that my diary's were always full to bursting with other 'stuff' and had no way of organising this stuff properly... names, addresses, cards, papers etc etc etc.

I like the way that my filofax holds everything I need in one, and that as it ages, it gets more and more personal. In the UK there are other planners, but none are as nice as the filofax range, and there are really only filofax inserts (or cheaper WHSmith ones).

the only think I DON'T like about filofaxes is that once the year is over, the whole diary has to go - I used to save all my old diaries. I know I could store them, but it doesn't feel the same that way.

I like their sturdiness as well and the fact that the personal size can fit into most of my handbags.

joffreyca (2009-06-04 10:38:55)

Why I use a Filofax:

- I've been using a binder-type organiser since I was 12 and I really like using it. Moving to a Filofax was a long, slow process.

- There were no Filofaxes where I came from (the Philippines). Most organisers were either made in China or the Philippines. I bought my first Filofax when my family and I moved to Canada in 2006.

- I discovered the Franklin-Covey format after reading "First Things First" so I set out to make my own planner using that format in classic size. I used that format for a few years but I decided that I really liked the personal size better. I did this when I was still in the Philippines. BTW, in the Philippines carrying an authentic, leather Franklin Covey planner is considered a status symbol. I'll reserve my comments on that for later posts.

- After purchasing my first Filofax (a brown personal Sport) I found that it really is a better binder than the ones I'm used to. Now, my wife and I have 9 Filofaxes :-)

kanalt (2009-06-05 11:31:05)

To add to the "what kind of Filo do you have" discussion:

I use the Personal size, which is perfect for my personal information. At work, I use something else, although not a Filo. I don't have a lot of meetings at work, nor do I have clients - I am a public librarian, so mostly all I need is a place to write down what needs to be done. The only work-related items that go in my personal Filo are my hours (they change based on the day and week) and any meetings and/or programs I do have.

As for my Filo - I use the following breakdown:

Notes - here is where I keep shopping lists and long-term household/personal to-dos.

Projects - any current items that need a bit of planning or multiple steps that would occur over a longer period of time than a week.

Information - Various info that I might need at work. Extra paper and stickies.

Financial - breakdown of finances for a particular project as well as how much money I put on my credit cards each month. I do keep my receipts, but it's nice to see it laid out on a monthly basis to control my spending.

Diary - both a monthly view and a weekly view (2 pages per week, lined - can't live without my lines!). The monthly is for quick glances (appointments mostly). The weekly holds appointments, daily/weekly to-dos, due dates (bills, library book, etc). I also use the FF jot pad paper for any additional info I may need for a specific appointment - this comes in handy since the 2-page-per-week doesn't offer that much writing space). Birthdays/anniversaries I keep on my Google calendar and set up email reminders for those that I need to buy cards for.

Addresses - I don't keep addresses here - I keep those in a separate place, as well as phone numbers for all of my contacts. Instead, I use this section for phone numbers only, for only those people I might need at work - close relatives and friends, doctors and household contacts (plumbers, etc).

As we were quickly coming up to July, I have been researching next year's refills (I buy them in July and do a 1-year rotation of pages every July and January). Currently I'm using Filo pages, but I think I might switch to DayTimer pages for next year. I have been splitting up my weekly Filo pages into 2 sections - one for appointments and one for to-dos. DayTimer has pages where this is already done. Their "portable" pages are the same size as Filo's Personal. Now I just need to choose which theme I like the best - that is another decision altogether.

1.6 June

Filo Runner (2009-06-11 14:30) - Nan

After my recent [1]format crisis, inspired by a [2]vintage Day Runner I acquired, some folks have been asking me what I've done to cope.

I decided on a gradual approach. No need to spend extra time converting to a new format when it was really the Day Runner layout, not the size, that I was craving.

So, here's how I recreated Day Runner in an A5 Filofax (the same Black Finsbury I've been using for work for 3 years now):

1. Put monthly calendar (Filofax Month on 2 Pages) behind a top tab at front of binder. (I figured out a way to create top tabs. Pictures to come!)
2. Follow with 2-3 months of 1-day-per-page diary.
3. Top Memo-ry tab. Use Filofax To-Do pages to hold ideas and maybe-dos.
4. Create an index page for info stored behind A-Z tabs.
5. Create Sources page for use behind A-Z tabs. (There will be both address pages and source pages behind each A-Z tab.)
6. Other tabs: One tab for each of 4 work projects I'm working on, plus Projects and Notes, using Filofax 6-blank tab set.

Each of the work project tabs contains a running list of to-do pages, plus notes. Now that I'm using day-per-page, the individual tabs are seeing less use. I still feel I need a discrete section for each major project, though. This may change in the future.

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/04/format-crisis.html>

2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/04/memo-ries.html>

Steve (2009-06-12 11:36:46)

Sounds like an interesting set up. Look forward to seeing some pictures

Regards

Steve

Laurie (2009-06-12 15:01:32)

Inky thanks for sharing this with us! I am really curious to hear how your day-per-page is working for you.

Free for All Friday No. 35 (2009-06-12 10:43) - Nan

Thanks for your great ideas [1]last time. Lots of our readers shared ideas on how they use their Filofaxes and WHY.

I especially wanted to call this link to your attention: [2]Steve Morton's Filofax story in his own words.

If you shared your Filofax philosophy at length on [3]Free for All Friday, No. 34, please let me know whether you'd mind letting me publish it here on the front page of the blog. So much of that stuff is too good to be hidden away!

—Inky

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/05/free-for-all-friday-no-34.html>

2. <http://stevemorton.blogspot.com/2009/05/filofax-my-own-story.html>

3. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/05/free-for-all-friday-no-34.html>

eringrrlmblog (2009-06-12 14:06:48)

Does anyone use the Filofax A5 Family Calendar inserts? There are no samples provided on the site and I'm a bit apprehensive about purchasing both an A5 binder and the pages blindly..

:)

Laurie (2009-06-12 15:02:30)

Hi Inky, you are always welcome to put any of my posts on the front page, if there is any interest.
Thank you again for running this blog! I really enjoy it.

Biang Kerok (2009-06-12 16:23:46)

And it's content for free also. You'll need to post even less frequently, Inky. Philofaxy 2009 = free for all fridays + your new idea. Original posts of some value? Not really...

Nan (2009-06-12 16:41:23)

Don't worry, I've got some new posts planned. I hope you'll like them. Thanks for the gentle nudge. :)

Steve (2009-06-12 17:23:01)

Biang Kerok.. the way I look at it, is that the Blog is becoming more community spirited, the sharing of ideas, pooling of resources. But all with a common interest in mind.

I'm pleased that Inky is giving us the chance to 'take part'

If you don't like it you are of course free to go and create your own blog on any subject you care to choose.

Best regards

Steve

neowagnerite (2009-06-13 20:18:20)

No reason why anyone should really care- but, after MANY years of using the Personal size, I finally switched to the A5. It's a Guildford Zip and I LOVE the leather.

Biang Kerok (2009-06-14 05:25:03)

You love the leathery? How about the size? Isn't it way too large to carry around in your handbag?

wbCpA (2009-06-14 15:57:26)

THIS IS UNRELATED TO FILOFAX but I'm desperate. Please forgive the intrusion.

I'm having trouble finding the lyrics for "Still wie die Nacht" by Karl Bohm. It's crazy, isn't it?

So, in searching for that, I came across your information and am hoping that you found those lyrics, after all!

Please help!!!

Thanks, Nan, for any direction you can give me!

Sincerely,

Rob

wannabecpa at gmail dot com

Nan (2009-06-14 21:49:35)

Hi Rob - I've emailed you these lyrics separately, but I'll put them here, too, for the curious:

German:

Still wie die Nacht

tief wie das Meer

soll deine Liebe sein

Still wie die Nacht

und tief wie das Meer

soll deine Liebe deine Liebe sein

Wenn du mich liebst

so wie ich dich

will ich dein eigen sein

Heiss wie der Stahl

und fest wie der Stein

soll deine Liebe, deine Liebe sein

English:

Silent as night

Deep as the sea

Thy love should be for me

Silent as night

And deep as the sea

Thy love should be, thy love should be for me

Lovest thou me?

So I love thee!

I will be ever thine.

True as steel

Enduring as stone

Thy love should be, thy love should be for me

ML (2009-06-15 05:27:42)

@ **Laurie:** You asked about the Filofax Urban. I own it and love it very much! It is sturdy but not stiff – if you know what I mean. It lies flat without any problems and the canvas feels kinda soft. As I said: I really love it! :-)

Anonymous (2009-06-15 05:36:27)

I love this blog. I agree with Steve that the new 'community' feel is great. It means that we can share ideas and thoughts much more readily and really help each other out.

Thanks everyone!!

Steve (2009-06-15 18:14:09)

I came across this set of voucher codes for <http://www.filofax.co.uk> this evening.

<http://www.myvouchercode.co.uk/discounts/filofax.co.uk>

Steve

Laurie (2009-06-17 09:27:04)

ML thank you very much for your feedback on the Urban! I still have my eye on this. I appreciate your description!

Steve (2009-06-17 15:04:01)

I've just posted a short post on my blog about the FiloFax Focus Group.

<http://stevemorton.blogspot.com/2009/06/filofax-focus-group.html>

Are any of you members of the focus group?

Steve

Miss Charlie (2009-06-18 02:59:01)

Hi Steve, yes I am on that list, I believe I would have joined sometime after Feb this year, when I really got into the groove with my new A5 Filofax.

I'm pretty sure I may have attempted to register for it before, if it existed - being, y'know, a bit obsessed and all, but never received any mails about it until I registered that different address. But I wouldn't bank on that - though if I did, it must have appeared that the reg. worked, or I too would have contacted the site admins.

So far I've had an offer of a trial of a Filofax with a "Travel Journal" pack, to keep in exchange for answering questions after a few months - it was for 20 people and done on a first come, first served basis (which seems pretty reasonable).

Sadly I didn't pick up that e-mail for a few days and so missed the offer, although the trip I'd been planning at the time has now been postponed until at least next year, so c'est la vie!

They did follow up with a 20 % off voucher code (on sales over £20) for unsuccessful applicants though, and it's a VERY good thing you raised this topic and prompted me to look up the info, because I have a use in mind for it, and it expires on the 30th June!

So in part because of things like that, I for one love the way this blog is open to info from other people, for the

long and detailed comments, and the whole little community thing that's going on here - what a pleasure to find a nice little niche like this online.

Nan (2009-06-19 15:38:13)

Laurie: I'm going to use your posts from "Free for All Friday No. 34," which will make a great guest blog post. Please email me at nanbarber@gmail.com. I have a question for you.

Creating Top Tabs (2009-06-14 22:35) - Nan



[1] One of the original Day Runner features I've been wanting to add to my Filofax is the top tab; namely, used for the monthly Calendar and the Memo-ry to do/maybe do record.

Filofax's tab dividers only come with side tabs (6 tabs for the A5 size). But when I thought about creating my own, I first had to think about materials. What to make the divider page out of...and the top tab?

I realized that an American manila file folder was made of very similar material to the Filofax tab divider. Because the file folder is larger, one can trace any size and shape tab divider on it, and then cut it out. And so, I've traced and cut Calendar and Memo-ry top tab dividers from Pendaflex file folders, as illustrated here. The lettering comes from a Brother labelmaker. The equipment required is a manila file folder, a pencil, a Filofax tab divider, scissors, and a labelmaker.

[2] **Edited:** Clicking the image now takes you to the entire set of pictures.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3626770001/>

2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3626770001/>

Claudia (2009-06-15 05:54:25)

This is a great idea! I also created top tabs for my Personal Filofax by trimming a set of colored top tabs for a compact Franklin (not sure they offer them any more though), since the compact FC forms fit in a Personal Filo, but are wider.

Biang Kerok (formerly anonymous) (2009-06-15 14:12:47)

That's the kind of post I like to read on this blog. Please keep it that way. It gives me ideas because I don't have enough tabs. I even experimented with a second "today" lineal. No good.

Tomorrow I'll try to cut A5 tabs into Personal size.

Steve (2009-06-16 00:54:02)

Another way of course would be to use some plain A4 tabbed indexes, but cut in half and repunched. The tabs would be then top or bottom even...

You would of course still have the original punch holes, but not a big problem...

Steve

gg (2009-06-16 15:53:56)

Thanks for putting up the pictures. I love these hacks, because I like to have something to renew my interest in my planner and keep me happy with it and using it more consistently.

Now I'm going to try to figure out how to get some top tabs into my binders.

Re the Flickr comment about straight cuts—I also like to have straight cuts; otherwise I get distracted and think too much about the imperfection of my cut. I also can't cut a straight line with scissors. Thankfully Office Depot and Staples etc usually have a guillotine sitting out at their copy centers. I've walked in and used them with no hassle from the employees.

Also, to reinforce the holes, I've used 2-inch wide packing tape—just wrap it around the edge before you punch the holes, and it makes a nice plasticized look (horrors!). I guess sometimes I like plastic.

Also, I think maybe a tab could be taped to a page protector and you could put a nice sheet of decorative scrapbooking paper or something else, like useful information, in there. Maybe two sheets, to reinforce it and keep the tab sticking up like it should. Or the tab could be attached to the paper in the page protector. I've just gotta try this.

Thanks, Inky—for bringing some fun to the planner.

Silver_Elixir (2009-06-17 06:35:11)

Hi Everyone.

GG

I have made some decorated dividers. You can see them on flickr on my photostream.

I use a personal Filofax and I am thinking of using some A4 tabs, turned with the tabs on the top and cut down as my top tabs. I have tried cutting around a traced tab but can never get it neat enough for my liking.

I also just came across a site called Parenting Weekly. Under the topic of articles and tools is a link called The Organized Mom. If you click on this it leads to a whole lot of pages that can be opened up with lots of organizing pages that could be adapted from Filofax use.

Nan (2009-06-17 10:38:07)

Claudia, Biang, please share some photos if you have a chance. I love the Franklin idea. It's true their Compact size has the same height and same holes as Filofax Personal, it's just wider. I bet a number of their forms could be adapted by cutting off the extra width and then repunching.

GG, I've used that nice heavy packing tape as a reinforcement, too. It works great, even on pages that are already punched. You just repunch the tape.

Miss Charlie (2009-06-18 03:08:18)

GG, thanks for the suggestion on the packing tape - I've been using standard hole reinforcers on the printed info sheets I made for my A5, but using a tape of some kind would look MUCH more stylish!

I can *so* see a whole evening of tinkering about with that idea... (grins happily)

...Oh dear, the word verification for this comment is "imentl" (I mental) - is da interwebz trying to tell me something?!

Onigiri-sama (2009-06-20 10:14:19)

Hello everyone

Regarding tabs, I usually use a sticky pagemakarker on my Notes section in order to quickly find where I left off. But last week for my trip to London i decided to do something prettier and faster to access that Notes section, and also to give it more importance(it was going to be the London Notes section, where I planned on recording all sorts of stuff about my trip). I didn't have much time, but lots of paper to be recycled. So I simply traced one normal tab on a nice, sturdy cardboard from a brochure, cut and hole-punched it.

It served its purpose really well, I was able to swiftly open my notes section while walking the streets of London and write down directions, tips, thoughts, etc. I also used some of that same cardboard to quickly make a 'disposable' pen loop, so I could carry both my Pilot v5 and my mechanical pencil.

I think I'm going to do more with this idea, I don't have a printer and reusing already printed paper is a fast, fun and nice solution. Sorry for the long post ;)

kanalt (2009-06-21 10:42:36)

Inky - this is great! I'm trying to come up with an idea to use the top tab just because this is such a wonderful idea.

Special Filofax Offers (2009-06-15 19:09) - Nan

Reader Steve Morton posted the following in the comments, and I wanted to give it greater visibility. The website linked to below compiles a list of current special deals and discount codes for the Filofax UK website:

[1]<http://www.myvoucher codes.co.uk/discounts/filofax.co.uk>

1. <http://www.myvoucher codes.co.uk/discounts/filofax.co.uk>

More Tab Tips (2009-06-17 10:33) - Nan

Courtesy of reader Silver Elixir, here's another potential source of family-planner forms.

On [1]The Organized Mom section of [2]Parenting Weekly, there are links to lots of different household forms like Babysitter Instructions, School Shopping, and even Parent Activist (for tracking political contacts).

The forms are Web pages (HTML), and there's no Print button. But I've found that you can carefully drag the mouse over the form to select the entire table, and then paste that into a word processing program. Then you can print onto whatever size Filofax paper you wish from your word processing program.

Here's a link to Silver Elixir's own custom-made tabs:

[3]<http://www.flickr.com/photos/25983610@N07/2985498387/>

This link is to one photo. Keep clicking, because she has created lots of tab options, including some [4]top tabs she printed herself!

1. http://www.parentingweekly.com/parenting_information/organized_mom/index.htm

2. <http://www.parentingweekly.com/>

3. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/25983610@N07/2985498387/>

4. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/25983610@N07/2987975693/in/photostream/>

kanalt (2009-06-17 13:08:13)

Silver - I LOVE these pictures! Thanks for sharing them. (And thanks to Inky for pointing them out.) How do you make the pages the size you need them (I assume this is personal size)?

Steve (2009-06-17 13:25:21)

Gosh there's plenty of pages there to keep me busy for quite a few nights! May be not this week though... But I will take a look. Any preferences anyone?

Steve

Silver_Elixir (2009-06-18 02:27:31)

Thanks Inky for making that site easier to find and for pointing out an easier way to see my stuff - I don't know how to do links and stuff, so thanks for doing it.

Kanalt - Thank you. :-)Yes the dividers are personal size. I used scrapbooking paper and cardstock and I just traced around an original divider on the design I liked then I used a paper trimmer to cut them neatly. I then used double sided tape to stick them to the original Filofax dividers and just punched the holes. (One by one mind you, using a regular hole punch!) Another option would be to use the scrapbook paper/card as the divider without sticking it to an existing Filofax divider. A word of warning though, I found that using these dividers made my Filo rather thick and each divider took up the room I could be using for other pages. Using paper is not so bad for this, but the cardstock can be quite thick.

kanalt (2009-06-18 09:23:56)

I would love to do my own tabs and diary pages, as well as other forms, etc. but I'm afraid I don't have the patience for such things. It looks beautiful but I think I'd get too frustrated and end up being annoyed. =)

BUT, you have inspired me to reorganize my Filo - the tabs and sections and whatnot. My refills for next year are on their way, so once they arrive I will be doing that.

Most big lists I use Google docs for - my book list is many pages long and wouldn't fit into my Filo even if I wanted to keep the list there. So I've gotten away from keeping that kind of info with me at all times. I'll have to think about what sections I need and how to make the things I do carry with me easier to find.

TOWELNTEXAS (2009-06-18 12:48:53)

Inky-

Don't want to hijack or use your site inappropriately, however I have a 75th ann Filofax limited edition including the wooden box it came in. I want to sell it for \$75. If you are anyone you know are interested, please let me know.

Please delete this if it's inappropriate.

kanalt (2009-06-18 13:49:35)

I'd also like to know how people have their diary set up - do you keep a to-do list with appointments, do you use tabs to mark the months regardless of what format you use? Currently, I use the month on two pages for a quick reference and a week on two pages for appointments and their details, as well as to-dos. I don't keep a separate to-do list (with the exception of a long-term to-do list) mainly because I'm afraid I'll miss something important if it's not right in front of me or listed on the day it needs to get done. I am thinking of changing this though, so I thought I would ask.

Anonymous (2009-06-18 14:03:07)

I saw Silver _Elixir's pictures on Flickr and was very impressed with the tabs. I've experimented myself with some decorative paper I had in the house and found that art adhesive works really well. It's probably easier to use and quicker than double-sided tape and it's repositionable if you get things wrong. I found it was a 2 minute job to stick on some paper, trim it to size and re-punch the holes. Thanks for the idea Silver _Elixir :)

Marissa (2009-12-22 10:16:26)

Just wondering if anyone has purchased the City Planner sections for the personal yet?

I especially love the outfit planner section as it brings up lots of great ideas.

Whatever Happened To... (2009-06-21 20:16) - Nan

Felice Willat

Ms. Willat invented the Day Runner along with her husband Boyd in 1980. They created the organizer to stay on top of their high-stress Hollywood jobs and family lives. In 1992, the company (Harper House) went public, and the same year they pioneered a software companion to their paper system (yep, in the DOS days!) Although I'm a Filofax user, I'm a big fan of Day Runner and its pioneering creators.

What's the Filofax connection? In 1998, Harper House purchased Filofax Group, LLC. That was the same year that paper organizer sales hit an all-time peak. Unfortunately, the peak was followed by a decline. People were spending more time onscreen and less time on paper. Ultimately, Day Runner was acquired by Mead (an American mainstream office supply company), and Filofax was acquired by Letts of London (a British leather house).

These days, Boyd Willat is still pursuing his careers as a movie producer, real estate developer, and the inventor of the [1]Sensa pen. A professional photographer, Felice Willat has continued to create paper organization and self-development tools.

You can find her work on her Web site, [2]Tools With Heart.

Felice sells beautiful bound journals, handmade binders, and journaling tools (such as "journaling cards" that offer writing prompts) along with notecards and other products based on her photography. Her central product (and most interesting to female Philofaxers) is the 8.5" x 5.5" loose-leaf journal called the [3]Woman's Book of Changes.

The Woman's Book of Changes doesn't duplicate any standard Day Runner or Filofax sections like a calendar or business forms. Its pages are journaling and life-exploring tools, including "assorted journal pages, dream sheets, warm-up tools, and accessories. Journal topics include: LifeStory TimeLine, Seasonal Changes Log, BodyScape, building relationships, career change, motherhood, mid-life changes, dream journal and more." The pages and tabs are subtly colored and beautifully illustrated.

Of interest to American Philofaxers is the fact that the refills are standard 3-hole punched, so you can use them in any 8.5" x 5.5" binder. You can use the current Day Runner Classic size calendar, tabs, address pages, etc. in the same binder. (With the help of a Filofax punch, you can also place Woman's Book of Changes pages in an A5 Filofax, with the understanding that the pages will be slightly taller and narrower than your A5s.)

I'm sorry to say that Felice has created no such product for men. What do you think, Philofaxy guys? Would you like to have a Man's Book of Changes? What would it contain (aside from football scores and cigar records)?

1. <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5470332114257579011>

2. <http://www.toolswithheart.com/>

3. <http://www.toolswithheart.com/shop/index.php?cPath=21&osCsid=694184ddf67e770141e88518cb519a92>

Anonymous (2009-06-22 13:45:41)

Records of women scored?

Steve (2009-06-23 08:03:13)

I think I might include boring things like clothes sizes, collar, chest size etc.

I'm forever forgetting what size I currently am And it's a bit difficult to look on the label if you are wearing it!

Welcome Steve (2009-06-23 20:04) - Nan

Philofaxy has a new team member!

In the [1]time-honored Philofaxy tradition of admitting one needs help, I've asked longtime reader and

Filofax enthusiast extraordinaire Steve Morton to join the team. To my delight, he accepted. Steve's writing is always interesting, and his posts will be appearing on these pages along with mine from now on.

Steve is the owner of the [2]Filofax Yahoo group and maintains his own blog, which focuses on his interest in [3]Filofaxes, photography, and high-tech gadgets.

Steve divides his time between his homes in the UK and France.

You'll be seeing his first post tomorrow!

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2006/06/philofaxers-reign-of-autocratic-terror.html>
2. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/filofax/>
3. <http://stevemorton.blogspot.com/>

Steve (2009-06-24 07:28:21)

Thanks for the great intro 'Inky'. In addition to all of the above, I also manage to work full time as a radio spectrum manager for a UK government department. Not a very exciting role, but it keeps the brain active and it pays the bills!

I hope you enjoy my own view point on the world Filofax and I look forward to your comments and feedback.

Regards

Steve

hidnseek (2009-06-24 14:06:42)

interesting, welcome I look forward to reading many more blog postings you 2 are both very interesting to read. I am now using a iphone and a filofax, how to best merge the 2?

Anonymous (2009-06-24 15:05:29)

Steve writes better than Inky, in my humble opinion.

Nan (2009-06-24 15:23:53)

You're right.

Laurie (2009-06-25 05:22:25)

Welcome Steve!

D (2009-06-25 15:13:58)

Welcome Steve! I will enjoy reading posts from both you AND Inky.

Miss Charlie (2009-06-27 14:56:22)

This is great news - and I'll also enjoy reading posts from BOTH of you!

Miss Charlie

(who eight out of ten cats agree, writes better than anyone called Anonymous!)

Filofax on eBay, it pays to be patient (2009-06-25 06:00) - Steve



[1] Well it took me a few attempts to get the right bargain for a Filofax Finsbury on eBay, but it was worth the wait. Some where selling for more than you could buy them for on normal mail order from a variety of UK office suppliers. So I limited my maximum bid each time. Wise advice from my son... it's easy to get carried away close to the auction deadline. So I have added a new Finsbury to my collection, I paid £26 for it, this compares to £44 on the Filofax UK site.

Another bargain I bagged on the way was a Filofax pocket metal punch and pocket storage binder for a total price of £5.19 for the two items. The storage binder on the Filofax site is £8.50, the punch £26, so I was very pleased with those two.



[2] So I now have a nice new black Finsbury with 2009 fill. I will be moving some of my pages from my old Winchester personal across in to the Finsbury, but at the moment I'm just enjoying it's newness!! I don't want to snap the cellophane wrapper on the pages just yet... well not until I've taken some photographs of it tomorrow when my camera will be back from having a sensor and mirror box clean.

So take a look at eBay for Filofax binders and accessories, but don't get carried away.

What bargains have you managed to bag on line?

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SkEG6aww8zI/AAAAAAAAADo0/-9V4STp21J4/s1600-h/IMG_8053.JPG

2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SkEHTxyQgTI/AAAAAAAAADo8/1Bx3Ce3XG3Y/s1600-h/IMG_8057.JPG

hidnseek (2009-06-25 15:27:56)

oh that is where I got my filofaxes for a great deal!! finchley personal retail 115 \$ US ebay was 49.99 and A5 classic retail 150 \$ US for 54.99 so after shipping customs it was like still like buy 1 get one free in Canada ;)

Anonymous (2009-06-26 02:58:26)

I love ebay for collecting filofaxes. I have won several "Winchester" filox, one of which, a burgundy 7/8", I use daily. It's also a good place to bag a very good bargain & then sell at a profit to help pay for my addiction. A new Finsbury won for less than £10 & sold for £25 and similar story with a slimline Guildford.

Simon

Steve (2009-06-26 04:59:38)

I hope I wasn't bidding against you Simon!

Steve

Anonymous (2009-06-26 11:46:58)

@Steve

I don't think so, the finsbury was bought several months ago.

If you're interested, there's a Balmoral up there at the moment (Auction #320386048897). I bought one about two years ago & then sold it because it was too big; Something I've regretted ever since.

Simon

Miss Charlie (2009-06-27 15:03:06)

I'm made up for you - I got a fantastic dream handbag once on e-Bay, took months of research (it was a Chanel 2.55, and fakes were a HUGE issue at the time) - it's so nice to get something you truly lust for at a great price, isn't it? ;)

That takes me back to one time, I gave a much-loved binder I was replacing complete with all the new binder's filling, to a friend who mentioned she wanted one - she promptly told me she was flogging it on e-Bay, and I was quite upset!

Not because I regretted losing the chance at profit myself, but because it had meant something to me for years, and I'd rather have given it to someone who would appreciate it, and not offload it asap.

For that reason, if I ever retire any of my Filos, you can be sure they'll go to e-Bay, in the hope of finding a home where they'll be appreciated!

Guess I'm funny like that... ;)

Free for All Friday No. 36 (2009-06-26 00:09) - Nan

And so it goes...

kanalt (2009-06-26 10:23:09)

I'm contemplating buying a personal size Piazza. Does anyone own one? Do you like it?

Anonymous (2009-06-26 12:10:15)

Am I in a minority of one?

I really dislike the full length zippered pocket that is a characteristic of so many personal size filos. Not only that, I also dislike the notepad pocket which seem to be a feature of the personal size filos that don't have a full length zippered pocket!

Am I in a minority here?

Simon

Nan (2009-06-26 20:11:57)

I like the zippered pocket better when it's made from mesh, so I can see what's inside.

I actually like the notepad pocket, especially in the A5, because I can rely on it to always have clean paper when I need it.

D (2009-06-26 22:43:05)

I have one and like it a lot. The leather was fairly stiff when new so it wouldn't stay open flat, but with some manipulation it now does. I do however wish it had a notepad pocket instead of the full length zippered pocket.

Miss Charlie (2009-06-27 15:04:14)

I've always preferred mesh pockets too, though it may depend on how you use your Filofax, because my primary binder never leaves the house, so never has to double up as a wallet.

I love the notepad pocket in the back of my A5 more than is probably rational, it's easily doubled the usefulness of the item for me.

GCM1066 (2009-06-28 13:28:40)

I purchased 3 Filofax personal size planners on E bay. Each one was a great bargain.

Steve (2009-07-02 13:02:45)

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/aboutus/news.asp?newsId=85>

Latest auction of some prototype designs

Steve

Welcome Laurie (2009-06-29 19:28) - Nan

Philofaxy has another new team member!

Laurie, who has posted some of the most interesting and intelligent comments on this blog, has joined Philofaxy and will be contributing her own posts where they belong – front and center.

Laurie is an American living overseas. She's been using Filofaxes for over a decade and has been reading and commenting on Philofaxy for almost 3 years now. She travels frequently and relies on her Filofaxes to contain the details of her ever-changing life.

D (2009-06-29 21:21:49)

Welcome Laurie! I have always enjoyed reading your comments and now excitedly look forward to your posts!wh

Laurie (2009-06-30 02:36:43)

Thank you Inky and D! I am really excited to be a contributor to the blog. I am looking forward to some lively Filo discussions!

Steve (2009-06-30 03:20:22)

Welcome to the team Laurie, great to have you on board..

Steve (the other newbie!!)

Laurie (2009-06-30 05:47:15)

Thanks Steve! I think the 3 of us, with our varied backgrounds and experience, will have a lot to contribute to the blog.

Miss Charlie (2009-07-04 04:48:03)

Welcome Laurie!

That's good news, the more the merrier! :)

Is it too early to buy next year's diary refill? (2009-06-30 17:39) - Steve

Last year I made the mistake of buying the wrong format diary refill for my A5 Filofax. I made too hasty a decision in December, and by the time I realised I had made the wrong choice it was too late to get the format I wanted.

So I noticed that it's possible to buy 2010 refills 6 months before the end of the year... but I'm not going to rush into buying my refill for another couple of months yet.

So which format to go for? Obviously your first decision will be what size to match your binder... OK, that was the easy bit!

If you're just going to stay with the same format as this year, then your task is very easy. Filofax have standardised on the product reference code for their diary pages. This [1]page has all the details. If you're buying from an alternative supplier, you should be able to check the product reference code against the ones shown on the Filofax site.

Looking at the catalogue on the Filofax website, you will notice that there are more different formats for personal or slimline size (95mm x 171mm) than any of the others.

The choice of refill will be a bit of a compromise between writing space and the bulk of number of pages for just your diary section. We all like to have plenty of other pages in other sections, don't we?

There are even choices to be made even for what seems to be the same format. For instance, in 'two pages per week' format, the multi-language version starts the week on a Monday and has reduced space for Saturday and Sunday. Or go for the English-only version, which starts on Sunday and gives each day the same amount of space, with a notes section at the end of the week. There are other variations as well, so take a look at all the options open to you.

Some of the larger formats offer additional planning tools in addition to appointments, as with the A4 Business Diary. This refill is quite expensive, and it's in 'page per day' format. Half of the page is dedicated to appointments, whilst the other half covers To do, Reminders, Phone calls/correspondence, Things to delegate. This would have everything for the serious 'GTD' (Getting Things Done) devotee.

If you find that some days or weeks that you need more space to write notes of a special occasion or a meeting, then you can easily slip in a sheet of ruled or plain paper. I tend to put a to-do list in to my diary in the week I'm going away so I can add things to the list for things to take away with me.

There are also choices on some formats on the colour of the paper; most are white only, but some come in cotton cream (a favourite of Inky's I recall) and also pink (to match the pink breast cancer edition binders, I presume).

I think we now know why Filofax place their diary refills on sale so early! Have fun choosing your next refill.

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/sizeguide/diaries.asp>

nicolle (2009-06-30 21:19:02)

also if you need more room a particular week or day they have "day planner" sheets. these sheets have one side with an appointment slot, a to do list, and a don't forget section. then on the back there is a notes section.

the refill number is 131319 and they are a must have

Laurie (2009-07-01 03:42:43)

I like to get my refills as early as possible. I use my diary section as a perpetual diary of sorts: rather than keep one year in, fill it, and replace it with another year, I rotate pages in and out keeping at least 6 months future and several months past in my Filo at all times. As Inky once put it so well, I like to write in events, once, on the day they will occur.

But every year I agonize over which format to use! My needs change and what worked for me this year might not necessarily work for me next year. I usually wind up getting a few different formats, for flexibility and to satisfy my own fickleness! I always get a couple of different weekly formats, the monthly (which I use extensively) and the pull-out year for long-range planning. And, I always have on hand the day planner sheets that nicolle referred to, they are very useful when I'm having an especially busy day.

Laurie (2009-07-01 04:01:45)

Oh and by the way, I've just noticed on Filofaxusa.com the A5 Family Organizer Refill for 2009 is 50 % off. So for those of you who have been curious about the format and all the forms it contains, but have been wary of shelling out the bucks for it, this might be a good time to satisfy that curiosity and spring for it!

Oni (2009-07-02 16:49:33)

I've never heard of the day planner sheets. do they only come in large formats as the A5? or are they also available in pocket size?

Miss Charlie (2009-07-11 23:35:16)

I plan to revamp my own design day-to-view A5 sheets for the autumn, and then use a week-to-view vertical diary in the section after that, for appointments etc.

If I get anything I'm totally happy with, I'll post a pic!

I can't imagine going back to their off-the-peg :o) diary inserts any more.

1.7 July

Alternative Filofax Uses (2009-07-01 05:05) - Laurie

Hello everybody, welcome to my first post as a Philofaxy blogger! Long time commenter, first time blogger. I'm going to be offline for a couple of weeks and wanted to be sure to post before I leave for my vacation in glorious Scotland!

Speaking of Scotland, last December before my holiday trip to the Highlands I posted about my conversion of my retired Personal Buckingham into my self-made Scotland Guidebook. You can read some details about that on the Free For All Friday for December 5, 2008, [1]here.

To update: I spent the holidays in Scotland and also in March I took a trip to London for the first time, and am happy to report that my Filofax UK Guidebook (to include London) is great. I have tabbed sections for all the regions of Scotland as well as the cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, and now London. I have maps, sections for notes, lists (places yet to see, websites about Scotland, books to read about the area and history, etc.)

One of my most useful sections is a record of trips I have taken. I write the details of my upcoming trip on the first page behind the tab: Flight details, where I am staying and how much it costs, reservation numbers, rental car details, and the current exchange rate. When I am on my trip and checking in at the desk of the airline/ rental car/ hotel, I have all of my reservation info right there, including the dates of when I paid online or over the phone, and all of my reservation numbers. This is obviously very useful while I am on the trip, but it also makes a great record for future reference. When I take another trip, I add the new info page on top of the old one, so this section contains a reverse-chronological record of every place I stayed, how much it cost, and what the exchange rate was during that trip.

In my regional tabbed sections I write places I visited, how to get there, restaurants that I would like to eat at again, things I did not do but want to do in future trips, etc. The accumulation of information in each section is very useful on subsequent trips, and a wonderful record of past trips as well.

My Filofax UK Guidebook was inspired by the Moleskine city books, which are fill-in-yourself guidebooks for various cities around the world. They have maps and tabbed sections for restaurants, accommodation, sites, etc. But the classic problem with Moles is, what do you do if a section fills up? This is where a Filo excels. The flexibility of the refillable binder, tabbed dividers, and even different colors of refill paper make classification easy. And you never have to worry about a section filling up. I think it would be fun to make a guidebook for the city where you live, to record things to do, restaurants you have enjoyed, delivery numbers, museums, or other attractions in your area. This would be especially useful for guests to borrow when they come to visit.

Using Filofaxes as DIY guidebooks makes me think of other possible uses for Filos. Another use for a Filofax which I haven't tried myself but sounds like a good idea is as a wine journal. Again, this is where a Filo would be perfect, because you could classify your wines any way you want. There could be tabbed sections for classifications such as Red/ White/ Rose/ Sparkling, or by type such as Merlot, Cabernet, etc. or even by place such as French, Californian, Chilean etc. Then you could subdivide your tabbed sections using the different colors of paper. For example in the French section you could use a different paper color for areas like Bordeaux, Alsace, etc.

This is just an example to illustrate the ways a Filofax can be used. The combination of the refillable binder, tabbed dividers, various colors of paper, forms, accessories, and even computer software result in infinite possible uses for this system. Do you use your Filofax(es) in ways beyond the usual planner/ address book? Tell us about it!

Hope you all have a good two weeks and I will post again when I get back!

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2008/12/free-for-all-friday-no-23.html>

Steve (2009-07-01 06:32:13)

My old Winchester Personal size Filofax is my French phrase book and lesson notes. I also keep a month per page calendar in there as well to make notes about lesson dates/times.

My wife gave me some notes that she received from the British Trade and Industry Association for businesses doing business with France, these were in Filofax size and already punched.. perfect. They have some useful phrases for everyday French.

Have a great holiday Laurie.

Regards

Steve en France...

Anonymous (2009-07-01 09:39:50)

I am excited. Welcome to both Laurie and Steve as co-moderators. I have often thought how difficult it would be to be the sole person to run one of these blogs and the tremendous amount of time it takes. Inky should be commended for sharing her space.

Two excellent posts, both stimulate the thought of not only how to be more productive, but more creative as well. In regard to Laurie's guidebook for trips, I have started using Polaroid's Pogo printer with my digital camera and phone camera. Very useful to illustrate memorable scenes or locations. I even take pictures of meals and table settings in my favorite eating spots. You'd be surprised at the increased service and quality of food you get if they thing you are a food critic and they will be written about. The little Pogo pictures are 2"X3", so they don't take much room.

Happy travels Laurie, and again welcome Steve.
crofter.

Kate (2009-07-01 12:27:23)

Hi there,

I am a long-time lurker, and this post has inspired me to post for the first time. I am a transplanted Chicagoan living in Edinburgh, and just wanted to say hi.

Laurie, I love love your travel filo idea! I think I might need to steal this idea and add a new section to my filo. I hope you have a lovely trip to Bonny Scotland. Bring your rain gear - it's been very very damp here this week!
Regards,
Kate

Laurie (2009-07-01 14:52:04)

Wow Kate, you are living my dream! I would love to live in Edinburgh, such a great city. And thanks for the rain advice. We always expect to get rained on at least part of the time. Luckily I like rain, so the climate is perfect for me!

Oni (2009-07-02 17:01:17)

Wow, what an inspiring post! And such a great idea. My boyfriend got the London Mole for our trip a while ago. He enjoyed it and I couldn't stop coveting it while he used it to write about the restaurants and places we visited. (He's not the type of person who likes to write at all). But it would've been stupid for me to get one as well, since I rely on my Filo for almost everything. Being a pocket, it is a bit limited on the thickness of each section, so I try not to add too many of them.

But after reading this post, I have now the perfect excuse to get a new Filo and not crave those pretty city Moles. Thank you, Laurie :D

Silver_Elixir (2009-07-04 21:19:25)

The idea of alternative uses for Filofax binders is endless. You could use one as a commonplace book, as a special recipe book, as a project book with a tab for each project along with details and information and progress notes,

(you could use a code system to reference projects (or anything you wanted) in an everyday planner). You could use one for writing stories, where you keep descriptions behind one tab, name, place and character ideas behind another tab, plot lines behind another... I have tended to keep a lot of info in my everyday Filo that I don't especially need, and so thinking about alternative uses has allowed my mind to think about other ways to keep this information that I want in a place that is easily accessible and I can put a reference in my Filo as to where to find it if I need too, thus saving a heap of room.

gmax (2009-07-05 12:10:04)

I keep a slimline filo specifically for use when I travel to London.

Inside is a tube map, A-Z street map sheets and a map of tourist attractions, as well as lists of restaurants and other places to visit.

I keep a copy of the latest train timetable inside the front cover, and slot my tickets in there too.

Miss Charlie (2009-07-11 23:31:34)

I use a nylon Ffx Personal I picked up second hand to keep some notes relating to my work, the advantage being that I can move whole sections about, and intersperse pages, without needing computerised records.

Filofaxes have so much potential past the usual diary/address book, the only boundary is your imagination...

The Advanced Day Planner User's Guide (2009-07-04 05:00) - Steve

The Advanced Day Planner User's Guide by Hyrum W. Smith – Published by Franklin International Institute, Inc – ISBN 0-939817-001-2

First of all, this book is not written with the Filofax in mind... so before I get your expectations up, I thought I best say that first. However, whilst the Franklin Day Planner is a rival to Filofax, a lot of the principles and ideas are transferable to the Filofax system.. so it's worth a look.

The book takes the form of suggestions and ideas sent in by users to Franklin International and there are 83 different suggestions in total, all nicely explained and illustrated in the book which is over 175 pages in total.

I've been working my way through the book looking for new ideas that I could use in my Filofax. As has been mentioned previously in a comment on this blog a while back, there is nothing earth shattering in the book, but there are a few good ideas. You don't really need to read it from cover to cover even, just open it when you have a few moments to kill and read one of the suggestions. Each one is complete and it doesn't require you to read all the others.

Some of the suggestions refer to specific Franklin Day Planner Forms, some of these are similar to those available for Filofax but there are some that could be adapted to different Filofax sizes and may be slightly different layouts according to the size of the binder you are using.

One of the nicer touches about the way the book is written is the way in which the suggestions are described. How they came about from real life situations. So it is easier to see how the problem was solved and how the form or suggestion solved the problem and may be how you might use a similar suggestion for a similar problem of your own.

I picked up this book on Amazon Marketplace for less than £5 including postage, it was published back in 1987, which was about the time that planners and organisers were becoming very popular. So I suppose there was demand for such a book at the time. I'm not sure such a book these days would sell a lot of copies... this blog and other associated websites are most probably a better sources of information.

So if you are interested in reading more, I'm not sure if this book will be in your local public library, or take a look at Amazon, there were plenty of copies available when I purchased mine.

Anonymous (2009-07-04 09:43:29)

This blog came to life again. I'm sure this is because my many negative comments.

Filofax – The Missing Manual (2009-07-07 06:00) - Steve

I know I'm being a little cheeky titling this post 'The Missing Manual' because some of you will have realised the connection to Inky... so why is the English guy who's only been here 5 minutes getting in on the act....parody is sometimes the best complement

So was there ever a manual written for the Filofax? Or should it be included in the category of 'No Instructions Required' ? Which to me is a play on 'No Jacket Required' the album by Phil Collins.

If there was a manual what sort of detail would it go to? Surely not to this sort of level of detail?

Opening

Hold your Filofax with the closing strap on the right hand side and the gently pull on the press stud until it 'pops' open, now open your binder to reveal the pages.

Or should it contain ideas as to the order of the sections/pages? The dividers supplied with some sizes always put the diary at the front and addresses at the back. But that is the beauty of the flexibility of the organiser system in that you can put what you want were ever you want.

May be the designer of particular binder you have bought would include ideas of what he/she was intending you to keep in the pockets of the binder.

The zip pocket at the back of the binder is intended for you to keep your train ticket, letter headed paper or receipts. Please don't try to hide your iPod Touch in there.
The business card slots have been designed for cards of 85 by 43 mm

The manual writer might also have a sense of humour as bad as mine...

When you first purchase your leather Finsbury, you will find the leather is quite stiff and it will not lie flat. Do not force it, over time it will become more supple be able to stay open on your desk for longer.

On a serious note, I'm sure it would include notes on cleaning and maintaining the appearance of your Filofax.

To help maintain the leather cover we strongly recommend Filofax leather polish, the special wax formulation feeds the leather and helps to keep it supple No, do not use this leather polish on non-leather covers, instead we recommend Filofax foam cleaner.

Would there be a compatibly table of pens and pencils that will fit the pen loop of your binder, if my own experience is anything to go by, it will be a fairly short list. If you have ever tried buying pens that you like writing with, but then find they are too big for the pen loop on the binder.

No doubt there will be a technical specification section:

This binder has rings of 38mm diameter, the maximum capacity is 500 pages, this includes loose pages. Why do you think you can cram even more pages in that will fit....

A tips section would no doubt include a section on choosing your diary refill.

In reality the only instructions my new Filofax came with was about how to register it. A very simple process, once registered should you be unfortunate to lose it and the finder returns it to Filofax, it will be returned to you, and the finder will receive a gift.

It's pleasant change to not have to wade your way through half a dozen safety notices before you get to the section on 'how to install the batteries' But of course with a Filofax... no batteries are required... or included. And for a product that has been around since 1921 I don't think any instructions are really required.

So did I miss anything out? Post your own ideas in the comments section. And I'm sure Inky's advice to me will be 'Don't give up the day job yet Steve!!'

Nan (2009-07-07 21:52:43)

Thanks for another great post, Steve!

Most first-time Missing Manual writers have never written a book before, and have a clever sense of humor, so your post fits right in.

Steve (2009-07-08 06:34:50)

There's hope for me yet then ;-)

Steve

gmax (2009-07-08 09:46:37)

One useful instruction that should be conveyed somehow is not to pull the rings open by hand, but only using the tabs at the top and bottom of the spine.

Charlotte (2009-07-08 15:55:09)

First of all, I would like to thank all the contributors to this blog. I have been following it for quite a long time now and greatly enjoy every update. I have been a Filofax aficionado for 13 years, ever since my parents decided a Personal size planner might help their then 18-year-old daughter keep track of her various college assignments...it worked. Apropos of Steve's last post-finding pens that actually fit into the loops of my Filofax planners (am currently using an A5 Finsbury) has been a great source of annoyance for me, especially since I prefer writing with fountain pens. I can recommend the LAMY "Logo" to those who have been searching for a reasonably priced fountain pen that will actually fit into the loop of their Filofax (at least it fits into my A5 Finsbury).

Miss Charlie (2009-07-12 03:04:23)

On the topic of pen loops, I'm a fan of mechanical pencils, and much to my disappointment, the really GOOD ones never fit a Ffx loop... but I did get lucky in my local pound shop recently, and for a quid got seven different coloured pencils (coloured case, standard lead I mean) that all fit!

Simple things please simple minds...

by Ewan Spence (2009-07-14 05:00:10)

The biggest one for me is making sure that people use a pencil! Once people are over the shock of seeing a filofax they have the moment of clarity that adults can still use pencils and not pens.

Laurie (2009-07-31 15:43:14)

The closest thing I have ever seen to a "how-to manual" for Filofax is a photo on the Philofaxy Flickr pool by J. Mark Bertrand:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/jmarkbertrand/3369817037/in/pool-407484_76@N00/

DJ (2010-06-25 21:34:16)

I use a Sanford Logo II, .5mm in a Pocket Executive, 11mm rings, i.e. a Pocket Slimline. I have fitted an extra clip from a Pentel 207 right below the "advancing" part of the barrel-that is, the part one depresses to advance lead. This so the pencil will be held in the loop, the built-in clip being too high. The great thing about this pencil,

besides a sleeve which completely withdraws so you don't end up puncturing yourself, is the two inch eraser. Great for folks like me who never get it right the first time. Or the second.

New Organisers (2009-07-09 07:30) - Steve

A new range of 'Butterfly' organisers are available on the UK Filofax site:

[1]

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/>

I think you will agree some nice detailing on the cover.

Steve

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?rangeid=136&sizeid=2&dsid=2>

YM (2009-07-09 11:15:19)

Wow, there are several organizers on the UK site that are not available on the US site! I was just there last night browsing around and I splurged & ordered myself a new Eton :)

Steve (2009-07-09 14:07:23)

As they say it is worth looking around!

The new ones aren't really my style but I'm always pleased to see the company expanding the choice available. Something for everyone then.

Steve

Anonymous (2009-07-10 03:43:41)

Good morning....

the butterfly organizer is also available in Germany, but only red , looks really nice...

YM , i would like to have an Eton,too, but it's so expensive :-)

YM (2009-07-10 13:28:03)

Anonymous, my Eton came today. HOLY COW IS THAT THING AWESOME! They are on sale at Goldspot Pens for \$179 (which is still a lot, I know).

The leather is INCREDIBLE. I have never felt a Filo so soft & supple. It lays flat and the interior features are fantastic. I highly recommend.

Anonymous (2009-07-11 00:59:33)

Most Filofax Organisers are for women only. How about us, the men? There are no simple black real calf organisers anymore.

I don't need a zipped pocket and I don't need a "design" on the outside. Filofax, get back where you started!

Anonymous (2009-07-11 05:00:12)

YM, congratulats to your new Eton...:-)

Have you already moved your pages?

I bought a zipped new Durham in Personal size.

Its a bit bulky, but I like it.

At the moment I'm trying to change my job, if i get the one i want, perhaps i will buy an Eton :-)

Sorry for the bad Englisch...

Jenny

Miss Charlie (2009-07-12 12:15:46)

Anon #1, have you tried their site? Because in the UK I can see at least one reasonably plain dark (or black) Ffx at each price range, and all sizes. Then there are classics like the Finsbury, that come in pink, for sure - but also

black, or brown.

I don't like decorated Ffxs either, despite being a female, my preference is for navy or brown, and there's plenty on offer from what I've seen. :)

Free for All Friday No. 37 (2009-07-11 13:08) - Nan

Hi everybody!

I think I speak for everyone when I thank Steve and Laurie for their outstanding contributions to this blog so far.

I've been reading a lot about folks having a dedicated Filofax for travel, even for a particular city. If you're traveling this summer, enjoy!

Anonymous (2009-07-11 14:47:28)

Totally agree Nan.

One word of unsolicited advice...don't give me too much... leave me wanting more!

Leave me checking back every day, to see if there's a new post...*I love being teased!!!*

Miss Charlie (2009-07-11 23:49:07)

I have a question: in the UK, does anyone know of a manufacturer or store selling reasonably cheap generic plastic six-ring binders, that take Filofax Personal-size refills? And/or, the same with A5?

Paperchase used to do a wide range in colourful polypropylene (I think) for about a fiver, and sadly I gave mine away when I moved a few years ago, but now I'm finding new uses constantly and would like to replace them.

Faithful as I am to Filofax for my proper diary and planner books, I can't run to £20 (for the cheapest Personal size on their site) every time I fancy starting a new project folder!

If I recall correctly the Filofax stores sell unfilled binders, at a lower price, but that's all a bit much effort for something that's stationery, and not going to be my main organiser.

And I know Ffx do "storage binders" that are similar to the kind of thing I'm after, but to be honest I'd prefer something a little more colourful, as the folders will probably be on view on my office shelves.

Any suggestions will be most gratefully received! :o)

Steve (2009-07-12 04:50:52)

Miss Charlie.

Check out <http://www.office365.co.uk> they have a variety of none Filofax 6 ring organisers from as low as £10. I think the brand is Collins.

Good luck in your search

Regards

Steve

by Ewan Spence (2009-07-14 05:03:40)

While not brilliant for day to day use, I've picked up the storage binders (9ukp) and a set of dividers (2.75ukp) for 'archived' projects to keep the Filofax as clear as possible, and a handy yearly archival system.

Miss Charlie (2009-07-20 03:16:08)

Thanks Steve, they're certainly a good price!

I really want something a little more colourful (in fact what I want is the ones Paperchase used to do, and which I rather foolishly "decluttered"!) but I may pick up one of those little Collins chappies if I go abroad next year, just in case it gets lost.

A few years ago Muji did a lovely six-ring binder as well, in really tough cardboard, and I have one of those left - I wish I'd had the foresight to pick up a few more of them...

Punching It Up (2009-07-13 15:43) - Nan



[1] There are two kinds of Filofaxers in the world...those who find an accompanying hole punch indispensable and those who will never own one.

I'm of the first camp. I have 6-hole punches for both my Personal and A5 Filofaxes. I like to punch "outside" pieces of paper (sometimes with trimming) to carry with me...schedules, maps, information sheets, and so on. I always buy A5 journals with perforated pages so I can use the same paper in my Filo. One time I punched a postcard of a museum display I wanted to see!

If you print your own forms, like the ones Steve makes and offers for download in his [2]Yahoo group, a punch is a must. (Although sometimes I print information from Word documents onto the blank leaves Filofax sells, which are of course already punched.)

The one problem I'm having: I haven't figured out how to empty the paper chads out of my A5 metal punch. Does this plastic cover just pull off somehow? I've never been able to do it.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3717325493/>

2. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/filofax/>

Steve (2009-07-13 19:35:27)

Yes Nan pull off the plastic cover and the bottom metal cover slides out too but do it over a waste bin!

Steve

Miss Charlie (2009-07-13 19:35:53)

Yes - AND, not only does the plastic cover indicated pull off (I used pliers, padded the grips part with fabric, because they can be tough first few times) BUT ALSO the metal bottom plate slides out completely, again you MAY need thin-nosed pliers to grip the end and pull it out.

'Scuse the caps but it took me years to realise that... I bought my first metal Personal punch in 2002, for crying out loud, and struggled to clean the farthest end for ages!!

I love them, I can't believe I was recently close to either breaking, or more likely abandoning, my expensive A5 punch, just because I couldn't clean it properly.

Happy punching! :o)

Miss Charlie (2009-07-13 19:39:06)

Great minds think alike! :o)

Nan (2009-07-14 03:30:38)

Thanks Steve and Miss Charlie. Miss C, that's a brilliant idea about padding the pliers. I've been concerned about getting the thing open without breaking it or my hands. I'm going to give that a try.

Steve (2009-07-14 05:56:31)

Another section for the Missing Manual I think... I will write it up with photo's when I get back to UK!

Steve....currently en France..

Anonymous (2009-07-14 12:24:06)

I have left the plastic ends and the metal slide off permanently. That way I can punch more papers at a time. I just scoop up the paper holes when I'm finished.

Concreteman (2009-07-14 16:03:20)

I love how it says "Remove this end only". First time I removed it, the other end fell out, then I forgot which end was which, but it make no difference!

A'moi (2009-09-13 17:40:25)

Just wondering how many sheets you find the filofax metal punch capable of punching? I read a really bad review somewhere and have been put off buying it since, I need some reassurance before I take the plunge and spend that much money... :)

Steve (2009-09-13 17:57:04)

A'moi, the Filofax punch can punch up to about 5 sheets of paper I would say, but because of it's small cross section, it's quite hard to punch that many sheets in one go.

If you are buying a punch for a Personal or Pocket size Filofax, I can recommend the Rapesco punch which we reviewed here:

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/08/rapesco-diary-punch-66-p.html>

It's a lot bigger than the equivalent Filofax punch, but it is also limited to punching up to 8 sheets in one go. I generally only punch 4 sheets at any one time, it's also cheaper than the equivalent Filofax punch. Plus you get two sizes for the price of less than one.

Hope that helps

Steve

Filofax News - New Cherry Organisers (2009-07-16 10:58) - Steve

So Filofax have also announced a new range of 'Cherry' Organisers today... where will it end!

[1]<http://www.filofax.co.uk/>

I've only checked the UK store at the moment....

Just in season with the real fruits in UK I guess!

Steve

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?display=&sizeId=3&rangeId=137&dsizeId=3>

gg (2009-07-17 09:38:33)

That's a thought – maybe they're going to come out with seasonal binders. These aren't too expensive and we could buy Cherry for spring and summer. Then next year we might buy a Winter one. Etc. Excellent marketing strategy. Or on the other hand someone with some craft skills could make their own seasonal binder covers.

I suspect that this one, with a cotton cover, would be significantly lighter in weight than the leather ones. Mi-

crofiber would be more durable, though, wouldn't it?

ML (2009-07-17 14:46:04)

Oh my goodness! I've seen the Cherry organizer on the Belgian site already but couldn't figure out how to order from there (doesn't seem possible). Well, I just HAD TO order it! I love it, it's beautiful!

Lifestyle Packs (2009-07-16 16:50) - Steve

Filofax have today announced a series of Lifestyle Packs.

Take a look here [1]<http://www.filofax.co.uk/lifestyle/>

We will take a closer look at them in the near future. I wonder where the ideas came from?

Steve

[Update]

I enquired about the individual pages of the Lifestyle Packs being available should you use them up within the 12-18 months of use, here is the response received from Filofax UK today:

Dear Mr Morton

Thank you for your enquiry. Our lifestyle packs are a new product in our range and were launched after our 2009 brochure was printed.

The lifestyle packs are sold as units and no individual pages can be purchased separately. However, if you would like to get back to me with the page you think you will require more of I can look further into this for you.

Kind regards

Val

Val Abrahams

Sales Administrator, Filofax UK

I suspect that if it was just one or two of the pages you used up they would send you a few as a complementary gift, but obviously they want you to buy the whole pack really.

Steve

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/lifestyle/>

Charlotte (2009-07-15 05:21:17)

OOH!!!! I am SO excited about these!!! I really want the City Dweller one - it reminds me of the funfax file I had as a child and absolutely loved. I'm getting one! New obsession?

Narcissa (2009-07-15 06:03:51)

My City Dweller is already in the mail... Can't wait to get it!

Steve (2009-07-15 07:59:16)

One thing I'm going to ask Filofax UK is, once you have used up any of the special pages in these packs, how do you replace them? Hopefully not by buying a whole new pack. At the moment I can't see some of the unique pages in their catalogue, may be they will appear later...

May be they have been secretly watching this blog and noting our desire for some of the un-usual pages from previous decades....

Steve

Anonymous (2009-07-15 08:50:41)

Oh they're grat, but not available in Germany :-(

Nan (2009-07-15 09:37:08)

Filofax UK will ship to other countries, but the shipping charges are much higher. For example, the City Dweller pack is £23. The exchange rate is currently 1.636, so the pack would cost me US \$37.63. (By way of comparison, that's about like buying myself an average-quality sweater.)

The shipping to "rest of world" (outside of Europe) is £6; US \$9.81. (That's about the cost of a martini at a nice restaurant.) But within the UK, shipping is only £2.95; and £5.50 elsewhere in Europe.

Furthermore, when products are shipped overseas, your home country may charge you customs. The Filofax UK website does not add on customs.

All in all, I think the cost is reasonable for a product that I will use for a year or more! I will order a lifestyle pack and have it shipped to the US, and report on what happens in terms of customs.

Interestingly, the Lifestyle Packs include your weekly diary. For example, if you order the Urban Dweller pack now, you get a diary from July 09 to Dec 2010! In addition to the special pages (like Party Time and Dilemmas), the pack includes standard pages like lined notepaper and addresses.

Presumably, you would buy a new pack each year as your diary refill, and make the special pages last that whole time. Steve, let us know what they say about replacing the special pages. It would at least be cool to be able to buy the special pages as a pack without the diary.

Nan (2009-07-15 09:58:52)

Ooops, I mistyped the cost of the City Dweller pack in my comment. It's £17 before shipping, not £23. £17 is US \$27.81.

The Lifestyle Packs are apparently on sale! When I went to check out, I was charged £14.81 instead of £17.

Narcissa (2009-07-16 05:30:09)

It's not a sale, as you do not live in the EU, they automatically reduced the VAT.

Kate (2009-07-16 13:44:36)

Brilliant! Just ordered my City Dweller pack... and that Travel Journal one is calling my name after Laurie's post the other week.

