

BlogBooker

From Blog to Book.

'[HTTP://PHILOFAXY.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://philofaxy.blogspot.com)'

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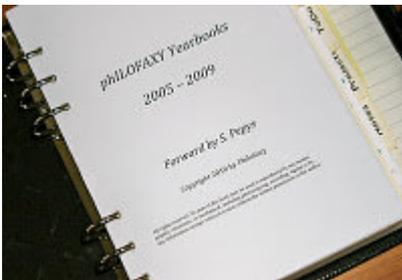
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Chapter 1

2011

1.1 January

2010 Yearbook (2011-01-01 07:30)



[1]

Happy New Year everyone.

I've just posted the 2010 [2]Yearbook in both PDF and Epub formats. I've also reposted the earlier PDF files with a more meaningful front page, which includes the year!

The files are in the [3]files area, but here are the links below as well.

PDF Format

- [4]2005 460kb
- [5]2006 2.8Mb
- [6]2007 974kb
- [7]2008 2.8Mb
- [8]2009 2.9Mb
- [9]2010 9.8Mb

ePub Format

- [10]2005
- [11]2006
- [12]2007
- [13]2008

- [14]2009
- [15]2010

For those of you who have an iPod Touch, iPad or iPhone, you can download the pdf files from within Safari by going to [16]this page. Select the year and when it completes the download you get the option to open it as an iBook (if you have that [17]free app loaded) you can then save the files on your 'Bookshelf' for off line reading!

The files are quite big, especially 2010 so they do take a while to open from the web, but once on your device they open quite quickly.

Enjoy.

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TKXXzPeKVII/AAAAAAAAIT0/hVnSt0Jo-Ho/s1600/IMG_9542.JPG
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/10/philofaxy-yearbooks.html>
3. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/files.html>
4. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2005.pdf>
5. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2006.pdf>
6. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2007.pdf>
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9. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2010.pdf>
10. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2005-Philofaxy.epub>
11. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2006-Philofaxy.epub>
12. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2007-Philofaxy.epub>
13. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2008-Philofaxy.epub>
14. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2009-Philofaxy.epub>
15. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/2010-Philofaxy.epub>
16. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/files.html?m=1>
17. <http://www.apple.com/ipad/features/ibooks.html>

Petra (2011-01-01 22:53:17)

Two questions about the yearbooks:

Do they not include any pictures?

Are the linked pages people have mentioned in comments incorporated, or do you have to have internet access to get to those

I have a new iPod – will have to dry downloading these! Thanks!

Steve (2011-01-02 06:12:28)

Hi Petra

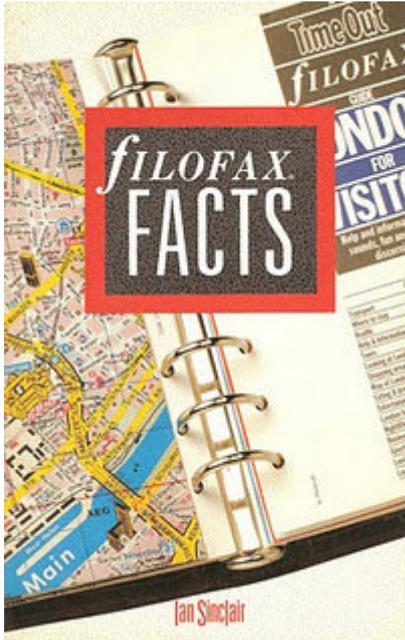
Yes the yearbooks do include the pictures, although the placement of the pictures with respect to the text isn't always identical to what you see on the screen.

The links are there in text but if you don't have internet access you won't be able to connect to them, but if you do then they should work. Yes try downloading one or two and see how you find them.

Regards

Steve

Book Review - Filofax Facts - Ian Sinclair (2011-01-02 00:01)



[1]

I came across this book on Amazon, it was published in 1988, so it was written very much in the 'hey day' of Filofax that we now think of as being 'Vintage'.

Although as we know or will learn, 1988 is still fairly 'recent' in terms of the overall history of the company. The company has of course changed hands several times in it's history which dates back to 1921.... 90 years this year..

The book is some 150 pages, published by David Fulton Publishers Ltd. ISBN 1-85346-106-7 I'm not sure how many copies were printed or sold back in 1988.

The copy I bought from a third party seller on Amazon.co.uk is in good condition, one minor crease on the back cover but otherwise like new.

The book is divided up in to the following chapters:

- Preface
- 1. Historical Fax
- 2. Organising your Time
- 3. Personal Organisation
- 4. Doing Business.
- 5. Communications and sales organisation
- 6. Data organisation
- 7. Specialised Organisation
- 8. The Packaging

The 1st chapter covers the history of the company from 1921 through the war years until 1988, the next chapters describe the numerous page inserts that were available back in the 1980's, a lot of them I remember, although I didn't use all of them! But I will describe them in more detail later in this post. And the final chapter describes the actual organisers themselves which didn't have as many style or size options as we now have!

Reading through the book was quite an enjoyable experience for me because I was able to relate to how

business was conducted back in the 1980's, dare I say... some of our younger readers will find it quite amusing, but you have to remember our only communications means back then was the telephone, fax machine, [2]telex there wasn't any internet... although [3]Prestel gets a mention in the books! So yes this book was very much 'my era'

However, I did pick up a few tips from the book which I will share with you in the next few days/weeks. It's going back to this era that made me realise how the company intended us to use certain refills that made me think that may be we aren't using them in quite the way that they were originally intended, so watch this space!

Inserted in to the book are also some period cartoons, for instance picture if you will two tramps walking across some waste ground in very scruffy and torn business suits, and one says to the other 'It all started when I lost my Filofax!'

So in a little more detail about each chapter:

1. **Historical Filofax** Details how the brand came in to existence and it's early history under the company called Norman and Hill Ltd. It includes how Grace Scurr saved the company when it's office was bombed during the war because she had all the customer records in her own Filofax that she took home every night. The details of what happened to the company during the war and in the years that followed up until 1988. For a more detailed and up to date history you need to read the [4]Chronology of Filofax by Kevin Hall.
2. **Organising Your Time** This chapter outlines the diary inserts and how they might be used. The diary inserts available in the 1980's aren't that much different to those we see today. There are a few interesting differences, there were more undated pages available back then. I will go in to more detail about how they were intended to be used in a separate post. Also covered in this chapter are the various planner pages available. These included:
 - Year Planner - Horizontal format, which is limited in terms of space for each day, the days are vertically aligned to the same day of the week.
 - Year Planner - Vertical format, which has a larger space for each day to write in. Days are horizontally aligned according to the date in the month.
 - Month Planner - The sheet is in a horizontal format with a column numbered 1 - 31, and separate columns for Morning, Lunch, Afternoon and Evening, plus some blank columns for times and one for you to write in what the day of week the dates are for.
3. **Personal Organisation** This chapter covers the following inserts:
 - Names and Address inserts in several familiar formats
 - Most used telephone numbers - a paper version of speed dial!
 - Function Planner, which includes spaces for the guest list, venue, date, menu, wines, notes
 - Restaurant review sheet, with details of the restaurant, services offered, location, notes, contact information, name of the maitre'd.
 - House entertainment - similar to the function planner sheet but on the back there is space to draw the table layout and who will sit next to who.
 - Recipe Sheet - with details of the preparation time, ingredients and method of cooking
 - Telephone message sheet
 - Shopping list, this is broken down in to meat/fish, vegetables, canned food, drinks, bread and cakes, groceries, household items. Only for use by the butler I would think!
 - Cellar Notes - For recording all your wine purchases, supplier, prices etc. One sheet I think I will have to recreate soon....
 - Tasting Notes - The follow on to your Cellar Notes, but with areas to record its appearance, nose, palate and conclusions.. ditto this one!

- Chess Score Record
- Bird Watchers Checklist - supplied by the RSPB
- Don't Forget - what we currently know as a To-Do list
- Memo - the sort of thing you would then pass to your secretary or the typing pool to type and send out
- Personal Services - a list of contacts in places you visit, the taxi firm, florist, tailor, places of worship, dry cleaner etc.
- Hotel record - similar to the restaurant review sheet, so you have all the details etc for the next time you visit.
- Sports Records:
- Anglers Catch Record
- Golf Record
- Snooker Record
- Running Record
- Skiing Record
- Windsurfing Record

4. **Doing Business** This chapter deals with recording financial and other business information in your Filofax with different forms of Cash Journals as well as the following inserts:

- Credit Card Charges
- Motor Running Costs - Fuel, Servicing etc
- Personal Expenses - itemised spending sheets with balance and totals
- Monthly Time Planner - Like an undated planner, but with key objectives and dates to remember included on the reverse side
- Day Planner - Appointments, To-Do's, Don't Forget
- Flexible Time Log
- Letter Planner
- Messages - similar to a telephone message
- Agenda Planner
- Meeting Planner
- Delegation Brief
- Travel Planner - Mainly for business travel
- Exercise Log/Bookings Planner, space for the type of exercise, length of activity, gym location and booking information
- Weekly Meal Planner
- Investment and Dividend Record

5. **Communications and sales organisation** This chapter covers the use of graph paper to show sales and production information. Does any one still use graph paper these days? This chapter also includes the use of the following inserts:

- Customer Records - Full details of your contacts and other details, on the reverse side it includes space to record monthly sales to the customer, with space to record several years worth of data to show trends in sales etc.
- Customer Enquiry Form - with room to record details such as follow ups when chasing sales.

- Maps, Tube Maps, Street Plans and International Data Sets are also discussed.

6. **Data organisation** This chapter discusses contents of the International and National (UK) Data Sets. I still have these from 1988 in the back of my Winchester Filofax, as they say... Never get rid of anything! Some of these information sheets are now included with each Filofax Diary Refill, but as you can see the amount of information within the data sets was quite extensive. Within the International Data set there was the following information sheets:

- EEC National Holidays 1988
- International Paper Sizes
- Distances by Road in Continental Europe
- Details of countries in the EEC all 12 countries (back then) details include the area, population, capital, languages, currency (pre Euro of course), GNP, Income, National Anthem
- International Clothing Sizes
- Seasonal Temperatures around the World
- BBC World Service Frequencies
- BBC World Service Programmes
- Contagious Diseases and Vaccinations

In the National Data Set there was the following information sheets:

- Sunrise/Sunset - Moonrise/Moonset for London in 1988
- General Conversion Factors
- Clothing Sizes
- Wedding Anniversaries
- Useful Telephone Numbers for a wide range of organisations
- UK Travel Information for stations, Inter City booking offices and Motorail services
- Wine Vintage Chart
- Some Notable London Eating Places
- Road Distances in the UK in Miles

This chapter also discusses Index and Indices, these haven't change much since 1988. Also discussed is the Filofax matching accessories including the leather [5]change holder that I bought last year. This item was apparently designed by Diane Keaton and Filofax took up her suggestion and produced this item in several colours, so that they matched the colours of Filofax Organisers on sale at the time. Also available was a leather credit/debit card holder, a plastic visiting card/business card holder, a leather cheque holder that was the correct size for Euro Cheques. Long term storage, storage boxes for your unused and archiving of used sheets and diary pages.

7. **Specialised Organisation** Filofax created a lot of specialist inserts for the following areas:

- Art and Design,
- Religion,
- Photography - I have some of these still.
- Education,
- FilmFax
- Health, Home and Security
- Medical (GP records)
- Property/Real Estate

- Military Course Instructors Records

8. **The Packaging** The final chapter in the book discusses the different Filofax Organisers, the types of leather, the sizes of the rings, all quoted in inches of course! I hadn't realised until I read this chapter that the Deskfax had nine rings arranged in three lots of three rings and that Personal size pages would fit between the upper group of rings and the middle rings and also between the lower group of rings and the middle rings, so you could view both levels with some over lap between the two sets of pages. The PocketFax was also mentioned but I believe although this is the same size approximately as our current Pocket size it only had 4 rings not the 6 we now have.

So that was a very quick over view of a very comprehensive book on what used to be available back in the late 1980's. I wish I still had a catalogue from that era because I would now be able to understand it a lot better than I did back then! Trying to decide which inserts to buy was quite a task back then, especially for the new comer like myself!

The book includes pictures of some of the inserts, which for me is excellent because I should now be able to recreate some of the sheets I have seen people mention on Philofaxy in the past, for instance the Weekly Meal Planner.

Initially I will recreate an updated version of some of the older inserts in A5 format, because that size is quite easy to create and print. I will then try to adapt these to Personal size, which is the original size of nearly all of these inserts.

Overall I'm very pleased with the book, it is an interesting insight in how particular inserts were intended to be used. The author had access to the insert designers, which was obviously a big advantage.

I wonder if Filofax would consider expanding the range of inserts again if they saw how many used to be available, or provide similar guidance to users for the existing ones.

In the coming weeks I will pick out some of the inserts and show you what they looked like and how they were intended to be used.

There are some useful tips in the book about how you might make better use of the capacity of your Filofax organiser that might surprise you.

So do any of you remember any of these inserts? Or is there any of them mentioned above that you would like to see again?

Drop a comment in to this post or email me if you are interested in more detail about any particular ones.

IFRAME: [6]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=1853461067

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TR-sDJwyf1I/AAAAAAAAI18/N8au-zI8BOM/s1600/filofaxfacts.jpg
2. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telex>
3. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prestel>
4. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/filofax-chronology.pdf>
5. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/04/filofax-change-holder.html>
6. 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=1853461067

Amanda (2011-01-02 08:08:11)

"There are some useful tips in the book about how you might make better use of the capacity of your Filofax organiser that might surprise you."

Ooh - can you do a post on these sometime please??

Excellent review Steve. How did you find the book? Were you sent it or did you discover it? (Apologies if you have already said that somewhere...)

Thanks!

Amanda

Steve (2011-01-02 08:15:17)

Hi Amanda

Yes that post will be on line soon...

I forget how I found the book, most probably searching for Filofax on Amazon. I have added a link to the post.

Regards

Steve

kanalt (2011-01-02 11:08:30)

Great review Steve! I'm looking forward to the description of how certain inserts were "meant" to be used. I really like the cellar inserts - I could devote an entire binder to wine/coffee/tea drinks, as I love them all.

Looking at Amazon US, the book is not available here, just as an FYI to anyone who might be interested. Your review and upcoming posts will probably fulfill my curiosity on what the book discusses.

Thanks again!

baggirl (2011-01-02 15:22:36)

You mention "pocketfax" - i had one. They were indeed the same size as the current "pocket" size, and had 4 rings, which were essentially the inner 4 of the personal's 6 rings. This was so you could take pocketfax pages and insert them directly into your personal sized filofax. A good idea!

stirwise (2011-01-02 15:40:20)

Very interesting stuff! One thing I noticed: those restaurant detail inserts, Kate Spade still makes them. They come as part of the annual refill packs. I don't think you can buy them individually. I use them as my "restaurants to try" list, since I don't need any help remembering my favorite restaurants. ;)

tommies-net (2011-01-03 13:32:48)

Great review!!!!

I do recall the interchangeability between the "Pocket", "Personal", and "Deskfax", with the latter being "extincted" by now. I feel sorry for that, because it appears to be a limitation. At least for all of us, who use more than one Filo and size.

Maybe we could ask for that at Filofax UK?

Thomas

gmax (2011-01-06 17:33:58)

Good to see this book described Steve. I also have a copy, and enjoyed reading it. I liked the reminders it gave of all the double and larger leaves available at that time in personal size.

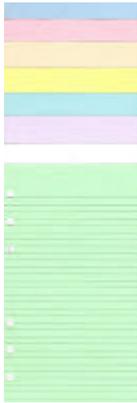
And it also mentions the Datex system, which allowed you to arrange 1/4" strips of paper in a transparent, personal sized holder. Sounds very fiddly, but also fun. I wonder if anyone can remember using it

Steve (2011-04-06 15:26:40)

There is a copy of this on Ebay at the moment. Grossly inflated price. <http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/Filofax-Facts-Ian-Sinclair-/140531227690?pt=Non-Fiction&hash=item20b8505c2a>

No it is not my book, and I have no connection to the seller.

Printing Your Own Filofax Personal Pages (2011-01-03 00:00)



[1]

I have tried in the past to create my own Personal pages, but without a lot of success. I made the mistake of trying to create them on normal A4 paper and then cut out the pages.

A4 is big enough for 3 Personal size side by side with a border around them. The problem I had was aligning the front and back of the pages so when printed out the Personal pages were perfectly aligned.

What I never thought to try was printing directly on to Personal Size plain paper. Well after we published 'Nellie's' [2]Book o Fax post, Alison asked how 'Nellie' printed out her Personal Pages.

'Nellie' has kindly sent in a file that explains it all. I've put it in the files area.

- [3]Printing Personal Pages

I have tried out this technique on a page I created this afternoon a [4]personal size recipe insert and it works fine. Print one side of the paper, turn the page over manually and print the other side.

I only tried printing one sheet at a time. How well your printer will feed such thin paper will vary from printer to printer, I used an HP LaserJet 2055dn and put the paper in the manual feed tray with the guides set to the narrow width of the paper.

I don't print off many personal pages but having the facility to do it now, I will be creating more personal pages, which of course will appear in the [5]files area.

So you will be needing some plain paper....:

IFRAME: [6][http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank &bc1=000000 &IS2=1 &nou=1 &bg1=FFFFFF &fc1=000000 &lc1=0000FF &t=pemburyvillag-21 &o=2 &p=8 &l=as1 &m=amazon &f=ifr &md=0M5A6TN3AXP2JHJBWT02 &asins=B000SHOXFS](http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank&bc1=000000&IS2=1&nou=1&bg1=FFFFFF&fc1=000000&lc1=0000FF&t=pemburyvillag-21&o=2&p=8&l=as1&m=amazon&f=ifr&md=0M5A6TN3AXP2JHJBWT02&asins=B000SHOXFS)

IFRAME: [7][http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank &bc1=000000 &IS2=1 &nou=1 &bg1=FFFFFF &fc1=000000 &lc1=0000FF &t=pemburyvillag-21 &o=2 &p=8 &l=as1 &m=amazon &f=ifr &md=0M5A6TN3AXP2JHJBWT02 &asins=B002CLD5YI](http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank&bc1=000000&IS2=1&nou=1&bg1=FFFFFF&fc1=000000&lc1=0000FF&t=pemburyvillag-21&o=2&p=8&l=as1&m=amazon&f=ifr&md=0M5A6TN3AXP2JHJBWT02&asins=B002CLD5YI)

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TK5WxGz_9UI/AAAAAAAAIUk/FkuJ7-KBC9Y/s1600/paper1.jpg

2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/12/guest-post-book-o-fax-nellie.html>

3. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/printing.pdf>

4. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/RecipePers.doc>

5. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/files.html>

6. http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank&bc1=000000&IS2=1&nou=1&bg1=FFFFFF&fc1=000000&lc1=0000FF&t=pemburyvillag-21&o=2&p=8&l=as1&m=amazon&f=ifr&md=0M5A6TN3AXP2JHJBWT02&asins=B000SHOXFS

7. http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank&bc1=000000&IS2=1&nou=1&bg1=FFFFFF&fc1=000000&lc1=0000FF&t=pemburyvillag-21&o=2&p=8&l=as1&m=amazon&f=ifr&md=0M5A6TN3AXP2JHJBWT02&asins=B002CLD5YI

tommies-net (2011-01-03 02:15:35)

Dear Steve,

thanks a lot for providing this information. Also, a very special Thank you! to Nellie for the file of instruction. Fortunately enough I use the same printer and was able to create pages properly and immediately. I finally have the chance to make my own address inserts, which I can print from the data collected in the computer.

Once again, thank you so much and a very happy new year!!

Thomas

Nellie (2011-01-03 03:26:17)

You're very welcome, I am glad they were useful. I'd love to see what inserts people print.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-03 04:35:27)

Thanks Steve and Nellie for making this post - I'm looking forward to trying it out! Can't wait to wet up some inserts of my own!

Amanda (2011-01-03 04:58:28)

What a fabulously useful post! Thank you Steve and Nellie!

Nellie - the screenshots in the article make it extremely easy to follow (especially as my printer is also a Canon!).

Thank you for such clear instructions.

Amanda

Petra (2011-01-03 15:48:30)

I have printed directly onto personal-size pages before (and pocket as well), but unfortunately my printer feeds slightly crooked when printing the back side - just enough to make the alignment irritating. It feeds unprinted paper in just fine! Perhaps the paper gets slightly curved and harder to feed after it's gone through one time. Anyone else run into this problem?

ScrapgalGR (2011-01-03 16:17:41)

I was toiling too with 2sided booklet printing and gave up until I did it the other way around, that is cut the paper first and then print on both sides. It works like a breeze every time!

Moderator (2011-01-04 09:02:59)

Came across this

How to make your won paper punch

Not tried it, but interesting idea

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Make-Your-Own-Planner-Pages/>

New Year... but some not so new posts... (2011-01-04 00:00)

Yes as you can guess to start off the New Year, this round up of posts from around the web is a little retro.. which nicely continues our look back at Filofax from years gone by:

- Japanese [1]FILOFAX Blog - If you open this page up using [2]Google Chrome, then the page will get translated for you. There's lots of great pictures, including some recent additions of 1980's Filofax adverts, in Japanese of course but interesting all the same. I particularly liked the '[3]Felt Protective Pouches' to protect your Filofax, I am sure some of our creative 'crafty' readers could make something similar;
- [4]Why a Filofax - a post from a few years ago on [5]Organised Life
- [6]Using a Filofax for GTD - another post on [7]Organised Life

But coming right up to date now. I think you should also check out what Kanalt has been doing and she provides some very detailed explanations of her current set ups on her very appropriately titled '[8]Life Well Planned' blog:

- [9]New Year, New Filo
- [10]Planning My Plans

If you are looking for inspiration in the New Year, with Christmas over and still the bulk of Winter before you, then look no further than the '[11]Musings of a Caribbean Princess' blog. Kyla or 'CP' as a lot of us know her as now, has published some great posts on [12]Filofax in the short time she has been blogging and her latest post is about her '[13]Inspiration Filofax'

And a couple of new templates have been added to the [14]Philofaxy Files area today:

- Recipe - A4/A5 [15].doc [16].pdf
- Recipe - Personal [17].doc [18].pdf
- Weekly Meals Planner - Personal - [19].doc [20].pdf

Until next time... Enjoy

1. <http://filofax.at.webry.info/theme/e4a0033a45.html>
2. <http://www.google.com/chrome/>
3. <http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/%7Em-task/pouch.htm>
4. <http://organisedlife.com/article/14/why-a-filofax>
5. <http://organisedlife.com/>
6. <http://organisedlife.com/article/16/using-a-filofax-for-gtd-setting-up-the-pages-for-tasks-and-calendars>
7. <http://organisedlife.com/>
8. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/>
9. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/2011/01/new-year-new-filo.html>
10. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/2011/01/planning-my-plans.html>
11. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/>
12. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/search/label/Filofax>
13. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/01/my-inspiration-filofax-pocket-raspberry.html>
14. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/files.html>
15. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/Recipe.doc>
16. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/Recipe.pdf>
17. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/RecipePers.doc>
18. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/RecipePers.pdf>
19. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/WeeklyMealPlanner.doc>
20. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/WeeklyMealPlanner.pdf>

Amanda (2011-01-04 05:27:36)

Nice article - it was good to chase up some of the other links - I hadn't seen most of them before. One minor thing... the links to the weekly meals planner don't work (the others all do).

Steve (2011-01-04 06:10:34)
Links fixed. Sorry about that.
Steve

Alison Reeves (2011-01-04 07:11:10)
This is my favourite blog - there always seem to be something to read! Thanks!

Ally (2011-01-04 19:17:45)
Steve, whatever happened to the guy, a lawyer I think, who started this blog so many years ago?

kanalt (2011-01-04 22:15:33)
Thanks for the mention Steve. =)

Steve (2011-01-05 04:02:38)
@Ally - Read about what happened to Philofaxer here: <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/10/guest-post-philofaxer.html>
@Alison Thank you hopefully we will continue to build on things over this next 12 months like we did last year. I'm enjoying it too!
@kanalt You are very welcome... thank you

pilgrim (2011-01-05 18:20:21)
Hi all,
Can I just add something ever so slightly off tangent.
If you use the Opera browser (& install one of the translation extensions) then you can have the page translated upon opening in a far more functional & less 'bloated' browser.
Opera compliments my Filos and Philofaxy is always on speed dial.
Regards to all for 2011
Pilgrim

Ally (2011-01-06 06:53:40)
Thanks Steve for the link to Philofaxer's post! It was like hearing from an old friend—he has such a unique style! I hope he contributes more in the future.

To Do Lists - Revisited (2011-01-05 05:00)

I find revisiting previously discussed topics often springs up some new ideas that may not have been discussed before.

This morning for instance Giovanni from Brazil sent me a link to an article in the Wall Street Journal - [1]Five Tips for Managing Your To-Do List I found it a very useful article. Take a read for yourself. The previous articles on [2]To-Do lists on Philofaxy are also worth a revisit. Have you discovered any new ways of organising your To-Do lists?

1. http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704723104576062231197795222.html?mod=WSJ_hps_sections_smallbusiness
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/search/label/ToDo>

Amanda (2011-01-05 06:17:12)
The system I use (mostly at work, but this year I'm hoping to extend it to home too) is this:
I have global 'to-do' **task**-lists (one for work and one for non-work). The urgency of the tasks is indicated by

asterisks (* = low; ** = medium; *** = high. That way, when I haven't got round to things, I can add an extra * to push it up the list!). I don't have 'must-do-by' dates attached (unless there genuinely IS a must-do-by associated with the task.

I have a Daily to-do' list

I put fixed appointments in my diary and leave the rest as white space

At the start of the week, I look at my global to-do list and see how many *** and ** things are on it. Those are my priorities. Then, each morning, I check my diary and see how much white space there is. I then add a (hopefully) achievable set of items off my global list onto my Daily list (but don't schedule them - they are just on a list).

As they get done, I cross them off. At the end of the day I then cross things off the global list and re-assess the number of asterisks each item should have. If there are things that didn't get done, I add them automatically to the next day's daily list.

So, that's my system. It works pretty well for me at work and I'm hoping to apply it to the non-work side too.

I'd be interested to hear what others do.

Amanda

Alannarama (2011-01-05 08:05:35)

this may be blasphemy here at philofaxy but the best tip for **managing** your to-do list i know is spend less time rearranging it and more time actually doing the stuff on it. works for me.

Amanda (2011-01-05 08:42:54)

:-)

Know what you mean. But my work to-do list can be HUGE, largely because if I don't write a task down, it will get forgotten and missed. Consequently, everything is in together, regardless of urgency so I do need to manage the list a bit. It's not **just** so I can use my filofax! - I did this long before I started using that, but I do find the filofax is a lot neater than the scraps of paper jammed into my desk diary was!

Steve (2011-01-05 10:36:36)

But if you complete your To-Do list you won't have a need for that page in your Filofax... and that just will not do!!!! ;-)

Arthur Vanderbilt (2011-01-05 12:42:15)

wunderlist is pretty great.

I use Evernote right now, but kind of switch back and forth between the two.

I also write things that must be done today on today's calendar.

Alannarama (2011-01-05 13:29:36)

oh, my list is never done. i'm constantly adding new stuff to it. but i'm also very conscious of the fact that i can procrastinate (the student's watchword!) for AGES rearranging planners, colour-coding notes etc., instead of actually getting stuff done. i think if i had more stuff on my list i would need to organise it more though.

Nellie (2011-01-05 14:25:17)

The system I have used successfully for 10 years is breaking down. At work my to-do items are coming in so fast I am struggling even to read them in order to prioritise. I need to work out a new system... :(

Amanda (2011-01-05 14:52:23)

Oh no! Nellie, you sound like you need a new job rather than a new system!

:-)

Petra (2011-01-05 16:05:34)

Ooh, nice article! I love the \$ and :-) idea, but since I'm not a business owner or entrepreneur out hunting for customers or cash flow, I'll have to think about how to tweak it to suit. I think, though, that instead of "get out

the good ole yellow legal pad” he should have said ”get out the good ole trusty filofax” ;-)

Facebook - Filofax Club, Vintage Filofax Users Group (2011-01-05 12:09)



[1]

A new page appeared on Facebook this afternoon. '[2]The Filofax Club' take a look and if you 'like' the page, when you introduce yourself, please mention that you saw the link on Philofaxy.

I'm not sure who is behind the 'Filofax Club', but they look like a fun bunch of people and they also seem to be very active on Twitter too.

Also new on Facebook this week is the [3]Vintage Filofax Users Group, lots of great photos of 'vintage' Filofax organisers with links to catalogues etc. No it doesn't mean that the users in the group are Vintage themselves !!!! So the group is open to everyone....

Philofaxy of course still has it's own [4]Facebook page....

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TSS1E0TVxKI/AAAAAAAAI3I/e4TmNJ0ifIQ/s1600/50234_20531316728_9575_n.jpg
2. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Filofax-Club/180744988612955>
3. http://www.facebook.com/#%21/home.php?sk=group_172391936132247&ap=1
4. <http://www.facebook.com/#%21/Philofaxy>

Glitter and Love (2011-01-05 13:19:07)

Love it :)

We are all a bunch of beauty bloggers who got overly excited about Filofax and have now become obsessed!!

Petra (2011-01-05 14:31:15)

Just wanted to point out that Franklin Covey is having a sale of 20 % off "essentials" and their compact size metal hole punch is now \$19.95. This works perfectly for Filofax personal size pages and can be used for classic size by punching each set of three holes individually (see Philofaxy hole punch file). Some other accessories are 20 % off too, and free shipping over \$69.

Lina (2011-01-05 21:16:43)

STEVE! I can't believe you don't know who is behind Filofax Club!! I started the group! Lina, the girl who emailed you annoying questions about which filofax I should buy. :)

Steve (2011-01-06 02:08:16)

Hi Lina

Ah... now we know!!! Sorry I was out most of yesterday so I didn't see the build up of Twitter traffic, only the link that someone tweeted at about 6pm (French time)

Anyway, well done, it looks like it will be a popular page and I know Philofaxy has gained quite a few followers

from the club in the last 18 hours!!

Regards

Steve

gmax (2011-01-07 16:51:39)

The prospect of a vintage filofax user group is almost enough to persuade me to sign up to Facebook, but not quite.

Steve (2011-01-07 16:53:44)

It is worth a look, lots of great pictures and some excellent discussions about Vintage FF's

Camille (2011-06-02 14:52:48)

I purchased 3 FF personal organizers at an estate sale. All new. Winchester with Iguana Print. A red one, a violet one, and a yellow one. I just love them.

Thursday Filofax Web Finds (2011-01-06 00:00)

January certainly is a busy month for people reorganising their Filofax organisers. There's nothing better than looking at some one else's organiser to see how they have set it up to give yourself some good ideas... far better than stirring at the Filofax on-line website!!

Thanks for all the links you have sent us in the last 24 hours!

- [1]Filofax Love - [2]All the Worlds a Stage - Rio describes her new Finsbury
- [3]For the Love of a Good List - [4]So far So Chic - Laura describes her Finsbury Mini
- Readers Ads - Is now called [5]AdSpot - Take a look for a bargain...
- [6]Archiving the Years - [7]Life Well Planned - Kanalt continues her series on her change over to this year.
- [8]Day 40 - [9]Yvotchka's Daily Truth - On Day 40 Yvotchka pledged to not buy any more Filofax organisers... we will check up on this one later in the month/year!!!

Enjoy...

1. <http://rioalexandra.blogspot.com/2011/01/filofax-lovevirgo-tendancies.html>
2. <http://rioalexandra.blogspot.com/>
3. <http://www.sofarsochic.co.uk/2010/08/for-love-of-good-list.html>
4. <http://www.sofarsochic.co.uk/2010/08/for-love-of-good-list.html>
5. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/readers-ads.html>
6. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/2011/01/archiving-years.html>
7. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/>
8. <http://yvotchkasdailytruth.blogspot.com/2011/01/day-40.html>
9. <http://yvotchkasdailytruth.blogspot.com/>

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-06 03:01:24)

Thanks for sharing those links. Putting together my Filofax for 2011 (I know, I am a few days behind) so am loving the inspiration.

The Pen Shop at Jenners in Edinburgh, and discontinued Filofaxes! (2011-01-06 05:01)

Last week I spent a couple of days in Edinburgh seeing friends, and decided to pop in to Jenners department store on Princes Street in Edinburgh to see if I could say hi to Craig, the manager of The Pen Shop. I found my way up to the 2nd floor and over to the Filofaxes like a moth to a flame. Then I marched up to the first male I saw and asked, "Are you Craig?" Luckily for me, he was. I introduced myself and felt slightly famous when he said, "I recognize your face."

Craig was busy, but he very kindly took the time to show me their (excellent) Filofax selection. He also pointed out a whole bunch of Filofaxes that are on 30 % discount because Filofax UK has discontinued them! Hold onto yourselves, I was shocked at what organizers are being phased out! I wrote a list so I could report to you in full what Filofaxes you should panic-buy (I mean say goodbye to!).

You might have known this already, or guessed it based on the deep discount online, but the entire Amazona range has, sadly, been discontinued.

The Cuban organizers in the Ink color are on their way out! It's a shame because this deep, rich blue color is so beautiful.

The Malden in Crimson is discontinued!! ACK!!!!

So are the Chameleons in Spring Green!

ALL of the Adelphis are no more!

The Domino binders in Lavendar are being phased out.

So are the Finsbury organizers in Aqua! I was so surprised about this since the Aqua color is so new.

I think all of the Mode binders are discontinued.

And, the Sienna binders are discontinued too.

I have to say, Filofax better have a pretty remarkable lineup coming in to do away with these beautiful binders! *taps foot expectantly*

I'm proud yet also disappointed to say I somehow resisted the strong urge to buy any Filofaxes, even the discontinued ones. But my daughter wouldn't let us leave without buying a Hello Kitty wall calendar!

I didn't have nearly enough time to peruse The Pen Shop's line of beautiful pens and stationery, but it's definitely worth a trip in to Jenners to check it out.

Many thanks again to Craig for taking the time out of your busy day to talk to me, it was really nice to meet you in person!

Alannarama (2011-01-06 05:33:34)

oh no! the aqua finsbury was my possibly maybe at some point planner! decisions decisions!

Eva (2011-01-06 05:53:49)

NOOOOOooooooo! Not the lavender Domino....

Jotje (2011-01-06 06:50:11)

Amazing that they would phase out the Crimson Malden so shortly after its introduction. I guess you could reason as follows: the Crimson was directed at female buyers. Hence they'll introduce a new female colour next spring ... Not surprised about the Amazona-range. Isn't this a very old range already? The Adelphi may have suffered from the too-bright-too-look-at Red and Magenta (the Damson Purple is nice though).

The cancellation of the Lavender Domino is weird, cos it seemed like the most popular colour of the whole Domino range???

Oh, and I held (and photographed) a Spring Green Chameleon and was positively surprised by the colour. It's very different from the pics on the FF site. Although I'm not a fan of green binders, this one is very nice.

To all the panic-struck FF-lovers out there: I'd say stay calm. On Ebay there's still brandnew Filofaxes that have been discontinued 2 years or longer ago.

Amanda (2011-01-06 07:24:06)

eBay have A5 Aqua Finsbury available £65 and mini Aqua Finsbury £21.99 for those of you starting to panic!

Steve (2011-01-06 07:31:15)

Looks like I've got some work to do on the price guide file!

I'm surprised they are discontinuing so many model lines in one year, may be those particular ones where not popular, or they want to move the model range up the price scale a bit or something.

I've not really followed the model line that closely until this year I suppose. I will add some notes to the file so the discontinued ones are still listed for people looking on Ebay and elsewhere.

Amanda (2011-01-06 08:07:35)

Hmm. I'm in Edinburgh on Monday for a course... Maybe I'll get the earlier train and pop in... I'll probably have missed all the bargains, but never mind. Be fun to look!

Yvotchka (2011-01-06 09:32:29)

Will...not...buy. WILL...NOT...BUY!!!

Laurie (2011-01-06 09:41:16)

Sorry Yv, I know this isn't helping your no-Filofax-buying vow at all!

Amanda (2011-01-06 09:42:34)

@Yvotchka

:-) :-) :-)

Alison Reeves (2011-01-06 10:29:34)

It's an interesting collection that is being discontinued. I can only assume it is a decision based on sales or the desire to bring in new models to make us all drool! I really wish they would get their heads around some more interesting inserts though and a nice brown A5 rule to go in my snakeskin bronze A5 binder! I notice on the US site they have some really high end personal size ones, and some domino colours I've never seen before - the range is obviously different to cater to a different marketplace.

ScrapgalGR (2011-01-06 10:54:32)

The crimson Malden?Why???It's so pretty!!!But, as already mentioned, I don't panic since it will definitely be available on ebay :-))It goes without saying that I'm very curious about the new models and colours!

Katie (2011-01-06 12:02:51)

Noooo! I wanted the aqua finsbury! I just got a new filo though :(

Jotje (2011-01-06 12:32:07)

I think Aqua is just not a very fashionable colour at the moment. While Purple and Red are.

Like I said, I wouldn't panic. Did you ever notice that the German Filofax site still has a babyblue Personal Topaz in their range? The Topaz must have been discontinued AGES ago!? I'm sure they'll offer the Crimson Malden for years to come, too ...

Mrs. Grievous (2011-01-06 14:11:04)

I went to T.J. Maxx yesterday and found Modes, Dominos, Finsburies (zipped), Sketches, and a Kendal. I hopped on to the US site today to compare prices, and all of the exact colors and sizes that I'd found in store were gone. :O

I don't know whether or not to snatch them all up to Ebay or just for gifts. There were about 7 and they would only total \$100. Must check HomeGoods and Marshall's next!

Karensa (2011-01-06 15:39:41)

Leslie -> Wow! What area of US? I don't think I've ever been in those stores and seen Filofaxes, maybe I'll have to check again!

Mrs. Grievous (2011-01-06 16:46:40)

Karena: I am in West Virginia. I think those stores are all over the U.S. I think there is a locator on the TJX stores... might check the other sister stores too, there are like 5.

Filofreak (2011-01-06 18:05:43)

I am with Yvotchka. I have a NO BUYING FILOFAX rule in 2011. I'm only 6 days in so let's see if I can make it. But I'm worried they're going to come out with some very lovely ones and we'll be tempted Yvotchka!!!

plaiditude (2011-01-06 19:19:31)

Perhaps for those on a one year filo diet, you could tell yourself what you really meant was not a calendar year of no new filox (Jan - Dec), but a Filofax year (from spring to spring - when they release new models). So then just after you purchase your spring filofax from the new range - that is when your diet really starts ... right? :)

kanalt (2011-01-06 22:33:28)

Plaiditude, I like your logic!

I'm not a shopper of TJ Maxx, Marshalls or Home Goods but this may be enough to get me to go into all three (not that I'll buy, mind you). I have to say I'm most surprised at the crimson Malden since it seems like that entire line was just introduced. I'm hoping that it means new colors will be released in this line - that would be quite a challenge for me...

Mrs. Grievous (2011-01-07 12:05:21)

I definitely went into TJ just to see the Filox. I have personal and A5 sizes, but I was really shocked to see how small the pocket was in hand. I can't even imagine a mini, lol. I'd rather they had cheaper refills than the organizers themselves. :/

A. ~ positively prettyful (2011-01-07 22:01:48)

Any ideas when new models might come out?

Laurie (2011-01-08 07:19:43)

I think the newest of the new models come out in the spring, with more new ones coming out throughout the year. That's how it worked last year at least.

shepcraig (2011-01-08 09:47:11)

Hi, first, thanks for the great post, and for Amanda, we still have plenty of stock left so do pop in on Monday. The new stock is due out in the spring, and filofax usually take me out a couple of months before the new ones are released to show them to us and decide what we want to stock. So as soon as I have been shown them I will let you all know. Hoping there is something nice for a male in personal size as I am wanting a new one, I was going to buy the Cuban Ink, but I think I will regret it if I like one of the new range, so I am just going to wait.

Amanda (2011-01-08 13:46:21)

Ooh - I'll look out for you Craig. I will be the woman dragging an overnight trolley bag behind her at about 1/4 to 12 on Monday, with drool coming out of the corner of her mouth at all the lovely products.

[Now I've posted that, you will be able to spot me and run a mile!!]

:~)

Amanda (2011-01-09 13:51:51)

Actually - no trolley-bag (look at the snow - I would slowly create a massive snowball behind me!). I will be the mad woman in pink wellies carrying a hold-all! Half the hold-all for my overnight stuff, half for other filofax/notebook essentials!

Nickie (2011-01-09 18:01:20)

The Chameleon in Spring Green is the one I've just bought - I must have one of the very last few & I had no idea

they were being discontinued.

shepcraig (2011-01-09 18:18:15)

The chameleon in spring green, although nice, wasn't very popular at all, which really surprised me. The finsbury in teal, was only ever meant to be for one year, red, black, brown and pink are the consistent lines, then they release 1 or 2 others every year as "seasonal" lines. However the purple colours have sold exceptionally well this year, which clearly has surprised filofax as well, as they kept running out whenever I ordered them.

Amanda, I will look out for you tomorrow. Love getting visits from my Philofaxy friends.

shepcraig (2011-01-09 18:25:40)

I have been hearing rumours that 2011's in colours are a pastel pink and a honeysuckle yellow, so it will be interesting to see what Filofax come up with, though yellow has never been a popular colour in filofax. Another rumour I have heard is that they will be keeping the idea of the "mode" organiser but changing it somehow. They will also have to come up with something spectacular to replace Amazona and Deco.

Nickie (2011-01-09 18:30:14)

I'm never "on trend" - I jumped at the chance of buying the Yellow Hearts filo (in Personal) and have fallen in love with my Chameleon already - both are used as "subject" Filofaxes but are in use almost every day.

Amanda (2011-01-11 12:27:57)

Great to see you yesterday Craig! My course was considerably less interesting than chatting to you had been!! Not sure what the other customers were thinking when we were doing a 'compare and contrast' each other's filofaxes though!

No doubt see you again...

Amanda

Ashykay (2011-01-16 21:59:34)

Me = just new to this blog and love it. So good to find people who are in love with Filofax/organisers as much as I am! I've just ordered a red Chameleon pocket Filofax (here in Australia!)....hope it's as good as it looks on the Aust. Filofax website. Does anyone have a red one? I've had a personal Metropol before and it was just too big to lug around. Although the personal has tiny small writing spaces I will have to un-clutter my life and get used to it!

Philofaxy London Meet Up - 26 March 2011 (2011-01-06 12:00)

I'm planning another [1]Philofaxy Meet Up in London on Saturday 26th March. I will be back in UK that weekend so it will be a good chance to meet up with people again.

Numbers are likely to be limited again, so please only apply for a place if you are sure you can attend on the 26th March.

The actual arrangements for the day are in their very early stages but it is likely that we will meet up at a convenient meeting place, have lunch, discuss our organisers alot! Then to finish off the day visit a Filofax store more or less as we did back in [2]November.

So if you are interested can you please email philofaxy at gmail dot com and make the subject of the message '**London Meet Up**' I will make sure you are kept informed of the arrangements.



[3]

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/search/label/Meet-Up>
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/11/london-meet-up-20-november-2010.html>
3. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TR4eprgtUGI/AAAAAAAAI1w/R6f3y8ot3-k/s1600/PhilofaxyLondon.jpg

Jotje (2011-01-06 12:33:13)

I'd love to, but it's such a long travel all by myself (and all through the night!). Gonna think about it ...

Steve (2011-01-06 12:35:16)

Jotje

How about if we did one in Brussels some time? May this would also attract our friends in Germany too?

Steve

tommess-net (2011-01-06 15:07:55)

Dear Jotje, Dear Steve,

although I've already kind of "committed" to London, I would say "Yes, great idea!!!". I've no problem travelling either to London or Brussels.

Greetings, Thomas (Tommes S.)

Filofreak (2011-01-06 16:23:26)

What about a USA (East or West Coast) meetup sometime in the future?! I would love to come but alas can't get to London or Brussels in March. :(

Steve (2011-01-06 16:38:24)

The Brussels meet up is just a suggestion at this point, nothing definite.... yet. I know it should be well in range for Jotje... not sure how I would get there, looks like a 6-7 hour drive. Must investigate trains..

Steve

SSA (2011-01-06 17:41:12)

I live in Bavaria, Germany and I can almost certainly say that a flight to London from almost anywhere in Germany (except the Belgian border cities) would be cheaper than using the Deutsche Bahn to Brussels. Flights to Brussels are generally more than to London as well. I cannot say for the rest of mainland Europe but just thought I would mention this.

kanalt (2011-01-06 22:37:24)

Erin - There has been some talk (well, very little other than to briefly mention it on my blog) about a US meet up on the east coast some time in the spring. Some of us were thinking NYC only because many of us are in the northeast, and within that location, most in the NY metro area. We have not discussed anything in particular,

but it's something some of us have just mentioned...

caribbean princess (2011-01-07 01:43:47)
I hope to be there! :-)

Jotje (2011-01-07 03:25:29)

Steve, thanks for the suggestion. Brussels would be perfect for me, since I live in the South of Holland. Would imply a drive of a meager 90 minutes!

Louloudorset (2011-01-08 21:10:22)

I would love to attend reading all the posts about the last meet up it sounded like you had such a fab time. Plus any excuse to do some Filofax shopping :0)

Steve (2011-01-09 12:05:28)

LoulouDorset Can you please email philofaxy at gmail dot com if you would like to attend on the 26th. Places are limited and we are nearly at the limit.

Same for anyone else that would like to attend.

Regards

Steve

Filofax Finsbury A5 Video Review (2011-01-06 17:16)

Just released..... a review of the A5 Finsbury.

[EMBED]

Enjoy

Rori (2011-01-06 21:08:01)

I don't know who she is, but she's adorable! I especially like the size comparison to the makeup palette—haha, great for us old ladies who wear like...no makeup. But the comparison with the personal, and how she fits it in her bag were great!

MAKE MORE!!!

shepcraig (2011-01-13 05:18:08)

Great video, just one question though? why do you use the organiser the wrong way round? Is it a left handed thing? and do you find it easier to use this way?

plaiditude (2011-01-13 08:18:03)

shepcraig: I think the video is just backwards - mirror image.

shepcraig (2011-01-13 18:48:58)

I see, that would explain it

Free for All Friday No. 112 (2011-01-07 00:00)

As always, feel free to talk about any Filofax topic this Friday, but here's a suggestion: do you use a Filo for any of the health and fitness resolutions we're all making this time of year.

For example, I use a pocket Finsbury with a 2-day-per-page diary to record weight, exercise sessions, and water consumption.

Or are you counting the days for January to be over so everyone will stop going on and on about fitness?

fire Dawn (2011-01-07 00:28:26)

Hey! First comment here. I got my first ever Filofax, a Cuban in Chili today! YAYY! I've been waiting for the mail to come and it's finally here! :)

I'm planning on using it to track my water consumption for real, because I have been having some serious skin/health issues relating to water consumption (or lack thereof), and I'm super excited.

Thanks for all the helpful info you have here!

Femke (2011-01-07 07:02:19)

I have a personal Domino which I use for my mission 101. There's also a "health" section in it, where I keep track of my weight and what I've done on my spinning bike.

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-07 08:05:15)

I keep a running section in my filofax (but use my iPhone 4 Nike + app to record the running stats and then transfer them over onto paper - how old school am i?!)...

Alison Reeves (2011-01-07 08:29:10)

I am just setting up a personal slimline filofax as a diet and fitness diary. I plan to record everything I eat, my weight each time I weigh myself and my exercise. I'm hoping it will keep my fitness goals in the forefront of my mind and help me to make better choices. We will have to wait and see if it works!

Kate (2011-01-07 08:49:20)

Hi,

I have diabetes and use my beautiful purple Finchley in pocket size to keep track of blood sugar readings and insulin intake. I print the charts on address labels for a week's readings at a time and it works really well. I carry the current week around with me and store past weeks in a Heart filofax.

I've tried various computer and iPhone programs but nothing worked effectively so it was back to pen and paper. My nurse likes the before/ after meals chart and I like the graph to keep me on track. I had tighter control in 2 weeks.

And because I just love playing with my filo, I always have it with me, encouraging me to take readings just to have an excuse to open it!

Gareth Buxton (2011-01-07 09:31:58)

This year I have 10 new years resolutions. After last years 3/10 result I have set 2011s to be less ambitious. They are typed-up and printed onto 6x4 piece of photo paper, punched. I have positioned this on the first page in my projects section of my FF. To remind me every time I turn to that section. Here's hoping for 4/10 or more this year :-)

crofter (2011-01-07 10:39:14)

I use a pocket week on two pages for a medical journal to keep track of everything. Don't use a scale, I have always felt them to be the invention of the devil, designed with the sole purpose to inflict guilt on every man, woman, and child in the civilized world. I can get close enough on how my jeans fit!

As for New Year's resolutions, I always make one, that way I have something to give up for Lent.

Has anybody been keeping up with Filofax prices on e-bay? Recently a 5/4 Winchester went for \$535.00, the previous high for the same model had been \$298.00 AMAZING!

Laurie (2011-01-07 10:56:34)

www.thedailyplanner.com is having a sale: 25 % off all Filofax binders, refills and 2011 diary inserts!

Nan (2011-01-07 12:26:44)

Thanks Laurie. I'm going to put that on the front!

A. ~ positively prettyful (2011-01-07 13:33:03)

I am soon moving to a new town and can't wait to use my Filofax to establish a new routine. My life has become a little disarrayed while I was finishing up grad school and I can't wait to get it back on track. I am planning on using my Filo to keep things like pool opening hours and dance class timetables to hand, and also to keep my goals in mind and help me stay focused and excited about them.

Filofreak (2011-01-07 18:28:03)

I am sad to say that my Cuban zip personal in Chili is MIA or stolen. I can't accuse anyone in my office but I have my suspicions due to comments made. So, I am going to wait awhile to see if hopefully I just misplaced it somewhere. I have looked high and low (with the help of a very patient hubby) and still no results. Otherwise I will have to start from scratch and that is NO FUN!

Amanda (2011-01-08 11:43:56)

oh no!! Hope you get it back safely.

Keep us posted - I'm sure we're all worrying for you!

Butanben (2011-01-08 18:59:03)

Hi there,

I am reposting. Wasn't sure if diabetes charts were relevant,so removed my first blog, but as Kate has posted on the same subject, she's given me courage to re blog. Thanks Kate. I too use charts to check diabetes sugar levels and insulin doses.The one I use is excellent and is found on Vertex 42site—see Philofaxy Links.A good excuse to keep using my lovely Filo and also stops me from eating naughties if it's all written down.I made a water chart today too, a simplistic cross off the picture icons chart,as my resolution for 2011 is to drink more water each day.A great blog site. My first post on FFAF. Thanks for everything here. I just love it!!

Jotje (2011-01-10 10:24:02)

@Butanben: there ARE no irrelevant Filofax-posts! ;-)

@Erin: my biggest nightmare! How I wish FF would over a tracking inside with the binders. You could now press the button and the beep-beep-beep should show you were that binder is!! I do hope it wasn't a co-worker! I'd be capable of terrible things if someone did this to me on purpose!

Daily Planner Sale (2011-01-07 12:28)



[1]

The Daily Planner is offering [2]25 % off on all Filofax merchandise until midnight on Monday, January 10.

I've frequently ordered from The Daily Planner, and have found their service very good. Sometimes they even have discontinued refills in stock that you can't find on official Filofax websites!

(Unfortunately, they don't ship outside the U.S.)

1. <http://www.thedailyplanner.com/>
2. <http://www.thedailyplanner.com/>

crofter (2011-01-07 13:29:05)

I see they have some forms that I haven't seen in awhile. They have a vehicle maint. log that used to be "Motor Running Log" that I have used for years. From the comments section some have said they would like to have it.

Is there a better way to use your Filofax Diary? (2011-01-08 00:00)



[1]

Are you using your Filofax diary correctly, is there a better way?

I think you will agree with me that we read/hear a lot of comments from other users about trying to find the right diary refill for their Filofax Organisers. We look at all the different Filofax sites and spy out other formats.

So why is this the case?

I think we are all making the same mistake, or most of us are, because I have evidence of one person using their Filofax exactly as the original designers intended it to be used.

So how many times have you read: That xyz format isn't suitable because.....

- It is too small,
- Not enough space to write in what I have on some days,
- It is too big and it will fill up my organiser,
- I need to see my week/month laid out before me.

I'm sure there are other 'reasons/excuses' but those are the main ones.

So what is a diary? Is it a record of the past? or a way of planning future events? or both of these activities? Personally I like to separate out the two functions. One for past events and another for future events, but could I combine them in to one?

So I did a little on-line research, what is a diary? Well [2]Wikipedia has this definition:

*A **diary** is a record (originally in handwritten format) with discrete entries arranged by date reporting on what has happened over the course of a day or other period.*

So that seems to suggest 'the past' rather than the future.

Why not think about your diary insert as a record of past events, and may be use some of the planner sheets for organising future events.

A diary insert imposes some restrictions on your own organisation because it is pre-dated and because the space for each days events is also limited to the format you have chosen.

However, because your Filofax is a loose-leaf planner, do you need to keep a full year in the diary section

at any one time?

By archiving your diary sheets in to another Filofax organiser, then you would only need to keep say 3-4 weeks in the diary section at any one time?

If you find you can't adjust to the idea of not having the full 12 months of your diary in your Filofax, you could try recycling diary pages to the end of the year. So 'this week' is always at the front of your diary section, by the end of the year your diary will be back in the original order.

By using a dated format that say gave you enough space for a normal days worth of diary recording, then you could use undated sheets for days when you have something additional to record. Mixing dated and undated pages to cope the peaks and troughs in activity. This might mean that you could use a diary insert that uses fewer pages.

You would then not be using pages that have blank days in them or storing pages with blank spaces on them. 'Every page should be a wanted page' according to Ian Sinclair in the book [3]Filofax Facts

When we are planning future events, the same principle could apply, using undated planner pages, rather than using the pages in your diary to record the details on, but only on days when we have events and appointments booked. No need for a lot of blank pages for dates when nothing is booked? By using planner pages in this way you can afford the space on a page to go in to greater detail about the event/meeting you are planning or attending.

Having a year planner will help you find free days because you can indicate with a coloured mark on days that are already booked in some way or other.

The Filofax Organiser when used like this is far more flexible than say a bound planner, because you can vary how many pages you dedicate to a single day or week or month. The number of pages can expand or contract to suit your needs. Add in other sheets such as to-do lists and a contact list and you have a very versatile planning/journal system at your finger tips.

These ideas came to me after reading the [4]Filofax Facts book, which details the differences between dated and undated diary and planner sheets.

When the Filofax Facts book was written in the late 1980's the number of sizes of organiser were somewhat restricted compared to what sizes and ring capacities we have today. The Personal size Filofax would have been the most popular size sold back then. Even today that size has more diary and planner page options than any other size. However, if you chose to start using undated pages they are very easy to create yourself for say an A5 organiser. In whatever size you choose to use, think of the space you could liberate!

For those of you that are using your Filofax Organiser for planning the busy social lives of children then may be a diary insert is the only answer? But if it's just your own life then may be some of my ideas might improve the way you use your Filofax and potentially reduce number of pages you are currently utilising in your Filofax, for recording and organising your life.

Finally, I toyed with idea of starting this post with 'I can show you how to use a Filofax Mini to record your next four years worth of appointment entries'.... but then I thought you would may be start to think that I had been on the French wine a little too much over the holidays!!!

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/SzYZbhWCgrI/AAAAAAAAH54/6b93F5fBUgI/s1600/calendar.jpg
2. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diary>
3. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/01/book-review-filofax-facts-ian-sinclair.html>
4. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/01/book-review-filofax-facts-ian-sinclair.html>

gdigesu (2011-01-08 02:05:40)
Excellent post!

Nellie (2011-01-08 02:42:55)

I am currently running a trial using day planner sheets. I have a week on 2 pages diary and a master to-do list. I then carry 5 day planner pages for the week. On a Monday morning I transfer appointments and tasks which I want to get done to the day planner pages. Once the day is done I remove the day planner page.

Great post, it's nice to understand how the system was intended to work.

JJ (2011-01-08 04:59:58)

We really need to get those books back in print. Or get permission for an electronic copy.

What I do is something borrowed from the Franklin Covey system: I've got the week on two pages with a note page on the right. When I make an appointment I record it on right hand page for the present week. I usually keep three months in my binder, when I archive old pages and bring in the new ones I copy these future appointments to the applicable week's pages. I do this housekeeping about twice a month (usually on payday).

Doing this does require having more than one binder, a working one and a storage one. I don't think anyone on this blog has only one binder.

Laurie (2011-01-08 07:27:31)

First, for the record: in the US when you say "diary" people automatically think the equivalent of "journal," which is a record of events and thus the past. When you refer to what you use in your Filofax it would be "planner" or less frequently "agenda" or sometimes simply "calendar."

That said, I've struggled for years with using Filofax planner inserts. I have the "page too small/ book too big" problem. I need a big page size with large day spaces to write my appointments and to-dos for the day. But what is a large enough page size in the Filofax results in a too-big book to be portable enough for me.

For people who have only appointments or minimal future-planning, a monthly calendar insert would be fine to capture those events. But for those of us who keep track of multiple people (kids, spouses etc.) we need large page sizes to keep up with school, projects, travel, bills, and personal events and activities.

Another option is to use a Filofax as a companion to an electronic organizer, with most of the planning done on the device and backup planning in the Filofax.

Part of the Filofax journey is figuring out what works best for you. And one of the best features of the Filofax is that you can use it differently in different stages of your life as your needs change.

stamping bella (2011-01-08 07:55:32)

Finding the right system has always been my goal and I think I have found it and have posted it to my blog www.stampingbella.com/blog. Basically I keep the whole year in my Filofax personal in monthly format (and there is a great filofax refill where months are independent where each month doesn't back onto another month. On the back of each month there is room for notes etc. Then I have a week on two pages for the current month only. If i need to record anything for future months i put it on the monthly and on the beginning of every month I transfer whatever I have on my monthly to the week on two pages and work from both. Now for everything else, I have an a-z index. Under each letter I have a phone number page and some note pages. Any note I have to take will be automatically filed. So for instance I am now working on preparing for a show... Let's say the show is called the lamp show.. I would file all of my lists, numbers used etc. Under L for lamp.. Numbers for insurance company i wouldn't file under the name proper but under the 'i' tab for insurance. Etc

I cannot say how much this system has worked for me :)

hope I wasn't too long winded!

Em

tommies-net (2011-01-08 09:34:03)

Dear Steve,

brilliant post, as usual and to be expected from 006 ;-)

After having read the post and all the comments, I feel like being an absolut beginner in FF things - after using it for more than 18 years.

I'm sorry for admitting that I use my Filo as a planner, since - as Laurie stated - a diary is for recording things from the past. And - all the great comments have, at least for me, one thing in common: it's too complicated for me.

I have ever since used the week on two pages as a planner for the whole year. I carry 14 months with me, because it's my favourite way of planning ahead, as well as looking back on things that have already happened, and to know when they've happened. I agree, that it's a lot of fun looking back on entries. And a little entry can be a good help in remembering everything that happened on this very occasion.

But the Wo2P has always been a good system for me, because I also use some to-do-lists, which I - if needed -

can move from one week to another. Because the FF has a ring binder, other than a bound planner book. This is what makes the difference for me: the ring binder. I can easily move pages from one place to another, and I can combine different sizes of notes: Personal, Pocket, or the jot pads. But maybe the greatest difference is, that I'm not writing a diary, but using a planner, and the interchangeability of inserts. Maybe this would be a great topic for the next Philofaxy round-up. Once again, Thank you! all for the great post and all the inspiring comments, Thomas

Nellie (2011-01-08 10:36:54)

slaps wrists for saying diary and not planner* :D

To me a diary is for both future and past events. I would have said that in the UK, most people would "check their diary" to see if they are free, not "check their planner/calendar"...

Either way, it's still fun to play about with whatever system you are using at the time. :)

crofter (2011-01-08 10:46:11)

Excellent post Steve, and a good topic.

I think there will be almost as many answers to this as we have readers.

To me, it is a planner, and diary, what is the use of making plans if there are no results written down to evaluate the plans you made?

I use a 2ppd format. In the notes, appointments get an Alpha designation, and the to do's get a numeric designation. Occasionally there will be a to do connected with an appointment then it gets both such as A3. These go in the notes with the proper code in the margin so that it pulls everything together. I don't know anybody that has more than 26 appointments in a day, nor anybody that has more than 15-20 to do items, so this works for me to keep track of everything.

There are times when the notes on any one subject are more than I want to include, then they are entered in my journal with the same system. I always put my current journal page at the top of each diary page so I can find it quickly. For instance I see today's journal page is 23-114, or volume 23, page 114 of my daily journal.

I keep other records, each referring back to my diary, so I can find just about anything quickly and easily. It is a very simple system, it works well for me, and has been a tremendous aid over many years.

Laurie (2011-01-08 10:52:41)

For clarity, I was just trying to get everybody on the same page with the terminology. Here in the UK people say "dairy" when in the US we would say "planner." "Diary" in the US means a past-record only, where here in the UK it means planning and also as a past record, if I understand it correctly.

Steve can you clarify if UK people mean planning-only when they say "dairy," or can it also mean something like a journal?

Sorry I don't mean to hijack the post due to semantics! I just wanted to clarify the terminology so that when we all talk about our uses we know if we mean planning, recording or both.

Nellie (2011-01-08 11:11:32)

I don't think it is semantics! There is clearly a cultural difference here.

I'm British, and I would say that "diary" here means both planning and recording... So for example...

Planning:

"Are you free next Tuesday to take afternoon tea with the Queen?"

"I'm not sure, I'll just check my Diary"

Recording (Journaling):

"Dear Diary... today I was abducted by aliens and taken to their planet where filofaxes are free and you can generate your perfect insert by telepathy..."

Please note that I made some of those entries up... I have never been invited to tea with the Queen. :)

tommess-net (2011-01-08 11:26:33)

Hi everybody,

seems I'm somewhat in between and have added to the confusion. In Germany we have a "Kalender" which is usually a planner, and a "Tagebuch" which is a diary - at least for some of you ;)

I try to stick to British English, but in this case it's absolutely hard for - sorry...

Thomas

girlinmaths (2011-01-08 11:31:32)

I think this is an interesting post. Not sure how handy it would be to use undated sheets for planning though. Say you have a client on the phone and want to schedule an appointment, and there is no sheet for that date yet. I picture myself opening the rings, taking out a new sheet, putting it in the appropriate place and writing in the appointment, all with one hand holding the phone.

I use a combination of week and day sheets, and just posted a description on my blog.

Paulien

Nellie (2011-01-08 11:32:00)

Ha ha! Oh dear! It's all quite confusing isn't it?

Can you imagine the potential for dreadful misunderstandings at the UN, given we are confused about diary/planner/calendar?

Amanda (2011-01-08 11:36:46)

Okay...I think I am completely confused now about all the terminology, so I will describe the inserts and say how I use them...

I use a year at a view to mark birthdays, major work deadlines and holidays on, using different colour highlighters for the different categories.

At work I put appointments in my week-on-two-pages thing (diary/planner/calendar...?) and I prefer the vertical layout with times slots. I use the space at the bottom or a separate sheet to record my daily to do list.

At the end of each day, I record what happened in my day and how it went in a Ciak day-to-page A5 thing (journal/diary/book...?)

So, my Filofax is only used to plan, not to record.

Has that now just further muddied the waters???

Amanda

JJ (2011-01-08 12:20:55)

@Amanda: I also use a bound book to record past events. I could use the Filo, but I've been using Mead Desk Diaries as a part of my system for so long, I do not want to risk retiring them.

Steve (2011-01-08 14:16:03)

Hi Everyone,

Sorry I've been travelling all day up through France on my way back to UK for a couple of weeks. It looks like you have all been having fun after my post went live this morning!!

I'm typing this on the cross channel ferry on my way to Portsmouth.

Anyway, planners or diaries!! Yes much confusion. And yes it is very much a regional thing. But in the context of my post I have used the British understanding of both terms, or as I understand them. Filofax being British and Ian Sinclair being British then it should hold the same context.

I will do my best when I get back on dry land to read through all of the comments and respond accordingly. It will also help having a bigger screen and a proper keyboard!

Regards

Steve

Sent from my iPod !!!

Laurie (2011-01-08 15:18:21)

LOL Nellie!! In your example, in the US we would use our "planner" to book our appointment with the Queen, and we would write about our alien abduction in our "journal."

Paulien I agree, I don't find blank pages to be useful for planning ahead. I like to use them for daily overflow though, or notes/ lists.

crofter (2011-01-08 15:48:53)

Forgot the most important thing Steve, what was the brand and the vintage of that good French wine?

I do use un-numbered sheets, but only between the day on the 2ppd format. So that format sometimes grows to 4ppd and very rarely 6ppd.

It is great seeing all the comments this has generated. I am enjoying reading them all.

Thanks Steve.

tommies-net (2011-01-08 17:21:01)

Dear Steve,

this post has had everything from Filofax, over linguistics, to French wine. Please go on posting controversial topics like this!!!!!! ;)

Thomas

Karensa (2011-01-09 01:20:50)

Paulien - To handle phone calls, people dropping by (they may be requesting something), or recording other bits of random info, I've put about 4 - 6 blank pages right in the very beginning of my Filofax (right after the clear plastic page). Then I always have a page available for the notes, etc. If something big and takes up whole page then I take out of rings and move to other section, calendar or projects area. If it's a note about a task that can be done quickly, I do right away and cross out when finished, then keep using remaining paper until used up, at which point I pull out and insert clean page. Lastly, if a task will take longer or it is a small bit of info I want to keep, I record it where it should go in other section and again cross off and continue using sheet. I always have blank sheets available to deal with spur of moment items, then file them away when I have more time later. Just some ideas for you!

Also, Steve, I do the planning you mention - I'll take a blank sheet out and add the date of the event, then use it for lists, notes, etc. and then add to calendar according to the date, works pretty good.

Nellie (2011-01-09 06:08:43)

This has been a really interesting discussion. Is this another hint that maybe a discussion forum would be useful?

caribbean princess (2011-01-09 12:53:06)

ooh Steve a rather controversial but extremely useful post! I dont think I would use the undated pages in this way or use my filofax as a record for past events only. I find that my main filofax Adelphi works well for me currently as I use it to schedule appointments and use sticky notes to fill in to dos so I can always see what needs to be done. However now that I am adding a PhD to the mix I will have to see if this set up continues to work as well as it has done :-)

Steve (2011-01-09 13:20:29)

Hi Everyone.

Now finally arrived in the North West England. Yesterday was driving up through France, and a delayed crossing to Portsmouth. We stayed in a hotel over night there before driving up to Wirral today.

Anyway... I didn't intend to stir up things with my post. Honest... and I hadn't posted it with the intentional timing that I wouldn't be about for over 36 hours after it got posted!!!

No, I'm well past the days of stirring people up, upsets too many people and you lose too many friends that way. Right a bit more thinking time. And to try and answer some of the questions.

For Laurie's benefit, I think people in UK universally use the word diary for recording future and past events. Shoot me down folks but rarely have I heard people in UK refer to a planner apart from a wall planner, which would cover a whole year in rows.

In France Agenda seems to be the phrase used. And in Germany Kalendar (sorry my Germany is absolute zero. so the spelling is likely to be wrong!!)

In UK if you said calendar in paper things it's normally a wall calendar.

I'm pleased though that my post has got people thinking, and also you have shared your ideas with us which really it is what it's all about. Nellie, the topic of a discussion Forum has been raised before recently, not sure if it was you? Sorry I apologise if it was. But have you taken a look at the Flickr Group Discussion area? I will put some thought in to addressing this issue as a post in its own right... as there are pros and cons to having another outlet for Philofaxy.

As always with any of my posts they are not hard and fast rules that I'm telling you that you must follow... no not at all. They are always just suggestions and may be something will click in to place and bingo you might discover something from one of these suggestions that suddenly starts to make your Filofax work even better for you, which would be great.

I don't see any harm in reviewing how we use sections of our organisers to see if we can improve or change or dare I say justify why we do what we do.

As I was referring back to the 1980's it also shows how we have moved on from that era of 20-30 years ago. The product might essentially be the same product.... but the way it is used now is very much different.

I have no idea, but I wonder if we could travel back in time to 1985 how many people back then were using more than one Filofax? Not many I would guess... so if you think about that then the usage would be different and possibly similar to some of my suggestions.

To finish off... can I please thank you all for commenting on the post, you are all very good natured in the comments and I thank you for your time in commenting.

Thanks

Regards

Steve

kanalt (2011-01-09 21:25:32)

When I first read this post, I had a comment I wanted to leave, but now, I can't for the life of me remember what it was. I loved reading all of the comments though! This is a perfect example of why Filofax works for so many people - because each person can make it into what they need and use it the way they want to. And the difference between how everyone uses their own is what makes the discussions so great!

Gareth Buxton (2011-01-10 08:12:13)

This is a very useful post. As a result I am planning to keep my years calendar on a "Month to Two Pages" insert (just ordered) and keep just my "Week on Two Pages" for the current month. This way I get the flexibility of the space for my monthly planning whilst considerably reducing the bulk of my Filofax.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-10 12:25:20)

I think Filofax UK must have the most annoying website for buying stuff. I keep trying to buy stuff (I want a few things and have been browsing as well), plus I keep getting interrupted and having to open another window (with filofax one still open) and it keeps emptying my basket so I have to start all over again!!! It's done it three times so far, even when I just changed the planner size (I have more than one and was ordering accordingly) - I'm just going to leave it now until tomorrow and see if it behaves any better then!

Nan (2011-01-10 19:34:37)

I had the same problem on the Filofax USA website! It lost my entire order when I started browsing in a different size. I ended up memorizing everything I wanted to order and just choosing the items one after the other!

Anita (2011-01-31 13:22:48)

I use my filofax diary as my 'done list'. I used to be a major procrastinator, & I'm finding writing down what I've done or achieved encouraging. On Sunday, I looked back & felt pleased with my week

Filofax UK - Free Delivery (2011-01-11 04:33)

Filofax UK have announced today a limited period promotion on diary refills and paper refills etc:

Free UK delivery starts now on all diary refills, paper refills and organiser accessories! Use promocode: **DPA** at the checkout until **MIDNIGHT** on **MONDAY 17th JANUARY** and make sure you stay organised in 2011

They still have their 50 % off sale running too at the moment and Filofaxy is donating all of the commission earned from sales this month to the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, so click on the link below if you are buying anything from Filofax UK.

The logo for Filofax, featuring the word "FILOFAX" in a stylized, blue, serif font with a slight shadow effect.

[1]

1. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?s=152872&v=2457&q=90354&r=97790>

Filofax Physics (2011-01-12 06:10)

I couldn't think of a better title for this post, so let me explain what I mean.

When I use a Filofax for keeping lists, notes, tracking projects etc. I tend to start writing on the front of a piece of paper and continue on the back side of the page, to keep each topic on its own distinct leaf of paper. However, when I use a bound notebook I tend to write on the two-page spread.

Each method has its own freedoms and limitations:

The Filofax page method has the freedom of moving each page to a different location within the Filofax, archiving it elsewhere, or removing it altogether. The limit is seeing thoughts and projects on only one side of a page at a time.

The bound book freedom is seeing thoughts stretched out across a larger spread. The limit of course is that those pages aren't going anywhere.

Do you tend to write on the front and then the back of distinct leaves of paper in your Filofax? Or do you write across the two-page spread and then keep those pages together if you move them somewhere else?

Nellie (2011-01-12 09:09:54)

What an interesting question! In my Filo I write on the front then the back, mostly so I don't waste paper.

For work I have to use a bound notebook, and there is an unwritten rule that there shouldn't be any blank space in your book between entries. In other words as you take notes in meetings, note emails, conversations etc, they should be chronological and nobody should be able to add entries in between other entries afterwards. The notebooks can then be used as evidence of agreements, discussions etc. I was taught this when I trained and qualified, and I have always done it. In fact on one occasion, copies of pages from one of my notebooks were taken and put on official file to show what was stated in a meeting alongside someone else's notebook which agreed with mine.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-12 09:31:36)

I'm with Nellie on this. I use the front then the back in my filofax to conserve paper.

Also I have what I call a 'day' book which I try to always use for notes, record of calls and so on. I don't have to do this, I just find it really useful to have everything in one place. It's easy then as I can just browse back to find

info I need.

The only exception will be where I have a major customer who with a substantial project - in this case it is easier for them to have their 'own' notebook - so I write everything for this customer in that notebook. Very useful when you go to meetings and have to look something up!

kanalt (2011-01-12 09:42:24)

In my Filo, I also use the front of one sheet and move to the back. Like Nellie and Alison, I do this to save paper, but also because when writing things down for a specific project, I use one color for it and another color for a different project, so each project gets its own color.

I don't often use bound books, though my journals are bound. I start with the front page but that's what the first page is. When starting a new entry, I start it right underneath where the other ended, so there's never a blank page in my journals. I do that so that paper isn't wasted.

For work, in the rare event that I use a bound book, I always start on the front page, even if there's a blank page in between. There's just something psychological with me that it's how it "should" be.

Amanda (2011-01-12 15:17:50)

In my filofax, I use the front sheet, then the reverse, like others here, to save paper, but also so that if I re-file it, it's all together.

At work (before I converted to using my filofax as my work notebook and diary combined) I used to have a notebook and, like others again, I just started on the next free bit of paper (which is partly why I prefer the filofax, because I generally find it easier to be able to re-file things, which a notebook doesn't allow).

But, when I'm planning something I'm writing - article, paper, story, blog, whatever... I like to use two pages at a view to plan/brainstorm. Once all the brainstorming is done, I use the next bit of free space as it comes available though.

Interesting to hear what others do!

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-12 15:27:26)

I also use the front and back (to save paper!) but colour code my paper for projects/groups so it is easy to find (& easy to move if I want to reshuffle).

At work I have a scribble book by my computer and I use this in any form that is required. It tends to contain information that needs to be scribbled down or for brain storming my thoughts.

If some-one else picked up my Filofax, the contents would probably make perfect sense to them. If they picked up my scribble book it would make no sense to any-one but me....!

Steve (2011-01-13 04:00:12)

Interesting thought Laurie... but with diary inserts even Filofax follows the bound diary convention of having say a full week on view.

The alternative of a diary insert that was a week on two pages, but the week started on one side of the page but continued on the reverse side, would allow greater flexibility of archiving weeks, because each week would be just one sheet not split over two.

However, I very much doubt they will ever create such a refill because it's not conventional in its layout.

Rather amusingly one year I printed off my own A5 refill from Outlook and made the mistake of making it 1 week per sheet, so Monday started on the right hand page, Thursday was 'over the page' on the other side. I actually used it like that for quite a while before I noticed the mistake!

With notebooks or Filofax pages I tend to just write on them without leaving space, again the usual discipline of gaps not allowed...

Laurie (2011-01-13 04:05:10)

Interesting thought Steve, I hadn't thought of diary pages starting on the front side of the page with the week continuing on the back side of the page. It would be a way to keep the weeks on distinct pages, although I think having the week visually broken up like that would be difficult to use.

Two ways to have weeks that can be moved around intact is to have the week on one page, or to do the Franklin Covey method of having the back sides of the weeks pages lined for notes.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-13 05:18:56)

For me the whole point of having a week over two pages is that I can view the whole week for planning purposes - probably to do with how my mind works! This is one of the reasons that I struggle with my iPhone diary - I can't see what is going on around the day for planning! Mind you I also struggle with putting my appointments in and syncing, but that is a whole other story! Suffices to say I have now gone back to using a 'proper' diary that I can update at any time!

JJ (2011-01-13 10:29:58)

Diary and address pages – front and back, as normal.

ToDo and Notes pages: I write on the "front" (right hand page), then flip the pages when full. Thus, the front of the page always has space on it, even if the rulings are now upside down.

January 15th deadline: Filofax USA Designer's Challenge! (2011-01-12 10:52)

Don't miss your chance to design a Filofax! If your design is selected, Filofax will produce it for international distribution! But you have to hurry, entries must be postmarked by January 15th to qualify.

[1]Click here to see the Filofax USA Designer's Challenge site for more information on how to enter!

Good luck everyone!

1. <http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/page.asp?id=137>

Jotje (2011-01-13 03:32:53)

Only US and Canada citizens are allowed to enter the contest. How absolutely lame of Filofax USA!!!!

the FOLD (2011-01-16 13:48:58)

just wanted to share the link to my blog post about our entry to the challenge.

<http://recycledcontent.blogspot.com/2011/01/our-entry.html>

p.s. love your blog and filofax!

Mid Week Web Finds (2011-01-12 17:42)

Well searching around the web for anything Filofax related is always an enjoyable task and it is a pleasant break from my tasks this week in UK.

So here's what I found...

- [1]Filofax P**n - Help me decide!! - [2]Make Up to Make Out - the tale of trying to decide between two Filofax Pocket organisers, oh just keep them both Lina!!!
- [3]Is Making a To-Do List Worth it - [4]Self Works - My answer would be yes, but take a read, some useful tips in this post no matter what you use for your To-Do lists.
- [5]Remember the Milk Filofax Pages - Notes from a Small Field

Enjoy...

1. <http://makeuptomakeout.blogspot.com/2011/01/filofax-porn-help-me-decide.html>
 2. <http://makeuptomakeout.blogspot.com/>
 3. <http://selfworks.net/2011/01/is-making-a-to-do-list-worth-it/>
 4. <http://selfworks.net/>
 5. <http://jtlog.wordpress.com/2011/01/09/remember-the-milk-filofax-pages/>
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Mini Filofax in the wild (2011-01-13 15:25)

I chatted up a woman with a Mini Filofax today. It took everything I had not to be too creepy about it, and I'm not sure I was successful in not creeping her out. At one point I had to back off my questions a little bit. I was fascinated and couldn't help myself!

She was in the process of putting in her 2011 diary pages (pink week on two pages) and, being the planner geek I am, I couldn't resist asking her about it.

Her Mini was, I believe, a pink Finsbury. It was that exact color, but I wasn't close enough to see if it was the textured leather of the Fins. Like I said, I didn't want to ask TOO many questions.

I nearly asked her if it was brand new, and later she mentioned she's had it for 3 years. So, bonus points to the Filofax for holding up so well.

She doesn't use the Mini as her wallet, as some people do. She does use the bill pocket to hold receipts from when she uses her credit card (which she does keep in her Filofax) which I thought was pretty smart.

The rings are so small she can only use it to hold address pages **or** the WO2P diary, but not both. She had chosen to remove the address pages and use it just as a diary. I've met someone before who did the opposite thing and kept her address pages in her Mini while using a separate planner book with more space to write each day. ([1]You can read that post here if you are interested.)

It was so cute, small and handbag-friendly it actually got me wondering if I could somehow make a Pocket size Filofax work for me. (Not a Mini though, it's definitely too small!) It sure would be nice to have a compact little planner + address book that I could pop into my bag and hardly notice it's in there. Hmmm.....

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/07/filo-adventures-in-scotland.html>
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Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-13 15:33:37)

You sound like me... a Filofax spotter. Make, model, year and usage!!! Fascinating to see how other people make use of their planners....

I've just downsized to a personal from A5 but can not imagine going any smaller.

Nellie (2011-01-13 15:40:04)

I spotted a lady in the Drs surgery the other day consulting her filo whilst making an appointment. It was all I could do to stop myself rushing up and asking her about it!

Yvotchka (2011-01-13 15:43:49)

What is it with this community...we all seem to have the same ideas around the same time!!

I just posted about giving the Pocket an honest to goodness try...I vote you try too and we'll compare notes :)

J (2011-01-13 15:49:44)

Wow! I feel like I have so much catching up to do! I just bought my first Filo in November (personal Domino in slate) and have promised to not buy any others for at least a year.

But now I am wondering if a pocket or mini would work as perfect fitness trackers- I have resolved to work out 3x per week this year! Especially since a few filofaxers have mentioned that pockets and minis have been turning up at TJ Maxx I might have to have a look!

If I buy it on clearance, it doesn't count as a real purchase right? Can I bend my rules?

Steve (2011-01-13 16:00:44)

I get some odd looks in UK with my man bag and my pocket filofax as my wallet, but I can live that!!!

This evening in B & Q, the girl on the till commented when I got out my Filofax... oh that looks neat. I would have had a longer conversation but there was a bit of a queue... I need some business cards with just the website address on it!

But the pocket is working very well for me, even the Chameleon with it's smaller rings compared to my Finsbury. And 'J' check out our Adspot page, some Pocket's for sale there....

Steve

Jess (2011-01-13 16:19:12)

i dread seeing someone with a filofax, or being in a meeting where someone whips one out of their bag. i can't resist asking and always look like a complete nutter. i had a meeting in october where all three girls (who i'd only known a week or so) pulled out pink pocket filofaxes of various makes.

i don't understand how some people can just 'have' them - surely they want to talk about them too?! or is that just us...

caribbean princess (2011-01-13 16:40:58)

I am the proud owner of a cute mini pink finsbury and I plan on using it as an address book. I will be sure to feature it at some point! I always get excited by people's Filofaxes and talk excitedly about them (or even ask to look at them) but that is ok as my colleagues already accept I am not quite normal ;-)

Laurie (2011-01-13 16:41:52)

LOL Jess I agree, how can you own a Filofax and not be obsessed with it? After all, it IS "a way of life!"

Yv I have to admit, I'd been thinking about your Pocket experiment already, then when I saw her cute little Mini (and her much-smaller-than-mine handbag) I realized the appeal of a smaller Filofax. I don't know if it's a road I dare to go down though, branching out into yet ANOTHER Filofax size!!

Nellie I've thought before how interesting it would be to be the person at the Dr's who books the appointments. I can imagine seeing everyone's planners all day long!!

aspiretobe337604 (2011-01-13 16:50:37)

I am just fascinated by filofax-using-people encounters (unfortunately, not that many occurred to me yet)... but Laurie, where were you that a woman was organizing her mini filo in public? I mean it takes me ages to organize one and I have to SPREAD out all the papers, indexes (indices?), post-its, plastic do-dads, etc. I can not do that in public - it has to be at a huge breakfast room table! It's almost a (sacred) ritual of sorts!

Laurie (2011-01-13 16:55:38)

We were at ballet class waiting for our daughters. I too was astounded, because there was absolutely no spreading out of papers or anything like that. She was sitting upright in a chair with no table. Her Filofax was already empty-I don't know where last year's pages went. She opened up her diary pack and put it on the rings all at once. She had also bought a notes insert but struggled to get it all on the rings.

Because the rings were so small, the contents were minimal. She had just the diary and notes inserts, and a business card holder page and that was it.

(For the record, when I re-arrange my Filofax it usually takes all afternoon and fills up the whole dining room table!)

Steve (2011-01-13 17:07:40)

So this ritual that takes place... is that at the altar of the good lord Filofax I wonder!!!

Sorry in one of my silly moods this evening !!!

And for the record... yes I like to spread out the complete contents when I do a reshuffle. Far easier to deal with the organiser gets a clean and dust at the same time too...

J (2011-01-13 17:21:37)

Steve- Kanalt told me you were all a bunch of enablers- looks like she was right! Unless I find an amazing deal, I am still sticking with the personal domino for the year.

I can only imagine what my first visit to the alter of the good lord Filofax will look like- I have only added pages to a new filo and that took me forever... how long will it take when I am not only adding, but archiving?

My my, what have I got myself into!!!

Steve (2011-01-13 17:33:11)

J, you have made a good start with the personal Domino... stick with it and learn from it.

And Kanalt is a good mentor to follow in the footsteps of...

Steve

J (2011-01-13 17:40:24)

Thanks Steve! I am loving the domino so far- I think it is the perfect "starter" Filofax.

Kanalt seems like a perfect "Filo expert"- really she was just the first to comment on my Filo when I posted it on my blog! Who knew there could be Filo mentors out there?

Alison Reeves (2011-01-13 18:10:09)

When Filofax out their special edition (black patent with crystals) on sale I knew I had to have one - I had been lusting after this ever since they came out and was determined to make it work for something! I'd never used a smaller filofax before (the SP is pocket sized). However it's now working very well for me.

I have my diary in there (week on 2 pages) having decided to use a written one this year. I've had loads of problems this last year with missing appointments and syncing problems with my phone/outlook setup. Having everything in a written diary is bliss! (I also have an A5 that I use as a daily planner).

Added to this I also have space for notes, shopping lists etc. This means I don't have to carry notepad. Also I could get some cards in there to save carrying a separate card holder. It also has a proper pocket at the back which I haven't used yet - trying to think of a good use!

So all in all my experiment with a small pocket filofax is working really well - and it brings a great big smile to my face when I use it! I still use larger filofaxes for other purposes though - I haven't really found one size that fits all my needs.

Butanben (2011-01-13 20:52:39)

Hi there,

I have a mini and an A5. The mini actually holds loads. Addresses and week to 2 pages diary, plus month at a view, which is no good really, as too small-disappointing for me as I love to view a month at a go in my A5 filo. I use the back of my mini for stamps and 2 passport photos of my gorgeous god daughters, and the front for my business cards and medical emergency card. Big Huge Labs have a FANTASTIC site where you can make your own medical emergency type business cards for your wallet/Filo. Worth looking up.

Got my mini zipped Finsbury in TK Maxx- pink and a steal of a bargain!!!

Filofreak (2011-01-14 01:15:16)

Wow, I never run into people with Filos. I think if I did, I would be star struck! I am trying out a pocket size and it just seems like an elf's planner. It's so cute and I love it (and it's an Eton which is gorgeous) but I feel like I'm missing something. Maybe I'm just not used to it yet? Help!

Savannah (2011-01-14 01:47:28)

Erin- the pocket Filofax isn't for everyone and is not as versatile, easy to write in or expound in as the personal or A5 which may impede the flow of your planning process. There are also problems with access and readability. If your planning needs are simple it's fine: Appointments and reminders on the weekly pages (not much room here for daily to do's unless you use the daily pages or insert a 3x5 card or note page between the week). To do sheets for what you need to do (by category, someday, day, week, whatever), notes-you know those random pieces of information you need to remember, financial for a record of expenses or as a bank register....

I hope this helps you in your endeavor to give the beautiful Eton pocket a try. For portability it is a winner. If

it doesn't work as a planner you could always try to use it as a wallet, address book, notebook or whatever you fancy.

janet (2011-01-14 03:11:15)

I have a baroque mini which I use when I travel. I have an A5 for work (which is just perfect so despite efforts to downsize, I have been using it for years). But once a year I travel to South Africa for two months. So I take only the mini baroque with me. It has only meetings for the two weeks after I come back (on WOTP), important addresses and phone numbers (I leave my Swedish phone in Sweden when I leave for SA), travel details and do do lists. When it comes back it is filled with receipts and little journal notes about my trip. The baroque mini is a lovely aqua colour, deceptively smooth and butter soft on the outside with the beautiful raised patterned leather on the inside. It takes no space at all and is featherlight, even stuffed. I bought it on sale for next to nothing and I love it.

Jotje (2011-01-14 04:26:54)

I'm so glad that I was able to downsize from A5 to Personal, that I would never dare to downsize even further! I do have and use my Mini Finsbury on a daily basis though. It is my wallet, holds my bank cards and driver's licence (which is the credit card-sized here). Coins are in the zipped compartment, money bills in the backside wallet pocket. In the front are empty pages for shopping lists. As soon as I notice I'm running low on anything for groceries, I put it there. No more forgetting the shopping list on the kitchen table! I also have a page per shop (drugstore, retailer, DIY-shop etc) where I put what I need to buy. Unless it's very urgent, it stays here until I get to that shop. I then pull out my list - et voila - get all I need.

I have coloured note pages for each member of the family, stating the current clothing and shoe sizes, plus items I need to buy (like rain boots, underwear etc). Again, nothing that's urgently needed, but if I do run into a bargain, I can check what I need and it what size.

I also included a plastic envelop where I tuck in receipts that I have to keep (e.g. if I want to return something back to the store, or for warranty purposes).

The Finsbury does start to look a bit battered, but the leather got all soft and touchy and I wouldn't miss it for the world!

kanalt (2011-01-14 07:52:25)

Guys! (Steve & J) I'm blushing over here. Thank you! I think that's the highest compliment a Filofaxer can get. Though, I think there are others who are better "experts" since they have used more sizes and have more experience.