I'm really looking forward to most of the sections in the City Dweller... but, seriously...Outfit Planner? Really???

gg (2009-07-16 18:53:34)

I'm going on vacation next week and this has inspired me to make up my own DIY A5 Travel Pack. I'm just beginning to think about this, so am not sure what to include—airline itinerary, things to see, diary pages where I can jot down the highlights of the day. I don't think I need expenses pages, though those would be useful for business travel. Some Sudoku puzzles for whiling away the time. An envelope to hold receipts. A page protector or two would probably be useful. I already have my checklists for preparation, modeled on Steve's. Maps not so useful because I'll have my GPS. Addresses of people I want to send postcards to.

I'd really prefer to be able to print these off on Personal size paper and use a smaller Filofax for my trip, but I don't have that size paper. Plus personal size Filo's are harder for me to write in and read.

I wish I could get the Travel Pack here in the States, as it wouldn't arrive from the UK before I leave.

Any suggestions would be appreciated.

hidnseek (2009-07-16 20:06:08)

I bought the family pack and got it last week. There was more than enough sheets in it for my use with a family of 4 (2 kids) I think there was enough that all I need is a calendar next year not a new pack. Nice set up filling the sheets in slowly.

Anonymous (2009-07-17 08:37:11)

I love the idea of the Lifestyle Packs, but think that they don't go far enough.

For example, I work on a weekly family shop basis and 5 meal planners, 15 shopping lists and 5 budget sheets are not enough.

However, I do love the other bits and pieces though. But at £17 I will not be buying.

Simon

ML (2009-07-17 14:42:35)

I've just ordered the City Dweller and the Travel Journal pack. AND the Cherry Pocket Filofax ... Argh! I couldn't resist! ;-)

Laurie (2009-07-19 11:25:41)

Wow, these packs look great! I LOVE the Travel pack. It has taken me years of stumbling through packing and planning to put together essentially the same thing. They have it all put together, which makes planning so easy! This helps you remember the details that might otherwise slip through the cracks.

I love the 3D viewer feature that lets you flip through the pages of these packs to really get an idea of whether they would be useful for you.

Miss Charlie (2009-07-20 03:10:11)

I would imagine if the product takes off, Filofax may begin selling packets of the separate special pages, in much the same way you can buy lined paper, To-Do lists etc, without having to buy a whole new filled folder?

But that's pure speculation! ;)

Laurie (2009-07-29 03:33:43)

Nan, have you gotten your Lifestyle Pack yet that you ordered? Which one did you get? I can't wait to hear how you like it. And Narcissa, how are you liking your City Dweller one?

Nan (2009-07-29 19:43:52)

Laurie - No, it hasn't come yet! Even considering the distance, I was expecting to have gotten it by now. Then again, the shipping cost was reasonable, so I don't suppose they used the fastest method! I'll report as soon as I get it, which I hope will be soon!

Tweet Tweet (2009-07-17 10:37) - Nan

If you use the micro-blogging site Twitter, you can follow Filofax UK's Twitter stream at [1]http://twitter.com/Filofax_UK and get the company's latest announcements.

In other news, Filofax has also created a focus group as a way of getting customer feedback. If you join, Filofax will ask you to complete occasional online questionnaires. In return, they'll offer discounts and prizes.

If enough of us sign up, we just might get some of things we've been dreaming about: [2]<http://www.filofax.co.uk/signup/>.

1. http://twitter.com/Filofax_UK

2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/signup/>

Anonymous (2009-07-17 12:58:35)

Do you dream of Filofaxes?

ML (2009-07-17 14:38:48)

Just signed up for the focus group. :-)

@ Anonymous: haha, too funny!

Steve (2009-07-17 17:25:40)

I think we should be on commission!

Nan (2009-07-17 22:00:02)

Or at least get some products to review... ;)

Miss Charlie (2009-07-18 15:08:02)

I did sign up for the "focus group" and only my tardiness made me miss out on at least one truly free sample!

And we did get a discount voucher, as well.

BUT - do androids dream of electric Filofaxes?

Probably not, but that's their loss.... ;o)

Laurie (2009-07-19 11:17:15)

Wow thanks! I immediately signed up for the focus groups but got no promises of discounts or freebies. Maybe I was too late? And I agree, we should be getting paid by Filofax R &D and Marketing. We do some serious research!

Steve (2009-07-20 07:07:37)

BTW if you want to follow me... I'm @stevemorton on Twitter...

Filo Adventures in Scotland (2009-07-19 11:03) - Laurie

Hi everybody! I am back from my wonderful vacation in Scotland, my favorite place on earth. If you have never been there, you must go immediately.

I am pleased to report that my Filofax UK Guidebook worked fabulously throughout the trip. On our way up we stopped over in London for a day, where I used my London city maps and rail network maps, which are available on Filofax.co.uk. Very useful.

While in Scotland I used the Scotland pages of my British Isles maps, also from Filofax UK, extensively. My self-made guidebook gets better and better with every trip. This time I added the things I did, as well as things I didn't get to do but would like to in the future. I sketched in small detailed maps of areas I visited. I wrote down contact information (like the CalMac ferry bookings phone number). The book is turning into an excellent reference and record of my trips.

Our weather in Scotland was really good, with only a couple of days of rain. But rain is always a possibility there and some days were mostly clear except for some mist or sprinkles. I had to be careful with my leather Filo when using it outside. I had the idea that Filofax should make a waterproof binder with waterproof pages to be used in damp situations such as doing oceanography field research, traveling in Scotland, or while taking a bath. I'd buy it. Are you listening Filofax?

While I was there I had lunch with a friend, and a woman who is a friend of her family. During the course of the meal the family friend pulled out her diary/planner to reference a date. I didn't want to be too nosy and eye her book too much, but it looked like a Letts of London weekly diary, hard bound book. Later when she went to pay for her lunch she pulled out a tiny pink Filofax Piazza that was stuffed full of cards and cash, and on the rings were address pages. I couldn't keep silent in the presence of a Filofax so I piped up and said, "I like your little Filofax, you use it as a wallet?" She said yes, and that she also uses it to hold her addresses and permanent reference information. Then I couldn't hold myself back and asked, "And you have a separate diary book?" And she said, "Yes, I suppose it's silly to carry two books with me everywhere, but the Filofax pages are just not big enough for me to write everything I need to do every day." Then we had a lively discussion about the Classic Filofax Dilemma: the page size to book size ratio. I told her my saga of how I have used a Personal size Filo for many years, but the weekly planner page size was just too small during busy times. I tried using day per page diary pages for more room to write, but this failed because I absolutely must see my whole week in one view. So last year I upgraded to the A5 size, and while I enjoyed the larger page size, the book was too big and bulky for me to want to carry around with me everywhere, especially when traveling. So now I am back to the

During my trip I removed my weekly pages, which I didn't think I would need since I have month view pages also. I also removed my address and reference pages, in the interest of security. But while I was on my trip I felt adrift without all those pages in the book. Lesson learned: keep everything in the book. Now that I am back home I have moved the Scotland pages into a ring-bound storage binder (more details on this in my next post) and have turned my Filo back into my planner. Then the next time I take a trip, I can just pop in the UK pages, and off I go!

I'm already excited to plan my next trip!

Hi Laurie - Wow, what a ringing endorsement of Scotland, and what a great Filofax story. Maybe you can use some leather conditioner on your Filo to help it recover from the rainwater and perhaps protect it from future damage.

I also have a tale of leaving my Filo at home even for one evening, and regretting it. I'll tell about it in an upcoming post. I use a Personal for personal matters and as my wallet...but decided it was too bulky for a stadium concert. But then I had a couple of occasions when I had a use for it. What to do?

Oh yes, whenever I don't bring my Filo with me, I inevitably need it. My husband says I need to "detach" from it sometimes. But, he needs me to retrieve information from it almost as often as I need it myself!

My husband finds my filo use humorous yet he also relies on it a great deal. It is commonplace for him to ask me to "go get your book" or to say to friends when making plans "I'll call you back when I've checked my wife's book". Strange that he won't keep a filofax himself.

It might be just an English thing, but men like to tinker around in their sheds. Well I'm over at our house in France at the moment and 'the shed' is our sub-basement which is over 100 sq metres (approximately 1000 sq feet) of space under the main house. There are windows so it's not totally dark, but it is cooler and I suppose that's why I seem to spend more time down there than upstairs when it's hot.

US	France
3 letters	3 letters
broken parts	Sauv. Ent. (understand)
small number	large number
BBB	still bigger
golden sheep	
toys (0.05)	
ladder	

I've then used some graph paper with a rough plan of the basement to sketch out some ideas of where to



put some more shelves. [2]

It has worked out quite well, I've now set up our cave in the coolest part of the basement which is under the terrace, for our growing wine collection and added another shelf unit in there for other drinks and bottled water.

I think we will need some free-standing shelf units that come out at right angles from the wall to maximise on the available space.

My Filofax inventory lists have also help solve the continual problem of 'What is in France' and 'What is in England?' I've got a terrible memory so it helps.

I've also got a 'Clothing in France list' in my A5 Filofax as well. I have more or less clothes for all seasons over here in France, but I like to rotate my clothes between England and France, so keeping a list is a big help when it comes to packing for the next visit.

A beintôt

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/S1MMiod8zRI/AAAAAAAAADro/kdCwBq4Tx_o/s1600-h/scan0002.jpg

2. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/S1MM-rxtRiI/AAAAAAAAADrw/wU7AG8Sh8qM/s1600-h/scan0001.jpg

D (2009-07-20 14:12:33)

It's not just an English thing, trust me. My very American husband has a shed in our back yard and I think he spends more time in it than in our house!

Anonymous (2009-07-20 15:39:24)

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/Men-Sheds-Gordon-Thorburn/dp/1843303299/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8 &s=books &qid=1248118705 &sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Men-Sheds-Gordon-Thorburn/dp/1843303299/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1248118705&sr=1-1)

Shed Porn :-)

Cleaning Out the Punch (2009-07-20 21:52) - Nan



[1] At the suggestion of reader [2]Miss Charlie, I took a pair of needle-nose pliers padded with tissues to my A5 Filofax punch and finally succeeded in removing a couple of years' worth of chads. In case anyone else is having the same problem, I've documented the process in my Flickr photos. Click the image to see them.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/3735678967/>
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/07/punching-it-up.html>

Laurie (2009-07-21 13:35:27)

Congratulations on your chad-removal success! Now I want to know: did you replace the base plate, or did you leave it open?

Nan (2009-07-21 19:51:32)

Oh, I replaced it. Leaving something unassembled is a sure way to guarantee I'm going to lose part of it. But the idea of just punching and letting the chads fall free is very tempting!

Miss Charlie (2009-07-23 10:59:18)

Oooh, I made the front page! :o)
Glad it worked for you anyway!

antsias (2009-07-27 16:13:06)

My comment is somewhat related. I think. Have been searching for a A5 hold punch for my Filo, the Filo brand is quite expensive. I came across an A5 6-hole punch made by M system, compatible with Filofax and it is only \$15.00. http://www.msystem.com/6_hole_Punch_p/a57300.htm
Has anybody used this brand before?

Family Organizer Pack (2009-07-21 05:47) - Laurie

I promised this post would contain information about 6-ring storage binders for Personal size pages, but since there is so much interest right now in the Lifestyle packs I thought I would post my review of the Family Organizer first. If anyone is desperate to locate ring-binders for Personal pages, let me know! Otherwise I will hold off until my next post.

I want to apologize for the enormous length of this post! I hope you will read it. I had a lot to say about the Family Organizer Pack. I ordered the 2009 A5 Family Organizer Pack when the price went to 50 %, partly to be able to report in full to Philofaxy (as I justified the purchase to myself), and partly to satisfy my own curiosity. This was before the contents of the Lifestyle Packs were made available to view online at [1]Filofax.co.uk, so now it seems a little redundant. Oh well, some of the pages will certainly be useful to me.

This family pack is very similar to the Go Mom! Planner ([2]www.gomominc.com) which, interestingly, will not be produced for 2010 after 9 years of production. They used to have a ring-bound planner with removable pages in a Dayrunner style, as well as spiral-bound planners. The calendar format of the Go Mom! was similar to the new Filofax Family Organizer calendar with space for Mom, other members of the family, and meal planning. A note about the boxes for family members: they can be used in other ways too of course, such as to record your exercise that day, expenditures, or anything else you want to categorize on a daily basis. The A5 calendar has the days as columns across the two-page spread. The Personal size version has the days as rows down the page, similar to the grid of the fun and quirky [3]Dodo Pad ([4]www.dodopad.com). I use a Dodo Wall Pad in my kitchen to have the comings and goings of the family in public view. It is such a useful format, I am seriously considering getting the Personal size Family pack to have my Filo and wall calendars in the same format. [5]MomAgenda and [6]Whomi planners also have a similar weekly grid format, which must work for a lot of families since this format is so popular!

The Go Mom! Planner contained many of the same worksheet pages as the Filofax contains, such as babysitting info, school info, contacts, children's activities, pet veterinary records, etc. One thing the Go Mom! Planner had that the Filofax does not is a Carpool Chart. I thought it was particularly ingenious. It was a chart with each day of the week, event (such as sports practice, music lessons, etc.), times to and from. Here is the most brilliant part: the chart is for each CHILD. I would have thought to make a chart for myself, where I need to drive each day. But this addresses the much more important issue, does the child have a ride to and from each of his/ her events throughout the week? Genius.

Another section the Go Mom! Planner had that the Filo does not, and I wish it did, is medical summaries for each member of the family such as when they are due for checkups, vaccines, dental, when were their most recent appointments, lists of medications, etc. Go Mom! also had directories for insurance information such as group and member numbers, address and phone contact info. I have found these pages to be especially useful when at a new doctor's office. Inevitably they ask these questions, and it helps enormously to have it all on one page for reference.

The Filo Family Organizer includes A-Z tabs, which is redundant since Filofax binders themselves come with A-Z tabs. Far more useful would have been to include blank tabbed dividers, which it seems the UK pack does. Something to note: when I put the pack contents into my empty A5 binder, it filled it up. So if you already have a lot of pages in your binder, it will be over-stuffed if you put all the pages in at once.

The US Family Organizer is for the calendar year only. The UK Family pack starts now, July 2009, and runs all the way through the end of 2010. That is a great feature, so that your planner can be on an academic or calendar year.

Awhile back, someone made the observation that the US Family Organizer is labeled as “for busy Moms,” and the question was, why not dads too? I haven’t held a UK version of the Family Organizer in my hands, but on the front of the pack (visible online) it says, “for busy parents.” I wonder if the US version for 2010 will change to “for parents” or if it will remain “for moms.”

In all, I think the Family Organizer pack is very useful, and would certainly help any parent keep things straight. (We need all the help we can get!) There are certainly some things missing that would be useful, such as the carpool chart and medical info pages I have mentioned. But, I guess it can’t be all things to all parents. And of course the beauty of a Filofax is that we can make our own pages for whatever we want and insert them where needed.

I am very happy to see that Filofax is making these Lifestyle packs, and I hope to see more in the future!

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/lifestyle/>
2. <http://www.gomominc.com/>
3. <http://www.dodopad.com/pages/howto.htm>
4. <http://www.dodopad.com/>
5. <http://www.momagenda.com/>
6. <http://www.whomi.com/>

Laurie (2009-07-21 13:34:28)

This just in! Dodo-Pad now makes an A5 size insert diary compatible with Filofax!! I am excited by this merging of two of my great planner loves!

<http://www.dodopad.com/dodofax/dodofax.html>

Nan (2009-07-21 14:17:02)

Great! And with your indulgence, I’ve announced it on Twitter, too.

Laurie (2009-07-22 07:24:42)

Thanks Nan, always glad to spread the word!

BTW thanks for putting Philofaxy on Twitter!

Nan (2009-07-22 07:34:39)

It was actually Steve’s idea, so thanks Steve!

Laurie (2009-07-30 03:46:03)

So I took the plunge and ordered the Family Organizer pack from the Filofax UK website, for my Personal size Filo (which I use as my main planner). I really, really wanted the purple Domino pre-loaded with the Fam Org pack, but it is not available right now and I got impatient waiting for it. I wanted to have the Fam Org weekly planner pages up and running before school starts at the end of Aug, and I was afraid if I waited until the pre-loaded Domino was in stock, it wouldn’t get here in time due to the overseas shipping. As glorious as it would have been to pull the Domino out of the box with the Fam pack already loaded, I just didn’t want to wait that long. Also, I think the overseas shipping for the binder would have been too much. So I ordered the Domino from the US website, and the Fam Pack from the UK website, and will load it myself. Considering the cost of international shipping, I think I got everything for about the same price as it would have cost to get it all from the UK. Not to mention everything that the Domino comes loaded with that I wouldn’t have otherwise gotten. My plan is to use my current personal Buckingham as my planner with the weekly diary and other relevant pages I need from the Family Pack, then use the Domino as my Scotland Guidebook. I think this will work out perfectly, since the Domino is artificial leather so I won’t worry about it getting damp or scuffed while traveling. I’ll be sure to let

you all know how it works out!!

Philofaxy Now on Twitter! (2009-07-21 07:27) - Nan

I'll update every time there's a new blog post, and other Filofax news.
If you're on Twitter, please follow: <http://twitter.com/philofaxy>

onigiri75 (2009-07-23 11:30:53)

Wow, after one whole year trying to avoid getting on Twitter, I finally decided to join today after seeing a report on TV about the pros of Twitter. Only to find that philofaxy has also started Twitter a couple of days ago! Destiny, perhaps? This has made my day :)

OnigiriSama

Steve (2009-07-23 16:50:04)

Another one to consider following:

<http://twitter.com/Filofaxusa>

Steve

Don't Leave Home Without It (2009-07-22 08:43) - Nan



[1] Recently, I did something I haven't done in years - left the house without a Filofax. My Personal Finchley Filo doubles as my wallet, so it's always with me...in my handbag, in my gym bag, in my briefcase or laptop case, beside me on my desk, or occasionally hand-carried when I go out to lunch at work and don't want to carry my whole briefcase.

But this time, I was going to a stadium concert, and I decided not to carry a handbag. It would slow me down by needing to be searched once or twice on my way into the stadium, and would end up digging into my shoulder all night because I wouldn't feel safe putting it down anywhere.

I decided to travel light...really light. No bag, and since it was a warm summer night, no jacket. Nowhere to put a Filofax. I carried my ID and one credit card in one front jeans pocket, some cash on the other side. An index card with driving directions to the parking location we had decided to use in a back pocket. And a couple of tissues folded flat in the other back pocket (which turned out to come in handy as my husband couldn't find a napkin for his hot dog). After all, I wouldn't really need my Filofax during a concert, right?

Wrong. First of all, the woman standing next to me brought a digital SLR and was taking some great pictures. She offered to email them to me if I gave her my address. So there I was, sans pen and paper. I was able to use the back of the index card, and the camera woman had a pen, so it all worked out in the end. But the point is, I had come perilously close to being without a way to give someone my email address. (The woman had not only brought a camera, she brought a big canvas tote bag and left it on her seat throughout the concert while she wandered around taking pictures, so that may be a lesson for me. No one bothered her bag.)

Also, my Filofax would have enabled me to write down the set list. I wanted to be able to remember the songs, and I'm terrible at memorizing set lists. I have a very memory, but song titles are one kind of

information I find it hard to retain, probably because my brain is too busy listening to the music itself. I've decided I need to add a Pocket Slimline or Mini Filo to my arsenal. And I really should have worn at least a light jacket in case it got chilly later on. That way, I'd have a jacket pocket for the Filo. And I already know which one I'd like it to be: The Special Edition Pocket with Swarovsky crystals!
[2]<http://tinyurl.com/lxc8ks>

Disclaimers:

- The link will expire when Filofax discontinues the model or changes its website.
- The image is from the Filofax UK website.

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_H4Rx8LSaPk/SmcNwo2y2zI/AAAAAAAAAIc/nii1Zp2XPrY/s1600-h/022056.jpg
2. <http://tinyurl.com/lxc8ks>

Laurie (2009-07-22 10:00:08)

Whoa, that is gorgeous!! I like it almost as much as my fantasy Filofax, the Deco in ivory:

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?display=&sizeId=3&rangeId=118&sizeId=3>

YM (2009-07-22 11:34:41)

OMG Inky...great minds...I was checking out the productivity packs on the UK website and came across the special edition binder and had to have it. Had to. Should be here in a few days...I will post pictures on Flickr for you when it arrives!!

Claudia Volkman (2009-07-23 05:38:43)

It's gorgeous - and I'll be interested to hear how you use yours (wallet, notetaker, etc) and how you integrate it into your other filox.

onigiri75 (2009-07-23 11:36:46)

Hahaha this must be filofax-shopping week! I ordered my new Urban pocket just this morning, and coincidentally was remembering how beautiful the Swarovsky Mini was when I saw it at the London store..Congrats!!

oh, and regarding the lack of pen and paper; since I always carry my mobile with me, I use it to write down names, addresses, lists, and other stuff just to make sure I won't forget :)

ML (2009-07-24 05:28:25)

Wow, beautiful thing you got yourself there! Congrats!

onigiri75: Welcome to the Urban pocket club! ;-)

Oni (2009-07-27 12:19:56)

ML: you have an Urban Pocket??Any chance you'd be sharing pics of it with us?? I should hopefully receive mine by the end of this week :))

(onigiri75)

Stephanie (2009-10-10 20:58:36)

That black special edition Filofax is gorgeous!

Has anyone tried applying flatback crystals to their Filofax? I put clear on my white personal Deco (9 ss; ss = stone size) around the clasp, and love the bling! :o)

Just wondering what others have done and used as adhesive.

Filofax - Pens (2009-07-23 07:04) - Steve

I think we might have all come across this problem before... what size pen will fit my Filofax Pen Loop?

Well I've done a bit of quick research this morning with my own collection of organisers.

My new Finsbury (Personal) would take an 8.5 mm diameter pen, or 9 mm at a push. Where as my used (2-3 years) A5 and Pocket size organisers would both easily take a 10.5 mm diameter pen. I used the shank of a selection of twist drills to measure the size each would take accurately.

In terms of actual pens I'm using Parker pens in my larger organisers and a Filofax 'Barley Twist' Mini pen in my Pocket size Filofax, most other pens are too long. On my A5 I carry a Parker fountain pen and a ball pen.

The Filofax pen is quite heavy for it's size, it has a retractable ball pen refill. One tip, always retract the point on this pen, if you drop it as I did once the pen is so heavy that it will damage the point if it lands on the point as mine did! I did buy a pack of refills from Filofax and the refill is very slim compared to the size of the pen itself!

What pens are you using?

Anonymous (2009-07-23 08:29:16)

Zebra F-301 and a Model 208 – LAMY logo black Ballpoint pen.

Charlotte (2009-07-23 09:17:13)

I like to have a choice of colours as I find all one colour dull to look at - which means I don't take it in!! So I use a Bic 4 colour pen (the one with black, blue, red and green) it's too thick to put through the loop, so I use the attachment on the lid.

Laurie (2009-07-23 09:27:49)

I also use the Bic 4 color pen, because I color code things on my weekly pages. I too use the clip on the pen in my pen loop to hold it on. For the majority of my writing in my book, which is in black ink, I use a Papermate ballpoint with Lubriglide refill. This has been my pen of choice since college because the ink is smudgeproof and waterproof, so it doesn't smear around on the page.

Nan (2009-07-23 09:34:34)

Ah, the Bic 4-Color pen! A classic! Haven't used one in years!

Anonymous (2009-07-23 10:06:18)

For my pocket planner I use the little Lamy pencil with the adjustable clip 7mm lead which I really like. I use this a great deal and find with me using ink in a planner doesn't work to good because plans change and the need for something erasable is a necessity.

In my personal I use a Uniball Signo in 5mm. I use the fraud proof ink that I use on checks.

For the journal portion I use one of my many fountain pens. I have Mount Blanc, Sailer, Parker, Lamy and Esterbrook, and my favorite always seems to be the one I am using at the time.

Crofter

kanalt (2009-07-23 10:14:44)

The pen I keep in my planner is the Zebra Telescopic.

<http://www.zebrapen.com/products/pen/telescopic-0?c=29>

It's small enough around that it fits perfectly into the pen loop, and when retracted, it's short enough that it fits into a mini planner. The website says that it comes in black, blue and red, but I've only ever seen the black. I don't like the way this pen writes, but in a jam, it works fine and it fits the pen loop, which is what I bought it for.

I prefer to use the Uniball Jetstream - I love this pen. Lately, I've taken to carrying this around with me in the planner as well (it sits loose next to the Zebra in the pen loop), defeating the purpose of the Zebra altogether.

I too use color pens for different uses - I carry these in a pencil case in my bag. It's probably overkill, but it works for me. I don't take them with me everywhere though, so if I need a color for a particular event while I don't have them, I write the event on a Post-it note and put it in pen later. Again, probably more work than it should be, but it works for me.

Miss Charlie (2009-07-23 10:53:36)

I prefer using pencils, for the same reason as Crofter, and wish that there was a really attractive propelling pencil that fitted a Filofax loop in my price-range.

Right now I'm making do with a pound-shop find that fits the loop, but isn't much to look at.

I really like chubby barrels on my pens and pencils, my handwriting's dreadful and they make it somehow easier to write legibly! But of course they never fit the pen loops... *c'est la vie...*

onigiri75 (2009-07-23 11:43:27)

Hi, I carry both a Pilot v5 Hi-tecpoint 0.5 in purple, and a pentel mechanical pencil for my pocket Finsbury. When at home I will sometimes use other coloured pens to write things that are important.

I never use ballpens since I really don't like the way they write.

Anonymous (2009-07-23 14:59:36)

I use Pentel Forte .5mm mechanical pencils with 2B leads. They have nice erasers and they are slim enough to fit in the pen loops.

I would like colors but plans change too frequently.

Ewan Spence (2009-07-23 15:01:18)

I think I've **always** used a pencil with my various Filofaxes, and as such I go with a mechanical pencil - there's only one choice in my mind and it's the classic Pentel P205 (eg [1]here, although this is a 12 pack!). It fits nicely in the pen loop on my battered/trusty Kensington Personal, and the pocket clip keeps it secure.

1. http://www.officesupplieslimited.co.uk/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Product_Code=016239&ad1=ga1

ML (2009-07-24 04:48:45)

I used to use a fountain pen to write in my Personal Filofax. But since I've switched to Pocket size and started carrying it around with me all the time I use "Mitsubishi uni-ball eye micro" in blue:

[1]uni-ball eye micro

Since I prefer fountain pen to ballpoint pens the uni-ball is a perfect substitute. :-)

1. <http://www.lupel.com.ph/products/uni-ball%20Eye%20micro.html>

Anonymous (2009-07-24 06:28:47)

I'll second the recommendation for Zebra F-301 but go for the gel refill. It's small, durable, light and with good grip. I prefer it to Pilot Birdie; both ballpoint and fountain pen.

Another small size favourite is Uniball Signo Bit.

I carry normal size pens separately in shirt/coat pocket. The organizer loops are just for emergency use. I'm even considering to downsize to a <8mm ring size binder without a loop.

Thanks for the idea for multipens. I think I'll give it a try.

How do you use colours? And how do you make continue when you run out of colour?

Anonymous (2009-07-24 06:47:27)

I'm using this one with my Filofax:

http://www.manufactum.de/Produkt/172215/761408/KugelschreiberCarandA_che.html

(german language)

Recommended.

Miss Charlie (2009-07-24 11:47:48)

Ewan, thanks for the link to those Pentels - they look perfect! ;)

Charlotte (2009-07-24 13:51:38)

Anonymous - with my Bic 4 colour pen I *try* to keep the different colours for different types of events.

For work things I use black, for social events green, for my choir/hobbies red and blue for everything else.

I say I try to do this but sometimes I forget or don't bother or have the wrong colour out or whatever. It doesn't

worry me too much though - I need the different colours to make things stand out on the page - all one colour means I won't read it/remember it.

So - I don't really worry if a colour runs out cos I'll just use another until I can get a new pen! although, come to think of it, I've never run out of just one colour yet...

Laurie (2009-07-24 13:59:26)

I have a million Bic 4 color pens around, so running out of one color isn't a problem for me. Also, sometimes I use Pilot V5 roller balls. I have to be really careful not to get the page damp because they do smudge, but they come in lots of colors and write so nicely.

Here is my color code system: black for normal appointments and to-dos; blue for travel (whether I am going somewhere, my husband is traveling for work, or someone is coming here to visit us. I write the destination, flight numbers, etc on my weekly page in blue); red for very important items and bills due; green for health things like medical or exercise record; purple (roller ball) for my own personal things that I want to do.

I find color really helps me prioritize tasks, keeps me from forgetting important things, helps specific items stand out on the page, and as Charlotte said, it helps hold my interest so I'm more likely to look at my weekly page!

Mary (2010-05-12 19:21:03)

i heard that they actually sell bic 4-color pen refills, but i have no idea how to do it....
anyone have any ideas?

Laurie (2010-05-13 04:10:45)

Hi Mary, I've used the Bic 4-color pen refills before. They are sold as a 4-pack of all 4 colors. You unscrew the barrel of the pen, pluck out the color cartridge that's empty (which is easier if you click it up first) then jam the new refill down in there.

My problem is, of course, I don't use the colors evenly so I wind up with extra refills of some colors. Still, it's cheaper than buying a whole new pen.

New Organiser - Scanda (2009-07-24 05:19) - Steve

[1]Just seen the announcement for the new Scanda organiser:[2]

www.filofax.co.uk

Note it comes with cotton cream stationery... popular with a lot of our readers I know.. I like the leather used on this organiser, it reminds me of 80's cowboy boots!



[3]

1. http://www.filofax.co.uk/images/products/organisers/large_new/scanda-pers-brown.jpg

2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?display=&sizeId=3&rangeId=135&dsizeId=3>
3. http://www.filofax.co.uk/images/products/organisers/large_new/scanda-pers-brown.jpg

Laurie (2009-07-24 06:40:24)

Wow, Filofax UK is coming out with a lot of really nice organizers this year!

I wonder/ does anyone know why the Filofax USA website has some extremely expensive organizers (such as the Alligator, Ostrich etc.) but the UK site does not? For example, the most expensive Personal size binder is the Deco in the UK, but US has several that are much more expensive than that. Are Americans really spending that much more on organizers? Or maybe it's because Filofax has more competition in the high-end market in the UK than in the US. (Smythson, Aspinall, etc.)

Two Great Finds (2009-07-24 06:48) - Laurie

Back in the day, my first post on Philofaxy was an anonymous reply requesting information on 6-ring storage binders for Personal size pages. I prefer to use ring binders instead of the post-binders that Filofax has available for archival pages. I like to be able to open the rings easily to retrieve pages or move them to a different binder. And to be perfectly honest, I think the Filofax archival binders are too expensive, at least for my budget.

About five years ago I found ring binders at [1]Tschiffely Pharmacy at Union Station in Washington DC while I was on my way to work one morning. I had been searching for binders for some time so I bought all six they had, for about \$4 each. That was the last time I ever saw those binders in a store, and I have been searching for them ever since. Meanwhile my storage binders filled up, and I resorted to doubling-up past years of pages to share binders. Periodically I did an internet search to see if anyplace online has binders available, and recently I finally found some! A new website called [2]Wards5and10.com has [3][4]ring binders for Personal size pages, as well as some [5]other small sizes of binders (which may fit Pocket size Filos, I haven't checked the measurements but if you are interested it's worth a look). Ward's also has tons of other office, school and art supplies at great prices. I haven't perused the entire website, but it is huge and definitely worth a look.

My second great recent find is the [6]Filofax Organizer Stickers. These are little round icons with symbols such as a palm tree for vacation, a car for car maintenance time, airplane for travel, etc. They are great for sticking on the day when the event happens to make it stand out as I am flipping through my book. The stickers are also small enough to stick in the day squares of the month view calendar, if you wanted an overview reminder at a glance, and then have the details on your daily page. The stickers themselves are on a plastic page in Personal (which is multi-fit for A5 also) or Pocket size. I have only found these stickers at [7]Filofax.co.uk in the accessories section, and as far as I know they are not available in the US. I was extremely pleased to find these, because I had been looking for some calendar stickers but the only ones I could find were, for lack of a better description, very "mom-ish." The Filofax ones are understated and could certainly be used by men as well as women.

Have you made any great Filo finds recently?

1. <http://www.rxdc.com/>
2. <http://www.wards5and10.com/>
3. <http://www.wards5and10.com/me663mebo.html>
4. <http://www.wards5and10.com/me663mebo.html>

5. <http://www.wards5and10.com/mebosmpainca.html>
6. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/images/products/refills/line/130137.gif>
7. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/paperessentials.asp?control=processrequest&CatId=7&SizeId=3>

Anonymous (2009-07-24 09:36:13)

I have had good success getting 6 ring 1" binders for the personal size at engineering/surveying stores. Rite in the Rain makes a poly binder that is adequate and National used to make them which was my preferred brand as it was a good quality cloth binder. I haven't seen them in a few years now so maybe they no longer make them.

As yet I have not seen anything for the pocket size, which I would like. It is not a big deal since I use the pages that fit either modern or the old 4 ring pocket, and at the end of the year integrate those into my personal archive. Works just fine.

Laurie, I agree with you that the Filofax post binders are way over priced and a real pain to use. I bought 1 years ago, and that was all I needed to see.

Crofter

Vidya (2009-07-24 14:22:14)

I love to poke around stationery shops. There aren't too many left, but luckily there is a good one about ten miles from my house. I've had good luck finding the regular binders for both my Personal and pocket organizers, as well as finding very inexpensive notepaper, both ruled and blank.

For 2009, I bought a six ring organizer at Barnes and Noble in February, it was marked down to \$2.99 and I am using it to archive my 2009 pages. I think I am going to start doing that every year.

I also find lots of inserts at Kinokuniya bookstores, but there are only a handful in the country. I found some pages for my pocket wallet/planner that are in Japanese but the graphics are so adorable I just had to have them! :-)

Free for All Friday No. 38 (2009-07-24 09:01) - Nan

What topics would you like us to cover in future blog posts?

What would you like to see coming to you on our Twitter feed?

[1]<http://twitter.com/philofaxy>

Now's your chance to share your ideas!

—*Inky*

1. <http://twitter.com/philofaxy>

Francesca (2009-07-24 12:27:23)

Hi - I'm new to the site... just discovered it a couple of days ago and have become an avid reader! Not sure how Free for all Friday works but wanted to share my recent foray back into the world of Filofax...

I've just bought an A5 Kendal brown (5 days ago) and just can't stop touching and smelling it! My job is based heavily around using my computer- including Outlook email and cal - but I've been finding it so hard to stay on top of things and be properly organised. So last few days have ben spent transferring my life into my Filofax! I'm using the Filo TIme Management inserts, and have been designing my own pages and printing onto A5 paper.... so far, very good! Invested in an A5 hole punch too so everything can go in....

Have a very good feeling about going back to paper - and with the blank computer paper, all the important stuff I have to do on my laptop can be quickly printed and filed away. Have found so many effiecient ways to integrate my beautiful Filo, laptop and iPhone. Hurrah!

Hope it was OK to post all this... so good to find others with the same fixation!

Laurie (2009-07-24 14:03:35)

Welcome Francesca! Congratulations on your new Filofax! It's very interesting to hear about how you are integrating your Filofax with electronics. Such a great idea to print from your computer and file in your Filo. I would

love to hear more about how you are using your Filo as it develops!

I have heard about the Time Management inserts but have never seen them in person. I'd love to hear more about them if you are so inclined!

kanalt (2009-07-24 14:58:41)

I too recently bought a Kendal in brown - pocket size though. I have decided that it is too small for my everyday use and so am going back to one of my many personal sized filos. I am thinking of buying a black Kendal in the personal size. I have turned the pocket one into a health/diet/exercise book, so it is being used.

I am also going to try and venture into making my own pages. I was thinking of making my own diary pages, but have heard from others that it's very difficult for the personal size filo. I may stay away from the diary pages but make my own typed notes pages.

Francesca (2009-07-24 19:12:09)

Thanks Laurie! Hope it's OK to indulge myself with these posts...

The Time Management inserts are mostly great - a few of the formats aren't that useful to me, but there are some great templates for Project planning, year planning and meetings etc. There are a couple of really useful pages for advance planning - you can see all your meetings/ workshops/ sessions on one page so have an easy overview. I like the diary especially as it's broken into to do, action, communication etc sections which makes it really easy for me to keep track of what I need to do and what I have done each day without laboriously having to go back to the laptop to update a running log.

I've designed a few bespoke forms which were fairly easy to get together on A5 size by diving a Word page into 2 columns - I guess you could do the same with personal, just divide into 3 columns? - and the Filofax printer paper is a real luxury as the paper is lovely quality. I work in the music business so I've also printed out a load of manuscript paper so I can carry the charts with me that I need on a regular basis, and jot down inspiration as it strikes.

My iPhone carries all my work and personal emails, and I use iCal as my personal diary - that way I don't have to carry the bulky A5 Filo out with me on a night out! All my phone numbers stay on the phone, and Outlook diary and contacts synchronizes to the iPhone too - I can always see when someone from the office updates my calendar with something.

Important spreadsheets, reports etc can get quickly converted to A5 and printed out to go in the Filo for meetings - saves lugging the laptop around the country when I sometimes only need it to refer back to bits of information. Laurie, if you're interested, I'd be happy to take a picture of the Time Management inserts and post it up?

Miss Charlie (2009-07-25 10:22:17)

I have the same Filofax Francesca, it's just **gorgeous** isn't it?

And it shrugs off scratches and marks like magic, I fell in love after seeing a really battered one on display in a shop, that only looked all the better for having been well-handled... it's possibly one of the nicest things I've ever been lucky enough to own.

I like doing my own inserts too, A5 being the easiest size for that, and would be interested to see yours. :)

Laurie (2009-07-25 15:05:54)

Francesca I'd love to see photos! I'm definitely intrigued by the diary pages. I do something similar on my weekly page, dividing my to-dos by category (to call, at computer, etc.). I'd be interested to see how this works on your diary pages. The advance planning pages also sound very interesting.

Thanks!

Oni (2009-07-27 12:30:17)

How about giving the Flickr philofaxy group more coverage to keep it active? I am sure many followers of this blog would not only like to see pictures, but also show their pictures of how they use their filos :)

I know I would :D

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/40748476@N00/>

It's That Time Of Year Again!! (2009-07-25 03:59) - Laurie

Oooh, it's a very exciting time of year in the planner world. I get more excited about July/ August than January! By the time January rolls around I have settled on what format I will use for the year (or think I will use, and then usually wind up switching around). But late summer, when all the new planners are in the stores, is open to so many possibilities: should I switch formats? Should I switch to an academic-year planner or wait for the calendar year to start? I know Steve discussed when to buy your new Filofax diary pages and what format to use [1]last month, but in this post I want to talk about planners in general, and trying new formats.

2010 planners are in! Not just the academic year ones (which are beginning now, which is also very exciting), but next year's calendars are on the shelves. [2]The Daily Planner has a huge selection including Filofax, Lett's, Moleskine, Quo Vadis and other great brands. There are some new ones this year, including [3]Rhodia's spanking new weekly planner selection which has an interesting format with a gridded notes page each week. It's a dazzling array of planner possibilities!

In my [4]Scotland post I told about a woman I met who uses a Filofax for her addresses and permanent reference, but a separate diary book with a larger page size for her planner. Confession time: does anyone else do this? I have experimented with this method for awhile this year, using my Filo as my reference book and for my planner an 8"x5" bound week + notes book (of a brand that starts with "M" and end in "-ine"). Yes the larger page size and streamlined book is nice, but carrying two books around seems "silly" as my friend put it, yet I'm lost without my Filo.

My sister has been very patient with me throughout the years listening to my planner angst and generously giving her suggestions to try to help me achieve Planner Nirvana. I told my story to her about the page size/ book size problem this way: When I was a kid, I had a pet [5]hermit crab. For those of you unfamiliar with hermit crabs, they wear a shell on their back like a snail, but they don't grow their own shell. They crawl into discarded snail shells and use their curled tail to hold it on. (I realize by this time you are either intrigued or disgusted.) As the hermit crab grows, they have to find larger shells to live in. My pet hermit crab grew, but the next size shell I had for it was too large. So it went back to its too-small shell for awhile. Then it got uncomfortable and moved back to the big shell, back and forth. I told my sister that's how I feel with my Filofax: all in one book? Or larger page size in a different book? Small shell? Big shell?

Which is why July-August always brims with hope for me. Maybe THIS year I will find the format that works perfectly for me! Maybe THIS year I'll create a system that works flawlessly in all situations. Maybe THIS year I will finally achieve Planner Nirvana!

Oh, what happened to my hermit crab, you ask?

It died.

1. http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009_06_01_archive.html
2. <http://www.thedailyplanner.com/planners-c-115.html>
3. http://www.thedailyplanner.com/planners-rhodia-planners-c-115_2342.html
4. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/07/filo-adventures-in-scotland.html>
5. <http://myanimalblog.wordpress.com/2008/03/02/hermit-crab/hermit-crab-2/>

Miss Charlie (2009-07-25 06:09:40)

"...a woman I met who uses a Filofax for her addresses and permanent reference, but a separate diary book with a larger page size for her planner."

Yes, I do something like that - vintage nylon black Personal Filofax that stays on the shelf for addresses, hard to remember mobile numbers (I don't use a moby myself), account numbers (scrambled/coded, of course!) for utility suppliers, important dates of past work etc for resumé's, and so on - every number or factoid that's needed not quite often enough to memorise, in fact.

And, a Personal navy Finsbury (used to be my main book)to go out and about, trimmed down to appointments, some numbers that aren't too secret, loads of lined notepaper to jot stuff down.

Then... as of Feb this year, I moved up to an A5 Kendal, which I call (it sounds pretentious I know!) my "lifebook" - that has daily pages I design and print at home where I note goals, thoughts, *stuff*: plus, a week-to-view diary for appointments, pages to journal/write mad ideas and to-do lists, plans for world domination, etc, just the usual

basic brain downloads!

In the back mesh pocket there's an A5 Rhodia graph-paper pad tucked in for diet & exercise tracking, that book has my personal life in it, also doesn't leave the house.

Works for me, right now - I work from home, for myself, and so have both a lot of flexibility, and A Lot to stay on top of from day to day.

But one thing I value is no longer having to have everything from personal client mobile numbers to what I had for lunch, all out and about in one place.

Possibly a false security, but it also helps me to compartmentalise My Time and Work Time - which if you work from home, I've found, can be tough.

Laurie (2009-07-25 15:13:55)

Miss Charlie, thank you for telling us so much about how you use your Filos! I always love hearing how people use their books, to try to get ideas of how to maximize my usage. I agree it is very hard to compartmentalize My Time from Everything Else when there is so much overlap.

I really like your idea of having your book that contains your ideas, notes, goals, etc, that stays at home. For some reason I feel like I should drag all that around with me everywhere I go, which of course is ridiculous. I do tend to use my Filo as a security blanket, and have everything in it that I might possibly need in any situation. I need to get over that and do some streamlining!

kanalt (2009-07-26 09:31:42)

For the longest time I would only ever use spiral-bound planners. I would never have considered a ring-bound. Then I found Filofax, and while I have tried various styles and layouts and sizes, I haven't strayed from the Filo since then (and have started quite a collection in the meantime).

I started with the Personal size - I could keep a lot in there but it was just a tad too big to carry with me everywhere. I tried a few times to downsize but have come to realize that the Personal is the best size for what I use it for. I have come to not carry it with me everywhere - I use my iTouch for out and about use, unless I'm doing a lot of errands or something that would require me to bring the Filo. In the beginning, I had a hard time leaving it at home. But I quickly adapted when I realized how much lighter my bag is without it, especially when I know I won't need it. If I need to write something down while I'm out, I use my iTouch and then transfer the information to my Filo. It works well for me, at least for now.

In other news, I just went to the Container Store (I don't know if this store exists outside of the US) - for a long time, they carried various Filofax items. They must no longer be doing this. The selection they had was very little, picked through and very cheap. I was thinking about buying new tabs and other items from Filofax, but instead bought a personal size Domino at the store - it was on sale for \$13 and included pages and tabs that I had wanted to buy. With the money I would have spent on the Filo website, plus the shipping costs, I bought an entire planner for less than I would have spent online. Plus, I got a storage binder out of the deal. Since I'm not usually a bargain hunter, I am very proud of my find (I do enjoy sales and bargains, but I don't have the patience to seek them out). I really was hoping to pick up a personal size punch, but they didn't have any. I'll have to suck it up and purchase one at full price through Filofax. I've been wanting one for a long time, and reading the past punch posts, I'm just going to do it.

YM (2009-07-27 13:34:16)

First of all, love love LOVE your hermit crab story/analogy! I too had a pet hermit crab when I was a kid (named Buster in case you were curious) and can heartily relate to the "shell shuffle" and how it relates to the Filo shuffle. I have been carting an A5 Finchley (brown) around with me for the past couple years and it has been working very well. I can keep my 1 day/page diary, a month in view, to do sections and notes/projects going for both work and for home. But since I carry my Filo EVERYWHERE with me (even to my bedside when I retire...I record interesting dreams in the back of it) the large size was becoming cumbersome.

Now, for the 2nd half of '09 (training for '10) I have "shuffled" down to a Personal Eton. I find the page size a bit small for my handwriting, however the sheer scrumptiousness of the leather keeps me committed to down-sizing to the Personal for good.

The smaller size does make it easier to take my Filo with me, but I also have an iPhone which houses all my ever-changing client & vendor contact information (got sick of re-copying constantly on paper pages) and I do

also keep a digital version of my calendar on the iPhone & iCal...as well as in my Filo. I would do that no matter what size Filo I carried.

The comfort of the larger pages in my A5 call to me...so I wonder if I will be like your hermit crab and shuffle back and forth several times before I am through.

At least it's fun to collect all kinds of "shells" from the new 2010 collection just in case!!

From the web - Monday 27th July (2009-07-27 17:17) - Steve

Some links to Filofax topics new on the web this week:

- [1]Why I Love My Filofax - Parent Dish - an article on the Filofax Family Organiser Pack.
- £5 off fashion pens from Filofax UK go to [2]Filofax UK and enter the promotional code pen33

1. <http://www.parentdish.co.uk/2009/07/25/why-i-love-my-filofax/>

2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/>

Laurie (2009-07-28 02:43:58)

Thanks for these Steve! That review of the Filo Family Organizer makes me want to re-evaluate my 2010 planner choice and run out to get one of these! Hilarious too: my favorite part is:

"A budget sheet, so you can see where all your money's going and weep about it"

Yes indeed!

And thanks very much for the pen promo code, very timely after our lively pens post.

Post Holiday Planning (2009-07-28 03:03) - Steve

I've just got back from a month away over in France. If you thought the pre-planning was bad enough. (I used a personalised version of the [1]Travellers Check List) Well having been away for so long I also needed to plan my return to UK. Things that I needed to do, things to remember etc.

Normally I just use Filofax pre-printed To Do lists, and I go through quite a few of these in my Pocket size organiser.

So I have created my own template which gives me four To Do pages on a single A4 sheet. I tried to double side this page, but I found it difficult to get both sides to align with each other once printed. So I decided to stick with a single sided page instead.

When I started to list the jobs to do, the things to remember on my return, I discovered the usefulness of the blank side of my own To Do pages was. I could use the blank side as a notes page.

You can download the To Do/Notes page [2]here it's available as a MS Word doc or a PDF file.

1. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6485>

2. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6714>

Financial Filofax (2009-07-29 03:00) - Laurie

Last year I decided I needed to start keeping track of my finances and paying better attention to how I was spending money. I tried to record my expenditures every day, then classify them by type (food, entertainment, bills, etc), total them up each month and see where my money was going. As you can imagine, keeping track of everything I spent quickly broke down. I didn't record everything, so at the end of the month my totals were useless because they were incomplete. Then I made a chart that I

would use only once per month, on the day I paid my credit card bill. The chart had totals for my credit card balance, savings, and checking accounts. This is a great chart to have, and I still use it, but seeing my totals once per month wasn't frequent enough to keep me thinking about saving money and cutting down my expenditures. The result was that every month when I paid my bill and wrote my totals, I was disappointed with myself for yet again not saving enough.

Now, I have been writing weekly totals of my credit card balance, checking and savings accounts on my weekly calendar page. At first I was doing this every Sunday, to have a record each week. Then I had the realization that I should do it on Mondays, to have the totals staring me in the face all week long. This has worked beautifully. Just seeing the totals daily reminds me that I want to save, and it helps me think of ways to cut down on my spending. It reminds me to look for the lower-priced item, or forgo unnecessary expenses. I can remember to make good choices, without having to write down everything I spend.

However, some people do need to make a hard budget, and writing down your expenditures is the first step. Luckily for us Filofaxers, Filofax has several ready-made forms available in various sizes to help with budgeting and tracking expenses. The Budget forms in the new [1]Lifestyle Packs have columns for expenditure or income, budgeted amount, actual amount spent or earned, and a column for the difference to see how far off you are from reality. The Lifestyle Packs also contain Dilemma forms which can be used to decide on major purchases such as a new mortgage, whether to downgrade your vehicle, etc.

Filofax also makes [2]Expenses forms in the A5 size and [3]Finances forms in A5 and Personal sizes to list expenditures and deposits. I use a Finances form for each of my accounts to keep track of transactions. There are many ways to use a Filofax to keep track of finances. Many people use their daily or weekly diary pages to jot down expenditures. Also, it's easy to have a tabbed divider section dedicated to Finances, which I have in my A5 household Filo, where I keep all of my financial forms, records and totals.

I think a Filofax would be helpful for people who work at home or are self-employed to keep track of business expenses separate from home and personal expenses. The flexibility of a Filofax is outstanding for categorizing in this way.

I can guess that a Filofax would be a very useful tool to keep track of business expenses and receipts for people who travel frequently for work. Then when you get back to the office, expense reports would be simpler to put together with all of your expense information recorded in your Filo.

I would love to hear how other people use their Filofax(es) for budgeting, keeping track of expenses, and getting a handle on your finances in general!

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/lifestyle/>
2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/images/products/refills/line/340605.gif>
3. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/layout.asp?id=1507>

Laurie (2009-07-30 03:06:16)

Actually, now that I think about it, I think Filofax used to have an expenses envelope specifically for business travelers. It fit on the Filo rings and had a top opening, and printed on the envelope there were lines for recording the date, amount, and type of expenditure. What a handy thing, to have your receipts and records all together! I guess you could accomplish much the same thing with Filofax's ziplock pouch and Expenses form. Yet another handy thing that Filofax no longer makes!

Francesca (2009-07-30 05:23:45)

Hi Laurie, These are still available as part of the TMI inserts - I use mine all the time. It's very handy for keeping track of expenses, especially on the company credit card which I tend to use a lot, and sometimes spend a long time staring blankly at my monthly statements, trying to recall what I've used it for!

You only get 2 receipts envelopes as part of the TMI package - so I 'laminated' the front of mine in plastic so I can write on the expenses for a month's worth of receipts, then wipe it off and start again the next month.

In the UK you can buy update packages for about £12 which have so many useful forms and inserts- but it looks like you can only get the TMI stuff in the UK, not in the States. Is that right?

Laurie (2009-07-30 07:29:56)

Hi Francesca, you are right, I've only ever seen the TMI packs on the UK website. I wonder if the US website has any plans to introduce these?

That is a great idea, to laminate the envelope to be able to wipe off the writing and re-use it each month. Sounds like the TMI packs are really useful for business people!

Telephone Message Page (2009-07-30 13:13) - Steve



[1]

Do you ever get a phone call that you aren't expecting, but you need to record the details of the call for future action or to pass to someone else to deal with the matter?

We have most probably all seen telephone message pads before, but I'm not aware of something similar available for putting in to a Filofax. So as usual I've created my own. I've created it in A4 format, which is obviously way too big for everyday use. But print it in booklet format or scaled down it prints out ok on A5 format.

You can download this page [2]here, it's available in MS Word format or PDF format.

I've used this page a couple of times to take messages for my wife while she has been out at a business meeting and she has left me to look after the office!

I will one day sit down and try and adapt some of my pages including this one for Personal size, you can get three single sided pages of that size on to an A4 sheet, so as well as a punch, you will need a rotary trimmer. I'm sure it will be worth it and there will be a demand for the Personal size pages.

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SnDQTdIc31I/AAAAAAAAADxc/CIGEnugrj5g/s1600-h/Going_Retro_I_by_Pemburyuk.jpg

2. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6718>

Francesca (2009-07-30 15:01:47)

Thanks Steve - have just printed a whole bunch out. Just what I needed!

joffreyca (2009-07-31 10:05:10)

Thanks for your contributions, Steve.

To me, creating custom forms is like creating software for your favourite computing platform. So that makes you something of a Filofax hacker :-)

And I'd like to share this bit of info with Filofax mini users (not sure if this was discussed here before): you can create custom forms for your mini online and for free. Go to <http://www.pocketmod.com/>

According to the site, it's a "free, recyclable personal organizer." Pocketmod pages fit well in a mini.

Steve (2009-08-01 10:23:47)

Francesca: Great thanks for the feedback, it makes my day to know others are using these pages

Joffreyca: I think you have created my new nickname!

Yes I was aware of the Pocketmod, thanks for the reminder. We will add a link to the site...soon.

Steve

gmax (2009-08-05 16:11:48)

Templates to cater for the *personal* size would be great Steve if you find time. I only use that size myself and, while I could never claim to be short of spare pages, it's always good to find a template that matches a particular

need.

1.8 August

Philofaxy Flickr Group (2009-08-01 10:33) - Steve

I will be honest in admitting to having over looked the Flickr Group associated with the blog, until the last [1]'Free for all Friday' with a comment by '[2]Oni', so thank you for the timely reminder.



[3] As you might know I'm a keen photographer (amongst other things!) so I will also be contributing to the Flickr group which you will find here:

[4]<http://www.flickr.com/groups/40748476@N00/>

As I quite often say 'a picture saves a thousand words!' Enjoy

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/07/free-for-all-friday-no-38.html>

2. <http://www.blogger.com/profile/10648872646058155001>

3. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SnRW-EUkgRI/AAAAAADz0/4IHcqSw7H20/s1600-h/TP_DevID_by_temps_perdu+small.jpg

4. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/40748476@N00/>

kanalt (2009-08-01 15:48:49)

I love the Philofaxy Flickr group. Whenever I am in need of Filo inspiration, or I am just down, I take (yet another) look at all the wonderful pictures and it just makes me feel better. It's like chicken soup for the planners' soul! =)

Oni (2009-08-02 17:56:33)

Welcome to the Philofaxy Flickr group! It is a group I visit every day. I am waiting my new Filo to post pictures of it! :D

Laurie (2009-08-03 02:25:16)

I finally joined Flickr a few days ago. I haven't posted any pics yet, because I'm not sure how to. (I am hopelessly technologically challenged). Do I need to condense my photo somehow before I send it to them?

Laurie (2009-08-03 03:00:18)

Just added my first photos, that wasn't so hard!

Oni (2009-08-03 09:31:11)

Welcome Laurie! I've just seen your pics and they're great! And about uploading them, as you saw, it wasn't that bad ;) there is also a discussion section where anyone can discuss whatever topic (filofax related preferably) they want.

I have also added you as a contact, so you can see my complete photostream :)

Laurie (2009-08-03 12:01:43)

Thanks Oni! I added you too.

I have a question: is there any way to change the order my photos appear in the Philofaxy group? Or do they have to appear in the order they were added? Thanks!

Steve (2009-08-03 12:41:52)

Great to see all these pictures appearing. BTW I'm TempsPerdu79 on Flickr... Why Temps Perdu.. long story! It's 'Lost Time' in French..

I can see an idea for a blog post... photographing your Filofax - hints and tips.....

Steve

Oni (2009-08-03 17:11:12)

Laurie, I think they appear in the order they are added to the group, which is not necessarily the order in which you uploaded the images to your flickr. I think that if you want to change the order, you can remove them from the group, and then re-add them.

Glad to be of any help ;)

Steve, I recognized you on flickr from your profile pic :)

Steve (2009-08-05 03:26:35)

If you tag your pictures in the Flickr group with 'Filofax' then they will appear in our slideshow in the side bar on this site.

Yes Oni, I tend to use that photo to hide! Someone said to me I will know you when I meet you, because you will have a camera welded to your face!

Steve

Philofaxy - New Look (2009-08-02 09:46) - Steve

Yes it's different... we hope you like the new look Philofaxy layout.

We have updated the template to the new format and this has allowed us to add some more features which we hope users/readers will find useful.

We are still adjusting and tweaking the format so there might be some further 'adjustments' over the next few days... but no different to changing the content or adding pages to your Filofax.

We would appreciate your feedback on the new look etc. Please report any problems in the comments as well please.

[Update]

Thanks for all your feedback, I'm pleased with the way it's worked out.

I've just added the Blog Search to the side bar. It searches the Blog, Links from articles in the blog and sites linked to from Philofaxy. Give it a try, pop in say Punch or Finsbury and the results are displayed under three different tabs.

It also searches through the comments on all the posts, so it's really useful for tracking down all the posts on a particular topic etc.

Steve

Nan (2009-08-02 12:29:54)

Thanks, Steve. It looks wonderful!

That's right – Steve was the webmaster of this transformation, as well as the photographer of our new header image.

Laurie (2009-08-03 02:23:50)

Looks great and easy to use, thanks Steve!!

Adirondack Explorer (2009-08-03 03:12:12)

Looks great

YM (2009-08-03 10:04:32)

Love it! Easy to use & navigate, great job!!

Laurie (2009-08-03 12:12:27)

Steve, I have to say, the more I use the new layout the more I like it. It's very easy to navigate!

Oni (2009-08-03 17:05:34)

Liking the new layout! Thanks, Steve!

I was wondering though, are we still going to get our 'Free for all Fridays'? And doesn't anybody wonder what happened to Philofaxer? I think he'd be happy to see how this has grown and become a reunion place for many philofaxers :)

Steve (2009-08-03 17:26:12)

Thanks everyone for the great feedback on the new look/layout.

Oni, yes we are due a Free for All Friday this coming Friday, I'm sure I recall reading some where on her that Nan suggested we make them every other week. But rules can be broken I guess and they might come back to every Friday.

Nan I believe is in touch with the founder of the blog, hopefully she might report back on how he is.

Regards

Steve

Francesca (2009-08-04 05:25:05)

Love the new layout - so easy to move around and go back to useful older posts!

gmax (2009-08-05 16:22:58)

Yes this layout is very nice. The easy access to older posts is the biggest improvement. And being able still to see links to access the newer posts even when you are viewing an old one.

I must also say that triumvirate of contributors now is proving a great success, making this a really lively site. So thanks to y'all and keep up the good work.

Steve (2009-08-09 10:23:19)

I think you might have found the link Kanalt for subscribing to the Comments?

Anyway this comment should test it works...

Regards

Steve

kanalt (2009-08-09 17:47:14)

Yes, Steve, I did. Thanks for checking back on that. And thanks for making navigating the site so easy!

Filofax Compatible: Morning Glory (2009-08-03 20:32) - Nan

Morning Glory is a Korean company that sells products to expatriates living in the States – kitchen and bathroom goods, car accessories, clocks, origami paper and crayons, keychains, greeting cards, and (of interest to us Philofaxers) school supplies. The supplies include pencils, pens, and pencil cases; scissors and tape; paper, and so on. It's all adorned in kawaii (cute) Asian style with pastel cartoon characters in like teddy bears and kittens.