I told my husband about the compliment and he said (jokingly), "You're sick. You're all sick." I replied, "Well at least I'm not droning on about it to you. I now have a proper outlet." That made him quiet. ;)

As for the post, I did try to use a pocket size. I desperately wanted a size that was so portable and would fit into most of my bags. But I just couldn't downsize from the personal, mainly because of the ring size. I would really love to see a binder where the ring size falls between that of the pocket and personal, though my Malden is pretty near perfect, just as she is!

kanalt (2011-01-14 07:57:01)

I also never run into anyone with a Filo. Working at a library, I do see my share of people with planners and organizers, but none of them are Filos as far as I can tell. I so want to ask people about their planners but I don't think they'd like it, nor do I think they'd indulge me. Plus which, I'm not getting paid for that conversation. ;)

Jotje (2011-01-14 10:28:52)

I witnessed a woman buying a planner the other day. She came into the store, looked briefly at the shelves with planners. Picked out one (very plain: white with black), flipped it open, run her finger along some pages, closed it and headed for the counter! I was totally shocked. Obviously there are people out there who just by any planner to ... ehm plan, and put no further thought into it. How different from our little (but growing) community here ...

J (2011-01-14 11:47:14)

Haha Kanalt! I am glad that I am not the only one with a significant other who thinks I am crazy! And I don't think it really matters how many Filos you have- I already feel like I have learned so much about mine and I've only had it for two months. I can't count the times that I have removed, added and rearranged pages- and to think I thought it was crazy when I read that it took someone 18 months to perfect their Filo!

And Jotje, I agree! I don't know how people can be so apathetic when buying their planner- Filo or not. Unfortunately, my sister is one of them! I was with her at Target back in December- she must have picked up one or two planners (and didn't even open them) before putting it in her basket!

Steve (2011-01-14 13:25:35)

People that just buy a planner like that just don't know what they are missing... hours of fun deciding on the right size and format.

It's nearly as bad as those people I talk to about Philofaxy and Filofax and they say 'But it's just a diary' How can they be so X*X*X*X*X as to call it 'just a diary' it's a source of great enjoyment and friendship...

Yes I do tell people about Philofaxy and Filofax... they don't fall asleep or roll their eyes and make some excuse to get away quickly!!!!

Petra (2011-01-14 19:03:30)

I must be lucky, since I started with a zip pocket Durham which I still use, even though sometimes I think it's too big for my purse. I have a number of minis, but somehow can't find a way to effectively use them. For work, on the other hand, I've been wanting to go larger and have been "auditioning" planners of various brands in the A5-like sizes. I hope to have a candidate selected soon!

At a conference a few months ago, I spotted a lady with an enormous Franklin Covey planner (only A5 type size but THICK). I recognized the insert style, so I did start talking inserts/planning styles, etc. She got suitably animated when I raised the topic. But I could never carry a 3" thick planner!

Free For All Friday No.113 (2011-01-14 00:00)

I quite often see people send out a message on Twitter saying that they have lost their Filofax... disaster! However, did you know that you can register your Filofax with Filofax themselves and if found and returned to you via Filofax then the finder is given a reward, which I believe is a gift voucher or similar. To use the service just log in to your account on the Filofax website and look for [1]Personal Organiser Registration Then fill in your details and they send you a registration number to write in the front of your diary refill. Do it today... it's a Free service.

As it's Friday, please feel free to discuss anything Filofax related.

1. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/int/productRegistration/default.asp?mini=1>

Filofreak (2011-01-14 01:17:15)

Yes, I have registered my Filos but that doesn't help if one is maliciously stolen (as I believe my cuban personal zip was), thus why I am now in process of experimenting with my pocket Eton. It's really cute as I mentioned, but just so,, ,,small! Should I just give myself time to get used to it? Any ideas would be great.

David Popely (2011-01-14 02:06:24)

Mine are both registered. The system is easy to use and adds peace of mind - recommended!

Gail (2011-01-14 04:05:15)

I have done this with all my filofaxs BUT I have recently moved house, so if I did lose my filofax (I's just die) but then it would be returned to my old address.

Do I need to re-register them all again?

Jotje (2011-01-14 04:09:06)

I highly doubt that the registration is effective at all! Think about it: if you found a Filofax would you really send it all the way to a Filofax store? Or would you just send or bring it to the owner's address which is in the front of EACH and EVERY filofax? I know, that I would bring it directly to the owner, to spare him more agony about the loss of his Filofax ...

Alison Reeves (2011-01-14 05:05:10)

I never put my personal contact details in my filofax. My thinking is that if it is lost most people would be nosy and check all my personal stuff, know where I live (and from my diary when I am in and out). This would give anyone who is unscrupulous just the info they needed to burgle my house etc! Am I being paranoid?

cupidsbow (2011-01-14 06:54:44)

I don't put my personal details in it either, not least because if I have my bag stolen, and my Filofax and my keys are in the bag, well, obviously I might get burgled! So I registered my details with Filofax, and hope that if it did go missing, someone would return it. You know that they offer a free gift to anyone returning a Filofax too?

Karensa (2011-01-14 07:36:35)

The tip about checking TJMaxx was a great one!

I found a pink zipped A5 Finsbury for a great price at the store near my work during lunch hour. Later that day I also found a blue / black personal Mode at a store near my house - great finds!

Of course, then I had to take advantage of the Daily Planner sale and get some inserts, hmmm, maybe not such a bargain anymore!

Hayley (2011-01-14 08:17:39)

Ooo thanks been meaning to do that for ages!

JJ (2011-01-14 08:30:52)

In one of the older binders I bought off of Ebay, there was a page printed on very heavy card stock with artwork that made it look like a US dollar bill, a space for an address and the word REWARD.

That, I suspect would work better than the current registry system.

Currency just has a way of catching people's eyes.

Sharon (2011-01-14 09:25:01)

This is slightly off topic, but being FFAF I thought I would ask!

I am starting a new gym in a few weeks and really want to be able to record my progress and want to use a filofax to do this!

Any ideas how I can set it up?

Yvotchka (2011-01-14 09:42:58)

I, like Allison, do not put my personal information in my Filo for that same reason - rather I hole punch one of my business cards and stick that in the front of the binder.

That being said, I also register them with Filofax to cover all the bases. I agree that someone returning it to Filofax is unlikely.

Jotje (2011-01-14 10:11:30)

JJ, just like the filo in the movie "Filofax"!!!!

Which everybody here must have seen, right? If not: the complete movie is on Youtube (hacked into 12 or so episodes, but still the complete movie)!

Alison Reeves (2011-01-14 11:16:45)

Just a quick question - does anyone know how many business cards the business card insert for the pocket filofax holds? Its hard to see from the picture on the site, so I'm not sure how many to order. Thanks!

J (2011-01-14 11:56:32)

Sharon- I'm glad you asked that! My NY resolution is to work out 3X per week, and track what type of exercise I am doing. Right now I just have a note page in the back of my personal domino where I write the date, type of exercise, time, etc. It is working alright, but I would like to do more.

I am going to check out TJ Maxx, and ONLY if I find a pocket or mini there will I try a full "fitness tracker" filo. But I am not sure how to set it up yet?! I am thinking Wo2P diary so I can track exercise, food and water intake, etc.

Any ideas? Of course if I don't find a clearance steal, I will continue to use my personal. I think Philofaxy also has some fitness pages in their "files" section that I might investigate!

justenoughsalt (2011-01-14 14:51:35)

i am concerned about my filofax. it is beautiful but it is on it's last leg. i have had a saved ebay search for the model for about 4 years now and no exact hits. the closest hit was the right model but the wrong size. when do you say goodbye? how do you say goodbye?

mind you i do NOT want to say goodbye. i love this thing. i have had it since 1999. ughhhhh i wish i could just find another one!

i bought an old windsor thinking it would be a replacement. it was nice and all but it simply wasnt as satisfying to use. i wasnt as excited to see it in my bag.

Saffy (2011-01-14 18:09:59)

Colie, you are not saying goodbye, it is just going into a well deserved retirement. What style is it, maybe someone could help?

justenoughsalt (2011-01-14 20:30:57)

@saffy it is a personal green piccadilly. they just dont make the colors as vibrant as they used to. i will say the orange finsbury was an exception.

I DONT WANT IT TO RETIRE!!!

i should post photos of it on flicker

justenoughsalt (2011-01-14 20:50:31)

on topic, i wish there was a way to update your registration info. i re-registered mine because i moved recently. i wish i could have kept the old number and just updated it. w/e

Butanben (2011-01-15 08:41:23)

A great tip!! I didn't know you could register your Filofax(es) so I'll be doing that. Thanks.

Slightly off topic, but as it's FFAF, here goes. Not selling or endorsing here, but thought I'd mention that I saw a children's organiser in John Lewis today called My very special organiser, by Rachel Ellen Designs....web searched, and the makers have a website. Never too young to begin the route to Filofax fun and enjoyment thought I!! For all of you with children..... there are children's organizers out there too!!! Heee Heee!!!

News Update (2011-01-15 00:00)

A couple of 'news' items, plus a few web links to recommend to you.

All places are now taken for the Philofaxy meet up that will be taking place in London on 26th March. The places are limited in number because of the small size of the Neal Street Store, but being limited to 10 people also means that we all get to chat with each other and it also makes it easier for us to find somewhere for lunch. I'm really looking forward to the next meet up, must start putting together a

shopping list!!

Sorry if you couldn't make it this time, but there will be other meet ups later this year I'm sure. Talking of which, our friends over on the German Filofax Blog [1]Filomaniac are discussing the possibility of a meet up somewhere in main land Europe. Take part of the discussion if you are interested.

Dee from the Filofax Neal Street store tells me she now has the Malden Personal in Ochre back in stock again, it had been out of stock since before Christmas. The Malden appears to continue to be a popular choice.....

I also hear that our friend Jess Stephens has left Filofax UK to join [2]Local Daily Deals, where she is their Marketing Director. I'm sure you will join me in wishing her well in her career move and thank you Jess for all your help and support of Philofaxy during your time with Filofax. So if you fancy working for Filofax UK they have a vacancy for an [3]eCommerce Manager

So to around the web...

- Our dear friend Yvotchka is making good progress with using a Pocket Filofax as her daily Filofax, read her '[4]Working Without a Net' blog post.
- Over at the 'Crazy Life of J' there is a post on '[5]Finding Filofax'
- Lina of Facebook Filofax Club fame, has been adding to her collection of Filofax Organisers with a [6]Personal Amazona there's a great video at the end of the post too.
- Paper is paper isn't it? How about paper made out of [7]Pineapple... check out Millie's review
- Millie has also posted an update on how she is using her [8]Malden in 2011

I'm in UK still for another week, busy with family stuff up in the North West, I will be posting a bit more often once I get back to France, have a great weekend.

1. <http://filomaniac.blogspot.com/2011/01/filofax-meet-up.html>
2. <http://www.localdailydeals.co.uk/>
3. <http://econsultancy.com/uk/jobs/ecommerce-manager-17>
4. <http://putitonmyheadstone.blogspot.com/2011/01/working-without-net.html>
5. <http://thecrazylifeofj.blogspot.com/2011/01/finding-filofax.html>
6. <http://makeuptomakeout.blogspot.com/2011/01/another-addition-to-my-filofax-family.html>
7. <http://mslogica.com/blog/1427>
8. <http://mslogica.com/blog/1480>

Laurie (2011-01-16 16:51:36)
Best of luck to Jess in her new job!!

J (2011-01-16 23:28:38)
Thanks for linking to my blog Steve! I couldn't figure out why I had so many hits and comments! Stay tuned-more Filo-inspired posts are sure to come!

jess (2011-01-17 05:30:56)
Thanks for your kind wishes! I will of course keep Philofaxy in my bookmarks - keep in touch.
From Jess
(and my mini amazona, mini domino, mini finsbury and A5 siena).
xx

Names and Addresses? (2011-01-16 04:21)

I think we all store names and addresses in our Filofax organisers or may be a print out of them from your PC. But how often do you check them?

I have been in the process of updating all of my addresses to include the country and also the international dialling codes. Today whilst doing some painting, I had an idea that I should use a notes field to indicate who this person is, as well as Name, Address, Telephone Numbers Why you might ask.....

Recently my elderly mother has had to go in to a care home for her own safety and security, but she is in a great place, modern facilities etc etc. So anyway... I was handed the task being the only child to write and tell everyone about my mothers change of circumstances and her new address etc.

Well I didn't think it would be too big a task, that was until we found about ten different address books of various ages, but no clue as to which was the current one. And of course Mum can only remember some of the people in the address books.

Luckily with it being near to Christmas, we went through all of the cards and eventually I was able to track down most of the people across the address book 'heap' and then add the names and addresses to a new notebook (which in fact Laurie sent me.... thanks Laurie), I also added them to a spreadsheet so we could eventually do a mail merge.

So a couple of things I am thinking of adding on my address pages. The first is to categorise each entry, what is their relationship to me (Friend, Business Contact, Relative, etc). I might also add a date on each sheet, so I know when the sheet was last checked for accuracy. How do you manage your names and address lists?

Katie (2011-01-16 04:54:05)

Being an eighteen year old with very few contacts, I have a grand total of TWO addresses in my filofax. And that's all I need!

Alannarama (2011-01-16 05:29:59)

similar to katie - i have a MINISCULE address book (seriously, it's about the size of a coaster) with addresses for family and a few friends abroad. phone numbers are in my mobile and backed up on the laptop.

Saffy (2011-01-16 05:38:20)

Since I started using a slimline, thus not too much room, I wrote all my relevant Oz, UK, Misc addresses on a Filofax address page for each country, so now I only carry around 3 plus 1 spare page for all 'current' addresses. All older address are still safely in their place behind the index's in my retired Filofaxes. This way I have an idea of how old they are. Eg; my pocket classic I haven't used for 3 years now has quite a few addresses that are no longer current but it gives me an idea of when they were. Mind you, if someone had to come in and clear my belongings out then they would be in the same boat as you Steve. I might file old year diaries in the retired Filofaxes to give an idea of their time in use now that you have pointed this potential problem out.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-16 06:05:03)

This is really good point. My Dad died in October and of course we had to support my Mom which included contacting everyone they knew to let them know and also details for the funeral. She has an address book, but of course some of it was out of date, or they were old friends that are no longer with us. If you support an older relative it is something to think about.

My addresses are on outlook, which are synced with my iphone, so I haven't tended to use my filofax for this purpose. I recently discovered the joys of a dymo printer which can access all my addresses in outlook, or you can build your own address book in the dymo software. The best thing is that you can print out individual labels as and when you want them.

However I have found when working I've had time when my phone is tucked away somewhere, my outlook or computer is playing silly whatsits and I can't easily access a quick number for a project I'm working on - or perhaps I just haven't got around to putting the number into my outlook. I wa thinking about adding an address

sheet for each customer/project to note down this sort of info so it is always to hand.

crofter (2011-01-16 09:12:03)

Another great post Steve, and something that I am sure needs more attention than it gets.

I try to update my Master list in my Desk Filo as soon as I know about it. Make a big X through the old address and completely put in a new entry. About every 5 years or so, I make out a completely new address book, and archive the old one with the past year.

You have some good ideas as far as labeling the type of contact it is, and also to date it. I think I will rework my list and include that information.

I don't carry an address book with me, having everything on my cell phone, it just seems a little redundant to me. Also, I haven't had a computerized address book either, tried it a few times over the years had a crash, and decided my hand written list would suffice just fine.

This has given me food for thought. Friends are so valuable, I don't want to lose one of them.

Thanks Steve

Butanben (2011-01-16 09:39:20)

This is a really good point Steve. This happened to us when my mum died. There was only the one address book, but we did not know some of the people in it and how mum knew them. Soooo we probably sent funeral invites to washing machine repair people or similar!!!! I update my address book in my filofaxes, but haven't written in the people's relationship to me. A great point that Steve!!

Yvotchka (2011-01-16 10:48:28)

Very valid points Steve. I had similar issues when my mother passed and I had to go through her address book. Which I still have.

A lot of the info was outdated and incomplete and I had no idea who was who. One person I called to notify of her death had stopped speaking to her years ago, so that was a fun conversation.

As for me, I keep no addresses in my Filo. I keep them all electronically and reference them on my phone. That way I can update them instantly, from anywhere and avoid the dreaded scribbling or white out in my book :)

David Popely (2011-01-16 11:19:20)

Contact info is the one category of info which I *don't* store in my Filo - I use Outlook linked to my BlackBerry for that. If I want to access someone's details to call them, the BlackBerry's functionality is unbeatable in that area (unlike calendar and task lists), and I *know* I can get what I want *and* make the call in about three or four keystrokes maximum.

DanishGTD (2011-01-16 12:50:20)

I think addresses is the one thing I don't want to keep in my Filofax. Address is pure data - i.e. you need to access it fast and easy, keeping it current and input with a minimum of effort.

I use Addressbook on the mac and iPod Touch (which I use for music, addresses and mail-checking here and there). I found it works perfectly as many of my contacts only have an email-address and a name - writing email-addresses in a filofax just seems silly to me.

Once a year or so, I go through my contacts and delete contacts and don't need anymore (business etc.) and put in little notes if I want to keep someone in there ("?? - friend through" etc.).

Works wonders for me.

Laurie (2011-01-16 15:32:08)

I keep all contacts and addresses in my A5 that stays at home. I keep local contacts, addresses and phone numbers that I might need while traveling in my personal size Filofax.

I don't write my own address in my Filofax at all, even on the Personal Information page just in case somebooy else gets ahold of it. I just write my email address and phone number.

Karensa (2011-01-16 20:32:54)

Like others have mentioned, I too keep my addresses on Outlook and sync to a phone, in my case a Blackberry. In thinking about this today, I realized that my husband and I have used this method for 11 years - prior to the smartphones (he uses iPhone these days), we used to sync to Palm pilots. Also, I checked the count and I've got about 1280 while he has 1750.

The categorization is a great idea! I don't know what I'd do without that - the addresses are categorized by Business, Household (for repair vendors), Family, Hotels, Restaurants, etc.

Also, the notes or reference information is good. Funny thing is, despite the smartphone, or previously palm pilots, I've always collected notes on people, places, relationships, etc. and written them down on random pieces of paper or post-its. These were written down during trips with family, reunions or other family events. Then later I would enter that information into the computer. It's weird but I feel like I can jot/write down a note faster than type into these devices. (Some of the notes I keep are kids' names, directions to homes, how we know them, birthdays of family members, job history, etc.)

Now, with my new Filofax, I'm writing these types of notes in there for later entry into my computer. Since my home computer is separate from my business computer, it is very handy to have my Filofax to write down notes as I have it with me all the time and it is always "charged".

I do have a category I use called "Emergency" for the most crucial phone numbers (about 20 or so). I just got my new hole punches in the mail (A5 and personal) so will now print these out, hole punch them and also add to my Filofax.

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-17 07:25:54)

I keep all my contacts in my iPhone (sync'd to my Macbook). This gets sync'd regularly and reviewed around once a year (editing as required). I do have a printed version from my electronic address book just incase my computer does crash...!

I keep a few essential numbers (hubbies mobile, children nursery etc) in my Filofax just incase my phone is dead or stolen and that way I can still call my nearest and dearest (as I don't remember any of their numbers). When I am travelling I always wrote down the airline and hotel numbers in my Filofax. Too many situations where I have been stranded (like in Portugal in December) when I can't charge my phone and need to access data.

This balance between paper and electronics works for me...

kanalt (2011-01-17 21:15:22)

Like Laurie, I keep my full address book in my A5 Filo which stays home. I have phone numbers of certain people in my personal Filo (only those people I might need to call while at work or away from home). I also have phone numbers in my cell phone but since I don't like to rely completely and solely on technology (because the battery will die just when I need that number), I keep a written list as well.

As for updating the information - my full address book is typed and printed and punched and put into the A5. Whenever there's a change, I make a note of it in pen and then once a year or so, I'll print new sheets and add any new contacts. I do like the idea of adding the relationship of the person as well. If my husband ever needed to know who was who in my life, he would have no clue, aside from close friends and family.

Susanne (2011-01-18 17:55:08)

Just like Karensa, my address book is in Outlook and sync'd to my Blackberry. Funny that it would sync with the Palm Pilot in the 'old' days. I do additionally keep some personal contacts, mostly my family and my best and oldest friends in my Filofax. As I prefer to write them in pencil it is no problem to update them from time to time. This helped a lot on my last trip to Germany to visit my family and to contact some friends by phone. I did not want to use my cellphone abroad, afraid of horrendous fees etc., so I did not even turn the Blackberry on.

My friend, Filofax (2011-01-16 15:21)

I just got back from a bachelorette ("hen") weekend in Edinburgh (which was awesome: hydrotherapy spa, constant champagne and delicious food all weekend long). I purposely brought NO planner with me on my weekend away. None at all.

For those of you who haven't been following, I am on a quest to decide by the end of the month what planner I will use for all of 2011. Those of you who are interested can look at [1]Plannerisms to see the ongoing saga.

I thought a weekend completely away from planners would clear my mind and help me decide. And you know what? The entire weekend, I missed my [2]Deco Filofax.



[3]

Here it is with the awesome celtic-design pen my kids got me for Christmas!

I wished I'd brought my Deco with me to keep me company on the two hour train ride there and back. One of the restaurants we went to this weekend was Art Deco style, and I LOVE anything Art Deco (thus my adoration of my Deco Filo), and I thought how glamorous my Filofax would have looked in those surroundings. All weekend I wished I had it with me to write in addresses, websites people mentioned, reference my maps, and everything really.

I missed it like I would miss a trusted friend. My Filofax (this one or one of [4]my several others) has been my faithful travel companion for so many years, I felt lost without it.

I've had numerous failed attempts at making my Filofax work for me as a planner. Most recently I failed at using [5]daily and weekly pages at the same time, and using the [6]two days per page format. Both seemed like great ideas at the time, but both quickly crashed and burned.

I'm going to let you in on a little secret. About a week ago I made my own planner. I'll post more about it in a few days on Plannerisms. I used it all last week ([7]Calling the Dog with it and my [8]WeekDate planner). When I used it, I got tons done. I focused on my goals, I was very task oriented, and each day I blazed through my to-do list with blistering efficiency.

And it was no fun AT ALL.

I was grumpy all the time and constantly checking my list for what task I had to complete next so I could cross it off. Even though I got a lot done, it was not the recipe for happiness that I thought it would be. So this week I'm trying another experiment. I will use my Filofax with the normal Week on 2 Pages planner insert. But the difference is this: I'm not going to try to make it more efficient. I'm not going to figure out ways to use it better. I'm just going to use it in a normal, basic way. And if I don't get everything done this week, I'm not going to be hard on myself.

I've always loved absolutely everything about my Filofax except for the lack of functionality of the weekly pages (specifically that the day spaces are too small). I wonder if this time it will work, not by making it more efficient, but by purposely NOT trying to be so efficient. I really want to use my Filofax.

Because, I miss my friend.

1. <http://www.plannerisms.com/>
2. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/plannerisms/sets/72157622672507897/with/5281087764/>
3. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_CPeL-KIUmkw/TTM31EAm6II/AAAAAAAAABho/GsBAfwn4y0E/s1600/Diaries+2010+287.jpg
4. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/plannerisms/sets/72157623430927643/>
5. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2010/12/experiment-2-filofax-daily-weekly.html>
6. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2010/12/experiement-3-filofax-2-days-per-page.html>

7. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/10/calling-dog.html>
8. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2010/12/how-ill-use-my-weekdate-planner.html>

caribbean princess (2011-01-16 15:40:54)

oh Laurie. I love your filofax too! the Deco remains my dream filo. I enjoy using my Adelphi and I am quite attached to it, maybe because it records aspects of my life and I love life! Have fun, and use your filofax. Life is not only about lists and efficiency!

Steve (2011-01-16 15:45:07)

There is something comforting about always having a Filofax with you, although I can understand why you didn't take it with you this weekend. Sounds like a great time!!

Look forward to the next episode of 'which planner' will you use....

Laurie (2011-01-16 15:54:43)

CP, exactly. Life is meant to be enjoyed, and my planner should help me do that. What good is efficiency if I hate it?

Steve, I thought about bringing my Filofax with me (and wished I had) but didn't because I was afraid of losing it or having it stolen. Of course the way to avoid that is to keep it with me constantly, duh! Silly me.

Louloudorset (2011-01-16 17:06:02)

I spent today reorganising my work A5 bronze snakeskin Domino while making more lists in my new pocket Deco (thank you for convincing me to purchase that one as it is just gorgeous) of all the fun stuff I want to get done this week/year

Part of the fun of doing any activity for me is the writing it in the planner so I can look forward to it :)

Jess (2011-01-16 18:16:30)

you come back to your deco every time you have a planner crisis - its like the ex- boyfriend who's bad for you but at the same time more attractive than anyone else... i say to hell with efficiency and have fun with it!

crofter (2011-01-16 18:40:22)

I just don't leave home without my Filo. I was taught from a very early age living on a ranch in the American West, that there were just certain things you didn't leave home without; a jacket, something to eat, and a roll of TP, because you had no idea if you were going to be home that night or not.

Well, add to that my Filo, either a pocket or slimline, there seems to be many things everyday that I need to make notes on, and this is my favorite vessel to store them in.

I guess it is like a security blanket, but they do serve me well.

Laurie (2011-01-17 05:11:33)

Very perceptive Jess! I did indeed have a planner crisis, due to yet another change in life circumstances. I found out that it is extremely likely that we will have yet another international move this year (already!!!). And in times like these, I tend to turn to my Filofax. Will it be able to handle the move-planning load?? The answer is, probably yes as long as I'm normal about things and don't try to over-organize like I usually do!!!

Laurie (2011-01-17 06:10:14)

CP, I just read through your Adelphi post on your blog (again), but there's not much detail on how you use your week on 2 pages diary insert. I'm curious how you manage such a busy schedule with small daily spaces. Do you only write appointments into the day spaces and keep your to-dos someplace else? Any tips or advice you can give me for using the WO2P during busy times would be greatly appreciated! If you want you can email me: laurie758@gmail.com Thank you!!!

Amanda (2011-01-17 09:32:13)

Hi Laurie,

I know you were asking Caribbean Princess about her WO2P during busy times, and I know I am a committed A5 user, but even then, my schedule gets too busy to put anything other than appointments in the diary bit, with my 'To-Do' list on a separate page between the two week pages. I have been known to use a Personal size page, so I can still see the week (on A5) underneath, but maybe the other pages sizes (smaller than the personal) would work in the same way?

I write Mon-Wed's 'to-do' on the RHS and then the Thurs-Weekend's 'to-do' on the LHS so I can see the days and the to-do at the same time.

Hope that helps??

Amanda

Laurie (2011-01-17 09:55:41)

Amanda, thank you for your suggestion. It is a really good idea. I've actually done that before, but got quickly frustrated with it because I couldn't see my entire week at once. I'm very picky!

Amanda (2011-01-17 10:05:44)

Hmmm... if none of the smaller Ff paper fits the rings in the Personal the way you can slot personal pages into an A5, you could try this:

If you cut some note-paper in half, vertically, then you could use it as your To-Do paper and still be able to see the week underneath. If you have a personal hole-punch, it wouldn't waste the paper as you could use it for the next week, but maybe it's too much of a pain and too fiddly.

Hope you find a solution!

Amanda

caribbean princess (2011-01-18 15:33:33)

Oh just catching up on blog comments. Laurie usually I would just write meeting appointments on my week on 2 pages and probably scribble in the most important to dos in pencil. I do use large post it notes and write all my to dos for the week on that. I have to admit that I enjoy crossing out the tasks as they are done! This has worked well until now when I have started my PhD because instead of throwing away my to dos I want to keep a record of what I get done each day for better time management. hence my most recent post on how to organise a PhD planner :- ([http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/01/i-need-your-hel p-how-should-i-organise.html](http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/01/i-need-your-help-how-should-i-organise.html) I will be trialling week date and set up on the weekend. However I prefer to use a filofax so after chatting with Steve earlier and reading some of Kanalt's posts I have some ideas.....

caribbean princess (2011-01-18 15:34:49)

PS Laurie I use post its so they can be moved around easily as I need to be able to see my week on 2pages at a glance!

Stefee (2011-01-18 16:19:16)

Hi Laurie,

I've been away and too busy to check your blog, so imagine my surprise when I noticed your current planner is your Filo! Trusted friend indeed! I know what you mean! I am using my vintage Filo as my wallet cuz I love to hold it in my hands! My FC is my brain, but my Filo is my heart :-) And I can't wait to read about your handmade planner.

Reader needs advice: Domino or Metropol? (2011-01-16 16:18)

A reader emailed me requesting I post this question to get some advice and maybe a general consensus: Domino or Metropol?

"Here's my dilemma:

I am about to buy my very first Filofax. I'm looking forward to it, but my big problem is I don't which one would be the best one for me. I live in Belgium, where the in-store selections are limited, so it looks like I will have to order online, relatively site unseen. I'd obviously prefer to actually see one and hold in my hand before buying, but I don't have that option.

I definitely want an A5, either a Domino or a Metropol (I'd love to have one of the pricier leather styles, but can't justify the expense right now). I would really appreciate having some people's opinions on the pros and cons of each, along with any other recommendations. I realize it's ultimately up to individual preference, but I'd like some advice from long-time users.

Thanks for any help and information you can give me."

I replied that between the two, the Metropol has more of a leather-look to it, and is more traditional-looking inside and out.

Of course in the end it comes down to personal preference and style, but any advice and recommendations you can give would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks everyone!

Luinae (2011-01-16 16:38:31)

I prefer domino- I think it's a lot prettier, and I love the suede contrasting inside.

ARIANA and Colin (2011-01-16 16:41:56)

i have used Metropol a few years ago - and i was using it for about 3 years - filofax is still in perfect condition-and trust me - im a woman who is overstuffing her filofax. (no scratches , didnt lose shape,and easy to wipe clean etc.) the only reason ive stoped using it - it was to small for my needs .(Now got A5 Cuban-received as a gift)

My frind got Domino - for a 2 years now and she is complaining that the „band” is a little bit stretched.But what i like bout Domino that it was very Sleek looking .

Personaly i think you might think how much stuff you want to carry around with you .I hope this help you.

ARIANA1985 & Colin

justenoughsalt (2011-01-16 17:24:19)

if you really want a leather a5, ebay it. for example, there is an a5 burgundy winchester on the uk ebay. you will not get better than a vintage leather one. they last a lot longer.

if your bedroom tends to be perfectly organized with everything in its place, get a domino.

if your bedroom is not always pristine, opt for the metropol.

metropols tend to hold more r.a.d. (random acts of disorganization aka crap) than dominos.

J (2011-01-16 23:38:59)

I love my domino! I went through the same thing you did- I live in the Midwest United States; my closest pen shop carries about 4 varieties, all out of my price range. I looked at both the domino and metropol online and opted for the domino for three reasons:

1. The colors! I ended up with the domino slate, but really loved that I could personalize it to what I want.
2. Elastic pen loop and suede-look interior. I really love how the inside looks, and the elastic loop is perfect when I want to carry bigger pens.
3. The closure, or the elastic strap. I have had mine for over two months, and haven't had any stretching issues- in fact I just took a bunch out and it still fits snugly. The best part is that I can tuck pieces of paper in here when I am in a hurry, whether it be directions, receipts, etc.

I actually just did a review/picture sharing of how I have been using the domino on my blog if you want to see it in action: <http://thecrazylifeofj.blogspot.com/2011/01/finding-filofax.html>

Best of luck with your choice- I can guarantee whichever you choose you will love it!

Petra (2011-01-16 23:52:46)

I have a Metropol and Domino, though both in personal size. Here are my thoughts on each:

Domino: lighter than the Metropol and thinner, due to its not being padded. Lies flat more readily, can even bend it backwards. I like the contrasting card pockets and suede interior, but the suede front of each card pocket is very thin and if you are putting cards in and taking them out often, I can see the pockets stretching or tearing. I actually think the Domino looks more leather-like than the Metropol, though a hard leather vs a soft padded one.

Metropol: Don't like the sideways card pockets, but do like the mesh pocket for the notepad since you can slide in decorative pictures or store flat items there and see them. I prefer the snap closure to the elastic – I think it looks more professional. No visible grommets on the spine like in the Domino. Somewhat bulkier in feel and look and weighs slightly more (my personal weighs about 40 g more than the Domino and I expect the difference is more with the A5). They are both lighter than a leather binder though. It's a tough choice, since they are both nice binders (which is why I have both!).

I second the eBay suggestion. I have found several leather Filofaxes on eBay for half price or much less, unused or practically so. Plus you have a wider selection of colors since there are often discontinued models. Good luck with your hunt!

Jotje (2011-01-17 03:11:09)

Hi, I live in Holland, thus recognize your problem of not being able to touch and feel a Filofax before the purchase. I'd also suggest Ebay! I got my pink Finsbury there for a mere € 35,- including shipment from the UK! Ebay.co.uk has the best deals actually. Also: sometimes the seller states that they don't offer international shipment, but many times, if you ask them nicely, they are willing to send overseas (paypal account needed!).

I have two Domino's in A5: the red and the bronze one. The latter is really beautiful and a delight to look at. The red one is very nice as well, just looking a bit more "ordinary".

If you plan on talking the Filo with you a lot, I would opt for the Metropol though, because of the closure. It's just a bit faster to open than the Domino. If it should stay on your desk however, I'd say go for the Domino.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-17 05:29:24)

Depends on what sort of person you are. I have forsaken leather binders to use the Bronze Snake Domino as it is really glamorous in a slightly understated way.

In the UK the Metropol only comes in Black or Brown, neither of which would get me excited. My feeling is that if you get the Domino, by the time it wears out you will probably be ready for a new one - or will have found a really nice leather one on ebay!

Amanda (2011-01-17 06:21:34)

I have a red Domino A5 at work and I love it. I have no experience of the Metropol but I can give you the pros and cons I have found with the Domino if that helps?

Since they are both A5 and both non-leather and both have 30mm rings, the main differences to sway you must be the look and the functionality of the inside covers, so I'll focus on those (unless of course the deal-breaker is the quadrille pad rather than a notepad??)...

Pros:

The vertical pocket on the inside cover - I can slot a notebook in there (usually a Cartesio 21 x 13cm). I think the Metropol could manage it too, but the pocket looks further over towards the rings to me.

The card slots: I don't really use them, but I do have my donor card in the top see-through thing in the Domino. The card slots in the Metropol look (though I have no evidence) as if they might fray with much use. To me, the slightly bigger pockets (1/2 height) are more useful for tucking things in than the multiple card-slots, but that's me.

The inside cover on the back of the Domino has a notepad pocket, without mesh in front of it. To me, that makes no difference as once you have a notepad in there, you can't see the mesh anyway. More importantly (if you're left-handed) is the fact that the notepad can go in either a top or a bottom slot in the Domino, so you could in fact, turn the whole filofax over if you were left-handed.

The pen-holders in the Domino are elastic which means a wider range of pens or pencils can be held.

The range of colours for the Domino is much wider (and maybe more in the new collection? Can you wait that

long??). Brown and black are too staid for me - I like the brighter colours. The suede-effect lining is lovely. The elastic closure is good for snapping against a pile of stuff you have just been handed and need to carry somewhere before you have chance to file it. Maybe that's more an issue with my job though!

WHSmiths has still got the red Domino on offer at £18, but the Metropol is the zipped one on offer. (Incidentally, maybe in the sale you could afford a leather one?)

Okay, and the cons...

The cover on the Domino is prone to scratches. That said, mine is still looking pretty good.

The elastic closure can be a pain when it catches on things as you move the open filofax around the desk.

The elastic closure looks a little less professional (but more individual?) than the tab closures.

I have yet to find a way to remove biro marks off the suede lining in the Domino.

So, there's my two-penn'orth. Let us all know which you go for??

Laurie (2011-01-17 11:22:40)

Our decision-maker was unable to post a comment so wanted me to post on her behalf: Decision made!

"I was able to get into city center Brussels today and I visited a couple of shops that had a varied selection Filofaxes. I didn't get to see the whole panoply, but I got a good enough idea to make a decision. I was able to see an A5 Metropol and a Personal size Domino, as well as the Sketch and some other styles.

As much as I liked the inside of the Metropol, somehow, the texture of the cover felt unpleasant to the touch. I considered, too, that I am buying the A5 primarily to use as for a home organizer and not to carry in my purse, so for the time being, (...drum roll) a red Domino A5 it is! (I'm already eyeballing that Cuban Personal, though!)

To add a twist, I had not mentioned that I also was looking for an A4 Filofax, as I am just starting Dutch lessons, and I want a good organizer for my class, notes, exercises, vocabulary lists, etc. I initially thought I would just get the least expensive Identity style. However, after seeing (and feeling) a couple of the non-leather A4s in person today, I decided that for something I would be handling a lot over the years, I would splurge and go for a Finsbury A4. It's extravagant, I know, but as the covers of the non-leather models squiggled me out so much, I figured the money would be well spent not to have to shudder every time I picked up my Dutch notes - not a great association or motivation for studying!

So, there it is - Decision 2011.

Again, my grateful and sincere thanks to you and the Philofaxy community; you were a tremendous help in clarifying my thought process!

I am looking forward to becoming a bona fide Filofax fanatic!"

Hooray!! A new Philofaxer is born! :D

Amanda (2011-01-17 11:28:22)

Um, having bought an A5 and an A4 and with your eye on a personal... aren't you ALREADY a bona fide filofax fanatic?? :-)

Glad we could all help and that you are pleased with your purchases. Photos of them some time???

Amanda

shepcraig (2011-01-17 12:22:06)

I think that the Metropol would last you longer, I have seen a few customers come back to us now, because the elastic round their Domino has been stretched and is wearing down. However, the Domino does have a firmer feel to it.

caribbean princess (2011-01-18 15:43:02)

have fun with your Domino! And please share with us how you use it.

I have to admit that I prefer it to the Metropol although over time it may not wear as well.

I almost bought a personal snake domino for use just now as a phd planner but thankfully resisted the urge! it was very difficult!

Ashykay (2011-01-18 18:06:20)

I have a similar dilemma! I have just ordered a Pocket red Chameleon to use as my day-to-day diary. I figure I have enough junk in my handbag and needed something small but classic and classy to use as my diary. EXCEPT...last night, I went to the newsagent and found a beautiful grape Domino in Personal size..and well, accidentally kind of bought it. It's a lot lighter and handbag friendly than the Metropol I bought years ago in Personal size, which was just too bulky. Now I'm not sure which one to use - Pocket Chameleon or Personal Grape Domino?? Help!!

Ashykay (2011-01-18 18:39:30)

Oh dear..now I got my Chameleon and I think that I can adapt to this teeny tiny pocket size. Absolutely in love with it! Only thing is that it didn't come with the coloured tabs that it is supposed to. Oh well. Thinking maybe now I could use my Personal Domino for a trip I am planning next year? I have only seen those Travel packs for Filofax on the UK website though and the postage seems a bit steep...(I'm in Australia).

Ebay tip: set search to "worldwide" (2011-01-16 16:27)

Here is an important ebay tip from our friend colie. Thank you for the heads-up!

"hey laurie, i have had an ebay saved search for "piccadilly green filofax" probably for the last 4 years with no exact hits. the closest was a mini version a few months ago. well it turns out i missed a perfect match in november because my saved search was not set to worldwide so it was only checking the us market. i thought i would drop you a note to maybe remind others that are waiting for an ebay miracle replacement."

[1]http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/Filofax-Piccadilly-Personal-Organiser-/220693622221#ht_500wt_1071

(And while we're here, if anyone knows where colie can find a Piccadilly green Filofax, please post a comment!

Many thanks again to colie! :)

1. http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/Filofax-Piccadilly-Personal-Organiser-/220693622221#ht_500wt_1071

Gemma Catherine Seymour (2011-01-16 16:41:44)

I've bought a number of things from the UK over eBay. There's also a pretty good shop in Austria that's on eBay. That's how I got my Pistachio Classic Handbag last year, among other things.

And yes, I know I've been away from Philofaxy for far too long. I promise I'll try to pay more attention!

(reposted to try and fix my old picture)

Steve (2011-01-16 18:06:12)

I noticed this evening that there is an iPhone/iPod Touch/iPad app for Ebay mobile that could prove useful for saved searches. Check it out in the app store, it's a free download..

janet (2011-01-16 19:46:54)

I always search as wide as possible. Sometimes sellers will post to you outside their stated area, particularly if they have a love of their product and they can see you do too!

A tip from me is also to search on spelling variations on Picadilly - sometimes typos slip through or non native speakers cannot spell a brand name (one of my best bargains on the internet was a Mulberry Gisele bag that was spelled 'Giselle'. It was a real one, being sold by a private person-

Gregorym (2011-01-17 10:33:45)

As you all know I've come back to Filofax from my FC nightmare.

I was looking for that "one" Filo that would be my one and only for this year.

I bought the Skanda personal back in Decemeber and it has been working great. Then I met Colin on the vintage Facebook page and we became friends. He has helped me find a 5/4 Winchester and now I am waiting for it's arrival. Burgundy according to the picture as I have tried for a brown or black one but just can't bring myself to spend \$200.00 U.S. for one that is used.

Really wish that Filo would bring back the Winchester as I believe as a businessman they could make a ton of money. Well anyway, waiting for my shipment and very excited.

New blog: Productive Living (2011-01-17 05:06)

I have added a new blog to our blogs list here on Philofaxy (under Links) called Productive Living. Thomas is switching from digital to analog, specifically to a Hamilton Filofax! I look forward to reading more in the future.

You can read the Productive Living blog at [1]<http://productiveliving.blogspot.com/>

1. <http://productiveliving.blogspot.com/>

Adirondack Explorer (2011-01-17 08:43:07)

Thanks for the link

Sam (2011-01-18 08:57:56)

Hey Bloggers..

thought I would introduce myself - I'm an Illustrator and filofax addict..I have 7. And I have just bought myself a newone at lunch which I plan to blog about!

Love this blog - I thought I was alone!!

Sam :0)

Alison Reeves (2011-01-18 10:55:35)

Well Sam - it looks like you really need to join the philofaxy club! Looking forward to reading about your new filofax - you must let us have the link!

Steve (2011-01-18 11:52:37)

Your are never alone if you have a Filofax!!!!

Mid-Week Finds (2011-01-18 17:05)

Well I'm in the middle of a busy couple of weeks here in UK, sorry for the lack of contributions from me, but I'm back in France next week so usual service will be resumed.... But that doesn't mean I've not been spying out the odd interesting post from around the interwebs....

- [1]Five Tips for Managing your To-Do List - Wall Street Journal (sorry if I've featured this one before);
- [2]Making a Custom Day Planner - [3]Kyla Roma - Some downloadable templates;
- [4]Filofax US Design Comp Entry - [5]Recycled Content
- [6]Hidden To-Do list - Plaything

And my other finds of the week were a couple of Filofax type organisers that my Mother bought but they don't appear to have been used. One is Personal size the other Pocket, but don't get too excited, they are both fairly cheap looking PVC covered binders with undated contents. History 'unknown' I might adapt one of them for my mileage record in the car!!! Being plastic they won't get harmed by the odd splash of rain when I open the car door.

I hope the rest of your week goes well. Take care.....

Steve

1. http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704723104576062231197795222.html?mod=WSJ_hps_sections_smallbusiness
2. <http://www.kylaroma.com/2011/01/making-a-custom-day-planner-part-one-making-a-plan-template-downloads/>
3. <http://www.kylaroma.com/>
4. <http://recycledcontent.blogspot.com/2011/01/our-entry.html>
5. <http://recycledcontent.blogspot.com/>
6. <http://cmfwood.blogspot.com/2011/01/whoever-would-have-thought-that-doing.html>

Claire (2011-01-19 03:34:14)

Thanks for the post, Steve! Liking the homage to all things filofax!

Claire

Alison Reeves (2011-01-19 07:55:02)

I love these posts linking to other filofax stories - I probably would never find them by myself!! Thanks from me too!

Amanda (2011-01-19 14:22:18)

Always great to hear news from around the world and many things I would never find.

Incidentally, which one of us is responsible for putting the amount raised up by £13 today??? Wow - great total! (We are such a bunch of enablers - who survives with ONE filofax, when you could have seven... or more?)

As ever - excellent posts!

Amanda

the FOLD (2011-01-19 22:13:51)

Thanks for including our entry in your finds!

Greg's question: where do you write your notes? (2011-01-18 22:39)

Our good friend Greg emailed me with a question that many Filofax users (myself definitely included) have struggled with: where do you write notes? Here's his question with specifics:

"If people use a personal size or smaller Filo, what do they write all their notes in?

The Filo? or do they carry index cards, Field Notes, Moleskine, scraps of paper?

I can't imagine not having something besides the Filo.

I have been carrying a "reporters" notepad and it seems to work.

Just wondering?"

I replied that in my case, it depends. Basically, I write anything I need to keep with me or want to handle on a daily basis in my Personal Filofax. Anything that stays at home only goes in my A5 home Filo. And when I was working, I had to have separate notebooks and folders for work projects. I kept work stuff completely out of my Filo.