In California and the New York/New Jersey area, you can find Morning Glory shops. Elsewhere in the U.S., you can order from [1]<http://morninggloryus.com>. (Sadly, shipping is within the U.S. only.)

Morning Glory has calendar, notepaper, and address book refills in B6 (Personal Filofax) and Mini (Pocket Filofax) sizes. They're a little hard to find, so here's the link: [2][http://www.morninggloryus.com/OnlineStore/tabid/58/cid/30/Dia ries.aspx](http://www.morninggloryus.com/OnlineStore/tabid/58/cid/30/Dia%20ries.aspx).

It looks as if Morning Glory may be cutting down on its online offerings, so go snatch some up if you're interested. And if you're near one of the retail stores, please let us know what goodies you've been seeing!

1. <http://morninggloryus.com/>
 2. <http://www.morninggloryus.com/OnlineStore/tabid/58/cid/30/Diaries.aspx>
-

How do you use your Filofax in your job or at home. (2009-08-03 22:30) - Steve

Firstly thank you to everyone who are becoming 'followers' of this blog, everyone is of course welcome. But looking through the short list of people that have already 'joined' and taking a look at your profiles, we really do have an interesting variety of people.

This got me thinking (oh no!). It would be interesting to know how each of us use our Filofaxes in our jobs, or at home every day?

When I only had the one organiser, I used it for everything:

- Diary
- Contacts
- Notes
- For recording details of photos I had taken on film
- As a source of information when travelling (maps, country information etc).

As my life changed over the years, different jobs, becoming a father, taking on voluntary posts in the community, so the contents of my Filofax has changed. Some sections have grown, others decreased.

I'm always experimenting with new self made pages, refining the design, more boxes or less boxes per page. Pages for specific functions. For example for the trips to our French house. I have a dedicated packing list for UK>France, and a dedicated leaving list for France>UK. The later has detailed items to ensure the house utilities etc are all shut down, windows closed and locked etc. I've been using these two forms for over four years and they have definitely saved my furrowed brow half way to Dieppe to catch the ferry, thinking 'Now did I turn off the water?' I have my list and unless it's ticked off, then it's not done...and we don't leave.

At work, I went back to Filofax having changed jobs and going to an organisation that doesn't allow personal electronic devices in the office, due to security reasons. So I dusted off my Filofax, reloaded it with suitable pages I thought I might need and started using it again. I've since stopped using my iPaq completely. Although I do sync my Nokia phone with Outlook every so often.

Having expanded my collection of organisers, I use my A5 as a desk diary/journal, it records what I've been doing. And holds my reference material for work (I'm an Radio Engineer if you didn't know already) I need access to this material in meetings as well as at my desk and I find it easier to look up information in my Filofax than finding it each time on my PC...

My Pocket organiser is more of my everyday, go everywhere organiser, I log my appointments, my to-do lists, some of my contacts, maps of places I'm visiting, and some note paper.

My old Personal organiser is used for my French language learning course. It has mainly notes and some pre-printed French 'key cards' in it. And before you ask... I'm making steady progress at learning French. Turning up at a meeting with my A5 Filofax always generates the odd comment or two from my colleagues, but I don't let them stop me from using it. What sort of notebook doesn't require batteries, does not need to be booted up, requires no funny passwords and it's instantly on? Un-pop the closure, open the organiser, find the section you need, read or take out your pen and record. It couldn't be easier....

As they say Filofax - It's a way of life...

Laurie (2009-08-04 02:51:01)

I can't think of any other planner that can adapt to my various stages of life like Filofax. I guess that is why I have tried several other planners over the years and they have all failed me sooner or later, and I keep coming back to Filofax.

I first used a Filofax-type planner (Cambridge version of a Personal Filo) when my husband and I were working in Denali National Park, Alaska in 1995. A friend and coworker of mine had one and I was fascinated. I asked, "What do you have in there?" and she replied, "Oh EVERYTHING. My whole life!" I ran out and got one and decked it out with lots of cool inserts, including the calculator I still use in my Filo. She, and H and I, were moving to Hawaii (different islands) so we photocopied maps of the islands and put them into our binders. I wrote addresses of everyone I knew into it. I took it with me to Hawaii for the winter, back to Alaska the next summer, then back to the Lower 48 for the next stage of my life, working while H went to school.

After H was done with school we prepared to spend 2 years overseas as Peace Corps volunteers. I remember anxiously filling in 2 years worth of undated monthly pages, wondering what those years would bring. I updated my addresses and filled in every bit of information into my book I thought I might need. It felt like my life raft. Fast forward to 2001 while I was in grad school, I found my Buckingham Filofax. It got me through grad school beautifully. Its most glorious time during that phase of my life was while I was traveling to various museums in Europe doing my research. It contained: a Europe map that was outdated but still useful; all the contact information that my graduate adviser had set up for me of whom to meet at each museum; addresses for the hostels I would stay at; train time information. I remember sitting in Munich with a beer and my Filofax, planning where to go next. It was great.

Fast forward again a few years, my husband and I were preparing to move from Washington DC, overseas, with our newborn daughter. Since then my Filo has helped me through many more phases of my life: the birth of my son, too many overseas trips to count (10 hours on a plane with a baby and a toddler: torture for everyone involved), vacations to Scotland, another overseas move, meeting and saying goodbye to many people.

Currently I am still using my Personal Buckingham as my planner. Because we travel internationally several times per year, my Filo contains medical and insurance information for all of us, airline and car rental numbers, frequent flier miles, maps, and packing lists as well as day to day information and lists. I have found that I need to keep it all in my book rather than transfer pages over as needed so that 1) nothing gets left behind in the transfer, and 2) if there were an emergency I could grab my book and go.

I have ordered a Personal Domino to use as my Scotland travel guide, which I am very excited about. And, I use an A5 Finsbury as my household book with my addresses and insurance information backed up from my Personal Filo, Christmas card lists, Financial information, and whatever else I only need at home. This helps to keep my Personal Filo a reasonable weight and thickness.

My Filo has been through a lot with me, and I am grateful to it for keeping me sane through all the numerous transitions!!

And I have to say, the Filofax system is highly addictive. As my sister and I say, "Filofax: The OTHER Crack!"

Francesca (2009-08-04 05:23:50)

I recently went to stay with a friend in Paris who shares the same stationary obsession with me. Up until now, our passion had bounced around between Filofaxes, Moleskines, Paperchase notebooks...etc, until about a year ago she signed up to the Filofax way of life, leaving me behind, bouncing between my Collins Day Planner and iPhone. We discovered that Paris has the most wonderful Filofax store. She uses the Personal size, and I gave into temptation and spent a blissful hour buying a brown Graphite personal, plus as many inserts as I could cram into my suitcase!

I returned home and then had a week before a business trip to Australia to get organised. I kept thinking "If only I could fit my travel itinerary in here....", "If only I could get all my workshop notes in...". Inspiration hit as I was browsing round the online Filo store, and I ordered an A5 brown Kendal.

I have since entered Filofax Nirvana!

I'm a musician, and I work as a Music Consultant, doing a lot of travelling around the country as well as internationally. I have to keep my working day digital as I have an administrator that books appointments for me, other people share my digital workspace and email is my main form of communication across such distances. The problem I find with being digitally focussed is that it can be hard to keep on top of tasks, have an easy visual reference to what different clients and companies are doing, and tricky to maintain one place that I can come back

to with all necessary reference materials - odd documents get easily overlooked on your desktop.

So my Kendal has become the centre of my working life. I use the TMI inserts a lot as they have a useful format of breaking things down into objectives, to dos, priorities etc.

I use the TMI diary- this has a forward planning section on which I can map out what each client is doing over the next two years. A to-do section ('urgent' and 'eventually'!) then a section with custom designed pages that track each client's progress. A section for meeting pro forma (including Steve's telephone message sheets), then Notes; a tab for keeping drafts and deadlines for the publications I write or contribute to along with the Editor/publishing house details; important information; a Filofax map of the UK with my various clients and colleagues mapped out with little stickers; a section for manuscript paper on which I can carry round useful music material and jot down inspiration as it hits; and at the back a meeting notes section. This has 4 top tabs (which I made by turning the blank tabs dividers horizontally and using my punch to put 3 holes into) and the A-Z section in which I file meeting notes alphabetically (i.e. the Adelaide trip write up goes under 'A'!) The top tabs have my 4 most frequent meeting heading on - for example 'Team meetings', 'Editor meetings'....

It really is such an effective business centre. I only have to carry my laptop around for presentations and workshops now, as I have all the info for meetings at my fingertips in my Filofax. I use 3 'today' markers so I can flip to my most frequently used pages, and the transparent flyleaf to separate out this year's planning from forward planning. My iPhone syncs my work outlook account (email, contacts, diary) and my personal email/contacts/diary, so I can often travel with just the phone and Filo and leave bulky laptops at home - a great bonus when you have a dodgy back, heavy instrument and long train journeys!

The thing I love most about A5 is how easy it is to design your own sheets - I have a couple of packs of the Filofax printer paper. And A4 sheets just fold in half and slip in, with the help of the travel hole -punch when needed!

And my friend? A shopping trip to Covent Garden last Friday took us to the Filofax store where she indulged in an A5 brown Domino and more inserts than she could carry - we even got a few freebies as we bought up so much of the store between us!!!!!!

YM (2009-08-04 11:30:06)

I first started carrying a Filofax back in the mid 1980's and although I have made forays into the PDA world, I always end up back at good ol' pen, paper and Filofax.

To say I have a Filo obsession would be putting it mildly and I use them for everything I can think of. Those closest to me refer to it as "her brain".

I use a Finchley A5 as my "master planner" because of its size. In that I keep my detailed diary (and I do mean detailed!), the year by month & a day-per-page for daily & long range planning for both work and home. I use a black pen for work items & blue one for home items. Super important items (for either work or home) go in red ink.

There are two "to do" sections, one for work, one for home. Also I have a "notes" section for a commonplace book when I come across a quote or something that inspires me, and I have a "projects" section. Both work & home projects go in there by due date.

My contacts I do keep in my iPhone, due to their ever-changing nature, but I do have an extensive business card section in my A5 as well.

On me everywhere I go I carry an Eton Personal. This contains an abbreviated version of my diary, using a code system on a fold out year (referencing back to the detailed items in the A5) and a day-per-page for appointments, meetings, etc. The diary takes up the majority of the book, with a small section in the back for notes that get jotted down. I then elaborate on them in the A5 when I get home, if necessary.

On top of that, I use a couple smaller binders...one as a workout log (pocket size Raspberry Finchley - yum!) and I keep a mini in the glove box of my car for no reason in particular...just in case I guess!

Throughout over 20 years, my Filo has never let me down. It got me through moving cross country twice, countless continuing ed courses, marriage, divorce, jobs, being the executor of 2 family members' complicated estates, you name it, without missing a beat.

Someone once asked me (jokingly) what was going to happen to my Filo collection once I'm gone and I said without missing a beat that they're all going into the ground with me!!

Of all the addictions to have, one that keeps you organized and classically stylish to boot is hardly one to complain about!

I agree with Laurie...addictive as crack but instead of RUINING your life, Filo's enhance it :)

David (2009-08-07 17:33:40)

Hi,

I think it is my first comment on this blog I have been following for a while :)

I have been using Filofax since I was 20 (I am 39). Woaw! I just realize it has been almost half of my life !

Alas, the way I use it is neither very original nor stimulating. An A5 Filofax serve me as a desk calendar and a journal, for work and personal stuffs.

Calendar:

I use 2 pages/week view, plus yearly view.

The Yearly is my main calendar. It is wonderfully suited to plan the magazines we publish and track the multiples deadlines & meetings. In a glimpse, I can see months of work. And see if anything might go wrong.

The Week view is for keeping track of what's going on a daily basis. I never put projects in the Weekly calendar, it'd be *bad* 8)

Journal:

Each evening, on A5 sheets, I write down what's worth from the day (work and personal), and put those pages with the weekly calendar. I like browsing through them, after a while.

On top of that, I type the journal on the Mac (search is so convenient). That's two times the work, but I don't mind & really don't want to give up on pen and paper for the confort digital data.

Other use

I also use a bunch of pages to keep specific data, plus quotes and excrepts of books I like reading over and over.

One of the things I appreciate most with the Filofax, it's the way it helps me to slow down after a day of work, or even during that day. Handwriting is slow. Slowness gives time to think... and daydreaming (even without any scientific evidence, I know it helps me a lot in my work).

I also like paper because it's so multipurpose: I can easily sketch an idea or a page layout, outline an article or a book and even... write it. Ok, there is no copy/paste with paper, but one can move pages inside the Filofax ;-)

Being the editor of computer magazines, and seeing me using a Filofax or a notebook instead of a computer or a digital gizmo, lots of people think I am some kind of nuts.

What can I say? Filofax is... Well, I feel sorry for those who don't get it, who don't get to appreciate the nice leather bound that calmly states: "what I keep is worth keeping". Who don't appreciate using a fountain pen—even if I use whatever is at reach when I need a pen, I like writing with a fountain pen, the way I learned writing at school...

On the go and for "fast" note taking, I sometimes use a Personal Filofax, but I prefer using a simple notepad and reporting data in the Filofax each evening (a good way to do a daily review).

I am considering using a pocket Filofax instead, and skip the rewriting part, but spending more money just to try if it work seems a bit excessive. But what really makes me hesitate is the lack of standardisation of rings spacing: one can't use Personal/Pocket pages inside an A5 without cutting or punching new holes :(

I have an iPhone to keep sensitive data: passwords & the likes (Filofax sucks for privacy), contacts (synced with Mac's Address Book). Oh, it also serves as a... phone ;-)

I have been keeping todo lists on paper for years, but have switched to computer (where I need them, anyway), using the fine TaskPaper to manage them. I print some of them (like reading list).

I promise any other comment I may post in the future'll be shorter ;-)

Steve (2009-08-07 17:52:54)

Thank you for all your very detailed responses... don't worry about their length David, it's just great to see how we all use our Filofax organisers in a slightly different way. No two people will be the same.

That to me is the excellent thing about the concept of the Filofax, you can mix and match the contents to fit what ever task you are undertaking.

It's also great to see more and more folks joining in.

Thanks

Steve

Claudia Volkman (2009-08-09 05:54:24)

David, I loved your post! It captures so perfectly the value of pen and paper, even (or especially) in our digital,

fast-paced world. I just wanted to share that I've found the pocket size paper to fit in the A5, and for the Personal I just snip off the lower left corner, and that fits too - making the Filofax similarly versatile to Circa/Rollabind. I use a Mac and an iPhone too, and work in book publishing. Thanks again for a great post that inspires me to to feel pressured to be all digital!

Claudia Volkman (2009-08-09 12:13:17)

I just realized that the Pocket pages fit perfectly in the Personal Filo, not the A5. Still, with a little clip on the lower left corner, it can work!

Laurie (2009-08-09 13:42:17)

I use Personal pages in my A5 as well as maps, the sticky notes accessory, organizer stickers etc. All you have to do is snip off the bottom corner and it fits no problem. Especially useful for those items that go back and forth between my Personal and A5 on a regular basis.

David (2009-08-09 14:27:13)

@Claudia: thxs for the kind words.

@Claudia & @Laurie, thxs very much for the info :)

I think I'll go for the Personal + cutting the corner... Well it is not as if I had any choice left : I just ordered a Slimline 8)

If I may ask: how do you archive old pages ?

I have once purchased a Filofax binder, but it's way too expensive for such a poorly designed product.

Since then, I use a thread to bind the archives and store them away in a big ugly box. I'd rather use a nice binder but can't find any.

Kristihern (2009-08-09 17:18:47)

For archiving, I've used quart-sized ziploc envelopes in file folders (assuming I won't need to reference the old pages to often).

If I think I'll need to reference them, I clip them together with cover pages cut from cardstock and punched with the matching holes, then held together with binder rings (in the US). These are single rings in 1/2", 1" or 1-1/2" diameters. You could use one to six of these, as you please.

Claudia Volkman (2009-08-09 17:23:29)

TimeDesign has forms and binders that fit the A5 - they have a storage box (like a big index card file box) that works really well to store pages and extra forms. I'm not sure if you can order the box separately though...

David (2009-08-09 18:05:49)

@Kristihern : thxs. could you give me more info about those binder rings ? Must see if/where I can find that (I live in France)

@Claudia thxs (again ;))

I had a look and that is neat! A bit pricey just to get my hands on the box, though.

But I see they also have a French Website and that they sell 2009 refill+Box with a discount... I'll try to contact them and see if there is nothing more that can be done. Maybe they have older boxes lying around ;-)

I sure 'ld appreciate if Filofax was selling its refills with such nifty boxes :)

Laurie (2009-08-10 01:57:16)

Hi David,

To store my A5 pages, I bought a normal A5 binder and a two-hole punch. I punch new holes and put them in the binder. It was a cheap, easy, and available option for me. But, the punched holes are very close to the Filofax holes, and I think they would tear through easily if the pages were actually in use. So, I only do this for archival pages and not for pages that I need to store for awhile and then possibly put back into my Filo for future use.

For my personal size pages I order small ring binders from here:

<http://www.wards5and10.com/me663mebo.html>

These binders are really great, the cover is durable and the rings open and close for easy accessibility. But, I don't

know if they deliver to France.

Janet (2009-10-15 14:56:52)

I've always been a stationery nerd, with several notebooks and a journal on the go at any one time. I love paper. Because of my job I started using digital organisers in about 1995 (Casio then 2 Psions then three Palm Pilots. I still use my Life Drive for my addresses as there are so many of them). But I missed paper. The simple act of writing I find very relaxing and I grew to hate the tapping back and forth on the electronic organisers. I suffered several crashes which meant I lost everything on both PDA and on my computer (so people who say digital never crashes are not really right)

I am a language consultant sent by my employer to clients and each client has their own topic for translation, coaching, briefing so my day is broken up into about 7 meetings in 7 places about different things. I have to send a work record to my company who then invoices the client. I work in the field, sometimes in the office and sometimes at home. My appointments change from day to day and I have to have accurate records for invoicing. I use one A5 at a time (I have two Belmonts, a Metropol and an Amazona but I use the Amazona at the moment) and use the notepad (to write notes to give to clients), to do lists (about the smallest of things as I forget things quickly).

Each weekend I note the meetings for the week that has just passed on a timetable (for invoicing once a month) and fill out the next week on new diary sheets. It's a bit of a faff but I find my days change so much that it gets confusing if I don't. I write in pencil though I hate when it smudges.

Each client has their own page in the alphabetical section with notes and their contact and invoicing details. Also notes about their upcoming meetings so I can brief them.

I keep receipts, articles, discount coupons stamps, business cards, bills to pay in plastic sleeves at the back.

All my personal stuff is in the same filofax and I use it all the time. It is my brain. I find that as I get older and busier I get more forgetful so my filofax is like doing a screen dump of my brain on the go so I can sift through it at night and be prepared for the next day.

I have a Mulberry organiser and an Aspinall one but they use their own refills and I find the filofax refills are really more suited to specialised daily lives and can be customised much more. I have a portable A5 hole punch that means I can make anything a filofax page.

ahmed (2010-05-26 02:05:34)

I have gone through this blog. I found it very interesting and helpful. Nowadays I am completing my online degree course from home.

So this blog really doing great for me.

[1]

Part time jobs online

1. <http://www.earnglobalmoney.info/>

Managing To Dos (2009-08-05 03:43) - Laurie

Hi everybody, in this post I want to start a discussion of how people manage their daily, weekly, monthly and long-range to dos/ tasks. I also want to discuss managing multiple projects at once using Filofax(es), and tasks related to goals. Here we go:

My life is currently such that I have few appointments or scheduled activities, but a lot of tasks to do every day and week. What works for me most of the time is the^[1] week + notes planner format. I like having the entire page to make my lists.

But, occasionally I have some problems with this format. When I am having especially busy days, the daily spaces are not big enough for me to write in everything I need to do that day, or to record important

things on that date. I often use my Filo as a reference of when things occurred, when I sent an important paper, whatever. I never remember these things and rely heavily on my Filo records.

In order to solve the problem of not enough space on my weekly sheets, I have to divide and conquer. Some people use an extra notes page in the middle of that week's spread for overflow, which is a great idea. Sometimes I create a separate list in my Lists section to be able to visualize all the steps in a process.

The other main problem I have with the week + notes pages is when I am especially busy and have a lot written on the pages, I tend to get overwhelmed with too much information on the page. I feel like I don't even know where to look to determine what to do first.

On especially busy days, I get a large piece of paper and do a "brain dump," where I just list everything that needs to happen that day. This is especially useful when I am feeling very scattered and need to get everything out of my head and onto paper where I can look at it and then prioritize my actions.

I have a general list of goals for the year, and each month I review them and write onto my monthly calendar my specific goals for the month. Then each week I generate tasks to keep me on track for my goals. For example, one of my goals for the year is to exercise more. On my monthly goals, I might have specifics like cardio 4x/ week and strength 2x/ week. Then on my weekly pages I will schedule those activities. I find that this system gets me to review my goals on a regular basis, and gets me thinking of specific tasks to keep me on track to reach my goals.

One thing I have never been very good at is using my Filo(s) to work on multiple projects at once. I understand the usefulness of having a section for each project. But, I am very "out of sight, out of mind," so when things are behind a tab I tend to forget about them. But then if I try to have everything I have going on at once listed on my weekly page, I tend to get overwhelmed as noted above. Similarly, in my Lists section I have a list of Long-Range To-Dos, with things like "burn CDs of photos from the past 4 years" that I never seem to get around to doing.

How do you use your Filofax(es) to manage your tasks? When you have multiple projects going on, how do you determine what needs to be done today or this week? Do you have a system that works well for you?

1. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/images/products/refills/line/68409x.jpg>

kanalt (2009-08-08 17:48:26)

I used to write all of my tasks down for a particular day, although this got quite cumbersome with the amount of space available (or not as the case may be) and found myself re-writing many things, moving items from one day of the week to another, sometimes writing something down in each day of the week by the time I got to it. So I developed a system for myself.

I have a long range to-do list in my Filo for things that I want to get done at some point - I have a separate "To Do" section with items broken down by Personal, Household, Long Term. These items I will put into a particular day if I know I will have time or a need to tackle one. It doesn't get crossed off the master list until it is done though, since many times I end up not getting to something, even if it has been transferred to a specific day.

However, there are other small items that I may want to look into or do earlier than it would get done should it go on the master list (mainly things to research - hotel reservations, travel or dinner plans) but lacking a specific due date. These (it's a small list that changes often) are written on a half-sheet to do list made by DayTimer (I believe the product name is Hot List Sheet). It's about the size of a bookmark - I can see it (I place it behind my

Today marker) but it's small enough that I can see my weekly layout. It's punched on both sides so I can have it on either side of the week which is helpful. And it's right in front of me so it's not "out of sight, out of mind," which is a problem for me - I wouldn't remember to check the master list on a daily or weekly basis. With items that must be done on specific days (paying bills, etc), I still write them into my daily diary sections.

The Postman Always Rings Twice (2009-08-05 18:29) - Steve



[1]

I think can understand now how people become shop-aholics, the thrill of ordering things and then the patient wait for the Postman to delivery your parcel. In my case one from Filofax UK.

At the weekend I sat down and created a largish order, well for me anyway, from the UK Filofax site. Their competitive shipping costs normally swings the deal for me. £0 for orders over £30 to UK addresses. I patiently worked out the exact diary refills and year planners for my three main organisers I needed. I also ordered as you can see from the photo a few more goodies for my Pocket organiser. I have even been patient enough to take a photo before opening the packets!!

Sadly two items that arrived and not shown in the picture were the wrong items. The actual items that arrived were different by one digit in the reference numbers of the products. So I suppose it's an easy mistake to make.

However, I'm not complaining, because Filofax in UK make it very easy for you to exchange items and even supply an address label to their FreePost address for you to return the items. I've asked for the correct items (Personal two pages per week 2010 diary, and a Pocket horizontal 2010 year planner) to be despatched to me, in place of an A5 two page per week 2010 diary, and a Personal Single page per Week, plus Notes 2010 diary.

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SnoINpPofrI/AAAAAAAAAD0c/vqPEkb-89mo/s1600-h/IMG_8490.JPG

Laurie (2009-08-06 02:41:06)

Very nice, thanks for the photo!! I too am anxiously awaiting a package from Filofax UK. I ordered the personal size Family Organizer because I really like the diary format. However, I have a long wait ahead of me: It takes about a week to 10 days for UK parcels to reach my US address, then from there it's 3-4 weeks to reach me overseas. Filo UK dispatched my package on the 4th, so I'm hoping I will get it before my daughter starts school at the end of the month! With the new school year ahead of me, I'm going to need all the organization I can get! I frequently order things from the UK website that are not available in the US. Over the years, for some reason two of my envelopes have arrived opened and empty. I have no idea at what location this happened, but every time I have reported it to Filo UK they have been very nice and have replaced my items at no cost, which is excellent customer service.

Steve I hope you get your correct items promptly!

Steve (2009-08-06 08:00:23)

Hope your package arrives soon. Mine was also open... too many things in a single package, but 12 items, but 2 the wrong item.

I had an extended upwrapping and inserting in to binders session earlier on! Back to bulging again!

I've put some of the Pocket ones in my desk tray, not enough space.

Steve

YM (2009-08-06 08:43:12)

LOVE the UK Filo website! I just received my special edition Personal with the Swarovski crystals. Will post pictures to the Flickr group when I get home from work.

The shipping from the UK to the US was entirely reasonable, so no doubt I will be placing another order soon for those items that aren't on the US site....like the organizer stickers...they intrigue me!

Nan (2009-08-06 17:39:10)

Speaking of the postman, I'm still waiting for my order from Filofax UK, which I placed on July 15. I wasn't expecting it to take quite this long!

D (2009-08-06 23:00:41)

Oh my gosh, YM, I just looked at the pics of your new special edition with the Swarovski crystals!! Beautiful! I would so love to have one, but I'm afraid it's not to be. I am however waiting for a raspberry Finsbury A5 to arrive. I am running out of room in my personal Piazza so decided to upgrade to a larger size.

Laurie (2009-08-07 02:25:37)

YM: can't wait to see pics of your Swarovski! How will you use it? Will it be your wallet/ go-everywhere Filo? Do you still carry your A5 everywhere? I am really curious how you incorporate your A5 and smaller Filos and how you use each separately and together. I am trying to figure out a similar situation.

Inky: Oh no, that bodes ill for any prompt delivery of my UK order. I was just wondering yesterday if you had gotten your Lifestyle Pack (which one did you order?), and your Swarovski. And, will those two items merge, or will you use them separately? I want to hear all about it, and I hope your order arrives soon!

D, I also want to hear all about your upgrade to A5 size. I'm constantly in a battle with myself between portability and page size, and I love to hear how people work out this issue.

Very exciting new arrivals and things on the way!

Laurie (2009-08-07 06:44:49)

YM, just looked at your pics, the Swarovski is beautiful!!

Steve (2009-08-12 13:02:46)

You will be pleased to know that there is a happy ending to my story... The postman delivered the correct Pocket year planner and Personal 2010 diary today...

My personal organiser needs to go on a diet before I will be able to add in next years diary though!

Steve

Free for All Friday No. 39 (2009-08-07 07:37) - Nan

It's August – Time for back-to-school plans or perhaps last-minute vacations. I may find myself in the latter category this month, and my Filofax will get heavy use in both the planning and execution. But then it would even if I were staying home and shopping.

What about you?

Laurie (2009-08-07 08:05:43)

Right now is the calm before the storm. In a couple of weeks I will begin a very busy month: oldest starts school and youngest's birthday party in the same week! A sure recipe for Filofax overload. And just a few days later, my in-laws arrive for a 2 week visit! Aghhh! My Filo will have smoke coming out of it!

Vidya (2009-08-07 13:15:20)

Even though it's been decades since I've been in school, I still feel like August is the time to plan projects for the remainder of the year. So this weekend I'll be sitting down with my beloved Filo to review project status and my goals for the year to assess how to proceed with the rest of the year.

Steve (2009-08-07 17:48:21)

In the last week I've started capturing many tasks to be done between now and our hopeful move to France... fingers crossed etc!

I'm using a mixture of To Lists and a year planner to collect together lists of different things to do. Address changes, disposals, purchases, actions at intervals etc.

When you haven't moved in over 23 years it's a bit of a shock to the system... add in the fact we are moving from UK to France then it all becomes a bit of a logistical nightmare...

Just hoping that it actually all happens, we will not know until we exchange contracts....soon I hope!

Steve

Oni (2009-08-07 20:23:23)

For us here in Spain, August is the month of inactivity, in all aspects! The weather is so damn hot, you really don't feel like going outside $\neg \neg$.

Which is why it is the perfect month to travel.

Me and my better half will be travelling to Southamerica next week, to visit my family. I am already getting my new Urban (I think I'm gonna call him Elliot) all set up, I specifically bought it plus the Travel Pack to use it as a Travel Journal, this shall be his first journey :)

I am concerned with the pen though, I will try to get him a nice coloured pen that won't explode in the plane, in the following days.

Regarding the travel pack, for the 'Rip off and..pass it on' section, they only supply you with two sheets, each with 6 strips of 'rippable' paper. I don't think it's enough, so I've also added post its to it.

I will let you know more during the following week, I should have it all set up by then!! :)

kanalt (2009-08-08 17:32:41)

While also no longer in school, I too look at September as a time to reflect and reevaluate goals and projects...with this comes thinking about refills and a new setup for the Filo. I have been tweaking my sections and uses and am pretty happy with what I've got going at this point. So now I am going to look at the Filo site and see what needs to be ordered. I think I might buy the blank computer sheets (a first for me) and see what develops on its own.

kanalt (2009-08-10 13:09:39)

To anyone who can help with this:

I uploaded some photos to the Flickr pool, which seemed to have taken. I can see the photos when I'm logged in to Flickr but they don't come up otherwise. I thought I had all of the settings right, but maybe not. Anyone have any ideas?

Steve (2009-08-10 13:12:18)

Well I can see some pictures from you uploaded on the 9th August.

Steve

Laurie (2009-08-10 14:08:13)

kanalt earlier today I noticed your newest photos said only I could view them, now they say they can be viewed by anybody. But that is when I am logged in. When I am logged out, I don't see your photos anywhere. Huh. That's weird. No idea, but then I'm a Flickr newbie so maybe somebody else has some more advice?

kanalt (2009-08-10 15:03:28)

Yes, I posted the pictures on August 9, but am seeing the same thing as Laurie - seeing them when I'm signed in but they disappear when I am not. I imagine that most of these photos are not limited to when one is signed in,

so I assume it's a setting that I have wrong, although I have no idea what it is...

Oni (2009-08-16 15:49:08)

kanalt: that has probably got to do with your privacy settings. I think you must have put the settings to private, so only you and your flickr friends can see them when you're logged into flickr. Try chaging your settings to public if you want them to be visible by anyone. Hope i was of any help :)

Organiser Stickers (2009-08-08 05:04) - Steve



[1]

Prompted by one of the comments from 'YM' I thought I would give you a closer look at the Organiser Stickers.

I bought a packet of Pocket size ones. You get three identical sheets. They are on a clear plastic sheet with a small tab at the top, useful for finding them quickly I suppose. The sheet is punched so you can slot it in to your organiser.

They also do them in [2]Personal size, which has more stickers per sheet for the same price. They are divided in to the same categories, you just get more of the each one.

They will be quite noticeable when stuck to your pages and will add a tactile feel to a page.

Each sticker is small enough (5 mm diameter) to even be used on a year planner page, which I suspect might be a better use of them. You will then be able to see at a glance what you are doing and when, rather than trying to squeeze notes in to the small boxes, particularly on the smaller sizes.

Click on the picture for a full size view.

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SnxfVlybgNI/AAAAAAAAAD0k/5P8D1N41nok/s1600-h/stickers.jpg

2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/layout.asp?id=2438>

YM (2009-08-10 10:21:36)

Thank you for posting this! Now I am super excited for my Filo UK order to arrive!

The use on the Yearly Calendar is what I had intended them for...and I am very happy to hear they will be the right size.

Thank you again for a closer look!

The internet's conscientious objectors (2009-08-09 12:00) - Steve

I came across a fascinating article today on the [1]BBC website, it's about people that decide not to use the internet in their lives at all. Not just because they don't have access to the net, or they don't have a computer.

Now obviously as you are reading this on line, you don't come in to that category. But I noticed an interesting comment:

"We tried computing and we're back to writing letters" says one of those being questioned by researcher, as e-mail is seen as too impersonal for close human contact.

I started to think about the similarity between people that write letters, and those that still use paper diaries, in our case a Filofax.

I have always kept a couple of sheets of my own headed paper and an envelope and some postage stamps in my A5 organiser, it just seemed a natural thing to add. However, the lack of hand writing practice doesn't help the reader, especially with my hand writing!!

So do you write letters too?

1. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8187305.stm>

kanalt (2009-08-09 17:58:06)

I have to say that I love the Internet and communicate regularly with certain people via email - it's easy to check both at home and at work and sometimes elsewhere. I don't have a BlackBerry or Internet access via my phone, so usage is limited to some extent (which is good for me, or I'd be using it all the time). Email works for quick messages and responses. However, I do still write cards and send them via snail mail. It's fun to send cards and receive something other than bills and junk mail. Unfortunately, I don't have much use for writing actual letters anymore (to people other than my grandparents who have never used a computer in their lives) since anyone I would write to uses email also.

Laurie (2009-08-10 08:12:09)

My mail takes a month each way to and from the US, so it's pointless for me to write letters. As much as I don't like technology, I would be very cut off from the world and friends/ family without the internet and email. I do send Christmas/ holiday cards, but that is just about the only communication I do by snail mail. Otherwise it's mostly email, and phone second.

I used to work in a corporation that had a very email-centric office culture. It was to the point where people were using email when they should have been using the phone, as in sending an email and then expecting an immediate reply. Sometimes I would come back from an hour long meeting with a series of emails and subsequent emails asking why I hadn't replied yet! If you need an immediate reply, call me on the telephone! But I digress...

YM (2009-08-10 10:40:11)

I love technology and gadgets & I use them regularly. However I do still use snail mail, send cards and such simply because I enjoy sitting down and writing (and I know which of my friends prefer the experience of receiving a hand-written piece of mail).

Technology has it's place, as does the art of the writing. I use both a Filo and my laptop/iPhone to stay organized. Both fulfill something for me. I would never give up either.

When the power is out however, it sure is nice to know all my data is safe & sound in luxurious leather :)

Subscribing to Philofaxy (2009-08-09 12:32) - Nan

I've always said the best part of Philofaxy are its readers, who leave the most well thought-out and stimulating comments of any blog on the Web! But the problem has always been that the comments are hidden – people who don't know to click through will never see them.

Fortunately, we now have a feature that lets you *subscribe* to our comments, as well as to the actual posts. You can then read them in your web browser's RSS viewer or a website like Google Reader or My Yahoo.

Scroll down and look to the left side of the page. Click the orange buttons for Posts and Comments and choose your preferred blog tracker from the menu.

Steve (2009-08-09 13:58:37)

And if none of those 'readers' suit your needs... take a look at Protopage <http://www.protopage.com>

I've been a user for about 4 years, it does lots of things and most of them really well.

Steve

kanalt (2009-08-09 17:51:55)

Yes, it does work! I have a separate "Filo" folder in my Google Reader with RSS feeds for the blog posts, the comments and the Flickr photo pool. This way, it's easy to see when posts to one of my favorite blogs are posted, wasting no time scrolling through my many, many feeds!

As Seen In... (2009-08-10 07:31) - Laurie

The other day I was perusing the Filofax UK website just to see what's new, and ran across [1]"As Seen In..." which is a collection of magazine articles featuring Filofax organizers and accessories. My favorite is in the [2]December 2008 Glamour magazine which showcases some very beautiful Filofaxes. My fantasy Filofax, the Deco in Ivory, makes an appearance. But I was surprised that I was even more attracted to the red Amazona, shown in action. I was ready to rush out and get one and had to hold myself back!

Filofax marketing interests me, especially in this technological age. Some of the magazine articles classify Filofax as "retro" in a trendy way. Others point out the practicality of a planner that never crashes. Many of the writeups mention the tactile nature of the leather and paper. I was surprised that there were at least as many ads geared toward men as women, because it seems (to me at least, maybe to others too) that most of the new Filofax styles lately are geared toward women, at least in the [3]US.

I wonder if, in this economy, people are buying more Filofaxes than electronic organizers? Cheaper, and possibly more reliable. Or, I wonder if people are treating themselves to a nice Filofax instead of a bigger, more expensive luxury? This makes me think of the "lipstick effect," which is: when the economy is bad and people have less disposable income, sales of lipstick actually go up. The theory is, when women can't afford new shoes or clothes, but they still want a pick-me-up purchase, they buy lipstick. Could a Filofax be the lipstick of the electronic organizer world?

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/aboutus/pr.asp>

2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/aboutus/pr.asp?prId=76>

3. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/>

YM (2009-08-10 11:05:09)

I couldn't help but notice that the US Filofax website does not have an "As Seen In" section. I wonder if the organizer/agenda/diary is a more European concept?

I can't remember the last time I saw an advertisement for a Filofax (or other day planner) in a magazine here in the US...

Steve (2009-08-10 13:05:23)

I like the way that they have a 'view featured item' which then links to the item on the Filofax site.

Read about it in the news, then buy it here....

Popular with the Daily Express...

Steve

Laurie (2009-08-10 14:03:39)

Good point YM, I don't often see ads for planners. Although, now that I think about it, I have seen mag ads for Kate Spade planners and such. Another thing I have noticed that I think I put somewhere in a comment of some other post is, the UK website's most expensive Personal size planner is the Deco at under 200 pounds, but on the US website the most expensive personal size Filo is the Alligator at more than \$2,000, next is the Ostrich at \$700, and then one or two more before the Deco at \$300. I wonder if that is because in the US, Filofax is the "upscale European" brand as opposed to FC, Dayrunner, etc. But in the UK, there are other luxury brands of organizers like Smythson, Aspinall etc. I would think that the UK, the birthplace of Filofax, would carry the most expensive and luxurious models.

My sister and I were drooling over the Deco and Amazona earlier. Gorgeous!

And Steve, I love that feature: tempt you with the ads, then very conveniently lead you to the site where you can purchase it!

David (2009-08-10 16:47:02)

As Laurie pointed, it's interesting to note the "retro" side of the Filofax in some of those ads. That's something I have learned to accept, even if I don't feel retro at all using it (it's just the best tool to do what I need to do)

Yesterday, one of our readers (a 20-something) I met was literally speechless to see me using the Filofax and a fountain pen to jot down some notes, not using the iPhone that was lying next to it. "*You are a member of an endangered species*", told me another one, a few days earlier.

Even among my team of writers—all young (between 19 and 26) and all very talented—except one who's also keen on Filofax and paper, my using of papers is something they find truly odd. Planning or drafting on paper seems so... unnatural, impractical to them.

One of them even told me he wasn't able to use handwriting anymore. Only keyboard or thumbboard.

From the Web - Monday 10th August (2009-08-10 21:44) - Steve

A couple of stories spotted this week on other sites:

It seems Bibles suffer similar problems to Filofax Organisers... they won't lie flat when new. Also useful tips on which Bible is similar in size to a Filofax Organiser.

[1]<http://www.bibledesignblog.com/>

An earlier article on this same site has some excellent pictures of other organisers too.

[2]

<http://www.bibledesignblog.com/>

Another use for a Filofax in the home for collating recipes. Which got me thinking about a design of a suitable recipe template may be? Sketch out what you think it would look like and email me a scan.

[3]<http://www.nytimes.com/>

1. <http://www.bibledesignblog.com/2009/08/notes-from-summer-a-little-abuse-improves-the-pitt-minion.html>

2. <http://www.bibledesignblog.com/2009/04/how-i-roll-for-the-moment.html>

3. http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/05/dining/05iron.html?_r=1

nicolle (2009-08-10 23:19:36)

okay philofaxy dude...the pics on that bible site make me feel like i am the worst filofax owner ever. i have had a vibrant green picadilly philo since around 98. i love it, but it looks tattered compared to the vintage ones in that pic. i called philofax US about having it refurbished or getting another one made with no luck. *sigh*

Laurie (2009-08-11 02:15:14)

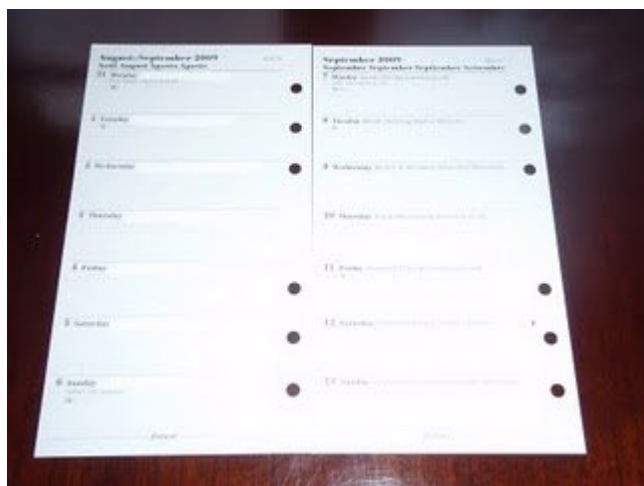
I agree, that Winchester is gorgeous. But, it is from back in the day when they were made in England. From what I have heard/ read, those were just better quality. I wonder if anything made since then would look that good over time.

I'm not much of a cook, but there are a few recipes that I keep in my go-everywhere Filo to have on hand wherever I am, just in case. These include my super-easy no-fail chocolate cake. You never know when you might need to whip one up for a celebration!

Vidya (2009-08-11 14:31:52)

Last year I found blank notepaper for my Personal Filo at Kinokuniya. The packaging referred to the size as "Bible Size", which I thought was a bit odd until I saw this posting. My boyfriend jokes that my Filo is my "Bible" as I keep it religiously updated and by my side.

Week + Notes - Days (2009-08-12 02:30) - Laurie



[1]

I love the week + notes format as my diary, because I usually don't have very many appointments on any given day, but I do have loads of tasks to do each week. The w + n lets me keep my To Do lists right in front of me so I don't forget.

My major complaint about Filofax's week + notes format is that the days of the week are in a million different languages. This considerably cramps the already small space. So, I took matters (and some white-out) into my own hands. Yes it's a little high-maintenance, but I love the less-cluttered look and that extra amount of space to write each day.

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_CPeL-KIUmkw/SoJjf9r96II/AAAAAAAAAw/Eao7R1Md4hs/s1600-h/Diaries+2009+127.jpg

taylormade (2009-08-14 14:11:54)

Genius, man! What a simple solution for a frustrating problem.

Laurie (2009-08-14 14:19:40)

LOL! Hi Sis!

Oni (2009-08-16 15:35:59)

I totally agree, having the days in too many languages is simply annoying! Especially in the Pocket format, which is already small.

New Domino! (2009-08-14 03:01) - Laurie



[1]

Here is my new Filofax Domino, which I will use as my self-made Scotland guidebook. I go to Scotland a few times per year and have accumulated a bookful of information pages, maps, and contacts. I think I will like using the Domino for this purpose. It is very light, and easy to carry. The vinyl cover wipes clean easily so I won't worry about it getting wet (it is Scotland after all, it's bound to get rained on!). I can stick papers in the strap on the outside cover for easy reference of where I'm going at the moment. And of course, I love the color!

The cover has a groove where the strap goes, which is actually really nice because it keeps the strap from rolling around on the cover. At first I didn't think I would like the elastic strap, but once I realized the potential for sticking papers into it I suddenly do. Also, it allows for nearly-unlimited expansion and stuffing, unlike a snap. This is good, because the rings on the Domino are big so I expect I'll be cramming this book full!

I really like the look of the inside, with the light colored faux suede and the bright pink accents inside the pockets. The faux suede is nice to touch, too. The Domino came filled with a week to view calendar with July-Dec 2009 and all of 2010. It has tabbed dividers 1-6, address tabs and pages. It also has a world map, which is great, a top-loading clear envelope, which will be handy to tuck things into, and a few pages of colored paper and To Dos.

I didn't realize before that the Domino is geared for students. There are several pages included in the organizer that are very useful for students. There is a Timetable page, for writing in your class schedule. I think I will use this page in my daily planner Filofax to show things that happen at the same time every week. Another page for students, the Course Record, is for recording your grades in each class. I'll have to think of a use for this one too because I like it.

There is also a semi-annual calendar which I really like, it reminds me of the ones [2]Quo Vadis planners have. This would be very useful for students to record exams, papers, and projects due throughout the

school year. Anyone could use this for any kind of project or future planning. I use the [3]pull-out year calendars for this purpose now, but I like this page style better.

All in all, I am very pleased with my purchase! I haven't been able to bring myself to take out the pages yet and put in my Scotland stuff. It's so clean and perfect right now! But after I get done playing with it, I will load my Scotland stuff into it and post more pictures on Flickr. Right now I have pictures on Flickr illustrating all the descriptions above, on the [4]Philofaxy group, and also as [5]my own set.

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_CPeL-KIUmkw/SoUMaYUAcfI/AAAAAAAAA4/sIrt-jsp5a8/s1600-h/Diaries+2009+150.jpg
2. <http://www.quovadisplanners.com/catalog>
3. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/layout.asp?id=2387>
4. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/40748476@N00/>
5. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/41064231@N08/sets/72157622035170176/>

Francesca (2009-08-14 04:55:58)

My red pocket sized Domino saw me through Music college in my early 20s. I loved the durability of the design - felt like you could chuck in into your bag to rub alongside keys/ hairbrushes/ tuning forks etc (!) and not worry about doing too much damage to the beautiful cover. I used to do the same - tuck my map or directions into the elastic and keep it in my hand for reference...

I think having a brand new Filo as a 'trip planner' is a great idea - I know that would actually make me plan properly as I'd want to keep opening it up and writing in it!

Laurie (2009-08-14 05:49:37)

I agree. It also makes the Lifestyle Travel Pack that much more enticing! So far I have resisted the urge to order one, but I still have my eye on it.

Laurie (2009-08-14 07:02:29)

Okay, I did the deed and loaded my Scotland pages into the Domino! Pics on Flickr.

kanalt (2009-08-14 15:00:11)

My very first Filofax was a domino (brown), which I still have and have acquired two others as well. Currently, they are all being used as storage binders, but I do love them, and after reading this post, I may be enticed to find an official use for them. The travel book is a great idea, but since I don't travel all that much (and when I do, it's usually by car), I'll have to find another creative way to put them to use.

S. (2009-08-17 05:42:21)

I use a blue personal Domino Filofax for work, and I love it. It sits opened-up under my computer monitor right in front of me so it's in plain sight. While it's made for students, I find that it suits adults for work as well with its sturdy cover, practical colors, and no-nonsense look. I also love the suede lining which adds a touch of class. Yes, it's also very handy when it comes to stuffing items inside!

I have a pocket size Finchley for my personal use, but I would never use a Finchely for work (at least in my current job and position), as it looks a little too rich and expensive, if you know what I mean. I work in a rather down-to-earth industry and the trusty Domino suits just that!

Poll - How much do you spend on Filofax items each year (2009-08-14 11:54) - Steve

Just for a bit of fun, I've just added a poll. You don't have to take part if you don't want to, but it will be interesting to see the spread of spend.

I have not allowed for differences in exchange rates or any differences in cost of items in different markets, it would all get too complicated.

The poll will disappear after 15 days and we will post the results in a normal post.

Enjoy
Steve

geew67 (2009-08-16 18:27:15)

Just to let everyone know that WH Smith online (whsmith.co.uk) is having a Filofax sale with upto 60 % off. I'm tempted with the A5 Kendal.

Steve (2009-08-16 18:41:39)

Thanks for the heads up, I will make a post out of your comment

Up to 60% off Filofax at WH Smiths (UK) (2009-08-16 18:42) - Steve

Thanks to 'Geew67' for spotting that WH Smiths here in UK have a sale on at the moment, up to [1]60 % off Filofax goods (organisers, pens etc)

[2]WH Smiths are a High Street newsagent and stationary store here in UK. Some very tempting prices too....

BTW you can revise your poll submission on the amount spent per year if you get tempted by the sale :-)

1. <http://www.whsmith.co.uk/CatalogAndSearch/PromotionLanding.aspx?promotionID=600ffFilofax&sf=BestsellerRank>
2. <http://www.whsmith.co.uk/>

Steve (2009-08-16 19:04:53)

I think they only ship to a UK address

Middle Monday of the Month - Free For All....No 40 (2009-08-17 07:22) - Steve

OK so it doesn't have the same ring to it as Free For All Friday... Sorry I forgot!

So this point of the month we might look back at what we have achieved and what we might have to get done before the month end..... then again it might be just an ordinary Monday...

Let's hear your thoughts and ideas.... the floor is yours.....

Steve

Steve (2009-08-17 14:38:55)

I've found an adjustable punch for Filofax that I believe will do Personal and Pocket size. I've got one on order and I will post a review of it when it arrives.

Steve

Steve (2009-08-17 14:41:11)

Has anyone ever seen the film 'Taking Care of Business' ?

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0103035/>

I don't remember it myself, might look for it on Amazon!

Steve

kanalt (2009-08-17 21:23:31)

I saw it a couple of years ago...I got it through my local library system. It wasn't great as far as movie story lines go, but it was fun to watch the Filofax aspect.

Tur Tur (2009-08-20 03:01:37)

I remember the film very well. The German title was "Filofax - I am you and you are nothing". The main actor was the thickest - or should I say: fattest - Filo I have ever seen. A typical 1980's Filo. I think we all watch our figure and those of our Filos better now.

Nan (2009-08-20 08:53:27)

I mentioned the movie in a previous post: <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2007/01/filofax-movie.html>.

Here's a clip from it on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzssEpEPJL0>

Here's a review on Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taking_Care_of_Business

Rapesco Diary Punch 66-P (2009-08-18 15:36) - Steve



[1]

Do you have a Personal size and Pocket size organiser? Or just one of those two sizes? And you want to be able to punch your own pages, but the cost of a Filofax Punch seems a bit high at £26.75 each (\$40 or €49)? Then this punch at a typical price of about £10 plus postage might be your answer...

The [2]Rapesco Diary Punch 66-P has two sets of sliding punch blocks which you can easily move in their slots. Each punch block has three 6mm punches spaced 19mm (3/4") apart.

With the punch blocks in the outer most position, it will punch up to 8 sheets of paper for a Personal size organiser. Slide both punch blocks fully towards the centre and it punches 6 holes perfectly spaced for a Pocket Filofax.

It will not punch pages for an A5 as standard, although with a little bit of experimenting (remember I am an engineer!) you can punch holes the right spacing for an A5 organiser, but it involves two punches of the three holes and careful alignment in the punch. I will work out the distance you need to offset the outer edge of the paper from the centre point and post this later.

I also tried just moving one punch block to the outer position and the other punch block to the inner position, but you end up with a spacing that doesn't appear to be suitable for any size that I'm aware of. The punch is easy to empty, the whole base unclips... but don't do as I did... turn it upside down on my desk only to discover that because it has the slots... the chads (the bits of punched paper) manage to escape through the slots!!

It is very well made and [3]Rapesco do a large variety of other products as well. See their [4]website for details.

They say that they sell 'Worldwide' and there is a '[5]Where to Buy' page. These punches also come up on [6]Ebay from time to time. I missed out on one on Saturday on the [7]EBay UK site. So I then ordered one on line instead.

I bought this punch mainly because the Perforex 610 personal size one I bought back in the 1980's is getting a little blunt and this brand appears to be discontinued on the few sites I found it listed on. I also thought it would be useful to review the Rapesco one for the blog...

If you have any questions pop them in to the comments.

Steve

IFRAME: [8][http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank &bc1=000000 &IS2=1 &bg1=FFFFFF &fc1=000000 &lc1=0000FF &t=pemburyvillag-21 &o=2 &p=8 &l=as1 &m=amazon &f=ifr &md=0M5A6TN3AXP2JHJBWT02 &asins=B000J6EXM6](http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank&bc1=000000&IS2=1&bg1=FFFFFF&fc1=000000&lc1=0000FF&t=pemburyvillag-21&o=2&p=8&l=as1&m=amazon&f=ifr&md=0M5A6TN3AXP2JHJBWT02&asins=B000J6EXM6)

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SosJMXRVSwI/AAAAAAAAEBy/vkcol0IjS0w/s1600-h/PF66P0B1.jpg
2. <http://www.rapesco.com/punching/product.asp?id=PF66P0B1>
3. <http://www.rapesco.com/>
4. <http://www.rapesco.com/>
5. <http://www.rapesco.com/where.asp>
6. http://shop.ebay.com/?_from=R40&_trksid=p3907.m38.11313&_nkw=Rapesco+Diary+Punch+66-P&_sacat=See-All-Categories
7. http://shop.ebay.co.uk/?_from=R40&_trksid=p3907.m38.11313&_nkw=Rapesco+Diary+Punch+66-P&_sacat=See-All-Categories
8. http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank&bc1=000000&IS2=1&bg1=FFFFFF&fc1=000000&lc1=0000FF&t=pemburyvillag-21&o=2&p=8&l=as1&m=amazon&f=ifr&md=0M5A6TN3AXP2JHJBWT02&asins=B000J6EXM6

Laurie (2009-08-19 13:23:50)

Wow this looks great, and at a great price! I have a question—what size are the punched holes? Are they the same size as the holes in Filofax paper, or are they larger? Any problems/ issues with the hole size?

Steve (2009-08-19 13:30:59)

The holes are the same size as punched by my Filofax punch, the info says 6 mm, which is within the ISO standard size. ISO standard 838, hole size is 5.5 to 6.5mm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hole_punch

A wiki page for hole punches... how sad is that!

It's nice to have nice crisp holes punched, compared to the plastic single sheet punch I was using previously.

Free For All Friday: Confession Time (2009-08-21 02:10) - Laurie

Happy Friday everybody, it's confession time!

It's time to spill: how many Filofaxes do you own? And, do they all have a purpose, or are some, shall we say, "for decorative purposes" only?

Here is my own confession: I have 4 Filos with #5 on its way to me now. Currently 3 are in active use, with one (soon to be two) in semi-retirement.

So now it's your turn to 'fess up! Or, if you don't feel like sharing, then just tell us what's new in your Filofax life these days.

Laurie (2009-08-21 02:19:47)

Just saw on Flickr gcm1066's new photo of the Filofax Organizer Stickers, now available on the Filofax US website! Also available now on Filo US is the 2010 A5 Family Organizer. I sure wish they'd get all the other Lifestyle Packs!

Steve (2009-08-21 06:36:28)

Me... Four organisers.. A5, 2 off Personal, Pocket... and four punches, Although the personal size one will be retired off soon... replaced by the one I reviewed earlier in the week here:

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/08/rapesco-diary-punch-66-p.html>

Surprised there hasn't been more comments...

YM (2009-08-21 10:15:05)

Hi, my name is Yvonne and I am a Filo-holic!

They say admitting it is the first step so...I have 13 Filofax's. More that are either designer or other brands but

a baker's dozen actual Filo's.

I currently use three: a Finchley A5 for my master/home diary, a personal Eton to cart around with me and a pocket Finsbury for my diet/workout data.

The rest are simply because I am obsessed. There, I've said it!!

Sirpa-Kaarina (2009-08-21 10:52:19)

Yvonne: LOL

Sirpa

Finland (Europe)

Laurie (2009-08-21 13:26:03)

YM, if there is anyplace where people will understand your Filofax obsession, it is definitely here!

Vidya (2009-08-21 15:29:55)

I have my Cherry Finchley (which is my only actual Filo), then my little Lizell wallet/agenda and finally my beloved Planner Emeritus, which I carried for nearly 20 years before retiring it in favor of my Finchley. Oh, the guilt I felt when I retired the PE!! I finally assuaged my conscience by using it as a receptacle for the diary pages I scribble in the Finchley.

I've contemplated getting a wallet type Finchley to replace the Lizell, which is getting a bit tired looking (not to mention the coin pocket fabric has holes in it so coins fall into the main body). I like the idea of having a coordinated set, but I'm not quite ready to give up the Lizell.

YM, I do like the idea of having a separate Filo for my fitness data. I think I'll have to try that.

Steve (2009-08-21 15:37:18)

Bags and wallets... another weakness of mine!

Anybody bought any of the Filofax items:

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/uk/leather+accessories/>

Steve

Shubha (2009-08-21 23:16:24)

wow..this is so nice to find a place to feel less guilty..

I have 3 personal ones in storage - mainly used for filing away to assuage the conscience.. and have a fifth on the way as we speak! have given away 2 - and had one stolen.

I currently use a Classic Personal and a Personal Slimline when I don't want to cart around the fat Classic !

I also spend too much on fillers each year and yes like Steve have a great weakness for bags and wallets.

by Ewan Spence (2009-08-22 07:21:33)

Let's see, I have an old brown leather personal Kensington, which is still going strong after over eight years of service, an A5 identity (for 'special' projects) and an A5 Domino with the new Family Lifestyle pack.

Oh and a personal storage folder for every year going back seven years (cf the Kensington's first year of use).

I'm currently waiting on a new Personal Kendall thanks to the WHSmith sale and may (or may not) retire the Kensington....

Simon (2009-08-22 16:48:37)

I have three Winchesters, one 5/4" & two 7/8" rings; a slimline something (3CL); a Lincoln and a Lyndhurst, all personal size plus a Credit Card holder (5PCL). They all get rotated as the whim takes me. And when they're out of use, they hold my archives.

I also have a London Organiser (LO) Co. personal organiser & a filofax archive folder which are only used for archives. I bought the LO organiser by accident but have **NEVER** taken it outside!

I think that the above, along with my many saved filofax searches on ebay, makes me a little obsessive, but I feel at home here :-)

Chella (2009-08-23 11:32:52)

I've been reading this blog for a few months now, and love it.

I have an A5 Graphic (burnt orange) for work and a Personal Chocolate Finchley which I carry everywhere with me.

I have my eye on an A5 Brown Kendal... maybe a Christmas present to myself... ;)

Simon (2009-08-23 11:49:13)

I've just won a fourth Winchester! This time a 7/8" in red.

Sad, sad, sad :-)

kanalt (2009-08-24 16:37:22)

I have a total of 11 Filos:

1 Domino pocket black, which I used to use when I didn't want to carry my personal size Filo but which has been replaced by my iPod Touch;

1 Pocket Kendal in brown, which I was using as an exercise log but this has fallen by the wayside (too much work some days to keep track in a separate binder);

all the rest are personal size:

1 Richmond in dark green, 3 domino (red, brown and black), 1 Finchley in Jade, 1 Finsbury in light blue, 1 Classic in brown, and 1 Slimline Classic, also brown.

I'm sure there will be more to add to the list at a later date...

www.philofaxy.com (2009-08-23 03:32) - Steve

We have registered [1]philofaxy.com which we hope is easier to remember and also pass on to other people you meet and know.

Bookmark the new address in your browser.

1. <http://www.philofaxy.com/>

Sex and the City Planner (2009-08-23 16:47) - Nan

[EMBED]

That's not me in the video. It's a review from another user published on a YouTube channel that Filofax Ltd has opened. —Inky

My City Dweller Lifestyle Pack arrived from Filofax UK about a month after I ordered it. What made it worth the wait – it's different from any Filofax product I've ever seen! Like all Filofax products, it's thorough, high-quality, and well-thought-out, but that's where the similarities end. I'll go through what's in the pack one at a time.

6 blank tabs (white)

1 clear plastic pocket, top opening

1 Personal Information page (double-sided), and 2 more for family information.

Here's where the departure begins. These pages are English-only, and instead of black text and lines on white, these have light gray blocks to write in, labeled with tiny type in slightly darker gray. I like the idea of writing on blocks rather than between lines. I don't have to stay between the lines! On the downside, you need young eyes to read the tiny gray-on-gray type.