Where do you write your notes?

justenoughsalt (2011-01-18 22:52:09)

my personal filo has a back pocket on the inside that fits a filed notes size notebook easily. random things that i should write down that dont already have a specified section would go in there. then once a week or so, i would go through whatever is in the field notebook and file it from there....wherever that maybe.

i also tend to write everything as a bullet-point so that makes it easier for me to file the bit of info away, and add bits together when need be.

Pete Mac (2011-01-19 00:43:56)

I carry a little Rhodia notepad. Its pages fit inside my pocket and personal filofaxes fine.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-19 03:57:04)

I have a few sheets in my filofax for odd notes (for example noting down something in a shop).

For work related things, I generally work and go to meetings with what I call my 'day book'. I also keep this on my desk. Anything I need to write down, for example phonen numbers, notes from phone calls etc etc. It's all in one place so I know where to look. I use an A4 snopake noteguard book, spiral bound with hard cover and ruler. Nice paper - you can use a fountain pen with it with no problems. Trouble is they are hard to find now!

David Popely (2011-01-19 06:20:36)

My Filofax is set up for GTD and section 1 is the 'Notes/In' section - so anything I need to note down does in there. That way its all captured, in the Filofax, ready for me to sort out the projects/next actions phase. A second notebook would cause the system to break down - the whole point of GTD is that it all gets captured in one place, and for me that's the Filofax

Alison Reeves (2011-01-19 06:46:16)

David - what about meeting notes etc? Do you capture those in the same place?

Kels (2011-01-19 11:32:33)

yay first comment...

I use a small mead notebook currently. I need to pick up some Moleskine Cahiers to put in the back of my Domino. Also for quick small notes, I tend to write them on the Filo Jot pads.

Filofreak (2011-01-19 13:20:49)

I put things on blank pages (in pretty colors) that I leave in the "notes" tab of my Filo. That is for personal only and I check that each night when I get home for things I need to do or bring for work the next day. If I am at work, I just keep notes on a legal pad.

Yvotchka (2011-01-19 14:09:33)

Now carrying a Pocket Filo, I have a "Notes" tab that captures all my notes on the go. This could be a cool quote, someones phone number (preferably someone hot and single...) or whatever. Then later on I disseminate the information to where it needs to go. Quotes to the Commonplace Book that stays at home, phone numbers into my phone, etc.

So far its working and I have a Filo small enough to carry with me no matter what.

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-19 15:27:46)

I use note cards (index cards) that slot into my back pocket of my personal Malden. I always have a couple of blank ones in there when I need to jot things down.

Katie (2011-01-19 16:50:04)

My pocket filo has a blank piece of paper between each week (week on two pages format). On one side I write a to do list, and on the other all my notes for the week.

Alannarama (2011-01-19 17:42:07)
Just on lined paper behind the Notes tab!

James Franklin (2011-01-19 17:53:26)
I use Filofax's leather-made jot pad so that I can file all my notes in my organiser. I used to use a small notebook separately but only found it inconvenient if my notes scattered around.

David Popely (2011-01-20 02:01:11)
Hi Alison
Yes - exactly the same for meeting notes.....random ideas, things I need to 'place' within the overall GTD system, etc etc etc. They *all* go in the small 'notes/in' section of the Filofax and then get processed afterwards. I commonly go to London on business and have 6 or 7, maybe 8 meetings in two days. When I get back I have 8 sides of notes, all in one place, which I can then sort into 'next actions' or 'projects' a la GTD - then I can either set aside an hour the next morning following my return, or include them in my weekly review. For further information I would recommend David Allen's excellent article at <https://secure.davidco.com/store/catalog/ORGANIZING-A-PAPER-PLANNER-p-16162.php>. The article is free (along with a bunch of other stuff) but I think you have to sign up to get it.

Gregorym (2011-01-20 06:10:27)
Love the fact we got so many great comments on this subject.
I have a notes page. I happen to get into deep heavy notes meetings and the small pages just aren't enough. I like the spiral bound notebook idea just for the meeting purpose.
One of Donald Trump's executives was at a seminar I attended a couple of years ago and he swore by the spiral bound notebook he writes in everyday. He puts all thoughts, phone conversations, and scribbles in this notebook and buys them thin enough that they are only used for one month and then a new one is started. He dates the front cover with the month and year and then files them. I actually had forgotten about this seminar until recently I stumbled upon the handout he gave us all. Great points from all though.
Thanks You!!

David Popely (2011-01-20 09:53:55)
hi Gregory
That's a great idea....although I'd still be nervous of 'splintering' my system....at the moment the old Filofax adage 'Everything in hand' applies! Any memory of that exec's name? Maybe he has a blog somewhere.....would be worth reading!
David

Gregorym (2011-01-20 16:21:39)
Found it!
George Ross at a "Get Motivated" conference held in Baltimore, Maryland. This is a "Zig" Ziglar" conference I have attended for a couple of years. I usually invite my store managers to attend, it's amazing and a lot of fun. Zig and George both have websites.

JJ (2011-01-20 19:33:56)
I use a Filo Mini.. or a Rhodia pad ... or a seed/feed company notebook
(I pick these up on Ebay in quantity and love them for the novelty, and they're being as anti-Moleskine as one can get).

David Popely (2011-01-21 01:59:58)
Hi Gregory - thanks so much, I'll check him out! Zig Ziglar I am familiar with and I have his audio series on goal setting. Great stuff - thanks again. David

gmax (2011-01-22 17:40:50)

I find a separate file holding only plain and/or lined paper is the perfect thing to keep by the desk for notes. I also use one of the small jotter pads mounted in a leather credit card holder.

Free For All Friday No. 114 (2011-01-20 23:24)

I don't know about you all, but my plans were completely derailed this week. It was one of those weeks where all my written plans went out the window. And it's not just me—several other people I talked to said this week was crazy and their plans changed a lot.

Something that Filofax planner systems are great for is the ability to remove pages and start over. For example, it looks like my spring and summer will be so completely different from what I expected, rather than white-out everything I've written in already I'm going to just buy a new monthly insert and replace the pages.

In a similar line, all the notes and reference material in my Filofax that will no longer be relevant soon can be archived and replaced, so I'm not stuck with irrelevant information in my planner for the rest of the year.

How does your Filofax help you adapt when your plans change radically?

And as always on Fridays, feel free to post comments about anything Filofax-related! :)

Happy Friday everyone!

Steve (2011-01-21 03:28:17)

In my appointments Filofax, (currently the A4!) I write appointments in pencil rather than pen, because my plans do change quite often.

But in my journal Filofax (currently my Personal) I write in pen.

But the flexibility helps with travelling plans. I archive completed to-do's and task notes quite often now in my Pocket to keep the bulk down.

caribbean princess (2011-01-21 07:03:25)

The filofax is so adaptable and it is easy to reorganise sections, remove old pages for archiving and change your diary format without having to change your entire diary.

nothing beats the flexibility of a filofax!

Jotje (2011-01-21 07:10:14)

I noticed that the first Amethyst Deco made its appearance on Ebay. Looks nice, but geez what a price! Ban or no ban - this isn't going to get into my collection ... ;-)

@steve: ever tried the erasable Pilot Frixion gel pens? Works like a charm and made me forget all about pencils!

SNARLing: (2011-01-21 08:38:29)

i also use pencil for most things but for stuff that's TOTALLY necessarily (and that i have a tendency to think i have more time for like BILLS DUE) i write in colour coordinated pen (money stuff is green). i so love that i can re-arrange my filofax. i do it constantly as i hate bulk and anything unnecessary gets archived immediately. i also like that i can try things out for like a week or so and if it doesn't work i can do something else. love that.

on another note, did any users happen to notice that they took the guildford slim off the filofaxusa site! i thought the guildford was a major staple! i'm hoping that it only means that there will be new and improved slimlines like a malden slim or a chameleon slim! ooh. i'd be in trouble if that were the case...

shepcraig (2011-01-21 08:50:43)

The Guildford has been removed from the range in the UK as well, it may be that they have some left on the website, but it is being deleted.

caribbean princess (2011-01-21 09:42:00)

Jotje. The price for the amethyst deco is ridiculous! I still prefer the ruby and think it will make a nice christmas or birthday present to myself this year.

Louloudorset introduced me to frifixions. Currently waiting for my order to arrive! :-)

justenoughsalt (2011-01-21 11:37:16)

lately i have been wishing that the ruled paper came in a wider ruled form. maybe it is just me...

Filofreak (2011-01-21 11:40:24)

I also write things that I think could change in pencil, but also have color coordinated pens for bills or payday (green) etc. I don't like to do whiteout because it gets messy and then if I have to look back I can see what I originally had planned.

Yes, the amethyst Deco is beautiful! I would love to add to my collection, but alas it is much too expensive and NO NEW FILOS FOR ME THIS YEAR!

Laurie (2011-01-21 11:43:52)

colie I completely agree, the lines are too narrow for me. I wish they were 6mm, my perfect ruling.

And, I wish the lines on the To Do forms were narrower! The To Do forms that come in the Lifestyle Packs (Family, Travel and City Dweller) have narrower spacing that is just perfect. But unfortunately those versions are not available to purchase separately.

Amanda (2011-01-21 15:22:03)

Jotje; Laurie,

I know exactly what you mean about the line-spacings - the ruled paper is a bit too thin and the to-do list way too wide! Glad I'm not alone on this!

Now, a dilemma I hope you can help me with... you may recall the book-o-fax issue - I like to keep reviews of the books I've read as well as lists of things I want to read and until yesterday, they were residing at the back of my 'home' filo (which I use much more for notes and the work I do from home), in the third A-Z in the filo (don't ask... it's complicated!). Yesterday, I realised my filo was now so full that I can't turn the pages properly and not very portable and it was the books stuff or the diary that had to give up its place, so I took all the book stuff out (making the filo usable and portable!). Hence, I am contemplating a book-o-fax.

On the French Filofax site, they have the jade Finchley at 1/2 price... what's the colour of it really like? Is the screen colour (which looks quite pale) accurate? Even with the £ to euro as shocking as it is, it's still less than £80 including postage and I am tempted to get it to use as my home filo and shift the book stuff into the current home one...

Or... do I wait until the new colours come out in spring, with the possibility that they could be nicer than the jade, or that they **aren't** as nice as the jade, but by then the jades are all sold...

So, since you are all such a lovely group of enablers... advice please???

Amanda

Laurie (2011-01-21 15:24:33)

I say get the jade Finchley because it will be gone very soon, but the new colors will be around all year (and longer, on ebay).

Just my 2 cents!

Amanda (2011-01-21 15:28:44)

:-)

I really don't need much persuading... I'm just not 100 % about the colour if it is that pale, in case it looks grubby really quickly as it would be the one I carried around with me more than the book-o-fax one.

Amanda (2011-01-21 16:10:43)

that said, I would REALLY like to see a pale blue filo in FInchley...

Petra (2011-01-21 16:21:09)

Amanda, get the jade green Finchley. I have it and it is gorgeous. I have some pictures of it compared to several other colors on Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/11324386@N08/5311601564/>

Petra (2011-01-21 16:24:36)

Oh, I meant to add that I keep my jade Finchley at home, not because of the color, which I think could take quite a bit (it is rich, not pale), but because of the soft leather. I just don't want to scratch or otherwise mar such a gorgeous binder!

Amanda (2011-01-21 16:31:31)

Ooh - the colour I **really** want is the colour of the domino next to the jade finchley. That's glorious!!!
How many filofaxes do you have btw?? They all look beautiful - especially the B & N ones. Mmmmmmmmmmm.

Ashykay (2011-01-21 21:14:05)

Petra - looked at your gorgeous Filofax collection pictures. I just got the Chameleon in red...is the Spring Green bright green or is it actually that dusty darker green as per your pictures? On the Filofax website it's almost a really bright green!!! If it is darker I really like it and might get a personal one in this colour!

Sam (2011-01-22 08:38:51)

Little post on my blog..about my filofax obsession, if you are interested!
Sam

plaiditude (2011-01-22 13:18:34)

Sam: what is your blog link? When I click on your name it shows quite a few blogs

justenoughsalt (2011-01-22 17:44:54)

@amanda...you may not like this BUT i would actually recommend using an online pinboard for your books. i am very fond of <http://pinterest.com/>
easy to use, easy on the eyes, and easy on the budget (free)
i have been thinking of starting a filofax board on there but i don't have the motivation to pin every single make in every single color....

Amanda (2011-01-23 07:32:41)

Hi Colie,

Hmm - had a quick look and I'm not sure it's for me... I currently have about 100 book reviews I have on filofax A5-sized and punched paper that I wrote after reading the books (hence me being barely able to use or carry the filofax with them in it!). They are now sitting in a box, tied up with ribbon, awaiting a new home.

Much as I adore the Finchley (so soft...) it is a bit of a luxury for a filing system so I think I will wait and see what new colours the Domino range has in spring (added bonus - 30mm rings!).

I'm not a very electronic person for some things - yes I blog and email and text and Facebook... but I love writing on paper too. I don't think I would ever look at the pinboard thing.

But thanks for thinking of me!! :)

Petra (2011-01-25 22:57:53)

Amanda, which color Domino were you referring to? I have the Finchley pictured next to the blue and aqua. Haven't counted my filofaxes lately, so don't know what I'm up to :-)

Ashley, I see what you mean about the Chameleon on the Filofax(usa) website - that looks almost neon green! It's not like that at all, it's quite subdued. I thought it would be a sage green when I ordered it (from another vendor), but the B & N one I have next to it in my picture is a true sage and the Chameleon has a lighter, brighter green background and drab olive "hearts" in the foreground. The olive tones down the overall look and I'd say is actually the predominant tone. I chose the spring green not only because I didn't have a green filofax, but because it looked most "chameleon-like" of all the colors available, shifting shade depending on what you focus on!

Amanda (2011-01-26 15:27:15)

@Petra - think it must be the aqua - the smaller of the 2 dominos in your envy-inducing pictures :-) It's a fantastic colour!!! I do hope that Filofax bring out some nice colours in their new spring range when it comes!

Reader needs advice: Filofax in graduate school (2011-01-23 04:06)

Reader Kathleen needs some planner advice and inspiration. She'll be starting graduate school this autumn and wants a system that can keep it all together. I know many of us are currently or have used a Filofax in grad school, so we can give her some advice! Here's Kathleen:

"Hi Everyone,

I am new to Filofax, and Philofaxy, having been converted from Franklin Covey, so Laurie suggested I ask for some advice here.

I am thinking about getting either the Domino Pocket, the Finsbury Pocket, or the Metropol Pocket.

See, I have always had a problem regarding planners, and journals. I will end up getting a planner, and journal, using them for about a month or so, then stop, and then going and getting a new planner and journal and use those and then begin the cycle all over again! I have told myself for the past three years every New Year that I will get a final planner and journal and that will be it! Although, I always recycle the paper, cover etc., gift it to a friend, or am able to return it, I am sick of wasting money on my "little problem" (as my Mom puts it LOL), and I want to be able to find a system that I can stick with. I also want to find a system that I am comfortable using, that I will stick with, and that I will be able to use for the following:

1. Weekly /MonthlyPlanning
2. To Do Lists
3. Notes

I am going to graduate school in September, and would like to be able to incorporate notes on assignments, my thesis, book ideas, yoga journaling etc. within the planner as well. I have tried to do this many times before, but have failed.

For some reason, with my planning and journaling, I want them to be separate from one another. My planner for organization and my journal for well, journaling.

Anyway, just let me know.

Thanks,

Kathleen"

Kathleen, I used a personal size Filofax in grad school and it worked really well for me. My first reaction is, I wonder if a pocket size will be big enough/ give you enough space to write everything you need. I know some grad students use the A5 size to keep it all together.

My biggest advice is to have a section where your requirements for completing your degree are listed clearly: any courses you are required to take, papers and their due dates, research proposals etc. Especially if you have more than one advisor (I had 3) you have to make sure everyone is on the same page. They often forget what they agreed on earlier and later may spring new "requirements" on you. I saved myself an extra semester of unnecessary work by writing out what my advisors had agreed on at the beginning of my course, and reminding them of that later.

The list of required classes is especially useful when you are registering for classes and discover one you intended to sign up for is already full. You can just look at your list and sign up for a different class that you need.

Can anyone else give more advice to Kathleen? Thanks everyone!!

Laurie (2011-01-23 04:36:05)

I meant to include the link to Kyla's blog post about how to set up a planner for her PhD program. Here's the link"

<http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/01/i-need-your-help-how-should-i-organise.html>

She has gotten some great advice from people so be sure to read the comments. :)

justenoughsalt (2011-01-23 04:46:25)

i don't think any grad student could survive on a filofax pocket. a personal maybe, a pocket NO way!

the real choice for you is between a personal and an A5. to get there you need to get real about the field you are studying and what needs to be written down/tracked...

if 99 % of your time will be spent on a computer

if your penmanship is on the larger size

if you will need to "search" your notes for key terms or data

if your notes will consist of data sets, statistics, modeling, or code of any kind

if you write more than 1 college ruled page of notes per hour

if you take notes in pencil because you erase and/or correct often

...do NOT even try to take lecture notes in a personal size.

honestly i think it is a bad idea to take notes in a filofax period. the line spacing is too small, i can barely fit my laptop and my personal on any individual desks in classrooms, the paper is just not free enough for my hand to write notes, pics, arrows, notations as freely as i require in lecture.

ALL of that aside...the filofax system itself can not be beat in terms of ability for you to customize a system for tracking advisor appts, library hours, financial coordinating, grading, deadlines, reading lists, plus all the other organizing which lets face it we spend as much time coordinating as our actual research. i would say start with a week on two pages and see if you need to move up to the day per page or even two pages per day refills.

my semester just started so i am using two days per page refills but i also acknowledge the fact that two weeks before midterms i can easily upgrade to the day per page refills if necessary.

lastly...i know this is A LOT but the "day planner" pages are a godsend! stick them wherever whenever you need more room to expand your schedule.

<http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/paperessentialsdetails.asp?productId=140>

i might have tweaked this if i knew what you were studying...or if it wasnt 4:44am...or if i had slept in the last 24

Laurie (2011-01-23 04:49:46)

Personally I don't think you should take any class notes in a Filofax at all. It would quickly get too full and heavy, and too difficult to find anything. I always used a separate notebook or binder for each class. But as colie said, it's very useful to keep track of those administrative details of your degree in your Filo.

Alannarama (2011-01-23 05:12:44)

I'm a medical student. I use a pocket size and it works fine for me; I use week on 2 pages and on the rare occasion that a day needs more space or details, simply add a note page in the middle of the week. Notes to keep get filed in the A-Z index at the back.

Lawrence (2011-01-23 05:54:06)

Hi, Maybe someone of your readers might help me. Some time ago, in one of the entries, there was a link to a company other than Filofax which produces a wide range of organisers and refills. If I recall correctly the company was French and the website was very colourful and informative. Unfortunately I cannot trace this site. Can someone lead me to it?

Lawrence

Steve (2011-01-23 06:30:37)

Lawrence, I think you are referring to Quo Vadis in this post:

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/09/alternative-refills-for-your-f-ilofax.html>

Contact me if you need further help with their range, as I am using some of their refills

Regards

Steve

Laurie (2011-01-23 06:31:08)

Lawrence, I think you mean the Quo Vadis inserts that fit certain sizes of Filofaxes. Here is Steve's post about them:

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/09/alternative-refills-for-your-f-ilofax.html>

If this isn't it let me know and I can dig around some more! :)

Laurie (2011-01-23 06:32:17)

Posted at the same time! LOL

Amanda (2011-01-23 07:15:05)

You **might** get away with a pocket if your appointments and to-dos are quite small and manageable, if you have just one supervisor and your classes are really straightforward and if (as many others on here have suggested) you take class notes in a separate folder/notebook (I would suggest A4/letter sized, personally). I have a pretty straightforward job and appointments schedule and I run an A5 as I could never get on with a personal, so the concept of using a pocket is incredible (but I realise I do have an A5 bias!! As much because I use custom pages more than anything else provided by Filofax so prefer the ability to print my own and cut to size really easily).

I don't know what your grad class is in so don't know how complicated your schedule is. Maybe if it's pretty straightforward, you will cope with a pocket. Just be sure to know all your deadlines, classes and meetings with your supervisor(s) - if you can do that in a pocket, well done!

Alannarama - you say you're a med student and cope with a pocket. I assume you have a separate notebook for notes taken in classes?

caribbean princess (2011-01-23 07:18:14)

Hello Kathleen

As Laurie said in the first comment please do read that post as many people have given me great comments. I am currently trialling the week date option while I wait on inserts for my filofax which you can read here

<http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/01/choosing-phd-planner-option-1-weekdate.html>

This will give you an idea of what my current workload is like.

Personally I think a pocket would be too small and a personal size is better (although Alannarama if you are running up and down wards as a med student then definitely a pocket size!) Look at the templates in the Files section of Philofaxy and DIY planner website.

here is a good template from them for recording your weekly lecture schedule

<http://www.diyplanner.com/node/5616>

I will post how I use my filofax for grad school in the future.

Good luck!

Nellie (2011-01-23 10:08:29)

I use a personal to cover both work and home, although I take meeting notes etc in a bound notebook. I am not sure filo is really the right product for note taking in lectures etc. It is great for organizing and making sure you turn up at your lectures though! I wonder if a pocket might be a bit small, depending on how much you need to keep track of.

Good luck and let us know what you decide!

Rori (2011-01-23 11:09:45)

Here's what I found out about Dominos: The inside is a really soft suede (faux suede?) but it gets icky FAST. Just something to keep in mind...

kanalt (2011-01-23 11:12:58)

I have to say that I agree with those who said a pocket might be too small for this. That was my first thought when reading your post. I hadn't yet found Filofax when I was in grad school, but I know that I was using an A5 equivalent just for class schedules, assignments, deadlines, and to-dos, and that sometimes got filled up very quickly. It may depend on how many classes you take at a time.

Taking notes in a Filo is do-able if your handwriting is small, but yes, the lines are pretty narrow. Again, depending on how many classes you take at a time, you may end up with a pretty heavy Filo. Pocket ring size probably wouldn't even allow for that if you wanted to keep all of those notes with out throughout the semester.

Good luck and keep us posted!

Lawrence (2011-01-23 11:23:33)

Hi Steve and Lauri,

Thanks for the link to the Quo Vadis website but I am sure there was another company. Maybe it was not French but surely not the Australian one.

Still, thanks for your help.

(..by the way, I am an avid Filofax user. Presently I have more than ten each dedicated to a particular use).

Best regards,

Lawrence

Alannarama (2011-01-23 15:42:04)

@Amanda - goodness, yes. I didn't realise "notes" meant class notes. I don't have lectures anymore - currently study notes are on index cards or clipped into battered textbooks - but back in the day I had an A4 lever arch file for each subject - I never even considered someone might use a filofax for class notes but in that case yes a pocket would be way too small!!

The notes I have filed in the back are things like marks schemes for coursework I'm working on, the opening hours and access codes for clinical skills labs in every hospital in the county, my car insurance details, a list of what i need to bring to my interview tomorrow... I think it's impossible to say what will work for someone unless you know EXACTLY how they're going to use it, actually.

Jotje (2011-01-24 03:46:13)

While an A5 might be the most roomy solution, my guess is that you might leave it at home over time, because it tends to get so bulky. I would definitely recommend the Personal, especially since there's a lot of more options in terms of refills!

If you need your Filo to lay flat, the Domino would be a great option, cos it's flat as a dime. Not so much for the Finsbury (Metropol I honestly don't know). Always check Ebay, there might be a cheap leather Filo in it after all!

@Lawrence: other refill options for the Personal size:

www.dayrunner.com (portable size)

www.daytimer.com (portable size)

Or Chronoplan.de.

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-24 04:20:35)

I upgraded from a pocket to A5 when I started on my PhD but have now downgraded (in size!) to a personal as the A5 was just too bulky/heavy to take every-where with me and I had a tendency to want to leave it at home. The personal works great for me but I would not use it for lecture notes. I do use my A5 at home as a resource file - supervisory meeting notes etc so it is at hand when I need to access information.

Laurie (2011-01-25 04:32:41)

Thanks so much for all of your comments everyone! Just to clarify, Kathleen does NOT plan to take class notes in her Filofax. She will use separate notebooks etc. for coursework.

Is it a he or a she? (2011-01-23 08:43)

I was reading a blog post this morning about someone's new Filofax set up and the following thought occurred to me....

Does your Filofax have a particular gender? Is it a he or a she... ? Does it have a name?

Answers in the comments....

caribbean princess (2011-01-23 09:05:47)

Ok I have 13 filofaxes now of which 11 are females. I tend to call them by according to the name of the filofax (e.g Adelphi)except for the mini jade green finchley and mini pink finsbury which I call Spring and Rose respectively. The Spots filo I call Spotty.

The males are the A5 Hampstead (which DH uses as a notebook) and the Black A5 Domino craft-o-fax.

Oh dear I am probably quite strange! I hope I am not the only one who does this! ;-)

Jess (2011-01-23 09:12:45)

all of mine are definitely girls. but that might be because i only have classically girly filofaxes, such as the pink finsbury and almond amazona! when i'm picking a new filo i go for luxury and style over function, so that's probably why i don't have any of the more masculine ones like chino.

tommies-net (2011-01-23 09:26:32)

Mine are all "he"s, but that's mainly, because a Filofax is always a he in German...

Thomas

Louloudorset (2011-01-23 09:29:16)

Mine are all girls, apart from the Deco who is a Lady ;0)

caribbean princess (2011-01-23 10:27:47)

haha Loulou I agree, the Deco is definitely a lady of the manor!

michele (2011-01-23 10:56:21)

"Filo" is always a she, and she's a very posh pocket "Eton" ;-).

Amanda (2011-01-23 11:13:51)

Ooh - what an interesting question! I don't know that mine are either male or female and they have the names 'home' and 'work' which is a bit functional really! Do I lack imagination maybe??

Amanda

kanalt (2011-01-23 11:26:18)

Interesting to see that for the most part (as there are some differences), females mainly choose a "female" Filo and males choose a "male" Filo. =)

I hadn't thought about this - I mainly just refer to my Filo as "My Filo" or "My planner" or "The Planner."

But thinking about my Malden, it is definitely a he. His name is Malden. He is masculine, handsome, tough, strong and well-groomed, yet he has a soft and gentle side. He always knows what I need and can anticipate what that is. He is willing to change as I need him to, and he allows me to alter him to reflect that needed change without complaint. He is my love. He is the perfect gentleman! (Lol - don't let my husband read this!)

As for my others - both Slimlines are male, as well as my Richmond. The black and brown Dominos are male but the red is female for some reason. My Jade Finchley is female. My chocolate classic could really go either way. The Guildford is male. The Ochre Malden is also male. None of them have different names from what they are, expect for the ones that have a specific purpose (Me binder and reference Binder).

Why are mine mostly male?

Alison Reeves (2011-01-23 11:35:56)

My special edition Swarovski is a Giddy Female, and my Ivory Deco is a Lady. My Vintage Rose Finchley is a little more Girlish, and my A5 Bronze domino is a dominatrix. My slimline Adelphi is an 'It Girl' or 'Girl about Town'. However my A4 Classic in Cherry is definately male. I just wish I could think of really useful jobs for each of them! They have a really easy life with me with very little work to do! I regret not buying the personal Almond Amazona when they were on offer - she would have been one classy lady.

Butanben (2011-01-23 14:03:53)

Most certainly a she Filofaxers. Don't think many male Filofaxes would feel comfortable sporting an array of glittery stickers with pride. Although I may be wrong..... maybe there is many a male philofaxer who stickers away out there in Blog Land???? It's certainly fun to do!!

Iris (2011-01-23 15:19:21)

I don't think of my Filofaxes as "male" or "female". As Thomas pointed out before, in German every noun has its gender, so I refer to my Filofax as "he" - like I would to a chair or a table.

Katie (2011-01-23 15:35:29)

I have one female and one male. Maybe they will breed and I can get new ones without paying for them?!

Filofreak (2011-01-23 18:32:25)

Huh! I never really thought about it, but I do like what Katie said about having Filo babies and not having to pay for them! Great idea!

Filofreak (2011-01-23 18:58:47)

Of course any pink or really "girlie" colors have to be a "she"!!

SNARLing: (2011-01-23 19:21:12)

heh heh. good one.

streamlined and ready, no flies on his chin - he'll get you there with a grin, he's the slim fin (black slimline finsbury, male, currently used in an 'on call' basis)

always ready for any hack, picking up any slack, this sleek one's got your back, he's the domino (black personal domino, male, currently holds this year - extras and archived. also 'tries out' new and improved layouts and designs)

is your patience like the taz? appointments, bills and all that jazz? use me baby i'm the pocket paz (black slimline pocket topaz, male - was up until yesterday the purse planner)

the proper place for the mainstay cal, needs for family, and EVERYTHING for this gal, so glad i have the p.a.o.l.-o mal (personal assistant of life - male - personal black malden - main planner holds everything)

high-spirited and tons o'fun

spicey, sassy and always on the run

she'll totally help you get it done

so at the end of the day you can be number 1

in line for that much needed rum introducing l'aranciata! (orange pocket finsbury. brand spanking new - will replace the pocket paz - it'll be flickered soon)

i love my planners like you all but man, my to-do list can really get the best of me sometimes. it helps to kookify it a bit - makes it all the more pleasurable crossing that sucker off the list

Timeless Expressions (2011-01-24 12:18:03)

I have two A5 ones.. a brown leather Classic and a bright pink A5 finsbury.. I also have a black Lyndhurst.. The brown leather one is most definately feminine.. I love how that one feels and has been my faithful friend for almost three years. However, I fancied a change, so went bright pink on my Finsbury.. not too sure if I'm liking the texture, but the colour is most definately girly! And the Lyndhurst.. well, as I put on my previous comment on another post, I'm not too sure of.. it's still got to win me over.. but that would most definately be a He! I'm not quite in love with it, but I'm sure it'll grow on me in time!!

Thought it was just me that had girly/boy'y filos.. lol..
xx

Petra (2011-01-25 18:42:17)

So, would the ivory Deco and the ochre Malden make a good couple? And what would their babies look like?!

Steve (2011-01-26 04:31:07)

Petra, You pose an interesting idea, which is almost worthy of another question...

Steve

Yvotchka (2011-01-26 08:52:06)

First off, Snarley I heart you! Frickin' clever girl.

Secondly, I don't think I ever thought about assigning a gender to my planners - although since I do refer to whichever one I am currently using as "my brain" I suppose that technically makes them all female.

Since acquiring the Raspberry & Aqua Pocket Fins, though, (my first foray into non-neutral colors) I admit I do think of those 2 as more girly.

Reader question: How to mark special appointments? (2011-01-24 04:43)

Reader Ashley has a very good question about how to highlight in her Filofax without messing up the pages. Please post comments with any advice!

"Hi there,

I am also new to the Philofaxy blog and love it already! I am an absolute planning freak....and I love my new red Chameleon pocket Filofax. I also have a personal sized Metropol and Domino and a Domino pocket. Think my next purchase might be a Finsbury!

I was wondering if anyone else who has used a pocket size as their day-to-day organiser could help me out - I had been highlighting in my diary (week to a view) all my important appointments (e.g. Credit card due this day). As has been mentioned in the blog, I now have realised that the pages are quite thin and the highlighting has been ruining my weeks in advance by seeping or showing through the pages.

I just wondered if anyone had any good suggestions as how to highlight those important reminders in your diary without actually using a "highlighter"? I have thought of using some coloured pens and marking stars next to those important dates/appointments, but thought someone may have some better suggestions.

Thanks for your help and your awesome Philofaxy blog.

Ashy the princess"

Jess (2011-01-24 04:50:23)

i usually write my important appointments/details for the day at the very top of the daily space, right next to the date. everything else goes underneath. that way, when i look at my week as a whole i can see whether there is a space beside the date or not and, if there is, i know there's something important to do that day. i don't like carrying a ton of pens around to colour code so this works well for me.

Timeless Expressions (2011-01-24 05:11:15)

I can't find the bit to write and question my won things.. but I keep my important things on a sticky pad that looks like a post it note, but they're clear.. new Avery ones from Staples.. really good!

However.. my question is.. I love my filofax and have had an A5 one for a few years now, and I love it.. but it doesn't quite fit in my bag so I downsized to a smaller one.. but I write dates in both diaries.. and take my smaller out with me..

How do you organise yourself if you use a A5.. take a smaller one? or use a bigger bag??? It's probably just me,

but it's confusing me and driving me to desperation!

Femke (2011-01-24 05:25:46)

I used to do colour coding, finances in red, appointments in blue, birthdays in pink, to dos in black etc. But that means that you have to bring lots of pens with you, so I stopped doing that. I now have post its for finances, so I don't have to write them down every month, I move them once it's done.

For the other stuff, I use the filofax to do lists and write down the other stuff in my week on 2 pages.

shepcraig (2011-01-24 05:50:01)

I use the filofax stickers to mark important items, there are various stickers fr various activities

Laurie (2011-01-24 06:59:46)

Jo, I will post your question re: A5 vs Personal size as a separate post. :)

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-24 08:18:55)

I have a small purple pen which I use. i either write the note in purple or put stars in purple around the black ink so it stands out.

I also use the little post-it notes that go in the rings (can't think of their name!) in the diary section if there is some-thing major going on in the week (& I can add notes on there).

Alison Reeves (2011-01-24 08:34:23)

I have traditionally used a red pen to mark birthdays, and am considering using colour more for other appointments. I am keen to get one of those pens that have 4 colours in it! I have a feeling Laurie did a post about them some time ago. Perhaps Laurie you can link to it? Means you only carry one pen, but have four colours to use!

Laurie (2011-01-24 09:09:31)

I like to use a normal Bic 4-color pen (red/black/blue/green inks) and use black for most things, red for important and due dates, blue for travel and green for exercise.

Recently I changed to the fancy-color 4-color pen (as I call it), here is my post about that:

<http://www.plannerisms.com/2010/12/bic-4-color-pen-in-fashion-colors .html>

M Ng (2011-01-24 09:27:06)

I use transparent stickers to mark important appointments on my planner pages. I own these, and other colors and shapes:

http://www.etsy.com/listing/64286280/mmmg-index-dot-trans-green-lemo_n?ref=sr_gallery_29&ga_search_query=transparent%2Bdeco&ga_search_type=all

For the convenience of highlighting without the bleed-through, you could try dry highlighters. There are wood-encased pencils like this:

<http://www.penciltalk.org/2009/05/faber-castell-textliner-1148-highlighting-pencil>

Levenger offers this refillable one:

<http://www.levenger.com/PAGETEMPLATES/PRODUCT/Product.asp?Params=Category=8-842|Level=2-3|pageid=5404>

I have an older model I've been using for years and years, which I love. It's handy for those of us that take notes in fountain pen ink.

justenoughsalt (2011-01-24 10:39:10)

stickers...and no they do not have to be girly. the filofax stickers are fine but like @M_Ng the transparent stickers are the best. plus you can reuse them.

second choice would be color coding.

Virelai (2011-01-24 12:57:21)

I agree with M NG :D

I use transparent stickers (mine are the size of a usual pagemaker) and put them above the important date. Very fast and clean and you can even "unhighlight" it again.

My other idea would have been the Faber-Castell Pens too, i prefer the green one! I bought mine in Germany (were I live), I don't know how available they are in your country.

Ashykay (2011-01-24 17:56:05)

Thanks so much for your suggestions! I decided to get the Big 4 colour pen like Laurie suggested and also some of the Filofax stickers -I won't miss an appointment ever again lol! :)

D (2011-01-25 18:35:20)

Pentel makes a bible highlighter with 8 different color leads in it. I got mine at a local outlet, but I'm sure you can google it and find one online. I love mine because the pencil highlights quite nicely without any bleedthrough.

Grace (2011-01-26 10:33:07)

I usually bubble/circle my appointments, use checkboxes for to do things for that day, and big letters for special events. If I need to see if I have a specific appointment, I just look for anything circled (in a bubble). Hope that makes sense. Sometimes if I'm home I'll color in the bubbles to make them stand out. There are highlighters that do not bleed through (or maybe I just color lightly).

The Big Debate: A5 vs. Personal size (2011-01-24 07:04)

Here is another reader question, on a topic that is frequently discussed here on Philofaxy: which is better, A5 or Personal size? Of course the answer depends on what you will use it for, and how much weight you are willing to carry around with you.

Here is reader Deirdre's email with questions regarding her specific situation. Any advice would be welcome, please post a comment!

"Hello Philofaxy!

In my quest to decide on a new filofax for graduate school, I came across your wonderful blog, and I'm enjoying reading it – especially the posts regarding how your writers and readers use their filofaxes – fascinating stuff!

My quandary is whether or not to buy an A5 or a Personal size filofax. In the past, I've used a Personal size, but sometimes found it too small. On the other hand, on a recent trip to a shop, I checked out the A5 binders, and while I love the size of the paper (I like lots of room to write and having some white space between my daily appointments and tasks), I'm not sure my back would appreciate lugging around such a heavy organizer. (While playing devil's advocate, I wondered if I lug around a Personal organizer, how much heavier is an A5 anyway?)

I'm writing to you because while I searched on your blog for an entry comparing the A5 and Personal size binders, I couldn't find such an entry. Have you written about this subject and I just missed it? If so, would it be possible for you to email me links to articles I might have missed, when you have a chance?

Alternatively, if you haven't covered this topic, is this one you might consider in future – such as articulating the pros and cons of the two sizes?

Any help you can offer would be most appreciated.

Thanks again for your wonderful blog, I plan to be a regular reader!

Kind regards,

Deirdre"

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-24 08:16:58)

I size downgraded from an A5 to a personal recently. The A5 was just too big to carry around with me but the personal will fit in my bag (& I can fit other items in too!!!).

There is not as much room but I am finding that I can adapt to this size.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-24 08:47:02)

I found the personal quite big for carrying around as well. I compromised and I use a pocket for carrying around (i.e. with my appointments and some personal notes) and my A5 which I leave on my desk which is my planner and has all work related info.

I have used a personal slimline in the past which is great for diary only, but a bit slim if you regularly carry around a lot of stuff.

The other idea I had recently which I need to action, is to use my filofax to hold info that I currently have and carry around in other containers. So, for example, I could carry my spare cards (i.e. library card and overflow store loyalty cards) in there as well as some of my business cards to save carrying a business card holder. In fact the less items I have in my bag the more room for the filofax.

My tip would be if you go for a personal, then check out the interior design to make sure you can make the most of it for storage of items that would reside in your bag in other containers.

Of course the other option is to get a much bigger bag - but not sure that is good for your shoulders/back in the future!!

Alison Reeves (2011-01-24 08:49:14)

PS I also occasionally take my A5 to meetings etc, but in this case it travels in my briefcase. Otherwise I use my 'day book' - a notebook in which I take all my notes.

Amanda (2011-01-24 10:18:31)

I will try and put forward my pros and cons regarding to two sizes (but I am a fairly committed A5 user, so am unashamedly biased!).

A5:

Pros:

Space. There is plenty of space to write notes. There is also plenty of space on the diary pages, even on WO2P to write quite a lot of appointments and also some to-do notes (especially, I find, if you use the vertical layout).

Home-made inserts. If you want to make your own pages it's as easy as anything to booklet print them on A4, chop them in half and punch them to go in the binder. Most of what is in my filofax are sheets like this. There are some excellent files of templates both here on the files pages, and also over on DIY planner (link on the files page).

I also have cheap dividers in mine, re-punched to fit (not classy, but functional) which are a lot cheaper than filofax versions (and come in many colours too).

Cons:

Big. Kind of the down-side to space! It depends on what you want to carry though and what for - I swapped to an A5 filofax at work because I was always carrying an A5 diary and an A4 notebook around with me. In comparison, the filofax is lighter! (And classier!)

More expensive: more expensive to buy in the first place and the inserts are more expensive to feed it with (unless you print your own, in which case they're cheaper).

Less variety: both in the binders and in the inserts. Other brands of inserts will fit in the personal size (and may suit you better than the filofax ones). Nothing else (as far as I can tell -please correct me if I'm wrong) fits in the A5 except Filofax without re-punching the holes.

Personal:

Pros:

More portable; bigger range of designs; bigger range of inserts; cheaper binders and bought inserts.

Cons:

Not as much (not enough, in my case) space to write; the rings can get in the way of writing more obviously; it's much harder to print custom sheets unless you print them onto filofax paper (not much of a saving though).

The Domino is lighter than the leather binders, so might relieve some of the portability issue. I couldn't tell you

a weight for weight comparison though.

I suppose it depends on what you want to use your filofax for. My work A5 stays at work - it is entirely a work thing. My home filofax mostly stays at home, but does come on trips with me. I don't feel naked if I leave the house without it though. I guess if you need to be glued to it, you would be better off with a Personal or smaller as the A5 is less portable. Maybe, as others on here do, you could use a pocket to carry around and then a bigger filofax at home to store and hold things?

Let us know what you choose to do!?

janet (2011-01-24 11:08:22)

I am a faithful A5 user.

It's very big and heavy and I lug it everywhere but it's worth it. I have tried to switch systems and tried to downsize but for my job and my life I would be carrying all the papers anyway, it's just the binder that weighs extra. And it keeps everything organised at my fingertips.

At the moment I am using a Siena in cinnamon but my faves are the Finsbury (can take a battering) and the domino snake (light and tough). The only time I switch is when I travel and then I use a mini.

I have been using an A5 for years. I like it because all my attendance registers and assignment briefings need to be in A4 so I just fold and punch them.

Love love love A5.

Laurie (2011-01-24 11:37:24)

I used a Personal size for several years before trying to move up to the A5 size. I've tried to use A5 several times since then and every time I go back to the Personal size because I travel a lot and like to take my Filofax with me everywhere but the A5 was just too big and heavy to take with me all the time. Plus there's a much better selection of maps and inserts for the Personal size.

deirdre (2011-01-24 12:05:19)

Hello all, this is from Deirdre, the reader who posted the question to Steve - so happy you all are replying so quickly, thank you!

Yes, sadly (or not?) I will likely need to have the filofax with me at all times, not just living on a desk at work or home - I'm currently in graduate school and hope to graduate to a job in investigative journalism, so I plan to use the filofax now for keeping track of school work, deadlines, assignments, appointments, etc., (always on the go) and foresee using it as a working journalist to keep track of (concurrent) work deadlines, scheduling interviews and keeping track of sources, etc.

I know my eyes prefer having a larger page to write on and seeing some white space, so as not to get overwhelmed with long lists and not knowing what to tackle first, but I wonder if I will loathe carrying around a large and heavy binder. I have used a Personal size filofax in the past, with moderate success - I think I became turned off by the binder itself, not the filofax system (I had an older one, no longer available, that zipped up [aka bulky] and never laid flat, so it was often cumbersome to write in. If it helps to know, I like the looks of the Chameleon line, so that's the one I'm thinking of, though the Domino is an appealing option to balance out the weight issue if I go with an A5.

I really appreciate your advice - if there are any other details I could provide that would help, please let me know - and thanks again!

David Popely (2011-01-24 12:44:28)

This really is becoming The Big Debate, isn't it...!

Most people here know that I downsized from A5 to Personal on a permanent basis at the new year. So far my Personal is holding up....just. I run a small business with a *lot* of task micro-management, and I've been experimenting with GTD, with varying degrees of success, trying to tweak the system to my own needs.

I *certainly* don't feel comfortable carrying the A5 when I go out after work or at weekends....do I really want to lug that thing around to the gym, the shops....? My Personal fits nicely in my hand, or I can slip it in my laptop bag when I go travelling on business, which is frequently.

I think I can manage my tasks with the Personal...and I think that if *I* can do it, anyone ought to be able to! Now diary format is another subject! At the moment I'm persevering with the Week on 2 pages vertical format

with appointments which Jotje kindly got for me and sent over from Holland....but I could really do with more space. But then again that mitigates against the GTD philosophy of diaries.....so the jury's out on that one. But size-wise the thought of having to lug about the A5 is too much to make me go back to it - even though I sometimes would like the space. Actually, being committed to staying with the Personal makes me concentrate on how I can most efficiently manage all my information, which is a *good* thing. So my vote goes with the Personal. But if you want to know more about how I use it, email me at davidpopely (at) googlemail (dot) com and I'll be happy to share

JJ (2011-01-24 13:10:12)

I want a binder that is Personal sized when closed and an A5 when open.

Laurie (2011-01-24 13:41:12)

JJ I want that too!!! I guess technically it's possible to have a smaller binder with larger pages that can fold out open and fold in to close, but folding and unfolding pages all the time is too fiddly for me.

Amanda (2011-01-24 15:26:59)

JJ, Laurie: I want one of those too!! No... not to have to do the unfolding and all that doo-dah. It would work by magic! It would be small and snug like a personal but then, da-daaaaahhhh! Open it up and lo and behold, it would be A5!

Saffy (2011-01-24 16:03:20)

I just weighed a personal domino and an A5 domino, both new and made of the same materials, unused 'out of the box' so to speak so both only have the pages they originally came with. The weight difference is; Personal 374g or the A5 786g providing my kitchen scales are correct.

Laurie (2011-01-24 16:19:31)

Wow that is a big difference!!

Alison Reeves (2011-01-24 17:47:45)

If anyone watches Doctor Who, we need a tardis like filofax that is small on the outside and massive on the inside!

Femke (2011-01-25 02:54:59)

I have a personal filofx at the moment, but it's overstuffed. I have a small bag and since I carry a lot with me anyways, I can't justify carrying around an A5 filofax, although that would be my dream.

I'm working with a WO2P, but have also ordered the WO1P, without the notes bc that was sold out, so I'll have to add in the notes myself. I'll see how that works, because I work with post its a lot.

Alison, a Tardis like Filofax would be a dream come true!!

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-25 03:52:00)

A tardis filofax sounds fab - can I put my name on the waiting list please?!

I have a personal Malden which I love. Lays open and great interior design (including a notepad in the back). Really, really happy with it (& I normally swap and change fairly often).

Steve (2011-01-25 14:57:00)

Hi Everyone.

Thanks to you all for a great response to this question that arrived in the Philofaxy in-box yesterday just as I was in the process of doing some final packing to escape, sorry travel back to France! So thank you to Laurie for fielding this one.

Your thoughts mirror mine exactly, the A5 is great if you don't mind the size and potential weight.

My 'fully loaded' A5 Finsbury weighs in at 1155 grams, where as my also 'fully loaded' Finsbury Personal tips the scales at 590 grams, which is similar in proportion to the weights Saffy quoted ie double. I've not weighed the A4 yet!!! Mind you I've not added many pages to it yet!

I suspect my Pocket isn't that much lighter than the personal because of the amount of stuff I have in it including

coins.

I got back to France this afternoon so I'm still unpacking and catching up!

Thanks everyone

Regards

Steve

deirdre (2011-01-26 10:45:15)

Hi all, thank you so much for your thoughtful replies, it is much appreciated! I had to laugh when the conversation took a turn toward science fiction – if I had my wish, I'd like that magical filofax to be pocket size on the outside and a5 on the inside...alas!

I really appreciate all the advice and information, particularly the weight stats – so helpful! I just got out my kitchen scale and weighed a jug of maple syrup and it's a little more than Steve's 1155g A5, and it seemed like quite a bit to carry in my shoulder bag everywhere I go. I was also reminded of the video a filofax user from Aberdeen posted about her aqua finsbury – I think she said hers might weigh somewhere toward 7lbs, but she was just guessing based on the total weight of her bag.

As much as I want an A5, I think I'm the type of person that if I give myself an inch in terms of what I'd put in my filo, I'd take a mile, and mine might start to head toward the 7lb mark rather than the original 2.5lb/1155g estimated starting point – so now I'm leaning toward the Personal size. It's funny because if any of the stores near me that carry filofax had the A5 Chameleon in stock when I first started looking, I would have bought it in a second, but with all this time to weigh (literally) my options, I might now choose something I was convinced at first I didn't want.

David's point about confining tasks to the space available in the Personal-size page makes a lot of sense, and Amanda's comment about the cost of the larger filo made me pause. The last thing I'd want is to invest in a slightly higher-end A5 and then find that I didn't want to carry it around because it was so heavy. I think those of you that do carry the A5 daily are probably a lot tougher than me! Plus, I may often be carrying a laptop as well for school/work, so I may need to cut my losses where I can. (And I'm not really into using a briefcase/backpack on wheels, which is what I'd probably need with all that stuff!) So if I go with the Personal, on days when I might need to write more out, I could just add a few lined pages or something to that day's spot.

I agree too with an earlier post from Jotje, who wrote about how she uses her Personal size filo. Like her, I don't want to have multiple filofaxes to sync either, and she seemed to work out a good system for utilizing that sized space. (Plus, for some time-sensitive appointments/reminders, I might add the info to my iPhone so I get an audible alert, so I really don't want to go back and forth between 2 filofaxes and the phone...that's too much! – This past year, I tried using just the iPhone and iCal on my laptop, and like a lot of you, I really prefer to write everything out, and missed my filo!)

So I finally found a shop near me that has a Personal Chameleon in stock, and I was supposed to go there today so I could check it out (and the Malden too – close-second choice!) and make sure I like one of them enough to give up the idea of having an A5, but we are having seriously inclement weather today, so it's likely that my shopping excursion will have to wait for another day.

In the meantime, I just wanted to thank all of you for your comments, it's so nice of you all to take the time to address my question – everyone had something new to add that I wasn't aware of, so I really appreciate the replies! I'll keep you posted on my big decision once I'm able to get to the shop!

Karel (2011-01-26 15:32:07)

Bigger is better.

The personal isn't pocket sized anymore. I still have a couple of ancient binders that are, but these days Filofax make the binder the size of an A5 pad, so you have to carry it in a bag anyway. Might as well have a slightly bigger bag and enjoy the flexibility of the A5 binder.

If you don't pack the binder and go for one with smaller rings, the loaded weight isn't so bad. (Smaller rings are better anyway - tougher and the pages turn properly).

In terms of refills, it's easier to make your own inserts for the A5 and there is the excellent Filofax Time Management system available.

Most of all you can use it as a proper notepad.

Filofax Matchmaking? (2011-01-26 04:38)



[1]

My question a few days ago about is your Filofax a [2]He or She? got some interesting responses. But it was one of the comments from Petra that sparked another thought/idea.

If you are buying another Filofax to your 'collection' do you consciously think about how this new Filofax will match or complement your current ones?

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/THextiTK9II/AAAAAAAAIIMM/hA0hvZpQDQQ/s1600/Photo+on+2010-08-27+at+14.36.jpg

2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/01/is-it-he-or-she.html>

Timeless Expressions (2011-01-26 06:07:43)

I haven't got matching ones.. but to be honest, never even thought about that!

How do people organise themselves though? I'm getting brain mush by trying to keep two diaries.. I have an A5 which I've had for a few years, and I love it, but because it's hard to carry about with its size, I have also got a personal (?) size.

Do you keep the same appointments in both, or do they have different purposes?

Amanda (2011-01-26 06:48:08)

I hadn't even really thought about matching them/co-ordinating them. They have such different functions for me, it doesn't really metter. I haven't (so far) bought identical ones though as that might be too confusing for my tiny brain!

@Jo: I have 2 A5 - one home and one work. Although the two halves of my life are pretty distinct, I do have all my appointments in both, although it doesn't hugely matter - I know which are 'home days' (I work part time) and which are 'work' days and only book appointments for work in when I'm at work and home ones in when I'm at home/out and about with the home one in my bag. Sadly, I also have to run an electronic diary for work (but that does allow me to update my home filofax more easily, by accessing my work diary online).

It'll be interesting to see what people say though.

Saffy (2011-01-26 07:41:34)

I wouldn't say I 'match' my Filofaxes but they are colour tonal e.g.: cream/beige/white and pink/purple and red for work. I guess I am just drawn to similar colours. I do think about what I have at home cos I don't really want to have two the same but it hasn't worked very well, I have a few the same but in different sizes. What was I thinking? Does anyone else do this?

Jo, I use an A5 just for work (part time) and before Xmas the family organiser (A5) for well the family to keep track of when, where people are supposed to be. Appointments, pet de-fleaing etc, reminders of school due dates, inset days etc for my daughter, but not much detail. Need to get that up and running again it fell down over the holidays but was working really well. I actually felt I was on top of things for a while. It is also a reference for the family as to my whereabouts.

I also use a slimline in by handbag for personal stuff. The family filo (when functional) and my personal often have the same thing though more detail in the personal/slimline.

JJ (2011-01-26 07:47:14)

Yes. All my favorites in my collection are black, various textures and materials but all black.

EXCEPT for the two I use every day: a saddle brown Personal Cuban and a Mini Ascot that is a rather hideous reddish brown. I love this Mini, but am seriously thinking of applying some shoe polish to darken the color.

Annie (2011-01-26 07:51:16)

I do think about matching up my binders. My first filofax was a purple Personal Domino, but the material I found wasn't up to the challenge of being in my handbag every day of the week and became all dented, scratched and a bit unsightly.

My next was a Cherry Personal Cross which I fell in love with upon sight. I haven't used the domino at all since getting my cross and don't find it at all as satisfying to look at.

When I decided I wanted another organiser, I knew I wanted another cross, but I wanted an a5. It had to be a cross because I've just completely fallen for the design and it had to match up. I ended up getting a lovely dark blue a5 cross (again off ebay) and he perfectly compliments my little cherry personal cross. I think they match wonderfully and I wouldn't have it any other way.

katka (2011-01-26 10:01:03)

I have only black ones, but it wasn't a purpose. Material and interior is usually more important for me than matching.

@Jo: I use A5 at work and personal at home. I only duplicate really important meetings. But I use same color coding for both.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-26 10:02:31)

I don't match mine - I just fall in love with a particular design which is probably why I have more than I need! Then I have to think what I can use it for!

Laurie (2011-01-26 10:10:38)

Jo there's a post on the Quo Vadis blog right now asking people if they use more than one planner at a time.

<http://quovadisblog.com/2011/01/25/how-many-planners-do-you-use/> #comments

I'm very curious to read people's answers because I've never been successful using more than one planner at once! At best I can have a wall calendar and planner, but as far as my main planner it has to be just one book.

SNARLing: (2011-01-26 10:39:36)

i tend to get all black (except for the latest orange!) but i also look primarily at function. i don't like a lot of bulk so some of the really nice ones (like the deco) i don't think i ever could use (plus it doesn't come in black oh yeah, and the expense) i wish i could use colours, but for some reason, it's a distraction for me to have my todos and appointments and notes to have a coloured frame around it. i noticed that for the first time after i'd used the domino for about 9 months and then went back to the slimline for portability. the khaki inside of the domino really stood out to me then and kinda bothered me. (i thought of shoe polishing the insides, but then i just got the malden). and now with this nice beautiful obnoxious orange, i love it for it's orangeness and the pocket finsbury really is a great practical one to carry around but with using the malden at home and switching to looking at the orange, well, i need black in the background. orange might not be the best example as it really is a difficult colour in the first place, but if a neutral like khaki bothers me as well, well then duly noted, i suppose. and yeah, it's hard to use more than 1. a pocket is great for your purse but i too wonder whether i should rewrite events and the like. i had just rewritten stuff i needed for the day,, , but then, i've grown so attached to the malden - i'm thinking i could either just carry around the malden with me (which i'll probably do for a bit just to see) or i will use the slimfin again and just take out the pages from the malden that i'd need for the day. that way i won't have to rewrite anything. i'm really hoping they'll be coming out with malden slims...

girlinmaths (2011-01-26 11:17:30)

I do not match them at all. Since I use only one planner at a time, the whole point of having different binders is to have variety. So I would never buy a brown finsbury for example, since I already have a brown classic.

J (2011-01-26 12:20:41)

I wish I had to deal with whether or not to match, but since I only have one (for now) it isn't a concern :(

Ian (2011-01-26 12:35:09)

I use a Black A5 for Uni/Work, which looks serious and professional. And for personal use (i.e. everything else) I use a Red Finsbury Personal...the fact that it looks more 'fun' reminds me that my life isn't all just work!

Jotje (2011-01-26 12:49:38)

I also don't intentionally match, but my current selection does mirror my colour preferences. Which is why I have red, purple, pink and brown filofaxes.

Petra (2011-01-26 13:09:15)

I like to fill in with things I don't have. For example, I have a red personal Belgravia, then wanted a blue pocket Belgravia because I like the style but wanted a different color and size. I do try to put filos on my shelf in colors that look great together, and sometimes rearrange the order so that the colors play even better off each other! Pic coming soon...

That said, I have a more-than-necessary number of red planners, many of them moc-croc.

Petra (2011-01-26 13:11:34)

Oh, and I do buy paper/stationery/notepads that match a particular filo, to make blank page inserts out of. What goes in the filo has to coordinate with the outside color :-)

caribbean princess (2011-01-26 14:44:42)

Jotje, I like similar colours to you so I have lots of pink, lavender, purple and raspberry shades. I also buy based on the cuteness factor (like the minis)and whether there is an interesting print (for non leather filos).

crofter (2011-01-26 15:02:28)

I don't do colors at all, but then my interest is a bit different. I have a collection of the early "Winchester" type models from the late 70's and 80's, and the colors I have are black, tan, red, burgundy, gray, and brown. I really don't care what color it is, so long as it is the right vintage, and is a good example of Filofax in its glory years. Most are new, and I don't use them.

One exception is a 5clf 1/2. It has become my favorite and I use it daily. I find the 1/2 ring size to be ideal, holds everything I need on a daily basis. The thing that is so neat about it is the quality of leather is so good, just from the pressure of writing in it, the leather "squeaks". For those of you who haven't spent hours in a saddle on a good horse, you will think I am completely crackers, but this is a bit of heaven for me every time I use it each day. The best money I have ever spent.

Susanne (2011-01-27 00:56:02)

I only have one Filofax, the Personal Domino in blue. Like Petra, I do tend to match pens, paper and any future wallets or purses to this blue because I really like the color. I could not deal with more than one Filo as I am still re-organizing this one every so often and still have not gotten to the perfect way I want it. If I had more, I would get more confused than organized. I need to have everything in one place.

Web finds for the last week (2011-01-26 18:27)

I've got a little bit behind on trawling the web for the latest and best posts about Filofax, so here are some of the best ones from the last week:

- [1]The Organised Writer - Jeff Abbot showing off his A5 Classic
- [2]Downsizing to a Pocket Deco - Lucy Nash

- [3]A Little Filofax Love - Slam
- [4]It's Friday and I'm in Love - Yvotchka gets her Filofax Pocket working for her....yes!
- [5]Filofate - How Kanalt came to use Filofax

Enjoy.

1. <http://blog.jeffabbott.com/2011/01/one-writers-planner/>
2. <http://louloudorsetsmusings.blogspot.com/2011/01/downsizing-experiment-continues-or-how.html>
3. <http://luinaemcanish.blogspot.com/2011/01/little-filofax-love.html>
4. <http://putitonmyheadstone.blogspot.com/2011/01/its-friday-im-in-love.html>
5. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/2011/01/filofate.html>

Jeff Abbott (2011-01-29 13:56:19)

Thanks for the shout-out for my blog. I always find useful tips here on Philofaxy, you all do a great job. Thank you.

Louloudorset (2011-01-30 15:13:51)

Eeeek I do get very excited when you link to my little blog that you think it is interesting enough to mention. So thank you very much from a huge Philofaxy fan.

Breast Cancer Campaign (2011-01-26 18:38)

So as you can see our donation total has crept up to over £70, but there is still time for you to help increase the donation total and you get some lovely Filofax goodies as well.

All you need to do is click on the link below, which takes you to Filofax UK, buy anything on the site, including any of the goods in the 50 % off sale which is still running and the commission earned on your purchases will be added to the donation to the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign.

Thanks to everyone so far who has helped support our donations to this worthwhile charity. Let's help fight this killing disease. Help to save a mother, daughter, wife, friend, work colleague, next door neighbour, they could all be possible victims of this killer.

I will post the details of our final donation total next week.

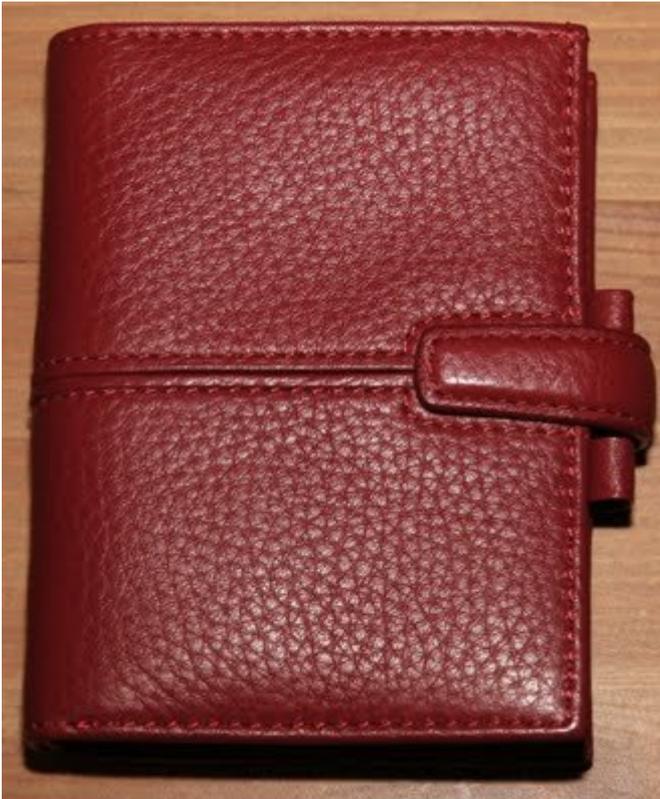
Thank you all.



[1]

My First Mini.. (2011-01-27 00:00)

Well after a long long wait... my Filofax Finchley Mini arrived from Yvotchka in the USA. We did a straight swap, a Pocket for a Mini. I must say I'm very pleased with the swap, thank you Yvotchka. The parcel got held up somewhere in the middle of the Christmas/Poor weather postal delays, but it made it here undamaged, including the dollar bill inside the wallet pocket!



[1]

Red is certainly a new colour for me, but I quite like it and I would certainly consider others in this colour in future.

So why a Mini... well in the same way that I bought the [2]A4 Classic late last year, I felt I needed or should I say I would like to have at least one of every size of Filofax organiser, just so that I had at least one of each size. So when I write about them I am doing it from a position that I actually have one. A feeble excuse I realise, but a good enough one I think you will agree!

When I sat looking at it this morning over breakfast my first thought was... travelling salesman. Back in the day, furniture salesmen would travel the country with miniatures of the wooden furniture their companies sold. These models wouldn't look out of place in a dolls house. However, in the case of the Mini Filofax it's a fully fledged Filofax, just small in size. If you were a travelling salesman for Filofax, the Mini size would be great to show the design of all the different styles for the whole range! The Mini Finchley has the same detail and quality as its big brothers (or sisters) from Mini through the sizes to A5.

As with the Pocket size I use on a daily basis, you have to pick and choose the contents very carefully so you don't overload the organiser. Yvotchka kindly sent me a large variety of inserts all in cotton cream, which is delicious. During one of my recent UK visits I managed to pick up some (cheap) WHS inserts for the Mini including a one week per page diary refill, which to be honest doesn't do the Finchley justice, it deserves the extra extravagance of cotton cream or at least a Filofax plain white diary insert (added to my shopping list).



[3]

Here it is next to its big brother the [4]Chameleon Pocket.



[5]

The Mini size will fit in your jeans back pocket easily, where as the Pocket size once 'fully' loaded is a bit of a squeeze. However, be careful to remove it before you sit down... I suspect the ring mechanism could very easily get bent.

One size issue that would stop me from using the Mini as my Wallet/Organiser, because of its small size it can't carry my UK passport. I have to carry my passport everywhere here in France for id purposes. The UK passport does fit in to my Pocket.

Apart from that, the Mini would make a very compact wallet/organiser with enough room for shopping lists, a reduced diary so if you bump in to a friend you can arrange coffee or lunch together. You could also have a few notes pages for the clothing size details of your children etc.

I might use the Mini as my car Filofax, I've got my new car on order and I think it deserves a smart organiser to keep fuel records and translated details of the owners manual in it to hand.

Here is the Mini pretending to be a postage stamp on my A4 Classic!



[6]

And finally here is is playing king of the castle from Mini down to A4 calling at all sizes in between.



[7]

Again my thanks to Yvotchka for agreeing to do the swap for the 'Pink Heart' Pocket.

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TUCb96ny6uI/AAAAAAAAI5o/JvoQdNTJ01A/s1600/IMG_9769.JPG
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/12/big-can-sometimes-be-beautiful-as-well.html>
3. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TUCcR4d0AmI/AAAAAAAAI50/i3GnVp9ccxE/s1600/IMG_9775.JPG
4. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/11/filofax-pocket-chameleon.html>
5. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TUCcFwvPniI/AAAAAAAAI5s/SXySCz82r2A/s1600/IMG_9770.JPG
6. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TUCcN4L1EYI/AAAAAAAAI5w/9My-Bme7DpA/s1600/IMG_9771.jpg
7. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TUCcZGahCwI/AAAAAAAAI54/Hy15po64RMM/s1600/IMG_9777.JPG

Robin (2011-01-27 00:32:10)

Thank you for the good look-see on the Mini. Now I'm in a quandary, though.

I just bought my first-EVER Filofax (a jaunty orange Mini Finsbury) and I'm thinking it's too small. The poor thing hasn't even arrived yet and I'm already thinking I should have gone for the Pocket model. Should I add that I obsessed over the Filofax USA site for half of forever before deciding on the Mini!?

My plan (which is really planner lust in the weak guise of practicality) is to use a small planner with pockets as a wallet since I always need something to write on and I don't carry much in my existing wallet. Plus, I love orange. The Mini should arrive at the beginning of next week. I will be on pins and needles until then.

caribbean princess (2011-01-27 01:54:22)

Robin, it depends on what you want to use the mini for. If you have few appointments and small handwriting it could work as a planner. It should also be fine as a wallet unless the zip pocket is too small for coins.

Steve I LOVE your red mini. It is really beautiful and so cute. I think the red complements your other black filofax and is a bit more interesting too. And I agree, as a DPhilx, Dr of Philofaxy (get it!) you should definitely own one of each type! :-)

Katie (2011-01-27 02:11:44)

No worries Robin, soon enough you'll succumb and buy another one anyway! I swore I would never ever buy another until my Cherry broke...and then saw one on sale. So if it turns out to be a bit too small for your current plans then start saving for a pocket :)

Jotje (2011-01-27 03:17:55)

Robin, I use the Mini Finsbury in Raspberry as my wallet and I wouldn't be without it! I don't use it as a diary, but it carries all my shopping lists.

In contrast to Steve, I have the great advantage that the drivers license is considered a valid ID in this part of Europe (I would have expected this also for France??), and the license is a plastic creditcard-size. Ideal for the Mini! Since I always have my wallet with me, I'm never again without my DL!

I also love that the Fins is so small that it easily fits in my coat pocket, and in any handbag - however small!

Steve (2011-01-27 03:23:47)

Hi Jotje

Ah, yes the new UK licences are small photocard and would fit a credit card slot. I have one of the old ones which dates back over 25 years! It's a little delicate having been carried around in my wallets for those 25 years.

I might look in to getting a French Driving license soon which will most probably be a photo id type one.

The law is strange. I can't change my UK licence to a French address, but I'm allowed to retain that licence even though I no longer live at the address shown on it!

Alex (2011-01-27 05:36:40)

Just wanted to say hi, I'm new to Philofaxy and was encouraged to come over here by someone on the filofax facebook group, who suggested I post pictures of my new Amethyst Pocket Deco. I'll try and do that soon!

Jotje, I also have a mini raspberry finsbury which I was using as my wallet and my diary, but it was getting a little too full, hence the upgrade to a Pocket. I agree that it would be brilliant to use as a wallet with added shopping lists, though. I found that the coin section could hold quite a lot of cash, although I probably overstuffed it a bit! Anyway, hello. I love this site!

Yvotchka (2011-01-27 10:33:00)

Glad it finally arrived Steve! Yeesh, I was just about to "go postal" on the Post Office!

I agree that the red is a nice addition to your collection and thank YOU for a great trade as well!

Jotje (2011-01-27 10:38:24)

Alex, that was me who was urging you to put up pics on Flickr. Can't wait, because yours will be the first Amethyst on Flickr - how neat is that?

Steve, back when I moved from Germany to Holland, my German license was only valid for 1 year. After that I had to get a Dutch one. Meanwhile they've changed the laws to enable European to keep their license valid anywhere in Europe.

SNARLing: (2011-01-27 11:24:54)

wow! thanks for this post. i also want one in every size - it's good to see the comparisons.

Robin - i love orange too! yay! i just got the pocket fins in orange:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/aliceklar/sets/72157625892536646/>

i love it but looked at the mini as well since i was thinking about making it my wallet but just didn't want to buy any more inserts. maybe in a couple of months tho heh heh. i say wait until you get it and then buy the pocket!

Alison Reeves (2011-01-27 12:30:46)

Can anyone tell me which mini organisers have an opening for notes? Some have one along the top that go the whole width don't they? I've looked on the filofax site, but they don't seem very descriptive about that.

Alex (2011-01-27 12:37:49)

Alison, I know that the mini Finsbury has the pocket you describe. Not sure about any of the others. It's very useful, I used it for paper money and my oyster card, because I could get the reader to recognise the card through the leather) if it was there (closer to the outside of the filofax).

caribbean princess (2011-01-27 13:39:39)

Alison my mini finchley and finsbury both have this pocket. very useful if you want to use it as a wallet :-)

Amanda (2011-01-27 14:10:45)

@Alison

I think the ones with 'full width exterior pocket' have that space for notes along the outside, but I agree that it's not all that clear!

J (2011-01-27 18:05:33)

Steve- I LOVE the picture of the mini pretending to be a postage stamp- so cute!

I still can't imagine operating with a mini- I saw a pocket Finchley in store today and couldn't even believe how small that was! I should add that I left the store without making a single purchase- yay me! Although it probably helped that they had a pretty measly selection... I'm sure I'll be in trouble if I ever get into a real Filo store!

Robin (2011-01-28 02:55:49)

The wait is (already!) over ... the pretty Mini is actually too small for even my tidy assortment of wallet items. Putting its mini orange-ness back into the package was a bummer!

All is not lost, though. I'll be exchanging it for a raspberry pocket Finsbury (since orange is apparently discontinued). Some of the sting was taken out of this shopping decision because of the sale price!!

As I reconsider size, I realize now that the ID window is a must for a California driver's license, and room for a passport would be sweet. My calendar is kept electronically as a business requirement, so the pages would be for lists and odd jots. A couple of envelopes would be cool, though, for my artsy side. So I see some accessories in my future.

Many thanks to everyone for the insights and advice. This is a super site!

Alison Reeves (2011-01-28 18:36:24)

Steve, what do you use each of your filofaxes for?

Steve (2011-01-28 18:47:57)

Hi Alison

Currently my usage is as follows:

A4 - Desk planner

Personal - Journal and notes

Pocket - Appointments, To-do lists, notes and wallet.

The others include

Another personal which I use for my French classes

A slimline which is used for my photographic notes.

Yes there are some that aren't in current use...

Steve

Alison Reeves (2011-01-29 05:27:40)

Thanks Steve - I'm just trying hard to find uses for my Filofaxes so I can justify them to myself!!!

stationery gal (2011-01-30 17:14:57)

I recently purchased a Raspberry Chameleon Mini...I love it. It is the perfect size for my purse. I use it to keep track of birthdays and anything else I need to highlight during the week. I bought the plain tabs and have a labeled them To Do, Buy, and Misc. Now on the larger scale, I ordered my first A5 to use for work. It is a pink Finsbury and it is beautiful...the To Do pages look like a prop compared to my mini To Do pages. This afternoon I will be transferring information from the zebra MyAgenda I was using to my new A5-got a fresh pot of coffee ready and I am all set to be in my "happy place" of getting organized with my new Filofax! :)

kateb (2011-03-24 19:52:35)

I'm new to filofaxes but I LOVE them already! Bought my first one on Monday, a raspberry personal Finsbury and it's GORGEOUS!!! I love the size, it's perfect! When I was trying them out in the shop I really liked the pocket one for the large pocket that I suppose would be used for cash if you used it as a wallet. But I decided to buy the personal and I am not disappointed! But already I'm expanding my collection... I'm addicted! I have spent so many hours over the last few days reading blogs like this and drooling over the filofax website!! I just bought a mini Finchley from ebay, in gorgeous caramel :) I couldn't justify a pocket because I think it's too similar in size to the personal, but a mini is perfect. I'm going to buy a month on 2 pages refill, because I don't need the whole diary, that's what the personal is for. But mostly I'm going to use the mini as a notebook :)I'm already thinking of buying myself an aqua finsbury in a5, it's just gorgeous! Graduation present I think... :D I really do have the bug!!!!

Free for All Friday No. 115 (2011-01-28 00:01)

The inspiration for this Friday's Free for All comes from longtime reader Kerowyn, who is on a quest for a Personal Filofax that lies flat for ease of reading and writing. Of course, almost any Filofax will lie flat with enough wear, and A5s are more likely to lie flat by dint of size, but have any of you found a Personal that is designed to lie flat *out of the box*?

As always, feel free also to expound on any other topics that are on your mind.

J (2011-01-28 01:22:26)

The Personal Domino! After I got mine I couldn't figure out what you were all talking about "training" your Filofax for!

My Domino laid flat straight out of the box- no training required. Now if only the dog and the bf were that easy...

markus (2011-01-28 01:52:33)

The Mode Personal does lie flat too.

girlinmaths (2011-01-28 02:37:27)

I have a question for you all. I have received a nice sum of money because our company has had a good year. I will put most of it on my savings account, but I would like to treat myself a bit as well and thought of a new filofax.

I am thinking of either a personal chameleon in raspberry, or a personal finchley in purple. Does anyone have these, and how nice are they? I have a raspberry chameleon in pocket, and the colour and leather are great. But I am also a fan of purple and the finchley seems a lovely model, and I also think this one would be more work-appropriate for a consultant. I am worried that the colour is too dark though. Does anyone have both and can share a picture of them?

Kate (2011-01-28 04:07:39)

The Finchley is gorgeous. It's a true purple that looks businesslike as well as fun. And the leather is so soft. It's lovely to hold and use. It also lay flat right out the box. Highly recommended. Hope this helps.

caribbean princess (2011-01-28 04:31:25)

Girlin maths, look at pictures of my raspberry chameleon here

<http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2010/10/charming-chameleon-filofax.html>

Also one of my first year med students owns a personal purple finchley and I loved it so much I used to have to stroke it each class (she must have thought I was so weird). But anyways I think I may even prefer the Finchley to my Adelphi and that is saying a lot!

I think the purple finchley will look more professional.

Jotje has them both on her Flickr stream or you can access through the philofxy flickr group.
hope that helps.

caribbean princess (2011-01-28 04:36:24)

And with respect to the lying flat question based on today's testing

my pocket metropol lies flat with no problems

my mini finchley is trying to close on me

my personal and mini finsburys aren't staying open but I think that they need to be broken in

my adelphi lies flat but then it gets used every day!

My lavender personal domino wont lie flat either.

chameleon personal lies flat.

Ok now I need to get back to marking exam scripts!

girlinmaths (2011-01-28 04:49:11)

Thank you CP and Kate for your answers. I think I might go for the finchley.

And sorry I forgot to answer the original question. I have a personal Siena and that lies flat too immediately.

Saffy (2011-01-28 05:28:31)

I just received a Personal Baroque at 50 % off from France (thanks for your help Steve, embarrassed) and it lays flat 'out of the box' due to it being very soft and slouchy. Italy has them as well in all three colours. There is no stiffening to the cover so it is very pliable and lies completely flat as soon as you open it. With no stiffening it is also lighter than my other personal filo's. It is lovely and I am tempted to buy another in the Pocket size it looks and feels so nice. I think the Deco lies flat? My Panama lies flat and again it was straight out of the box too.

Laurie (2011-01-28 05:38:55)

I have Finsbury Filofaxes in personal and A5 sizes and all of them required training to lie flat, but they all did eventually.

I have Domino binders in A5 and personal size too and they were pretty much flat right out of the box.

My Buckingham was flat right out of the box too.

And my personal Deco was flat right away too, superb construction.

Jotje (2011-01-28 05:40:07)

@girlinmaths: I have both, the Chameleon and the Finchley, my pics are on Flickr (Philofaxy pool). If you want to use it in a professional setting, I'd go for the Finchley.

@ flat Personals: Domino, Finchley, Malden (!), Chameleon (after a few days), Kendal. These are the ones I have. The Cuban Slimline is also laying flat, whereas the regular Personal size isn't.

Alex (2011-01-28 06:15:13)

I don't have any Personal filofaxes, but my Pocket Deco lies flat and I'm pretty sure the Personal Decos do too. The weight of having a pen in the pen loop seems to help.

Saffy (2011-01-28 06:21:07)

My slimline Amazona lies flat, again probably because there is nothing to stiffen it but the Personal and Pocket Amazona's don't and look like they may need some serious training.

Iris (2011-01-28 07:00:32)

Personal size Filos that lay flat:

- Guildford
- Urban
- Metropol Slimline
- Domino
- Mode
- Malden
- Finchley
- Fresco
- Sketch Zip

Those which don't, but stay open:

- Indie
- Metropol
- Sketch

The Classic is always trying to close and needs to be held open with one hand.

Kels (2011-01-28 12:02:46)

my Domino laid flat right out of the box...I was SO happy about that since my Finsbury didn't and STILL won't.

Louloudorset (2011-01-28 13:28:45)

My Personal Chameleon and Adelphi, A5 Finchley and Domino and Pocket Deco all laid flat straight away :)

My Finchley that I've had for 5 years still doesn't, neither does my Pocket Domino :(

Girlinmaths I have the Chameleon in Raspberry and I love it. It laid flat, looks so lovely and feels wonderful. I also love the colour of the Finchley in purple and it would be a really lovely one to use for work as well, really professional as CP says.

I'm toying with the idea of getting the A5 version at the meet up in March eeeeeeeek am so excited about that!!

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-28 15:13:41)

My personal Malden lies flat (straight from the box)... (sorry, I seem to mention my Malden in every comment I post.... I do rather love it!!!).

Nellie (2011-01-28 15:29:53)

My Amazona lies flat from the box, but my Classic never did, even after years of use. My Deco also lies flat.

Amanda (2011-01-28 15:56:43)

Bit late to the party...

@girlinmaths - I would go for the purple finchley - I have a red A5 finchley and it is absolutely gorgeous!!! I think it would look very professional.

On an unrelated (but it is FFAF) I have just ordered the jade finchley from Filofax France (after all - after thinking I wouldn't!). Woo hoo!!!! Very excited!

Amanda (2011-01-28 16:13:55)

Does anyone know why the French Finchley comes with more useful stuff by the way? There are personal finance pages, daily planning pages and meeting management pages rather than the multi-coloured paper (more useful to me I guess - maybe others would prefer the coloured paper!).

justenoughsalt (2011-01-28 16:18:40)

laying flat...never ever had that issue but then again i have used the same filofax for over ten years. it's understudy is a windsor and i bought it used so i have no idea what it was like out of the box.

here is my question that i have been thinking about for a while. A) what leather color would you have filofax produce if it was in your power? AND B) what model would you bring back that has been discontinued?

A) grey. with some sort of small texture to it.

B) obviously the green piccadilly

john (2011-01-28 16:29:51)

(first time post so, hello everyone)

At about 16:00 (gmt) today I took my brand new Personal Graphic Zipped out of the box, unzipped it and it fell flat open (bit like my jaw) I own eight Filofax and this is the first that hasn't put up a fight.

Amanda (2011-01-28 16:30:23)

@colie

A deep aquamarine for Finchley for the leather.

Not been a filofax fan for long enough to know what to bring back. Maybe it's the same answer as my first!

SSA (2011-01-28 16:43:51)

does anyone know how long an item is out of stock for on the filofax website? I want some paper inserts and one has the 'email me when the item becomes available'....should i wait to order once or go ahead and order the other stuff?? if only i had an idea how long it would be.

Laurie (2011-01-28 16:52:47)

Color: a medium royal purple. Not too dark, not bright. And SMOOTH leather. Not textured. Completely, buttery smooth and soft.

Resurrection? I love my Buckingham and I don't understand why it was every discontinued. And I've never seen a Winchester but that seems to be everyone's Holy Grail Filofax.

Amanda (2011-01-28 16:55:11)

Just browsing the French Filofax site and seen this A5 diary:

<http://www.filofax.fr/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2457>

which looks fabulous! Why don't they do this in the UK???

Alison Reeves (2011-01-28 17:24:07)

This would be my choice for the A5: <http://www.filofax.fr/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2398>

Never mind the binders, why oh why don't they do all their inserts in cotton cream? Especially for the A5? I've just bought a load of cream paper to make my own. Sadly a bit of a challenge for the personal!

Savannah (2011-01-28 21:24:10)

From my personal experience the Finchley, Fresco, Belmont, Ascot and the Adelphi lie flat. The Malden lies open but has a somewhat bumpy surface (zipper pocket on left side and some humping near the spine). The Finchley is the most pleasant Filofax leather binder to write in and use in my opinion. The leather is also wonderful to handle. The Kendal almost lies flat with a little coaching. If you would consider indulging in a Lizard it is awesome and also lies flat. Avoid the Classic and Finsbury.

Chloe (2011-01-28 23:48:50)

I am very new to Filofax and I have an a5 black Chameleon and it opens and stays pretty flat, especially when you flick through a few pages. I love it!

I have a question now - Does Filofax France accept orders and ship anywhere? Does anyone know (Steve?) if I can order, pay and get an item shipped to Australia?

Silver_Elixir (2011-01-29 00:59:06)

I have just ordered a Imperial Purple Finchley in Personal. I cannot wait to get my hands on it!

I have also won the bid on the Special Edition Swarovski Filofax which I want to use as a purse/wallet and financial Filofax.

I hope they both lie flat.

I didn't have too much trouble getting my Kendal to lie flat, but my Electric Blue Filofax almost lies flat, while the Ikon doesn't lie flat but would without much training. My Filofax Steel only lies flat with a balance of pages on both sides.

My A5 City and Chocolate Domino both lie flat.

Savannah (2011-01-29 02:47:31)

Silver Elixir-

You'll love how wonderfully flat the Finchley is. The Imperial purple, which is the one I own and use, is quite beautiful yet understated. I think you will be very pleased.

Chloe (2011-01-29 03:02:06)

Eeek! This blog is so bad for enabling purchases. I just bought an A5 Jade Finchley from Filofax France. Now for the agonising wait :)

Jotje (2011-01-29 03:53:25)

@Loulou: you have a Finchley Personal that does NOT lay flat? Sure, it's not a mini or pocket? Cos my Finchley lay flat after maybe 3 days of use.

I believe FF France ships everywhere, and at very reasonable prices too!

I wonder why most FF sites have a 50 % sale, while FF Germany NEVER has a sale!?

Steve (2011-01-29 04:02:12)

@Chloe, Yes FF France will ship to anywhere in the world and as Jotje has pointed out their rates are very good (cheaper than UK rates in fact)

The details are here: <http://www.filofax.fr/delivery/> Autres is Rest of World.

Steve

Silver_Elixir (2011-01-29 04:10:05)

Savannah,

The purple colour looks so regal in the pictures. I am waiting for it to arrive from the UK so a week or 10 days...

I can't wait! I will post pics on Flickr when they both arrive. It's exciting waiting on a delivery...

Chloe (2011-01-29 04:20:54)

Thanks Steve and Jotje. I placed an order and I'm surprised as to how much cheaper the postage is from France than the US or UK! Can't wait for my Jade Finchley.

Amanda (2011-01-29 06:09:24)

@Chloe

Hey, we must have both ordered the jade finch at about the same time! I can't wait for mine to arrive too! Then I'll be having a big swap around with my work domino becoming my book-o-fax, my home red finch becoming my work filofax and the new jade one becoming my home one! All change!

Amanda (2011-01-29 06:11:50)

@Alison

Is this the same as the French one you said you liked?

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2398>

It's a week to a page on the left and notes on the right.

And did you buy the Clairefontaine paper in the end?

BobinJapan (2011-01-29 08:27:29)

My personal Eton was perfect straight out of the box. The soft leather opened flat from the beginning. Earlier I was using a zipped Cuban personal. Besides the fact that it was too big overall, it would not lie flat. I am very happy with the Eton.

KerowynA (2011-01-29 08:39:17)

Hi, my comment didn't post yesterday because I misunderstood how OpenID works, so here I go again. I hope it's not too late!

First off, thanks to everyone for your "lie flat" comments. I very much appreciate them, as I have no Filofax store close to me. I really, really want to make the right choice, because I struggled with my Navy Finsbury for about a year before I finally had to throw in the towel. The darn thing never did lie flat!

I've about narrowed it down to either a Finchley, a Guildford or a Malden. But I have a couple of additional questions...

Finchely: Will it be too heavy? The leather looks really thick in the Filofax photos.

Guildford: Is the leather as soft as the Eton's? I wanted an Eton, but I didn't save up enough in time to snag one. However, now I'm glad, because I am hard on planners, and I suspect it wouldn't have survived. I wouldn't want to get a Guildford if it's just as soft.

Malden: Is it as very shiny as it seems to be in the Filofax photos? I am not a patent leather girl!

Thanks again for any further insights you can give me. This is by far my favorite online community!

Nellie (2011-01-29 08:50:22)

@Amanda - are you creating a book-o-fax? I'd love to see how you set it up! :)

Petra (2011-01-29 09:02:11)

The Finchley is not heavy (unless it's full of paper!). The leather is padded and pebble-textured, so it looks a bit more "puffy" than a totally smooth leather.

What?! France has the A5 Finchley in jade?! Uh-oh....

Alison Reeves (2011-01-29 09:15:02)

@ Amanda:

Is this the same as the French one you said you liked?

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2398>

It's a week to a page on the left and notes on the right.

And did you buy the Clairefontaine paper in the end?

Yes this is the same one - I didn't see it when I looked before. And yes I did get the paper which I have now managed to loose somewhere in the house! I'm sure it will come to hand when I need it!

KerowynA (2011-01-29 10:14:58)

Does anyone know if Filofax Germany ships to the US? I would like to order a couple packs of their Personal Week on Two Pages, Cream Paper, lined.

Jotje (2011-01-29 10:16:57)

@KerowynA. Lucky for you, I actually weighed several empty Personal Filofax binders. For comparison:

The Malden weighs 217 grams, the Finchley 221 grams. It seems fair to say the weigh about the same!

The leather of the Finchley is really soft, nowhere comparable to the Finsbury!

The leather of the Malden is shiny, but because of the model and the texture of the leather, it's not too "patent"-like. I think it's really classy! You should check out all the user pictures on Flickr, they'll give you the right impression. It seems like the Ochre is not as smooth and shiny, the black and crimson Malden are more of the same kind of leather.

Should anybody be interested, here are the results of my kitchen scales session:

Cuban Slimline: 144 grams

Personal Domino: 147 grams (quite obviously!)

Personal Chameleon: 203 gr

Person. Malden: 217 gr

Pers. Finchley: 221 gr

Pers. Urban: 225 gr

Pers. Cross/Classic: 254 gr

Pers. Kendal: 258 gr (must be that second penloop ;-))

Oh, and the Pocket Malden is 140 gr.

Cuban Slimline:

Jotje (2011-01-29 10:19:22)

@KerowynA: I believe Yv tried that, but they didn't ship to the US. Maybe you could ask someone living in Germany (like Iris from filomaniac.blogspot.com !) to pick it up for you and ship it to the US?

Steve (2011-01-29 10:36:19)

FF DE only ship to EU contries

<http://www.filofax.de/delivery/>

Steve

KerowynA (2011-01-29 10:36:50)

@Jotje

Thanks for the quick reply and the weigh-ins. Looks like the Finchley is in the lead for me.

I'm sorry that I can't get the German inserts, because I love those lines. I think I'll experiment with setting up an Excel template to print lines on the English Cream Week on Two Pages before asking someone to try and get the German inserts for me.

That way, if it works I could share the wealth.

@Steve

I'm thinking that "Flat out of the box" and "Flat in a couple of days" and "Never really flat" and the weights might be valuable information to preserve in your Filofax.pdf file. Don't hate me too much for suggesting it ;-)

Steve (2011-01-29 10:39:28)

@jotje I missed the 'empty' part of your weights comment. At first I couldn't work out why mine were so heavy in comparison!! Then I read it again..!!

Amanda (2011-01-29 10:46:48)

@Petra

I am creating a book-o-fax! Once the jade finch arrives it will be all change in the filofaxes here - the book-o-fax will be in an A5 red domino... I will post about how I set it up if you want? (I know I am incredibly nosy about how other people set up their filos!)

@Alison

Glad you bought the paper. I think it's really lovely for printing all my own pages on. Hope it's not too lost!