Which brings me to the next departure: This pack is targeted to a very specific customer, as you'll see as I go through the rest of the pages – one who's female, young, looking for Mr. Right, and in possession of ample amounts of spending money and free time. I'm reminded of Carrie on the TV show Sex and the City. In London, they used to be called Sloane Rangers.

Here are the rest of the pages, all of which are double-sided unless specified otherwise.

Party Time (3). Room for guest list, budget, menu, drinks, and so on.

Home Sweet Home (1). Gas, Electric, Window Cleaner information, and so on.

Pet Information (1).

Sports and Clubs (2). Because we all have a personal trainer or two and belong to sports teams, don't we?

Budget Sheet (4). Here's where you can compare what you planned to spend on each category with what you actually spent.

SOS (1). Medical and other emergency info. It's printed with England's emergency number, 999. In the U.S., it's 911.

Travel Itinerary (4). Flight, Visa, Hotel, and Travel Agent info.

Dilemmas (4). A 2-column worksheet for comparing the pros and cons of situations. Let's see, would that be whether to go to an art gallery opening or get a mani-pedi?

Birthdays and Anniversaries (2 sets). I love this one! Each month gets a half-page to help you remember all the important dates in the lives of the people in your life.

Expenses (4). With this kind of lifestyle, you'll probably have more expenses than this.

www (3). When you hear about a website that you want to visit the next time you're at a computer, now you have a place to write it down.

It's a chore (4). A chart for dividing tasks among roommates or family members. We used to call these "caper charts" in the Girl Scouts.

Shopping list (8). Like the classic Filofax shopping lists, these are divided into Meat/fish, Canned, Fruit/veg, Clothes, and so on.

Addresses (10). Mobile and email in addition to the basics. Reserve a tab for these, because the Lifestyle Pack contains no A-Z tabs.

To Do (5).

Blank and ruled notepaper (5 of each). Nice blocks for a subject and page number at the top.

Commuter games (5 assorted). In case your BlackBerry or iPod breaks down on the train, you won't die of boredom. Variations on "Battleship," Naughts and Crosses (Tic Tac Toe), Squares (which I forget how to play), and Tea Time (a word game which I believe to be what we Yanks call Hangman – you have to guess the opponent's word letter-by-letter before a drawing of a tea kettle is completed).

Top Takeaways (2). Who has time to cook when you're playing Naughts and Crosses?

Outfit Planner (3). These pages have a drawing of a mannequin to draw clothes upon. I used to do this all the time...when I was 9. These pages also have a place to record the dates of your beauty treatments.

Personal M.O.T. (2). Not sure what the letters stand for, except that the first one is probably "Medical." It's a medical appointment and medication record, with places to record weight and body measurements, and sleep patterns on the flip side.

[Edit: Steve tells me that M.O.T. is an annual automobile inspection in England. So these pages are like an M.O.T. for the body!]

Fitness Plan (2). Exercise, location, time, and calories burned. Very useful, except you get enough for 4 workouts!

Here's the piece de resistance: the Little Black Book. Ingeniously, this is enclosed in a piece of heavier paper, twice as wide as the Personal paper, folded back on itself, so that the organizer's rings keep it closed and private! It even has "Shhhh" printed on the front. Inside, you get to record a prospect's name and age and whether he's "Friend," "Fling," or "Marriage Material," as well as rate him on a scale of 1-10 stars. (No wonder you have to keep it hidden.)

From here on, the traditional Filofax begins. There's an 18-month calendar (July 2009 - Dec 2010), Notable Dates, Religious Festivals, International Information, World and Time, and so on.

Then there's the 18-month diary: week on 2 pages, with the week on one page and spaces for tasks and notes on the other. Some of the blocks are labeled live, play, and work. I'm interested in seeing what it's like to use this format.

I've added some scans to the [1]Philofaxy set, but they're not very clear. You can tell from the scans how faint the type is.

Marcus (2009-08-24 07:54:46)

I am waiting for delivery of my Personal size City Dweller pack. I studied its contents in detail on the Filofax site (3D viewer link on this page <http://www.filofax.co.uk/lifestyle/lifestyle.asp?fld=1>) and remain unconvinced that it will completely suit my needs. It's interesting enough for me to want to give it a try. Time will tell though.

I am particularly interested in the three-section calendar pages, split into work, live, play columns. It's a neat mechanism to address the work-life balance that supposedly challenges all city dwellers.

I will remove, amongst others, the Little Black Book and Outfit Planner sections entirely. I do not fall into the Carrie Bradshaw demographic.

As Nan noted, the pages have a different design to the traditional Filofax stationery. I wonder how this will all look when older stationery is inevitably mixed in with the new look lifestyle pages. (No sign of replacement lifestyle pack stationery on the Filofax web site yet.) What happens when you run out of Outfit Planner pages? :)

It is an interesting departure from Filofax's traditional approach that sells individual components of a planner's paperwork to augment the basic stationery set you get when buying a new planner. Clearly their market research indicates growth potential in the SITC (or SITC wannabe) demographic, and the City Dweller lifestyle pack is a direct response to this. I wish them well, but also wish they had offered a pick-and-choose option among these pages so that I did not have to purchase sections that will be immediately removed. How much do you think I could sell the Outfit Planner and Little Black Book sections for on eBay?? :)

(This is my first post. I've been a lurker for some time and thought I should make a contribution for a change. Great blog. Thanks.)

Steve (2009-08-24 08:26:21)

Hi Marcus

I enquired with Filofax back in July about buying individual pages for the 'lifestyle' packs.

Their response is in this post:

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/07/lifestyle-packs.html>

Otherwise, I suspect it wouldn't be too difficult to create your own, a bit fiddly for Personal size, but not impossible....

Steve

Steve (2009-08-26 12:35:29)

There's also a review on this site as well:

<http://www.thedailydust.co.uk/2009/08/26/the-family-lifestyle-filofax-pack/>

Steve

Laurie (2009-08-27 02:52:54)

I'm still waiting for my personal size Family Pack from the UK. I got this year's A5 Family pack from the US, but wanted to try the Personal size (which, so far, is not available in the US). I'll be sure to let you all know when it arrives!

Laurie (2009-08-27 11:22:51)

I am extremely disappointed to report that my envelope from Filofax UK arrived today. Opened and empty. This is the third time over a period of about 2 years of ordering from Filofax UK that my envelope has arrived opened and empty. I emailed Filofax UK to report the problem. I told them I realize that they have no control over what happens to my order once it has been shipped, but I just wanted to let them know that this has been an ongoing problem for me.

Grrrr! Now somebody else out there is enjoying my Family Organizer pack!!! >:(

Steve (2009-08-27 14:59:20)

I don't think they seal the envelopes well enough, even mine here in UK arrived opened, but luckily with the contents intact.. but a couple of wrong items which they exchanged without question or cost to me.

Laurie (2009-08-28 02:23:06)

The previous two times, the envelopes had been cut open (jagged edges and all). This time, it had been carefully opened and taped closed. I am still waiting for a reply from Filofax UK. Of course there is no way to tell where it was opened. Maybe UK mail isn't as secure as US mail? Maybe they were opened at Customs? Who knows. It definitely puts me off ordering from Filo UK again.

Laurie (2009-08-28 05:10:55)

I am pleased to report that Filofax UK has replied to my email and will ship the replacement products right away. That was actually a very prompt reply, since I emailed them at the end of their business day yesterday and they replied at the beginning of their business day today. I thanked them for their excellent customer service. I hope my replacement products arrive intact!!!

geew67 (2009-08-31 15:14:00)

I recently emailed Filofax asking them about the availability of the Lifestyle pack diary after the one in the pack runs out, I was told the diaries will be available to purchase separately and will run from Jan to December. Hope this helps.

From the Web - Monday 24th August (2009-08-24 17:25) - Steve

Spotted on the web this week:

- [1]Ideal car for Filofax users? - A test drive of the Volvo V50
- [2]Flax Pen to Paper in Westwood - Filofax stockists amongst other things...
- [3]Brand Values - Passport to prosperity
- [4]A hiding to nothing (in tan) - Life and Style - Celebrating 75 years of Filofax
- [5]A decade since its heyday - An article from the late 1990's
- [6]Graces Guide - A history of the Filofax

I hope you enjoy reading these articles.

1. <http://www.dublinpeople.com/content/view/2259/61/>

2. <http://www.examiner.com/x-5410-LA-Stationery-and-Paper-Examiner%7Ey2009m8d20-Flax-Pen-to-Paper-in-Westwood>

3. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/1999/nov/27/1>

4. <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/a-hiding-to-nothing-in-tan-1146278.html>

5. <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/a-decade-since-its-heyday-and-75-years-since-its-creation-can-filofax-keep-up-with-the-digital-diary-revolution-13359.html>

6. http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/wiki/Norman_and_Hill

Laurie (2009-08-26 02:30:35)

These are great! Wow it's too bad I missed out on that limited edition Filofax, that would have been really nice.

Offer on A4 Folders (2009-08-28 04:54) - Steve



[1]

If you want to buy a Filofax A4 Conference Folder, there is a big discount offer on them at the moment Go to: [2]<http://www.filofax.co.uk/> and at the check out put in promo code fxccf The price drops to a low £30

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SpecA7AlFdI/AAAAAAAAAEic/7xvOK7C5WlA/s1600-h/folders.jpg

2. http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/businessdetails.asp?catId=10&productId=260&utm_source=FFlist&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=classicimg&utm_campaign=Aug09&MailoutID=737&UserID=101440&DataTable=737_1

Free for All Friday No. 41 (2009-08-28 07:29) - Nan



[1]

By request, this week's suggested topic is digital pens.

For example, there's the new [2]Logitech io2 digital pen. With this pen, and special paper, you can write or draw on paper and see your works appear on your computer screen. The paper has a pattern of tiny dots, which is how the pen knows what you're writing.

What's this got to do with Filofax? Filofax makes paper (called Anoto) for its A5 organizers that works with the Logitech (and also Nokia) digital pens. It lets you create a computerized duplicate of what you write in your Filofax.

Has anyone tried it?

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_H4Rx8LSaPk/SpfES9x3fyI/AAAAAAAAAJQ/3Q7JeSAMYBI/s1600-h/logitech_pen.jpg

2. <http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/172/1560&cl=us,en>

Francesca (2009-08-28 12:31:30)

Thanks so much for posting this - I recently bought this exact pen, and it is WONDERFUL. I'd be so interested to know if anyone else uses a similar tool and how they use it.

I do a lot of academic writing and I always struggle to start a new book on a blank Word page on the screen. There's something much more...organic about writing on paper, seeing all the crossings out and scribbled notes in the margin. However, up until now this has led to double the work, having to type it all up on the computer later to send off to the editor. This pen has changed my life! I write on the Filofax paper, and it transfers it very successfully onto the screen as soon as I get home. (This has the added bonus of being able to write whenever inspiration strikes, regardless of whether I have my laptop with me.)

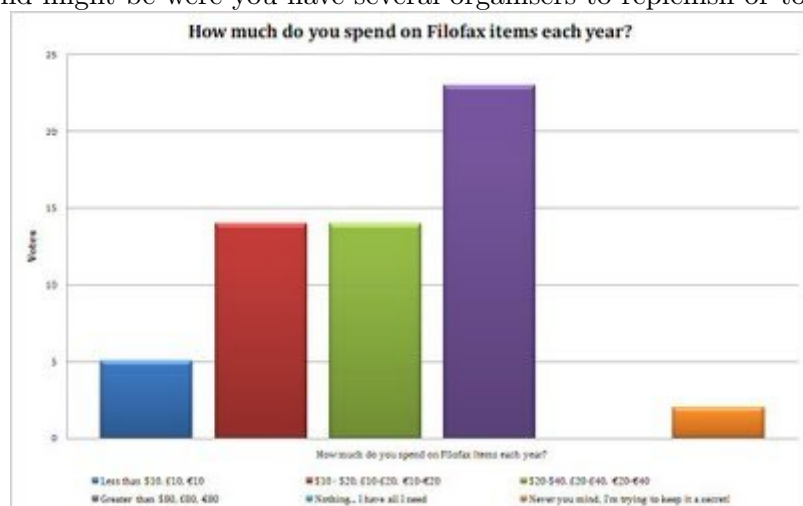
I also use this paper for my most important pages in the Filofax - this way I will always have an electronic back up of the most sensitive info, so if the worst happened and Filo went missing, there wouldn't be too much of a panic.

Best thing about it - it cost £20 on Ebay for a brand new pen and all the trimmings! What a bargain!
Anyone else?

Poll Result - How much do you spend on Filofax each year? (2009-08-30 01:20) - Steve

Firstly thank you to everyone who took part in the poll. We ran it just for curiosity really. When you look at the results, I don't think there are any big surprises really.

The lowest you might spend is on a new diary insert and may be some replacement pages. The higher spend might be were you have several organisers to replenish or to buy additional ones.



[1] Click on the chart to see a full size version.

If you have any ideas about future polls do let us know.

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SpMrR2ryoI/AAAAAAAAAEq0/gsMv1Kd8aK8/s1600-h/Image1.jpg

Laurie (2009-08-31 02:47:23)

Wow we are a spendy bunch! I guess it was to be expected though, on a website for people who love Filofaxes. (I have to admit I was in the high-spender category too!)

Concreteman (2009-09-02 12:48:10)

I must be most thrifty. Home made inserts, photocopied and hole punched!

Filofax sighting: Russian Dolls (2009-08-31 08:01) - Laurie

I recently saw the movie Russian Dolls, and was pleasantly surprised to see what looked like a well-used Filofax being used, all too briefly, by the main character Xavier. He also used Moleskine notebooks at various times throughout the movie. Perhaps most fascinating was during a scene where he was on the phone, he needed to write down a date. He opened his Filofax, which had nested inside it a small

Moleskine notebook, and it was inside the Moleskine that he wrote the date! I wanted to pause the movie and have a conversation with Xavier about how exactly he uses his Filofax and his Moleskine together! And perhaps most fascinating, as he flipped through his Filo, there were several pages with obvious writing on them but of course I couldn't tell what was written. I'm even fascinated by movie prop Filos! In case you have never heard of Russian Dolls, it is the sequel to the movie [1]L'Auberge Espagnole, which I also liked very much.

I know there must be many more movies where a Filofax makes an appearance. Of course there is the legendary movie "Filofax" (which I think was called something like Taking Care of Business in the US) that has been discussed on this blog several times. Also a year or two ago there was a movie, I think the title was 27 Dresses, where the main character relies on, and loses, her Filofax.

What other movies/ films do you know of where a Filofax makes an appearance?

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27Auberge_espagnole

Steve (2009-08-31 09:24:14)

An old TV series on BBC TV called Only Fools and Horses, featuring David Jason as 'Del Boy Trotter' sort of an East End of London 'Trader' was seen using a Filofax, but this was a prop more than any thing else and it was in the late 1980's the era of the Yuppie.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6XyjDLuc_8

Steve (2009-08-31 11:57:49)

How about songs.... The Righteous Mothers did a song back in 2002, called 'Please Don't Bury me with My Filofax'

I've only heard the 30 second preview on iTunes, it's not in my collection!

Steve

J. Mark Bertrand (2009-08-31 13:29:08)

The first season of the French crime series "Engrenages" ("Spiral" in the UK) prominently features a pink A5 Filofax, either a Classic or Cross. It's the murder victim's diary, full of contact info for wealthy and politically prominent clients, and it gets plenty of air time.

1.9 September

Free For All Friday No. 42 (2009-09-04 01:19) - Steve

The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything...42 or in our case Everything Filofax....

So it feels like Summer is nearly over, the sun is setting earlier in the evenings... let's hear from you.

Laurie (2009-09-05 01:29:41)

The sun is starting to shift position in the sky, and the sun setting earlier is just barely noticeable. It's still 90 degrees outside and is predicted to be hot for all of September! I am ready for the hot weather to end.

Nan (2009-09-05 08:57:47)

The sun is setting earlier here, too, and the moon is getting bigger and brighter. In the U.S. and Canada, Monday is the Labor Day holiday, and this weekend is the symbolic last weekend of summer.

But summer doesn't really end until the autumnal equinox, 9/22/09. Says so right in my Filofax.

So, how do you know when the autumnal equinox is? Here's a good website I found:
<http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/september-equinox.html>

Recycling - FeuerWear Perry Personal Organiser (2009-09-04 17:01) - Steve



[1] Alison and I are in the middle of trying to move house from UK to France... long story for another time and place... But whilst sorting out our clutter that has accumulated over the last twenty odd years of living here, we have been trying to recycle or [2]Freecycle as much as possible.

So imagine my surprise the other day when I received a press release from [3]FeuerWear for a Filofax organiser made out of recycled fire hose! But with a genuine Filofax insert with the usual fill:

- Calendar
- Address book with index tabs.
- Notepaper
- Finances
- To-Do lists
- World Map
- Ruler
- Business Card Holder
- Penloop
- Multicoloured note paper
- Website directory
- 2 document compartments.

The organiser is in standard Personal size with the usual standard 6-ring mechanism.

Each organiser is unique in its own way, because the hose used for the cover is labelled to identify each length, so no two organisers will be quite the same. One thing is for certain it will be hard wearing, having already been put to good use saving lives somewhere.

They also make a variety of bags and accessories from recycled fire hose. [4]FeuerWear have distributors in different countries around the world as well as an on-line shop on their website. See the website for full details.

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SqGFT3BApQI/AAAAAAAAAE_s/YExC5xCLpiA/s1600-h/perry.jpg

2. <http://www.freecycle.org/>

3. <http://www.feuerwear.com/>

4. <http://www.feuerwear.com/>

The Num Num (2009-09-04 19:01:37)

using an a4 bond - its great but needs some magic pockets for smaller paper and cards.
years of a5 and personal have left me missing a full page folio

Laurie (2009-09-05 01:31:05)

This looks like a very cool organizer and is a sure way to have a truly unique item. And I imagine it would be a great conversation starter when you pull out this organizer and open it up to jot down a date!

Nan (2009-09-05 09:16:34)

It does look really cool. I love the idea of giving something new life in this way.

Oni (2009-09-06 13:39:56)

It looks fantastic! Once it's available in the Pocket size, I will seriously consider getting one :)

From the Web - Monday 7 September 2009 (2009-09-07 17:26) - Steve

Monday night is when Google emails me it's latest finds from the Interweb, it searches out any new articles and sites that feature 'Filofax' in them in the last week. Some oddities, some not worth reporting. But this week is the usual mixed bag...enjoy

- [1]The final days of the K-12 posse - How a Filofax records your child's journey through school
- [2]Filofaxes have their uses - From the Centre Managers Desk
- [3]Creative Filofax - Something a little different from normal

1. <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-smith5-2009sep05,0,1574194.story>
2. <http://centcompcare.wordpress.com/2009/09/07/filofaxes-have-their-uses/>
3. <http://wwwmycraftycorner.blogspot.com/2009/09/creative-filofax.html>

D (2009-09-07 18:28:40)

Loved reading these, especially the final days of the K-12 posse. My baby (she'd die if she knew I called her that) will be graduating and leaving the nest this spring. I am already sad! It is probably good that I didn't use a Filofax until several years ago, because somehow I can see myself sitting and reading them over and over again, while crying of course, after she leaves.

Oni (2009-09-07 19:19:14)

I just checked out the Creative Filofax post. I cannot believe her husband works at a place where they *throw away* Filofaxes!!! IT'S INSANE!!

Quick, we need to get hold of that company's name and apply for a job there, even if it's just as the cleaning lady in charge of getting *-ehem-* 'rid' of those 'nasty' Filos!

:)

Laurie (2009-09-08 03:08:19)

These articles are great! I love looking back through my old Filofax pages in their little storage binders. It's like a time capsule of my life that year.

Oni, you are right!! How can anyone possibly throw away a Filofax!?

Steve, how do you get Google to email you topic-based websites like this? I'm so non-technological it's embarrassing.

What makes a truly great diary? (2009-09-08 14:50) - Steve

I'm not a great diary/journal writer. I start off with the best of intentions to write something every day and then it fizzles out, or I only record none routine events in any week. I'm not going to attempt to make any excuses... it's just one more thing to do I suppose.

I came across my diary from 1987/88 that I kept quite well. It was at the time when my son was born. So it made interesting reading. Back then I used to commute to London each day so I guess I had more time to kill on the journey. It was also the first year of having a Filofax.

On the BBC website today there is an article about the late Alan Clark, a former MP. Who was quite a character. He had his diaries published and they became best sellers.

Here's a link to the article on the [1]BBC website.

So what do you record in your diary?

1. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8237866.stm>

Laurie (2009-09-11 07:45:06)

I have written in diaries/ journals for years. When I was younger I wrote journals full of my feelings, thoughts, and plans. Later when I traveled and started living overseas, my journals were filled with what I did and places I went. When each of my children were born I started a journal for each of them detailing cute things they did, and later said, as they grew from babies to kids.

This is my second year in a row using a large day per page diary as my journal. My younger self would have scoffed at having *only ONE* page per day! But now that I am home all day with two small children, one page is all I have the time or energy to fill. I have found though that almost always, one page is enough to describe even my busiest days. Every now and then it spills over onto the next day's page. I write what we did that day, what the weather was that day, cute things the kids did and said (to transfer to their respective journals later), and whatever else I want to remember about the day. It makes a great record of my life overseas while my kids are small.

Laurie (2009-09-11 07:48:04)

I meant to add, what I like about the day per page format is that if I don't write that day, I can go back and fill it in later. And, it doesn't prevent me from writing in subsequent days. Back when I used a blank book, if I didn't write for a few days I would have a backlog. With the dated day per page diary, I can wait until I have the time to sit and fill in the details of a particular day, and still write in the days since then.

kanalt (2009-09-11 09:19:54)

I have a separate journal from my Filo, which I use to write things that I have done and/or feelings about different events in my life. I do not write in it every day, mainly because there doesn't seem to be enough time. I do make time at least once a week to write in it. But sometimes it's hard to remember everything I want to write about though, getting to it (most times) only once a week. This is why I keep a running list of topics and ideas in my Filo for things that I want to write about in detail. It comes in handy to look back at my list so I can document the events of my life.

As for what I keep track of in my Filo - mainly I keep track of appointments and daily/weekly to-dos as well as various lists. One of my coworker's husband has a day planner where he keeps track of every single thing he's done in a day - if he didn't feel well, things he's done with the kids, people he's met with for work, etc. This proved to be handy when he had health complications and could look back to determine exactly when he started to feel bad. This is something that would come in handy for myself too (not just for health reasons, but for anything really), but the week-per-two-pages layout doesn't allow for this much information. After having read Laurie's comment though, it's something I'm considering.

Nan (2009-09-17 21:55:46)

I started keeping a journal as a child...after seeing *The Homecoming*, and reading books like *Harriet the Spy* and *I Capture the Castle*, all of which dealt with budding writers who kept journals. I used composition books or spiral bound notebooks. I'm the type that can't write in anything fancy. It sort of paralyzes my creativity.

I've gotten better on that front, though, and a few years ago used gilt-edged, refillable journals from Exacompta. When I began using an A5 Filo for most of my work, I decided that compatibility was important. If I'm carrying this huge organizer, I don't want to have to carry my journal, too. I wanted the Filo pages and journal pages to be the same size so I can transfer them from one book to the other.

I've found Miquelrius A5 spiral notebooks to be the ideal solution. I can keep my journal in a Miquelrius, but write the odd journal entry on Filo paper and later slip it into the notebook. Or if my journal is handy, I can write something on a page that will eventually make it into my Filo.

Nan (2009-09-17 21:57:15)

Laurie, I really like the way you're using the daily pages. It sounds like the amount of space is just right, and they're going to be so precious someday!

Free For All Friday 43 (2009-09-11 03:34) - Laurie

Fall always seems to be the busiest time of the year for me. Even when nobody in my family is in school, fall is always busy with events and one holiday after another!

How are you using your Filofax to plan everything you have going on in these last few months of 2009?

Steve (2009-09-11 15:29:56)

A funny thing the English language! It wasn't until I started receiving a news letter sent out by Bruce Hornsby back in the 1990's that I learnt what 'Fall' meant.

Over here we call it Autumn, but of course it means the same thing... Fall as in the fall of the autumn leaves!

I'm learning a new language as well as French!!

kanalt (2009-09-12 15:41:07)

I am in the process of setting up my 2010 pages - it's hard to find the time to really work on them though...

For all of those who use color pens for various events: I just picked up the new Sharpie pens (in the US) and so far, so good - very little bleed-through on the Filofax diary pages. They come in all of the colors I need/use: blue, black, red, green, purple and orange. They're sold in one package for about \$10. They also sell a set of blue, black, red and green for those who don't need the other two colors (for about \$8). You can find them at Office Max or Staples, probably Office Depot as well. And they're skinny enough to fit into the Domino pen loop, which is a little more flexible than other pen loops. I tried it in my Classic pen loop as well - it may fit if I force it, but I'd rather not do that, so I can't say for sure...

Steve (2009-09-13 12:45:03)

With the change of seasons, comes a change in TV programming, Having just this week seen the end of The Wire on BBC TV (which was excellent...) I can now get to watch some of the better programmes being shown in the Autumn.

Although I don't watch many hours of TV per week, I like to make sure that I don't miss any gems on TV. So I set aside a few minutes at the start of the week to note down in my Filofax the times and channels of some of the programmes I would like to watch/record in the week.

Silver_Elixir (2009-09-16 20:38:58)

I was looking around online and found this site that has a lot of printable pages that might be useful for someone! Its at www.eprintablecalendars.com take a look!

Filofax is everywhere.... (2009-09-15 15:26) - Steve

Filofax might have been around a long time, so yes you might expect it to be 'everywhere'. But I'm really referring to the 'on-line world'

This blog is an obvious place to start and the sites we have links to on the site. But I keep discovering new places on the web where people interested in Filofax gather and share their thoughts and ideas. Some are a little more active than other places.

So here are a selection:

- [1]Flickr Philofaxy Group - Pictures galore!
- [2]Facebook - Facebook Filofax Groups
- [3]Facebook - Facebook Filofax Pages
- [4]LinkedIn - Filofax Group
- [5]Twitter - Filofax UK on Twitter
- [6]Twitter - Philofaxy on Twitter
- [7]YouTube - Yes on YouTube too!
- [8]Yahoo Groups - Yahoo email group

Did I miss any? Copy your links in to the comments

Thanks

1. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/40748476@N00/>

2. <http://www.facebook.com/search/?q=filofax&init=quick#/search/?flt=1&q=filofax&o=69&sid=701705570.185897296..1>

3. <http://www.facebook.com/search/?q=filofax&init=quick#/search/?flt=1&q=filofax&o=65&sid=701705570.185897296..1>

4. http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=112125&trk=hb_side_g

5. http://twitter.com/Filofax_UK

6. <http://twitter.com/philofaxy>

7. http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=filofax&search_type=&aq=f

8. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/filofax/>

YM (2009-09-16 09:25:33)

Now what we need is a Filofax dating site!

"Eton Personal seeks LTR with tall dark & handsome A5..."

Steve (2009-09-17 14:41:08)

YM loved your comment....

The name is Bond... Filofax Bond.. I'm bulging and over burdened with pages, but would consider losing a few pages for the right binder !!!!

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?display= &sizeId=3 &rangeId=128 &dsizeId=3>

Steve

Nan (2009-09-17 21:21:28)

LOL!

Filofax Time Capsules (2009-09-17 10:31) - Laurie

In various posts we have talked about archiving used Filofax pages in storage binders, shoe boxes, and envelopes. Every year I put all of my calendar pages and other pages pertaining to that year in a storage binder, which I label with the year. Looking back through each binder is like revisiting that time in my life. There is nothing like seeing the daily minutiae of your former life to help you remember what your life was like back then.

But recently on Flickr, I came across a quote that made me think beyond storage binders, and instead using your entire Filofax as storage for that year. NHgrl on Flickr was discussing her older Filofaxes and said, "I confess the planners not in use anymore still have the old pages in them from when I stopped using them!! They are sort of like time capsules."

This is an interesting idea to me. Normally I use my Filofax binders from year to year, if not actively as my planner then for some use or another. But, I do have one planner binder that is similar to NHgrl's "time capsule" Filofaxes. Way back in the day when I was using a Cambridge version of a Filofax personal size binder, I abandoned it for something else, then eventually bought my first Filofax. I still have the Cambridge, and sometimes I like to look through it to remember what my life was like at that time (as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal). It is indeed a time capsule. In it are the addresses of the most important people in my life at the time. Most of those friends I am no longer in contact with. In it are lists, notes, and my daily planner. It's fascinating now to remember what I was thinking during that time, what my day to day life was like, and how I envisioned my future plans (which are now long past!). During that time I filled many books with my journal writings about my impressions of the country, what I thought my role was or ought to be, people I met, all the usual stuff. But a look inside my planner gives a different view. It's not the musings of my mind. It's the nuts and bolt of each day, the business side of my life.

Inside that binder are things other than the pages themselves that give clues about what was important to me. Inside the front cover was a photo of my sister, who I missed terribly. Other scraps of paper and small random things now speak volumes.

Has anyone else preserved a Filofax, or other planner, in its entirety and kept it intact after you stopped using it? Do you ever look back through it?

YM (2009-09-17 15:50:51)

My mother passed away 2 years ago from cancer. I have her planner (a Dayrunner, but who's keeping track) from the final year of her life and I treasure it.

As you mentioned, it contains the "nuts and bolts" of her last year on this earth. Her handwriting, occasionally her doodles as she was jotting down notes from Dr's phone calls, the flowery-themed inserts she chose.

After she first died I thought about storing the contents and using her planner as my own. But the more I thought about it, the more I decided to just leave it be as a reminder of when she was still here...

Michele (2009-09-17 20:18:47)

I have an orange pocket size dorset stuffed in a drawer that I used for about 5 years and has my son's early drawings on the inserts and one of his first handwritten notes to me. Even though I don't use the pocket size anymore, I still refer to addresses in it every now and then.... I bought the filofax sticker set and thought of how easy to read over the pages once they're archived away.

Nan (2009-09-17 21:28:52)

For much of the 1990s, I used a personal-size DayRunner organizer (their name for this size was RunningMate, which I thought was really cute). One Christmas my brother gave me a Coach leather binder in the same size. In 1995, I abandoned this size and for the next few years used A5 size in FranklinCovey. I took the Personal size and tossed out any unused pages, just keeping the ones I had written something on. I used PalmPilots from about 1999 until 2006, when I went back to paper. I found that 1995 Coach organizer in a shoebox with a few years' worth of used calendars and other pages.

The most interesting thing was seeing which of the goals I had written down I actually accomplished or exceeded in the intervening years, which I'm still trying and failing miserably at, and which were just random fantasies that are no more relevant now than they were then.

kanalt (2009-09-18 09:18:51)

Inky, I'd love to see both the RunningMate and the Coach binders. =)

Laurie (2009-09-19 03:14:59)

YM, so sorry about your mom. I can't imagine how precious her planner is to you, to have that link to her. I'm glad you've kept it.

Free for All Friday No. 44 (2009-09-18 00:01) - Nan

In my part of the world, the days are getting shorter. Today, when I left the house to walk to the train station, it was dark, and it was dark again on my way home.

Do you ever refer to the charming "The World and Time" page that comes in every Filo? It's certainly true to the "fax" part of Filofax!

Do you note the passage of seasons or other astronomical data in your diary?

Rubbishbin (2009-09-18 05:40:20)

Hi,

Came across your site because I'm looking for the dimensions of the A5 Filofax Punch. Some one is selling a second hand Filofax punch but they don't say which size it's for - they just say that it's 17cm long. Can you help please??

Thanks so much

Steve (2009-09-18 12:00:44)

Hi Rubbishbin

That isn't a Filofax A5 punch they are 205 mm in length. I suspect it's a Personal size one.

Have you got a link to the advert?

Steve

Rubbishbin (2009-09-18 14:19:46)

Hi,

Thanks for the info. A link to the advert wouldn't help as it's in Swedish :)

I found a local Swedish company that makes an adjustable punch - it's a bit cheaper than the Filofax one, so I think I'll go with that

Have a great weekend.

Steve (2009-09-18 14:27:59)

OK pleased you have found something. There is also this one:

http://www.msystem.com/6_hole_Punch_p/a57300.htm

Not seen it outside of the US though...

Steve

Sara's Creations (2009-09-19 20:06) - Nan

DIYSara, creator of the beautifully illustrated blog at [1]<http://diysara.wordpress.com/>, is a fan of all things Filofaxy, inky, and notebooky and has created some [2]DIY Planner templates. The most interesting for us are the ones in Classic and A5 sizes, which will fit in the A5 Filo.

1. <http://diysara.wordpress.com/>

2. <http://diysara.wordpress.com/my-creations-diyplanner-templates/>

diysara (2009-09-20 18:18:15)

Thank you for the kind words and link to my blog ♥

Take care and be well.

Michele (2009-09-22 07:28:53)

I'm completely brand new to blogging, etc. I only discover "Philofaxy" two weeks ago, and I'm hooked. Fellow Filofax Fans!!! Diysara's blog is a delight to read ;-).

Steve (2009-09-22 13:50:50)

Welcome to the blog Michele. Looks like you have been on the London Eye. Must do that myself oneday...

We appreciate the comments and feedback.

Many thanks

Regards

Steve

Happy Equinox! (2009-09-22 01:28) - Laurie

Today is the day when the entire world enjoys 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. Starting tomorrow, those of us in the northern hemisphere have shorter and shorter days until the shortest day of the year, the winter solstice, in December.

Every year we have friends over to enjoy "fire, meat and alcohol" (beers and meat on the grill) to mark the event. It's a good excuse to grill out with friends while the weather is still good. But also I like to notice the annual cycle of seasons and light.

In many places, equinox indicates the beginning of fall (or, if you live very far north, the onset of winter). No matter what the temperature, the shortening days and lower-angle sunlight certainly feel fall-like this time of year, and reminds me that winter is coming.

Is autumn in full swing where you live, or is it starting to feel winter-like already?

Do you recognize the equinox, or celebrate it?

Silver_Elixir (2009-09-22 06:07:41)

I live in Australia and it is actually getting warmer here, and warmer than normal for September. My Mum usually tells me when the longest and shortest days of the year are, but we don't celebrate them. It's just good to be getting more daylight hours. I think we are going to be in a long hot dry summer.

Michele (2009-09-22 06:22:25)

I live on Long Island, NY and Fall is in full swing on the east end with the corn mazes, pumpkin patches, mums for sale. I love the change in season and mark the time of the changeover (5:18 this afternoon) in my filofax. I love the renewal of the day by putting away all the spring/summer clothes and refreshing my closet. It's a special "filofax" day today as my colleague at work accidentally ordered a personal rather than pocket red Finsbury, so I'm going to buy it from her and use as my work journal.

kanalt (2009-09-22 17:47:14)

I too live on the eastern end of Long Island, NY and am starting to see the leaves change colors. It seems a bit earlier than usual this year, perhaps brought on by the rainy and cool start to summer we had here. I don't usually mark the equinox in any specific way, but Fall is my favorite time of year and October my favorite month and one of my busiest. I have so many upcoming events that my Filo is stuffed with great fall happenings! Time will fly by between now and the end of the year and with the holidays coming up, my Filo will be more important and useful than ever, housing all of the lists and plans I will need.

Steve (2009-09-22 18:01:12)

I'm also watching the colours of the leaves change, they make such lovely photographs.
I will note down key dates in my Filo for next year, so I can compare the seasons

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-09-22 18:06:30)

It's my son's birthday today - I never realised that he was born on the day of the Equinox!! Thanks for that information :)

We've had cake to celebrate :-D Not quite the "fire, meat and alcohol" you've had.

I'm in the UK so we're experiencing odd weather here at the moment. It's quite mild although the temperature drops quite drastically and quite suddenly at times.

Narcissa (2009-09-23 02:19:40)

I'm from Finland and I'm already depressed thinking about the darkness that awaits me in November and December (21st of December the sunrise is at 9:24 AM and sunset at 15:13 PM). It gets better when we get permanent snow cover usually in late December, then I can walk my dogs again in the woods and see just fine no matter how late it is.

To get this back to Filo talk, I usually write down the sunrise and sunset times in my Filo, and especially in the Spring I note them every day and celebrate every minute of sunlight we gain :)

jean67 (2009-09-23 08:16:34)

a new season .un new Filofax which I always use with as much pleasure

Excuse me if my English is not perfect, I apply, but as French I have progress to make

Steve (2009-09-23 12:33:52)

If you would like to know the sunrise and sunset times for anywhere on the globe, take a look at:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/sunrise.html>

You can put in your location and get the details for the next month.

This site has lots of other useful information as well, so worth bookmarking.

Steve

Nan (2009-09-23 21:33:32)

Wow...we have quite a representation of the world here! Australia, New York, England, Finland, France...

Where I live, Boston, is similar in climate to where Michele and Kanalt are. Lots of mums and pumpkins here, too! I just noticed some leaves changing for the first time today, although the temperature was 80F (27C), warmer than usual for this time of year for us.

I love all the rituals you have...cleaning out the closet, "fire, meat, and alcohol," writing down the sunrise and sunset times...

Congratulations to everyone who's celebrating the season with a new Filofax!

New Time, New Channel (2009-09-23 21:39) - Nan

Not all uses of a Filofax are grand and noble.

We've been talking a lot about the changing of the seasons. Lately, I've been mostly using my Filo to note the premieres of new TV seasons. I look forward to TV more, and watch less, when I plan what shows I want to watch and when. Writing down the show's start time also helps motivate me to complete my chores before the show starts.

For the curious, the shows I'm planning to watch are "House MD," "NCIS," "The Forgotten," "Flash Forward," and "Californication." I'll also watch just about anything with Gordon Ramsay!

Those of you who use your Filos to keep track of opera and ballet may now feel smugly superior.

USA Family Organizer available (2009-09-24 02:21) - Laurie

Hey everybody, I just got an email from Filofax USA that their Family Organizer is now available. Luckily they got it out earlier this year, last year it didn't come out until December, and I think by then most people (especially busy, plan-ahead parents who would be likely to buy this pack) had already bought their refills for the year.

Unlike the Fam Org packs in the UK, the US Fam Orgs only come in A5 size. I am assuming the other contents of the pack (worksheets etc) are similar.

The Filo US website is having a promotion on the Fam Orgs pre-packaged in an A5 binder. You can choose from Domino, Finchley or Finsbury in a variety of colors. When you buy one of these pre-packaged sets, you also get a free storage binder! Check it out [1]here.

1. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/page.asp?id=86>

Dodo Stickers! (2009-09-24 08:21) - Laurie

Okay, I admit I am bending the rules a bit to tell you about the new [1]Dodo Pad organizer stickers. But, by their own admission, the stickers may be used with "indeed any diary, organiser or calendar of your choice – [2]Lord Dodo, whilst he hopes you will stick to his produce, is happy for his artistic efforts to be applied far and wide across all manner of organisational tools." And, I feel that [3]Dodo Pad products officially entered the realm of Filofax when they introduced their [4]A5 Filofax compatible Dodo Pad planner inserts.

So enough of my justification, let's talk about how cool these stickers are! As we all know, we Philofaxers are [5]suckers for stickers. Where the Filofax stickers are understated, simple icons, the Dodo stickers are funny, fun, colorful and certainly eye-catching. Like all Dodo produce, they are highly functional and organizational, while at the same time reminding us not to take life too seriously (which I need to be reminded of frequently!). I can't wait to get my hands on them!

Lord Dodo has been generous enough to pass on to me a promotional code for Philofaxers everywhere. If you link to [6]www.dodopad.com from this website and spend more than £30.00 on Dodo Pad products (including tax but excluding any shipping charges) there is a code **09PF** that will work from today until midnight (UK time) on 31st October giving you a **10 %** discount! Dodo Pad ships within the UK and to the US, and I am assuming elsewhere too. Their customer service is superb, I'm sure if you phone or email to ask if they ship to your part of the world they would be happy to help!

Personally, I'll be ordering up some of these stickers as well as the A5 insert for my Finsbury. The merger of my Filofax with my Dodo Pad is, as Lord Dodo would say, "dodelightful!"

1. <http://www.dodopad.com/stickers/stickers.html>
 2. <http://www.dodopad.com/index.html>
 3. <http://www.dodopad.com/pages/produce.htm>
 4. <http://www.dodopad.com/dodofax/dodofax.html>
 5. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/08/organiser-stickers.html>
 6. <http://www.dodopad.com/>
-

Lord Dodo (2009-09-24 18:09:24)

Lord Dodo is most grateful to Philofaxy (and Laurie) for the opportunity to see his most marvellous wares enter the realm of the cool (Filofax). Stay cool and sophisticated on the outside and organise with a riot of fun and colour and witty amusement on the inside - just a thought! The stickers (just launched) are a lot of fun and cover all sorts - they may/will even get the kids helping to plan their own organizational stuff - like a sticker to show the start of the school term, another one for exams (and another for 'school's out'!). There are stickers for weddings, christenings, visits to the doctor or dentist, travel etc. etc. Enjoy!

Free For All Friday No. 45 (2009-09-25 00:01) - Steve

We regularly exchange details about what size or type of Filofax we own or use most.

But how do you carry your Filofax around with you? Pocket, Bag, in your hand? Tell us, post links to your pictures...

David (2009-09-25 14:53:43)

It depends on the Filofax:

The A5 stay on my desk 99 % of the time.

The Personal Filofax is my backpack, with my MacBook Pro 13", a Moleskine and a book :-)

jean67 (2009-09-25 16:52:53)

David it copied me. not, I laugh, I do not have yet of A5. but for the remainder it is similar

Michele (2009-09-25 19:07:05)

I carry in my pocketbook a black slimline finsbury, which I am constantly writing in. I have been keeping a cash in/cash out monthly budget sheet on cotton cream note paper for 10 years now so even if I spend \$5.00 on Sunday NYT it gets written into the slimline. I try to keep personal from business, so I needed a new business notebook and I was thinking about a Moleskin, but suddenly I acquired an unneeded Red Personal Finsbury, which I'm still trying to figure out how to use. I've never kept more than one filofax at a time (which is 16 years)! The Red Finsbury wouldn't be my first choice, as I love the Mustard Finchley, but I had no choice as my friend bought the wrong size so she gave the personal to me. One thing about the finsbury slimline - it lies flat!!!! So I'm new to this blog and guess what I did the last two nights?.... I read each and every post since the blog started!!! Not the comments - just the posts! (ok I did read all 29 on how everyone has set up their own filoxes)....

Vidya (2009-09-25 20:26:47)

The Finchley gets carried on my commute in my totebag, then sits at my right on my desk all day long. On Saturdays and evenings, I keep it on the left side of my desk and on Sundays, it gets the day off.

My little Lizell agenda/wallet is always in my purse. The coin pocket lining is disintegrating, but I don't want to give it up yet, even though I have two back ups I bought when Lizell was clearing out their stock. One day, I want to get a mini Finchley to go with the bigger one.

hidnseek (2009-09-26 17:42:29)

My A5 is the family calendar and file keeper and stays on the desk, at home, for everyone to check in with. My personal is my wallet and I carry it in my timbuk2 bag that also fits netbook, GPS, iphone and usually a kids toy, I am stuck carrying ;).

I have to be ready to geocache at anytime and place and I record those records and all else in the filofax.

I have post it notes to that I carry and will transfer to the other filo when needed.

by Ewan Spence (2009-09-28 12:21:07)

I've got the A5 here, and I do try to use it, but really everything (and I mean everything) is in the Personal. So that's ont he desk, in the bag, no matter where - that's the one.

gmax (2009-10-03 18:29:42)

My faithful black [1]Winchester binder, along with a rather utilitarian, slimline Richmond model that I use to list work "to do" items, travel to my office with me in a black leather laptop case made by (wait for it) Filofax. Not that I'm completely obsessed of course!

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/30775101@N04/2961743336/>

Oni (2009-10-03 19:52:51)

I carry my trusted Pocket Finsbury EVERYWHERE!!and before I go to sleep, I lay it open on my bedside table, so that I can see what I have to do the next day and ponder on it while waiting to fall asleep (not always), and

also for reading it first thing in the morning to know/remember what my tasks for that day are.
My other, relatively new, pocket (Urban) rests inside a drawer, until my next trip (it is my travel journal).

New Year's Resolutions! (2009-09-28 02:15) - Laurie

Hey everybody, how are those New Year's resolutions going? What, you ask? It's September! Nobody is thinking of New Year's resolutions. To which I reply: exactly. Because if you think about it, by now you have either achieved your resolutions, are still working on them, or have scrapped them entirely. So, which is it?

Let's take a look at my New Year's resolutions this year and see how I'm doing. I'll have a look in my trusty Filofax to review what exactly those were:

1) Stick to an exercise program. I have been off and on with this one. I was actually doing really well with it for a couple of months until this month with the simultaneous occurrence of my in-laws staying with us for two weeks and me having a rotten cold that I am still trying to get rid of. I have plans to get back with it soon!

2) Save X amount of dollars in my bank account. Welllll...this one hasn't been going as well as I expected. There have been several trips this year that I didn't foresee. They have all been good, and of course I love to travel. And I know where the money went. But, the bank account is definitely not where I hoped it would be by this time.

You get the idea so I won't bore you with the rest. Interestingly, looking back through my Filofax archives I discovered that I have had the same NYRs for the last 3 years now! Of course, they have mostly been ongoing-type things rather than distinct goals to achieve. I guess my lesson learned is that it's inevitable to get sidetracked during the year for various reasons, but I just have to get back at it and keep my goals in mind.

What were your New Year's resolutions this year? Do they tend to be ongoing things like eat healthier and exercise, or do you tend to set distinct goals to achieve such as complete degree, get promotion etc? How are you doing with those resolutions so far this year? Have any of them changed, or are no longer relevant to your current situation? And, are you thinking yet what your resolutions will be for this New Year?

Steve (2009-09-28 15:18:12)

I promised to try and keep my diary journal for more than just a few weeks.

Well I will admit to not recording something everyday, but I have recorded key events so far. My notes will all come in useful when we start putting together our Christmas Newsletter.

Michele (2009-09-29 07:30:52)

This year: Write resolutions in filofax, and check up on monthly basis to make sure I'm on track!

jean67 (2009-09-29 13:57:12)

completely in agreement with Michele

Oni (2009-10-03 19:59:45)

Well, I've never made any NYR, simply because I know I will forget about them after my fourth glass of wine on the 1st of January!!

What I do keep track of (both mental and Filo'ed) though, are all those things I've been able to achieve in the course of the year. I like to make a 'mental balance' about them when the year is over. It really boosts your self-esteem ;)

1.10 October

Free For All Friday No. 46 (2009-10-02 02:52) - Laurie

Wow!! I still cannot get over how gorgeous these new Filofaxes are that Steve has exclusively previewed below. I don't necessarily need a new Filo right now, but that snake-look one is really calling to me!! I wish I lived in the UK so I could take advantage of the beauty treatment vouchers!

This new offer from Filofax UK makes me realize that the gift season is rapidly approaching, and companies are coming out now with their holiday gift selections.

I keep a list in my Filofax all year of gift ideas for each person and occasions during the year, such as birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. In fact the Filofax Family Organizer has handy monthly pages just for this. That way when I am out and about and think of a gift idea for someone, I can jot it directly onto my list for future reference.

Do you already know what you are getting everyone for the holidays this year? Are you one of those organized people who has the gifts all sorted out well in advance, or do you tend to get it together at the last minute?

Or, if you can't bear to think about the holidays yet, just let us know what is new in your Filofax life these days!

kanalt (2009-10-02 07:48:10)

I too keep a running list in my Filo for gift ideas. I recently just added this year's Christmas list. I also keep a list of items that I am hoping for so that I have some ideas for other people when they ask. One of these items is another Filo, although I'm debating on which one. I don't know that anyone will actually want to get me one since I "have too many already." But we all know, you can never have enough.

In other news, I have some new projects coming up, so I revamped my sections, relabeling them and moving them around. And since we're already in to October, I have a desperate need to set up next year's pages, which I still haven't gotten to and really need to make time for.

Steve (2009-10-03 04:35:45)

Well the offer on the gift box has now been extended to Europe as well as UK. Although the vouchers are only valid for salons in UK. So please lets see your comments/responses...

The gift season... starting to think about it... it's my wife's birthday this month... I wonder if she would like a snake skin Filofax Gift Box with beauty vouchers....

Our heating kicked in for the first time this morning so the mornings are getting cooler here.

paulien (2009-10-03 10:24:29)

We put on our heating yesterday as well, and here in the netherlands the leaves are changing colour already.

I am not thinking about the holiday season yet, as I have a major conference to look forward to next week which will take me across the atlantic for the first time. It is in san diego, so the weather there will feel like summer wheather at home.

What I wanted to share with you is a thing I found on the internet, and which kind of relates to the recent post about resolutions. It is called 101 things in 1001 days, and it basically entails making a list of 101 things you want to do in the next 1001 days. This gives you a longer timeframe to finish the list, and 101 is a large enough number to include not only serious goals, but also some fun ones. I am planning to start tomorrow, and that means my end dat will be july 1 2012. Now I only need to find a way to track my progress, either in a separate notebook or in my new personal siena....

Michele (2009-10-04 19:51:24)

By mid November I have a list of whom I'm buying for as well as gift ideas. What I never seem to do, which I might try this year is a list of whom to send cards to. That way all cards are done in one sitting. Well it's been quite a Filo week. I decided I want to go pocket size for 2010 and keep my personal slimline size for work stuff only. As my first filo which was a dark green leather and lasted as my only filo for 10 years (don't faint readers) I decided I wanted to go with the Dark Green Panama. However, after trying both Amazon & Goldspot this week,

I've discovered the model is discontinued in the US. Thank God for my UK connections. I ordered thru the Filofax UK site, and my new filo is being delivered to a UK friend and then onto me when my other friend goes there later this month for business. With all this, I'm already planning in my head what I'm putting in the new filo.

kanalt (2009-10-04 22:45:56)

Michele - if you don't mind my asking, which Personal Slimline do you have? I have a classic, but found that the rings are too small for everyday use. But the regular personal is sometimes too big at 7/8 inches. But I just found the Guilford Extra Slim which seems to be in between the two at 5/8 inches. I wonder though how much it would actually hold, as compared with either the regular personal size or the 7/16 inch slimline.

Michele (2009-10-05 07:45:44)

Kanalt - I have the Finsbury Slimline. In my opinion the Finsbury is the thinnest binder of the filofaxes which I think helps w/ stuffing this filo. FYI, I do have a Filofax catalogue which I picked up at the Filofax retail store last Summer in London (field trip for filofaxers!!). In the back there's a trifold with "filofaxes at a glance" which offers the measurements. According to this, the Classic, Finsbury, Cuban, Guildfold, and Metropol Slimlines have rings at "6x11mm" whereas the Amazona, Adelphi, and Bond Slimlines are at "6x13". Right now my Finsbury is at it's absolute "fattest". I have the plastic business card holder, week on 2 pages, slimline phone tabs (where you just write the addresses/phones on the tabs themselves), 2 sheets of organiser stickers, and about 40 sheets of ruled notepaper. I also "butchered" my personal and stuck in 3 tabs from that one. It's just a tiny bit harder to turn the pages, but it seems to be working out. I think the week on 2 pages and the address tabs are key to keeping the filofax as slim as it is. It also sits wide open without any manipulation so while at work I have the whole week opened right in front of me. I hope all this info helps.

kanalt (2009-10-05 11:50:09)

Thanks for the info Michele. One day I would love to go to the Filofax store. I've seen pictures of the storefront and it looks like a Filofaxer's paradise!

As for the slimline - with the classic slimline, I couldn't get all of what I needed into it and be able to turn the pages, and that does me no good. So I thought the Guildford Extra Slim might work (found under the Personal size category). The ring size seems to be between the regular personal and the Guildford Slimline (found under the Slimline category). I just might have to give it a whirl.

Iris (2009-10-06 07:44:20)

Hello everybody -

I've been reading & enjoying this blog for about six months now, so I thought it's time to introduce myself:

My name is Iris, I live in Bavaria/Germany (so I hope my English is not too bad) - and yesterday I bought my first Filofax.

I have been addicted to stationary (pens, notebooks, journals and, most of all, planners) for about 25 years now - as I recall, it started with a Garfield school agenda when I was about 14.

Since 1998, I've been using loose-leaf planners - German brands like tempus, org-rat and bsb-obpacher, which I think are not sold in the USA/UK. Well, I always dreamt of a Filofax - but I thought them to be too expensive. Luckily, it's "GLAMOUR Shopping Week" this week - 20 % off on Filofax, so I thought I might as well give it a try.

I was planning to get a cheap, non-leather Filo (a Metropol or Domino maybe), but my husband (isn't he sweet?) encouraged me to take a leather one. So I picked a black Personal Guildford - I really love the smooth leather!

It came with a week-on-two-pages diary for 2009 & 2010, so I can start to use it immediately!

My bsb planner has the same size as the Personal, so I did not have to copy all my addresses and projects right now - since we're moving in December, I currently have a lot of lists/notes/todos on that subject.

Exclusive Preview - Filofax Beauty Gift Box Organiser [Updated] (2009-10-03 00:00)

- Steve

We are very privileged here at Philofaxy to be given the chance to sample and review a new product launched today on the Filofax UK website.

The marketing team at Filofax UK HQ in Burgess Hill contacted me a few weeks ago asking me if we would be interested in a preview sample of a new product they were about to launch on 1st October and they enclosed the picture below. So I shared the email with Nan and Laurie. I think the instant responses I got back were testament on there own that they both liked the prospect of the seeing such a beautiful organiser, and to also see it on launch day.



[1]

Anyway, so here is a blokes view point on what is obviously a gift for the ladies... so I have to adopt the Crocodile Dundee persona for this post... it's snakeskin so close!

So on opening the package this evening under the watchful eye of my wife, I discovered:

- A personal sized Filofax organiser
- A Filofax mirror
- An atomiser pen (screw the lid off and have your perfume to hand all day!
- A gift voucher entitling the recipient to a beauty experience (treatment, haircut or photography day) worth up to £100
- A presentation gift box

I had been sent the snakeskin edition but it is also available in Pink and 'Fresco' Your choice will depend on your own tastes of course.

The organiser contains a standard personal size fill, but with some additional personal touches such as the Filofax mirror and the pen with contains a perfume atomiser, which is discretely contained in the top of the pen. The pen is in a matching colour to the organiser itself, of course...

The vouchers included give you three options of either:

- Free Haircut and Finish.- at a top professional salon new you with [2]The Hair Group.... or
- Free Mini Beauty Treatment - [3]The Beauty Group offers a choice of one of six mini treatments at a salon near you..... or
- Free Fashion Experience with [4]Fresh Studio (Make up session, Hair Style, followed by a fashion photo shoot)

The treatments are only available in UK. But the organiser on it's own is very good value for money if you take in to account the accessories included.

So where do you see yourself using such an organiser? I'm sure you won't need to think of an excuse, it is very stylish and practical, the small detail touches will mean you can reduce the size or the number of items in your handbag... or dare I even suggest it to go without a hand bag. Carry your new Filofax with pride.

The timing of the launch of this gift box is obviously aimed at the Christmas gift market, and I think Filofax should be congratulated for the thought they have put in to this gift box idea. The gift box is exclusively available on the Filofax UK [5]on-line store, you will not find it available in any 'brick and mortar' high street shops.

Now before you start to think, 'Ah Steve has got his Christmas present for his wife sorted'... we are actually going to give one of our UK readers the opportunity of winning this sample Filofax Beauty Gift Box. Complete with the beauty vouchers and gift box, all as described above.

How to enter:

1. Firstly this sadly will only be available to someone in UK or Europe
2. We must be able to contact you by email, so please ensure you have a valid email address in your profile and include your location in your profile (just country will be enough)
3. Please comment on this post and answer *one* of the following three questions

What Filofax would you carry on the red carpet?

- What's the most recent beauty treatment you scheduled in your Filofax? Open your organiser and look – no cheating!
- And one for the chaps: What woman would you most like to give this Giftbox to and why?

The three of us will judge the comments and select the winner on October 10th. Naturally we still want to see your comments even if you aren't in UK.

Please note that if you are in Europe the beauty vouchers are only valid in UK

We would like to thank Filofax UK for the sample giftbox and for their support.



1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/Ss0_v7SXGyI/AAAAAAAAG0I/IWbUKc0xgk0/s1600-h/Beautybox-DominoSnake.jpg
2. <http://www.hairgroup.co.uk/>
3. <http://www.beautygroup.co.uk/>
4. <http://www.findingfresh.com/>
5. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?COLOURID=122&RANGEID=144&SIZEID=3&DSIZEID=3>
6. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?s=169466&v=2457&q=95266&r=97790>

paulien (2009-10-03 10:19:02)

Hi all, what a nice review. I am not in the UK, but will answer the question just for fun: on the red carpet I would carry a very tiny filofax, probably a mini one (I would be rich and famous enough to hire someone to keep my schedule and to-do list, so no need for a lot of information). I would like to have a cream or off-white dress, so the mini would have to match that. I think the amazona in almond would be best.

paulien (2009-10-03 10:41:58)

oh i just saw the offer is open to anyone in europe, I am in the netherlands so I can participate. I have no idea if my e-mailaddress is somewhere in my profile, can I see check that in some way?

gmax (2009-10-03 17:55:19)

If I were on the red carpet I'd need a Filofax that wouldn't spoil the line of my elegantly tailored dinner jacket, so I'd probably opt for a Guildford Extra Slim model from the 2007 range. The catalogue illustrations for it showed champagne and oysters, so it could almost have been designed for the occasion. It would have room for a supply of my cards, and a few sheets to jot down those important phone numbers.

[The [1]Guildford Slimline in the current model range is almost the same.]

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?display=&sizeId=4&rangeId=98&dsId=4>

Steve (2009-10-03 18:00:03)

I like the idea of a slimline organiser, I might consider one for my next purchase.

gmax (2009-10-03 18:07:02)

They are definitely worth a look Steve. I must admit I have several, because they are so useful. One is specifically for travel to London, another for business trips.

Oni (2009-10-03 19:42:17)

Ok, my turn now :))(I'm in Spain)

For such an elegant event as a red carpet, I most definitely would need something very elegant and stylish. Which is why without doubt I would opt for the 'Filofax Swarovsky Special Edition' which I would pair with its matching accessory case.

And I wouldn't hide my filofax inside a purse, I would show it proudly!!

:D

this is a lot of fun :)

Steve (2009-10-05 16:59:19)

Hi All

Thanks for all your comments so far. If you are in Europe (including UK) could you please email philofaxy at gmail.com replacing at with @ in the usual format!

Include in the email your 'user name' as it appears in the blog, your full name and address.

Please also add if you will be happy for us to announce you as the winner of the prize.

The names and addresses will only be used to decide who eventually receives the Giftbox set and will not be sent to any other third party.

Thank you

Regards

Steve

Francesca (2009-10-09 12:40:18)

Does anybody identify with those life phases wherein every time you close your eyes to sleep, your mind decides to do an inventory of every shameful moment of your life, which results in serious late night toe-curling and wringing of hands? If there's one moment in my life that has me sitting bolt upright in the dark, smacking my forehead in shame, it's my last trip to the beauty salon. If I flick back through the pages in my A5 Kendal to that day last July, my hands start to produce dangerous amounts of perspiration which means putting the Filo down pretty quick before it hits the floor....

I succumbed to some good salon PR and decided to book myself in for a body wrap - one which is meant to detox, de-stress, and make you shed inches all over your body. Don't laugh - when July comes around each year, I abandon all common sense and try any of these things in desperation to be able to fit into last year's summer wardrobe. Listen carefully, because here is my warning to all self respecting men and women who may be considering one of these:

"DON'T"

....unless your idea of 3 hours well spent is: stripping down until you're standing in the altogether in front of neon-lit mirrors (360 degree view of course) whilst perfectly shaped, porcelain doll-like 22 year old girls wrap you from toe to head in clay soaked bandages so that you can't bend a limb or move your head, pop you in a nylon shell suit and then leave you, stiff as a board, laying on a very uncomfortable massage table for an hour and a half

with the lights off, leaving the imprint of your white, naked and (in my case) slightly wobbly body burnt into your retinas, with only the thought of the removal of said bandages in front of the same mirror to occupy your time. I have never been so grateful for my A5 Filo that day. As I crept from the treatment room, face burning in shame, a little lighter in wallet and self- respect department if not the buttock area as hoped, I pulled trusty Filo from my bag, hid my face from the girls at reception as I legged it out the door and up the road. I think if someone had tried to stop me to ask about a follow up appointment, I would have just flung the Filo at them and scarpered. Perhaps this will be the cathartic experience I need to get through the memory of my ordeal - sharing it with the Philofaxer community. Now I've relived the trauma of that day, I'm going to go calm my nerves now with a bit of subject divider reorganisation.....

Superpooky (2009-10-09 15:28:11)

Red carpet Filofax? I'd want a zip one so that nothing falls out on the red carpet, that would be embarrassing. So the Metropol Zip Personal size for me. HArdly a break the bank Filofax but I'd be a modest superstar!

Steve (2009-10-16 11:44:53)

A great video from someone who was at the launch of the beauty gift box.

<http://www.twitvid.com/5E4AD>

Steve

Is it time to put your Filofax on a diet? (2009-10-06 14:31) - Steve

OK own up who is guilty of trying to put too many pages in their Filofax organiser?

It's ok you don't have to hang your head in shame, I'm sure we all do it, including me.

I find this time of year when I want to put in next years diary refill (you haven't got yours yet?) that I think oh dear this isn't going to go in is it....

So I had a session the other day of going through each of my organisers and decided on which pages should stay in and which ones would go in to storage. My A5 was the worst, I had a A5 booklet print of my [1]Canon EOS 20D manual in there. It had been left in there from our long summer holiday in France. I prefer to carry a copy and leave the original manual safe at home, but at 168 pages at 4 pages per sheet... yes guilty as charged! So that came out straight away!

On my Pocket Finsbury, I took out the first nine months of this year in the diary section and stored that. I will refer back to the pages in a couple of months time when I do our family Christmas newsletter.

As you know I experiment with quite a few pages I create myself, so I always tend to have quite a variety of self printed pages as well. Some don't work as well as I thought, or they have been used and I don't need to carry them any more. I also found some old to-do lists tucked in to my diary that I didn't need to keep carrying.

Overall I felt good for sorting out my organisers and then being able to put in the 2010 refills without straining the rings or stretching the closing strap.

Now what else can I put in???

1. <http://gd1p01.c-wss.com/gds/0900000259/EOS20DIM-EN.pdf>

Michele (2009-10-07 19:06:34)

No world map in your filo Steve? Not even one with dots that point to all the countries your commenters come from???? ;-)

Penny (2009-10-09 13:33:44)

my A5 needs a diet and what i really really wish is that there was a slimline version for A5 similar to the slimline personal. i found the forced slimmer size made me really think about what i carried with me everywhere and what could be kept at home. I'm much happier on A5 paper than personal size so this is something maybe one day i'll figure out.

Laurie (2009-10-11 13:29:38)

Penny I completely agree, I wish Filofax would make an A5 slimline. I need the A5 page size for my diary but I can't carry around the big A5 size book. I think a slimline would be streamlined enough for me to take it everywhere and still have the big pages to write everything I need to do each day.

Nan (2009-10-25 21:21:10)

This is the time of year when my work A5 Filo gets fat, because the Notes section contains almost a year's worth of meeting notes. Also, I tend to keep September through the end of the year day-per-page in the organizer all fall. I've just put my Filo on a diet by archiving September's daily pages and a couple of completed projects. I love the feeling of a slimmed-down Filo. It feels like the beginning of a school year, when everything is fresh and new.

Filofax UK - Questions and Answers (2009-10-07 10:00) - Steve

We see quite a few questions in the comments that we the Philofaxy team are not always able to answer. We are users as much as the rest of you. So when we were contacted by Jessica from Filofax UK recently, I thought what an ideal way of getting some of the questions answered and also getting more of an insight in to how Filofax as a company see their 'brand' and product line.

So we are grateful to Jessica for the time that she took to answer the questions.

Q1. What Filofax organiser do you use most?

A1. I have a Finchley personal in teal with City Dweller pack as my main planner, an A5 Siena for work notes and meetings and a mini Finsbury with a tube map in the back that is INVALUABLE when up in London.

Q2. Where do the designers get their ideas/inspiration from for new products?

A2. Our head designer takes cues from many different sources. She keeps a keen eye on trend forecasting to see what will be big each year. There is actually an archive of past designs as not all of the team's creations make it to retail!

Q3. Our readers are always asking, but how can you get your organiser to lay flat on a desk?

A3. We find that most A5s do! With time also, the leather tends to become more supple and will lie flatter.

Q4. We are seeing more and more people returning to Filofax after trying electronic solutions. What are Filofax doing to attract new younger customers?

A4. Every year we carry out market research on this topic, monitoring the different organiser solutions on the market. What we are seeing is that many consumers use both a Filofax and a smartphone (like me!). For this reason our approach is to embrace technological solutions and have lots of things in the pipeline, so watch this space! As for the younger customers... the last few years have seen a variety of different colours and designs that we've found to be attractive to the younger demographic. There will be more of this in 2010.

Q5. Why are there differences between the UK and US on-line stores?

A5. There are 7 Filofax subsidiaries globally and each is responsible for their own on-line marketing/product choice etc, though we all work from the same platform. The main difference is in the range choices - US takes the 'Lizard' and 'Ostrich' designs that we don't have here in the UK.

Q6. Why has Filofax discontinued so many old page designs?

A6. This is mainly a retail issue - stores have not had the space to stock all of the different types of refill which may not appeal to more than a handful of customers. However, the growth in on-line is providing the opportunity to restock these. Another 'watch this space'.

Q7. How can customers suggest ideas for new pages?

A7. We would LOVE to hear from customers about this or any suggestion! You can [1]contact us through our site or on Twitter ([2]Filofax _UK). We think it's great how people want to talk to us through Twitter and we really value all the feedback we get - good and bad!

Q8. How do you market differently in the UK vs the US?

A8. The central marketing department creates all the collateral and guidelines for each subsidiary to

execute for their own region.

Q9. Is your customer demographic similar in each(UK & US), or do you find that your customer base is significantly different in one compared to the other?

A9. The two are fairly similar - female biased with a core group of users in the 25-45 range. The US is stronger in the student market with their 'back to school' campaign always doing very well.

Q10. How do you recommend we take care of the leather to make it last longer?

A10. Customer services have kindly provided me with the following:

Leather is a natural material and there may sometimes be textural or shading variations within the surface. These are natural characteristics and representative of the leather's unique individual beauty and proof of its genuine origin. It is recommended, however, that you avoid exposing your organiser to harsh elements such as moisture, bright light or direct heat.

In the event that a Filofax organiser becomes soiled, the following care guidelines may be helpful.

- Light scratches to waxy leather can be removed by rubbing softly with a clean finger
- Smooth, porous leather can be treated with good quality, neutral coloured leather cream (subject to manufacturers instructions).
- Textured (coated) leathers can be wiped clean using a damp cloth
- Suede is treated with a dirt resistant finish. A dry brush or cloth should be used to remove dirt or stains
- Fabrics can generally be cleaned by using a damp cloth.
- Smudges on badges/metal edges can be gently buffed with a soft dry cloth

Q11. Do you repair organizers if the rings break?

A11. Yes we do if they are faulty. We also issue a guarantee with each organiser but we are aware that it needs some work!

Q12. Can you share some Filofax stories that you've heard over the years, like the legendary one about a soldier's Filofax stopping a bullet?

A12. The best stories we've heard are perhaps not as dramatic as that!! We really enjoy hearing the stories about how someone's Filofax has changed their life - helped them to be more organised or achieve something they'd always wanted to do. People contact us a lot with this kind of story and it may sound saccharine but we all firmly believe the 'It's a way of life' motto, and so often this is reaffirmed by the customer response we get.

Q13. Has any one had a lost Filofax returned after decades?

A13. I haven't heard this story but we do offer a personal organiser registration service that would help!

Q14. Will Filofax organisers ever be Made in England again?

A14. Not for the foreseeable future but never say never.... the quality is exceptional with our current supplier which is a hugely important factor for the Filofax brand.

Q15. Which size/style of organiser is the best selling at the moment?

A15. The Finsbury personal, especially Raspberry, seems to be a favourite at the moment.

Thank you Jessica and the team at Filofax UK for answering all of those questions. Please comment if you have any follow on questions.

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/contactus/>

2. http://twitter.com/Filofax_UK

Oni (2009-10-07 12:57:33)

Wow, this has been a great blog entry!

I am now curious about how both US and UK teams get organised and agree on design matters.

Really nice of Jessica to take the time to answer so many questions, it is priceless to have such an important company actually care about their customers, something not many firms do.

Jessica's answers have made me dream about working there even more.

kanalt (2009-10-07 13:22:47)

I agree! Is Filofax hiring? => I would love to know the answers to these questions in regards to the US Filofax, assuming they are different of course. I would also love to see pictures of employees' Filos (since they are the experts!), as well as the designs that never made it retail. And is there a reason that there is no store in the US? I've also noticed that those retailers who used to sell Filos don't anymore (Container Store, for example).

Michele (2009-10-07 19:04:10)

Working for Filofax...definitely a beautiful wish.... As I work in Corporate Branding I can really appreciate Jessica taking the time to talk to customers like us. I'm counting the weeks to receive my new Panama pocket that's not avail in the US. When I was in the London retail store, the store keeper was aware we no longer have US Filofax retailshops. There was a really nice one in my local mall for years. When I told her I've been keeping one since '92 she said I was now in my "mecca" where I could go and explore all the items... touch them, hold them.. I went immediately to a Finchley mustard A5.. oh well, maybe in 2011 for work..

Lisa Boyne' (2009-10-08 10:45:48)

Hi,

My name is Lisa Boyne' and I am the Filofax Internet Business Manager in the US, located in Wilton, CT. We would be happy to answer any specific questions about the U.S. market that Jessica did not cover. Please feel free to contact me at lboyne@filofaxinc.com

jstephens (2009-10-08 12:05:26)

Wow - I had no idea so many people wanted to work at Filofax! I can testify that it is a great company to work for. We're not hiring at the moment but I'll be sure to let you know as soon as we are!

Oni - yup, we really do care about our customers! And there is a special place in our heart for Filofaxy enthusiasts.

kanalt - We'll get to work on those photos of our organisers - I'll also take some of the office so you can see us hard at work. You may change your mind about wanting to work here when you see our messy cubicles!

Michele - you will have met our Manager Brigitte at the store. She's lovely! Also, I'll send Steve some pics of the London store for those who haven't seen it.

Great to hear from you guys - keep in touch :)

Jessica

kanalt (2009-10-08 13:26:26)

Lisa - are there any plans for a Filofax store in the US? I've heard a lot about the one in London, though I've never been. That's one of the places I do want to get to one of these days! Or, do any other stores carry the brand? I know some stores (The Container Store being a major retailer) and other small stores used to carry them. But from what I can tell, both the Container Store and a private retailer I used to go to in NYC no longer carry them. The website is great, but it would also be nice to see the Filos and hold them before deciding on which to purchase.

Lisa Boyne' (2009-10-08 16:01:32)

kanalt - There are no current plans to open a Filofax store but if you are in NYC I would try Sam Flax, Lee's Art Shop or any Kate's Paperie - they all carry a pretty good selection of organizers.

kanalt (2009-10-09 11:18:56)

Lisa - thanks for the info. I have been to Kate's Paperie a few times (love that store!). The last time I checked their website, I didn't see any Filofax selections, but they seem to have them again now. I'll have to check out the other two stores you mentioned as well.

@ (2010-02-09 21:56:33)

I have a personal Canterbury of 20 years old. It is still perfect BUT the close leather strap with snap button is so worn out that it will drop off any time now!!!

Do you repair these and do I have to send it back to the UK to get it fixed properly!

In Australia AlexanderBrands are too lazy to offer a repair in our throw away society!

Recommendations welcomed

Steve (2010-02-14 15:27:43)

'@' Do you know of a leather worker or shoe repairer in your local town? They might be able to repair your organiser for you.

Other wise you might be without your organiser for some time.

Go to <http://www.filofax.co.uk/contactus/> and send them an email.

Steve

Free For All Friday No. 47 (2009-10-09 11:52) - Steve

So we are approaching the middle of October, the leaves are changing rapidly here in UK. My friends in France are still boasting about how warm it is with them. So are any of our readers approaching their Spring yet?

We are loving all of your comments and exchanges within the comments, also thanks to Jessica and Lisa of Filofax UK and US respectively for joining in too. I was thinking, I wonder how many other niche products are there that can boast such devoted customers, and such lively and healthy discussion....

One last request from me... tomorrow is the last chance to enter the [1]Filofax Gift Box draw, the winner will be decided tomorrow afternoon (UK time).

So the floor is yours.....

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/09/exclusive-preview-filofax-beauty-gift.html>

Laurie (2009-10-10 09:49:03)

It's still disgustingly hot here. It's hard for me to realize it's fall and that the holidays are coming soon, because it still feels like the middle of summer!

Michele (2009-10-10 13:46:40)

It's cool, cloudy and windy here on Long Island. It kind of fits all the Halloween decorations though. I know what you mean by being warm in France, Steve. For health reasons, My boyfriend's aunt and uncle were told to leave Yorkshire and settle in France for the change in climate.

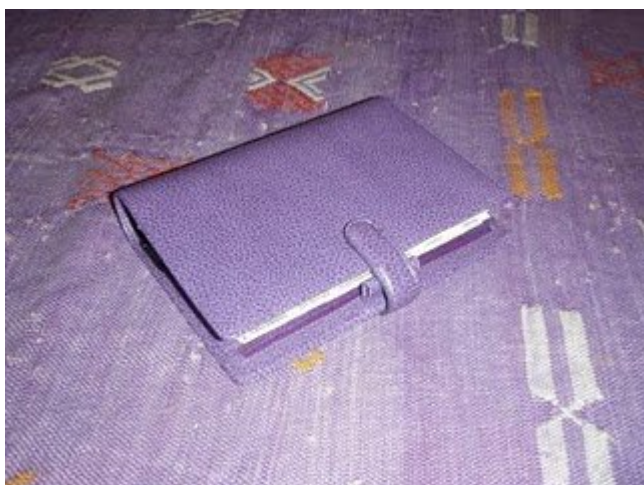
Oni (2009-10-10 22:25:34)

It is also still hot here in the spanish mediterranean coast! almost like a mild summer, yet quite rainy! I don't know how to dress anymore. One day you wake up and the sun is shining as bright as ever; the next it's pouring cats and dogs!! I had already put away my summer clothing in septembre, but have had to take it out again this week.

You just can't believe it's october.

Some say this means we'll have a very cold winter. ugh!

Newest addition! (2009-10-10 09:50) - Laurie



[1]

My dad very generously sent my birthday present, my newest Filofax: a purple personal size Finsbury! I'm so excited!!! Purple is my favorite color, and I already have a purple A5 Finsbury (which I use as my household binder) so I'm extremely excited to get the personal size in purple too. A matching set!

I'm already using it, and it's just wonderful. It doesn't lay flat yet but I think it will in no time. The leather is pretty flexible and I don't think it will require any extreme measures to get it to stay at least mostly flat when open.

Check out my pictures on my [2]Flickr photostream!

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_CPeL-KIUmkw/StCSv-M5liI/AAAAAAAAABg/eOovupbWuD8/s1600-h/Diaries+2009+213.jpg

2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/41064231@N08/>

D (2009-10-10 21:44:41)

Beautiful! I recently got an A5 raspberry Finsbury and I love it! Happy Birthday.

Laurie (2009-10-11 13:31:48)

Thanks D! That raspberry color is gorgeous, congratulations on your new A5!

Treet (2009-10-11 22:38:51)

Birthday Greetings! This is lovely!

Nan (2009-10-25 21:03:44)

This is gorgeous. Happy birthday!

Slimline (2009-10-10 12:00) - Steve

There has been some [1]recent discussion in the comments about the Slimline Organisers. I discovered an earlier post written by Nan about [2]Slimline Organisers

It suddenly occurred to me that a slimline might make a good combine diary/wallet. I currently carry quite a small wallet but like most of these things I have been carrying too many cards in it. So it too needed to go on a diet!



[3] So I ordered a [4]Finsbury Slimline organiser and benefited from a discount code for completing a survey on the Filofax website.

The Finsbury has 6 card slots in one cover, which should be more than enough for me. I will use a page per week diary insert and also carry some of my essential contacts. The rest of the pages will either be a few to-do lists and some spare lined note paper. But this organiser really will be staying 'slim' I promise....

It arrived today and the rings are tiny compared to anything else I have, but it takes a diary refill ok (it came with 2009 and 2010) I'm going to put October 2009-December 2009 in as well. But I will be carefully planning the rest of this organiser to keep it slim.

There's no closing clasp to hold it close which will be a first for me, there is a pen loop though. The leather is very supple though, no stiffness in the cover so in a suit or jacket pocket it will not be too obvious, which is why I bought it really.

Being personal size I can see this slimline organiser possibly becoming my normal carry around organiser in place of my compact pocket Finsbury... time will tell.

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/10/free-for-all-friday-no-46.html>

2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2008/05/slim-my-filo.html>

3. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/Ss9k1SkhhAI/AAAAAAAAAGzo/ZpMPPGnqeyw/s1600-h/slimline+finsbury.jpg

4. <http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B000SHS6PG?ie=UTF8&tag=pemburyvillag-21&linkCode=as2&camp=1634&creative=19450&creativeASIN=B000SHS6PG>

Michele (2009-10-10 13:40:18)

And don't forget the most important part about the slimline vs the pocket - it lies flat by itself! ;-)

Steve (2009-10-11 08:23:58)

Yes, if you look at the structure of them, the pocket has an outer layer which forms a full length pocket, which is useful in other ways. But it does make it 'stiffer'

Having transferred my cards in to the slimline their combine weight helps to let the organiser lay flat when open. One thing I think I will find myself doing is to use the slimline in conjunction with my Finsbury Personal organiser that I bought a few months ago that I've not really started to use yet.

I will be able to reduce the number of calendar pages I'm carrying in the slimline if I include a year planner page along with say the next 2 months of pages. I rarely need to look further ahead than that.

But already I'm liking the extra space that the personal size gives me on each page compared to the pocket size. Steve

Nan (2009-10-25 21:14:05)

Thanks for the description of your Slimline. Since I'm doing less in my Personal all the time, which I use as my wallet, I can see myself going this route someday.

gmax (2009-11-01 06:46:35)

The slimline can be a bit addictive, and I'm afraid to say I'm quite hooked. You can see the evidence [1]here!

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/30775101@N04/4063953286/>

DJ (2010-06-17 23:42:18)

I am considering this route as well, as I have been using a "pocket slimline" Filofax Executive for years now as a wallet. I only hesitate because the "slimline" range is about two inches LONGER than my Executive; not a problem for a inside jacket pocket; but more cumbersome for the front pants pocket—assume we've all worked out that this "wallet" doesn't work well in a back pocket...!

And the Winner Is..... (2009-10-10 12:59) - Steve

We are pleased to announce the winner of the [1]Filofax Gift Box is.....

Francesca

Thank you all for your entries and again thank you to Filofax UK for their support and sponsorship of this gift box.

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1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/09/exclusive-preview-filofax-beauty-gift.html>

New Poll - How many Filofax organisers do you own? (2009-10-10 17:34) - Steve

Again just for a bit of fun, we have a new poll about how many Filofax organisers you actually own. Count each one as one no matter what size they are...

We will publish the results at the end of the poll next week.

We will run another in the future to find out the most popular size/style of Filofax.

Thanks for taking part.

GCM1066 (2009-10-11 15:06:37)

Great survey idea, but I have a hard time reading the results.

Steve (2009-10-11 16:39:37)

Hi

If you highlight the results graph it's possible to read it. But I will be publishing a graph similar to the last poll:

<http://tinyurl.com/yjmhxlo>

I've already started recording the results so I should be able to publish the results quite quickly after the close.

Regards

Steve

GCM1066 (2009-10-11 16:49:26)

Thanks Steve...your suggestion worked

Steve (2009-10-12 17:45:09)

Having only 3 Filofaxes is obviously not enough... once you have two... the next jump seems to be four!!

Still a few days left to vote though so all the three filofax owners might come from behind to even up the scores!

Phyllis (2009-10-12 20:33:32)

I have a mini and waiting patiently for my 2nd filofax, a red Amazona A5 when my friend bring it back for me from US.

Michele (2009-10-13 08:19:09)

My 4th filo, my future constant sidekick, a pocket green panama, is either here in NY office or London office, depending if colleague brought it over, and still haven't connected yet. If not here, I will get it on the 31st! It's torturous waiting!!!!

Iris (2009-10-13 15:16:53)

Last week I bought my first Filofax (see my comment in FFAF No. 46) - and I am really happy about it. But the 20 % discount was so tempting that two days later, I ordered another one: a grey Urban Personal. I like its "casual" look - as others have pointed out before, it's great for travelling. Guildford + Urban, that's like a little black dress and a pair of jeans...

Oni (2009-10-13 18:21:13)

i.gernhuber:

Congrats on the Urban. You will absolutely love it! The feel of the fabric is so smooth and so versatile, you won't want to leave home without it!

Janet (2009-10-14 15:09:41)

I have two A5 Belmonts in Tan, a brown A5 Amazona and a Black A5 Metropol. I also have an Aspinal Purple Croc in A5 and a Mulberry Oak Agenda but the Filofax definitely rules.

Laurie (2009-10-15 06:16:43)

Aspinal Purple Croc!! Those are so gorgeous!! Dare I ask, is it compatible with the A5 Filofax inserts?? Hoping yes but also almost hoping no*

Janet (2009-10-15 12:40:51)

I adore the Aspinal purple croc but their A5 is (or was, when I got mine) smaller than Filofax A5...

Laurie (2009-10-15 13:24:10)

Thanks Janet! Oh well, it's probably for the best...I already have a purple A5 (Finsbury) so I couldn't really justify getting another one, even one as beautiful as the Croc!!

Craft Making and Filofax (2009-10-12 17:50) - Steve

It seems being creative and using a Filofax seem to go together. Nan recently highlighted [1]Sara's Creations.

Tonight I discovered someone who makes their own organisers. Take a look for yourself at the [2]Crafty Corner Blog and particularly at two recent posts:

- [3]Filofax's for Friends
- [4]Last Filofax

They reminded me a little of the old 'Duplex' organisers that were available back in the 1970's/80's For those of you that might have missed these take a look at this site[5]

[6]

[7]FILOFAX blog and then look at the [8]Duplex page, sorry I'm not sure what language the site is in, but there are some interesting insights to old products there.

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1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/09/saras-creations.html>
2. <http://wwwmycraftycorner.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://wwwmycraftycorner.blogspot.com/2009/10/filofaxes-for-friends.html>
4. <http://wwwmycraftycorner.blogspot.com/2009/10/last-filofax-for-while-anyway.html>
5. <http://filofax.at.webry.info/>
6. <http://filofax.at.webry.info/>
7. <http://filofax.at.webry.info/>
8. <http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/%7Em-task/duplex.htm>

Phyllis (2009-10-12 20:43:15)

For those curious, that's a Japanese shopping website that Steve has pointed out

Nan (2009-10-25 21:30:52)

Steve, thanks for the reminder about the creative possibilities of fILOFAX. One of my reasons for joining this blog was because I believe that a fILOFAX contains even more creative possibilities than a M***skine, despite the latter's artsy reputation.

Here's one of my creative efforts: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gonanb/195235977/in/set-72157594177080225/>

Tell us your Filofax sightings! (2009-10-13 02:07) - Laurie

Hi everybody,

It's my birthday! Yay! Happy birthday to me.

Just for fun, let's talk about Filofax sightings. I mean, not just Filos in the store but real live Filofaxes in use by a person. Ideally these would be in real life, but television and movie ones are good too.

Yesterday I met a group of doctors who are in town working on a new medical program. One of the docs had a black personal Domino that I was dying to grab and look through! But I restrained myself (barely!). I also wanted to say, "Hey, I have one of those in grape, isn't it great? Let's talk Filofaxes!" But he had more important things to do than chat with me about Filos so away I went.

What Filofaxes have you seen out and about lately? Do you work with someone who uses a Filofax? Have you had the rare opportunity to see a Filofax being used out in public? I think there should be Filofax coffee houses where only Filofax users can enter, so we can sit around and drink coffee and look at each others' Filofaxes.

Even better, have you seen someone using a Filofax and then TALKED to them about their Filofax?? I would love to hear from the brave reader who has done this!

So let's hear about your Filofax sightings!

Michele (2009-10-13 08:32:05)

Happy Birthday Laurie! Your new purple Finsbury is beautiful next to your A5! I have a work colleague that I talk Filo all the time. I FINALLY convinced her to replace the red pocket she's been using for 10 years with a cute new Finsbury red pocket. To make it even prettier, I gave her my red filo fashion pen to go with it (those pens are great if anyone hasn't had one - extra fine blue ink and very comfortable to write with and fits perfect in the loop). Anyways, last Spring I was in a sales conference meeting with a woman who had a huge fat personal filo (I think she used a day on a page calendar). So during the whole meeting my eyes kept darting over to her filo, but I didn't have the nerve to speak to her. The head of my dept uses a planner (sadly Day Runner) and in an all day meeting with her, you can guess where my eyes were darting over to).

YM (2009-10-13 10:00:47)

Happy Birthday Laurie :)

As it happened, I watched the movie "Seven Pounds" last night. In one scene, Rosario Dawson's character is using a Filofax. It's the scene where she is trying to figure out her medical bills & pulls Will Smith's card out of her organizer.

Of course, I was crying a lot during the movie, so I couldn't tell what kind of Filo it was, but it appeared to me to look like a slimline...

kanalt (2009-10-13 13:34:10)

Happy Birthday Laurie!

It's funny that this post appeared today...just last night I was flipping through my 2010 Ikea catalog and in it, in their home office section, there is a picture of a desk with what appears to be a slimline filo. I want to keep the catalog forever just for that.

geew67 (2009-10-13 17:42:21)

Happy Birthday Laurie! I have so far convinced 9 friends to buy and use Filofaxes to organise themselves. All have said they could not do without it now! They are mainly A5 in size. I work in a hospital and have seen many Filofaxes in use, mainly from doctors, other professionals and reps. Do you have to be a certain type of person to use a Filofax or from a certain type of back ground?

David (2009-10-13 17:49:16)

Happy Birthday Laurie :-)

I don't see that much Filos around me. Except for one, each and every morning, laying flat open and welcoming us--me and a new day of work--, my faithful A5 Finsbury. Not forgetting the Personal one, toted in my backpack. Alas, that's not real sighting, I am afraid ;-)

Oh, time to time, astute readers of the mag/website I publish can see it, 'accidentaly' visible in photos ;-)

Still, I do sometimes spot women using Pocket, in restaurants or the likes (fits well in handbags, I guess). And one of my auhtor also use a Filo.

Oni (2009-10-13 18:18:18)

Happy Birthday, Laurie!!

I hope you're having a great day so far, surrounded by your beautiful filfos.. I mean surrounded by your loving family ;)

So far, I haven't seen anyone with a filo. I've seen people with similar agendas, but not Filofax! Considering that Filofax isn't too known in Spain, whenever I'm with new friends and pull out my adored Finsbury, they start asking questions, especially those who are into stationery like me :)

I do know though, that my boyfriend's cousin uses one, but haven't seen it yet. His wife also uses one, but haven't seen that one either. All I know is that it's a Breast Cancer Campaign Edition.

Vidya (2009-10-13 18:54:28)

I see them in magazine ads from time to time, it always grabs my attention.

I don't see them very often IRL, but a few weeks ago a colleague had a new planner (not Filo). It was her first, so I had to sing all the praises of having a planner, especially a Filo...

Laurie (2009-10-14 02:59:34)

Thanks everyone for your kind birthday wishes!

It's funny to me that as popular as Filofaxes are in my online world (here and on Flickr), I very rarely see them in real life. Which made my sighting the other day that much more exciting!

Where I live, most people use a day per page bound diary book.

geew67 I don't think you have to have a certain type of background to like Filofaxes, but I do think it is a certain mindset. There are people who like to categorize their notes and things behind tabs, like us Filofaxers. Then there are people who like to use one notebook for everything and write everything in chronologically as it comes to them.

Personally if I tried to write my notes chronologically in one notebook I would never find anything again. I have to have my information sorted for easy access!

Zero1Five (2009-10-14 22:01:37)

Happy Belated Birthday Laurie!! I don't Filofax around the work place and believe me, wherever I am I do watch what they pull out of their purses to see if they have a Filo. Like all these Filo users, I could talk about Filos all day long!!!!

Nan (2009-10-25 21:37:10)

Happy birthday, Laurie!

I haven't sighted any Filos lately, but your doctor story reminds me of one of my own.

I was seeing a neurologist (nothing life-threatening), and I was clutching a pocket Filo in one hand, partly because it contained notes on things I wanted to talk about from a previous doctor visit, partly as a security blanket.

Well, the neurologist wanted my hands free so he could examine me, so he finally barked, "PUT THAT THING DOWN!"

LOL.

Later, he commented on how good and neat my notes were, so I guess he didn't hate my Filo that much after all.

Jotje (2010-06-04 13:01:39)

In case anybody digs up this post, I'd like to add the movie "27 dresses" where the actress seems to be schleping a Red Domino Filofax everywhere.

Where did I read this??? (2009-10-15 13:48) - Laurie

Hey everybody, I need your help. Somewhere I read a great Filofax story and now I can't find it anywhere!! I've searched on this blog, but didn't find it. I hoped I had saved a copy on my computer but I didn't.

Here's the story: someone wrote this story about the coolest Filofax they had ever seen. It was a personal size Ostrich one owned by an elderly lady that had been using it forever and she had NEVER taken anything out of it. It was scuffed and stretched, but she would never give it up. The author of this story said he/ she was desperate to look in it but the owner wouldn't let anyone touch it. Some time later the author of this story heard that the lady had passed away and all they could think was, "What happened to her Filofax???"

WHERE did I read this story?? Has anyone else seen this online somewhere? It's such a great story, I want to save it.

I can only imagine that Filofax and what might have been in it!!!

kanalt (2009-10-15 16:02:52)

Laurie - I vaguely remember this also. I don't recall exactly, but I want to say that someone had met someone a plane who told this story (somehow they got to talking about Filofaxes), but don't quote me on this - I could be making that up. =) However, I want to say that it was through this blog that we heard about it...again, though, just a guess.

So I don't know that I was much help in this matter. ;)

Steve (2009-10-15 18:21:04)

I think I'm right in saying that that style of organiser is only sold in the US?

I've tried doing various searches on Google using keywords out of your account Laurie, but I've not found it yet...

Steve

Michele (2009-10-15 19:37:25)

I found it!!! Friday Free For All #18 - It was in a comment far down in the comments...

Michele (2009-10-15 19:38:32)

Steve, I googled "Ostrich Filofax" two words together ;-)

Laurie (2009-10-15 21:52:25)

Thank you Michele!!!! You are better at keyword searches than I am!! What a great story, I just love that one. Steve you are right, the ostrich Filofax is only available in the US. Lisa from Filofax US told me the ostrich, alligator and lizard binders are not available in the UK due to export restrictions on certain types of animal skins. I had wondered why these (very upscale) binders were only available in the US.

Michele (2009-10-16 10:29:19)

The comments in Free For All 18 are great. I love how Anonymous described layout of thier filo! That's what I would love to read - how everyone keeps their filofax. Since '92 to this month I've always been using 1 filo at a time - now I'm going to use 2 - work and personal once my new pocket arrives (sitting on my boyfriend's desk in his UK office waiting for him to bring it home to me in two weeks). It's almost like anticipating the birth of a child - wondering if I'll bond with the 2nd as I am with my first! So my question is how does one keep two? Do you write down all addresses and phone #'s in both, identical budget sheets for both?

Oni (2009-10-16 17:37:41)

Hmmm, Michele, that is a great question! i wish I could answer it, asi I also have two filofax but don't use them at the same time.

I got my second one this year, but with a purpose: to be my Travel Filo. I took it with me on my trip and left my everyday Filo at home. I put the diary pages from it for the time I would be away, into my travel Filo. And I copied only the phone numbers I would need into the address section.

Once I returned, I replaced the diary pages into my everyday binder, and stored my Travel filo. I will use it again on my next trip.

Ok, let's hope other readers who actually juggle two Filofax everyday can answer Michele's question, i'm also curious.

Laurie (2009-10-20 03:06:34)

Hi Michele, here are my experiences using multiple Filofaxes:

1) I don't love any of them as much as I love my first and original Filofax!

2) I use different Filofaxes for different things. I haven't been able to use two Filofaxes as planners/ diaries at the same time. Some people use an A5 Filofax as their diary/ planner at work, and a smaller one for personal use, but if you do that you have to check one against the other for any potential scheduling conflicts (for example not scheduling a dentist appointment at the same time as a work meeting). It does make sense though to have all of your work contacts, notes, etc in the A5 and your own personal stuff in a separate Filofax.

Free for All Friday No. 48 (2009-10-16 00:01) - Nan

It's growing a little cold in some places.

Do you use your Filofax to help deal with the change in climate – when to flush your boiler or swap your winter clothes?

I'm using mine to schedule an appointment to have the boiler serviced...otherwise, it's getting pretty cold around here!

Michele (2009-10-16 10:33:37)

Hi Nan, I'm on Long Island and I am freezing here. Last night I drove home in the rain and I couldn't pour myself a glass of red wine and light some candles fast enough!! I've got a list of to do's in my filo for the cold weather - new screens for windows, get button on winter coat fixed, etc. So nice to see you post. You've been MIA since I started commenting her after finding you all. Two weeks ago I spent the weekend reading up on all the old posts (not comments) since this blog originated. I am thrilled I've found a bunch of people who love their filofax as much as I do!

Steve (2009-10-16 15:13:06)

Hi Michele

Yes I did the same as you a few months ago, before I became a contributor on here and worked my way gradually through all the posts and comments... took me a few days. It's an excellent read and I picked up several tips that I kept a record of.

I need to go back through the old posts again some time and add 'labels' to them so it is easier to find all the posts with the same topic. But the Google Search will find them as well as long as you use the correct key words etc.

The last couple of weeks I've been getting home just as the sun is starting to set, so I end up having to close the curtains in my office, but only for about 30-45 mins then I open them again for about the same before it goes completely dark.

Tonight is the first night I've noticed our heating come on. It's been coming on in the morning briefly for a few days now. So Autumn is definitely with us.

Half way through October. I turned the page to next week... and I can now see 1 November at the bottom of the next page of my diary. Get your preferred refills ordered soon... Got mine ;-)

Oni (2009-10-16 17:48:51)

Uh oh...the boiler..

Here we have a gas boiler, and it's been sort of broken since the beginning of the year...we haven't got it fixed because it is very expensive. Thing is, we managed to still use it, especially once it got warm because the water isn't cold in the summer. But now that it's getting colder, the water is also colder. And we won't be able to get it fixed because we are currently in a very bad situation, moneywise. I'm just hoping it won't stop working completely or else we'll have to shower with VERY cold water :S

Vidya (2009-10-16 20:25:18)

I bought my 2010 refills a few weekends ago. I really like The Preference Collection (http://www.pensandgifts.com/cgi/display.cgi?item_num=SunGraphixDP646W) Page a Day format- I've used it for years. The Filofax page a day layout really doesn't do it for me, I find Preference to work the best. Here in So. Cal, we had the usual mid-October one-off storm earlier in the week and now we're back to hot and sunny til Thanksgiving. When the clouds rolled in last weekend, I added "turn wardrobe" to my to-do list and listed my must have items for Fall as well as my tried and true favorites on a few pages in the Projects section of my Finchley.

Famous Filofax Users? (2009-10-17 06:20) - Steve

Do you know any famous people or celebs that are Filofax users? I was triggered by the 'Filofax sightings' post.

I don't know of any one specific... but I can imagine a few likely candidates... may be Sheryl Crow the singer for writing down her wonderful lyrics for songs as they come in to her head.

Who do you think is or might have been a Filofax user?

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Michele (2009-10-17 15:57:26)

I read somewhere that Diane Keatan is a Filofax fan and that even Filofax named a key chain for her - "DK key chain"

Elisabeth (2009-10-17 19:57:34)

I read that Stephen Spielberg and Woody Allen are Filofax addicts.

DJ (2009-10-18 04:14:37)

Sir Terence Conran, noted English designer, restaurateur, retailer and writer. During an interview, he was asked...

Q: What are your top 10 designs of all time?

A: It's impossible to give a definitive list, but a healthy top 10 might include...

- Concorde - the one plane that everyone seems to love and admire.
- The VW Beetle - along with the Mini, a car with character that crosses age, class and other barriers to appeal to anyone with a sense of fun.
- The pint milk bottle - environmentally friendly, unassuming, and easy to use; who enjoys fumbling with a tetrapack carton or wants one standing on the kitchen table?
- The paperclip - so brilliantly simple that we take it for granted.
- Ronchamps by Le Corbusier - one of the most breath-taking buildings in the world; a chapel of light that takes your breath away.
- The cantilever chair - a design variously credited to Marcel Breuer, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and the Dutch architect, Mart Stam, it's one of the best-known mass-production chairs of the 20th century.
- The BBC2 station idents - quirky, witty and distinctive, they make you sit up and take note, and they enforce the channels' reputation for having slightly maverick intelligence and programming.
- The anglepoise lamp - the original task lamp, and still one of the best.
- **The Filofax - I like the way the leather ages and matures, so that the case becomes a sort of friend; and it holds so much in its nooks and crannies and hastily scribbled notes. I'm sure that electronic notebooks hold far more information far more efficiently, but it's hard to imagine an emotional attachment.**
- Monsieur Bibendum, the Michelin Man - one of the most instantly recognisable 'brand mascots' in the world, and an absolutely ingenious way of marketing a tyre company.

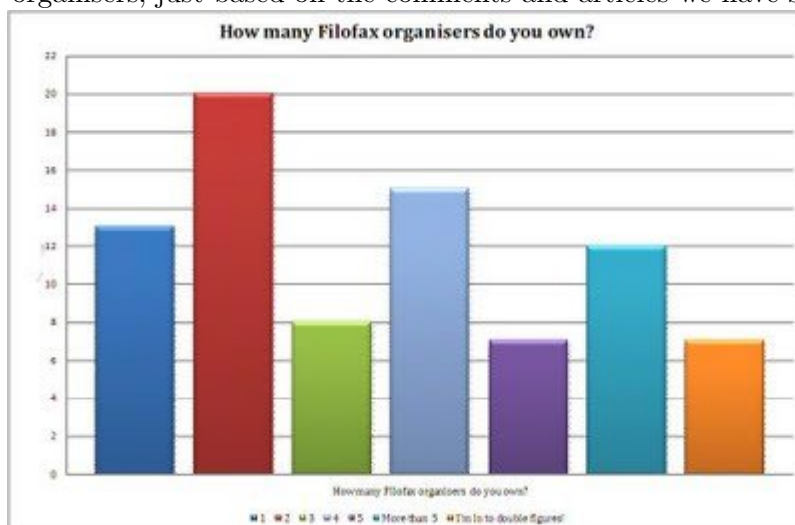
Nan (2009-10-25 21:40:37)

I've also heard about Diane Keaton carrying a Filofax everywhere, even on the red carpet and the dance floor.

I remember reading about a model using one – maybe Naomi Campbell. She buys a new one every year and copies all her information in, instead of buying refills.

Poll result - How many Filofax organisers do you own? (2009-10-17 12:34) - Steve

Thank you everyone for voting in our latest poll, an even bigger vote than our first poll a few weeks ago. So amongst Philofaxy readers, just having one Filofax organiser is not enough. What is surprising it seems that having an even number organisers is more popular. It wasn't surprising that more people use two organisers, just based on the comments and articles we have seen.



[1]

Look out for the next poll in the next week or so. Thank you to everyone who took part.

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/___NjIPaFKXqQ/Sto41ZUIp2I/AAAAAAAAHm8/t81R0yXGDac/s1600-h/ownpoll.jpg

YM (2009-10-19 11:24:46)

Phew! I'm happy to see I'm not the only one in "double figures"!!!

Nan (2009-10-25 21:43:28)

6 - I missed the poll, but I have 1 pocket, 2 personals (one of which is in use at any given time, 3 A5s (only 1 of which is in active use)

Filofax Sizes (2009-10-18 05:04) - Steve

I've been doing some research this morning in to the paper sizes for the different formats of Filofax Organisers. I think we are all familiar with the current ranges available. They are detailed on the [1]Filofax sites. But there were a few exceptions that I wasn't certain about mainly the Deskfax and the M2. I also came across the Pocket Slimline, same size as the Pocket, but I presume it has smaller rings. Likewise how does the Compact differ to the Slimline? Same paper size but I guess slightly different ring size.

I can only assume that some of these lesser known sizes are no longer sold because of the lack of sales. Although inserts are still available for them.

So here is a comprehensive list of all sizes:

Size
H x W
Rings
A4
297 x 210
4
DeskFax
250 x 176
3 x 3
A5
210 x 148
2 x 3
Slimline
171 x 95
2 x 3
Personal
171 x 95
2 x 3
Compact
171 x 95
2 x 3
Pocket
120 x 81
2 x 3
Pocket Slimline
120 x 81
2 x 3
168

Mini
105 x 67
5
M2
64 x 103
3

They are all 'portrait' format with the exception of the M2 which is 'landscape' format.
To see inserts for all of the formats, the best site I found was [2]City Organiser here in London.

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1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/sizeguide/>
2. http://www.cityorg-pdq.co.uk/acatalog/Online_Catalogue_Filofax__28.html

Janet (2009-10-18 06:57:12)

I've looked at that site before but never noticed that for a very business-like site it has very poetic language to describe the different leathers. And it's spot on too. Not even the filofax site does it better!

Oni (2009-10-20 18:32:25)

Indeed, the Personal Slimline and Compact differ in the width of the rings: 11mm and 15mm, respectively. (They still have one Compact binder in the german Filofax site ;))

Too bad the M2 was discontinued, it looks like a fun format, as small as the Mini, but more comfortable to write in!

Steve (2009-10-21 01:19:14)

Thanks for that Oni, obviously all the different websites use the same basic structure. But why the compact is only available in Germany and not UK is a mystery!

Again thanks for solving that one!

Steve

Iris (2009-10-21 08:03:44)

For your information: the only Compact (with 15 mm rings) sold in Germany is a black Guildford. It costs 85 Euro; both the Slimline and the Personal Size are 95 Euro.

Nan (2009-10-25 21:51:31)

I have a favorite paper size that I wish I could use for everything – 203.2 mm × 266.7 mm, or 8 x 10.5 inches. It used to be the government standard size paper in the U.S., before the 8.5 x 11 Letter size was adopted.

Children's and household notebooks in the U.S. and Canada are still 8 x 10.5. But because of the similarity of U.S. Letter size to A4 size, it looks like those will be the standard for the foreseeable future. There will never be an 8 x 10.5 FILOFAX.

gmax (2009-11-01 09:05:33)

Some extra, historic sizes (again courtesy of the City Organiser, but from about 20 years ago!) are variations on the *Personal*:

Double 171 x 180 mm

Treble 171 x 265 mm

Quadruple 171 x 350 mm

These were all punched for 2 x 3 rings, and fitted the *Personal* binders because they were folded.

Also, there was the "original deskfax", as discussed [1]here. I think these old variety Deskfax pages matched the "Double" above, but perhaps someone can confirm?

1. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/40748476@N00/discuss/72157622449041307/72157622570009523>

Using Separate Filofaxes: Work vs. Personal (2009-10-20 03:08) - Laurie

Michele had a question in her comment on my [1]Where Did I Read This? post asking how people use separate Filofaxes for work vs personal use.

For those of you who do this, can you please give us details on how you decide what information goes into which Filofax, is there any/ very much overlap (information that goes into BOTH the work and personal use Filofaxes), and perhaps most importantly, do you use separate diaries/ planners for work and personal use? If you do, how to you manage both calendars and avoid scheduling conflicts (such as scheduling a doctor or dentist appointment at the same time as a work meeting, because your work Filo is at work and you only have your personal one with you)?

What are some difficulties you have discovered with having two operating Filofaxes, and how do you get around these? And also, how does having separate work vs personal Filos make things easier to manage? Or, have you tried this method and found it just didn't work for you, you have to have everything in one book?

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/10/where-did-i-read-this.html>

David (2009-10-20 04:29:16)

I tried, but it was too much work to keep calendars and stuffs synced and not conflicting.

Besides, my job isn't the kind you can switch off at precise hours or at specific days. I enjoy not having any "hard" schedule, but it means I don't have "hard free time" either ;-)

Now, looking back in my archives, I like beeing able to see both personal and business events close together, it helps to see relations between things. This is really how I imagine a log book is used on a ship: *everything* that happens *is in there* ;-)

The only thing I still have is a Personal Filo (soon to become a Slimline ;-)), in my backpack, with a copy of my calendar. But it is exactly the same as the A5, so no worry.

kanalt (2009-10-20 09:24:08)

I do use two separate calendars for work and personal, though the one for work is not a Filo. Most of my work stuff I keep on the computer - we use Google Apps for our email and calendar system, so this is where I keep my running list of things to do - whenever I'm doing things at work, I'm usually in front of the computer, while at home, I need something that does not rely on the computer. But I also need something that is portable at work for meetings and general reference. For work I use an At-a-Glance month-in-view for my calendar - I work for a non-profit so what my organization buys for us has to be low-cost. In here, I keep my work meetings and programs (which also go into my personal Filo, and any other work appointments that affect me directly) and other programs that I need to know about when I'm there but that don't affect me personally (these programs do not go into my personal Filo - I don't need to know about them when I'm not at work).

The main challenge with this is keeping up with two separate calendars - I do have to double check a lot of things, but to me it's worth the extra effort. My Filo is my main calendar and my work calendar is a bare reflection of my Filo. All work items go in my work calendar, whereas ALL meetings and programs that I'm involved with go into my personal Filo. My job is one that does not come home with me, so other than the appointments and programs, I only need to know about things when I'm there.

I also use my Google calendar (via my iPod Touch) for an on-the-go glance for those times when I do not carry my Filo (though these instances are rare). This I update on a weekly basis and again is only a reflection of any appointments listed in my Filo. I don't generally add anything to this calendar without first putting into the Filo - the Google calendar is just for reference only, so that eliminates cross-booking there.

YM (2009-10-20 09:32:14)

I tried this at one point too, but found it too much work to make sure I wasn't double-booking my time.

Currently I use a two color ink system (since there are 2 pen holders...) using black ink for work items and blue ink for personal/home items. I do this both on my daily diary and on my to do list.

Formerly, I used separate to do lists for work and home, but simplicity got the better of me there as well and I switched to the 2 ink system.

Works very well and keeps the Filo uncluttered and more streamlined.

Janet (2009-10-21 13:50:17)

My work overlaps a lot with my personal life so I put both in one. I have to synchronise my calendar with three at work (one central office schedule and two for conference room bookings. I also have to carry my A5 Filofax with me all day as I go from meeting to meeting and then do the shopping on the way home so more than one Filofax on the go at any one time would absolutely and totally do my head in.

Ayesha Tariq (2009-10-21 14:11:46)

I've always been in love with the filofax. But it's only now that I've started using one on a daily basis. I've always felt I'm not using it right or to it's full potential, so to speak.

Now I'm just using one personal size for work and personal items. I prefer the personal because I can carry it in my bag. I use it mostly for notes and info since appointment usually go in blackberry.

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-22 04:58:16)

I have to use the one Filo for both work and personal lives. I have highlighters to alert me to "important stuff", i.e. blue = work, pink = uni, orange = personal, yellow and/or green = family appointments, and then everything else is scribbled in.

I have a specific order for my Filofax (you've given me an idea for a blog post) and if anything is in the wrong order, I panic!!

Laurie (2009-10-22 07:53:09)

Nickie, I know I speak for us all when I say we would LOVE for you to detail how you organize your Filofax! How do you keep it all straight?? What size Filo and diary format do you use? We would all love to know.

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-22 11:08:17)

HAHA!!

Well, you asked!!

<http://typecast2000.blogspot.com/2009/10/my-filofax.html>

Laurie (2009-10-22 12:16:05)

Wow wow WOW!!!! Nickie, that is AWESOME!! Thank you for that!!

I LOVE the photos that ZOOM out at me! I will take some time to study your post!!

Thanks again!!

Michele (2009-10-22 19:12:51)

Nicki, your filofax is absolutely amazing!!! Wow!!!!

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-23 04:07:34)

blush*

You people understand me... I am amongst my own here ;-)

Thank you for the lovely comments :)

Laurie (2009-10-23 07:50:41)

Nickie you are definitely among friends here. As my sister says it, "Filofax: the OTHER crack!"

Ha ha!

HP Fuchs (2009-10-24 12:34:14)

I use a black personal bridle for appointments, meetings, tasks, notes, reference and addresses. Both office and private. All my peers use an iphone...

My second filofax is a black personal savannah. I use it for hobby only. Amateur radio. It is always at home on a shelf where children cannot reach it.

Steve (2009-10-24 12:38:40)

Hi There

So can I ask what your amateur callsign is? I'm G8SFR but soon to become F/G8SFR/P

You might be interested in this template I've recently published:

<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6843>

73

Steve G8SFR

Michele (2009-10-24 12:52:43)

Ohh... about 7 years ago I had a brown personal bridle filo - it was gorgeous. I had JUST bought it when I found out I needed surgery. As I was nervous about bills I returned the filo to the store - I still think of it - it had 2 pen loops!

My dad was into amateur radio all his life. We had his system set up in the room next to the garage. All the neighbors used to bang on our front door because the frequency of the radio was affecting the frequency of their baseball & football games on their televisions. He once chatted with the late King of Jordan, and we knew about results from Olympic games held across the other side of the world long before the internet. His call letters were W2MCP and he finally was able to get his call letters on the license plate of his car. Just before he past away from cancer in 2001 my mom wept as he signed off and retired his call letters. I don't know what he did with his radio diary, but if I could find it maybe I'll transfer notes to my filo.

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-24 14:01:47)

This world gets smaller and smaller - I'm an amateur radio operator too!!! My call sign is M3NJO and my husband is 2E0MPO. We're both based in the UK.

Michele (2009-10-25 10:00:35)

So my filo friends, guess what I did yesterday... In anticiation of my newest filo arriving next Friday night and wondering how I was going to manage 3 filios (black finsbury personal slimline, red finsbury personal, and now a pocket green panama) when I'm used to just one (ok, I do have a orange pocket dorset in archives that I always reach out for Christmas Card addresss)... I decided to do a noble deed. Down the road there is a popular 2nd hand charity store that does very good business w/ both donatations and buyers w/ limited \$ \$. So to hopefully help someone and put a smile on a face as well as introduce the filofaxers' lifestyle... I took my Personal Red Fins and stuffed all the unused notepapers, dividers, etc. Since this filo erroneously was delivered w/ only a 2009 calendar, I took the 2010 cotton creme I bought at Harrods last August and put that in the red filo. As I still had the box it arrived in (via colleague at work I bought it from when she ordered the wrong size), I emptied my beloved slimline of its contents, and slipped the empty slim it into the box w/ the red personal. I then put these treasures into a plastic bag w/ some old stuffed toys and dropped it into the bin at the charity store.... So now my thoughts are of some young person opening the bag and just being amazed especially when they see the all brand new inserts inside....So for this week, I'm carrying the next week, plus my finance page, phone #'s in an empty filo plastic envelope. Next Friday night when my boyfriend comes home from UK w/ my new filo, I will happily be spending the weekend bonding w/ my new pocket filo. Please my filo friends keep me in your thoughts this week as I manage 5 days without any beloved book, sidekick, best friend at my side! ;-(

Steve (2009-10-25 12:18:58)

Michelle

That was a very kind thing to do. I hope who ever gets both organisers enjoys using them. I hope you don't have second thoughts this week!!

I wonder if you thought to pop a card in to each organiser with the address of Philofaxy on it? I'm sure we would welcome a new reader in to the fold....

Regards

Steve

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-25 15:23:57)

Michele - that was a lovely thing to do and no doubt your lonely 5 days will set you in good stead to use just the one Filo when it arrives :)

Nan (2009-10-25 21:56:24)

You go Michele! I imagine it feels really good to release the Filos you're done with to good homes and start afresh! In order to coordinate my 4 Filos (work, personal, household, and fitness), I create a master daily to do list in the Personal book, containing all routines, phone calls, errands, and major work tasks for the day. It means rewriting some items, but at present it's the only way I can keep everything at my fingertips.

HP Fuchs (2009-12-28 08:50:13)

:-) My comment caused quite some comments on amateur radio. My callsign is HB3YXC.

Recently I bought an old Yamaha XT600 Motorbike. To drive from home to office and back, summer and winter. Maybe I am going to use this amateur radio filofax for the motorbike as well. There is plenty of information to keep.

Calling the Dog (2009-10-21 16:47) - Laurie

Seems like there are a million movies with a variation on this theme: Person and dog love each other. Dog somehow gets separated from person and lost. New person finds and adopts dog. New person and dog love each other. Then one day, Original Person finds dog, and the argument ensues with New Person over whose dog it is. He was my dog first, he's my dog now, etc.

So to solve the problem, they let the dog decide. Both people stand far apart with the dog between them. Then they both call the dog at the same time. Whichever person the dog goes to, gets to keep him.

I do a variation of this when I am trying to decide which planner/ diary format will work best for me. I often find myself trying out a new format or size to see if it will work better than what I am using. The way I decide between two formats or sizes is: I fill out my entire week in both formats/ sizes with my appointments, tasks, special events and everything else for the whole week. For example, if I am having a really busy time, I fill out the week in my A5, and also in my Personal size to see if I can figure out techniques to make my Personal work well enough when I am very busy, or if I have to have the larger page size of the A5 to write everything in. During the course of the week, I pay attention to which one I look at and use more. The one that works better for me at the time is the one I either switch to or stay with. Usually the winner is apparent after just a few days.

I've just now realized that it's my planners calling me, and whichever one I go to gets to "keep" me. Which means I'M the dog!! Maybe I should come up with a different name for this!

Does anyone else "call the dog" and use two planner/diary formats at the same time to see which works better?

Michele (2009-10-22 08:38:41)

The only time I've had an issue is when I'm trying to decide between a week on one page vs week on 2 pages..... When I have switched at the beginning of the new year, omg - trouble begins.. especially since I alternate weekends with my son - I always get them messed up. The week on two pages finally won me over especially with the extra box at the top left where I jot stuff down such as how many vacation days I have accrued for the month. Oh yeah, the personal filo is calling me from my credenza at work "use me instead of the slimline for work!!!!" The personal calls out to me everytime I open the credenza before I leave for the day... It's beautiful red finsbury leather with lots more room to stuff vs. black finsbury skinny slimline. Sort of like a sheepdog vs a toy poodle?

Nan (2009-10-25 22:01:08)

Laurie, I love this post, and I love your comment, Michele! I'm a dog, too!

Most days, I need my Personal filo to give me an overview of birthdays and other events, but when I'm in crunch time I put everything on the one-day-per-page in my A5 work Filo.

Facebook (2009-10-22 17:51) - Steve

Philofaxy now has a 'fan' page on [1]Facebook why not become a fan.

Like our Twitterfeed we will publish announcements about new articles on Philofaxy. But you will also be able to have discussions and upload photos as well.

As with all of these social media things it might take us a little while to find the right settings/balance. But don't fear we aren't diluting our attention away from the blog, just spreading the word around in to more areas.

1. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Philofaxy/162988651428>

YM (2009-10-23 09:55:42)

Love it! If you ever need help wrangling the social media, I volunteer :)

Thanks for all your hard work spreading the Filo love...

Nan (2009-10-25 22:07:25)

I'm such a Facebook junkie. Kudos to Steve for bringing Philofaxy to it!

Free For All Friday No. 49 (2009-10-23 03:48) - Laurie

Hey everybody, Happy Friday!

For all of you who can order from the [1]Filofax US website, I have a promotional code that will get you 25 % off all paper, accessories and pens (not diary inserts or, sadly, organizers though) through October 31. It is: X25. Happy shopping!

And for anybody who missed Nickie's amazingly detailed description of her Filofax, complete with zooming photos, check it out here:

[2]

<http://typecast2000.blogspot.com/2009/10/my-filofax.html>

Also not to be missed is NH Grrl's blog post about her newest Filofax acquisitions, featuring 2 new slimlines!

[3]

<http://nhgrrl.blogspot.com/2009/10/heres-lookin-at-you-slim.html>

Sarah needs convincing:

[4]<http://blissbubbly.blogspot.com/2009/10/does-anyone-use-filo-fax-anymore.html>

Go and post a comment!

It's a very exciting Filofax day!

What's new in your Filofax life these days?

1. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/us/paper+and+essentials/>

2. <http://typecast2000.blogspot.com/2009/10/my-filofax.html>

3. <http://nhgrrl.blogspot.com/2009/10/heres-lookin-at-you-slim.html>

4. <http://blissbubbly.blogspot.com/2009/10/does-anyone-use-filofax-anymore.html>

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-23 04:09:03)

Oh WOW!! Fame at last!! *fans self*

Thank you for the plug - hope everyone has a nosy :D

Steve (2009-10-23 11:21:33)

Sarah needs convincing:

<http://blissbubbly.blogspot.com/2009/10/does-anyone-use-filofax-any more.html>

Go and post a comment!
Steve

YM (2009-10-23 11:32:18)
Steve, I followed your link & got "page not found"...

Steve (2009-10-23 11:35:56)
Odd, it works for me... I will add the link to the tail end of Laurie's FFAF post.
Steve

Sarah (2009-10-23 13:03:05)
Thanks for mentioning me in your blog, I will be getting a filofax! :-)

Laurie (2009-10-23 13:38:49)
Sarah, let us know when you get it, and post pictures of it on your blog if you can! We will all love to hear about it!

Steve (2009-10-24 04:19:37)
Well done Sarah!! As Jeri Ryan (Seven of Nine) once said... "Resistance is futile!"
Thank you Laurie for reminding me!
Steve

Sarah (2009-10-24 07:23:00)
I will do!
It probably won't be until the New Year as want to start afresh for 2010!
Might start playing all the things to get though!
Great blog btw x

D (2009-10-24 13:54:46)
I used the 25 % off code to finally get the metal hole punch for my A5 Finsbury. \$37.50 is a little more do-able than \$50.

Laurie (2009-10-26 08:16:39)
Congratulations D! That's great!