@KerowynA

Welcome to the best filofax group in the world. I **love** the way so many people here have so many answers (like Jotje - did you just go weigh **all** your filofaxes for us??? Wow!!). It is enormously helpful if you don't have a filofax store nearby - there are a wealth of helpful contributors to tell you all they know to try and help. I love this place! Oh, and good choice to go with the finch - it is GORGEOUS!

Amanda

Steve (2011-01-29 10:47:01)

The Filofax.pdf file will need updating from Monday anyway because of the VAT increases which will be effective from then...

Hint hint... If you are going to buy anything from FF UK, do it this weekend... and via Philofaxy Link... 1) You will save yourself the extra VAT

2) You will be contributing towards the BCC donation...

But in terms of your suggestions I will look in to adding those details... but there could be a lot of blanks because I don't have every single organiser there is... although I will gather together the info from this thread were possible.
Steve

KerowynA (2011-01-29 10:50:51)

@Steve: You are a great blog wrangler, always watching out for us. I wouldn't worry about the blanks; some info is better than none.

Amanda (2011-01-29 10:51:45)

@Steve

I'm pretty sure between us all on here we have **every** filofax under the sun to help with the data for 'flat out of the box'; 'flat after a few days'; 'needs rocks for training purposes'...!

Steve (2011-01-29 10:56:22)

OK let me up date the file with the new prices next week, and I will trawl through the comments and add what info we already have and then I will do a separate post so we can attempt to populate the rest of the table.

Other info that would be useful would be pen loop info. Fixed or Elasticated. FF UK just says Pen Loop, they don't indicate which type. Thanks

Steve

Steve (2011-01-29 10:57:59)

@KerowynA I think in the drug world I would be termed a 'supplier' giving you your daily... or hourly fix !! LoL

Amanda (2011-01-29 11:09:34)

Ooh, at risk of being labelled a complete 'enabler'... Look! Look!!

<http://www.filofax.fr/store/organiserdetails.asp?rangeId=115 &sizeId=3 &dsId=3 &spId=883>

and look at the interior pics too!

:-)

If only I could get on with a personal size... But then I would have to choose between the pink and the blue.

Amanda (2011-01-29 11:27:19)

and the mini (<http://www.filofax.fr/store/organiserdetails.asp?sizeId=1 &rangeId=115 &dsId=1>) looks like it would make an ideal purse-filofax...

mywormy (2011-01-29 13:03:25)

Steve, let's see if this works. What I have been trying to comment is that you are the "Filofax Guru". I love all my organizers, but my favorite is the Malden, it is kind of shiny and I don't like the patent leather look either, Jotje is right the brown Malden is less shiny.

mywormy (2011-01-29 13:05:31)

Thank you, thank you Steve. Now I can start adding in my two cents!!

Jeff Abbott (2011-01-29 13:21:07)

My Classic A5 lays flat no problem.

Can anyone recommend a good Filofax insert for tracking what you eat each day? Is there such a thing or will I have to make my own with notebook paper?

Also, thanks to Philofaxy for highlight my blog about my writer's Filofax earlier this week.

crofter (2011-01-29 13:36:25)

I think this whole exchange has been great. Steve, is this a record number of comments to any one post? I don't recall seeing this many ever.

This is certainly a tribute to our little community, I am seeing some new names which I welcome. It is turning from just a blog with comments to a real forum! Well done everybody, by keeping it up, this is really a service to us all!

Thanks Steve!!

Rebecca (2011-01-29 22:13:17)

Flat out of the box - agree that my Finchleys, Siena, and Deco did - also my Belles (both personal and pocket size) and one I can't think of the name of - fabric, light green with blue flowers.

As far as bringing one back, what about bringing one FORWARD - all last year I waited for the AMETHYST DECO and haven't heard a word - where is it??? I can't stand the wait!

Love this site - never knew there were so many Filo lovers and kindred spirits out there!

Date for your Filofax - Sunday 6 Feb 2011 (2011-01-30 00:00)

We are going to run another conference roundtable voice chat using Skype.

I'm sure we are gradually getting to know each other's voices, but I will make a point of going 'around the table' to get everyone to introduce themselves this time.

So...When, Where, What, Who and How?

When? - Sunday 6 February from 12am (US East Coast time), 5pm London time, 6 pm Paris time etc.

Where? - an on-line chat using [1]Skype.

What do I need? - just a micro-phone and a free Skype account.

Who - All of you... connect up with **Philofaxy** and we will attempt to get as many of us linked in to the audio conference as possible.

How -

1. Connect to **Philofaxy** by firstly searching for **Philofaxy** in**Skype**, I will then add you as a contact.
2. Then '**Start Chat**', I will then add you in to the chat room.
3. Then if you request it, I can add you to the audio conference as well. But if you just want to chat via keyboard that's fine. That way it's slightly less hectic for me!

Come and join in the fun, even if you only pop in to say hello...

As with previous round-tables there will also be a parallel text chat room going at the same time as the voice conference.

If you need any assistance setting up Skype, please pop a comment in this post and I will try and help you get one line. Skype is free for computer to computer calls....

Hope to be chatting with you next Sunday.

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

Jess (2011-01-30 10:06:42)

I'm planning to get the Skype app for my iPhone which should be arriving tomoro, so I will hopefully be joining in!

Sharon (2011-01-30 12:21:32)

In the diary, however I shall be on chat only as usual, if I can!

Laurie (2011-01-30 15:06:45)

Sorry I won't be able to make it!

stirwise (2011-01-30 19:35:29)

I think you mean 12pm East coast time, am would be midnight. 9am out here on the West coast, though, so probably not a great time for me to join in. Maybe I'll catch the next one.

Discussion Forum (2011-01-30 14:12)

There has been a huge response in the comments to the last FFAF (60+ comments) and there has been requests before for a discussion forum to be attached to Philofaxy.

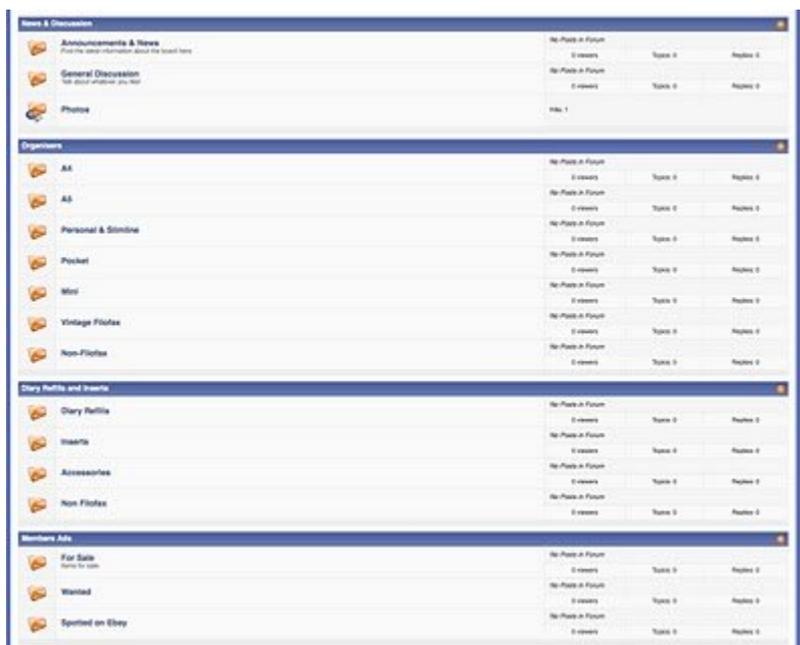
So I've done some initial investigations in to this, but before we dive headlong in to having a Forum in addition to the blog, let me first of all layout as I see it, the the upside and the downside of having a discussion forum attached to the blog.

1. It is possible that the discussion forum would dilute the comments we get on posts on the blog.
2. The Philofaxy discussion forum would possibly duplicate the discussion group already in place on the Flickr Group.
3. The Philofaxy discussion forum would be yet another site to visit, maintain, read etc to keep up to date with all the latest news.
4. The Philofaxy discussion forum would be separated in to different categories which would focus the discussion on particular topics (see picture below)
5. Before you could post on the Philofaxy discussion forum you would have to register with a Username and Password, although 'Guests' would be able to read the Forum. There would not be an easy way of tying the log in to say OpenID or your Google account, it would be completely separate, just as your Skype Account is separate.
6. There is a risk of spam associated with the Forum, that we currently don't see with the comments. The Philofaxy discussion forum would therefore need some form of moderation and moderators would need to be appointed.
7. There would occasionally be duplication on the blog and the forum, for instance announcements about Sales Offers, Roundtable events, Meet ups etc. But the normal blog posts about using your Filofax, or reviews etc should remain on the blog as they are now.

That all said I do have extensive experience of running Forums on-line so once set up, it's well within my skill base to run the thing. It's just that I've had some bad experiences in running a Forum in the past, hence my caution.

I am also cautious about forcing something on you the readers that might upset the excellent community spirit that we have built up over the last couple of years or more. I'm not predicting that would change, but in a way I'm seeking your approval/support before we add this extra facility.

So here is what it **might** look like:



[1]

Click on the picture to see a full size version of it. The photos section would in fact be just a redirection link to the Philofaxy Flickr Group, I see no point in reinventing that site when it's already working very well.

All the Categories/Sections can be renamed/amended/reordered and descriptions added, although I think it's fairly straight forward?

Depending on the response to this idea, if people are mixed in their views I would be happy to put it to a vote on the site to decide on the addition. Or may be a trial of a discussion forum for say a couple of months to see how well it is received, what problems or benefits we gain etc?

Discuss.....

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TUWmH0nDGsI/AAAAAAAAI58/IZ1FrujjrCE/s1600/Forum.JPG

Amanda (2011-01-30 14:34:48)

Hi Steve (and everyone),

I think you have outlined the pros and cons very well.

Personally, I don't see the need to add a discussion page to be honest. There is a lovely, lively, helpful, warm community here, all with usernames we recognise (and relate to, even if we haven't necessarily met). Yes, there were a lot of comments on the last FFAF, but that just adds to this blog I feel, rather than detract. I am still working my way through all the posts and comments on the site since it started and still finding great ideas and lots of information. I wouldn't (personally) want to also be working my way through discussions on a separate site.

On a less personal note, but with guidance from having moderated a student discussion forum a few years ago, I would hate to see any aspect of the blog diluted by the organisers also having to spend time de-spamming and moderating a discussion board.

I'm sure some/many might well disagree, but I would prefer the site to stay as it is.

Thanks Steve, for raising this and for opening up a discussion on it.

Amanda

Alison Reeves (2011-01-30 15:18:05)

Hi Steve - I was one of the people who suggested a blog. My personal experience of forums has been very positive and I have had a lot of pleasure and information from them. This is probably why I would enjoy one. The ones I have used have had a very good vibe - just a bunch of people who want to share a hobby or interest.

An overriding benefit in my eyes is that content is grouped and therefore it can be easier to find info. For example

I'd love a thread discussing the uses everyone puts their filofaxes to - and of course all this content would be in one thread so easy to come back and find again.

I guess the only thing that will make it really successful will be if there are enough of us wanted to talk to one another.

I'd love a Philofaxy forum, but am very happy to go with the majority feeling. I love this blog and can't help myself - I have to check it at least three times a day!

caribbean princess (2011-01-30 15:40:42)

Dear Steve as you know I am also an avid Philofaxy fan. However I agree with Amanda on this one. It is easy to find threads by using the search function and the labels tabs and I find going back to archived posts and their associated comments very useful. Personally I would find it more inconvenient to use a forum and when one of my other favourites stopped comments and changed to using forums I found it difficult to keep up and stopped participating. I think the comments add to the blog and a forum will probably detract from that. Although I love the flickr group I rarely find the time to go onto it and this may be the same for others.

However this is just my two pence. Why don't you do a poll and see what people think? I love checking this blog during mini breaks to see new comments on a post. I won't do that so often with a forum. Somehow it also seems less personal to me. Take care!

crofter (2011-01-30 16:54:56)

I would not want this to change in any way, it is far and away the best blog that I read. It would I think duplicate the Flickr and Yahoo forums, so in short my sentiment is don't fix something that isn't broken.

Savannah (2011-01-30 16:59:48)

No forum please. The blog is great as it is.

Roanne (2011-01-30 18:28:03)

I am going to agree with a forum being too redundant. I'd much rather use the Discussion forums on Flickr and comment section on this blog... there is enough cross-pollination right now for everyone to get their fix, and I'd rather the contributors for this blog continue to blog instead of spend their time moderating a new forum.

Nickie (2011-01-30 18:43:16)

I like the idea but you don't want to spread yourself too thin. I don't see it as dilution, it's more about expansion. As an idea (or a blog) evolves you have to find a way to accommodate it.

Another alternative is to import a discussion-style comments section (I personally use Disqus on my blog) which encourages conversations and allows you to reply directly to people.

justenoughsalt (2011-01-30 20:10:00)

oh goodness please no forum.

no really, please don't do that.

Butanben (2011-01-30 20:12:41)

Hi Steve, Hi Philofaxers,

I think this blog is just superb, and love it as it is. I think a forum may spoil the connected feeling of friends joining together and reading news about a shared interest, which this blog spot has. Some FFAFs are bound to be larger in contributions than others.

JJ (2011-01-30 20:29:26)

{NAME }.. You are OFF TOPIC... this is the {SUBJECT } area. Please take this to the {SOME OTHER SUBJECT } area.

No... I like this blog, just the way it is.

kanalt (2011-01-30 21:04:31)

Hi all,

I have to agree that the blog is great the way it is. I also think that a forum might detract from the point of the blog. However, if people would like a discussion based on category, why not try out the Flickr discussion group? I have to admit that I don't use it myself (mainly because I forget it's there), so I don't really know if it is the place for something like that.

I also agree that time (and talent!) is better spent on writing blog posts rather than moderating forums discussions.

Just my two cents - I'm good for whatever the majority decides.

Alison Reeves (2011-01-31 03:17:52)

I guess I should qualify my comments by saying that I would not like a forum if it took away the content on this blog. If you are spreading yourself too thin, then I'd rather have this blog than a forum.

I guess I had forgotten about the Flickr and yahoo forums. Perhaps Flickr is the best place for the forum because of it's ability for everyone to share their photos on that platform.

I have to say I've never been a regular participant of draconian forums - the ones I have been part of have been really nice places to be. One example linked to this Filofax hobby is the Fountain Pen Network which has much discussion about fountain pens, paper, ink and so on. <http://www.fountainpennetwork.com/forum/>

gdigesu (2011-01-31 03:42:49)

No forum, please. KISS - keep it super simple ...

Jotje (2011-01-31 03:50:25)

I don't want a discussion forum either. The search function of Philofaxy works very well, if I ever need to look up something on a particular subject, I have no troubles finding it. It's even possible to search through Google: I just enter "Philofaxy" together with the subject and the right Philofaxy page pops up. I don't believe a new system could beat this!

KerowynA (2011-01-31 07:38:15)

I agree with many other commenters. Please, no discussion forum. Let those who are interested use the forums that already exist.

Browsing the comments on the posts as we do now is much more user friendly, in my opinion.

Gareth Buxton (2011-01-31 07:50:56)

If there was a way of regular contributors to initiate a blog post, perhaps with a workflow from Steve to approve first? I think that this remove the need for a separate forum. This would allow more people to start interesting threads of discussion.

Nickie (2011-01-31 07:55:58)

@Gareth but isn't that just "guest posting"? I'm sure there could be a facility/contact link where people could be encouraged (more than already) to contact the Philofaxy team with a prospective blog post.

Amanda (2011-01-31 08:09:48)

The guest posting is great, and there is also FFAF (which triggered this discussion) so I think there are plenty of ways for people to contribute.

Perhaps a middle ground would be to have, say, a guest post a week (if there were enough people to write one - maybe put a call out and see how many bite?) plus the FFAF? That would give plenty of voice to people and still maintain the essence of the site - with regular posts by the team and the possibility to comment on them.

I agree with Jotje - the search facility works well for looking up posts, and the tag-words always allow posts on similar topics to get grouped in a search.

I know there is a discussion site on Flickr, but I never remember to look at it. I would probably never remember to look at another Philofaxy one and the comments on the main postings would probably get diluted.

It ain't broke. It doesn't need fixing, IMHO.

Nice to see what everyone else thinks!

Steve (2011-01-31 11:22:52)

Hi Everyone,

Firstly thanks for your open and honest opinions and discussions on this subject.

As you might have guessed from the tone of my original post I am not that keen on the idea of a discussion forum, they have some advantages, but they are heavily outweighed by a lot of disadvantages in our particular case. Yes they do work in some areas, but not all.

As I indicated I've had both good and bad experiences with moderating and running forums, the worse bit was a 4 hour interview with the local police, because of a complaint they had received about one of the users who turned out to be a policeman!!! Never again... thank you!!

For my sins I've even been banned from using one particular forum, because I complained about the way it was being run by the moderators... yes they get that bad. Suggest some changes that they don't like so they ban you for life! No, I have better things to do with my life than to play their silly games.

Yes I would prefer to spend more time on writing and managing the blog than running a discussion forum.

So, out of the comments:

1. Guest posts are always welcome, they don't have to be long either, some my own posts are sometimes quite short. So if you can submit any posts to our email address (See About) along with some pictures I'm sure everyone will appreciate your input.
2. I will endeavour to look at the discussion group on Flickr a bit more and respond a bit more.
3. The Yahoo Group is still there but not very active, I took that over a few years ago when the previous 'owner' was about to shut it down because they didn't have enough time, it was before I knew Philofaxy existed even!
4. Nickie mentioned her comments system. Yes that would work, but it looks like it takes up a lot more screen space, so for now I think we should stick with what we have, it's simple and it works.
5. Don't forget you can subscribe to the posts and comments separately using the RSS feed, this is a great way of always seeing the latest comments without having to revisit several posts or in the case of a forum hop from one topic to another.

Again thank you for all of your comments. Let us continue as before shall we.

Regards

Steve

Nellie (2011-01-31 13:25:39)

I'm a bit late to the discussion on this, as I was at work.

I am surprised at the outcome I have to admit! I love Philofaxy and I think the team do a wonderful job. What I struggle with is if I have a question or comment which is not related to a current blog entry, what do I do? Until recently I didn't really feel able to just send Steve something as a contribution, so tried to wait until a Friday so I could post in the FFFA... but then I would forget, or the Friday postings would be on a different topic so I felt I couldn't post as it might appear I was "interrupting" another discussion.

Also, if someone posts on an old entry, how do I know unless I have subscribed?

Forums do have their downsides which others have mentioned and I totally agree with.

Perhaps, if I may suggest, we could have some clarity on whether anyone can send in a suggestion for a post? That might encourage new folks to contribute, ask questions etc.

Personally I would have liked a forum, but I am just happy Philofaxy exists and we can natter about all things Filo :)

Nellie

x

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-01-31 14:17:32)

Sorry I am late commenting... but I think that points to the reason why I prefer a blog to forum. I get minimal time on the computer so love reviewing the blog through my google reader (pushed to my phone) and responding when I am near a computer. A forum would be an additional thing to check (I can feel my stress levels rising just thinking about it!).

Any-thing I need to search for comes up perfectly with the search function and the word cloud thingie (sorry, not

technical) and I try and pop back and check comments on the blog.
LOVE the blog and always happy to read the posts.

Steve (2011-01-31 14:43:32)

Nellie

Points noted... I will try and think of a suitable topic and day for any questions to be asked and answered, done weekly I would hope this would help most people.

Some of these Q &A's would also be fed in to our FAQ page.

But anyone is free to email us any time, if I can't answer your question then I will turn it in to a post normally within a day or two of you emailing us.

As others have pointed out the search works well, likewise the tag cloud works in bringing together all the associated posts. One small issue some of the earlier posts were not tagged... I'm slowly working my way through them to tag each post, but it does take a while to do....

Keep commenting with the feedback it's all good stuff and it all helps to make the blog even better.

Regards

Steve

Gareth Buxton (2011-01-31 16:38:56)

Its good to know that the guest posting is so open, I didn't realise. I will contribute something.

Jotje (2011-02-01 03:14:44)

Also, if people have an "urgent" question or need immediate input, they could post on the Philofaxy facebook page, I suppose?

Nickie (2011-02-01 03:34:45)

@Jotje That's a really good point. There is also a "discussion" tab on the Philofaxy FB page so any urgent requests/discussions could go there. It could also encourage Philofaxy members to go and join over on FB too. I know that it's not intrusive and a good reminder when posts are up on here.

Nellie (2011-02-01 13:21:12)

I really dislike the whole Facebook thing. I know I am in the minority with this and many millions love it, but it's not for me.

Web Finds and News Update (2011-01-31 00:01)

The last one of January, where did the month disappear to... I know was in UK for over two weeks, but it's just disappeared. I have now just about caught up and I'm getting my own systems in to place for the new year properly.



[1]

I'm still happily using the A4 as my desk diary/planner, which is working great, the bigger space is even more critical now, because out of the blue our business here in France has taken off, not through the lack of trying. My wife Alison (she of the hand!) and I are property search consultants with our company [2]Loire Thouet Property Search. So the space in my A4 gives me plenty of room to plan out appointments with agents for viewings and visits to towns. I have the job as 'wheel man' and 'shutter-man' with my camera! Also my ability to see a potentially beautiful house out of what most people would see as a

pile of stones! My good sense of direction helps us find our way around some of the leafy lanes too!



[3]

My pocket Chameleon continues to do sterling work as my carry around Filofax planner, in a way it duplicates some of the functions of the A4 but in a lot smaller package, it is also my wallet too. I keep looking at other bags to carry my Pocket in as well as my other stuff, but I've not found anything that can compare for ruggedness of my ex-CD Walkman shoulder bag.

Today I re-jigged my Finsbury Personal Slimline as my Photography notebook. Essential when you are taking photos of say 20 different houses over 3-4 days, which one was the one in walking distance of the village bakery.... I am also keeping it as a general notebook and my central point for To-Do lists now too. Although I will most probably move these around between organisers as required.

I'm also using a normal Finsbury Personal as my journal to record some of the detail of life in general on more or less day to day basis, although I often miss days. I should be better at this stuff I know!

So some great posts from the interwebs over the weekend:

- [4]My Filofax Family - I just loved the way Lucy 'posed' all of her collection for this 'photo shoot' I can see me 'copying' some of these ideas in future posts, when the weather warms up, I will venture out beyond our [5]Ikea coffee table which serves as the usual background for most of the pictures you see!
- [6]And these are a few of my favourite things - Dottie K shows off her latest Filofax and how she has customised her phone to match it.
- [7]Still working on it - Danish GTD is promising some photos of his rearranged set up, show them some support and we look forward to the seeing the pictures.
- [8]Random radio jottings and other gubbins - OK not a Filofax blog, but one about radio shows in UK of yesterday year. The author is a friend of ours here in France and he has a friend in UK who I know is a Philofaxy reader... take a look and show some support.

Coming up on Philofaxy soon... a quiz which I know you will find fun and might frustrate you at the same time... I'm still writing the questions, but it is shaping up nicely... watch this space as they say.. Have a good week.

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TUXrQahtpgI/AAAAAAAAI6A/zQTQsgNgaBY/s1600/LoirethouetRGB_Rev1-140.jpg
2. <http://ltps.fr/>
3. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TG8Z12w8VqI/AAAAAAAAILU/5H8JT7IL6Ko/s1600/IMG_9250.jpg
4. <http://louloudorsetsmusings.blogspot.com/2011/01/my-filofax-family.html?spref=tw>
5. <http://is00.thegumtree.com/image/big/26543760.jpg>
6. <http://www.dottiek.com/2011/01/and-these-are-few-of-my-favourite.html>

7. http://productiveliving.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html

8. <http://andywalmsley.blogspot.com/>

1.2 February

Breast Cancer Campaign - Donation Made (2011-02-01 05:16)



[1] *researching the cure*

Hi Everyone.

Thank you for your support in the last 6 weeks, by way of your purchases from Filofax UK via Philofaxy we managed to earn nearly £81 in commission. I've just made a donation to Breast Cancer Campaign with this money and added a donation of my own:

Dear Mr Morton

Thank you very much for your generous donation of £100.00 to Breast Cancer Campaign. You have also allowed us to claim Gift Aid which will add an extra 28p to every £1 you have donated, for which we are most grateful.

Thanks to research, more women than ever before are beating breast cancer and your gift is vital to our continued success.

Thank you once again for being one of the people whose generosity is bringing us closer to beating breast cancer.

With kind regards,

Arlene Wilkie

Director of Research and Policy

P.S.

Have you made a New Year's resolution to get fit? Then why not join one of Breast Cancer Campaign's brilliant challenges and have fun and fundraise at the same time! We have a challenge to suit everyone – check out our events and sign up today!

Again thank you for your support. I will do a similar charity donation in a few months time.

Regards

Steve

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TPYxfmWBN5I/AAAAAAAAItc/zTju0j5aCBU/s1600/bbc_logo.gif

Alison Reeves (2011-02-01 06:10:08)

Excellent Steve - it's great that you feel you want to do this so thanks from me.

Laurie (2011-02-01 09:41:30)

Steve thank you so much for doing this!!!

And thanks too for everyone who clicked through from Philofax to buy their Filofax UK products. :)

crofter (2011-02-01 11:49:31)

Well done Steve!!

I wonder if such a thing could be done with Filofax U.S.? I would certainly support it.

Butanben (2011-02-01 13:05:37)

Fabulous stuff Steve!!

caribbean princess (2011-02-01 13:55:49)

Well done!

J (2011-02-01 15:00:48)

Awesome!

I agree with crofter- is there any way to make this happen in the US? I would have loved to have helped with the UK campaign, but with international shipping there was just no way...

Nellie (2011-02-01 15:11:00)

Huurah! What a wonderful way to help a good cause!

Steve (2011-02-04 07:11:28)

In today's news:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-12356489>

Not good.. so all our efforts are worth it. I will be running another donation month or two soon.

I will look in to the possibility of the US as well

Steve

Wondering Wednesdays No 1. (2011-02-02 00:00)



[1]

OK an odd title... but 'Have you ever wondered about the number of pages a Slimline Filofax might hold?' Or any number of other questions you might have about your Filofax Organiser..

Well this post and hopefully others in this series will be a great place to ask those questions... anyone can ask a question.... and of course anyone can answer the questions.

We won't limit ourselves to only one question per week, but if you are responding to a question with an answer, please make it clear which one you are responding too, if the questions are similar.

I will capture them and add them to our [2]FAQ page, and once the FAQ's grows in numbers, I will separate out the Q &A's in to different sections on that page to make it easier to refer to. So hopefully the FAQ page will build up with some useful answers which we can refer people to... in a polite way of course.

If you are little shy about asking a question, then email your question to our email address (see the [3>About page) and I will post your question anonymously on the Wednesday posting.

As the title implies this will become a regular post for Wednesday each week, if it proves popular. It is

not going to replace Free For All Fridays, they will continue and of course you are then free to discuss anything Filofax related or to respond to the questions or ideas we sometimes pose to you. Oh and if you were wondering about the number of pages a Slimline will hold.... it's about 100-120... I tested this out for one of our readers last weekend!! And it is now on the FAQ page! So fire away with your questions.....

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TU0H0Lo4aI/AAAAAAAAI6E/3_q6hg9chFM/s1600/IMG_9777a.JPG
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/faq.html>
3. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/about-us.html>

justenoughsalt (2011-02-02 00:18:09)

"Free For All Fridays, they will continue and of course you are then free to discuss anything Filofax related or to respond to the questions or ideas we sometimes pose to you."

so we would have FFAF {free for all fridays } and FFAW {free for all wednesdays }?

i don't see how "Wondering Wednesdays" would be any different from FFAF? if they are the same why do we need two?

i am clearly missing something....

Steve (2011-02-02 00:47:01)

Hi

Think of the Wednesday post more of a Question and Answer session. And the Friday one as more of a general discussion one.

Yes or no?

Steve

Ashykay (2011-02-02 01:31:31)

I have a generalised question for everyone - this seems like the perfect forum for it (FFAW :D)

I'd like to know everyone's advice, opinions and critiques about whether you would recommend either a Pocket Finsbury, a Pocket Finchly or a Pocket Amazona.

I am here in Australia and want to buy a Filofax Pocket tomorrow from the US. I am edging towards the Pocket Amazona in Almond as I love the colour - sophisticated and work appropriate. However, just noticed some comments about the leather being a bit stiff etc.

Would love to hear your comments/comparisons :)

Thanks!!

justenoughsalt (2011-02-02 01:52:55)

....so

FFAF is not a free for all but everyone discussing ONE topic {different from what we have been doing }

AND

"Wondering Wednesdays" is really FFAW where we can ask multiple questions and respond to multiple questions is that it?

@ashley i have been awake so long when i saw your emoticon i laughed so hard i almost choked on the water i was drinking! FFAW :D

justenoughsalt (2011-02-02 01:59:24)

@ashley i have never managed to keep a pocket. it has always been too small for me but in terms of the styling. the amazona holds up the best over a long period of time. also, i would choose a finsbury over a finchley because i have never appreciated the extra "poofiness" or padding on the finchleys...and the others that do that. they remind me of those puffer jackets you see people wearing when it is cold outside. they end up looking like they wrapped themselves in a mattress to go run to the store and couldn't be bothered to put an outfit on.

long story short. go with whatever color you like the best.

Laurie (2011-02-02 02:44:41)

Ashley:

1) The entire Amazona range has been discontinued, so if you really like that one you should grab it while you can.

2) The Finsbury leather is stiff but loosens up a little over time. Finsbury's textured leather is not particularly soft.

3) Finchley leather is wonderfully soft to the touch.

It comes down to how tactile you are (Finchley), how glamorous you want your Filofax to be (Amazona) or if you want to save a little money/ have a specific color you want (Finsbury).

Hope this helps!

BTW, I think what Steve is getting at is this: Steve and I both get a lot of readers emailing us directly with specific questions (about a particular binder for example, or like Ashley trying to choose between models, sizes, etc.). Often I don't have the answer myself so I put it up on Philofaxy as a post. Wondering Wednesdays would allow people to post their question themselves without having to go through us and wait until we get around to posting it. Readers would know that Wednesday is Question Day, and would get their thinking caps on to help answer people's questions. (Steve, maybe we could call it Questions Wednesday or something more specific like that?)

Ashykay (2011-02-02 03:47:11)

Thanks for your opinions so far, they have been helpful. I do like all things glamorous, and the Amazona in Almond is still available so I think I am still swaying toward it!

Laurie - completely see your point about this Wednesday session. I often have little questions and feel bad bombarding emails to you all about them! I think it will work well :)

PS Still loving your blog, it's fantastic! I love how I can log on everyday and see a new post and lots of feedback on various Filo issues.

Alison Reeves (2011-02-02 04:30:41)

@Ashley - go for the almond amazona - I wish I had and now I can't get one in the UK at a reasonable price!

@Steve - this is a great idea. In my mind wednesdays are about questions about the physicalities of the Filofaxes and Fridays more about how you use them - or indeed anything else you can't wait to ask! (After all it is called Free For All!)

Anyway I'm assuming you will still post other posts as you think of them. I love the round up ones where you point us to other people in the internet talking about thier filofaxes!

Jotje (2011-02-02 06:03:26)

Question for Steve! Have you ever been to the Filofax Center in Paris? Is it any good? Worth a meeting location for Philofaxers?

(Oops, that's actually 3 questions ...)

Steve (2011-02-02 06:40:51)

First of all there's no strict rules on what you say on either day... we don't want to get in to scaring people off.

If you would prefer to to be renamed FFA then I'm happy with that, but may be moving it to Tuesday would be a better idea, equal space to Fridays in either direction then?

I'm sure we will still get questions on Fridays and discussion points on Tuesdays/Wednesdays... but it really doesn't matter does it?

And of course other postings will continue as normal time allowing of course. I've been crawling around in our loft this morning laying more insulation down yuk, dirty dusty job!!!

Regards

Steve

Ashykay (2011-02-02 07:07:39)

PS Ultimate wish list item - On Filofax UK site, Deco in Ivory is on sale for about 88 pounds...

Pity I live in Australia and that postage is 44 pounds!!!! That would bring it up from about AUD \$140 (without postage) to \$200 +.

kanalt (2011-02-02 07:07:43)

I think Question Tuesday/Wednesday is a great idea! It allows for specific questions looking for specific answers, as opposed to FFAF that allows for any type of discussion. Plus, since the questions will eventually be added to FAQs/indexed in some way, it will allow for easy access/search-ability. I assume this is to tackle the original proposal of a forum? I think it's a good solution, the main point being able to search the questions for quick answers in the future. This is how I see it, anyway.

Alex (2011-02-02 07:22:48)

@Ashley - I can't believe postage to Australia is £44! I'm in Scotland and I just bought my nephew a birthday present from the Wiggles website, based in Australia, and it's only costing me £6 to get it delivered here! Do you have any friends in the UK who could buy the Deco from the UK site for you and then post it over?

john (2011-02-02 07:36:57)

I think its a great idea & in what I think is the spirit of this, can anyone advise me on which Personal size FF have an elasticated pen loop

Ashykay (2011-02-02 07:40:02)

@Alex nooo I don't know anyone in UK unfortunately. I couldn't believe the postage. I buy books off Book Depository ALL the time for free postage (BD is a huge thing here in Aust-awesome UK website!). Might just have to keep wishing. Shame tho coz it's an amazing price & my fave style Filofax :(Filofax is generally really expensive over here in Australia - the Deco pocket retails for about \$450....which is a LOT!

krissydawn16 (2011-02-02 08:16:29)

I have a question!! I want a personal Filofax for my birthday. This would be my first Filofax. I plan to use it for everything, until it gets so full I need to divide it up. Everything would include work, graduate school information, family (my son's sports, etc.), addresses, birthdays... I work as a tutor at a university. There is not too much that I need to "take home" from work so I think it's manageable.

My question is, since I am going to be using it at work a bit, is a Domino too casual? I am really interested in the Domino because I've heard it lays flat and is very slim (no padded cover). I like that it closes securely. If it is not too casual, what color would you recommend? Originally, I fell in love with theglamorousgradstudent's lavender Domino. I also like the slate color. Any suggestions would be appreciated!

Laurie (2011-02-02 08:26:06)

The Domino looks fine when it's new, but the problem is it gets scratched very easily so over time it could get tatty-looking.

I haven't used mine heavily enough for it to be a problem, but for daily use and going everywhere in your bag, can anyone please tell us how long it takes the Domino to not look so nice? Thank you!

Saffy (2011-02-02 08:36:16)

Ashley, where in Oz do you live?

Jotje (2011-02-02 09:11:38)

@John: The Domino has an elasticated pen loop. ANY fat pen will fit.

@Krissy: I've used my Lavender Domino quite a bit, and yes, it does scratch easily. However, I'm not too disturbed by it. I think any Domino colour will look nice, but for an extra sophisticated look you could go for the snake print version (available in darkbrown, bronze and natural). Try ebay or amazon if the colours are not available on FF UK. I know they are plenty available in Germany and Holland. The snake print has a glossy coating that prevents it to scratch easily. Inside the bronze and darkbrown version both have darkbrown suede, which looks really nice (especially with the bronze).

Another option would be to buy a cheap NEW Personal leather binder through Ebay. Prices there are much lower

than the official prices. I just saw a Personal Finsbury in Raspberry (new!) for only GBP 25,- on ebay.co.uk (now, don't you all rush over and buy it, give Krissy a headstart first!).

Jotje (2011-02-02 09:14:04)

@Ashley: the stupid thing is that Filofax postage goes by item price, instead of weight (like Filofax Denmark does!). Thus, the postage for the Deco is simply ridiculous! If I were to order it, it would cost me 20 pounds to get it to Holland, when in fact it wouldn't cost FF more than about 8 GBP to send it insured and signed for. I really think there shipping policy is outrageous!

Saffy (2011-02-02 09:27:26)

@Krissy: There is also a personal Chameleon in Raspberry for £34.99 with free postage within the U.K. Going by last Friday's FFAF it lays flat after a few days. Worth considering.

crofter (2011-02-02 09:29:51)

I am not using a normal slimline per se, it is a 5clf 1/2 so it is the same ring size as some slimlines and 1/16 larger than some of the others. I just counted, and at present I have 82 pages. I would guess it gets up to 90 or so but not anymore. I keep it this size so that all the pages turn freely.

Most of the pages are the Daytimer pages, and they are a bit thicker than the Filofax pages, so if you are using Filofax, 100 would be about right.

I welcome this new question and answer day, I really don't care if it is Tues. or Weds, I will enjoy it. I just don't want Steve getting bogged down in too much administrative work, don't want him getting burned out. I think that is critical to both longevity and high quality of this blog.

Steve (2011-02-02 10:07:02)

OK looks like we might have a FFAT but with the emphasis on questions and answers on a Tuesday... and a FFAF on Fridays for open general discussion.

Actually, things you say in your comments do actually help me about what to write about, you might not realise it at the time but you generate thoughts and ideas, so it's all good stuff.

And if I may..... I have a question... not directly Filofax related although the end result is Filofax related I suppose.

How do I go about improving my hand writing?

Firstly I generally only write in my Filofax, and the rest of the time I'm touch typing all the time... lack of practice I suppose, but I don't ever remember I was a particularly neat writer.

Is it too late to change??

Alison Reeves (2011-02-02 10:11:27)

Can anyone using Day Timer pages confirm they fit OK? They look quite interesting. I did have some personal size inserts from Quo Vardis which proved to be a bit wider than the filofax ones and this tended to hide the index tabs which was a bit annoying!

Steve (2011-02-02 10:12:57)

Alison

FAQ no. 4....

Day Timer Portable size is the same as Filofax Personal size. Their Desk size is similar to A5, but the ring spacing is not the same as Filofax

Alison Reeves (2011-02-02 10:14:11)

PS has anyone used the A5 (desk) Day Timer - if you repunch does it look a complete mess? I have some Reinforcing Patches I could use to strengthen it.

krissydawn16 (2011-02-02 10:15:34)

Hey - I can't find the finsbury on eBay, even after trying the worldwide search. I'm in USA, and I don't think the

FilofaxUSA website has any of the Domino snake! :(I will check Amazon and eBay for those.
Steve, if you figure out how to improve your handwriting, let me know! I've done lots of reading online. Suggestions included using your whole arms to write, rather than just your wrist, using a wider pen, loosening your grip... all take lots of time and practice to adopt.

krissydawn16 (2011-02-02 10:32:45)

Thanks for all the help - and info about Dominoes. I think I just fell in love with the Finchley in purple. Last Friday several people said they lay flat right out of the box AND it has a zipper pouch in the back. I also LOVE purple. :) I found one on Amazon, and I saved an eBay search. Crossing my fingers that I can get a deal!

Alex (2011-02-02 10:43:02)

Krissy, the purple Finchley is gorgeous. I don't have one myself but if I were going to buy another one that would probably be my choice! I also love purple colours. I have a mini Finsbury in Raspberry and a pocket Deco in Amethyst, so the purple Finchley would fit in quite nicely! Pity I'm trying to save my pennies at the moment. I think it's the right choice over the Domino. The Domino is great - I bought my sister one when she started university and she loves it - but in my opinion it's not quite as 'professional' looking as the leather ones. And as others have said, it's not as protective of its contents when rattling around in a handbag.

@Ashley - I would be happy to help you out with getting your hands on the Deco, but I understand you probably don't want to trust a complete stranger on the other side of the world with your money! Having said that, my boyfriend recently got my Christmas present with the help of a total stranger in the US who he found through an internet forum, so I'd be happy to do the same for someone else.

Saffy (2011-02-02 11:26:13)

It appears the sale is over, just checked the FF UK website and the discounts are no longer available. Does anyone know when to expect the spring/summer colours? Can't wait. Ashely, still may be able to help.

Butanben (2011-02-02 11:45:19)

I personally thought Wondering Wednesdays a great title!!! Maybe the Philofaxers could come up with ideas for a zingy title if it's a Questions Tuesday now?? Thinking hats on???

Steve (2011-02-02 12:09:54)

Yes a lot of time and effort went in to the title for Wednesday's Wonderings!!! Not really....
How about Tuesday's Twenty Questions? Not that we would limit the number of questions asked... 1-20 ok... 21 and above we just ignore... no!!
Steve

Jotje (2011-02-02 13:31:23)

@Krissy: my fault! I thought you were in the UK. This particular seller probably didn't offer worldwide shipping, thus the auction wouldn't appear in a worldwide search. I guess.

The Finchley (and also the Chameleon) is great!

@Alison: I ordered the Desk size Flavia refills for my A5 Filofax, then repunched the first 6 months, until I realized that it looked absolutely horrible! So much so that I decided to downsize to Personal, LOL.

The Daytimer Portable however is exactly fitting the Personal, both in rings as in page size.

Christy (2011-02-02 13:40:09)

@Allison Reeves -

I am using the Daytimer Desk two pages per month in my A5 Finsbury. I did indeed have to repunch the pages and personally, I think it looks terrible.

I wasn't able to just expand the existing holes — I had to create entirely new holes and it looks cluttered and messy. If I had it to do over again, I'd never have bought them!

That said, the pages that I am using are from the Flavia collection, so they are different colors. Maybe if you just

use the plain ones (white pages with green trim) the extra holes wouldn't be so obvious and bothersome. I do love the Daytimer pages in my personal, though!:)

john (2011-02-02 14:32:39)

@Jotje: thanks, I'll look into that.

@Steve: an old trick to help with hand writing was to use a blunt HB pencil the work up to a fountain pen with a broad nib.

Amanda (2011-02-02 14:37:28)

ooh - bit late to the party... Sorry!

The Wondering Wednesdays is a brilliant idea!! I don't mind if it stays on Wed or goes to Tuesday. It's good to have a place to post queries and then on Fridays just share the love! :-)

I will be able to tell you soon how many pages an A5 Finchley holds as my new jade has arrived and it is all change in the Amanda-household between work, home and book-o-fax.

I adore my two Finchleys, and didn't like the feel of the Chameleon. The purple is gorgeous (as are they all!!). It would look more professional than a Domino (that said I have a Domino at work).

Since Filofax.France has just delivered a big pile of goodies to me, I may have some diaries for sale if anyone would be interested (I don't need them - or the A-Z either...)

Happy Wednesday everyone!

Amanda (2011-02-02 14:43:28)

@Steve

I agree with John - start with a fairly blunt pencil, use smooth paper to write on, & write slowly. I have terrible writing in biro but with pencil or fountain pen (and then only a fairly broad nibbed FP) it looks pretty nice. Good pen for me was an Osmiroid, medium, flat-tip nib.

Nellie (2011-02-02 15:34:57)

Sorry, a bit late to this, have been out running (yes, I log it in my filo!).

@Steve There are quite a few useful websites out there on improving handwriting and some useful videos on YouTube. I will try to look them out for you and email them.

Ashykay (2011-02-02 18:20:00)

@ Saffy - I live in Queensland (yep the State that has been absolutely battered in floods and now Cyclone Yasi last night...). You were right about the sale being off :(How disappointing!!

Saffy (2011-02-02 18:22:38)

What part of Qld? I visit family there every year. They have not been in the flood or Yasi area's thank goodness.

Saffy (2011-02-02 19:18:21)

Ashley, have you looked at Kikki.K? They have their own version of organiser which I saw while out there in December, I was quite tempted to buy one myself. I may even buy their diary refill next year for something different. My niece bought the A5 blue and it was lovely. Just a thought.

Chloe (2011-02-02 20:32:47)

@Amanda

I am so jealous! My Jade Finchley hasn't arrived yet. I bet it is beautiful.

Too keep everything on topic - I'm cool with FFAT and FFAF

Ashykay (2011-02-02 20:47:58)

@ Saffy - I have seen the Kikki-k ones - they are really cute...not quite the same for me though as my Filofax :(Even though I've found the Deco online in the USA for US \$200 (it's about dollar for dollar here at the moment) ...I think I might be good and get the Almond Amazona instead...I hope it is nice :(

Ashykay (2011-02-02 21:40:05)

I bit the bullet and bought the Deco Pocket for USA \$200....

Laurie (2011-02-02 22:37:42)

Ashely you are going to love the Deco!! I adore mine.

Ashykay (2011-02-02 22:41:26)

@ Laurie - sorry I am hogging up this blog with my indecisiveness! I take back my previous comment...I just couldn't bring myself to press the send button :(So I settled with an Almond Amazona. One day I will definitely get the Deco though - it's my all-time favourite!

Laurie (2011-02-02 22:42:48)

Oh well, you will love the Amazona too, it is very classy. And that secretarial pocket inside the front cover is wonderful!

Enjoy your new Filofax, and tell us all about it when it arrives! :)

Saffy (2011-02-03 04:02:47)

Ashley, you will love the Amazona. I have it in slimline and use it everyday. I love the feel of it.

If your Deco purchase coincides with a trip back to Oz (my father lives in QLD) then I will be more than happy to bring it out for you and save on international postage.

Ashykay (2011-02-03 05:14:21)

@Saffy - thank you so much for that! Hope your Dad is safe in Qld after all of our mother nature issues? :(

Amanda (2011-02-03 14:27:48)

@Chloe

Your Finch come yet? It's lovely and a more definite green than I expected. I would have described it as Spring Green rather than jade..

Hope yours has arrived/arrives soon and that you love it as much as I love mine!

Chloe (2011-02-04 06:08:45)

@Amanda - Nope not yet :) I'm just impatient. I can't wait to see it. I was hoping the green would be quite rich. Are you going to post photos?

Jess (2011-02-04 08:21:03)

Alison, I'm looking to sell my almond Amazona as I'm short on money at the moment. I've never used it, it's still in its box - rings unopened. What kind of price were you looking to pay?

Jess x

shepcraig (2011-02-04 12:26:39)

Steve, my writing is terrible as well, the only time I ever write neatly is when I use my Lamy Safari Fountain Pen with a fine calligraphy nib, I cannot do any calligraphy, just use it for normal writing, and it makes a huge improvement, I have no idea why though.

Jotje (2011-02-05 03:31:46)

Steve, my handwriting also improved tremendously after starting to use the Lamy Safari with Medium nib. So much so, that I can now write with the fine nib or any other pen reasonably neat.

I have a strange thing with my handwriting. About once a year I decide that I don't like how I write a certain letter and then I teach myself to write it differently, until it comes naturally. When I look back at handwritten texts from years back, I notice that it changed quite a lot. Which also feels a bit weird, like someone else wrote it

...

Malden....Don't Panic (2011-02-02 17:35)



[1]

Has anyone else noticed that the [2]Malden Personal is now only available in crimson on Filofax UK. The [3]Pocket size is now only available in black and crimson.

But don't panic, the [4]French Filofax site still has all three colours available at the moment.

I will be updating the Filofax Guide over the next few days, the major change in UK is the increase in prices due to the VAT increase.

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TMGi9-Vb41I/AAAAAAAAIVc/8vs8q-Er2us/s1600/malden.jpg
2. <http://tidd.ly/d5e6a9ab>
3. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=Malden&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Forganiserdetails.asp%3FsizeId%3D2%26rangeId%3D150%26dsId%3D2>
4. <http://www.filofax.fr/store/organiserdetails.asp?sizeId=3&rangeId=150&dsId=3>

J (2011-02-02 18:41:12)

Panics anyway and runs off to Filofax US...*

SNARLing: (2011-02-02 20:15:26)

yes, i've noticed. i'm thinking though that it only means new colours coming. i'm guessing some sort of purple or magenta, a light olive green and a pearly white. just guessing, wouldn't they be pretty tho? ooh and a turquoise blue. those colours would be nice in that leather. i'm also really really hoping they come out with malden slimlines. i've been throwing it around various places on the web hoping "they" hear me...

i'm also dying to see the winning design of the contest here in the US...

Laurie (2011-02-02 22:41:18)

Interesting that the Crimson is the only one available right now, because according to Craig at The Pen Shop in Edinburgh, Filofax has discontinued the Crimson but not the other colors.

But as we all know, discontinuation takes time. For example, the ivory Deco was "discontinued" last spring but only just went on clearance about a month ago or so, and is currently still available.

So, try not to panic! (Coming from a complete panic-buyer!)

katka (2011-02-03 03:17:27)

hi, I've just found Compact Luxe on french website.It looks like slim, but with classic closure. Has anybody seen it in real?

Iris (2011-02-03 07:48:13)

In Germany, Ochre is currently out of stock as well.

Changing your set-up (2011-02-03 00:00)



[1]

There's always a danger when you change your Filofax system that something won't quite work as you thought it would.

I've been using my A4 as my desk planner since Christmas, along with my Pocket as my wallet and carry around Filofax, I have to sync both together on a regular basis. But I'm used to doing this. Previously my A5 was my desk planner.

However, as you might have suspected the A4 is great on your desk, but you aren't likely to want to carry it around, even around the house. With my A5 I would keep To-Do lists in it that I was only using at home, so it wasn't a big problem to take it upstairs or to the bedroom if I was putting together my next clothing shopping list, or putting together some notes on reprogramming something. So far I've not really used the A4 for To-Do lists, it really is too big, but it's great as a desk planner, clear and plenty of space for the busiest of days.

With my Pocket, my To-Do lists tend to be things for me to do or remember to buy when I'm out and about, so the two sets of lists are never totally in sync there might be odd items that are duplicated. If I transfer an item from one list to another I tick it off as completed on the origin list.

So this week I came up with an idea to bring my Finsbury Personal Slimline back in to regular use as my at home notebook and To-Do list. It still has my photographic notes in the back so it gets tucked in to my camera bag when we are out photographing houses. The majority of the time it sits comfortably next to the A4 on my desk and the two are working well in tandem.

The Slimline as I discovered will hold between 100-120 pages, so there is plenty of space for a great range of notes and lists etc.

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/S4RbmntgEBI/AAAAAAAAAH-c/NB_fGKkboT4/s1600/IMG_8746.JPG

Timeless Expressions (2011-02-03 04:54:32)

what a great post... now me thinks I need an A4!!!

Very useful info on here.. and it makes sense to me.

Love Jo

Amanda (2011-02-03 14:25:52)

I think I have now changed/tweaked my filofaxes at work and home about seven times in seven days and it's still not quite right... I think this weekend I will have to do a what/where session and sort it all out!

I have moved the diary towards the back, as writing on the LHS this early in the year when the diary is at the front is a bit tricky... That's working well. I think I saw that tip on here somewhere!

Chloe (2011-02-04 06:05:31)

Oh that is a good tip @Amanda. I have mine at the front and find I have to take the page out if I need to write something close to the ring on the LHS. Still waiting for my Finchley :)

Amanda (2011-02-04 15:29:49)

@Chloe

Oh it's not my idea!! I saw it on here (somewhere...) and thought it was a really sensible thing and it's working well for me. By the end of the year I will probably swap the diary back to the front.

[the post was about someone's filofax and how it was organised and Steve (I think) asked why the diary was in the middle and they said it made it easier to write in and the diary was used more than the notes]

Amanda (2011-02-04 15:31:45)

Ha ha - found the post! It was Jess' Domino snake set-up:

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/04/guest-post-jesss-a5-snake-domino.html>

Smart cookie Jess!

Free For All Friday No 116 (2011-02-04 00:00)

Yes, it is Friday once again, the weekend is just hours away, don't forget we have a [1]Skype Roundtable again on Sunday, come and join in, come and just listen if you want. Or join in the IM chat.

Have a great weekend what ever you are doing, where ever you are.

Right the floor is yours to discuss anything Filofax related.

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/01/date-for-your-filofax-sunday-6-feb-2011.html>

Silver_Elixir (2011-02-04 02:31:33)

I have just received my new Filofaxes. A personal Imperial Purple Finchley and a Pocket Swarovski Special Edition Filofax. They are both divine! The Finchley is soft and luxurious, while the Swarovski is decadent. I was hoping to use it as a wallet, thinking it had a pocket section behind the spine, but it doesn't. I am not sure if I will use it or sell it on. It is stunning to look at. I will put pics on my Flickr stream. The Finchley is lying mostly flat out of the box. Completely flat if the pages are on both sides. Tonight I will move out of my Kendal and into the Finchley. One thing I will really miss from the Kenadal is the extra pocket at the back - it is quite useful!!!

Alison Reeves (2011-02-04 03:35:38)

My Pocket Swarovski Special Edition has a popped pocket at the back in which you could keep coins or paper, with a slip in section behind it. Not sure if your is different. I agree it is very glamorous. I use mine as a diary and for notes on the go.

The purple Finchley sounds wonderful - I have one in Antique Rose which I use currently as a household binder - it really is the most soft and beautiful leather. My other A5 is a bronze domino - for some reason I'm not a great fan of the domino, but I love this bronze one.

Alison Reeves (2011-02-04 05:55:54)

Just one more thought. I am fascinated by all the uses people put their filofaxes too. I wonder if we could build a list that could later go on the FAQ page? A sort of inspiration of what can be done. I've also fascinated by the wonderful adornments people have done - using crystals, scrapbooking and so on. I wonder if we could have a list of all these links? I completely forgot to bookmark them and can't find most of them now! Hopefully I'm not in the minority here!

Jotje (2011-02-04 06:33:59)

Alison, I'd love such a usage list as well! I thought I had come up with quite a list of uses myself, but I'm always seeing completely new uses here or on Flickr, and it really fascinates me!

Steve (2011-02-04 06:34:00)

A great idea Alison to link back to previous 'uses' posts. Have you tried searching using the Google search box? Whilst I'm here.... I can also report that my wife has started using here Filofax again as her desk diary. It's the old one I did the restoration post on last year!! She doesn't make a big thing about using it and I obviously don't want to discourage her!

Steve

caribbean princess (2011-02-04 07:12:54)

I agree. A 'uses' list would be very helpful, especially for people like me who keep on adding to their filofax collection. Another one arrived yesterday for me! Yay! :-))

Annie (2011-02-04 07:22:15)

I'm curious, if you buy a brand new filofax in the uk at the moment, what inserts does it come with? I'm eyeing up a personal finchley (because I learned yesterday that some personal binders actually lay flat! Now my stubborn Cherry Cross seems sooo inferior.)

Laurie (2011-02-04 07:35:33)

Hi Annie, what inserts come with the binder depend on which model it is. For example, some come with cotton cream diary pages and some with white horizontal week on 2 pages. Colors of divider tabs, pages included etc. varies.

Here is the Filofax UK website for the personal size Finchley, if you scroll down you'll see the list of what is included in the binder:

<http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?sizeId=3 &rangeId=84 &dsizedId=3>

Annie (2011-02-04 07:46:14)

Thanks Laurie, I'm now wondering how I even managed to miss that in the first place. The Finchley having cotton cream pages makes it even more tempting!

Laurie (2011-02-04 07:50:51)

Oh yes, it's classy inside and out! I don't own one but every time I see Filofaxes in shops I pick up a Finchley just to fondle it. That leather is so nice!

plaiditude (2011-02-04 08:42:29)

My Filofax count is about to double. I got a list of clearance items from Letts Canada which distributes in Canada from filofaxusa. I'm getting a mini brown kendal, and a Strata in three sizes - pocket, personal and A5. All for about \$36CDN! I'll let you all know what they are like once I get them - usually takes about 3 weeks :(

SNARLing: (2011-02-04 08:56:24)

whoa plaid that is awesome! i would like to have a big collection but i hate the idea of having a bunch of them that aren't being used and i don't think i can have specific uses for individual ones like 'household' or 'health'. i've discovered i do like it all in one place. even in having a pocket for my bag and then a main one, i find that i've been carrying BOTH around trying to see which format feels best for me. anyway, i agree the usage list would be helpful, i realize it's a lot of work. i do also really love the web finds and do google blogs on it regularly. so glad to find folk who love talking about their planners! thank you philofaxy - happy year of the rabbit to you

krissydawn16 (2011-02-04 09:55:29)

@silver I am so jealous of your purple finchley! I can't stop talking about how much I want one - my husband says "If you don't buy one soon, I'm going to do it for you!" But I'm waiting for a great deal on eBay or something like what @plaiditude did!

I've been looking at the Adelphi personal because of the zipper pocket in the back. I'm not sure I like any of the colors (unless I can find one in USA in Damson). Any thoughts on the Adelphi?

As far as the uses, I plan to use mine as an appointment book, address/birthday/anniversary book, and to-do

lists. Fairly generic, but I plan on making decorative dividers for each section.

caribbean princess (2011-02-04 11:19:11)

@krissydawn

I own the damson adelphi and it is definitely my favourite filofax by far.

you can look at it here

<http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2010/09/my-lovely-adelphi-filofax.html>

and I decorated some dividers here

<http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2010/12/decorating-my-adelphi-filofax.html>

enjoy!

Laurie (2011-02-04 12:03:20)

krissydawn, not to send you into a panic, but the entire Adelphi line has been discontinued by Filofax UK so they are all on their way out. Right now there is no way to tell how long it will take to completely phase them out.

Steve (2011-02-04 12:16:32)

From comments I've picked up from Filofax staffers this last week, they are all busy 'stock taking' at the moment...

I suspect counting the numbers of organisers they have in what sizes and colours....

News on new sizes and colours is still a little thin on the ground apart from a few 'hints', but the new catalogue is due soon...

Amanda (2011-02-04 15:21:14)

Again a bit late to the party (spot the days I work and don't get onto this brilliant site...)

@Plaid

Wow! You lucky person! I just effectively doubled my filofax collection (with a new jade finch, a new baroque mini and a new baroque personal, all from filofax france) but it was (ahem) a teensy bit more expensive!!

[Incidentally - as a consequence, I have a number of brand new A-Z and diaries available - see Adspot.]

@Silver

The Finchley filofaxes are just divine!

@Alison - excellent idea!! A survey of uses would be brilliant - maybe we could have a whole post on it?

@Krissydawn

And what's the problem with carrying on talking about the finchley until your hubby buys you it? I don't see a downside! :-)

Happy Friday everyone!

Amanda (2011-02-04 16:20:16)

The mini baroque I treated myself to as a purse-o-fax is working quite well, except the zipped pocket isn't quite in the right place... I'm hoping to do a 'hack' this weekend and use an eyelet punch to put eyelets into a small zipped purse (free from Clinique a few years ago that is the perfect size! and make that the coin holder bit, then the zipped pocket in the baroque can be used for something else less bulky.

Has anyone else done anything like this??

Steve (2011-02-04 19:11:13)

Get plenty of sleep tonight folks... be bright and awake tomorrow because tomorrow afternoon/evening you will need to be on top form... testing your knowledge and your cunning to the full.....

Steve

Silver_Elixir (2011-02-05 04:50:35)

I have just moved myself into my new Finchley. In doing so I have added some new pages and tweaked my set up a bit. I was wondering if anyone had the Filofax over full? Lying flat open, my pages are just over where the rings open. I am careful with my pages, in that when I close my Filo I hold the Filo in my left hand along the spine and with my right hand hold all the pages and gently pull them so they are straight on the rings. I need to do this so that they don't curve around the rings on the Filo and get crushed. Which is what had happened to

the last 5 A-Z tabs when I got it yesterday. Does anyone else have a very full Filo and do you need to close it carefully?

Amanda (2011-02-05 06:58:43)

@Silver

I had over-packed my Finchley too - too used to the extra room in a domino! In the end I slimmed it down (mostly because actually turning the pages was getting tricky!). Like you I always make sure that all the pages are taut before closing the cover, otherwise the outer ones get bent.

What extra have you out in it? What's your set-up like? (Sorry - deeply nosy!)

joffreyca (2011-02-05 10:57:04)

@plaiditude

Lucky you! I wish I could have gotten a copy of that clearance list.

Plaiditude's comment gave me an idea for a topic for the next FFAF: What's the best value Filofax you've purchased?

Amanda (2011-02-05 11:47:27)

Purse hack worked a treat!

I'll probably blog about it tomorrow (with pics) on "Paper Pens Ink" (which is rapidly turning into "filofax, filofax, filofax"!)

Laurie (2011-02-05 12:18:53)

Silver, last year when I met Brigitte, the manager of the Filofax shop in London, and she saw my over-stuffed Deco she (rightfully) scolded me. Actually what she said was, "Oh my! That is abuse." She said the ring mechanism will eventually break if I have the pages going all the way around the rings (filling the rings). Ever since then I've been ruthless in keeping my page numbers down so it's not over-stuffed, because I definitely don't want to break the ring mechanism!

Silver_Elixir (2011-02-05 22:51:26)

It's not fully 'stuffed' but I would be hard pressed to get anything more into it!

Amanda my set up is as follows - but it is a work in process at the moment.

Tab One: To Do's and Project lists with details about my projects

Tab Two: Notes Section. I just write info here then move it later.

Tab Three: Home. Here I keep information about the house, draw measurements, window measurements, I have a page per family member (with info re likes dislikes and gift ideas, sizes atc) Pet info page(name, dob, microchip and vaccine info. also vets and groomers) School info including a typed up list of my son's school sightwords, names of teachers each year and excursions he did. Plus cute things said and some small drawings. I have a list of things that need attention when moving, I intend to put in a list of what to take should we need to leave the house (I live in QLD Australia). I have info about all the companys I deal with so if I am away from home I can contact them. I am also going to create a home inventory of games and toys my son has along with major items at home.

Tab Four: Calendar with Birthday and Anniversary Page

Tab Five: Me Section. Goals. Journal Prompts. Food Diary. Wishlist. Magic Memories and Gratitude Pages.

Tab Six: This section is divided in two - first is my budget area where I keep track of income and weekly bills.

Behind a homemade top tab I keep my week shopping list and menu.

Behind this is another home made top tab with my info section here I have pages with :

authors

books read

books to get

Filofax info (with printing page info, pages that I want to get, and a list of Filos I have

iPhone info

movies to get

ideas pages

library info

web sites

quotes

parenting stuff

behind this are new slimline a-z tabs, but I think they are taking up too much room. I am thinking of pulling it all apart and just using the a-z tabs to file everything behind.

Some of the pages I have can be reduced down a bit and that is what I aim to do in the next few days.

Hope this answered your question Amanda!

Amanda (2011-02-06 07:05:18)

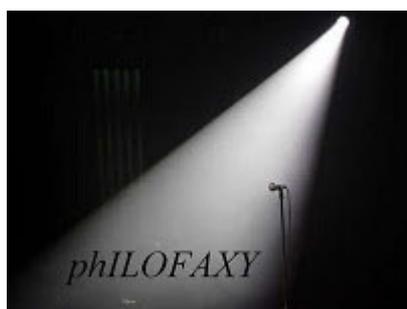
@Silver

It did indeed! Wow - no wonder it's a teensy bit full! It sounds really great though. Do you have addresses in your slimline A-Z?

I've put up pictures of the purse hack btw - <http://paperpensink.blogspot.com/2011/02/mini-baroque-filopurse.html>

if anyone's interested...

Web Finds (2011-02-04 13:55)



[1]

Thanks once again to our readers for spotting these posts and letting me know. These I hope will give you some Filofax mojo for the weekend...

Starting with three in German from [2]Ralf Schulze (use Google Translate or Google Chrome):

- [3]Vintage Filofax Ascot - Getting some TLC to be restored
- [4]Vintage Filofax Dundee - A very nice example of this model
- [5]A Finsbury Slimline as a Wallet - Now where have I seen that [6]idea before... thanks for the credit

And some others:

- [7]Starting the new year - [8]Saraccino - and can I put in a request for some of those brownies...
- [9]Things I like - The Crazy Life of J - come great pictures and comments
- [10]Some at least 50 year old iconic objects that you can still buy today - Yes of course Filofax is in the list
- [11]Personal Heart for sale - Glitter and Lovex - looking for a cheap entry level Filofax, then this one is for you....
- [12]Readers Adverts - Some other goodies for sale here too.

Enjoy.

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TGFWfQiVx8I/AAAAAAAAIIQ/lume_of_ZI4/s1600/Spotlight.jpg
2. <http://provinznotizen.wordpress.com/>
3. <http://provinznotizen.wordpress.com/2011/02/03/filofax-ascot/>
4. <http://provinznotizen.wordpress.com/2011/02/01/filofax-dundee/>
5. <http://provinznotizen.wordpress.com/2010/12/28/filofax-finsbury-slimline-als-brieftasche/>
6. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/02/using-my-slimline-filofax-as-my-wallet.html>
7. <http://saraccino.blogspot.com/2011/01/starting-new-year.html>
8. <http://saraccino.blogspot.com/>
9. <http://thecrazylifeofj.blogspot.com/2011/01/things-i-like-lamy-safari.html>
10. <http://pandik.wordpress.com/2011/02/04/some-at-least-50-years-old-iconic-objects-that-you-can-still-buy-today-part-i/>
11. <http://glitterandlovex.blogspot.com/2011/01/filofax-personal-heart-for-sale-d.html>
12. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/readers-ads.html>

Philofaxy Valentines Quiz 2011 (2011-02-05 07:00)

So a quiz to test your Philofaxy knowledge... not quite Mastermind, or University Challenge.

I hope you will be able to find your way through my maze of questions until you get to the end of the Yellow Brick Road and you get to answer the final question and submit your entry to us so you can register your entry for the prize giveaway.

So how do you take part? It is simple.... you need to find the answer to the first question below, when you find the answer to that question you will find a link to the next question, and so on and so on.

As a hint each link is the word or words that is the answer to the question with * * each side of the link so you know you have found the right one.

There are 10 questions in total, some easy, some hard, but all of the answers are contained within the Philofaxy blog. To find the answers you can use the labels cloud or the Google search box, or the archive index.

If you want to try and solve the answers with other readers on the site, then you are open to share your thoughts, clues, hints in the comments to this thread. However, the arrival of the final answer emails will determine who will be a prize winner or not... so the further you get through the questions.. you might not want to share the answers quite as freely....

The quiz will remain on line all week, the winner will not be declared until 14 February. A league table of finishers will be published on the blog, along with the answers to each of the questions with links to the posts which had the hidden the links in them.

So the starter question:

Question 1: Inthe beginning what did Philofaxer allow to gather dust.

So good luck with your quest and most of all enjoy the quiz....

[1]



1. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?s=219480&v=2457&q=110796&r=97790>

Imy (2011-02-05 08:43:41)
your device???

Nellie (2011-02-05 09:42:39)
The quiz is fun! Nice way to get people to look at old posts. :)

krissydawn16 (2011-02-05 10:05:49)
Well that was fun! Especially as a new reader, I enjoyed reading the older posts!
Kristen

Iris (2011-02-05 10:44:26)
First question was easy - I remembered that post. But now I just can't find the answer to the second question - I have searched the blog for about half an hour by now...

krissydawn16 (2011-02-05 10:55:21)
That one took me awhile too Iris!

Steve (2011-02-05 12:50:59)
So should I give out any clues yet?
I might have been too clever with the final question... we will see how many people get the right answer!

Nellie (2011-02-05 13:28:13)
The final question was a bit tricky. I think I got it wrong... :(

krissydawn16 (2011-02-05 13:39:30)
Steve, if I got the final question correct, then I thought it was great!

Alison Reeves (2011-02-05 13:45:37)
The final question I found hard - I'm hoping I got it right! Is there a prize?

caribbean princess (2011-02-05 13:47:44)
No fair! I didn't get any clues. I totally enjoyed it though. Excellent job Steve!

Steve (2011-02-05 13:51:55)
Well I'm getting quite a few people getting the right answer now to the final question... although I'm not 100 % sure you are all arriving at the answer in quite the way I intended, but that doesn't matter does it really.....
Yes there is a prize.... possibly more than one prize...
But the main thing is I hope you enjoyed it, exercise the brain box a little and also find out how to find older posts on the blog!
I think this might be popular enough to try again in the future? Let me know your thoughts and I will see what I can dream up!

Alison Reeves (2011-02-05 15:24:27)
Well, I really enjoyed it and learnt things as I went through the questions! I'd be happy to do another one in the future.

M Ng (2011-02-05 23:38:52)
Thanks for the little diversion! It was fun to hunt, and fun to revisit some of those older posts. I'd almost forgotten about the early days and my own sporadic comments.

Robin (2011-02-05 23:48:25)
I was fashionably late for this party, but it was a good one. Very fun! I'll be interested to see what the *real* final answer is!

Nellie (2011-02-06 03:25:37)

I think I got the final answer at about 3am! If I did, I got it wrong first time round, I took you too literally Steve!

Iris (2011-02-06 08:46:14)

So I am the only one who didn't get beyond question 2 yet? How very frustrating - and embarrassing...

Jotje (2011-02-06 09:15:46)

Me, I got a bit stuck at question nr. 6. That DID take quite some time to solve. The others were fairly easy, because as a translator I've mastered Google!!

It was a lot of fun, I really enjoyed this. Felt a bit like the childhood "scavenger hunts". I love games and puzzles!

caribbean princess (2011-02-06 09:35:55)

Oh no Iris dont give up, use google for question 2 and it will help you!

I had so much fun with this quiz. Maybe we could have one for easter?

krissydawn16 (2011-02-06 10:53:43)

I completely agree with Caribbean Princess! I loved the quiz... I enjoy puzzles and those sorts of things. I would enjoy doing another one someday.

BIC Criterium 2.0 mm Mechanical Pencil (2011-02-06 00:00)



[1] I was looking for another mechanical pencil to go with my Slimline Filofax the other day. I've been a long time fan of the Pentel P200 series of pencils and I have them in various sizes (0.5, 0.7, 0.9 mm).

However, I was looking around a stationary shop whilst out the other day, I spotted some Quo Vadis planners... but I digress! Anyway I was looking through the pens and pencils available in the store and I spotted this BIC pencil with a 2mm thick lead and I wondered what my hand writing would be like with something a bit thicker.

The end of the pencil pulls off and it contains a pencil sharpener and a pencil eraser. The pencil also came with a case of ten HB pencil leads.

My first impressions are very good, it feels a lot smoother when writing on paper, less 'scratchy' than the much thinner mechanical Pentel pencils I have been using.

Here are some samples, first the Pentel 0.7 mm

Philofaxy

Filofax for the love
filofax Philofaxy

[2]

And then the BIC 2.0 mm

Philofaxy

Philofaxy

Philofaxy

for the

for the love

PHILOFAXY

FILOFAX

[3]

Err now you can see why I was looking for tips on improving my handwriting... thanks for the feedback! Actually I think I have worked out why it looks so untidy... but another time...

Maybe the difference between these two pencils doesn't show up from the scans, but in use I'm going to give the BIC an extended long term test.

Unfortunately I've not found this particular model for sale outside of France, unless you have found it for sale.

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TU3MvI3x4JI/AAAAAAAAI6M/CQqJgd_-A34/s1600/IMG_9782.jpg
2. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TU3PMY64ZDI/AAAAAAAAI6Q/8BM3jzwc4mA/s1600/pentel.jpg
3. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TU3PdZS1vII/AAAAAAAAI6U/TX5nk4oHEXk/s1600/bic.jpg

Beverley (2011-02-06 01:35:23)

I use a Staedtler Mars Technico with 2mm lead. Bought here in the back of beyond interior of BC usually called "beyond Hope" (look at a map of British Columbia and see if you get the joke) so I'm sure they are available everywhere. The fatter lead mechanicals are usually called "lead holders" for some reason.

Oni (2011-02-06 11:50:52)

Fantastic post, Steve!

I've been carrying my first Pentel since junior high!

I don't think I would go for a thicker lead than the typical 0,5 but I must say the BIC is looking much nicer than

the 0,7.

I believe Lamy has one of those lead holders with a beautiful fat lead. I've been coveting it for over two years now!

SNARLing: (2011-02-06 16:49:03)

i think for pencil writing in the ff, .07 is best but it does really depend on the person. plus the lead grade. i'd like the lamy scribble in .07. it also comes in 3.15 but lately i've been drawing on smaller sized paper, so i've been into the smaller diameters. i think the main issue with writing with a leadholder in a ff would be the fact that you'd have to sharpen it a lot or make sure to turn the pencil in your hand a lot for the sharpest part of the lead. most leadholders have a built-in sharpener in the cap. caran d'ache makes some really nice affordable leadholders (fix pencils) (not to mention fine fine writing instruments) that also vary in length. i think uni-ball has some super new mechanical pencil that turns the lead for you which would be cool if you write furiously and can't be bothered.

Web Finds - 6 Feb 2011 (2011-02-06 06:00)



[1]

Some more great posts for a Sunday morning with your coffee and pain au chocolat:

- [2]I love my Filofax - Anna
- [3]Lonely Hearts Filofaxes - Caribbean Princess - An amusing read!
- [4]Fountain Pen and Cotton Cream - Onigiri Sama

And some videos too from Imysworld:

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Enjoy

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/___NjIPaFKXqQ/TU5tANHRceI/AAAAAAAAI6Y/lG-dI8HwoZU/s1600/Pain_au_chocolat.jpeg
2. <http://www.annalouphotography.com/2010/09/i-love-my-filofax.html>
3. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/02/introducing-cps-dating-agency-for.html>
4. <http://onigirisama.blogspot.com/2011/02/fountain-pen-and-cotton-cream.html>

Amanda (2011-02-06 07:22:30)

That picture of a pain au chocolat is making me really hungry!!

Fab post by Carribean Princess!

caribbean princess (2011-02-06 09:31:49)

hehe thanks Amanda! I have another post with 4 more singles ads for later in the week.

Retirement Policy? (2011-02-07 03:27)



[1]

How old and tatty has a Filofax organiser got to get before you 'retire it'?

This topic came up yesterday during our Skype Round-table, we couldn't bring ourselves to say that we had ever thrown away a Filofax, this never happens.... or does it?

I suppose you could retire a Filofax by turning it in to a long term storage binder... now that is being kind and eases the pain of the thought of a Filofax falling in to disrepair....

And the one in the picture is the one I [2]restored last year and Alison is using it again!!

1. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TKIPjQdqA2I/AAAAAAAAISw/pIuxs0BWsDM/s1600/IMG_9515.JPG

2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/09/restoring-leather-filofax.html>

Louloudorset (2011-02-07 03:32:14)

Ooh there is no chance of me throwing any anyway. Loosing some possibly :(but I archive mine if they start to show wear as I start to feel guilty if they get too beaten up - and it is a great excuse to buy another one!!

Alison Reeves (2011-02-07 04:29:21)

I suppose these days that there is so much choice we end up buying more than we did a few years ago! I'd have a hard time disposing of a leather one, but the non leather ones I might find it easier.

Stefee (2011-02-07 12:27:56)

I'm having a hard time deciding what to do with my vintage 80's calf filo. The leather and rings still work beautifully, but the edges are starting to wear... Don't know if I should box it away? Or keep in use? Right now it's pressed into service as my wallet. Someone wrote here once that vintage filox should be archived, but I somehow feel that quality products want to be used. However, it is irreplaceable, so don't know if I should be more protective of it? Please advise!

crofter (2011-02-07 12:28:33)

After 20+ years, I have yet to retire any. The ones I have are of high enough quality, that even after that period of time, I consider them to be just nicely broken in. I think that one grows tired of them, and wants something different before you actually wear one out. I have had to replace a few poppers, I have a boot-shoe repairman that is able to match them close enough that they can pass for the original.

I think the secret to the longevity issue is to only buy those that are all leather, if they have any fabric, it tears or separates from the leather. I also use a conditioner, and some Meltonian boot creme twice a year in the matching colour. I look at them as an investment, they hold up very well, and the dividend is the satisfaction I get from using them.

Alison Reeves (2011-02-07 12:47:09)

The other point is that there is a saying that one shouldn't own anything that one doesn't feel is useful or beautiful - that may be a good way of looking at it! I don't see the point of keeping anything if you no longer like it, however

the trouble with filofaxes is that the lovely leather ones just get better with age!!!

caribbean princess (2011-02-07 13:55:31)

Throw away a filofax! GASP that is HERESY! I had to retire my botanic as because it is fabric it didnt wear that well over time. It is used as an archive now and I still refer to the diary and notes kept in it as it is an excellent record of my first 2 years of public health specialist training.

If I wanted to 'get rid' of any I would give them away as gifts or sell them on ebay but I would never throw them out. I have started matching filofaxes to my outfits now (well the travel pocket sized ones), only way to use them all I say! haha

Amanda (2011-02-07 14:54:06)

CP - have you tried a fabric cleaner on your botanic? There are some good ones that you just spray on and wipe off (1001 brand etc). Just a thought...

I'm not sure I could get rid of any of my filofaxes. [I mean, apart from the fact that all of them are almost brand-new!]. I agree with the policy of not owning things that are neither useful nor beautiful (or both as in the case of a filofax!). Mind you, I am a bit of a hoarder anyway!

M Ng (2011-02-07 20:16:20)

I may be the only Philofaxer that's tossed, donated, and given away Filofax (and other brand) binders. I don't believe in holding onto things I don't use (or owning more things than I can reasonably put to good use even in rotation). I've lived in NYC my whole life, where storage space is scarce and rents are too high for starving writers to maintain a Filofax wardrobe.

I'm very hard on things and have detached covers from spines, tab closures from covers, triggers from ring mechanisms, snaps from closures, pulls from zippers, *and* I've torn credit card slots and secretarial pockets. Binders have been dunked in clam chowder, bathed in coffee and catapulted out of my bag into muddy puddles. I've only ever thrown out binders that had disintegrated beyond saving; the intact binders were passed along to friends or donated to Salvation Army. (And yes, take it from the Filofax Mangler, all-leather binders are way more resilient.) I wonder what my collection would look like had I held onto every binder I've used since, yikes, 1994 – but, with the exception of the first (which I utterly destroyed but loved dearly), I don't regret having let any of them go. That said, it's sort of a miracle, isn't it, I've been primarily using the same Filofax for the past 5-6 years? This personal Topaz deserves an award. Or a vacation. The problem is, I currently can't afford another binder I like as well as this one.

Vidya (2011-02-07 21:24:42)

I still have the first Daytimer I bought over 20 years ago, I simply couldn't bear to part with it despite how ratty it had gotten. I use it to archive past pages.

I hope my Finchley lasts for many years and when I retire it, it will stay on the bookshelf– some friends I simply can't part with.

Jeff Abbott (2011-02-07 23:16:27)

I have a giant "wrinkle/crease" running along the front and back of my leather A5 Classic. I'm not sure how it happened, I don't think I overloaded it, but it's a bit unsightly. I don't think I would retire it, though. It may just need some leather conditioner–I should search the blog for recommendations.

JJ Hitt (2011-02-09 21:56:10)

What has attracted me to Filofaxes is just how well they age.

Short of a defective ring mechanism, I cant see me taking any binder permanently out of service.

Free For All Tuesday... No 1 (2011-02-08 00:00)



[1]

OK I've titled it Free For All Tuesday, but I'm sure there will be a few questions thrown in for good measure.. Thanks for all the feedback on this initial idea last Wednesday.

The floor is yours.....

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TUh0H0Lo4aI/AAAAAAAAI6E/3_q6hg9chFM/s1600/IMG_9777a.JPG

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-02-08 02:53:39)

Does any-one carry photos around in their Filofax? I have some in the clear Filofax envelopes but the plastic seem to be frosted (which dulls the look of the photos). Does any-one have envelopes that are actually transparent (I use a personal size). Thanks... Alison.

caribbean princess (2011-02-08 03:21:49)

Alison I use a transparent top opening envelope which isn't frosted. I think I got it off eBay but that was years ago.

I carry around my MSC research grad picture and one of hubby and his old uni friend in my Adelphi.

Laurie (2011-02-08 03:42:43)

I also have transparent top-opening envelopes in my Personal Filofax that are not frosted. I wonder if they are available only in the UK and the US version is frosted?

Femke (2011-02-08 04:29:56)

I have photos in my filofax, but I have holes punched in them. I hate that I have to cut off some bits when I want to put them in the envelopes.

markus (2011-02-08 04:58:47)

@Alison

I have also a few photos in my filofax. They are self-printed (10x15cm) and i punched holes in them.

Karena (2011-02-08 06:43:13)

Maybe it is certain Filofaxes? Mine have been purchased in US and have the transparent top opening envelopes which are very nice.

About once per year I print a collage of pics using MS Word tables and then print out. Then I just fold and slip into binder pocket. (many times at work people ask to see pics of my kids and then I have current ones to show)

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-02-08 06:45:08)

@caribbean princess & @laurie thanks for your thoughts. My pockets are from the UK store but don't seem as transparent as the ones I used in my pocket a few years back. I wonder if they have altered them recently.

@femke & @marcus genius idea! Can not believe that I had not thought of that solution.... off to print and punch now. I have photos on my iPhone but prefer carrying a few real photos with me. Perfect! Thanks.

SNARLing: (2011-02-08 08:23:25)

i bought a ton of these transparent envelopes lately for both personal and pocket (i gave my nieces and my mom filofaxes for christmas - 5 pocket dominoes, 1 personal metropol, 1 pocket slimline topaz). i also prefer the transparent ones - it seems, though, that they may be getting phased out and replaced by these frosted ones. i ordered 6 pocket and 4 were transparent banded together; 2 were loose and frosted. i looked at all the filos i had bought and noticed that the newer colours like the electric blue and slate had the frosted ones. the old red and pink had transparent. the old topaz of course also had transparent. in the personal - the metropol had frosted. there is a year embedded on the far middle left of the insert. the transparent say 2006. the frosted i think are 2009. bummer if they switch. the only reason i could think of why they would change would be cost. if the plastics cost them the same - surely they would offer both, wouldn't you think?

Alex (2011-02-08 08:39:11)

I'd been wondering about the transparent envelopes too - I'll have to have a hunt for some now that I know they have at least existed at some point!

OK, I have another question. If you register your filofax on the filofax website, then apparently anyone who finds and returns it will get a 'free gift'. Does anyone know what that free gift actually is?

No, I'm not planning on pretending to lose and find my own filofax! Just been curious about it for a while.

Jotje (2011-02-08 09:20:34)

The clear envelopes appear to be made from sturdier plastic, whereas the frosted ones seem to rip easily in the corners. So it might be a cost-issue after all (such a shame!).

I only carry bits of papers in them, but still prefer the clear ones, because they "feel" nicer!

shepcraig (2011-02-08 11:18:30)

In our store, the personal envelopes used to be slightly frosted, but any that I order in now are completely clear, the frosted ones have been phased out for a while now. (In the UK anyway)

David Popely (2011-02-08 12:44:32)

Not a question but an observation.....

I decided to try cotton cream paper in my Personal Filo, to see if it will take fountain pen better than the 'ordinary' grade of paper. So I went to WH Smith. My oh my....what a sad and sorry place WHS has become, not only for the FF user, but generally. It was like a bazaar in there....stuff piled up on the floor, no order to the shelving layout, necessitating huge effort in finding what turned out to be the saddest, most pathetic 'display' of refills I have ever seen. No doubt US users and readers will not understand how awful this is, but those of us 'of a certain age' can remember when WHS was the flagship stationery outfit in the UK, and you could pretty much get anything stationery-wise from their ordered shelves. Now it's a shadow of it's former self.

I'll be visiting either Conduit or Neal St next time I'm in London (which thankfully in my case is pretty often, and certainly often enough). meanwhile, WHS, R.I.P.....

Steve (2011-02-08 12:49:49)

David

And I thought it was just me!! Yes WHS is not like it used to be when I was a kid.

The two or three stores I've been in recently seem to be crammed full, very narrow aisles and the stuff was piled quite high too, so it felt very very cramped.

One store in Birkenhead had moved from quite a large store to a much smaller one yet they seemed still stock as much as before but it was a bit pathetic when it came to their stock of Filofax refills and this was just before Christmas.

Yes I think we will all say Yes go to Neal Street, friendly staff, experts in the product and you can get what you want there.

Steve

J (2011-02-08 13:12:04)

Wow David and Steve, I am sorry to hear that what sounds like a wonderful store has gone to pot. I have seen this happen to quite a few places over in the US- it truly is a shame.

But be happy that you all have plenty of stores that value stationary, planners and of course the Filofax! It is so rare to find a good selection in any store here in the US- I have found only two stores that I can drive to, and neither sell a good supply of binders or refills, just a measly selection of to-do sheets and the like.

I would LOVE to have a proper stationary store, or a Filofax store near me... although my bank account is probably happy that we in the US are stationary store deprived!

Jess (2011-02-08 14:40:08)

the WHSmith near me (central Oxford) is like a shrine to consumerism and the buy-me-cheap-get-me-cheaper mindset that is everywhere nowadays - everything is half price if you buy something else, and at the counter you are accosted by the salesperson asking if you want half-price chocolate, stamps, phone topups... argh! no no no i don't want anything! i just want a filofax refill. leave me alone!

Nellie (2011-02-08 14:42:55)

WH Smiths is indeed a sad place to be. I can remember going in there as a kid to spend my pocket money on books. I used to love it.

DJ (2011-02-08 16:37:55)

You could call this 'Fax Tuesday, after "Fat Tuesday" (Mardi Gras) AKA Shrove Tuesday (U.K.)

Annie (2011-02-08 17:19:40)

I also used to be an avid fan of WHS.I've loved stationary as long as I can remember and used to love going to WHS and spending my pocket money. How times have changed, these days it's the kind of shop I only go to if I know I can't get what I need anywhere else. It's such a shame.

shepcraig (2011-02-08 17:45:18)

Well, before I started working for the pen shop in 2004, I worked in WH Smith for 8 years, and worked in the Stationery department. The Filofax selection used to be amazing. Last week I went into a WH Smith store for the first time since leaving 7 years ago, and I was utterly shocked and disgusted by the state of the place. There were no filofax organisers at all and they only had about 4 different filofax refills on a silly little stand. I will not even get started on what the rest of the store looked like. Every Luxury pen they had on display, was discontinued years ago. Sadly, I think WHS will be the next Woolworths.

SNARLing: (2011-02-08 17:57:39)

so sorry about the wh smiths. sounds like a re-organization in the making.

i can't help but look at the filofaxusa site at least once a day just to see if anything's changed. they have a valentine page now. it's soooo pretty with the reds and pinks and purples. it makes me want the ALLIGATOR one...wow can you imagine?? what does alligator even smell like? (in the form of a filofax, that is)

David Popely (2011-02-09 01:26:39)

Shepcraig, I'm afraid I agree....and it will be a sad loss. All the signs are that the business has let itself go, or been let go by the brand owners. Now the only decent high street stationery outlet is Ryman, who also don't have a decent Filofax range. The only options left are mail order, or a trip to Staples (not really recommended and often impossible for non-drivers).

Does anyone have a really *good* stationery store in their (UK) town? (I know you US folks have them, and France seems pretty well served for papeteries....I bought my first Quo Vadis diary in Paris years and years ago....

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-02-09 02:57:10)

I totally agree about WHS, exactly the same in our local town (I pop in to buy an American magazine that I can not purchase any-where else now that Borders UK has gone). I also remember spending my pocket money there

as a child...

No-one has mentioned Paperchase... LOVE, LOVE, LOVE! Wonderful Filofax display, helpful staff and other gorgeous stationary supplies. Really recommend if you have not ventured in there.

Thanks for the responses on the transparent envelopes. My personal ones have 2007 dated on them but at least I know that I am not crazy remembering ones without the frosting effect.

Femke (2011-02-09 04:29:10)

Paperchase is amazing, I fell in love with the shop when I lived in the UK. Now very happy they have a (very small) selection in a Dutch shop too.

Butanben (2011-02-09 04:36:09)

Have seen a pen holder called a Quiver designed for Moleskins. Anyone tried one on a Filofax?? Does it fit??? And if so what sizes??? Does it stop the filo from laying flat??? Just wondered. If you search engine Quiver pen holders, they have a site!!

Steve (2011-02-09 05:03:50)

Paperchase in Tunbridge Wells is where I managed to get a Butterfly Pewter for Yvotchka, the very pleasant sales assistant in there asked me if I needed help in choosing a Filofax?

I of course declined her offer, I did chuckle to myself afterwards though!! Do you know who I am?????!!!!

But they had a great range of stock and lots of inserts too. And there is a Paperchase on Waterloo station where we will be meeting in March....

I do miss having local shops that stock Filofax products here in France. Sure I get to browse through QV stuff, but their binders are all plastic or artificial leather ones.

Ronnie (2011-02-09 06:36:17)

Hi All

I am a newbie here.

Would just like to comment re Paperchase. We are lucky enough to have a store in our local town yay, but also are you aware there is a 3 storey Paperchase in Tottenham Court Road - heaven for me.

Perfect day - Filofax store in Neal street then a wander down Tottenham Court.....

David Popely (2011-02-09 06:46:34)

Hi Ronnie, and welcome....

Now THAT sounds like a day out!

I've always found the staff in Neal Street unfailingly helpful and incredibly knowledgeable.

Chris (2011-02-09 15:18:47)

We have an excellent stationery department in our local department store. Jarrold in Norwich has a stationery department in the store with an amazing selection of Filos and pens (even a good selection of inks compared to most high street shops). It is an even bigger Aladin's cave in the adjacent 'Office' department. Well worth a visit if you are ever in Norwich.

ps - I recently bought a clear envelope for my revived personal Filo from the FF UK site and it was frosted - this surprised me because I have only ever seen the fully transparent versions in the past.

pps - I agree that WHS is a sad place to be now. The Pen Shop is good but there aren't many (any?) in East Anglia.