Janet (2009-10-26 15:25:02)
I just wanted to say that I totally agree with Nickie, the Metropol A5 is the dog's bollocks!
I am a leather snob but I used a Metropol for ages because I think that it is stunning stunning quality (esp in black) and the price is excellent. It looks really classy and luxurious.
I traded up to an Amazona when I spilled glue on my Metropol but I actually think the Metropol looks more classy than the Amazona.

How green is your Filofax? (2009-10-24 07:00) - Steve



[1]

We hear so much these days about global warming and protecting the environment. Whilst I would never consider myself 100 % green, I leave my impact on the planet like any other average person. Something triggered the question in my head about 'How green is using a Filofax?'

So as usual a quick dive in to Google pulled up a few sites that were relevant to this discussion.

The first obvious search result was Filofax's own [2]Environmental Policy which mentions all the things you might expect for a large company. I will let you read it for yourself rather than copying it in to this post.

I also came across a blog post at [3]Green Girls Global who were saying that they had tried to buy recycled Filofax inserts but Filofax no longer supplied this type of paper. However, when you look back at their policy they do obtain their paper from mills that obtain pulp from sustainable sources. Also Filofax is a premium product, I'm not sure off-white paper would have quite the same appeal over time as ordinary paper. I have some inserts from 20 years ago and they are only slightly off-white (aged) now. [Update: On a closer look, [4]Filofax do in fact sell plain pages using recycled paper, may be they didn't at the time of the Green Girls Global blog post....]

You can even buy organisers made from [5]recycled printed circuit boards. I'm an radio engineer but these don't really appeal to me for my organiser. I do prefer more natural materials, circuit boards are made from fibre glass, so they will be a bit 'scratchy' and rough around the edges.

So they are all the obvious things about being green I suppose. What it's made from and what you put in it... but there's more....

Your Filofax doesn't as far as I know contain any batteries that need special treatment when it's time to dispose of them. It doesn't require chargers or electricity to run it. It doesn't contain precious metals... precious memories may be!

Whilst the production of the organiser might involve certain chemical processes to treat and dye the leather. Given the life span of most organisers and averaging out the impact of your organiser on the planet, it's fairly low impact really. How many mobile phones or electronic organisers will still be functioning and still look as good in 20 years time? Also how many products can you still buy 'inserts' or parts for them 20 or more years later?

Unlike conventional diaries you are also only replacing the pages you actually need to replace each year, this has always been one of the great attractions for me about a Filofax, no need to transfer all my contacts, birthdays, and other reference information across to another new diary each year. You also have the ability to customise the contents to your exact requirements.

From the posts and comments, a lot of us store pages for later use/reference. I do this with my diary sections. But to-do lists and other consumable pages I recycle or shred, so I'm being fairly green in that respect I suppose.

So all in all I think you can congratulate yourself in using a fairly green solution to planning and organising your life.

.

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SuQzaYRGtTI/AAAAAAAAH10/L6-DV3wY_Z8/s1600-h/IMG_8317.JPG

2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/aboutus/environment.asp>

3. <http://greengirlsglobal.com/blog/recycled-filofax-inserts>

4. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=Recycled&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Fpaperessentials.asp%3Fcontrol%3Dprocessrequest%26priceLow%3D2%26priceHigh%3D2.99%26CatId%3D5%26SizeId%3D3>
5. http://www.revolve-uk.com/Products/products_organiser.htm

Iris (2009-10-24 09:03:20)

Just to let you know, Steve: the German Filofax store does sell lined white note paper made from recycled paper.

Steve (2009-10-24 09:14:07)

Thanks for that.... not all the sites are the same, I was thinking what is German for Recycled... but I didn't need to worry!!

I can manage French and English ok, but German I need to get my in-house languages expert in to help me... my dear wife!

Steve

Steve (2009-10-24 09:20:12)

Just checked the UK store and they sell it too!

So overall that make Filofax even more green....

kanalt (2009-10-24 10:23:04)

I can understand wanting to buy recycled refills for the Filo. And if Filofax doesn't supply them, I know that other planner companies do, if you are brave enough to cross over from the Filo world.

I do my own bit of reusing. When it comes to the blank pages (notes, to-dos, etc), I use every last inch of the paper. I cross out what's done and finished with and continue in the blank spaces - this is done for all of my lists and random notes. Any new projects get their own new crisp pages. But once I'm done with it, it becomes scrap for other use. Only when I can no longer use it, does it get thrown away.

Of course, this is also done as a cost-saving method as well.

Roll Call: What's Your Format? (2009-10-26 08:05) - Laurie



[1]

Hey everybody, we haven't had a [2][Roll Call](#) for awhile! (And for those of you who follow the Roll Call link you will notice I shamelessly re-used Inky's bugler image!)

So now's the time to step up and be counted among the ranks. Tell us who you are and answer these:

1) What's your current diary/ planner size and format? A5 week on 2 pages horizontal? Personal day per page? We want to know. And:

2) Are you planning to stay with the same format for 2010?

Me first! I'm Laurie. After much flitting about and numerous episodes of [3][Calling the Dog](#), I have finally settled on the original, basic [4][Personal size week on two pages, unlined](#). After all the millions

of planner formats I've tried over the last few years, I am absolutely shocked that this basic format is turning out to work the best for me. I guess there is a reason why it's so popular!

Do I plan to stick with it for 2010? Well, I have very good intentions. I have filled out all the holidays, birthdays, and other events in my 2010 pages. But I will be the first to admit, if I actually stay with it for the entire year it'll be a miracle. From January to October 2009, I used 12 different formats/ sizes/ planner books in my search for what works best! And frankly, I'm tired of tweaking so let's hope I have found my solution.

Your turn!

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_CPeL-KIUmkw/SuWRvcrtQI/AAAAAAAAAB4/mwkyiuESa6A/s1600-h/Naval_Militia_Bugler_NGM-v31-p346.jpg
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2008/02/how-do-you-filo.html>
3. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/10/calling-dog.html>
4. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/layout.asp?id=2375>

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-26 09:38:27)

I'm currently using A5 on week to 2 pages and will continue to use that in 2010 BUT I am going to steal some ideas that I've read on here. Along with using two different coloured pens (blue for home and back for work) I may even turn my Filo sideways to write on each day so that the rings don't get in the way! I'm still considering a Personal size though.....

Iris (2009-10-26 09:57:21)

I bought my Filo (Personal Guildford) just three weeks ago, so it might be a bit early to answer, but...

1. I'm currently using the 'week on 2 pages' diary (5 languages, unlined), which came with the Filo I bought.
2. For 2010, I got a 'week on 2 pages' diary (German language, with lines) - I find it easier to see German holidays at a glance and it has a little more space per day, especially for the weekend. Besides, it comes with a German information section (fairs, summer holidays, festivals etc.)

I also use a month on 2 pages diary which is handy for a quick overview.

Oni (2009-10-26 10:25:13)

I use a Pocket size, with two diary formats: day per page and week on 2 pages, unlined. I started using my filo this way at the beginning of this year, and it has worked pretty well. yes, I plan to stick to this for 2010.

paulien (2009-10-26 10:27:03)

oni, how do you fit both calendars into a pocket filo? Or do you only carry a few months at a time?

I am trying to use a pocket filo again, and wondering if a whole year of page-per-day will fit in it. Have you tried that? I will not use a week-per-two-pages as well.

Oni (2009-10-26 10:39:39)

Hi, paw13:

Yes, the whole year in day per page format fits a Pocket. The way I started was, I first had 4 months of the weekly format and a couple of months of the daily format. As time went by, I kept adding daily pages, and removing weekly pages. Now that the end of the year is near, I have finally added all daily pages for this year, and the remaining months for the weekly.

This is how I use both formats: the daily pages I use as a journal/diary, while the weekly pages I use to write appointments and upcoming events.

Despite the thickness I also use Notes, to do's, addresses, financial and a self created section I call Japanese. These of course, are kept to the minimum thickness possible.

The trick is to know how to organise each section in order to allow a better flipping through the pages :)

You can see how 'fat' my filo is in the Philofaxy flickr pool.

YM (2009-10-26 11:02:35)

I'm a one week convert to the Guildford Slimline with a one-day-per-page diary. So far, so good!

Prior to that I used an A5 with one-day-per-page.

The Slimline is my plan going forward for 2010, but we shall see...it is a Filofax addict's prerogative to change her mind :)

David (2009-10-26 13:32:31)

A5 :

Year view (my main calendar)

Week on 2 pages

Lined paper, for journaling

A todo list/page for each day. In French it is called a "plan de journée", sorry I don't know the english word : "daily plan" ?

It's really nothing more than a list of what one need to do. Using a new page, dated, each day. But I find it very efficient, if only to see where I am behind schedule ;-)

+ a tickler (1 per month) to send me reminder

Personal:

year view

Lined paper for appointments, todo, notes (that get written down in the A5 at the end of the day)

Articles/text I like to (re)read.

I bought a Slimline to replace my Personal, but cant' get myself to make the switch as it'd mean getting rid of those texts ;-)

kanalt (2009-10-26 14:08:21)

Currently I'm using a Personal Classic in brown. I use both the month-in-view and the week-on-two-pages lined. I will stick with the format for 2010, but am anxiously waiting for my Slim Guildford to arrive (I ordered both the Slimline and Extra Slim, will choose which one I like the best and return the other). Waiting is so hard to do when there is a new Filo on the other end. =)

Simo (2009-10-26 15:10:38)

Hey,

A little bit offtopic, but..

I got interested in planners/organizers for while ago. Now I found this site.

I would like to buy some planner. And don't know which I should buy.

I like to study time management systems. So, I'm thinking should I buy that brand planner (eg. Tony Robbins RPM binder) which I'm studying or buy filofax?

Have you experience in adapting eg. the RPM concept to Filofax?

And which Filofax models are good for (heterosexual :D) men? First I liked Eton, but then I saw that "as seen in GT" picture in filofax.co.uk lol

BTW, it's nice that there is information about filofaxes on your site, because I couldn't find much anywhere else.

Janet (2009-10-26 15:17:52)

I have an A5 Amazona with a horizontal Week to view as well as a separate week by week timetable. I scribble to do's for every day on the week to view. My meetings change frequently so every Sunday I transcribe my meetings for the week that has passed into the timetable for invoicing and throw away the week to view for that week (I have to do that or I am drowned in paper.) I keep six months at a time in my filofax so as I throw out a week at the beginning I add on one at the end. I got the timetable pages out of an old Domino (I think it was) that was designed for students and they are really useful.

I used to use Page a Day with the To Do List separately but I find this system is actually working rather well and is far less paper. I find the A5 quite big to carry around as my handbag is my office but the smaller sizes are too small for me.

Nan (2009-10-26 15:41:59)

In my A5, which I use for work, I have a month-per-two-pages, and a fold-out year for the following year or two. Then I keep about 4 months of day-per-page. This worked for me for most of 2009, so I'm going to stick with it for 2010.

In my Personal, I use week-per-2-pages in cotton cream. This book also has A-Z tabs and lots of to-do pages, because I've taken doing one master list each day on a to-do page.

In my Pocket, which I use for fitness, I use 2-days-per-page, because week-per-2-pages didn't give me enough room to record my workouts.

Steve (2009-10-26 15:44:33)

A5 for my journal and larger project notes and reference material. My journal is on 2 pages per day, this year I printed off the pages from within Outlook 2007 for the whole year. But next year I have bought a Filofax refill, (thinner paper) I'm also got a two year, A4 year planner, which folds neatly, I created this in Excel.

I am also a recent convert to the personal size Slimline see my post on this, which has more or less replaced my pocket for carrying around with me. Although I use my pocket for gathering ideas and notes for projects, it pops in my pocket so easily. In the slimline I'm using the supplied 1 page per week for appointments only. Plus a year planner for advance planning.

That just leaves my two personal size which I don't use the diary sections in currently....

Loving all the other comments, learning a lot from them too, keep them coming...

Strong Stiff Scotch... (2009-10-26 16:22:02)

This is going to sound terribly indulgent!... I have at the last count.... 42 Filofaxes! I've been collecting them since I was 16 or thereabouts, and I'm 38 now. I will post some photos of the collection on the flicker site to prove my point! Most are 'personal' size, from the 1980's heyday of filofax in the UK, mainly Winchester models in the various ring sizes. with a few more modern examples, especially the Cavendish - again bought for its large ring size. I also have examples by Mulberry, a host of A5's that I use as my work books, some pocket and mini-models, and some of the more unusual classic filofaxes including the Balmoral and some non-standard designs they produced. I did post a blog about my filofax on here some time ago, but I've since deleted the post. I will however post it on facebook, along with flickr pictures of the collection. I don't suppose its the largest collection of all the readers of this site, but i do use every wallet to store my diaries, addresses and notes going back to the late 1980's!

As much as I love my iphone, my chunky winchester goes with me everywhere!

Stevie

Laurie (2009-10-26 17:08:17)

SSS!! There you are!!!! I've missed you!

I had your wonderful Filofax blog post bookmarked, and the last time I clicked on it to read it (for the millionth time!) it was gone!!! *cry!* I loved that post so much. Any way you could post it on Philofaxy as a guest? You could email it to me and I could post it front and center where it would get the attention it deserves.

Anyway, whatever you decide about the post, it's great to "see" you again!

David (2009-10-26 18:11:03)

@Strong Stiff Scotch...

42? Wow!

The only advice I can think of is... "Don't Panic", but I am a Douglas Adams fan ;-)

Simon (2009-10-26 18:41:39)

My current filofax, recently bought from ebay, is a burgundy, personal Winchester (4CLF 5/4) filofax.

In this I have a 'week to a page with notes', as I don't like the five language format, for 2010 I've bought a 'week per page' and have interleaved lined notepaper, so that I have a sort-of 'week to a page with notes'.

Other than the diary I have several 'handrolled' pages with fitness programmes (100 Push Ups), lyrics to learn, various lists: shopping (similar to the new family pack), reading, music. Plus a leather credit card holder (5PCL) and a multi-fit calculator.

This is my brain...the grey matter in my head is an extension of my filofax!

Michele (2009-10-26 20:43:31)

Pocket with Cotton Creme week on two pages for me.... I discovered cotton creme years ago and I can never go back.. Now I'm going to the Flickr site to gawk at all the lovely filox posted!

Silver_Elixir (2009-10-27 05:05:45)

I use a Personal Size Kendal Filofax. This year I have been using 'week on 2 pages' unlined. Next year I am changing to 'week to a page with notes'. The idea behind this is that I am not overly busy and I have used this format in the past and I find it works well for me. The advantages of this will be that the years diary pages will take up a lot less room, allowing me to create another section of lined pages (recycled from other notebooks) that will be my daily record pages - a combination food diary/exercise record/weather and other notes I feel like recording. I will have about a months worth of pages in here at a time. I am also going to modify my financial pages and use the 'notes' side of the diary pages to record bills paid, instead of one page for every 6 weeks I will then have room for my budget. Anyway that's the plan. Only time will tell. :-)

Francesca (2009-10-29 08:09:30)

A5 Kendal for absolutely everything including work - make all my own dividers and print lots of my own pages for my job. I use the Time Management system.

I also use my lovely new Snake Domino, courtesy of Philofaxy, which just has a week on two pages diary which I transfer all my appointments over to, a Todo section, notes and a couple of address pages for important info and a tube map. If I have a day off I take my personal with me so I can keep track of any appointments that get booked in without having to lug around the enormous Kendal.

Lots of retired Filofaxes that I am slowly selling off on eBay and other such places to reduce temptation. Otherwise I spend a long time looking longingly at the other sizes and wondering if I should dabble in a different system for a while, when I KNOW I have a really efficient system going already!

@Simo - the Filofax TM system is absolutely brilliant. I have quite a complex working life and the inserts are just fantastic. Best TM system I have used.

gmax (2009-10-29 09:13:48)

I use the *personal* format almost exclusively, because it is a handy size and the most established. It also allows me best to indulge my passion for vintage filo binders.

I have always used the week to a page type of diary on white paper (the recycled version if I can find it). This has been traditional for more years than I care to remember, and I don't think I could possibly switch now!

Michele (2009-10-29 09:29:10)

I'm starting to think about an A5 for work..... oye!

Rubbishbin (2009-10-29 16:30:40)

1 - Currently using a A5 with a personalised page-a-day plan that includes space for appointments, to do list, shopping list, water countdown etc. I have a separate section with a 5 day working week with place for notes & appointments. Then I have a contacts section with a page per contact - so lots of room for notes. And finally a menu planning section.

2 - I'm hoping to stick to the same plan for 2010 - but it's early days yet and the plan may get tweaked more.

Charlie (2009-11-02 07:49:10)

I use a personal Soft Jade Finchley with cotton cream week on two pages diary. I also have a pull-out year planner for the year ahead as I often have appointments to make for the next year but don't like carrying anything other than the current year in my filo.

I started using different colours for different things this year - which lasted until May 23rd and then became a jumble of colours with whichever pen I had to hand!

I am going to try this again though and see if I can form a habit, as it does make everything so much clearer!

Poll - What size Filofax Organisers do you own? (2009-10-26 15:34) - Steve

Running in parallel with Laurie's excellent '[1]Roll Call' post, I've just added a poll to gather the votes on what sizes of organisers people own. This vote will allow to vote for multiple entries. I will let you decide which ones to leave out if you don't often use a particular size any more.

If you aren't sure what sizes they are, check out my earlier post on [2]Filofax Sizes. The size is also embossed on the inside cover of your organiser.

Please carry on commenting on the '[3]Roll Call' but don't let us stop you adding comments here too.

The result will be published at the end of the poll as usual.

Thank you for your participation.

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1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/10/roll-call-whats-your-format.html>

2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/10/filofax-sizes.html>

3. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/10/roll-call-whats-your-format.html>

Janet (2009-10-26 15:37:19)

I like A5 best as I can fold A4 pages in two and make holes in them and it is big enough to write in.

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-26 16:21:59)

totally what Janet said :-D

Michele (2009-10-26 20:17:03)

Pocket size for me... I pull out my filofax everywhere as I keep a very meticulous budget sheet so this is perfect for me.

Silver_Elixir (2009-10-27 04:38:54)

I use a personal size Filo. I do own a City A5, which I haven't seen mention of on any Filofax sites. I find that some books with lined paper are perfect to cut down to the Personal size. Michele what is your budget sheet like? I am finding that I need to start tracking my money in a better way and I am looking for a page I can use in my Filo.

Michele (2009-10-27 08:53:47)

Silver Elixir: I take a lined notepaper and divide each side in half. At the top of the front I title "Month & Yr" Top left side has Income: w/each paycheck date and total at bottom. Left side of front I list w/ totals: "Expenses": Rent,School, Car, Cable, Phone, Groceries, Meals, Donations, Misc, Medical Bills, Life Insurance Pments, Grooming, Amex, Mastercard. Those w/ multiple entries get their own breakouts in the columns. So right side of front page I have: Car; Donations; Medical

Back of notepaper on left is "Misc" breakdown, where I list whatever I buy that's not clothes or food: newspapers, cards, wrapping paper, filofax items, toys for son, furniture, etc. Top right side: Grooming (clothes purchases, haircuts) Under there: Groceries: every time I purchase any groceries at market I write it down. For meals, I write in filo whatever I spend on meals - lunch \$, dinner out.

On the first of the month, I total everything, and at the very top of the front of the notepaper: Total Income - Total Exp. Positive or Negative, Smiley or Sad face. I've been doing this since '99 and have archived every month. This is probably how I've become addicted to Filofax as I take it out of my bag everywhere to jot down my spending... Hope you find some inspiration here, Silver Elixir! Best, Michele

Silver_Elixir (2009-10-27 18:18:48)

Thanks Michele. I think it may take me a while to get to your level of being so organized and on top of it all. I currently track what I BPay on bills each week but I need more info than that - like what I actually have to spend as opposed to what I would 'like' to have to spend. Thanks for your ideas. I might pinch a few. :-)

Steve (2009-10-31 06:14:42)

It doesn't look like anyone owns a Filofax in M2 format... mind you it sounds more like a motorway, or a BMW or a tank!

Steve

Filofax and Amateur Radio... (2009-10-28 15:39) - Steve



[1]

From one minority interest to another... It is only in the last week or so that I've discovered that there are a few other licensed radio amateurs who read the *Philofaxy* blog, wonderful news for me...

So some background information if you wonder where this is going... Amateur radio has been around since the late 1800's and today there are approximately 6 million licensed radio amateurs in the world, with about a million of them in the US and at least 70,000 in UK. So it is a true worldwide hobby. Each radio amateur is issued with a unique callsign which is based on the geographic location where they live. In my case I was licensed as **G8SFR** back in 1979.

Radio amateurs love to collect information so they have it at their finger tips when they are 'operating on air' and to me a Filofax would seem a great way of keeping that information together in one place, especially if you are travelling around.

I have already created an amateur radio [2]log book page which you can download and print out from [3]DiY Planner. But I'm sure there is scope for other specialised radio pages.

I'm planning on putting together a specialist organiser for my radio hobby, some existing Filofax pages can just used as they are such as the world maps, timezone maps, notes pages, contact pages (useful for noting names and locations as well as callsigns etc).

So this is just a brief insight in to one of my other hobbies (I have too many!) I would love to hear from other radio amateurs, and anyone else who uses their Filofax for their own hobby, however unusual.

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1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SuigyweIm6I/AAAAAAAAH2s/AE-y1jMQ7ec/s1600-h/image10.gif

2. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6843>

3. <http://www.diyplanner.com/>

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-28 16:20:35)

Hello again :)

To carry on from my first mention of Amateur Radio - I was a CB user for approximately 12 years (1990-2002) in the Preston (Lancs UK) area thanks to my husband instigating a revival of his old hobby one night when we were bored.

Preston was a very user-heavy area at the time and we made lots of friends via the airwaves - many of whom I'm still pleased to call friends now.

We moved on to amateur radio in about 2003 to "broaden our radio experience" and it also coincided with the nickname of "muppets" really holding it's meaning for some of the users!! Anyway, I digress.

We took our Foundation exam at a radio club in Preston and I am now **M3NJO** and my husband went one step further with his studying and passed his Intermediate course and is now **2E0MPO**. So please say hello if you ever hear either of us on the airwaves.

I do have a "hobby section" in my Filofax (as you will know if you've read this: <http://typecast2000.blogspot.com/2009/10/my-filofax.html> - it's Section 2). I have my crafting notes that I keep in my Filofax (knitting and cross-stitch ideas & patterns) and notes for writing (my blog and other stuff that I keep meaning to do... one day....).

Nan (2009-11-26 11:34:33)

Do you still need to learn Morse code in order to get a license? In the US, they eliminated that requirement for amateur licenses in 2007. I think it's a shame that Morse code is falling into disuse. (I don't know it, I just think it's really cool.)

Nan (2009-11-26 11:38:02)

I don't carry hobby information in my Filo. The closest I've come is carrying lists that might come in handy during recreational activities, like a list of poker hands in case I'm invited to play, or a list of (American) football teams so I can carry on a conversation with my husband for 4 months of the year. :)

If I were going to take knitting with me when I travel, I'd probably transfer knitting notes into my Filo. (I usually use a large softcover M***skine because it has grid paper.

Steve (2009-11-26 12:55:21)

Nan said:

Do you still need to learn Morse code in order to get a license? In the US, they eliminated that requirement for amateur licenses in 2007. I think it's a shame that Morse code is falling into disuse. (I don't know it, I just think it's really cool.)

Steve:

No not these days, although I gained my licence 30 years ago! But Morse is still used on the amateur bands.

What has replaced morse in UK is a more structured approach to getting a licence, with more knowledge and experience gained at each step. It's a growing rather than a dying hobby again.

Filofax UK Adverts (2009-10-29 14:56) - Steve

You might have noticed the adverts for Filofax in the side bar and in the odd post. (scroll down to the bottom of the front page if you haven't spotted it yet)

If you click through to the Filofax UK site using this advert and then purchase something on the Filofax UK site, I will be receiving a small commission. This commission will be put towards the small cost of running the site and will be ploughed back in to the development of the site, it will also be used to pay for postage to deliver future prizes etc.

Whilst the commission is only earned on the UK site, any future prizes will be available to any reader no matter where you are in the world. At present the prizes have been donated to me by Filofax UK purely because I live in UK.

I am not aiming to make a profit from the commission it will all be used towards giving something back to

you the readers in some shape or other. I will also promise not to make the advertising too brazen and 'in your face' so it detracts from your enjoyment of reading and commenting on the blog posts. Additionally you will only ever see adverts for Filofax on this site.

So if you are thinking of purchasing anything from Filofax UK, please click through to the site using the advert link in the side bar. Wouldn't it be so much easier if we had one currency for the whole world!

Thank you.

Regards

Steve

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kanalt (2009-10-28 15:19:39)

That's great! Does this mean though that those of us who order in the US do not contribute to the commission? And if so, does that exclude us from the prizes? I do live in the US and buy a lot from US Filofax, so any possible prizes given would be great (although I hardly ever win contests)!

Steve (2009-10-29 19:02:16)

Kanalt,

I've revised my post I hope it answers your questions.

No one will be excluded...

Regards

Steve

kanalt (2009-10-29 21:33:27)

Yes, it does. Thanks! It's too bad that we can't contribute to the commission though. The more, the better. =)

Michele (2009-10-30 05:15:35)

Steve, I'll definately keep in mind. I want and can help with the commission as I have someone who works in both NY and London. So I can easily order from Filo UK and have it shipped to London and just wait for it... Kanalt, you can always order from UK if you see something you really like - it's just that it's about \$40 to ship across the pond. That's what I'm doing about my new pocket filo. The model was brand new this year (not even in the 2009 catalog) and suddenly discontinued in the US. I cannot locate anywhere here the color of leather I want. So I ordered thru the UK site where it's still being sold.

Free For All Friday No. 50 (2009-10-30 01:00) - Steve

Over the last week or so we have seen some great tips on organising your diary entries and how to make best use of your chosen format/pages etc.

I would like to ask, does any one have any hints and tips on organising your contact information in your Filofax?

Let's hear your ideas, or tell us about anything Filofax related.

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Janet (2009-10-30 05:58:18)

I find that a bit of a faff to be honest. That's the only thing I still use my Palm for these days. I keep all the contacts on my computer and in my PDA and also on my mobile. In my Filofax go all the ones I receive on the fly. Once every few weeks I transcribe them into my computer.

Silver_Elixir (2009-10-30 06:14:23)

I have a new iPhone so my contacts have gone in there. I do have 2 pages that I made up on the computer that I call Co-Deets. These pages hold the Compnay Details that I may need while at or away from home - the names, phone numbers and account/reference numbers (but not the sensitive ones) and other info associated with

insurance companies, electricity, gas, finance, phone, bank, blue card etc. I have found that over time this list has grown a bit and has come in handy, often just for quick referencing when making a call from home and not having to drag the whole file from my filing cabinet.

YM (2009-10-30 08:47:13)

I confess I too keep my contacts in my iPhone rather than my Filo. I do have some business card sheets in the back however all that info is also in my phone too! Keeping my contacts in my phone alleviates the need to recopy pages every time someone's information changes (which seems to be quite a bit these days) Digital contacts are the best for us Type-A's who can't stand scribble or crossing out :)

Steve (2009-10-30 09:00:02)

Here's how I operate...

I currently use Outlook 2007 as my central store for all contact information.

I then sync this info to my mobile phone a humble Nokia 6300, sorry no iPhone!

I also print out my contacts from within Outlook to go in to my A5 Filofax.

What I need to do is to download the Filofax software and order some Filofax computer paper and try that out. Reviewing it of course and seeing if that makes it any easier for personal size organisers....

Steve

Michele (2009-10-30 09:07:49)

I have to agree with YM (by the way, your filo collection on Flickr is fantastic!) that I cannot stand scribble or crossing out contacts - I deliberately chose last year to leave my business contacts out of my filo just because of this.. My personal friends and only a few close business associates go into my filo more sending cards thru the mail, etc. Hey all, my new pocket arrives tonight! I cannot wait! Panama dark green, tan interior, with "gold" rings which Filo doesn't do too often. All cotton cream, etc. I've even ordered thru the coupon a new "vanilla filo fashion" pen to go with it!

kanalt (2009-10-30 09:11:18)

I have a full list of contacts (phone & address) in my household Filo, which stays home at all times. What travels with me is a typed list of only those phone numbers I would need while away from home. All of these numbers (plus more) are stored in my cell phone, so it's really a lot of duplication, but while at work I can't use my cell phone, so at least the numbers are always on hand. If I switch to the Guildford Slimline, however, that will be on the things that no longer travels with me, mainly because of the lack of room and because the numbers are all on my phone anyway.

YM (2009-10-30 10:29:32)

Kanalt: One thing I can say about the Guildford Slimline is that it really forces you to "cull the herd" and only carry what you NEED. No room for duplicates or redundancy in that thing.

Michele: Thank you, and I am going to be posting a new updated photo of my collection (which is now quite disgustingly huge...) this weekend, so be sure to take a gander :)

Michele (2009-10-30 12:14:37)

So I'm starting to think seriously about an A5 besides the Pocket for work. Debating between Finchley, Siena or Guildford Zip. So far the GZ is winning... I don't have many meetings, but my job falls into different categories so the tabs work best. Don't need the financial and not really the addresses.. Any suggestions or raves about any of these models? I was drawn to the Finchley A5 but it doesn't seem to have sections. It's either a Filo, or a set of marble notebook or moleskins, but I thought I would help the Filo Sales Figures ;-).

Chris (2009-10-30 14:41:48)

Interestingly - it is the looking up of contacts and addresses that was the straw that broke this camel's back.

I hate having to look up electronic contacts and always reach for (or dig out of the drawer) my old filo - couple that with my huge mistrust of the e-calendar and reliance on syncing/connection and you end up going back to the filo-fold.

Laurie (2009-10-30 15:17:50)

I don't keep any contacts electronically. The only exception is the numbers I have in my cell phone, but I only use my cell for local contacts. When I call family or friends in the US I use Skype. I have all of my addresses in my household A5 binder, which also serves as a backup of important info from my main Filo, my black personal size. So most of my addresses/ contacts/ etc are in both my main personal Filo and also the A5.

I use the alphabetical tabs for most of my contacts. But I also use "directories" meaning lists of types of contacts. For example, I have a list of my cell phone numbers, in case my phone gets fried all those numbers won't be lost. I also have a list of doctors and dentists, for easy reference. I have a list of travel info such as frequent flier numbers, hotel reward plan numbers, accommodation contacts, etc. For things like this I find it's easier for me to find information when it is grouped.

David (2009-10-30 19:15:28)

As a other, that's one thing I don't use Filofax for. iPhone and Mac are better at it. Plus it's a time saver being able to access them directly from other apps (Email, Quicksilver, Spotlight,...) :-)

kanalt (2009-10-31 18:17:07)

In other Filo news:

I ordered both the Guildford Slimline and the Guildford Extra Slim to see which one I'd like better (see long, confusing explanation below). I have to say that I didn't see much of a difference between the ring sizes, which is what I was basing my decision on. I was going to return the one I liked least. I love the planner itself (the soft, supple leather), but I find that both of them are too thin for my use. After much thought and debate, I am returning both. I was able to pare down what I carry in order to use it, but to do that I would need a home-base Filo (separate from my household Filo) for all of the other information that would stay home. The idea of moving to the Slimline was to make my life a little easier, a little simpler. But to use two planners (one at home and one on the go) make that point moot. It would have been too complicated.

I am very disappointed in this entire endeavor - I ordered the Extra Slim and when I received it, it did not fit the description on the US website, at least not that I could tell. The US website says that the Guildford Extra Slim has 5/8 inch rings - the rings do NOT look like 5/8" - more like 1/2" or smaller, so I thought maybe the descriptions between the Slimline and Extra Slim had been mixed up on the website and the rep I spoke with lead me to believe that this was indeed the case, that the descriptions were mixed up, that the Slimline has bigger rings than the Extra Slim. So I exchanged the Extra Slim for the Slimline, only to find out about an hour later, via an email from the rep I spoke with, that the Extra Slim is slightly bigger than the Slimline. So I knew I would have to exchange again for the same item I had just sent back (BTW - the rep was very nice about all it, minus the mis-information originally, and offered to reimburse me for the shipping costs for the two exchanges if I sent him copies of the receipts). So I ordered the Extra Slim again so that I could compare the two side by side. I didn't see much of a difference (or a big enough difference) so they are both going back.

On the plus side though, I am making another exchange for the personal Kendal in black, which I have been eying for a while. And I know the ring size will work for me, as all of my other Filos are the same, although slightly bigger than what I was hoping for in a Slimline.

I would love to see a Filo where the ring size falls between the Slimline (most of which are 7/16" or 1/2") and the Personal (most of which are 7/8"). I know the Amazona Slimline (this style is not for me) is 3/4" - maybe more of this ring size could be implemented...just a thought, Filofax. =)

GCM1066 (2009-11-01 18:27:25)

My contacts are in Gmail and I use a T-Mobile G1 phone, so all my contacts sync automatically. I do keep some names and numbers in my Filofax, but mostly depend on my G1phone.

Charlie (2009-11-02 07:45:38)

I have all my contacts in my mobile phone and tend to use this a lot, but that's just phone numbers. I have everyone's address and numbers in my filofax as well and it's a mess of crossings out, but I don't mind as it also shows me a bit of history - who lived where and when etc and brings back memories. I don't mind a few crossings out in my filo - makes it look well-used! So I never delete anyone or anything entirely.

Beauty Gift Box - Price reduction... (2009-10-30 12:50) - Steve

Spotted today on the Filofax Twitter feed. They have reduced the price of the Beauty Gift Box to £35. It's only available on line from the UK site though... We thought it represented good value at £40 but at £35 it's even better. Available in three styles... Take a look on the site for full details.



1. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?s=169466&v=2457&q=95266&r=97790>

Your Blogs? (2009-10-31 08:36) - Steve

If you have your own blog or website, and you occasionally do a blog post about Filofax, tell us about it. Post the address of your blog/website in the comments of this post. I'm sure others would love to read your blogs.

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Nickie @ Typecast (2009-10-31 14:01:10)

It's been on here a few times before but there's no harm in posting it again :D

<http://typecast2000.blogspot.com/>

David (2009-10-31 14:24:32)

If French is not a problem:

<http://davidbosman.fr/>

One can search "Filofax" to find the bunch of posts related ;-)

Sarah (2009-10-31 15:48:07)

I've done one post which was featured back on here at

<http://blissbubbley.blogspot.com/>

Will be doing more posts as I will soon be buying a new filofax and will be blogging even more about it!

Yay! Great blog btw, thanks for all the advice!

YM (2009-11-02 08:56:13)

My Filofax obsession is one of the many things I blog about...

<http://nhgrrl.blogspot.com/>

Oni (2009-11-30 19:43:23)

I've wanted to have a Filo blog for quite a while...now I finally do!

<http://onigirisama.blogspot.com>

feel free to drop by ;)

1.11 November

Filofax Address Book Software (2009-11-01 14:02) - Steve

Following on from our discussions on how we maintain address and contact lists, which I think we all agree can get a little tedious and repetitive. I've found it's no different on a computer, with duplicate records slipping in from time to time.

I decided to download the free demo of the [1]Filofax Address Book software. I wanted to try this out before considering whether to purchase it or not. The software will only work on a Windows PC, no native Mac version is currently available, although I guess the software might work in [2]Parallels or similar simulation software. I haven't been able to confirm this out at this time.

After loading the demo, I took a look around it, you can import your address files from a variety of sources, I chose to link in to my address book direct which was easy to do.

You then choose which size of Filofax page you which to print your addresses and contacts on. The software supports the following formats: A5, Personal and Pocket size pages in A4 size paper, and A5 with 8.5 x 11 inch paper. For Personal and Pocket it assumes you are printing on to the computer paper that can be obtained from your Filofax stockist or the on-line store. There are also settings for printing labels or envelopes (useful for Christmas cards!)

For each size there are a selection of page styles which give you a choice of how detailed to make your printed entries. The print preview mode allows you to see your contacts on a simulated page and switching between styles allows you to see how much detail is included.

You can also filter your contacts to include or exclude work, personal or a text based filters. This proves quite powerful if you are setting up your contacts exclusively for your work Filofax.

In the options you can add and control A-Z tabs and the way alphabetical ordering is handled, the number of contacts per page. You can also select which fields to print, which allows you to cram more contacts to as few a pages as possible. You have control over the field headings, font sizes etc.

Within the main body of the application, you have control over the sorting of your contacts, using the main fields or some of the sub fields.

You can also edit entries although I'm not 100 % sure if the edited version of a contact is passed back to Outlook or not, I need to investigate this. Once you have imported your contacts you can maintain the file from within the application, so you can add and delete contacts, and as I just mentioned edit entries. At present I print from within Outlook 2007 on to A4 paper in booklet mode to put in my A5 organiser, but I can see this software would make the job a lot easier, especially for personal size pages. (3 pages per A4 sheet) which are traditionally tricky to line up exactly.

I've not as yet purchased the full version of the software (the demo is more or less fully functional, except it limits printing to 20 contacts) or some of the Filofax paper. But I will be ordering some personal size paper along with the software this week.

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1. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=Address%20Book&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Faddressbook.asp>

2. <http://www.parallels.com/>

Alex (2010-03-13 12:52:00)

Today I added a new contact in my outlook express address book and something happened. As things turned out all my contacts were corrupted. I was afraid, but suddenly saw in the Internet tool, which work with damaged files and downloaded it - [1]recover outlook express address. The software solved my issue for a minute and for free as far as I remember. I advised this application my brothers and they thanked me.

1. http://www.recoverytoolbox.com/recover_outlook_express_address_book.html

Steve (2010-03-14 05:24:09)

Hi Alex

To avoid this issue, I regularly export my address book file as a CSV file.

This I can then import in to my Gmail contacts section.

I also print out my address book and have a copy of it in my A5 Filofax. It's quite easy to do.

But thanks for the link.

Steve

Diary vs. Planner: What Do You Call It? (2009-11-02 07:42) - Laurie

Recently in a conversation with a British friend, we were discussing what Americans call their diary. She had thought that we call it an engagement book. I have heard that term before, but it's definitely not the term I use.

In the UK, "diary" seems to be the specific word for your planner calendar, whether it's a day per page or week to view. (Steve, correct me if I'm wrong!). When someone says they will check their diary, everyone knows what they mean.

For Americans, when we hear "diary" we tend to think of a 13 year old girl writing in her journal, "Dear Diary, I have a crush on blah blah blah..." Actually the word "diary" isn't used as frequently now, we use the word "journal" to mean the book we write in to record our thoughts.

So, what do we Americans say when we talk about the book we use to schedule our appointments, list our To-Dos, and jot our reminders? Some people call it their daily planner (and [1]The Daily Planner website grabbed this title for easy searching of these types of books). Some say "day planner," some say "planner." Some call their book their "agenda" although I don't hear that very often. Some people call their book their organizer, especially when it is a binder style such as Filofax. We don't seem to have one word that specifically means our daily calendar book.

Americans, what do you call your diary/ planner/ whatever? I prefer "my Filofax that contains my entire life and functions as my life-reference since I have a terrible memory," but I usually call it my planner.

(By the way, if you are in the market for a new Filofax, check [2]HERE on The Daily Planner website (or go to TDP, click on Autumn Specials then choose On Sale Planners) for Filofaxes in various sizes including A5, Personal, Mini and Pocket that are 10 and even 20 dollars off, or more such as a mini Topaz half off!!)

1. <http://www.thedailyplanner.com/>

2. http://www.thedailyplanner.com/sale-sale-planners-c-1707_1714.html?page=all

Michele (2009-11-02 08:46:55)

I call my filofax, "filo" or "my book"... I have never ever referred to it as a diary, journal or planner.

HouseMouse (2009-11-02 08:49:28)

I'm an American, and I call it either my planner or my calendar. "Diary" over here most definitely refers to a personal journal, but "journal" is the more dignified adult term. What's the old saying—we are two countries separated by a common language?!

YM (2009-11-02 09:07:40)

Also an American...I refer to my Filofax differently depending on who I'm speaking to.

On my blog or posting to this one, I call it my Filo (or, if I'm feeling particularly type-A that day I'll refer to it as precisely what it is - "my Eton Personal" or whatever).

At work I say, "I'll put it in my book" or, "it's in my book" or "let me check my book."

When speaking to those who know me best, I call the thing "my brain" because, who are we kidding...that's exactly what it is!!

Adirondack Explorer (2009-11-02 09:49:11)

I just asked my wife and she calls her book her "planner" or her "Day-Timer" (even though it's not that brand!)

Steve (2009-11-02 12:28:18)

Yes Laurie, I would say diary. But generally I refer to my Filofax as my Filofax, or my Personal Organiser. (Noting the spelling!)

I've never heard anyone over this side of the pond refer to their planner.

A planner here would be like a wall planner, a whole year divided up in to days which you fix on the wall, write on or put stickers on. Such as this: <http://www.sascoplanners.com/>

Steve

Steve (2009-11-02 12:33:19)

Also...

Bridget Jones's Diary - an American playing the part of an English young woman about town!

The Diary of Samuel Pepys - <http://www.pepysdiary.com/>

So Diary is well used over here!

Steve

Oni (2009-11-02 12:46:30)

Hi,I'm neither american nor british, but when I talk about my Filofax with english speaking people, I tend to say either my organiser or agenda.

In spanish I say 'Agenda' which is the correct term for it.

Steve (2009-11-02 13:38:08)

I think I might have found the answer for the differences...

Go and look at the Filofax Germany site and see the words used there for organiser and diary. They are in the same order as they are on the US and UK site...

Steve

Vidya (2009-11-03 20:30:12)

I called it my planner or my Filo. My boyfriend refers to it as The Brick (because it's red and heavy) or Vidya's Brain because he's convinced it's an extension of my brain.

JJ (2009-11-07 13:21:09)

I'm an American and I call it a planner, even though I do little planning on it. Mine is at least one third address book, but I NEVER call it an address book. My calendar is kept on a Palm Pilot, except that device hasn't been called a Pilot in a decade.

Whatever it is I have a comfortable, and wrong, name for it.

Steve (2009-11-10 16:25:26)

A random thought has just occurred to me... may be we need a Filofax dictionary or glossary.

In another part of my multi-faceted life, I've been a big fan of Steely Dan, the group from New York. Their song lyrics have for some years always tested my understanding of US expressions and culture.... That is until I came across the Steely Dan Dictionary:

<http://www.steelydandictionary.com/>

And then it all became clear....

Steve

Nan (2009-11-26 11:58:02)

I call it my Filofax, or my organizer. I'm in the U.S., and I think people who call it an agenda are being pretentious by using the European term :). It's also common here to use "day-timer" as a generic term, since Day-Timer was one of the earliest brands here (1947). (I don't know what year Filofaxes were first sold in the U.S.)

On the Filofax USA website, they're called "organizers," but the calendar part is called "diary," in the British tradition.

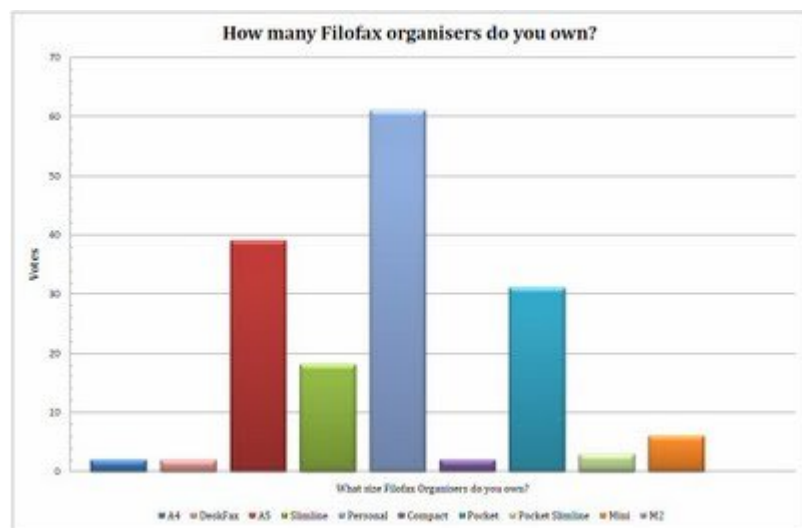
Poll Result - What size Filofax Organisers do you own? (2009-11-02 16:47) - Steve

Thank you once again for an excellent response to the poll. 84 votes this time and grand total of 164 organisers, which is no surprise as our previous poll said that most people had at least 2 organisers in their collection.

No big surprise either that the personal size is the most popular, followed by the A5 (which is always being mentioned here). Then came the pocket size and an then the slimline, which is gaining more of a following I think.

No M2's and the rest scored only small numbers. It would be interesting to hear from the users of the A4 and Deskfax organisers to hear how they find those bigger sizes.

Here's a chart of the full results:



[1]

Click on the image to see a full size picture.

And finally... if all the organisers were laid end to end they would stretch for 28 metres... aren't spreadsheets wonderful things!

Once again thank you to everyone who took part.

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1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/Su9SpE6DDZI/AAAAAAAAAH20/MA485E2lFgA/s1600-h/own.jpg

Oni (2009-11-04 10:49:14)

I was wondering how many readers have a Mini. I am being tempted to have one.

On another note, has anybody seen that in the UK site they don't have the black+red Classic (it's available in Germany, France..)it looks awesome!!

Oh and another sighting: The Domino Snake!!!

So much drool is going to mess up my laptop!!! :)

Francesca (2009-11-05 17:42:32)

Fellow Mini owner here - bought it about 3 weeks ago and am totally in LOVE with it.... Fantastic build quality, nice drive, amazing what you can actually get in the boot.....

Steve (2009-11-05 17:45:18)

We too like the Mini Cooper.. on our second one!

I think Filofax should do a tie up with BMW Mini, some exclusive colour combinations would be exciting.

Steve

Oni (2009-11-06 18:04:24)

I just finished reading the BMW Cooper blog and I must say they've been very helpful with their input on the FILOFAX MINI.

:)

Francesca (2009-11-11 05:23:18)

Sorry - think irony of my post was maybe too subtle in print! A smiley might have been in order....!

What do you write with? (2009-11-02 22:04) - Steve

Another revisit of an old topic. Way back in July 2006 Nan asked the same question [1]What do you write with?

I wonder if you have changed over time as pens have changed? I like to write with a fountain pen more than I like writing with a ball point pen. I find ball points frustrating when they don't write straight away, especially when you are signing something.

In my organiser I tend to use a mechanical pencil with a 0.5 mm lead which means I can enter my appointments in pencil and rub them out if an appointment is changed or moved.

I have a few different fountain pens some more expensive than others, I've even used some disposable ones!

Filofax themselves sell some very nice fountain pens, but I thought they were a little pricey. Although they do have a good offer on at the moment. (See below)

[2] 

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2006/07/what-do-you-write-with.html>

2. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?s=154263&v=2457&q=90886&r=97790>

Janet (2009-11-03 02:38:55)

I have a Montblanc fountain pen, a Waterman ballpoint pen and two Waterman pencils. I don't tend to keep them in the loops as I am always writing and forget to put them back. So they go in the pocket of my bag. I prefer a fountain pen, despite the fact that I am left handed and I have to be careful not to smudge what I have just written with my hand.

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-11-03 03:58:53)

I like my Parker pens <http://www.parkerpen.com/en/>

I have a standard Parker biro in my Filo which will accept either normal biro ink refills or gel ink refills. I tend to use the normal biro because you've all seen my obsession with highlighters and the gel ink tends to smudge quite badly when highlighted and this sort of defeats the object of writing stuff down, doesn't it?

I also have a Parker fountain pen which I tend to keep at work for signing letters with.

Finally, I have a bog-standard, cheap mechanical pencil in my Filo too for scribbling notes down. I tend to "obtain" these from work as there's always a stack of them lying around. Ssshhh!

by Ewan Spence (2009-11-03 06:33:23)

That as three years ago, why would I have changed my mind since then? LOL. Anyway, a mechanical pencil, the absolutely fantastic Pentel P205.

I do have a nice Lamy pen in the second loop, but to be honest that's rarely used in the Filofax, more for notes

and forms I have to fill in for others.

Charlie (2009-11-03 06:44:03)

I try to use one of those Bic 4 colour pens and use each colour for something different (I have always loved them!) but I sometimes mis-place it - don't know why I don't just put it back in the loop! - and so I sometimes have to grab anything that comes to hand. It's nice when that happens to be my Parker Fountain pen!!

Sarah (2009-11-03 07:31:32)

I have used a fountain pen since school and I don't think I'd ever go back, that time has passed for me!

I use a Parker Mechanical pencil and biro, came in a set and they have a lovely carry case.

I do like writing with pencil not just because of being able to rub it out with ease but it just seems to feel better to write with for some reason.

The Parker biro is my favorite pen, we all have a favourite pen don't we? Well anyway I do!

Michele (2009-11-03 07:43:20)

I love my Filofax Pink Fashion Pen so much that I purchased a second one - this time "Vanilla". It fits perfect in my pocket filo pen loop and looks great too - perfect size for it - extra fine and comfortable to write with.

YM (2009-11-03 08:56:21)

Up until quite recently I was using a Mont Blanc roller ball. I've had fountain pen "accidents" in my purse and so use them at home not so much carry them in my Filo anymore. The Mont Blanc is lovely and writes exquisitely, however I am always in a panic over losing it.

The other day, the sushi delivery person had me sign my credit card slip with a Pentel Ener-gel needle tip roller ball & it was amazing for a disposable pen.

So now I have one of those in my Filo and the Mont Blanc stays safe at home.

Oni (2009-11-03 10:56:45)

Ewan Spence: I too, carry a pentel 205. I don't even know how old it is, I can't even remember when it lost the clip.

I also carry a purple Pilot v5 Hi-Tecpoint.

I can't live without them anymore!!

For other stuff, such as my journal, I use a Pilot fountain pen in black. Very good quality for such a low price!

Steve (2009-11-03 14:31:03)

Doh... I must have been half asleep when I wrote this post...

I am also using a Pentel P205 pencil in my slimline...

Thanks for all your great comments.

Steve

Elisabeth (2009-11-03 15:09:01)

I use a Parker classic ballpoint pen in my Kendal.

runningonempty (2009-11-03 20:26:50)

Green Pentel p205 bought at U Kansas bookstore in 1988 with approx. 134000 miles (+/- 133000) on it now. Green was a great choice because otherwise you thieves would steal it just like they all tried in school!! Back off me Pentel!!

gmax (2009-11-05 07:09:26)

I use a [1]Parker "Classic" (aka "International Classic") ballpoint, which is ideal for fillos because it is nice and slim. The length is fine for Personal size binders and above.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/30775101@N04/2960899447/>

David (2009-11-06 09:14:41)

- Bullet Fisher SpacePen
- Capeless Pilot-Namiki fountain pen
- Waterman 'Exception' fountain pen, or something like that. Expensive but amazingly good.
- Mechanical pencil (0.5).
- Whatever is at hands when I need to write, mostly gel pen ;)

JJ (2009-11-08 21:43:54)

I'm in-between pens and am currently using a Fisher bullet Spacepen. Don't really like the 'bullet' design, but I love the Fisher refill (which I usually put in some other pen body).

RpS Fotografie (2009-11-22 10:40:21)

I recently changed from one single pen to two with different colours. Everything in green has to do with work and everything in blue is private (home, family etc.) Like the way it shows me at glance what's happening. My blue pen is a fountain pen made by Rotring.

Nan (2009-11-26 12:20:30)

My obsession with fountain pens is why my husband dubbed me "Inky"! But these days I exclusively use Sanford Uni-Ball Deluxe Micro pens. I have them in black, blue, and red. I buy them by the box for the house, but we also have them at work, so I don't know whose is whose! I use blue for my own to-dos, and red for things I'm waiting for other people to do. On my monthly calendar, I use blue for routine meetings and red for big deadlines. I believe these pens have gel ink, but I'm not certain. I like them because they're fine point, don't bleed through, and don't make blobs like a ballpoint (biro). They also fit in the Filofax pen loops, which is very important. :)

Free for All Friday No. 51 (2009-11-05 18:30) - Nan

Hi everybody!

This week, I've used my Filofax for everything from recording a pasta salad recipe to planning a vacation to Las Vegas. Has your Filofax been involved in any new adventures lately?

Laurie (2009-11-06 02:59:38)

Oh yes, getting into the busy time now and I have all my Filos working at once! This month is very events-intensive with lots of things to schedule in my planner, guest list for Thanksgiving, and packing lists for our trip to Scotland next month. My designated Scotland Filofax has been seeing new action as I write in new places to see and go while we are there this time. My household Filofax is gearing up for sending Christmas cards as I revisit my lists of who I've sent cards to in the past, and I'm updating addresses in the A-Z tabs section. Thank goodness for Filofax(es), or I would be completely lost this time of year!!

Charlie (2009-11-06 05:28:32)

I am starting to get itchy about putting in the new year diary! I don't like to change over until the end of the year as I think there is something nice about heaving out the old and starting the new with shiny fresh paper! But my final few weeks of this year look a mess in my filo and I'm desperate to start afresh in January with colour-codes and NEAT WRITING!!

This week, I have been mostly crossing out and writing in changing diary events! Lots and lots coming up in the next few weeks and seem to have nmo spare time to put any new appointments!

Vidya (2009-11-06 15:58:06)

I've been listening for 30 minutes each day to various self-help and productivity audiobooks and podcasts. I take notes in my Filo on salient points and recommendations.

I added in the first two months of 2009 because I already have a few commitments in the new year.

Oh, and I got some cute note paper from Morning Glory that I've been using for the diary I keep in my Filo.

gmax (2009-11-06 17:09:15)

I added a leaf to my Filofax with an [1]unofficial version of the alphabet, which you might find of some amusement.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/30775101@N04/4080810495/>

Michele (2009-11-06 19:11:24)

Excellent alphabet gmax! It's my brand new pocket panama filo's first "working" weekend! Last week was spent staring at it in the box and finally taking out Sunday to record addresses. It's got 2009 and 2010 w/ room to get fatter! One of the adventures I'm taking my filo on is to record a cooking challenge I've accepted. Learn how to cook by going thru a cookbook I rec'd as a present 5 years ago... I won't do a blog but will record all of my cooking in the filo - something fun to look back on next year.

Steve (2009-11-07 05:20:40)

I had to use my year planner in a slightly different way this week. It's the horizontal planner. I was looking for two blocks of a 7 days that didn't clash with other appointments, but they had to be spaced by 4 days.

I devised a very simple solution with a strip of paper with some pen marks and marker pen stripes. I then slid the stripe of paper along the planner like it was a slide rule, until I found the perfect timing in December!

Goals and Tasks (2009-11-09 03:05) - Laurie

This is a topic that I like to revisit every now and then, because I love to hear how people use their Filofaxes to accomplish their goals, complete their tasks, run their lives and rule the universe.

So today the topic is, goals and tasks. When do goals become tasks?

For example, your goal might be to be healthier. In order to do that, you need to generate some tasks. That might be, keeping a food journal to monitor your eating, or following an exercise plan. I usually have to schedule my exercise, so that I will actually do it instead of another week going by and I realize I haven't worked out at all. I also have to get specific about what I need to do that week, such as 3 strength training sessions and 3 cardio sessions. And I have to write them on my weekly page or again, I will forget to make time for them.

Another example of a goal that generates tasks is preparing the house for a move. We will be moving next summer, and I need to pare down and organize the household contents before moving. So I have a task list of things I need to go through and get rid of whatever I don't want to take with us: clothes, shoes, kids' toys, books (I never normally get rid of books but we have a lot of nonfiction that is outdated, books from university etc that I don't need to drag around anymore!), etc. It's a huge chore, and the only way I can face it is a little bit at a time.

In addition to the tasks generated by goals are those millions of little day to day tasks that build up because they aren't terribly urgent, but if I don't do them then I wind up having to write them over and over again from week to week. Before I know it, it's been a month since I promised my friend that I would burn that CD for her and I still haven't done it!

My problem is, I am terribly "out of sight, out of mind." So if my tasks are behind a tab somewhere, they are forgotten indefinitely. But if I write everything on my weekly pages that I want to do, the low-priority tasks mingle with the more urgent ones, my page fills up with tasks, and I get overwhelmed and don't know what to do next.

I need a more efficient system! Maybe I need to use a prioritization system to rank urgency of tasks on my weekly page. Maybe I need to write categorized Goals and Tasks lists and look at them every day to schedule tasks so that longer-range things don't get put off too long.

How do YOU use your Filofax to handle day to day tasks, longer-range/ non-urgent tasks, and tasks related to larger goals?? Do you have categorized lists like Home, Work, School, etc? How do you decide what to do when?

SJP (2009-11-09 05:33:30)

I have a week to view diary. Each week I put a day planner sheet, a to do sheet, a plain sheet of paper, and a personal expenses sheet. That way everything is there where I look most.

Sarah (2009-11-09 06:46:08)

I have always had problems with task lists and have adapted some GTD stuff to help

I have a list of priorities (work mainly) and a list of non-priorities (ie, tidy up my itunes etc).

Some of the non-priorities stuff can be done when I'm travelling or have a spare 5 mins.

I find this the best way of dealing with targets and goals.

Depending on how long the lists are I sometimes write another list with headers of phone & email. Anything from the previous lists can be put into these and then when I'm at my computer or phone I can simply go through the list and email or phone.

I find putting the list at the front can be somewhat daunting when it is long but if it's hidden it's easily forgotten.

Vidya (2009-11-09 14:28:17)

I keep a list of my annual goals in a clear folder that goes between the monthly pages. Then in a Franklin Covey compass divider I keep a list of all the projects I'm currently working on with their status indicated by circles (clear circle: project not yet started, half filled circle: project in work, fully filled circle: project completed) On the flip side of this tab, I keep a list of my priorities for the week, some of which are generated from my goals, others based on current needs.

Michele (2009-11-09 20:13:21)

Wow - I'm like Laurie - out of sight, out of mind. I think I might try Susan's plan of action

Francesca (2009-11-10 04:06:14)

I'm the same - out of sight, out of mind - which is lethal in the job I do, working for so many different people on different projects. So I use the Time Management system - it's perfect for prioritising To dos and setting objectives and tasks.

You have one week to 2 pages, but the days are all on the right hand page. There's only a small space each day for appointments, but lots of other columns and sections for notes, so I find that (with the help of the odd Post it) this is all the space I need for this. On the same pages you have a column for 'priority activities' and a column for 'Phone/Fax/Email'. So at a glance at one page, I know exactly what my most pressing tasks are.

On the opposite page, you have a huge space for 'Notes and Action points' which is good for those ongoing tasks that need to get done at some point. Under this, 'Reminders' and 'Expenses' and 'Delegation reminders'. This all works perfectly for me - I know what is urgent, and what needs to be done at some point that week.

For household chores, shopping lists, ongoing personal tasks I use a 'To do' page per project, fold it in half (lengthways) so I can see the tasks and then insert it in the current week. This can be carried forward to the next week if needed, but where possible, I always have the goal to get everything done on the list before the week is out!

I also use the project planning pages for extended objectives in work and personal life. These are brilliant. Space for a mind map on the back to get all your thoughts and ideas down on paper, then on the front, columns to list and prioritise jobs and when to do them, who will do them, and a nice big column to tick them off when you have. Really good for having total clarity on a particular project, This stays in a 'Projects' tab, but I have an additional 'Today' plastic marker in there so I can flip to a current project quickly.

At the risk of sounding like I'm on a commission (!) the Time Management inserts are really worth investigating, if you can get hold of them. They have such great ideas for organising your thoughts - something I really benefit from - and there are plenty more in the pack that I haven't mentioned here. Very good stuff!!

What a long winded post - have finally found such an efficient system after so many years of trying that I have almost become evangelical about it.... Apologies!

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-11-10 07:06:23)

Francesca - I love your Time Management system!! Can you get them in the UK?

Michele (2009-11-10 07:27:21)

Nickie, I actually was looking into this myself over the weekend. If you go to the Filofax UK site on the bottom left (where copyright, contact us, etc) there's a link to Time Management. Francesca, is there were you got your TM system

Francesca (2009-11-10 09:55:33)

Yes, that's right. If you can, I found it worth ordering one of each of the annual update dated and undated packs. You can then try everything out and once you find the stuff that works well for you, order most of it separately in individually to replace what you use.

I use the week to view format, although the day to view looks very good/.... I just have so much other stuff in my Filo I couldn't fit in the day to view dairy!

Steve (2009-11-11 17:10:00)

I have project to-do lists. The current big project is the move to France so that has several to-do lists of all different types!

But for general week to week lists in my slim-line I keep a to do page next to the current week. I use 1 page per week diary. So one side of the to-do list will be the week on the left, the other side the week on the right. This is generally enough for me.

I also have dedicated pre-printed to-do lists for when we go to France, a packing list for UK. A leaving list for France these get inserted in my A5 at the appropriate weeks.

The leaving list has the usual things you might expect such as turning off the water, setting the boiler to winter frost stat mode, fridge to vacation mode, arrange disconnection of the phone line. Locking windows and shutters etc etc Boring but essential stuff.

These lists have been refined over many visits and are now just about right. They have some blank lines for additional notes as well.

Off over to the house in a couple of weeks time so I've been reviewing my 'take to France' lists from the last visit this week..

Laurie (2009-11-13 15:05:03)

Susan I have been using your method for the last several days and it is great! I just add one sheet between the weekly pages for my categorized To-Dos for the week (Computer, Phone, etc). Not sure why I never tried this before!

SJP (2009-11-14 06:44:45)

I'm so happy!

Personalised Filofax Refills (2009-11-09 17:18) - Steve

I came across this press release this evening:

Letts and Filofax launch personalised diary service

Both Letts and Filofax brands are to launch a website this month offering customers the ability to create a personalised Letts diary, or Filofax organiser diary refill, including the addition of personal dates and photographs. The site has been created in collaboration with Penwizard, the award winning personalised publishing experts.

The site, at [1]www.personalisedproduct.com allows the user to create either a Letts spiral bound diary, calendar or notebook; or a Filofax organiser pocket, personal or A5 diary refill. Unique features include the ability to enter an unlimited number of personal dates; the addition of names in silver embossing; and a personalised store of your dates and photos, allowing re-use of your information in the future.

Both Claire Coughtrie, Marketing Manager at Letts and Sharon Golbey, Marketing Manager

at Filofax commented “This is a very exciting launch for us, representing a move into a developing market sector by two trusted brands. The opportunity to provide a product on line which has been completely personalised by the individual consumer is a significant strategic marketing development for Letts and Filofax”.

The formats available include:

- slim and A5 diaries
- wall and desk calendars
- A5 and A6 notebooks
- pocket, personal and A5 Filofax diaries

Customers can select from a variety of cover designs, and then upload their own personal photographs to appear in the diary. The system offers a selection of standard diary dates (such as UK holidays) to be added to the diary, before the user then enters their own personal diary dates.

Prices start from just £4.99 for an A6 photo notebook. Now there’s no excuse for anyone to forget that important anniversary or birthday!

For further press information, visuals, or to arrange a Press Product trial please contact Claire Coughtrie on 0131 663 1971 or at ccoughtrie@letts.co.uk

Remembering that Letts and Filofax are part of the same company, it was an interesting development. I’ve checked the Filofax UK site and I can’t see any mention of this new product available on there. However, clicking on to the site mentioned in the press release: [2]www.personalisedproduct.com you will see a Filofax tab there. I guess a lot of us already personalise our ‘fill’ after our initial purchase and very few pages are discarded.

I’m not sure how popular this will be. May be give us your thoughts in the comments

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1. <http://www.personalisedproduct.com/>
2. <http://www.personalisedproduct.com/>

Laurie (2009-11-10 02:32:42)

Wow wow wow!!! I think this is very exciting! What a great idea: you enter all your birthdays, anniversaries, notable dates etc ONCE, and it stores them so you can get them printed year after year. I took a look and it looks really great. You can have a photo for the front page. And perhaps most exciting is you can start the diary in any month and it goes for 12 months, so there is no missing out if you don’t start it in January!

This is a fantastic service, and it doesn’t cost very much more than just getting the regular diary pages. No more forgetting birthdays, they’ll be pre-printed in your diary! I wonder if they ship overseas...

Laurie (2009-11-10 02:34:07)

The answer is, yes they do, but it’s not cheap. Hm, still worth considering!

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-11-10 06:16:21)

This is such a good idea and I can’t believe that no-one has thought of it before. Of course, the cost implication is a consideration and the usual “OMG A NEW DIARY INSERT... WHERE ARE MY POSH PENS? I’M GOING TO WRITE IN MY BEST HANDWRITING!”* scenario that I enjoy during the next few weeks but, like has been mentioned... no more forgetting important birthdays or anniversaries.

**new blog post idea forming....*

Janet (2009-11-10 12:27:14)

On one hand I think - great! No having to print everything out. And it is a fantastic idea - one of those 'why has it never been done before?' ideas. But personally, my filofax develops with me. I like writing by hand and writing each week afresh. It's only really birthday lists and favourite photos that I would like pre-printed. But I have so many - how to decide which ones would go in? But what a nice gift for someone!

Charlie (2009-11-11 04:59:25)

hmmm - I'm not sure about it. In theory it's a great idea...

But I would say that the reason I love using a filofax quite so much is the whole pen, paper, writing thing! I would be worried that a) I LIKE writing in events and dates and birthdays, b) it would make each page very samey, rather than the (beautiful!) mess of scrawls and different pens and colours that is my diary and c) I'm not sure I would necessarily read or notice the key date I'd put in if it wasn't written very obviously and in big writing on the day....

hmmm....

Michele (2009-11-11 07:20:48)

I have to agree with Charlie. Last month was my cousin's 50th... I wrote her name in my fanciest script with a bunch of !!!! a huge number 50 and a big smily face.

Filofax templates (2009-11-10 18:33) - Steve

If you like creating your own custom Filofax pages, there are a great selection freely available on [1]D*i*Y Planner

I've also been contributing to [2]D*i*Y Planner for a while now. It's not exclusive to Filofax, but it's a great site for sharing ideas.

I've just added a Filofax [3]Sheet Music page, I'm not a musician myself, but I'm sure there must be a few in our ranks. So if you want to make music and keep it in your Filofax... then now you can.

Here is a complete list of the pages I've created on the DiY Planner website, some of them have been featured in previous posts on *Philofaxy*:

- [4]Photo Exposure Record
- [5]Reading List
- [6]Project Planner
- [7]Meeting Planner
- [8]Customer Record
- [9]Day Planner
- [10]Travellers Checklist
- [11]Telephone Messages
- [12]Pocket To Do/Notes
- [13]Amateur Radio Station Logbook
- [14]Sheet Music New

[Update: These files are now hosted on our own site in the [15]Files Page]

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1. <http://www.diyplanner.com/>
2. <http://www.diyplanner.com/>
3. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/7002>
4. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/5444>
5. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6599>
6. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6582>
7. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6581>
8. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6518>
9. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6498>
10. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6485>
11. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6718>
12. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6714>
13. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6843>
14. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/7002>
15. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/files.html>

Amanda (2009-12-08 13:53:23)

Thank you so much Steve! I need to figure out how to adjust these for my personal filofax. To me that its only downfall :0/

Untidy and Cluttered Life... (2009-11-12 17:03) - Steve

I am always trying to not hold on to clutter these days. For the last year or so we have been working our way through this house that we have lived in since 1986 de-cluttering cupboards and rooms. It's all part of our plan to move to our other house in France. In doing so I've come across things I had forgotten I still had, things I had given up looking for.

I've also got rid of a lot of things that were kept '*just in case*' well '*just in case*' never became '*I'm glad I kept that*' or very rarely!

So over this last year or so I've always been looking out for hints and tips on trying to reform my hoarding habits and improve my efficiency when it comes to storing information and things that are needed in future. Storing them in such a way that I will be able to find them when I need them.

The same exercise has also applied to my Filofax, as I said a few weeks ago, I've slimmed down my A5 to reduce the bulk of this organiser. In doing so I now spend less time hunting through the pages/sections for things... so that was a winning idea. But I still go back through it to see if I can take out any more.. This evening I came across another blog called '[1] *Unclutter*' naturally I couldn't resist doing a search for Filofax or Planner on there and hey presto up popped some previous articles:

- [2]Creating a central binder for your home - This looked like a great application for a Filofax
- [3]Staying organised with binder clips - You could use this idea for keeping your spare pages and inserts organised and always to hand, may be on the inside of a cupboard door.
- [4]Weekly meal planner - there is a nice template at the end of this that you could easily use in your Filofax

That's just three that caught my eye, but there are lots lots more to browse through... trouble is my A5 is in danger of getting fat again !

.

1. <http://unclutterer.com/>
2. <http://unclutterer.com/2009/02/11/creating-a-central-binder-for-your-home/>

3. <http://unclutterer.com/2008/02/25/reader-suggestion-staying-organized-with-binder-clips/>

4. <http://unclutterer.com/2008/02/20/creating-a-weekly-meal-plan/>

Free For All Friday No. 52 (2009-11-13 00:02) - Laurie

Happy Friday the 13th everyone! In the US at least, Friday the 13th is considered to be unlucky. But I was born on a Friday the 13th so I like to think of it as a lucky day. I hope it turns out to be lucky for you!

To add a bit to your luck, check out The Daily Planner if you are in the market for a Filofax Urban, they are on sale right now.

How's it going in your Filofax life these days?

Charlie (2009-11-13 07:12:28)

My filofax life has just got VERY exciting!!

I got engaged on Sunday (!!!) and am now using my filofax as my 'wedding book' and have a whole new tab just for planning the wedding in it! So far I have a provisional guestlist, ideas for venues, dresses etc etc etc. I am SO EXCITED (about the wedding, but also about getting to use my filo so often!!!)

Steve (2009-11-13 07:23:08)

Congratulations Charlie... good luck and I hope everything goes to plan..

Don't forget a list of wedding presents! A Filofax for your husband may be ;-)

Steve

Francesca (2009-11-13 09:27:33)

Nothing as exciting as a wedding to plan for me...Congrats Charlie!

My 'exciting' Filofax news has been working out how to make convincing top tabs in my A5 Kendal. Bought a new set of blank dividers, turned them horizontally and used my Filo punch to put holes along the top of the divider. Voila - top tabs which look authentic and really usefull for subdividing sections. And in an A5, four fit perfectly along the top....

Am I a bit behind? Is everyone already doing this?!

My other musings - would a zipped A5 suit me better to keep spare pens and loose papers in? Does anyone use a zipped A5? I have a Metropole Zip which I use as a storage binder (got it cheap on eBay) but this is the biggest of the Zipped A5s and I find it too big to lug about. Has anyone got a Cuban or Guildford Zip? Do you find it too bulky?

YM (2009-11-13 10:31:28)

Happy birthday Laurie :)

Congrats Charlie :)

My Filo unluckiness came on Tuesday the 10th when I spilled tomato soup all over it. So in comparison, this Friday the 13th business pales!

Free for all question: do any of you use your Filo as a wallet as well as an organizer? Some of the interiors seem like they would accommodate paper money well, there are of course card slots aplenty, and the ones that have zipped pockets could even handle coins...just wondering....

Laurie (2009-11-13 11:35:59)

Charlie congratulations!!!! How exciting! Very happy for you.

YM: I have seen people use the very small Filofaxes as wallets. I don't know if it's Pocket or Mini size, but they are basically a wallet with rings for pages: the length of the binder has a pocket for bills, zip pocket for coins, and slots for cards.

Also the Deco has slots for cards and a big popper pocket in the back for coins, bills, or whatever. How do I know

this? Well...

Laurie (2009-11-13 11:57:24)

Meant to add: YM, which of your babies got soup all over it?? Were you able to clean it? That's a tragedy!!

Steve (2009-11-13 12:12:26)

Laurie: Is it your birthday again then? Sorry if I missed it...

Read about the tomato soup incident here: <http://nhgrrl.blogspot.com/2009/11/you-say-tomato.html>

YM: Yes the Pocket Finsbury could be used as a wallet: It has a full width pocket that runs behind the rings so it's over 20cm x 13 cm deep. It has a couple of card slots in the front inside cover. And a zip pocket in the rear inside cover.

I'm using my personal slimline as my wallet, but it doesn't have a coins pocket. But on the upside there's 6 card slots plus a long slot in the front and another long slot in the back for money notes, driving licence etc. It's working for me.

Steve

Michele (2009-11-13 12:32:37)

Congratulations Charlie! That's wonderful news. You know you should keep your filo intact as is and keep it as your 'wedding book' and then after the wedding buy a new filo. My mother did this back in 1956 with her date book/diary and every now and then I love looking thru her book...

YM, I actually was thinking of using my pocket panama on the weekends as a wallet- just to take when I'm going to the diner or the book shop - saves carrying a bag and if I'm in a diner and a thought comes to me to write down....

OK, you guys will be the only ones who understand... Last night my boyfriend tells me has to go the Far East next week for meetings... What do you think my immediate first thought was???? It was "hmm, I should check out the Filofax Asia site and if I order something have it shipped to Asia office" Is that bad or what?!!!!!!

Laurie (2009-11-13 14:10:29)

I didn't specify, but the Friday the 13th when I was born was Friday the 13th of October (making it extra creepy for those superstitious types).

Thank you for your birthday wishes though YM!

Michele: no, that is perfectly logical! Maybe they have items there that you wouldn't otherwise be able to get!!

Michele (2009-11-14 05:55:36)

Laurie, would you believe on the Asia site there are more choices of color for the Finsbury and the Finchley. For ex, 8 colors for the A5 Fins to 4 on the UK site! Going back to Francesca's comment & question, I'm in the market for an A5 myself - Does anyone have the Guildford Zip and find too bulky?

kanalt (2009-11-14 09:16:12)

Congratulations Charlie! That would be exciting, to keep all of those plans in your Filo. I got married before I was a Filo user and missed out on all of that goodness. I did keep lots of lists, but not in anything as fancy as a Filo. =)

In other news, I just got one of my non-Filo user friends to look into getting one. She asked me about mine - I referred her to the Filofax website, to this blog, and the to Flickr group. Now she will be getting one for Christmas and she's very excited. My next objective is to get her active on the blog!

Vidya (2009-11-14 11:46:16)

@YM- It's not a Filo, but I have a wallet/planner from Lizell that has a coin pocket, full length cash pocket, slots for credit cards as well as a small binder. It's bulkier than a regular wallet so it limits the size of purse I can use, but I like having a calendar and notepaper with me at all times.

I've looked at the pocket and mini Filos and would love to get a baby Finchley to match my personal, but they only have two or three card slots. I carry so many cards, from AAA to the library to grocery discount cards to debit/credit cards that two or three slots simply aren't enough. Also, my Lizell has a card slot with a clear plastic

window where I can put my drivers license, making it easy to present on request. I wish Lizell still carried these wallets, but alas, they don't and I haven't found any quite like them in the market. I bought two a few years ago and I figured I'm set for the next decade or so... :-)

@Charlie: Congratulations!!

Steve (2009-11-14 12:34:42)

Vidya, is the wallet you describe similar to this:

<http://tinyurl.com/ya6kopm>

Regards

Steve

paulien (2009-11-15 14:43:30)

How cool Charlie, congratulations. We should compare notes, because I am also planning my wedding. My boyfriend proposed to me little over a year ago and we will be having our wedding next may. (Yes, we took some time getting together the money because we want a good party.)

Something else exciting, for my filo at least, is the new refill I have found. It is a week on two pages format, with the days as columns! How handy this will be. I put up some pictures on the flickr page. Did any of you see this format before, apart from a similar one in A5 size? Mine is personal size, and it was quite a surprise to me when I found it. Last few weeks I almost abandoned my filo for outlook because it had this view though I missed the papaer, now I can have the best of both worlds.

Laurie (2009-11-15 16:23:20)

pauw I would love to hear where you found the personal size week on 2 pages with the days as columns!! I've never found this format in the personal size before.

Steve (2009-11-15 17:27:46)

Is it this one:

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/layout.asp?id=2372>

Which is a week on two pages, horizontal format.

Steve

Dilaila (2009-11-16 00:13:24)

Hi. I'm a philofile from Asia and have been a stalker for a while now :).

I have the Finsbury Zipped A5 in red and the Butterfly Pocket in red also.

Michelle,

Where is this Filofax Asia site? I didn't know there's one. Been buying off Amazon US and Ebay UK. The shipping cost is crippling.

Cheers.

Laurie (2009-11-16 01:31:24)

Steve, here is pauw13's photo of it on Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7880801@N05/4102627955/>

It's a different format from the one you have linked. pauw's has the days as columns vertically on the page.

On this photo:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7880801@N05/4103386186/in/photostream/>

pauw says the languages on this format are English, French and Dutch with the info pages directed toward the Netherlands and Belgium, so I'm guessing it's from that area.

Steve (2009-11-16 01:38:34)

Thanks for that Laurie. OK it's Filofax reference number 6848410 and in their Netherlands store here's a picture of it:

<http://www.filofax.nl/store/layout.asp?id=2690>

Top left:

<http://www.filofax.nl/store/diaryrefills.asp?control=processrequest &catId=6 &SizeId=3>
Steve

paulien (2009-11-16 02:55:42)

Hi,

I found my refill in a stationery store near my house. The dutch filofax site has no ordering possibilities and is rarely updated, so I almost never look there. But the picture Steve found is indeed the one I have.

Paulien

Francesca (2009-11-16 04:52:20)

@Dilaila: How do you find your Zipped Finsbury? Is it very bulky to carry around? What pockets does it have inside - there's not a picture of the inside on the filofax website. I'm thinking of moving from my A5 Kendal to a zipped A5....

Michele (2009-11-16 05:19:59)

@Dilaila - For Asia, they have a Japan and Korea site. I just went to www.filofax.com and searched on "Please select your country". Some of the stuff on it looks like it's in English.

Steve (2009-11-16 06:01:01)

OK try here:

<http://bureauartikelen.com/details.asp?code=6848410 &origin=products>

I hadn't spotted that you couldn't buy at some of the Filofax on line sites.. another Filofax oddity!

I was a little sleepy earlier too!

Steve (2009-11-16 08:31:23)

I've asked our friends at Filofax UK HQ (bows head) about the 6848410 refill about why it's not available on the UK site... or one that we can do on-line orders from!

I will of course report back...

Steve

Dilaila (2009-11-16 10:27:14)

@francesca: The zipped is slightly bigger than the unzipped, which makes it easier to dump things in and not lose the.

It is rather bulky but I only take it out for work ie meetings. (I work from home). The rest of the time, it's at my home office, or if i go somewhere after an outside meeting, i leave it in the car.

I couldn't do without it. It's my portable office. Anything to do with work goes in there. Very practical size for printouts. I don't even have any other filing system for work.

Inside Left: Full length zipped pocket, a few vertical credit card pockets, one with transparent window and a pen loop.

Inside right: Notepad holder and pen loop.

@Michelle: Thanks. I have visited the China and Korea filofax site but it's in their language. Will check out Japan.

Dreams Do Come True (2009-11-13 11:36) - Laurie



[1] I have received as a very generous gift my "dream Filofax," a Personal Deco in Ivory!! It is gorgeous and I love it, love it, love it. I have posted a bunch of photos of it on my [2]Flickr page!

It's a beautiful Filo, but the thing is a workhorse too. The closure strap is long so the book can be stuffed full (which I inevitably do with my Filos). It also has a full-length popper pocket inside the back cover, and inside the front cover there's a full-length zip pocket, another full length pocket, and card slots so it can double as a wallet (although I don't think I will use it that way).

One happy discovery is that the pen loop is leather on the front, and the back side is elastic to accommodate a wide range of pen sizes and shapes. Even my Bic 4 color pen fits into it, but I had to take it back out again because it's just not classy enough for this Filo!

It came loaded with all cotton-cream inserts including diary, address pages, and notes pages. Very nice. I'm not certain but the cotton cream pages seem a little thicker than the normal Filofax paper?

The Deco has hardly left my side since I got it and I have already spent some time getting to know it, loading it with my pages, and filling in the diary. Even though I had already filled in my 2010 week on 2 pages diary insert, I decided to do it all over again so I can use the cotton cream week on 2 pages because it looks so nice!

And if you were wondering, yes that clasp is even more beautiful in person!

Very, very happy with my new Deco!!

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_CPeL-KIUmkw/Sv2MbmfiSoI/AAAAAAAAACA/iNmEC_NTvLY/s1600-h/Diaries+2009+292.jpg

2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/41064231@N08/sets/72157622672507897/>

YM (2009-11-13 12:31:19)

Wow! How lovely! I absolutely cannot wait to see your photos up on Flickr!!!!

Again, Happy Birthday to you Laurie :)

Michele (2009-11-13 12:35:36)

It gorgeous, Laurie, absolutely beautiful!! Enjoy!

D (2009-11-13 15:40:38)

Awesome filo, Laurie. Enjoy it!!!!

Charlie (2009-11-16 04:47:44)

SOOOOO JEALOUS!!!! I WANT ONE!!!!

How wonderful Laurie, Maybe I could stretch to getting this one as my 'wedding book'?? Maybe not...

Dilaila (2009-11-16 10:33:30)

Just visited your flickr. Lovely. What are your tabs? I can only see 'Notes'.

Laurie (2009-11-17 01:56:30)

I have lots of tabs, including:

Emergency and Medical; Travel Info; Local contacts; Information (where I keep my lists of goals, my workout schedule, and other reference info; Lists (I have a lot of lists), Notes, Move (to prepare for our move in a few months), Financial, Addresses.

Stephanie (2009-11-19 16:15:12)

Heartfelt congrats, Laurie!

I know how felt when I received my white Deco (personal size, too!), and how I feel when I take it out of my purse to write. It's bliss!

I added some flat-back rhinestones around the locking mechanism and on the two bookmarks I use. A girl can never have enough bling... and this way, I can tell which white deco is mine and which is yours. :o)

Gee - so what's your next dream? :o)

Laurie (2009-11-20 01:30:38)

Thanks Stephanie! LOL so we can tell which Deco is yours and which is mine! We should have a Deco party.

Yes now I have to come up with a new dream don't I?? Luckily I have lots of dreams. ;D

D (2009-11-20 17:45:34)

Stephanie, your black rhinestones sound awesome. I'd love to see a picture. I did something similar with my citrus personal Piazza. I used clear rhinestone alphabet stickers to put my initials on the bottom right corner. I love bling too!!

Stephanie (2009-11-22 18:03:46)

Hi, D:

I just uploaded some pics on flickr of blinged deco.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/filofaxdecobling/>

Hope this helps and stirs the bling creativity in you!

:o)

D (2009-11-23 16:07:08)

Hi Stephanie,

Thanks for the pictures of the BLING!!! I love it. Your fountain pen is pretty awesome too. I use fountain pens, but all of mine are too fat to fit the pen loops on my filofax, so I keep Parker ballpoints in the loops and just use the fountain pens in the filofax when I'm at home.

New Product Suggestions (2009-11-16 10:21) - Steve

I received an enquiry over the weekend from one of our readers asking if we knew of a particular organiser with specific features. I couldn't think of one with that particular set of features (Zipped and with large rings but in Pocket size). I approached our friends at Filofax HQ and they were unable to help. There is only one Zipped organiser in Pocket size and it has smaller rings than the regular organiser in that model range.

But it started some ideas about 'What if' you were able to specify exactly what you wanted in a particular organiser and it wasn't currently available. Filofax told me they are always looking for new ideas for new products and I think they value our input highly, as being some of the most qualified and interested bunch of users. We are 'real customers' with a passion for the products. Experts in the field of Filofax.. So what could they do better? What would you like to see in any future products? Let us see if we can

influence future or evolutions of current products.

I wonder if anyone has ever used the subject of 'Filofax' as their specialist subject in [1]Mastermind? I think some of us would get quite a high score!!!

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1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/entertainment/mastermind/>

Amims (2009-11-16 11:49:14)

I suppose I should start as it was my query in the first place.

Well...

I'd like a Lyndhurst, pocket size with 19mm rings so I can fit day to page refills for the full year. Also, as this is a wish list, I'd like it in red or green.

Thank you very much! ;-)

kanalt (2009-11-16 13:17:41)

I'd love to see a binder whose rings fall between the Slimline and the Personal - so, somewhere between (US size) 1/2 inch and 7/8 inch. Specifically, I'd love to see a Guildford this size - love the Guildford Slimline but the rings are a smidgen too small for me to use all the time, but the personal size (although I use this most often) is sometimes too bulky.

Also, I'd love to see cotton cream week-on-two-pages with lines (personal size), as well as cotton cream monthly pages.

Thanks for the opportunity to mention our wish lists!

Janet (2009-11-16 14:33:59)

I would like a Mode organiser in A5 size. It is such a beautiful organiser (I have two in aqua/pink in the personal just as I love that style so much) but too small for me. I would also like a bigger selection of A5 organisers with 30mm rings.

Laurie (2009-11-17 01:58:38)

Someone awhile back said she would love to see a Slimline A5, and I agree. I wonder if that would solve my problem of page size (Personal too small) vs. book size (A5 too big). A slimline book with the large page layout of the A5 would be really nice!

Steve (2009-11-17 12:37:15)

Laurie, the smallest ring size on an A5 is currently 25 mm, although some are 30 mm.

But a good one to add to the list. There are slimlines of most other sizes, not available everywhere though...

Steve

Oni (2009-11-17 18:37:20)

A wishlist, how cool!!

Well, I would like

1. a Scanda in a pocket version
2. the Chino to make a comeback
3. the Metropol Pocket (and the Domino) to have the full width back pocket (like the finsbury)

My list could go on and on... but I don't think it would be proper to do so :)

Francesca (2009-11-18 01:31:48)

I dream up these requests all the time....!

I'd love an A5 zipped Kendal - such a lovely organiser, just wish I had the security of a zip round it.

Apart from the actual organisers, I'd love to see:

- 'Top Tab' dividers
- Add on pen loop device for extra pens (maybe inside the rings somehow?)
- a stiff cardboard page to put at the front of my Filo to make it easier writing on the left hand pages - I have so

much stuffed in the front of my Filo it makes writing on that side tricky,
I once had an amazing contraption that fit in a personal Filofax - can't remember if it was made specifically by them. It was a flat plastic 'page' about 4mm thick which had lots of implements you could pull out of the side - flat highlighter pens, pencils, biros, scissors, ruler, hole punch for filo pages, tape measure.....like a swiss army knife for filofaxes. Was wonderful - does anyone else remember this?

jstephens (2009-11-18 08:39:34)

Wow! Some amazing comments already! I will be sure to pass them on to the team who will be very interested indeed to hear what you want.

I would like to see a mirror for the mini too! I might pop my suggestion in at the same time - hehe :)

Jess - Filofax

Oni (2009-11-18 11:11:14)

Another wish I just had to include but forgot:

an extra pen loop, it could be like the plastic ruler, only wider...this would be very awesome!!

gmax (2009-11-19 03:18:21)

@Oni - I do actually have an insert that's an extra pen loop. Pretty sure it wasn't a Filofax product (maybe Muji once sold them?), but it is like a fairly sturdy semi-transparent flyleaf with the loop attached.

I could really go to town with a wish list based on the huge product range that existed in the 1980s. But my top choice would be to start producing product listings and (ideally) catalogues in *Personal*, punched format once again, so that they can live in a binder. Listings were fold-out, four page affairs, while the catalogues sometimes had a special binding whereby the pages could be separated if you wanted.

This was all very useful back in the days of mail-order, probably less so now with on-line facilities, but it would still be handy. For me it would really bring a touch of nostalgia too!

Steve (2009-11-19 06:57:14)

I too can remember the printed catalogues they used to do.

On the website there is a 'Request a Catalogue' form:

http://www.filofax.co.uk/catalogue/catalogue_request.asp

I've filled this in a few times but never received a catalogue.

Also there is a form in each refill you can send in to get a catalogue, but I've never received one.

Can anyone else remember when they last saw a catalogue?

I once had a very old catalogue, but I'm not sure where it is now. Mis-placed many years ago...

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gmax (2009-11-19 07:12:38)

I did receive a catalogue via filling out the form that comes with a diary. I think it was dated 2007. But it does seem quite hit & miss what comes from doing that.

It was quite a glossy brochure, but not in a Filofax format.

Iris (2009-11-19 07:23:22)

In Germany, you get a printed catalogue at all stores that sell Filofax: It's 75 pages with 1 page for every organiser plus a few pages for pens, bags and refills. It's about 8" x 8", so it doesn't fit inside the Filo... but I keep it at hand on my desk.

Penny (2009-11-19 09:18:22)

oh please please please please please with a cherry on top:

i would love an affordable slimline a5 with snap closure and two elastic pen loops (one front, one back). i'd like the rings a bit larger than the slimline personal, but not as large (25mm) as most a5's. which style? classic, bond, domino? i'm not too picky!

most recently i've ended up buying my a5 binders from b & n because they are lighter and less expensive than the current filo offerings. i'm also pretty sure the ring size is a bit smaller and i find it forces me to think about what

i'm carrying.

while i want the cost to be uhm free? (we can dream) i'm willing to pay for such product because i know good files last.

Penny (2009-11-19 09:21:27)

@laurie & @steve , hah ... i think that was me that you were remembering. i've been asking on and off i think for a few years! i should've read the comments before i just barged in with the contents of my wish list!

there are a few forms i would like, but since my printer can print a5, i care more about the hardware than the innards.

Laurie (2009-11-19 09:46:41)

My sister was in a store (in the US) recently that sells Filofax, and they had a stack of catalogs. She grabbed one and mailed it to me. It's nice to sit and thumb through, the photos are beautiful!

Oni (2009-11-19 12:40:22)

I remember personally writing to Filofax asking for a catalogue about a year ago. The only thing they told me was that they were forwarding my email to their spanish distributor.

I am STILL waiting for someone from Tombow & Esatom to send it to me.

Needless to say I got bored of waiting and picked up a free copy at the London Filofax Store.

Oni (2009-11-19 12:42:30)

@gmax: That is exactly what I would like! Sadly when I was finally able to visit a Muji store in London, I couldn't find that insert. I couldn't find the Chrono Notebook either, and they told me they were discontinued. Such a pity!

shepcraig (2009-11-20 16:46:01)

I sell Filofax products for a living, and what I get asked for all the time, is the Mode organiser in a5 size and also, the city dweller insert pack in a5. Also, people always ask for the filofax conference pads for there a4 folios.

Facebook - Update (2009-11-16 12:58) - Steve

There is now an even simpler address to find our Facebook fan page:

- [1]<http://www.facebook.com/Philofaxy>

Click on the link and become a 'fan' today....

Enjoy

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1. <http://www.facebook.com/Philofaxy>

Oni (2009-11-17 18:39:04)

I'm already a fan; I even suggested a discussion topic for this blog... :P

Steve (2009-11-18 01:32:43)

I can't find your discussion topic on the Facebook page, unless I'm looking in the wrong place

Steve

Oni (2009-11-18 05:43:20)

Steve, have you clicked on the 'Just Fans' link? that is where you'll find it :)

Steve (2009-11-18 13:52:30)

Thanks for pointing that out! I've changed the setting so the Wall shows these posts as well now.

Thanks.... Friday's topic is set!!!

Binder cover that folds back? (2009-11-17 02:25) - Laurie

Hey everybody, I have a quest for you!

I got an email from littlediva12 over at Flickr. She is in search of a Filofax (preferably) or other brand of binder where the cover folds back on itself like a spiral notebook. I don't know of any myself, so I thought I would open the question up to your group wisdom. Here is an excerpt from littlediva12's email to me, with her preferences and what she has already checked out:

"I fell in love w/Filofax a near decade ago when I was searching for the equivalent of a Franklin Covey planner I'd fallen in love with but missed out on purchasing. The binder was a light blue, and divided into quadrants by white stitching--almost the exact replica of a Filofax Classic binder! A couple issues have held me back from making the "big purchase" at the start of each new year, tho.

Besides the issue of paper size (can I manage to downsize to the 5.5" width of an A5 when I've been accustomed to a width of either 9-7/8" or 10-7/8"?), my other major concern and main priority is that my planner fold back onto itself, just like a spiral notebook. While a spiral bound planner would fit the bill, I'm in need of a ring-bound planner. As much as I love Filofaxes (have been poring over them for years upon years, and have come close to making one mine), it would be a waste of money to buy such a lovely (and pricey!) item if it proved cumbersome to use, especially since I'd be using multiple times throughout my day.

Now that I've rambled on about my dilemma...perhaps you know whether Filofax makes a (ring-bound) planner w/a fold-back cover (i.e.-with front & rear covers that fold back to meet each other, like the covers of a spiral notebook)?? If not Filofax, maybe you know of another company that mfrs. a ring-bound planner like this.

Otherwise, I'm familiar w/Levenger's Circa Roll & I've considered trying one as a day planner. (I need a couple, anyway, to use as notebooks.) I've also been scoping out materials w/the possibility of making a DIY planner. I'm hoping, however, that I can enjoy the little luxuriousness of a Filofax. :) It would be much easier if I didn't have prerequisites, I realize! I look forward to hearing whatever info you have to pass along."

I told her if anybody will know the answer to this, it will be the Philofaxers! Can anybody help her out?

Ayesha Tariq (2009-11-17 03:54:47)

I had an organizer like that. It was a student organizer by Mead/Five star.

I had a personal size but I think u can get a bigger size too. Check on www.mead.com.

Laurie (2009-11-22 05:18:41)

NHgrrl on Flickr recently got a Franklin Covey Compact size binder that she says can fold back on itself. Does anyone know if all the FC binders can do this?

Nan (2009-11-26 20:20:47)

Laurie, FC sells a variety of binders, many of which don't fold back.

One year ago on Philofaxy (2009-11-18 13:14) - Steve

OK a little bit over a year ago by a day or two... but this post by Nan back in November 2008 '1]What/Where' is just as valuable today as it was then.

Nan was planning how she was going to be using her Filofax in 2009, deciding what was going in which section, the names for each one etc. Take a read and let us have your thoughts as always in the comments. It would be interesting to hear from Nan about how her plans back then have worked out?

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2008/11/what-where.html>

Michele (2009-11-19 07:48:38)

This entry just caused me to spend over an hour going over comments from 2008 and finding a whole bunch of new ideas for 2009 Filofaxes! That's what I love about this blog - I get so inspired! Tonight I'm coming home and writing out my wn "what/where" list!

@Laurie, so do I understand correctly, you use the A5 A-Z tabs for alphabetical lists? (I'm getting an A5 for Christmas and I really don't want to copy over addresses from my 3-week old new pocket).

By the way, yesterday I was listening to a webinar on social media and all I could think of during the call was Philofaxy and our friends at Filofax UK & US(bow)!!

Michele (2009-11-19 07:49:27)

oops!! I meant 2010!!!

Laurie (2009-11-19 09:42:31)

Hi Michele,

No, I don't use the A-Z tabs to file lists, although I've heard of that. I have separate tabbed sections for my (numerous) lists.

I use the A-Z tabs for contacts and addresses, and in my household A5 I put my website passwords etc.

Hope this helps!

Laurie

Dilaila (2009-11-19 10:06:34)

I'm wondering if I should use two A-Z tabs, one for contacts, one for lists/projects. Has anyone done this?

I'm also finding all the accessories ie sticky note, calculator, portable puncher, mirror (haha), call cards, zipped envelopes etc are making the filo lopsided. Do you put yours in front or at the back? I tried putting them at the back but it makes writing hard.

Nan (2009-11-19 20:15:46)

I find it very serendipitous that Steve reminded me of my post just now. My plans worked out well for the first part of 2009...but 2009 is already changing for 2010.

For example, I've only had to juggle 4 major projects at a time for the past few years. Now, that number has more than doubled. The rings of my A5 organizer aren't big enough to hold all of the notes I currently generate each year, so I'm mainly working out of an A5 notebook. But in the long run, I'll still need a tab for each project in my A5 Filo.

I haven't ordered any of my 2010 diaries yet. I'm not sure if I should go with the day-per-page, or week-per-2-pages and continue to rely more on the notebook than the Filo.

I think a new what/where list is in my own future!

Laurie (2009-11-20 01:33:54)

Keep us posted Nan! I always did have trouble with juggling multiple projects at work. I finally resorted to standard-size 3 ring binders to hold my notes etc for each project because they generated so much paper. And the binders were free in our supply cabinet at work. And I couldn't afford an A5 Filo at the time! But a Filo is a much more elegant solution.

Free For All Friday No. 53 (2009-11-20 00:02) - Steve

There was some recent discussion in some of the comments about zipped organisers. Have you got a zipped organiser. I and I'm sure other readers will be interested to hear of your experiences of living with a zipped Filofax. Does the zip get in the way?

And finally a request from the Philofaxy Fan Page... which are your least favourite Filofax Organisers? Which colours would you not buy. What puts you off buying a particular Filofax?

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Laurie (2009-11-20 01:38:06)

Before I bought my first real Filofax I used a Cambridge version that used the same page size as the personal Filofax page. My Cambridge was zipped, and I really liked it all the time because I was traveling a lot and the zip kept all of my little scraps of paper and things secure while the book rattled around in my bag. I always liked the sound of the zipper going along each of the 3 sides as I zipped or unzipped it: Zip! Zip! Zip!

And yet, I've never purchased a zipped Filo. I like to be able to open my book with one hand.

What Filos do I hate? Hmm. None really. There are, as with anything, some that are not my style, but none that I despise.

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-11-20 04:01:38)

<http://typecast2000.blogspot.com/2009/10/my-filofax.html>

I know I keep banging on about my Filofax blog post but it seems to be a one-size-fits-all post at the moment!!

I do like the zip, and it does stop all the scraps of paper that I shove in from falling out, however, the A5 size does seem to make the Filo a bit "80's Yuppie" style (think Del Boy from Only Fools and Horses) and whilst this style currently suits me, I do want a more girly one.

I've been looking at the Personal sized ones but I still eye up the zipped ones (I love the look of the Cuban Zip...).

Michele (2009-11-20 05:25:51)

The only reason that stopped me from buying a pocket Eton or deciding for sure on a Christmas A5zipped Guildford is that I really don't want black. I need color - camel, deep green, cherry - mustard! For xmas my bf wants to give me an A5 and I just cannot decide between a Finchley, zipped Guildford because of this and because I drag a lot of paper w/ me when I work from home about 2 days a week. The Sienna is lovely, but seems a bit young and sporty to me. If I get a zip I want it to lie flat. The Cuban Zip is nice but from photos seems stiffer than the Guildford. Help!!!! By the way, have any of you heard of the Japanese "Bindex" line? My bf is in Tokyo today and ran across it - he said the inserts are pretty cool looking and wanted to know paper size of my filo.

Oni (2009-11-20 13:56:54)

I've never had a zipped Filo, and have never considered getting one, I like them with the clasp closure :)

And the Filos I really don't like are the Fresco, the Indie and the Siena, in that particular order.

I always thought that it would change by looking at them in real life, but no. Something about the motifs used in the canvas, look a bit cheap to me, like, they don't belong to Filofax. And the Siena I just find the zipper in the front makes it too bulky.

I also dislike the english rose print on the Classic.

shepcraig (2009-11-20 16:38:44)

I use the a5 Guildford zip organiser and I love it, The zip does not get in the way, and it is very handy to stop things falling out when travelling. I am considering switching to the a5 zip cuban, my only objection is how stiff it is, but i have ben assured that after a little time it will lie flat. the only filofax i do not like is the classic camel with the rose print.

Michele (2009-11-20 18:33:41)

shepcraig, does the Guildford Zip lie flat open? Sounds from your comment it does!

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-11-20 18:46:31)

The Metropol A5 lays flat.

rlyon2003 (2009-11-20 22:40:13)

I've recently started reading this blog and this is my first time posting here. I recently bought a Guildford Zip Personal and I have to say that I absolutely love it. It was pretty stiff out of the box but trained it to lay flat on the same day after I have put in all my pages. And by the way, the rings hold a lot more than most if not all of the clasp types.

I carefully selected this model because I also use some Franklin Covey inserts, which, as we all know are wider than Filofaxes' pages and these pages don't become unsightly in zipped binders. This Guildford has lots of pockets and surprisingly the exterior pocket is equipped with button-size magnet closure which adds more security.

Along with the 5 tabs that it came with originally, I have already added 10 more tabs like "Travel", "Health", "Español", etc. and I still have some room to spare.

I think I need to see a shrink. I've been all over this Filofax since day one! And oh, by the way, I also got a Guildford Personal Slimline that I use as a "dispenser" whenever I go to places where I don't need the whole book but a few pages. Great complement to the Zip!

Dilaila (2009-11-21 05:23:29)

I have the Finsbury A5 Zipped in red. It's my main Filo, my portable office. I love it to bits. I don't find the zip a problem. It's only zipped when it's travelling.

I still use a Palm for contacts, shopping list, financial stuff (splash money is brill) and I use the calendar for work-outs and WOE stuff. Actually, even the Palm goes inside the Finsbury lol.

Elisabeth (2009-11-21 17:30:50)

I have a zipped Filofax Pak, and I found it to be great since it kept all my papers in one place.

Hmm. I don't think there are any Filos I hate, but I'd probably never buy a light colored Filo since it would show dirt and marks very well.

Michele (2009-11-21 20:24:54)

Nickie, your Metropol A5 is the dogs bollocks of Filofaxes even if it didn't lay flat! ;-)

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-11-22 06:51:04)

But of course, Michele ;-)

shepcraig (2009-11-22 11:42:40)

Yeah the a5 zip guildford lies flat

Nan (2009-11-26 20:34:43)

I don't like zipped organizers because they're so much bigger than the open ones. But I've never had a zipped Filo, and it sounds like they have some advantages over other brands (they lie flat, etc.) On the other hand, I wouldn't hesitate to use a zipped organizer if I carried loose pieces of paper or other things that might fall out.

I also dislike puffy or too-thick covers, because they give me less room to fill it up with my own stuff!

Philofaxy on BBC Radio 5 (2009-11-24 05:01) - Steve

I was interviewed by Jamillah Knowles from the BBC Radio 5 live programme 'Pods and Blogs' which was broadcast early this morning. You can catch up with it on-line by downloading the podcast from iTunes or by going to the BBC [1]Pods and Blogs webpage and listening on line there.

You can also [2]listen to the broadcast here. It is the episode titled 'Voting papers and robots 24th Nov

09'

The interview starts at about 11 mins in to the podcast.

Enjoy....

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1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/podsandblogs/>

2. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/pods>

Michele (2009-11-24 13:08:08)

Hey Steve, I took my laptop into a conference room during lunch so I could listen to the podcast. Great interview!

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-11-24 18:15:13)

Brilliant interview, Steve! Long live the Filofax :-D

Laurie (2009-11-25 02:36:49)

So cool you're on the Beeb! Great interview Steve.

Charlie (2009-11-25 09:38:44)

well done Steve!!

an electronic organiser has just never interested me - your office with no electronic devices sounds like heaven!!
(with the possible exception of my beloved ipod!)

Steve (2009-11-25 13:24:22)

Thank you everyone for your great comments, I'm pleased I didn't let the site down with my on-air nerves!

Jamillah has now put the show notes on line with a link to us here, so hopefully it will encourage a few more people to come and join us.

Again many thanks

Steve

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Nan (2009-11-26 20:36:00)

Congratulations, Steve!

Plannerisms blog (2009-11-24 14:57) - Laurie

Hi everybody, shameless plug here. As much as I love Filofaxes, I'm also fascinated by other planners, notebooks and accessories (as anyone who has seen my Flickr photostream will know).

So in order to keep Philofaxy strictly (mostly) Filofax-related and yet still indulge my obsession for other types of planners, I have started another blog of my own, Plannerisms. My apologies to NHGrrl for copying the same template, it's the prettiest one!

I hope you like Plannerisms, if not as much as Philofaxy (of course!) then enough to check it out:

[1]<http://plannerisms.blogspot.com>

Laurie

1. <http://plannerisms.blogspot.com/>

Oni (2009-11-24 19:18:26)

Hey! We must be connected or something! Just last week I also started a new blog to be Filofax and stationery related... I just haven't started writing in it yet...

Anyway, I've already become a follower of yours and look forward to reading your stories :)

Filofax Freecycle/Loan (2009-11-25 19:00) - Steve

This idea comes from [1]Nickie on the discussion page off our [2]Facebook Page:

"Do you have a Filofax that maybe needs a new home - one that you haven't used for a while or one that just doesn't suit your needs any more?

Would you be prepared to lend it to another lover of Filofaxes or maybe organise a swap rather than it sit there doing nothing, collecting dust? It would also give other Filofax users the chance to try out new sizes and styles."

If you aren't familiar with [3]Freecycle, people offer their goods to the rest of the group for free rather than for sale or rather than throwing them in the bin/garbage. Now Freecycle covers everything from books to babies nappies from soil or rubble to rock guitars. A few things are off limits, but not much. So how would this work with Filofax? Well if you have an organiser or any Filofax related items, that you no longer use, but you would be happy to let it go to a new home, then you could 'Offer' it to the group. Now you can offer it as a permanent loan or just a loan for 1-3 months. If the later then it would be a great 'try before you buy' type service.

The person 'Offering' would be responsible for agreeing the terms of the loan and handling the cost of postage etc. Likewise the 'borrowee' would agree to return the item or pass it on for a further loan at the end of the period previously agreed.

Nickie has deliberately omitted the option of offering items 'For Sale' There are plenty of other outlets for doing that already.

But we don't want to get too tied up in 'red tape' let's try to keep it simple and lets try to make this work for the good of everyone.

Now it's not easy to 'post' offers on here, so I've set up a [4]Philofaxy Google Group for you to Post your Offers or Wanted messages. Please always include OFFERED or WANTED in the subject of your message.

I suspect the traffic levels on the group will not be that high... but who knows!

As always we welcome your ideas and comments.

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1. <http://www.blogger.com/profile/13945338904756339422>
2. http://www.facebook.com/Philofaxy?v=app_2373072738&ref=nf
3. <http://www.freecycle.org/>
4. <http://groups.google.com/group/philofaxy/>

Francesca (2009-11-26 05:00:31)

I really like this idea.

I have so many unused binders on my shelves, collected over the last 10 years. I often look at them and wonder what I should do with them. I don't like the idea of eBaying or similar, as all of these Filofaxes were bought because at one time I 'fell in love' with the style, or material, or design - I'd hate to auction them off for a few pounds to someone who probably won't be quite as enamoured of them as I was (and still am).

However, Philofaxy readers' dedication to the Filofax often rival - and in many cases it seems (!) - surpass my own obsession, and I'd love to think of my Filos going to good homes.

So I'm going to start it off with a post....if I can work out how to do it properly! Steve - let me know if I put it in the wrong place or something!

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-11-26 05:35:05)

Francesca - I've just seen your posts and have added them to the Google Group.

You are using the same A5 as myself at the moment so I can't help you out there, I'm afraid.

gmax (2009-11-26 08:05:31)

Steve - Good idea.

I don't know how you resisted the temptation to call this "Filanthropy Forum" ;-)

kanalt (2009-11-26 09:16:59)

Great idea! I just joined the group...thinking of what I can offer and/or request. =)

kanalt (2009-11-26 09:19:23)

Too bad this group wasn't formed before I went through the craziness of buying the Guildford Slimline and Extra Slim, trying both and returning both. But this will be useful for all up-coming possible purchases. My husband's not sure if this group is a good idea though - just another thing to temp me at more Filos. ;)

Oni (2009-11-26 17:19:10)

Wow, this is an excellent idea, especially for those of us who can't afford to spend more \$ \$ on new Filos and such. I will also join the group, let's see what happens :)

D (2009-11-27 02:50:05)

kanalt, this is one obsession I have successfully kept from my husband. He knows all about my yarn habit, and all about my book habit, but I'm thinking he wouldn't take too kindly to my Filo habit. It would send him right over the edge.

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-11-27 05:22:10)

D, you sound like my "virtual" twin... I have a yarn & thread obsession (knitting and cross-stitch) and have to have a major clear-out of books once a year to stop them from taking over the house!!!

kanalt (2009-11-27 09:36:59)

D & Nickie - I too can be a twin (or a triplet as the case may be). I knit also, though I don't have tons of time for it, so my collection of yarn isn't as big as my planner collection. Plus, I'm a librarian, so you can imagine how many books I have, but lately I don't buy too many books except for those of my favorite authors - everything else comes from the library. To that, I will add my very bad obsession with bags - I have way too many and in fact am looking to sell some on eBay (all of my notes and list for eBay selling is kept in my Filo and to that I can now add the Filos I'm looking to offer/swap on the Google group). I can't keep any of this from my husband though - he knew of all these obsessions before we ever got married. Ah well, he puts up with it all as best he can. =)

Erin (2010-03-25 19:31:09)

I too love this idea and realize I'm posting several months after this was written because I just found this blog and love it! I am desperately searching for an A5 size planner in Camel. Alas it has been discontinued. Anyone out there want to trade? I have quite a few I could offer,, just ask!

Nickie @ Typecast (2010-03-25 19:49:09)

Erin - have a look at the Philofaxy Google Group that was born from this discussion :)

[http://groups.google.co.uk/group/philofaxy?hl=en-GB &pli=1](http://groups.google.co.uk/group/philofaxy?hl=en-GB&pli=1)

Please feel free to detail any Filo's that you would like to trade/sell - the only thing we ask is that all "trades and or sales" happen away from the group by private email.

Expanding Pens (2009-11-26 17:32) - Steve

You might have seen these already, but I came across some [1]expanding ball point pens this evening on a Filofax shop site.

They are made by [2]Zebra Pen they look very neat, they will fit a Filofax pen look, and in their smallest size will be short enough to be used in a Mini or Pocket size organiser, but expanded they are a normal

size pen.

Quite a reasonable price too.

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1. <http://www.thepersonalorganiser.com/pens.html>

2. <http://www.zebrapen.co.uk/>

shepcraig (2009-11-27 17:37:41)

I have one of these pens and it is great, fits really well into the filofax organisers

Free for All Friday No. 54 (2009-11-27 00:10) - Nan

Since yesterday was a holiday in the U.S. (Thanksgiving, a.k.a. Turkey Day), I'm enjoying a 4-day weekend. Some folks use this weekend as Christmas shopping kick-off, which is why I avoid shopping this weekend!

Instead, I'll be ordering my 2010 refills and catching up on projects. I do use my Personal Filo, which doubles as my wallet, as a shopping companion and aid. I have lists of gifts given every Christmas, so I don't make duplicate purchases. I collect gift ideas throughout the year, although I don't make the final decisions until December. I list interesting shops that I want to go back to.

I of course keep my weekly food shopping list in there – behind the QR tab because the name of my local grocery store begins with R.

Do you take your Filo shopping?

D (2009-11-27 02:44:47)

I have a mini Filo, that I got for a steal on eBay recently that I keep Christmas lists for my family in. I love it. It is so convenient to have those lists with me all the time. I won't be doing any Christmas shopping this holiday weekend because I have to work. Boo...

Silver_Elixir (2009-11-27 05:15:14)

I keep a weekly shopping list that I have a personal Kendal Filo. I keep a shopping list that I add to as the week goes on for things that I need to buy. This is in my behind my Home tab along with a page I made up with all the different meals I make so I can think of what to cook and what I need to buy each week.

I also have a Wish List Tab where I write things that I would like to buy when I have enough money.

I also have in my Home section a list of measurements from around the house that come in handy when I am out and about. For example I have been looking for a new cutlery tray to fit my kitchen drawer, so I have the width, height, depth and length of my kitchen drawers written down, along with the height and width of my windows, pantry shelves and study desk drawers. I don't know if this is overkill, but it has come in handy on a few occasions. I also have a list of gift ideas for family and friends and the shop they are from.

Oh, and I also have a section called Products that had pictures I have cut out, of..well products that I would like to get. I have wine, perfume, nail polish, a necklace and a very cool water carafe and even icecream! Strange perhaps, but a picture paints a thousand words and make it easier to find what I am looking for!

Oni (2009-11-27 11:14:46)

Silver _Elixir: wow...you are really organised! And I understand having the measurements for your kitchen drawer. I once bought a cutlery tray that was too big for mine. I wasn't able to return it, so I had to get a new one...(at least I'm using the large one as a tray in my tool cabinet)

Since I take my Filo almost everywhere, I can write down relevant info on those items I wish to purchase at a later time, such as the printer or stationery supplies I'm looking for. This then acts as a 'shopping list' once I actually go buy them.

And what a coincidence! Just this morning I was considering adding a page with a sizes chart for me and my boyfriend...

Laurie (2009-11-27 14:08:07)

Inky I do a similar thing, I keep a list of gift ideas so when I see something someone might like I jot it down. Then when their birthday or Christmas rolls around, I can look at my list and remember everything I intended to get for them.

I hope everybody had a great Thanksgiving! We had a big group of friends over with everyone's kids. It was crazy fun. Today we drove over to Macedonia for the rest of the weekend. Skopje reminds me of a miniature Moscow! Watching the news here this evening we saw how insane the shopping is today on Black Friday. My sister lives in Texas and said it's just insane. That's definitely one aspect of living in the US that I don't miss!!

Nicola (2009-11-27 17:00:39)

I have two filox, one A5 and one pocket.

The pocket filo does the job of the every day, keeps me up to day with my work shifts, courses and acts as my wallet.

The A5 is the business end, notes, time tables, main diary, full contacts the lot.

Both are used every day and both are carried with me unless I need to travel light on my bike in which case just the pocket comes with me (very handy fit in a cycle jersey pocket btw!)

Michele (2009-11-28 08:55:22)

Happy Thanksgiving to all my Filofax friends! I keep a page in my pocket panama notes section for all christmas gifts, people I'm buying for etc. So yesterday, I told my boyfriend that I want a "mustard Finchely A5" for Christmas - I decided to go with my first instinct - the only one I ventured to pick up and hold when I visited the UK Filofax store last Summer. Tomorrow we're going to IKEA to buy a new desk for my home office I cannot wait to see how nice the Finchley looks on the desk!

Strong Stiff Scotch... (2009-11-29 17:12:27)

Take it shopping? I take my filofax EVERYWHERE! Well, within reason. My wallet holds just a few notes and a couple of cards, so all the other stuff that blokes keep in their wallets reside in my filofax. Photos of almost the entire collection are online in the filofaxy pool on flicker.

Stevie

Steve (2009-11-30 04:59:01)

My personal size slimline is getting lots of use because I can carry it around everywhere without putting it in to a bag, it slips in to the map pocket of my jacket. I'm using it as my wallet as well, so it has to go with me.

As I write this comment I'm in France for a week, so I'm having to carry my passport around with me all the time. France and UK might be part of the European Union, but they insist on foreigners carrying some proof of ID!! So my passport slips neatly in to one of the pockets in my slimline. I've been using my filofax to record reminders on to-do lists as well as for scheduling appointments for a busy week here in the Deux Sevres.

The Perfect Size? (2009-11-30 10:41) - Steve



[1]

Is there such a thing as the perfect size organiser? Or is it always a compromise, too big and it becomes a problem to carry around, too small and it's too small to write in or you can't store as much as you like. The slimline organisers in personal and pocket size (not available in all markets) are a near perfect solution to the too big/too small compromise.

The A5 as we know is perfect solution for the office/home office. It has ample capacity and acres of space

to write in, although the A4 goes even bigger, but I realise that size isn't sold in the US.

The personal is the 'original' size, it is the middle of the road when it comes to size, and it is obviously very popular, but unless you go for a slimline I find it's not so easy to carry in a jacket pocket, so like the A5 it's best suited for your briefcase or hand bag.

The pocket is as its name says suitable for most pockets I've used one quite extensively in the last couple of years. Great for capturing notes, to-do lists, appointments etc.

The mini, I have to be honest I've never tried one of these size organisers, they seem to be too small for my requirements, but I would be interested to hear from Filofax mini users...

Our what size dilemma might be helped if the pages could be interchanged between different size organisers a little easier. As you might have discovered if you try to swap pages between different size organisers some work some don't. I have noticed that some of the pages sold by Filofax have four slotted holes and two circular holes. On a pocket size organiser, this allows a page to be slotted in to an A5 or personal size organisers. personal pages will fit in to an A5 by folding one of the corners or by simply cutting a small diagonal off the corner on the ring side of the page.

So what size would you choose if you had the decision to make a whole new size of organiser?

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SxPoe6CYVfI/AAAAAAAAAH48/2Lc0MUV7w9k/s1600/IMG_7834.JPG

Nicola (2009-11-30 11:05:32)

I had this very choice to make today. Do I get another pocket size filofax or do I go up a size to the personal.

I currently have a pocket size for my every day use and quick notes and an A5 Domino for the more 'heavy duty' tasks which I carry in my bag is is fabulous for what I need.

I choice a pocket urban in the end for a number of reasons. It will fit more easily into my uniform trouser pocket (I work for the ambulance service so it needs to fit in combat trouser pockets) and be easily accessible. Also most importantly budget, getting the personal size this time round would mean spending out on additional inserts, with another pocket size I can transfer over the existing ones.

My partner is a three filofax man, A5, Personal and Mini. The mini he says is spot on for when he need to make on the spot notes (he's a Marine Engineer officer in the Royal Navy) and do diary checks. It can easily be carried in his shirt pocket. The personal is an every day filo and the A5 is like mine the heavy duty business end filo.

I don't think there is any one filo which does every job, you generally have to use a combination of filofax to have them do everything you need them to. I love both the filofax I have and their individual qualities.

kanalt (2009-11-30 11:58:17)

I have to say that the personal size Filo is almost near perfect for me. Not too big, not too small as far as dimensions go. And the pages fit the Slimline also. My issue with the Slimline is the ring size. The largest one I've seen is 1/2 inch (US size) and it's just slightly too small. I can get the pages I need in there but can't turn them too well. And if I have to adjust how I use it, then it's not working for me, rather I'm working for it. If Filofax could make a Slimline that's just a hair larger in ring size than the 1/2 inch, I'd be as close to as prefect size planner as I could get. I have tried the Pocket size, thinking this would make my life simpler, but upon opening the package, I knew it wouldn't do for all of the information I keep. As was mentioned, one's use for a specific planner size can change daily depending on the need. But I think this is why I have planner envy - I don't have the "perfect" planner, and so every one I see I think could be the one to fit the bill, but so far, among all the types and sizes I've tried, the Personal is it, until they come out with a Slimline that can take over.

Oni (2009-11-30 20:18:50)

42: I have a question, do the Mini and the Pocket have more or less compatible inserts, like the pocket and personal? I am toying with the idea of getting a mini, and would like to use my pocket inserts with it. I am aware they are longer, but do the rings fit? are they too wide maybe?

thanks!

Dilaila (2009-12-01 06:18:04)

I vote A5 for functionality and pocket for portability. I've only used a Personal in the early years, before Filo

came out with the A5.

btw..do they not sell the 1.5" ring anymore?

Nicola (2009-12-01 16:03:00)

Oni: funnily enough I brought the wrong diary inserts for my pocket filo the other day and they fitted with no problem, only the size looked odd.

Oni (2009-12-01 19:54:21)

Nicola, thanks a lot! That will make my search for a new Filo much easier. :)

Penny (2009-12-14 15:50:30)

slimline a5! slimline a5! the page size is best for me. now if the binder could be smaller and lighter...

Laurie (2009-12-15 01:51:11)

I completely agree with Penny! The Personal size page is too small for me to use as my planner, but the A5 binders are too big and bulky/ heavy for me to take everywhere.

I think a slimline A5 would be the solution!

Free shipping Filofax USA (2009-11-30 14:28) - Laurie

Hey all you Americans, you're in luck! You can get free shipping with any organizer purchase on the Filofax USA website from now until Dec. 4. Just enter CYBER in the discount code space at checkout. Happy shopping!

ANIRBAN DAS (2010-03-02 03:58:26)

[1]us shipping service-International Shipping Worldwide and USA Package Forwarding. Create and start using your account in minutes. Review, choose, consolidate, discard and ship your packages. <http://www.myusshopnship.com> Your own shopping address in the USA that you can monitor online.

1. <http://www.myusshopnship.com/index.php>

1.12 December

Huge discount on Dodo Pad A5 Filofax 2010 diary inserts! (2009-12-02 03:40) - Laurie



[1]

For all of you users of an A5 Filofax, here is a planner/ diary insert that is different from the same old straight-laced Filofax refill. The Dodo Pad diary is a bit of a cult and is now in its 44th year, available for the first time for 2010 as an A5 Filofax insert! The last few are available at a huge discount, 55 % off! Just enter promotional code 09FX at checkout to receive your discount.

You can see more about the Dodo Pad Filofax 2010 insert at [2]<http://www.dodopad.com/dodofax/dodofax.html> and click on [3]http://www.dodopad.com/acatalog/Diaries_Calendars_..html#aDPFX10 to order.

Supplies at this discounted price are limited and when they're gone, they're gone!

Regular prices and discount prices are listed below. Prices shown here INCLUDE order handling, tax and shipping:

Shipping in the UK regular price: £14.45, discount price only £5.95

Shipping to Europe regular price: £16.69, discount price £8.19

Shipping to USA and Rest of World regular price: £18.85, discount price £9.34

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Dodo Pad products, let me initiate you. They have been a fixture in UK households for the last 44 years and counting, and are only just starting to become popular in the US. The original Dodo Pad diary has a weekly grid format for keeping track of each person in the family, or for appointments and tasks, or different types of billable time at work, or endless other uses. Every week on the calendar there is a notable date or anniversary, artwork, and some kind of funny quote, riddle, or something interesting, with plenty of space for notes, lists and doodles. Each week is different and it's fun to see what is coming up next.

The thing I like about Dodo Pad products is that they are funny and clever and keep your life organized, but at the same time remind you not to take it too seriously. So check out their website and get some great discounts!

See more photos on my Flickr set:

[4]<http://www.flickr.com/photos/41064231@N08/sets/72157622789643031/>

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_CPeL-KIUmkw/SxYovPHLuHI/AAAAAAAAADU/qZhmJkFxFk/s1600-h/Dodo+A5+Filo+spread.jpg
2. <http://www.dodopad.com/dodofax/dodofax.html>
3. http://www.dodopad.com/acatalog/Diaries_Calendars_..html#aDPFX10
4. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/41064231@N08/sets/72157622789643031/>

Ivo Serentha and Friends (2009-12-02 16:02:17)

My compliments for your blog and pictures included,I encourage you to photoblog,

[1]CLICK PHOTOSPHERA

Even week another photo album

Greetings from Italy,

Marlow

1. <http://photosphera01.spaces.live.com/>

Steve (2010-03-22 14:47:56)

They are now even cheaper...

http://www.dodopad.com/acatalog/Diaries_Calendars_..html#aDPFX10

Steve

Price reduction on Filofax Special Edition (2009-12-04 03:50) - Steve

Is it too early to treat yourself to a present to yourself for all your hard work this year? Get noticed with this Special Edition Filofax, now with £58 off the normal retail price in UK

[1]



1. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Forganiserdetails.asp%3FCOLOURID%3D1%26RANGEID%3D109%26SIZEID%3D2%26DSIZEID%3D2>

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-12-04 08:17:57)

That is a lovely Filo but ever so slightly (all right, A LOT) out of my price range!!!

I have just managed to convince my hubby to buy me the City Dweller Pack for part of my Christmas present...

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/lifestyle/lifestyle.asp?fid=1>

I know I don't live in the city but I think it will suit me better than the "Family Organiser" pack because I work full time. It's only just back in stock on the website after a period of absence. I can't wait :D And it's to slot inside the Personal size Filo that Francesca has kindly lent me via the Philofaxy Google Group.

Oni (2009-12-04 18:30:02)

I love this Filo as well, but like Francesca, even with the discount, I *still* can't afford it! Booo!!!!

Amanda (2009-12-07 08:52:04)

Nickie- I LOVE the city dweller pack! I am in the US and am tempted to pay a fortune for the shipping. I love the games and the pet pages especially. When you get it will you review it for us? I looked at their 3-D preview and it looks really cool.

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-12-07 10:07:40)

Amanda - yes I will :D

Nicola (2009-12-07 19:45:05)

Just like the Deco, this Filo appeals to me in the same 'oooooh shiny, must have' kind of way. But then like the Deco is also brings out the 'How much!!!' part of my character

Janet (2009-12-08 07:38:47)

I think it's way overpriced even with that enormous discount, lovely as it is. I wish they would discount the A5 Sienna!

Free For All Friday No. 55 (2009-12-04 03:53) - Laurie

December is in full swing and the pace seems to get more and more rapid every day. I am currently swamped with various things, not least of which is getting ready for our trip to Scotland over Christmas and New Year's. I'll be bringing along my [1]Scotland Filofax (personal size Domino, in Grape) containing my tabbed sections of regions and cities, maps, my growing list of contacts, and records of places we have stayed and other details. It becomes more useful with each trip.

Do you have any travel plans for the holidays? How is your Filofax helping you prepare for this busy

time of year?
Happy planning!

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/41064231@N08/sets/72157622035170176/>

shepcraig (2009-12-04 11:55:13)

Where in Scotland are you coming too? I am in Edinburgh, and stock Filofaxs largest range in Scotland

Michele (2009-12-05 07:39:55)

My Pocket Filo is very busy reminding me of the gifts I still need to buy on the list that's already in there as well as adding new items to the list..... Laurie, have a wonderful trip to Scotland. If I were going to Scotland, I would make a bee line right to Strong Scotch's Winchester Filo bookcase so I could gawk at all those beautiful original filofaxes! I saw bidding on a Winchester ended recently on eBay. I wonder if it was any of us? No travel plans for me but I am getting my boyfriend ready to travel to UK next week with his family's presents. I am going to make a special Christmas request and have him order and deliver to UK address some Time Management inserts. I'll be getting my first A5 for Christmas and those inserts would be perfect for me!

Laurie (2009-12-05 10:25:59)

Thanks you guys! We're going to the Highlands but going through Edinburgh. Shepcraig, where is your shop? I'd love to see the Filo selection!

Nicola (2009-12-06 10:34:44)

I'm planning on doing something of this nature for my mum for her birthday as she and my dad are off to Canada in May. My mum being the secretarial type tends to have a folder for everything so a filofax with everything she needs would be more than useful and still be useful once she returns home.

Only problem I have now is finding a map of Toronto for the file.

Steve (2009-12-06 12:00:57)

Hi Nicola

Take a look here:

[http://images.google.co.uk/images?hl=en&q=toronto %20map &um=1 &ie=UTF-8 &sa=N &tab=wi](http://images.google.co.uk/images?hl=en&q=toronto%20map&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wi)

Or may be scale a few from Google Maps and print them on separate pages.

Steve

Nicola (2009-12-06 16:01:32)

Steve: Oooh I like that idea. Have to admit hadn't even crossed my mind

Filofax UK - 20% off this weekend only (2009-12-04 11:36) - Steve



[1]

1. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2F>

dyanna (2009-12-05 06:09:40)

Your blog is really interesting.I like it.

Have a nice day.

Michele (2009-12-05 07:34:42)

You Brits have all the fun! ;-(

Amanda (2009-12-08 15:00:43)

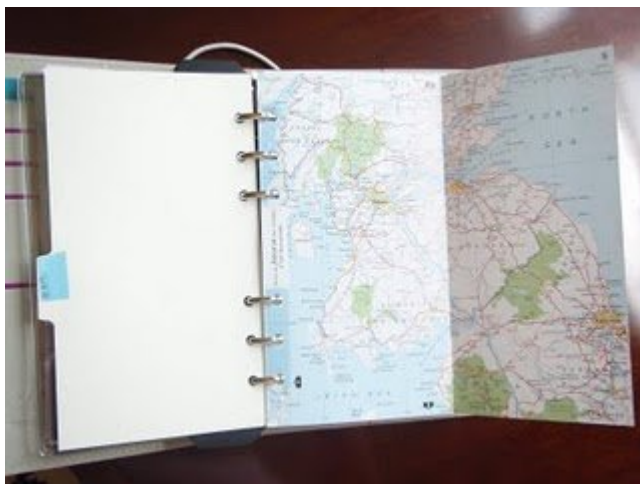
I know Michele! I just discovered the Panama and the Butterfly in Pewter and I want them both so bad.

I am new to Filofax and JUST bought a Personal Finsbury in Rasberry. I also just spent money getting inserts from Filofax and \$80 on a misc. ebay listing with three binders, two hole punches and random inserts which I needed like a hole in the head! ;0)

I hate the Finsbury's pocket on the inner left flap. The Panama would be perfect. But I love the color and pattern of the Butterfly.

Trying to resist a UK Ebay posting on a black panama right now...

Filofax maps (2009-12-07 02:01) - Laurie



[1]

[2]Steve and Nicola's exchange re: maps got me thinking about how I use maps in my Filofaxes. My opinion is, the more maps the better! I always seem to find myself needing a map.

In my very first pre-Filofax planner (a personal size Cambridge) I photocopied a map of the big island of Hawaii, where I was about to move, and poked holes along the edge with a sharp pencil to put it onto the rings. This is a technique I still use, actually, for maps that Filofax doesn't carry. In my [3]A5 Finsbury I have a map of Albania that I copied out of my guide book, for general road trips planning. Also in my A5 Fins I have an A5 Filofax world map and the A5 size British Islands maps (which I bought from the Filofax UK website), which are very useful when I grab my Filo to look up a location. My A5 lives by my computer so it's always handy.

In my [4]Scotland Filofax I have as many maps as possible. World map (actually I keep a world map in almost every Filofax I own), British Islands. I also have the Filofax maps of London (which consists of 3 maps that together comprise most of central London, with street names on the back) because I usually spend a day in London on my way up to Scotland. I also have the London rail systems and Underground map, which is very handy. I also have a map that has Edinburgh on one side and Glasgow on the other, that I cut out of the free Letts Scotland diary that came in The Scotsman newspaper in January. I sliced the page out of the diary, put some tape on the edge, poked some holes and into the Filo it went! Very handy.

In my [5]black Buckingham I store my US maps for when I go back to visit family and friends. I have a US road map (which in the personal size is so tiny it couldn't really get you anywhere, it really just gives you an idea of which highway would be better to get you across the state or the country) and a US times zones and area codes map. I also have a Washington DC street map, which I used all the time when I lived in DC. I usually go through DC whenever I go back to the US so it's convenient to have it in my Filo.

In my [6]Deco, which is now my everyday notes/ lists/ addresses/ everything except my planner book, I keep a world map and my ancient Europe map (which is so old it still has Yugoslavia!). The people I know travel a lot, and to places all around the world, so usually during the course of a conversation I need to look at a map to see exactly where they are talking about. I have learned more geography this way than I ever learned in school!

The problem with Filofax maps is, there just aren't enough of them. As Nicola discovered, there aren't enough of the city maps. (And actually I'm shocked that they don't have Toronto! But sure enough, they don't.) I understand that Filofax only carries maps that they believe will sell well. And I know in this day and age it's maybe a little archaic to use paper maps at all (although after hearing some people's GPS navigation stories, I don't trust those things at all!). But being a paper-person, and a maps-person, I do wish they had more maps available.

Do you use maps in your Filofax(es)? Which maps do you wish Filofax had available?

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_CPeL-KIUmkw/Sxyx03tUedI/AAAAAAAAAFY/uUBoUmHWLk8/s1600-h/Diaries+2009+157.jpg

2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/12/free-for-all-friday-no-55.html>

3. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/plannerisms/3783634767/>

4. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/plannerisms/sets/72157622035170176/>

5. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/plannerisms/3783648859/>

6. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/plannerisms/sets/72157622672507897/>

Charlie (2009-12-07 05:05:01)

I am ALWAYS using my London map!! Always always always. I live in London, but you would be suprised the amount of times you need to check the map!

I also have the tube map which I use very oftn as well.

Steve (2009-12-07 17:43:07)

Yes as you might have guessed from my earlier comment I also use quite a few maps in different formats and sizes and of places that you don't normally find available easily.

I have maps of the nearest town to us in France a town called Thouars, so that when I hear an address I can quickly find the road/street.

Transport for London (TfL) have a very useful map section on their website:
<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround/1106.aspx>
Steve

rlyon2003 (2009-12-07 19:26:48)
I wish they had one for California!

Amanda (2009-12-09 09:22:09)
My apologies, this is a crosspost from Plannerisms:
I am new to Filofax, I have a Personal Rasberry Finsbury. I just won an ebay lot of hole punches, planners and inserts that haven't arrived yet.
I just got my accessory package in from Filofax and am really disappointed :0(I came from a cheap DayOne Franklin Covey binder. I really liked the tabbed month at a glance on two pages and then the weekly format after. The week was horizontal (M,T,W on the left, Th, Fri, Sat, Sun on the right) and split for appointments and to do.
I ordered tabs and the month at a view for the Filofax and it came in and won't work. The months are printed back to back so if I put the tab in it would split my view of the month (so the left half of February is printed on the back of the right half of January)
Really disappointed, not sure how I am going to hack this to get it to fit since I have a personal size and it is a pain to print your own inserts. I love how narrow and lighter my Filo is from the FranklinCovey planner, much easier to fit in my purse but am not happy with the recent discovery.
Kind of sad I splurged and spent a fortune on something that doesn't seem to be working out :0(
Does anyone have suggestions? Has anyone had success printing personal pages? I would be willing to buy the Filofax paper to make this work although I do have a punch coming.
Thanks,
Amanda

Magic Monday... (2009-12-09 17:27) - Steve

So if you missed out last weekend. This coming Monday is Magic Monday.. 20 % off Filofax organisers. Click on the image below and between 9am and Midnight (UK time) on Monday 14th December you will get 20 % off your purchase by entering the code XMASMM at the checkout.
So if you have been putting off that purchase and you are kicking your self for missing out on 20 % off last weekend... you have another chance and your order will arrive before Christmas (in UK)



1. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?s=152860&v=2457&q=90348&r=97790>

Filofax US big sale (2009-12-10 02:52) - Laurie



[1]
Hey US Filofaxers, you're not left out of the big savings! You can get [2]30 % off select organizers at [3]FilofaxUSA. And as if that weren't savings enough, you can get free shipping on orders over \$55! So if you were thinking of giving or getting Filofax, now's the time!
If you need some inspiration, check out the gorgeous [4]Raspberry Pocket Organizer gift set complete with pen, 2010 diary insert and gift box. And maybe get one for someone as a gift, too! ;D
Happy Shopping!

1. http://www.filofaxusa.com/images/products/organisers/large_new/025261GP.jpg
2. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/page.asp?id=103>
3. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/>
4. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/organiserdetails.asp?rangeId=110&sizeId=2&dsId=2&spId=915#915>

Amanda (2009-12-10 15:13:58)

Has anyone had luck putting Franklin Covey pages into a Filofax binder? Franklin Covey has the layout I need but Filofax has nicer binders and I just bought a new one...
Or has anyone had success creating and printing their own forms in the personal size? I have a hole punch...
Any feedback would be appreciated. Thanks!

Lisa Boyne' (2009-12-10 17:10:21)

Laurie,
The gift set looks just like a Finsbury, but it's actually not called Finsbury. (It has no name on the inside cover either) So we just call it the Gift Organizer.

Michele (2009-12-11 03:42:00)

Lisa, you read my mind. I was going to send a correction note myself. I noticed this Gift Organizer several weeks ago. I think the inside cover with minimal pockets but a see thru license/business card holder is fantastic! I'm thinking about purchasing this for my boss.

Laurie (2009-12-11 03:46:47)

Thanks Lisa, good to know!

Laurie (2009-12-11 03:48:07)

I have changed it to "Raspberry Pocket Organizer" to not confuse anyone else. Thanks again Lisa. This looks like a great gift set!

Lisa Boyne' (2009-12-11 09:52:41)

It is a really nice gift. Aside from the inside, it is the same look and quality of a Finsbury—which is one of my favorite organizers, for the leather and value. The set is also well priced, as the pocket Finsbury retails for \$55, the pens around \$29 (we don't even sell that color pen), so at \$69 it's a nice complete set. This was also a special edition set, and we don't have that many left. so if you were thinking of picking one up as a gift or for yourself, don't wait too long ;)

stationery gal (2009-12-25 21:50:50)

I got this set for Christmas and can't wait to start using it! It is a snowy time here in Texas (which is very unusual) so I will have a lot of time over the weekend to start transferring info from my personal filo to my new filo....ah, talk about being in my "happy place" :)

Busy Times & Creating Personal Size Pages (2009-12-10 17:02) - Steve

You can be forgiven if you think all we are posting about this week is to help you spend money!! I guess like me the others are busy as well. Last week I had a week in France and I'm not sure where this week has gone to, the days are whizzing by, anyway time to play catch up...

Creating Personal Size Filofax Pages.

As you will know it's easy to create A4/A5 size pages, it's the one reason I graduated to that size a few years ago.

However creating Personal sizes isn't quite so easy. So here is a quick guide. Create a new template in Word or OpenOffice Write and then make an A4 landscape page.

Add a 3 cell table in a single row, and size each cell to the size of a personal page which is 95 mm wide by 171 mm tall..Also make the borders as thin as possible and with a dotted line - - - - you only need to use these lines as a guide to cut out your pages.

In each cell make the cell margins at least 18mm on the left and say 5 mm on the top, bottom and right hand side. I've found that you need a 18-20 mm left hand margin to allow for punching the holes.

Now you can either create your own details within the template, or resize some of mine to suit. Most of them follow a similar pattern though and shouldn't be difficult to modify to suit. I also use tables so they are easy to resize and then copy and paste in to the template.

Then all you need to do is print off the pages and trim the pages to size and punch them. You might need to experiment with your designs, but that is part of the fun in creating your own and they only cost pennies/cents.

Filofax actually sell computer paper in A4 size that is already perforated in Personal size, this is easier to use in some respects, but you just have to line up your template to print on this paper.

.

Amanda (2009-12-10 17:51:41)

Thanks for the help! What about if you don't have access to A5 paper? It isn't very common in the US (that I know of)

Steve (2009-12-10 17:59:25)

Hi Amanda

I use A4 and use booklet print which gives me 4 A5 pages on one sheet.

You can get A4 paper here:

<http://empireimports.stores.yahoo.net/a4paper.html>

Otherwise, experiment with your ordinary Letter size paper, the templates should resize to that easily.

Steve

Nicola (2009-12-10 18:03:40)

I have to admit with my personal size Urban I do tend to buy the paper refills, not very economic I know, but the vast majority of my writing is done in my A5 so I make my own refills for that.

Laurie (2009-12-11 03:53:17)

Hi Amanda,

The Filofax USA website sells 8 1/2 X 11 (US standard size) paper that is pre-punched/ perforated with Personal size sheets, so you can print your info directly onto the size of pages that your computer is formatted for, punch them out and put them right into your Filo.

Here is the Personal size paper FiloUS website, scroll down and in the right column you'll see the computer paper.

<http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/paperessentials.asp?tn=1 &control=processrequest &SizeId=3>

Hope this helps!

Amanda (2009-12-11 08:28:11)

Thank you so much everyone! Philofaxers are the best :0)

kanalt (2009-12-11 09:31:38)

I have to say that I'm not fond of the US perforated, pre-punched personal sized computer paper that Filofax sells. In theory it's good, but what I found is that if I set up a document on my computer it doesn't print evenly on the paper - something to do with where the margins need to be and how far away from the margins my printer will print. Using the Filofax paper, I created three text boxes, all the same size, to mirror the size and layout of the personal sized paper (three to one 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper). When I print, everything is lined up perfectly on the first personal page, but the second page is a little off and the third is completely off, cutting off my text in some places. It could be how I'm setting it up or my printer, but it was too much work for me to keep playing around with it to make it worth my while. Plus, I'm such a perfectionist that if my pages weren't all equal as far as the margins then it doesn't work for me. Now what I do is use my own paper, create a text box the exact size I need it to be and cut it down to size after it's printed. (I can fit two to a page - not as good as the Filo paper in regards to keeping waste to a minimum but it works.) And because I have a punch, I don't need the pages to be pre-punched. I find that this works better for me. Plus, I don't spend as much money on the Filo paper.

Silver_Elixir (2009-12-12 04:25:19)

I have made quite a few original pages using Excel on my computer. I make a template that I want and then when it prints out I add the holes to it, outside of what I have printed. I have yet to get a Filofax hole punch so I do a few pages at one hole at a time so it is a bit time consuming. I will try and post some pictures on Flickr. To get some note paper or scribble paper I use note books with lines that are either small like on Filo paper or slightly wider. Using a Filofax page as a template I line the page up using the front and top or bottom edge of the note paper as the 'good' sides of the page and trace the other edges using the Filo template. I then cut them out and punch holes in them, on the side that I have cut. I use this paper for my shopping lists or to work out my budget for the week. It doesn't matter if I write a bit messier on this paper as it will more than likely end up in the bin.

Nan (2009-12-25 23:04:03)

Great ideas, everybody!

I've just printed some Personal project forms of my own design - I made them gray on white, to match my City Dweller refill. I just set up a Word document with a custom page size of the Personal dimensions (3.75 x 6.75 inches). Then I print on individual blank white leaves.

However, the leaves were too thin for my printer and kept jamming. Still, I ended up with almost 20 2-sided forms, which will hold me for a while. This packet of leaves was from 1997, and the paper is rather soft and thin. I've ordered some new paper (both the individual Personal blank leaves and the 3-per-page), and I believe the current paper is thicker and stiffer, so it won't jam.

I'll post some pics of the form I created as soon as I can get to a scanner.

Free For All Friday No. 56 (2009-12-11 00:01) - Steve

Well two weeks to go.... I hope you have got your Filofax orders in in plenty of time to Santa... otherwise you might have a sad time opening your presents on the 25th...

I'm not a big fan of December, not because of Christmas, it's just that in my industry people are dashing around like headless chickens trying to get a months work done in just over 3 weeks. It does lead to some interesting times!

But I'm not one of the headless chickens... ah you see my secret weapon, my Filofax has it all under control. Technically my workplace closes for a few days over the holiday, but in reality some one could get called in, myself included. So it is wise to have everything in hand. Contacts up to date, notes of my teams where abouts over the holiday in case I have to call on someone.

So how are your plans coming together for the festive season?

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Francesca (2009-12-11 04:41:59)

I have been trying to get all things organised before Christmas as my work closes between Christmas and New Year, and I'm determined to start the New Year with a clean desk! So I have looked around for useful archive boxes for my A5 Filofax paper work, and found this great European site. Have a great archive box and dividers now, and a very useful diary that fits into the rings of my A5 Filo, and then in those times when I don't want to lug my great big Kendal around, I can just unclip the diary part from it and stick it in my pocket. Great for Christmas shopping in Oxford Street! I'm really impressed with these guys -not sure if their other sizes are compatible with other size Filos or not?

<http://shop.timesystem.eu/>

Francesca (2009-12-11 04:46:21)

Forgot to say - they also have a page of printable pages for free - extremely useful!

Nicola (2009-12-11 07:46:13)

My Christmas is essentially canceled this year for me. I am working Christmas Day and Boxing day and then on nights on the 27th and 28th.

no need to organise anything.

Michele (2009-12-11 11:42:25)

I've got a list in my pocket filo designated to presents and no one is allowed to peer over my shoulder as I'm jotting down on it. Christmas will bring me my very first A5! I cannot wait. I was told that maybe present opening would transpire throughout the day - I just commented I wanted "the highly anticipated one come first!"... I picked out the Mustard Finchley but I'm sure there are some Filo surprises along with it!

Steve (2009-12-11 14:07:45)

Francesca Thanks for the link I will add it to our links in the side bar. Useful site, especially like their free templates.

Steve

macpsych (2009-12-12 12:48:39)

Francesca - thanks so much for pointing me in the direction of the templates at TimeSystem. They're fantastic! I've bookmarked the page and will definitely be using some of them.

Dilaila (2009-12-12 21:07:12)

Thanks for the link.

Just bought a Filofax Portobello A5:

<http://cgi.ebay.com.my/ORIGINAL-FILOFAX-A5-PORTOBELLO-ADRESSBUCH-NEU>

_W0QQitemZ360095119554QQcmdZViewItemQQptZDE_Haus_Garten_Home_Office_Hefte_Bl %C3 %B6cke

_Ringb %C3 %BCcher?hash=item53d75778c2

Got the link to the seller from the comment box here as well.

You guys are ace!

PA3789 (2009-12-13 16:01:23)

Does everyone follow a certain rule of thumb when setting up your Filofax or do you set it up for how ever you like?

Also how do you carry your Filo?

In a laptop bag or in your personal breifcase? Or you just don't put it in a case of any sort?

Your help is appreciated!

kanalt (2009-12-13 18:07:18)

gmrakovich - Most times when setting up my Filo, I tend to follow the general tabs that Filofax offers - Addresses, Financial, Notes, Information, Projects, and Diary. If there's another section I need, I'll create my own tabs using my label maker. It depends on what I need at the time. Within the sections, I'll set it up based on what I use most - so for "Projects," I'll put the one I'm working on the most at the moment in the front for easy access and go backwards from there.

As far as carrying it, I carry mine in my bag (purse/pocketbook), whatever bag I'm using at the moment. I don't have a briefcase, nor do I carry my laptop for work. if I'm running a few errands and only have my wallet with me, I'll just carry the Filo in hand and leave it in the car when I'm in a store.

Hope this is what you were looking for and that it helps a bit.

Dilaila (2009-12-14 00:54:02)

I carry my A5 in the nook of my arms. Less heavy I feel.

As for my filo's set up, I only use:

Jan - Dec tabs for calendar (2-page week).

A - Z tabs for the rest.

eg: say one of my clients is Filofaxy, all jobs relating to the company goes under F. Then I use top tabs for individual projects under the company.

Likewise, books goes under B, Grocery under G etc.

I also add one sheet after each A-Z tab for phone numbers/websites etc.

I find this system is the most economical, paper wise.

Laurie (2009-12-14 02:08:35)

gmrakovich, I don't use the tabs that come with the Filofax (Projects, Notes, Information etc) because I use different categories. I do have a Notes tab, but I like it to be the tab at the very bottom and the Filofax Notes tab isn't.

I buy the blank tabbed dividers and the sticky notes accessory. Then I trim the colored tape flags to fit the tabs and label them as I need. That way if I need to move my tabs around, I can easily remove and replace the labels, that way keeping the tabs aligned down the side of the book. Also I can designate colors based on the topic. For example, my Financial tab label is green, Emergency contact and insurance info is the bright pink for visibility, etc.

As for carrying my Filo, I just carry it in whatever bag I'm using that day. I know it's much more of an issue for men though. I think most men carry their Filo in their laptop bag or briefcase for work. In the US, messenger-style bags are pretty popular for guys. In Europe, the "male handbag" (what we Americans often call a male purse or "murse") is popular.

Hope this helps!!

PA3789 (2009-12-14 15:29:22)

Thanks everyone.

I will let you know how this goes in 2010.

New personal filo instead of A5.

I will try the "keep it in my biefcase idea".

It should be interesting but I am excited to use the Filo instead of the FC my company gives out.
Is it silly to actually purchase out of my pocket the Filo when I can get a FC for free? On second thought, I already did it! LOL

joffreyca (2009-12-17 12:41:05)

Hello. Just wanted to say "Hi!" to everyone.

I haven't posted comments nor visited this site for a loooong time.

Steve (2009-12-17 12:42:33)

Welcome back! Look forward to hearing from you more in future

Steve

Free For All Friday No. 57 (2009-12-18 06:27) - Steve

Well we are a bit snowed in here in SE England, nice and sunny though. I've been doing some work at home instead. Thank goodness I carry my work phone directory in my A5.

So one week to go until Christmas.....

Over to you...

Steve

Nicola (2009-12-18 07:36:19)

Work from home? Oh how a long for a job where I can work from home!

Michele (2009-12-18 07:48:18)

I'm working from home today too. Blizzard hitting LI this weekend so I want to get stuff done too. I'm trying my best not to go onto filofax.com to look at my A5 Finchley I asked for Christmas! As my boyfriend told his small neice and nephew.. 6 more big sleeps...

D (2009-12-18 13:38:00)

I wish it were snowing here in Atlanta. I think Atlanta has become the new Seattle...it is raining cats and dogs and cold (for us)! Santa is not bringing me any Filofax goodies this year but I am looking forward to loading the 3 I have with their 2010 calendars.

Steve (2009-12-18 17:53:37)

Well it doesn't happen that often here in Kent...wait it happened earlier in the year, another two days off due to snow... oh well. It could be worse I suppose.

Fashion? (2009-12-18 17:59) - Steve

So are Filofax organisers or 'planners' (generic) coming back in fashion?

Have we at Philofaxy inspired enough people to start using a Filofax for the first time or to get that once loved Filofax out of the bottom drawer again, load it with some pages and put it back in to regular use? Well there seems to be more and more of us talking about 'planners' and of course included in that is Filofax. In the last few months a few new blogs have appeared dedicated to planners, all friends of Philofaxy of course. Take a look at the links in the left hand side bar, we have added those we know about.

Will 2010 be a year when we see more and more people using a Filofax on a regular basis?

I wonder if Filofax will bring out more niche products in 2010 like we saw with the [1]Beauty Gift Box? May be something aimed at guys?

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1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/10/beauty-gift-box-price-reduction.html>

Nicola (2009-12-18 18:11:07)

My partner has used a filofax since his university days, even with his BlackBerry he wouldn't get rid of his trusty filo.

It somehow becomes a part of your life just as much a mobile phone does.

I use mine for my diary, addresses and for decluttering my thoughts, getting it down onto paper somehow helps. So no it isn't just a fashion, because somehow people always come back to pen and paper to plan their lives. It's reliable and it doesn't break down...although you may need another filo when you have too many pages to be able to close the fastening rings....

Nickie @ Typecast (2009-12-18 19:00:54)

I think the Filofax (and the Planner) has come back into "fashion" for two reasons...

(a) Recycling: we're constantly encouraged (media speaking) to recycle so the obvious choice for diary/address books is to replace unused pages;

(b) Internet Security: we're (also) constantly reminded about how easy it is to gain access to personal information via the WWW so the obvious choice is to only write it down where you can control the view; enter, stage left, the Filofax/Personal Planner.

As an aside, I was clearing some drawers out upstairs the other day and found a filo planner copy that had an address book in and a few blank pages - my husband almost killed me by pouncing on it, shouting "Don't throw that out... it's really useful!!!!!"

What can I say... I know he'd balk at the expense of an original Filo because he doesn't use it enough but it's nice to know that he's got something similar, tucked away :-D

rlyon2003 (2009-12-19 03:22:41)

I've recently rekindled my love affair with the Filo after a failed five year relationship with the Palm. But this time, it's becoming more torrid! As a matter of fact, I will be completing my Personal Guildfords from the Zip, the Slimline and hopefully tomorrow my Snap-On arrives - every model will have its specific job description. The Zip as the "main station", the Slimline as my wallet/checkbook/to-go planner, and the Snap-On as my sidekick/tour guide/planner when I travel long distances.

I guess this is more of a re-discovered staple rather than fashion for me as I can't imagine how I survived all those years without it. Besides, I don't care about the color of my Filo for as long as it's black!

And thanks to the ever-growing popularity of the Internet. Now, I'm able to see what's going on in that secret and glorious world of Filolandia with Filostines like me :)

Lyon

Vidya (2009-12-19 11:41:34)

A colleague got her first planner (a generic from Target) and she is amazed at how useful it is. I, of course, sang its praises and showed off my Finchley and gave her tips to maximize her planner's efficiency. Another convert!

Dilaila (2009-12-19 20:11:26)

I bought another A5 because of this blog. I would just love to move to Personal but don't know how that would work with work.

kanalt (2009-12-20 10:02:07)

I recently got one of my friends into Filofax - she requested one for Christmas. She's so excited to use it and has been tormented by the fact that she has to wait to get it.

In other news, I too am jumping on the planner blog bandwagon. You can view it at <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/>

paulien (2009-12-20 10:44:32)

kanalt, your blog is not open to see except for invited viewers. Is this intentional?

paulien

kanalt (2009-12-20 11:48:08)

Ack! No, I had it hidden until it was up and running but forgot to change that. Sorry! Thanks for pointing that out.

Steve (2009-12-20 14:16:02)

Now added to our growing list of Filofax related blogs... what is wrong with Philofaxy? No only kidding...

Michele (2009-12-20 15:32:24)

Steve, Just remember "Philofaxy - For the love of Filofax!!! " No other brand compares!!!!

Steve (2009-12-20 16:23:06)

I'm pleased that people feel liberated enough to write about their own planner experiences. The more the merrier I suppose.

May be in 2010 Philofaxy should have some guest contributions?

What do you think? Any volunteers?

kanalt (2009-12-21 13:12:22)

Steve, I would do a guest blog if you're looking for someone...

Let me know if you still are.

PA3789 (2009-12-21 16:38:57)

I have a question?

Why the personal size?

Why not the A5 (if you use the personal size).

What type of work do you do that accomidates the personal Filofax?

Just looking for some answers, please.

pilgrim (2009-12-21 17:40:24)

<http://donnayoung.org/index.htm>

Thought you might like this-it might be useful for ready made templates or some such.

Can I also say just how much I really enjoy Philofaxy as a long term user (nearly 20 years of addictive filofax-ing),and now a proud Blackberry owner to add to as well!

Merry Christmas to everyone involved in and readers of Philofaxy

Regards

Andy Raisbeck

Nicola (2009-12-22 03:27:44)

I would certinally be interested in contributing in a 'guest spot' at some point.

Dilaila (2009-12-22 03:59:35)

gregorym: my filo is my portable office so i find A5 the most practical for storing stuff. I can just print things in A4, punch some holes and store in the filo, then fold it over. Plus there's more space for writing.

My filo is also zipped so things don't go missing.

You've just switched from A5 to personal right? How do you find it?

I would also love to hear how others use a personal for work. Thanks.

PA3789 (2009-12-22 09:38:27)

Dilaila, I'm not sure exactly how this will work. As I said I have always used an FC classic or an A5 Filo. But I am so tired of carrying the larger around I'm willing to test the waters.

I think with being able to put the personal in my laptop bag and sine I use a large "month at a glance calendar

for scheduling along with my Blackberry, this Filo will become more personal so to speak. I can make notes on it that I feel are the most important from work while having the ability to carry this everywhere without a hassle. I take notes in a spiral binder I use and change monthly. (I have a spiral notebook for every month, all phone calls and information start there first.

This is going to be interesting but I'm excited!

I will keep the group informed if you want me to.

Greg

Dilaila (2009-12-23 03:10:46)

Gregorym, yes please. I would love to be able to use a Personal. Cheaper and more options.

Steve (2009-12-23 18:12:31)

Thank you Nicola and Kanalt.

If you would like to be guest contributor, can you please send your submissions as a plain text email to philofaxy@gmail.com and also attach any photos to accompany your submission.

We will slot your submissions in to our schedule where ever there is a gap.

Many thanks

Regards

Steve

Filofax crunch time! (2009-12-23 05:33) - Laurie

Hello everybody from Snowy Scotland! Just popping into a cafe for emails and a quick post. Christmas is just a few days away and the frenzy is nearing its peak! Thank goodness for my Filofax. I use it (actually them, plural) the most around the holidays I think. My household A5 holds my Christmas card list and the addresses of all the people I send to, and all my stamps so it's a one-stop place for all my card-sending needs. My Scotland Filofax is useful as ever while I'm here on my trip. I left my blogging Filo (purple personal Fins) and Ivory Deco at home. It was hard to choose what to bring and what to leave! But that's the beauty of a Filo: I took out the pages I needed for this trip and stuck them into my Scotland Filo. I do a lot of page-switching around from book to book!

How is your Filofax useage evolving this holiday season? New Year's resolution/ goals changing? New diary format? Branching out into multiple Filofaxes? This is a time of change and Filofaxes are great for that!

PA3789 (2009-12-23 07:26:54)

Since my new Filo is the Kendal personal, I have already moved addresses from my A5 to this one for Cards and wishes to friends and family. I have started putting my personal credit cards, business cards, and the like into this new friend.

Thanks for having a place to vent, ask questions, or just coment on the "planner addiction" I have. It is very much appreciated. I hope all of my new friends have a safe holiday and if any are in Pennsylvania, look me up, we can compare Filo's over a cup of coffee or tea!

Silver_Elixir (2009-12-23 18:09:32)

Merry Chirstmas Everyone!

I also have a Personal Kendal Filofax. I love it. It is currently keeping track of 'Santa' presents for my son, and lists of family presents and amounts spent. I am toying with the idea of a totally different diary set up for 2010. I currently use a week to a view unlined. I have brought a week to a view with the notes on the facing page. But I want more. I want a better record of my days. I want to be more observant about things that happen in my life. I want more detail on my pages. So I am thinking of using a monthly calendar to record appointments and for forward planning (I am not overly busy in this regard) and using either a whole page to record stuff about my day. I am trying to decide if one page, back and front is the way to go, or if using 2 pages to an opening,

where I can see the 'whole' day would be better. I am leaning to this idea more. I don't think Filofax make a page format like this. So I am thinking I will either use ruled Filo paper or pages I have cut from other books. I am also thinking about the format or structure for my pages. I don't want to be 'confined' to boxes and lines for everything, but I think some things work well in the same place every day - like day, date, weather etc. I hope all this makes sense. I will look at putting some pics up when I get it working. I am aiming for my pages to be busy colourful reflections of my days.

stationery gal (2009-12-25 21:09:49)

Merry Christmas! I got a new raspberry pocket Finsbury and can't wait to use it. It is a snowy day here so the perfect weather to curl up with a cup of coffee and a new filofax! I told my hubby my goal was to use this filofax all year long (I have a terrible habit of changing in the middle of the year, you know how that goes). :) I admit it, I am addicted to filofaxes!!

Nan (2009-12-25 21:48:25)

I need to plan better for Christmas. I'm not lacking in the ability to do all the necessary things...purchase gifts that are appropriate to each recipient, wrap them, purchase the wrapping supplies, tip my hairdresser and mail carrier, and so on. I just forget some of these things until the last minute every year. Even if I think I've planned well, there are always a couple of things I forget and end up squeezing in at the last minute.

Last year, my cards never got sent. This year, I bought unnecessary gift wrap and bows because my project plan didn't include checking on existing supplies. I felt proud about buying these supplies nice and early, but I didn't need them!

My 2010 Christmas project begins NOW!

I've started a Projects tab in my Personal Finsbury...one page per project. I've used yellow paper for projects in the past, but this year I'm going with white. All of the City Dweller forms are white and gray, so I think I'd like to stay consistent with that. I'm going to retire my Chocolate Brown Finchley with the Cotton Cream filling for 2010 and use a red Finsbury with the City Dweller.

stationery gal (2009-12-27 22:28:13)

I love your project tab idea Nan! I will be downsizing this year to a pocket, Raspberry Filo (I received the packaged Christmas gift set and I love it.) My personal Red Finsbury is safely tucked away for now....I added a "Birthday Tab" and right behind it a "Gift Tab". I like being able to refer back to birthday and Christmas gifts we have given in the past....I also have a "Gift Ideas" page to jot down ideas throughout the year (or gifts purchased and tucked away in the gift trunk).

Dynamic Templates (2009-12-23 15:31) - Steve

Over at [1]DiY Planner, they have been providing template packs for some time. More recently they have also provided Dynamic Templates that allow you to generate a variety of pages on your PC or Mac which you can save as pdf's and print out on a variety of different paper sizes.

This week version 2.05 of the [2]Dynamic Template software has been released for a free download. I've downloaded it and installed it on my iMac and it works really well. The main change is that they have merged all the different type of templates in to one package.

The application can cope with US and European paper sizes and you can also use the custom size to create pages for any Filofax page size

The software can generate all types of calendars for yearly, monthly, weekly and daily varieties, all of them can be mixed and matched according to your needs. It can also be used to create notes, check lists and charts

So why not [3]download a copy of the application and give it a try.

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1. <http://www.diyplanner.com/>

2. <http://www.diyplanner.com/node/6210>

Filofax UK - Christmas 30% Discount Sale (2009-12-24 06:30) - Steve

[1]Filofax UK are offering a 30 % off discount sale by following the [2]link here Hurry because the offers are only while stocks last.

The sale starts at 5pm on Christmas Eve and runs through until the New Year.

So if Santa didn't bring you what you wanted from the [3]Filofax store... take a look and treat yourself.

They have also dropped the [4]Filofax beauty giftbox to £30 originally £40

Happy Christmas everyone.

1. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=Christmas%20Special%20offer&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Fspecials.asp%3F0ID%3D157>

2. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=Christmas%20Special%20offer&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Fspecials.asp%3F0ID%3D157>

3. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=Christmas%20Special%20offer&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Fspecials.asp%3F0ID%3D157>

4. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=BeautyBoxXmas&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Forganiserdetails.asp%3Fdisplay%3D%26sizeId%3D3%26rangeId%3D144%26dsId%3D3>

Nicola (2009-12-26 11:03:52)

my christmas present to myself...a zipped pink finsbury :D

I like sales me!

HP Fuchs (2009-12-28 09:03:27)

Discount for what? They anyway don't have anymore what I want:

1. Black colour for men (no butterfly etc)

2. Personal size

4. No zip pocket

5. Classical look

I will stick with my old black personal bridle.

Merry Christmas (2009-12-25 06:28) - Nan

I just wanted to wish all of our readers a merry Christmas (or a happy December 25th if you prefer).

I also wanted to thank Steve and Laurie for joining me on the Philofaxy team, and all of the wonderful things they have done for and brought to this blog. Christmas is about many things...hope...gratitude...and, yes, gifts.

So thank you to everyone for the gifts you give to Philofaxy every day of the year.

Steve (2009-12-26 04:02:20)

Thank you Nan, it's great to be part of the team.

I would also like to thank all our wonderful contributors who submit their excellent comments and ideas.

The comments are quite often better than the main article!!! I think sometimes that my own thoughts trigger other peoples ideas that then come out, which is brilliant.

Again many thanks and here's to 2010.....

Laurie (2009-12-26 09:17:44)

Nan thank you for the opportunity to join the Filofaxy team, I've really enjoyed it!!

Free For All Friday No. 58 (2009-12-25 07:00) - Laurie

Merry Christmas everybody!!!!

Did Santa bring you any Filofax goodies?

Anita (2009-12-25 12:46:34)

Yes, a mini Classic off eBay for £9.00, bargain! (present to myself actually)

Merry Christmas :)

Nan (2009-12-25 21:37:51)

Santa didn't, but I've stocked up for 2010...A5 Week-on-2-pages for work, Family Pack for home (A5 also), 2-days-per-page for Pocket Fitness, and some blank and ruled white leaves to supplement the City Dweller that I'm going to use as my Personal for 2010.

Steve (2009-12-26 03:59:14)

I didn't but like Nan I stocked up earlier in the year.

We are inching closer to being able to remove my 2009 and put in the crisp new 2010 pages.

I've already put in my 2010 page per week diary in to my slimline personal which I use as my appointments organiser/wallet.

The slimline has been a great addition to my collection, I use it more than my pocket size organiser now.

Nicola (2009-12-26 11:10:52)

not for myself, but my partner has come out well off on the filofax front. a new Kendal to replace his 18 year old filo which has finally given up the ghost but has traveled the world with him in the Navy.

He hasn't opened it yet, as he is visiting his parents in Surrey, but I'm sure he'll be happy with it!

Michele (2009-12-26 20:42:00)

You guys will have a laugh on this... .. My boyfriend individually wrapped each of these extras he ordered on FilofaxUSA.COM for me to open: 1)ruler 2)business card holder 3)clear plastic envelope 4)blue ruled paper 5)salmon ruled paper, 6)white ruled paper, 7) Address & Phone #'s 8) A-Z tabs 10) To-Do's 11) 2010 calendar...AND THEN... Finchley Mustard A5!! He didn't realize the A5 came with all but it was acciently sent to me with only a 2009 calendar so 2010 wasn't a waste. So I've got my stock of Filo for the year. Tomorrow I'm planning a "What/Where" plan as Nan as devised and planned!!

alannarama (2009-12-30 19:27:40)

Santa didn't, but my birthday's next week and my parents thought I might like my present early for the new year... a pocket red Butterfly organiser... I love it already!! Have been lusting over Filofaxes for weeks now, didn't think I'd ever afford one!

New Years Resolutions? (2009-12-26 09:11) - Steve



[1]

So the year is drawing to a close... time to think about what new years resolutions you might set yourself in 2010.

I'm normally not very good at setting myself such objectives/targets. Although I did fairly well in 2009 to record more of my life on a weekly/daily basis in my A5 Filofax journal organiser. I feel this coming year I'm better prepared. I was slightly phased last new year when I quickly realised I might have bought the wrong refill for 2009.

This coming year is likely to be a fairly busy one for my wife and I as we are hoping that our house sale is finally concluded and we emigrate from UK to France... there will be another blog! So my Filofax organisers will be more and more important to the smooth running of my life this year.

So share with us your Filofax resolutions for 2010, if you have thought of them yet...

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SzYZbhWCgrI/AAAAAAAAH54/6b93F5fBUgI/s1600-h/calendar.jpg

Nicola (2009-12-26 11:18:29)

just to actually be organised for a change

Vidya (2009-12-26 13:44:49)

My Filo resolution is to put my Finchley on a diet! My BF calls it a brick and it is really thick, the cover is curved to fit over all its contents.

Usually on New Year's Eve I go through both the Finchley and my little Lizell and take out all the unneeded papers, put in the next year's pages, clean them up a bit and get them all ready for the new year.

Steve (2009-12-26 13:52:00)

Yep, I normally go for the full strip down approach myself, empty the organiser of all it's pages, empty the pockets lay it out on the table in a sensible order.

Give the organiser a clean and polish! And then start to reassemble the pages weeding out the ones I've not used in a while, file those if need be.

May be it's a little OTT or OCD, but you feel like you have a new Filofax when you are finished

PA3789 (2009-12-26 20:06:33)

To start a completely new system with a personal Filo, wirebound note book, and full size calendar.

This ought to be really interesting!!

kanalt (2009-12-26 22:10:50)

While I usually make some sort of New Year's resolution, I don't keep track of it throughout the year. This year though, I may. I'm working on a few ideas for a resolution, and I think it will be good to look at my progress a few times during the year.

Pete Mac (2009-12-27 06:34:14)

I need to get used to using more than 1 filofax. I live out of an A5 lyndhurst, but often it's too big. I've got personal (Richmond) and pocket (Lyndhurst) ones, but I'm often too lazy to get the others sorted.

Basically a little more self-discipline in 2010... :-)

Rich (2009-12-27 22:02:00)

Hi all - just started to read this site.

I've not used a paper diary/organiser for years, having used PDAs from the early Palms to my current Blackberry. I've decided that it would be far easier (and quicker) to use the Blackberry for phone/email and a filofax for diary, notes etc for both business and personal use.

I've been browsing the Filofax site and like the look of the personal Lyndhurst Zipped but it looks a little bulky for daily use. My alternate choices are the Finsbury or the Kendal. The Kendal is probably my favourite at the moment.

I would welcome any suggestions!

Also, I seem to remember many years ago you could get small ring binders to store used/spare pages in, are they still available as I can't see them anywhere...

Rich

Dilaila (2009-12-28 04:17:45)

I've just bought a Personal, finally. I'm going to use it for a while and see how practical it is for work. I think my problem is I use my Filo as a filing system, and not just an organiser.

Nicola (2009-12-30 13:24:06)

Rich: I am like you, I use my BlackBerry for phone and email contacts, but you will find once you have your filo that you will also use it for those contacts as well. Being a bit paranoid about having my BlackBerry stolen, I keep sensitive numbers in my filo and not on the phone.

Having seen the Kendal 'in the leather' today I would recommend it, it's lovely.

I should be getting my Finsbury zipped tommorrow and sadly can't wait!

Indexes? (2009-12-26 15:01) - Steve

I think we all use the A-Z index tabs for addresses and for sorting notes for projects. I've also used the blank tabs for my own section dividers.

Anyone know what you would use the numbered ones for (1-6) ? They appear to be available in Personal and Pocket sizes only.

I noticed them on the [1]Paper and Essentials page

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1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/paperessentials.asp?tn=1&control=processrequest&CatId=3>

Penny (2009-12-26 22:04:06)

I used to use them with a bright post-it on the front clear sheet of my filo with a translation guide that worked for me:

- 1 - tasks for business B
- 2 - business A (all of it)
- 3 - time log for business B
- 4 - business C (all of it)
- 5 - personal
- 6 - random scribbles.

after using that method for years i gave up six months ago and used a label maker and now those numbers are covered up. is it easier? I have no idea. *I* knew what number corresponded to what, that was the important thing. my number index came with one of my wanna-be A5 filox (from b & n, is lighter and much less option for me)

I'm definitely curious to hear how others use them.

I keep books to read, by author in the A-Z index of my personal filo.

Pete Mac (2009-12-27 06:27:48)

I only use the numbered ones. My A5 filofax doesn't have room for names/addresses; they're in a separate mole-skinne address book.

I use the numbered ones to break up sections - #1 - work notes, #2 - personal notes, #3 = reference info, #4 is... oh. I forget...

HP Fuchs (2009-12-28 08:56:56)

In my opinion, these a-z indexes are not helping. They only consume a lot of valuable space.

Anyway, I use only three pages for telephone numbers. One for office, one for personal and one labeled "companies" (shops, doctors, teachers of my children etc). I don't keep addresses in my filofax. It is too easy to memorize who lives where.

youtube (2009-12-28 09:55:32)

Luís Panadés,

I use geometric signs since the school, cause figures can have a lot of uses that can cause some mistakes if i'm not aware so triangles, circles and boxes, and hatched signs are better for me.

I ever used triangles do exercices, ou questions, today i use than to tasks.

Circles are apointments and boxes are interesting thing to be done like Tv programs, sugestion of meetings and so on.

by Ewan Spence (2009-12-29 04:14:52)

When I get a new filofax and paper pack (strangely it works out about one a year) I take the 1-6 out and iuse them in that year's storage binder (yes it's me, I'm buying them). I much prefer the clear tabbed pages where you can slot in the coloured card with your own headings written on them. I have two packs of six of these in my main Personal Filo for twelve sections.

As to the AZ if they ARE talking up space, consider writing the names and addresses *on the tabs* rather than paper between them; although like HP some projects of mine behind a tab have their first page as important telephone numbers for superquick access.

Nicola (2009-12-31 14:37:25)

I tend to use the indexes for all the conventional things in my filo, to do, notes, finance etc.

However my 'evil genius' filo has been converted to make use of the A to Z for my Sea Cadet activities in which I hold notes about each cadet, what their abilities are, what motivates them, what demotivates them etc. a bit of amature psychology which staff can use if needs be. I'm a conventional normal person otherwise...honest!

Estelle (2010-02-28 07:21:56)

Ewan, you said "I much prefer the clear tabbed pages where you can slot in the coloured card with your own headings written on them."

What are you talking about? Can you link me to the page of the product? This sounds utterly like something I would use (and have been wanting to DIY but never got around to it).

3D Browsing! (2009-12-28 05:34) - Nan

Filofax.co.uk has a new viewing feature that lets you see the exact contents of the City Dweller, Family Organizer, and Travel Journal packs before buying.

For example, go to [1]<http://bit.ly/FilofaxCity> to see the City Dweller. Click the image, and you'll see an animation of the pages turning in 3D. You can click through and see an example of all of the different leaves that come in the pack. The image is enlarged so you can really see every detail, and some of the pages have been filled in with handwriting so you can get some ideas for using them.

This feature is now part of Filofax.co.uk's online store. For the Personal size, for example, go to this page: [2][http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/paperessentials.asp?tn=1 &control=processrequest &SizeId=3](http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/paperessentials.asp?tn=1&control=processrequest&SizeId=3). Click the link that says "Flick through the pages in 3D."

For 2010, I'm using the City Dweller as my personal organizer. I ordered it several months ago, when the preview wasn't available, so I had no idea what the pages would look like. I don't regret the purchase, but I'm glad that Filofax added this new feature so future customers can get a wonderful 3D preview of what they're buying!

1. <http://bit.ly/FilofaxCity>

2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/paperessentials.asp?tn=1&control=processrequest&SizeId=3>

markus (2009-12-28 17:07:05)

I also bought a city dweller package. I like it very much. The only bad thing about it is, you can't buy single pages (like fitness plan or shopping list). So i bought me some blank pages, recreated the pages i need on my computer and print them out as i need them.

by Ewan Spence (2009-12-29 04:20:05)

I received the Family Pack [caveat, for review] and while I loved the pages and ideas, the thought of not being able to get refills for notes and other pages make me feel a touch wary in using it. But they're great "starter" packs for those unconverted!

Janet (2009-12-29 04:54:31)

I loved the 3D version because I loved seeing how you would fill it in. Made me feel all inspired. Thanks so much for posting this!

I find that photocopying hard to find refills and cutting them to size works. As does recreating them on the computer I like the student timetable that sometimes comes in the domino but you can't buy them as a refill. I use A5 so I just photocopy them, cut them in half and punch holes.

geew67 (2009-12-30 15:22:23)

Beware, the 3D animation of the Family organiser has the personal sized diary insert only, even if you view the animation from the A5 organiser insert web page! The A5 has a vertical diary (dates across and family members horizontal), the opposite of what is in the animation.

When I emailed filofax re the availability of Family pack refills, they replied the diary will be available in 2010. Don't know about other refills though.

The Life of Ideas (2009-12-30 13:35) - Nan

One of favorite uses for my Filofax is idea capture. I keep lists of little ideas like books I want to read and websites I want to visit, to the big ideas: my next career, plans for my house, blogs to create. I have to admit, I obsess about these ideas. I'm afraid of losing any of them. Switching from one planner or format to another is especially traumatic, because I have to decide what to do with the idea lists. Copy them over? Archive them? Toss them out and move on? I almost think of the ideas as living things.

It's strange that I cling so tightly to these ideas, because I don't act upon most of them. But when I go over old idea lists, I find that lots of them do get done, but not at the same time or in the same way I originally envisioned. After I record an idea, it really does seem to have its own lifecycle.

Some year I have tons of ideas. At the end of 2008, when I switched to Cotton Cream paper, I reviewed my existing lists, which were on a slew of colors and sizes of paper, and wrote the ones that seemed most significant onto the new paper. I found that 2009 was not a year of ideas for me. I added very, very few new ideas to the lists. Maybe that's a sign I need to either act upon or get rid of the existing ones.

I've been obsessing about what to do for 2010. Just keep the 2009 lists and put them in my City Dweller? Or do a complete reboot?

I've decided on a complete reboot! Go over all of my existing lists. Rewrite the items I want to keep,

and say goodbye to the rest. Just let them go. Stop carrying around thoughts that are no longer right for me.

That's what I'm doing today.

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Amanda (2009-12-30 14:30:33)

I do the same thing! I panic over the thought of losing my list. I have pages of books to be read, sorted by category (fiction, non-fiction, animal, dog training, etc.). I also do the same thing with my computer book marks. I am looking forward to getting my order so I can rewrite all of my lists on matching paper :0)
Glad to know that I am not the only one... everyone IRL makes fun of me!

Nicola (2009-12-30 15:06:24)

mine isn't so much ideas as ramblings in my A5.

to be honest alot of it is rantings, especially at work with stupid people on the phones, but it is a chance for me to get it out of my head and onto paper in order to rationalise it even if it never goes any further.

my A5 is a very useful venting tool.

PA3789 (2009-12-30 16:30:17)

OK, so on the same subjest (sort of). I started my "personal Filo" on the 28th. Remember I used an A % previous years. MY main issue is the personal is small. I mean you really have to change your wrting style to accomidate the size of the pages. On a lighter note, I can put the personal in my laptop bag pocket and only have one item when I travel, "the laptop bag".

What have everyone else noticed about changing writing styles to accomidate the smaller pages in a personal?

Thanks,

Greg

2009 a year in review... (2009-12-31 17:16) - Steve



[1]

So another year is nearly over. I suggested to Nan and Laurie before Christmas that may be we should do a review of the year. But it would be like repeating the year. What could we leave out?

I have taken a look back over the year and each time I do it with the intention of writing something about the year I get engrossed in the articles and especially the comments you all make. No self discipline!!

The big change for me this year has been your contribution via the comments, which has been huge, and we thank you for your valuable input.

As Nan mentioned over Christmas the addition of Laurie and myself has added breadth/depth to the coverage of Filofax topics. Our coverage in the media and the internet has increased in the last year. We have got Philofaxy noticed that's for sure! And again we thank you for your mentions, which I'm sure have contributed to more visitors to the site.

When I got the invite to be a contributor in June from Nan, I sort of panicked at first, what can I write about often enough to keep you all interested. But my fear was short lived. I just write about more or less what I like on topic... and it seems to spark your interest. I'm sure the three of us will continue in our own style in 2010, giving you all ideas, making you pause and think 'why don't I give that a try' 'oh

I like that idea' I'm sure you have had those moments after reading a post.

I will do the occasional 'One Year Ago on Philofaxy' post in future or some other interval in the last 5 years of Philofaxy to remind ourselves of earlier posts and ideas contained in them, there are plenty of them as I discovered!

If you would like to contribute an article at any time we welcome your input. Please contact us by email: [2]philofaxy@gmail.com

So once again thank you for everything in 2009 and I wish you all the best for 2010.

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1. http:
[//3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/Sz0hpgzpQ2I/AAAAAAAAH6w/DxEhRv1I/s1600-h/big-ben-s-clock-face.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/Sz0hpgzpQ2I/AAAAAAAAH6w/DxEhRv1I/s1600-h/big-ben-s-clock-face.jpg)
2. <mailto:philofaxy@gmail.com>

kanalt (2009-12-31 17:47:21)

I have loved reading all posts and comments from the beginning until this very last one, as well as all of the ones yet to come. I'm also thankful and grateful to know that there are other people out there who share in my passion and obsession. Thanks to all of you - Steve, Laurie and Nan! I look forward to opening Google Reader everyday, hoping for a new Philofaxy post...they always make my day!

stationery gal (2009-12-31 22:32:02)

I was so excited to find Philofaxy! I love reading the posts and agree, it is so nice to go to a website where others share the same passion...those who don't understand or see the value in Filofaxes, agendas, planners etc... just don't understand! :) I have tried so many different kinds of planners....but I always come back to my Filofax!!

Nan (2010-01-01 04:46:32)

As I reviewed my 2009 to-do lists, deciding what to carry over and what has already been done, I've found that Steve and Laurie had already done a lot of the things I had in mind...reserve the Philofaxy URL, get a Philofaxy Twitter account, and make more frequent contact with our readers.

It's the confluence of Philofaxy lists!