Filofax Organisers, how many do you own? (2011-02-09 00:00)



[1]

It is always an awkward question to ask. There is always a pause whilst the person is either thinking up an excuse for why they have so many, or they are doing a mental recalculation in their head to reach an accurate number, or they might be thinking 'do I admit to that many, and do I count the three that are on order....'

It is always difficult. It is a bit like asking a woman how old she is... it's just not the thing you should be asking really....

So with a flash of inspiration from [2]Caribbean Princess this morning we have devised a new unit of quantity that has been scientifically researched and developed. This unit will be known as the '**Philofaxy**' It is a new standard unit of measurement for how many Filofax Organisers you own.

It takes in to account what size your Filofax organisers are and therefore adjusts the number you own proportionally. So if your collection is predominantly small ones, then they are quite low value, so in terms of Philofaxy's you don't have as many as you thought you had....confused?

If you take the page area as the unit size of your Filofax then taking an A4 as being one **Philofaxy**, an A5 is half a Philofaxy, a Personal is equal to a little over a quarter of a Philofaxy, a Pocket is about a sixth of a Philofaxy and a Mini just under an eighth of a Philofaxy.

So if you have 8 Mini Filofax Organisers, you only have One Philofaxy. So say in my case I have 1 A4, 1 A5, 3 Personals, 2 Pockets and 1 Mini which is 8 Filofax Organisers in the traditional measurement terms... but only 2.7 Philofaxy's, OK I will be generous and round it up to 3 Philofaxy's, but you have to admit 3 sounds better than 8????

Now to make it easier for you to calculate the number of Philofaxy's you currently own, I've created a simple [3]spreadsheet. All you have to do is put in the numbers of each size of Filofax Organisers you own (best do this when no one is looking over your shoulder!) and the spreadsheet will recalculate this in terms of Philofaxy's that you now own, this is your new 'public' figure of how many you admit to owning...

Hold your head high and be proud!!! No it's not April 1st!!!

[Update: I've now added Slimline and Deskfax sizes. For the Slimline I've adjusted the value calculated by the fraction 15/23 which is the ratio ring size for most Slimline/Personal binders!]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjIPaFKXqQ/TG6psobpknI/AAAAAAAAIK8/Pmnt3HxWanA/s1600/collection.jpg

2. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/>

3. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/philofaxy.xls>

Robin (2011-02-09 01:02:22)

This is surely presumptuous, but I think each unit should be dubbed a *Philo* because each organizer is a little piece of love.

C'mon - sometimes you've just got to get your cupid on! :-)

Ashykay (2011-02-09 01:10:48)

I am fairly premature when it comes to the Filofax. Although I've had one for years...I haven't started expanding my collection until just recently when I got sick of my horrible yearly diaries I'd started using, and went back to an old faithful Filofax.

So believe it or not, I only have 1.833 Philofaxy (1xA4, 2xPersonal, 2xPocket).

Sigh, if only I could up it over 2 Philofaxy when I one day find a good deal on a Pocket Ivory Deco!!

Femke (2011-02-09 02:07:54)

I have 1.5 Philofaxy (four personal, 1 A5).

Love this!

caribbean princess (2011-02-09 03:03:27)

I have 3.5 philofaxys!! Now I need to convince my husband of that. Haha!

Alison Reeves (2011-02-09 03:50:21)

I have 2.937 Filofaxes!

(1xA4, 2xA5, 3xPersonal, 1xPocket).

So far ...

Steve (2011-02-09 04:01:09)

I agree with your abbreviation Robin, as with all units of measurement there is an accepted abbreviation for it and 'Philo' seems appropriate in this case.

I was wondering this morning, if the US and Canada needed a different measurement scheme of 'Philos' due to the A4 not being sold there. Their unit would be based on the A5... A bit like US Gallons and Imperial Gallons... But then I thought no... we should have a World Wide Standard for the measurement of quantity and the Philo it is!

I need a rest..... too much thinking!!

Laurie (2011-02-09 04:01:42)

I love this very scientific measurement!

3 A5s and 6 Personal sizes gives me a Philofaxy value of 3.063.

But I'm wondering if approximate volume of blank inserts should be included in the value? I have a drawer full of blank insert pages (notes of various colors, extra page markers and envelopes, etc.) that represent a significant outlay of money. I think I should add a value of 0.5 on just for those!

katka (2011-02-09 04:36:50)

I'm a looser..my number is only 0.521 :o) But beautiful pocket finchley is on the way. Then I'll be 0.677.

BTW...does slim counts as personal?

Steve (2011-02-09 04:57:45)

Yes I decided that Slim counts as a personal, same area... although I'm open to suggestions that it might be considered as a fraction of personal in the 'revised issue of the standard, issue 1.0.1.2 or similar!

Anita (2011-02-09 05:16:18)

I only have 0.634 Philofaxy (2x Personal & 1x Mini).

Love it :)

David Popely (2011-02-09 06:34:02)

I have an economical 0.76 Philofaxies. However, as my A5 is broken (I dropped it and the mechanism was bent) and no longer easily usable, I feel I should be entitled to a discount from this figure. Should the spreadsheet calculator not be adjusted to take account of less-than-100 % perfect Filofaxes?

Sorry.....truly my pedantry knows no bounds!

plaiditude (2011-02-09 08:01:20)

I'm currently at 1.521 philo's with another 1.029 philo's on the way!

Katie (2011-02-09 08:15:08)

I only have 5/12ths of a Philofaxy, so I think I'll just tell people I own one!

SNARLing: (2011-02-09 08:15:45)

heh heh. awesome.

4 personal (incl 1 slim)

+

2 pocket (incl 1 slim)

=

1.354 for me:

gonna try and make it a 2 this year (allowing myself at least 1 slim & 1 pocket ... no more than 3)

Imy (2011-02-09 08:29:59)

Omg that has made me feel so much better about the ones i have

I have 1.177 Philofaxy

1 A5

2 Personal(but one is a slim line so does it still count?)

1 Pocket

I want More :)

caribbean princess (2011-02-09 08:31:41)

Note that I am too embarrassed to give my actual counts! hahaha :-) 3.5 philofaxy is fine with me.....

Jotje (2011-02-09 10:26:31)

Oh my! My issue is even more serious than I thought. I own 6.3 Filofaxes. Well, one is a slimline, so I'll round it off to 6. I do need a proper explanation for my DH why there's such a huge lineup in my cupboard ...

crofter (2011-02-09 10:38:28)

What is a 'Deskfax worth?

I have one of those, not counting that, I am setting at 5.20 Philos.

shepcraig (2011-02-09 10:53:50)

I have an A5, a Personal, a pocket and a Mini, therefore I have 1.029 Philofaxy, However to be really really sad, I have on display in my shop, 153 organisers, meaning we display 43.263 Philofaxys, (not counting conf folders, bags or accesories. Do I work in heaven or what??

Jotje (2011-02-09 14:08:16)

Craig, you do!!! But you were already aware of that, weren't you? You just had to rub in it

kanalt (2011-02-09 14:10:18)

I'm at 3.634 Philofaxy (1 A5, 11 personal (including 2 slimlines), 1 pocket and 1 mini). Believe it or not, all but 3 of them are in use (most are storage binders)...

Steve (2011-02-09 15:51:20)

I think we will set the Deskfax as being the same as an A4 for the purposes of assigning it a value. Can you send me an accurate measurement of the page size and I will include it.

shepcraig (2011-02-09 16:00:03)

Lol, Yeah I did know and wanted to rub it in. You are all free to come in and visit my little piece of heaven..

Jeff Abbott (2011-02-09 16:25:05)

I am impoverished by Philofaxy terms in that I only have .5 Philofaxy (I have just one A5). My count might go

up if I ever figure out which one is supposed to make a good wallet+notebook.

bernhardS (2011-02-09 17:40:56)

1.542

This is without my Finsbury A5 Folder which I snatched for 20 Euro and without my Chronoplan Midi which has Filo Personal format but is in comparison something like a heavyweight champ - maybe I should introduce this product here later as "The Big One".

J (2011-02-09 17:59:10)

So sad... I only have .26 Philofaxy. Hmmm, seeing it this way, I think that number needs to go up!

Nickie (2011-02-09 18:14:14)

1.021

Strong Stiff Scotch... (2011-02-09 18:21:59)

I feel slightly guilty... I have a philofaxy of 12.831!!

Thats 7 A5, 33 personals (!), 4 Pockets and 1 mini. Guilty, but rather proud!

JJ Hitt (2011-02-09 21:44:38)

I came in at just a hair over 5.

Mostly personals.

Only 2 A5's.

All purchased used off of Ebay.

For those binders in actual USE, the number drops to 1.5

Now... the problem I have with this system is a Slimline is treated as being the same as a Personal. Just aint so...

Robin (2011-02-09 22:49:04)

OK, now I feel really bad for starting off the comments - all the while knowing I just have a lone pocket. Ah well, such temerity! :-)

Steve - Muchas gracias! Love the site!

Jeff - I'm experimenting with using my pocket Finsbury as a wallet. It's actually working out great because I don't carry too much with me in terms of cards or cash. It does fit a passport, though, so it's a good multitasker.

CP - You've got me laughing again!

Jeff Abbott (2011-02-09 23:23:45)

Robin-please let us know how it goes with the pocket Finsbury as a wallet. I do need to carry some cash and cards, though.

Scotch-You are the Personal Emperor. What do you do with 33 of them?

Iris (2011-02-10 07:51:54)

My name is Iris and I have 13 Filos (12x Personal, 1x Slimline), which equals 3.3865 Philofaxy. There - I said it!

28e0e8c2-3557-11e0-82ac-000bcdcb471e (2011-02-10 15:51:11)

HeHe - "But Honey, I only have 4.020 philos! Really! It's the absolute truth, Sweetie Pie!"

This is what I will tell my DH the next time he asks ... of course, the game's up if he actually opens the cupboard holding my filofax organizers and Coach agendas ...!

AspireToBe

Strong Stiff Scotch... (2011-02-10 19:06:00)

Jeff, check out my flickr photos of the collection- I'm in the filofax groups there as Strong _Scotch - I'm just an avid collector and filo-fan! (i also use them to store nearly 20 years worth of diaries!)

Steve (2011-02-10 22:14:10)

Deskfax and Slimline now added in, see note at the end of the post. Therefore my own count has now reduced to 2.6 having changed one of my personal binders to slimline.

Well you need to calculate it accurately!!

Amanda (2011-02-11 14:19:33)

At risk of upsetting everyone, isn't the first stage of admitting to an addiction, facing up to the facts and not downsizing it?? ("I drink 8 bottles of wine a day, but since the bottle is smaller than an oil tanker, that's actually only 1/1000th of a tanker-unit a day...")

:-)

Anyway, my Philofaxy number is 1.873 (3x A5; 1x personal; 1x mini), though I suppose I do have three more personals in a drawer not being used (making the total 2.655).

Steve (2011-02-11 14:42:07)

Although you are not likely to die from a Filofax addiction.. unless the pile of boxes falls on you!

May be I forgot to put the 'tongue in cheek' warning on the post ;-)

Steve

Amanda (2011-02-11 14:45:13)

Oh, my tongue was firmly in my cheek in my comment!!

:-)

Been ill and away from the site for a few days and it's been really great to catch up with it all again!

Steve (2011-02-11 14:48:53)

Get well soon. As you can see it's been a fairly busy few days!

And some interesting stuff to discuss in the next few weeks too.

Amanda (2011-02-11 14:52:48)

@Steve

Thanks! Getting there slowly!

Last time I had looked was Tuesday! Looked again today and wondered if I'd actually been confined to bed for a week!

Great site - love it. Look forward to all the posts.

A (2011-05-25 11:51:46)

Just a 1.260 here (2x A5 and 1x Personal)

Alexandra (2011-05-27 16:00:54)

Im soon to have 1 philofaxy (just waiting for delivery!) Can I ask a question. Say if you have 6 personals or whatever do you change them according do your mood? i,e im in a tan leather mood today or a red mood or a black mood etc etc? or do you buy one...use it..it gets worn..you buy another one and start using that instead but you keep hold of all your old ones? im just asking so i can use this as evidence when i try to convince the OH I need more than one because everyone else does!! ha x

Steve (2011-05-27 17:01:04)

Sounds like a good question to pose on Free for All Tuesday... I'm not sure how many people are subscribed to the comments to be able to see them on earlier posts like myself.

Philofaxy Quiz - The Answers (2011-02-10 03:36)

Well we had a great response to the quiz, it was wonderful to hear from people both new and old to the blog.

So the Answers...

Question 1: In the beginning what did Philofaxer allow to gather dust.

The clue here was [1]'In the beginning' which was the title of the very first post on the blog, where you would have found the answer 'The Device'

Question 2. Where did Nan buy her first Filofax using a gift certificate?

This question stumped a few people, the answer wasn't obvious and even using Google you might not have found it. But the answer is in the top half of the '[2]About' page. Where the answer is Ann Taylor

Question 3. In 2010 GMax sent in a Guest Post about what type of rare Filofax Organisers?

A search on GMax would find the answer to this one or using Guest Post, the specific post was about [3]Duplex Binders

Question 4: Who submitted the design for the Vintage Leather Change Holder to Filofax, which they then put in to full production?

This was mentioned in my recent review of the Filofax Facts book. And the answer was of course [4]Diane Keaton

Question 5: When was the first Philofaxy round-table discussion Skype?

This you could find by searching or using the label Round-table and the answer is in the post about the [5]announcement of the first one. The answer being 25th April 2010.

Question 6: Which city in Southern England gave its name to one of the most sought after vintage Filofax Organisers?

A look through the tag cloud for English city names, you should have spotted [6]Winchester

Question 7: Where did Steve meet Laurie in April 2010?

A quick look at the posts in April 2010 you would have found the post about [7]Philofaxy London Meet and the answer was of course Waterloo Station

Question 8: Which of our readers under the spot light had recently bought the latest 'Lady Gaga's' album?

You could have looked through all of the Readers tagged posts, or searched for Lady Gagas and the answer was [8]Sharon

Question 9: What is the hole spacing on an A4 Filofax Organiser?

The answer to this one was in two posts, just to be on the safe side I put links in both of them! The answer was of course [9]8cm or [10]80mm

Your final question: Retrace your steps as to how you got to here..... Who loves Filofax

Now I was very cheeky/crafty I suppose with this, you might not have noticed it, but when you got to Question 2, you were in fact on a web page not on the blog, the file name was <http://www.philofaxy.com/P.html> this would have been displayed in your address field/bar of your browser, Question 3 was <http://www.philofaxy.com/h.html> Q4 i.html etc... so retracing your steps you would have spelt out the word

P h i l o f a x y

Which was of course the word I was looking for!!! The majority of people spotted the trend, although I think some people might have guessed the correct answer because of the header in the blog 'Philofaxy for the love of Filofax'

However you arrived at the correct answer doesn't really matter.

I hope you enjoyed the quiz, it was fun for me setting the questions, which I did try out on my wife Alison before the quiz went live. We will certainly have another one sometime in the future.

So the winners... sadly I don't have prizes for everyone who got the correct answer, I will be contacting the people I will be sending prizes too in the next few days and their prizes big and small will be in the post to them soon.

I'm very grateful to Filofax UK, Stacey at [11]Stay at Home Mummy, Chris at [12]Pens'n'Paper for their prize donations. I've also had a dig through my stock drawer too and donated a few small prizes too.

Again thank you for all being such good sports and for taking part.

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2005/10/in-beginning.html>
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/about-us.html>
3. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/04/duplex-binders-guest-post.html>
4. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/01/book-review-filofax-facts-ian-sinclair.html>
5. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/04/philofaxy-online-roundtable-discussion.html>
6. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/07/stampede-of-horses.html>
7. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/04/philofaxy-london-meet.html>
8. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/08/reader-under-spot-light-sharon.html>
9. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/09/a4.html>
10. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/12/big-can-sometimes-be-beautiful-as-well.html>
11. <http://www.stayathomemummy.co.uk/>
12. <http://penspaper.com/>

gdigesu (2011-02-10 04:40:45)
Steve, this was a fantastic idea!

Jotje (2011-02-10 04:49:44)
I'm looking forward to the next quiz! It really was great fun!

Iris (2011-02-10 07:36:59)
This was great fun - though I was one of those who had trouble answering question 2.

Nellie (2011-02-10 08:31:10)
Great quiz! I really enjoyed doing it.

Alison Reeves (2011-02-10 13:10:19)
Great fun thanks Steve! Hope we have more quizzes in the future!

caribbean princess (2011-02-10 16:13:01)
This was so much fun. I really enjoyed it! I hope we get an easter quiz (hint hint!)Thanks so much Steve.

shepcraig (2011-02-10 16:21:41)
Steve, I have just sent you an email, check it out. i am gonna burst with excitement

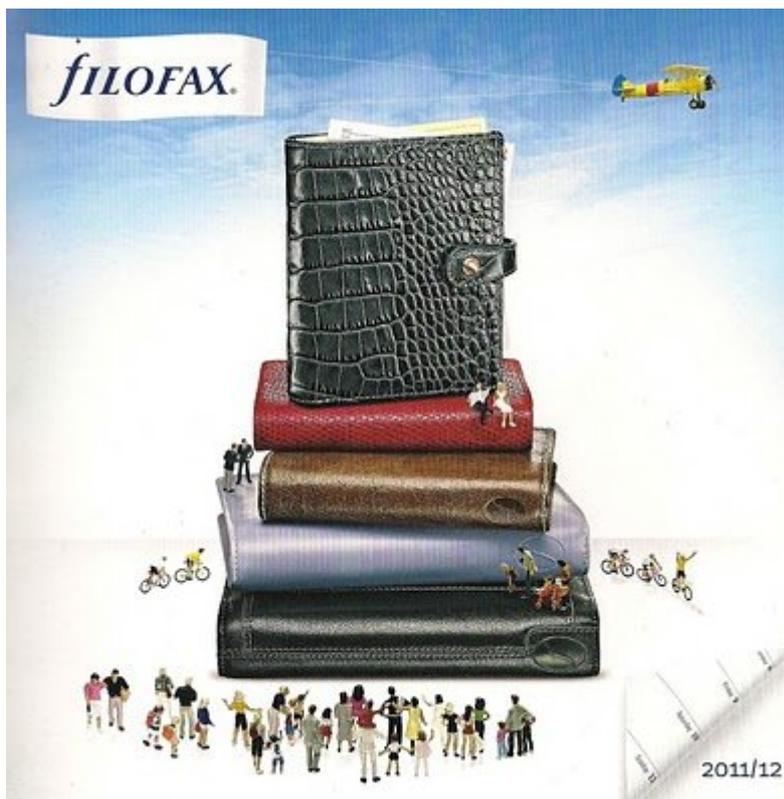
Filofax 2011 New Range and Changes to the existing ranges (2011-02-10 17:15)

So sit down before you read this post. Practice some deep breathing, you might need it...
Firstly thanks to one of our 'well informed readers' for the following tip-offs....
OK I won't keep you in suspense any longer.....

- The first big shock is that the Finchley line is gone, with the exception of the Imperial Purple colour. Should we start a 'Save the Finchley' campaign? Although some of the new ranges look similar in quality.
- All existing accessories are gone, and they are bringing out the accessories to match the Malden range, which also has a new colour.
- They are also introducing the Holborn as an organiser, this was released last year as conference folders but proved very successful, it is made with Buffalo Hide instead of leather.
- Chameleon has 2 new colours, although its not very clear from the catalogue what they are.

- Songbird is staying but with the addition of a purple colour.
- Metropol has a new colour which I think may be Grey or a very dull blue, again hard to tell exactly.
- Malden in Mini and A5 as well as Personal and Pocket.
- Other lines have been removed completely, such as Mode, Guildford and Sketch.
- Classic Slimline has been removed.
- New colours in some existing lines, including a grey Finsbury (this years colour!)
- The new lines they are adding are called, Regency, Enigma, Osterley, Aston, Holborn and Apex.

The following pictures are taken from the pre-production catalogue, some things might change in the final issue of course...



[1]

New styles for 2011

- 1 Malden small leather accessories
- 2 Holborn personal organiser
- 3 Enigma personal organiser
- 4 Aston personal organiser
- 5 Osterley personal organiser
- 6 Regency personal organiser
- 7 Apex personal organiser and folder
- 8 Aston female briefcase
- 9 Geo large briefcase



[2]

Personal Organisers at a Glance

	Regency E100	Enigma E105	Osterley E108	Finchley E114	Aston E117	Falstaff Classic E160	Malden E162	Lyndhurst E163
Mini Paper with Woolfibre				E114 Rings 1x2x3cm		E160 Rings 1x2x3cm	E162 Rings 1x2x3cm	E163 Rings 1x2x3cm
Pocket Paper with Woolfibre		E175 Rings 1x2x3cm	E109 Rings 1x2x3cm	E170 Rings 1x2x3cm	E172 Rings 1x2x3cm	E166 Rings 1x2x3cm	E164 Rings 1x2x3cm	
Slide-in Compact Paper with Woolfibre	E205 Compact Rings 1x2x3cm		E219 Compact Rings 1x2x3cm					
Personal Paper with Woolfibre	E106 Rings 1x2x3cm	E107 Rings 1x2x3cm	E108 Rings 1x2x3cm	E111 Rings 1x2x3cm	E113 Rings 1x2x3cm	E115 Rings 1x2x3cm	E116 Rings 1x2x3cm	E118 Rings 1x2x3cm
A5 Paper with Woolfibre			E179 Rings 1x2x3cm	E126 Rings 1x2x3cm	E125 Rings 1x2x3cm	E119 Rings 1x2x3cm	E160 Rings 1x2x3cm	E161 Rings 1x2x3cm
A4 Paper with Woolfibre						E210 Rings 1x2x3cm		E230 Rings 1x2x3cm

[3]



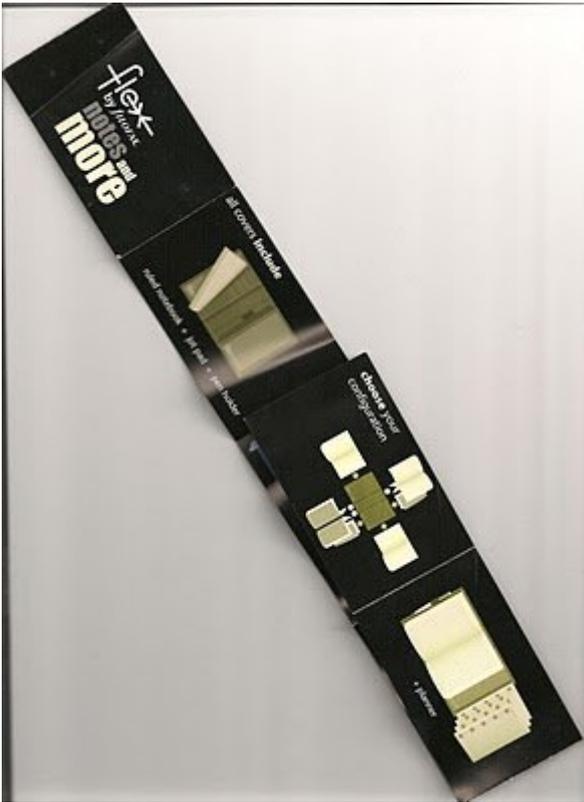
[4]



[5]

You can also find more pictures and details at this website: [6]Filofax at Spring Fair International

And if you thought that wasn't exciting enough.... take a look at this:



[7]

They are introducing a completely new product called "FLEX BY FILOFAX".

This is a notebook cover in Pocket, Slim and A5 size and comes in Black, Magenta and Slate. So you buy the cover and then you select what type of refill you want for the notebook, ruled paper, blank paper, diary, planner, contacts or jot pad.

You also get to choose the configuration, meaning there are 4 slots for you to put the item into, top, bottom or either side making it really suitable for left handed people. Its hard to explain without seeing the leaflet but believe me this is going to be huge. They are getting ordered into stockists on a special stand that will sit beside Filofax and has a screen at the top with a video showing customers how it works.

Each cover comes with a ruled notebook, jot pad and pen holder, oh and by the way, the pen holder also slots in so can be moved around the notebook as well. We believe they will range in price from £17 - £25. It will also have its own website at [8]<http://www.flexbyfilofax.com/> but it has not yet launched.

Still breathing???? Phew, lots to take in... and there was me going to buy a red Finchley Personal... now what... As always new models will most probably be released in UK first with international markets coming later.

1. <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-UhELOZHB3Lo/TVRfPHB1tyI/AAAAAAAAI68/Kr6MAFzdkrM/s1600/Filofax+1+001.jpg>
2. <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/--CKynJirPpw/TVRfSzGtxkI/AAAAAAAAI7A/3JQwg2mWDWE/s1600/Filofax+2+001.jpg>
3. <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-JuUkMknRh6w/TVRfVb2yooI/AAAAAAAAI7E/oIfz2jgZyi8/s1600/Filofax+3+001.jpg>
4. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-xNRWR09JKiw/TVRfX-p00_I/AAAAAAAAI7I/xdmdNRW9S1E/s1600/Filofax+4+001.jpg
5. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-F56G2uW8_YQ/TVRfZRD0vDI/AAAAAAAAI7M/IMnLS1NL-M4/s1600/Filofax+5+001.jpg
6. http://www.springfair.com/Spring11/website/Show_Exhdetails1.aspx?exhid=exhiReg2515&id=det
7. <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-8PWBCFp4yes/TVRfbJwhPgI/AAAAAAAAI7Q/7Lx2hpK2vXE/s1600/Flex+by+FF+001.jpg>
8. <http://www.flexbyfilofax.com/>

Annie (2011-02-10 17:27:48)

Those are some pretty decent new designs, but nothing that makes me go wow I think I'm probably safe.

The flex however, that seems very interesting, I can't wait to see more about it, that tiny leaflet on it's own is such a big tease!

Imy (2011-02-10 17:36:26)

When will they be out, any ideas?? :)

I really want to see closer pictures, i feel all excited!!!!

Steve (2011-02-10 17:37:49)

Some of the new lines will be out in March, the rest gradually until about June 'I'm told' by another 'reliable source' if you know what I mean...

caribbean princess (2011-02-10 17:38:08)

Save the finchley! Nothing as drool worthy as the deco but need to see the enigma.

Interested to see the flex although extremely pricey for a notebook.

Steve (2011-02-10 23:30:27)

I notice that the Malden A5 comes with 30mm rings, the same as the Finsbury, most other A5's are only 25 mm rings, so the larger size in an all leather organiser is a useful addition to the range.

justenoughsalt (2011-02-10 23:53:11)

first WOAHH. i can barely contain my excitement!

-do you see that glorious Apex A4 Folder Black? plus it "can be fitted for both left and right handed use"?!?!?!

-uhmmm Filofax Finsbury in Grey...wait isn't that exactly what i wanted and asked for in a FFAF? yep, it sure is!

- that Osterley line is making me swoon. the plum color looks hot and to me is a step up from the Decco which everyone seems to adore

-that Aston in mushroom looks like cream of mushroom soup straight out of the can. i hope it is better in person

-that holborn line intrigues me. i wonder what it looks like on the inside.

-like the new songbird color a lot

-i don't know what to think about the flex. it reminds me of this <http://pinterest.com/pin/3105696/> there is a video in the caption {laurie i first saw these in a blueprint magazine from 2006. they are amazing fyi }

-can i take the removable pen loop from the flex and put it in another filofax? please

but hold your horses no bright colors? no bright green? you are still not bringin back my piccadilly green? wait...the Apex line looks like it will come in green! a glorious bright green! YAY!

DEAR FILOFAX, I NEED MORE PEN LOOPS AND LESS POCKETS TBQH. IF YOU COULD MAKE THOSE PEN LOOPS FIT A REAL LIFE PEN THAT WOULD BE GREAT TOO. -FAN

Jotje (2011-02-11 02:54:17)

Wow, that Osterley looks like the baby of an Amazona-Mum and a Topaz-Dad! I am totally surprised that Finchley is phased out. Not surprised though that the Purple will stay. This IS a bestseller! Also, a Malden in Mini? Oh no, what have they done? Now I have to work really hard to stick to my resolution.

I for one am totally not into grey. Is that the fashion colour of 2011? Nice that they added a purple songbird. I'm not into fabric covers (I know I would ruin them in about a week), but I think the pattern would go very well with purple.

Even though I don't plan to buy anything, I'm all excited and can't wait to put my hands on a reallife catalog!!!

Jotje (2011-02-11 03:02:51)

Visited the site you linked and discovered that the Chameleon will be available in Brown and Aqua, and the Cuban also in Black (looks great with the light stitching btw). Don't like the looks of that Aston peasoup thingy though ...

The grey Fins doesn't look too bad btw!

bronagh (2011-02-11 03:40:37)

Love the look of the Osterley and the Apex - very pretty!

Surprised at the news about the Finchley - I bought the Imperial Purple last year as my birthday pressie to myself

and I love it!

Laurie (2011-02-11 04:32:29)

colie thanks for that link. Steve and someone else also sent me a couple of links awhile back to a similar system where you can fit little booklets (of notes, addresses, diaries etc.) into a cover. The idea is a good one: the versatility of a ring binder with the slimness of a bound book.

Is it just me, or does anyone else not "get" the Osterley? To me it looks very similar to the discontinued Amazone, but with a smaller mock-croc print. I wonder what the differences are, maybe a different pocket configuration (although I can't think of a better one than the Amazona's secretarial pocket).

I can't help feeling that Filofax is rotating through designs too quickly, doing away with really beautiful binders just for the sake of coming out with new ones each year.

But I'm not the one marketing them—maybe their consumer base really does want that much variety and new options each year. I know Filofax is competing with store brand versions of binders (like Paperchase and Barnes and Noble) so they have to keep their competitive edge.

shepcraig (2011-02-11 04:46:43)

Just noticed that all the Cuban Zip versions are gone as well

Laurie (2011-02-11 04:48:51)

Also I'm wondering what it means that there are NO Decos shown!! Caribbean Princess, you might need to invest in one soon!!

girlinmaths (2011-02-11 05:49:44)

I am happy to report (or my credit card is anyway) that there is not much I really like in this new range. Only the purple songbird maybe, but at least that isn't very expensive. Maybe I can now focus more on using instead of on the covers???

kanalt (2011-02-11 06:21:29)

I have to say, there are only two things that I would be interested in - the new color Malden (which I have to see in a larger picture to know for sure) and the flex notebook. It shouldn't be too hard to stick to my "no new binders for 2011" goal - at least for now. I wonder how long it will take the US to carry the new items.

Iris (2011-02-11 06:24:27)

So glad I already bought the Guildford, Sketch and Mode.

Think I'll get a Chameleon and maybe an Apex this year. Those more expensive new styles (like Enigma and Osterley) don't appeal to me.

Jotje (2011-02-11 07:15:33)

Laurie, I guess "no Decos" would actually be good news for CP, because then they'll eventually sell them at "phase-out" price ... ;-)

Jotje (2011-02-11 08:23:35)

Oh, and I think the new Metropol is on the cover page (right under that ochre Malden). Looks like a pale baby blue.

The new Malden colour is shown on the first inside page (leather accessories). I'd say a bit lighter and pinker than the Crimson, but rather subdued. Not a bad choice for the Vintage Malden style!

Overall, it seems less dull than last years catalog, when the overall colours for almost all models were: black, brown, red and purple.

Seems there'll be more variety next season.

SNARLing: (2011-02-11 08:49:53)

wow. i'm really digging that chameleon colour - it says aqua but looks like a steel grey and black. and the grey finsbury is pretty chic. also interested in how the malden mini is set up on the inside. the flex seems similar

in concept to the life tracker. day timer has something like that too in the ichange journal. anyway, should be interesting. but yeah, the designs do look pretty 'safe' in comparison to last year. the osterly is pretty but yeah the same. it says calf leather. i wonder if that would make a difference in whether it lays flat out of the box or not. it seems that was a problem amazona owners had. i'm glad they still have a croc stamped leather tho. i'm kinda into it. bummed that there aren't any real new slims. although they have compact models i noticed - 15mm personal size. could be a good thing. hopefully they will offer the same here in the us. also, we've got that design contest winner....maybe that one will rock our socks

SNARLing: (2011-02-11 08:59:32)

ps - thank you for this!

Amanda (2011-02-11 10:45:58)

Binders:

Not interested. At all. In any of them. They are either really dull-looking or really not my taste. At least my credit-card will be happy.

I can't believe they are doing away with the Finchley. (Considers heading over to the French or Italian sites to get (anoher) one...).

The other thing - the filoflex thing - looks interesting. What advantage is there over the ring-binder system though?

Like others on here - I wish they would put some more effort into the refills and less on new binders every year.

Savannah (2011-02-11 19:27:35)

Steve-

Thankyou for showing the preview of the new Filofax collection. I've been hoping for a compact planner and this year my wishes may come true. Now the cost...

caribbean princess (2011-02-12 13:27:14)

@Laurie. My eye is on the deco still!! But no funds for it right now :-)

helen (2011-02-16 10:57:52)

This makes me sad. There's still no top end vegetarian binder :(I want to spend ridiculous amounts of money on something really well designed, but it's all leather. And they've got rid of the Urban which was the closest they got.

And the only vegetarian minis are still the domino or the metropol, I was hopping for something pretty I could spend my money on. I've had a metropol for over a year as a 'temporary' binder to see if I'd use it and I do, a lot. I want to get something nicer to replace it, but there isn't anything.

The Perpetual Student TPS (2011-04-22 06:55:14)

looking at this in retrospect, 2 months later, it's interesting (and annoying) to see that on the catalogue they seem to have kept the ochre Malden and removed the crimson Malden, whereas in reality it's the other way around! Particularly annoying for me as I want an ochre but they are no longer available in the UK!!

Kathiza (2011-05-21 15:23:26)

I know this is an old blog post, but: Does this mean that there won't be any other color for the Malden A5 except for brown and this rosey color? Oh no :(I was hoping for a grey or (even better) red one...

Steve (2011-05-21 15:38:49)

Grey A5 Maldens exist, I have one, but as yet they aren't in general circulation on line, they will be within the next few weeks I suspect.

Free For All Friday No. 117 (2011-02-11 00:01)

I know many of us are getting excited about what surprises Filofax might have in store for their spring collection. What are you hoping will be included in the new lineup?

****UPDATE:** See the post below for information on Filofax's new lineup!!!!

And as always on Fridays, feel free to post a comment on anything Filofax-related!

justenoughsalt (2011-02-11 00:13:37)

some SPRING COLORS!

something bright and cheerful!

seriously, all that grey in the previous post has me worried. maybe i will just grab an aqua finsbury or an orange one to ward off the clouds of grey.

Petra (2011-02-11 00:53:44)

Looks like the Chameleon is going to be available in aqua! Which reminds me, there was a Domino on eBay (USA) that ended a few days ago that was advertised as "Caribbean Turquoise" (looked like the aqua). Was that ever a color, or just something that sounds better than "aqua"?!

Petra (2011-02-11 00:57:02)

Oh, and if they got rid of the spring green Chameleon because the lurid online pictures didn't sell any, they should bring it back with some proper pictures!!! I love the (true) color.

Jotje (2011-02-11 03:58:30)

I also thought the reallife Spring Green Chameleon was not at all that bad. Why another Aqua?

Looks like the Malden will be available in some greyish-green and some raspberry/burgundy-kind of color (the color quality in the catalog scans wasn't too good).

Really want to see that catalog NOW!

Jotje (2011-02-11 04:02:21)

WAIT!!! They actually have a Lavender A5 Domino now?!!!! My prayers have been answered ...

(runs off to find Laurie to tell her the news ...)

David Popely (2011-02-11 04:07:51)

Maybe its just my day to play Grumpy Old Man, so here goes.....hate me if you want to...

It seems that over the past few weeks (months) the conversation here has become centred much more on style (form) than on content (functionality) within the Filofax range. Yes, I understand that bringing out new ranges will increase this 'thread' of chatter, but at times it seems to overwhelm the *real* issue of functionality. I *know* that having a 'nice' binder can be a real boost - one of the reasons I use a Filofax rather than a lump of grey metal - er, sorry, PDA/smartphone - is that its just plain *nice* to carry around, as well as the fact that a PDA won't hold my photos, debit cards and all the other rubbish I need to cart around, and won't keep it safe and in order. *However* for me the real point of *any* system of time- and task-management is the results I can achieve with it, the various methods I might employ to use it, etc etc. Frankly, recently I've been finding more of this kind of talk through the GTD forums (which are excellent) and through Laurie's Plannerisms blog.

So please, Filofax users, can we have more talk about content and less about form? I've got a Personal FF for every day and an A5 should I ever need the space...I don't need any more, and I think this is something FF themselves should think carefully about. However, new refills designed to fit a specific system of working (like GTD), if accompanied by an explanation of where they 'fit' in the overall scheme of things, would almost certainly have me running to the store post-haste.

Am I the only person who thinks this way?.....

Laurie (2011-02-11 04:11:15)

Good point Jotje, they've done away with the Aqua Finsbury and replaced it with the Aqua Chameleon.

I would love to see a budget-priced leather (possibly recycled leather) binder with smooth (not textured) leather, in a variety of colors. Sort of the same concept as the Finsbury, but smooth. I appreciate all the variety of leather binders, but they are expensive. The Finsbury, the cheapest of the leather binders, is 50 GBP for the personal size (80 US dollars), which is a heck of a lot of money. And they go up (a lot) from there. It would be nice to have more choice of leather binders at a lower price.

Laurie (2011-02-11 04:17:14)

Just now read the other comments here!

Jotje, thanks for the heads-up about the lavender A5 Domino!! This just might be my next Filofax purchase!!

David, I completely agree. Filofax makes loads of money by tempting us to buy expensive new binders every year. But I wish they would put more money and time toward designing new diary formats, and even make some "system"-like formats for those of us who like some structure to our planning.

Laurie (2011-02-11 04:18:12)

Yet another comment from me: I haven't scoured the ring sizes of the A5 binders yet, but has our constant request for a truly Slimline A5 been granted this year???

Steve (2011-02-11 04:19:34)

David

In answer to your 'cry' Sorry my fault... this news arrived late last night and it was too 'hot' to not put out on the blog....

That said... yes I also would have also liked to see news on new content, different diary formats, because they are the thing that most people have trouble in finding ones that work for them.

I have no problems with finding a binder I love these days. I could choose any of about half a dozen and in a variety of colours that I would find acceptable. But diary refills is a different matter... we do more overseas orders for those compared to anything else. And they aren't easy to recreate yourself without a lot of messing about.

So I will ask about new content in the coming year and we will see what comes out 'the back door' !!!

Regards

Steve

Steve (2011-02-11 04:21:21)

Laurie.... A5 Malden 30mm same as the Finsbury.. A welcome addition.. but I didn't see any 'slimlines'

Steve

shepcraig (2011-02-11 04:53:47)

The Adelphi was produced in a slimmer A5, and we did not sell a single one in this store, even now when they are reduced in price by 30 %, we still have not sold any. I also have never had a customer ask for a slimline A5, so to Filofax, it probably is not commercially viable.

girlinmaths (2011-02-11 05:24:59)

I agree with david that more talk about the content and functioning of our filofax would be nice. Not that I don't like the talk about styles, I want it both. I am thinking that maybe the Tuesday could be for style talk and the Friday for content talk? What do other people think about this?

In other news, my purple finchley came! It is really beautiful, and I made pictures of the unwrapping which I shall put on my blog soon. There is a small (less than 1 cm.) tear in the side of the leather strap, which I do not mind but I will be watching it if it grows larger.

I am also thinking of changing my to do system, as the one I had was too complex. Maybe a weekly list will be good, and then I can make daily lists from this and make a new weekly list every Sunday. Caribbean princess has described her system in a comment I saw somewhere and I liked the sound of that. Where would you keep the weekly list? I do not like having it between the weekly pages, any other ideas?

Jotje (2011-02-11 05:48:09)

@girlinmath: don't accept the tear! You should return the binder, it's too expensive to accept a fault!

@David: My paper refill wishlist has not been answered yet. I want more choice/different setups for the 2PPD pages in Personal size. I don't think they will bring out anything new, and for the time being I'm happy with the ones I have now (which strangely enough are not available in the UK - how comes?).

Gregorym (2011-02-11 05:54:03)

Well I have to say that Davids comments hit a home run. I too have 5 (count them) 5 Filos in my "storage box" at home. That's right "in storage" because Filo's inserts and content have a lot to be desired. Oh, the money I have spent....

I am currently using a "Planner Pad" in a nice leather binder from Palnner Pad because I need "content" that is more than a few lines printed on poor quality paper. I know it's the "Filo" brand tyhat brings us all together and I am grateful for having the ability to call you my friends. But Filo needs a shake up and realize the point of a planner is it's ability to "help" you plan your days, weeks, life, etc.

And unlike better people on here than me, I can't get my head around the fact that I have to buy planner paper from another company to use in a planner I spent a ton of money for that was purchased from a "so called" planner company?

Sorry, but I'm with David on this one.

janet (2011-02-11 06:16:00)

Good point David. I have been wondering for a while if the form over function issue with filofax has been a byproduct of their rebranding and focus on the female customer?

I have been mulling for a while over the fact that filofaxes are now seen more as a seasonal fashion accessory than a lifetime investment that will serve more than 20 years of hard use without a scratch? And there is definitely more emphasis on the outside than the inside.

I feel that I have lots of choice on the binders but not so much innovation on the inserts. Could it be that there is no money in tha? Or that there are lots of templates out there?

read2day (2011-02-11 06:24:36)

In terms of functionality, I have to say the Flex looks like it's missing a trick - where's the ability to hold an iPad/TouchPad/"tablet of your choice" in it? Something along those lines, with the ability to insert notebooks etc for notes capture (for those of us who don't like typing in meetings with clients) would bring the system to those of us who have moved away from paper for planning purposes.

Moleskine have already announced something like that; why not Filofax? I know they've been thinking about what they do in the electronic sector, but they've been thinking about it for a long time ...

Laurie (2011-02-11 06:36:49)

I wonder if Moleskine is "faster on the ground" with their designs and so can accommodate technological devices more readily. Last year when I was at the Filofax shop in London, Brigitte told me that Filofax products are about 18 months from design to hitting the shelves, which is why they haven't put in any pockets or similar attachments for devices. By the time the design is available for purchase, the technology has moved on and the devices may be a different size/ shape than the pockets in the Filofax.

michele (2011-02-11 06:52:21)

I have to say I agree 100 % with David!... my own thoughts are why do we think about going out and buying more filofaxes just because of the colors changing?... (Ok, I can see a lot of scowl faces at me right now)... On the happy note, I haven't been on the blog in weeks as I'm overwhelmed with studying for an exam in two weeks.. Pocket filo has been my sidekick as I write down everything I'm doing to prepare.. If I pass, we're going to start shopping for a puppy so I'll have a "Buy/Adopt Puppy Process" in my filo. Oh by the way for my American filofaxers.. I found a great pen/pencil brand at Staples - Zebra! Fits nicely in the pocket and writes really well!

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-02-11 08:24:26)

Can't wait to get my hand on the new catalogue.

Also agree that a total review of the paper accessories is required. LOVE the itinerary pages from the travel pack but would like to buy them separately (as I use the horizontal diary which works better for me than the one included in the pack and I don't need paper with noughts and crosses laid out in in!!!). The price is too much just to use the itinerary pages and to bin the rest of the pack. Would like a pick and mix options (again with the family and city dweller pack!!!).

Also a funnel to do list (a bit like in the Planner Pad) would be useful (I just use plain paper and customise right now).

Looking forward to seeing the new range (both folders and papers)...

David Popely (2011-02-11 08:41:04)

Janet, I think there *are* a lot of templates out there, and I have a few myself which I could pass on. But I would still welcome more refill design innovation. We all know FF are concentrating on the female buyer....do they *really* think women are *only* interested in form, and not in content? if so, I think FF need to have a long hard look at their underlying assumptions

katka (2011-02-11 08:51:03)

Regarding the functionality discussion...Filofax is trying to (as any other company) earn money. But that means quantity over quality. Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying they are not quality anymore, but they are more focusing on "as many new lines as possible every year", than improving the existing ones.

@shepgreig...in my opinion, people are not buying Adelfi A5 slim, because it's not a real slim

Laurie (2011-02-11 08:58:16)

katka I agree, that big gusseted pocket inside the Adelphi A5 cover prevents it from being "slim" at all.

I hate to keep quoting my conversation with Brigitte at Filofax last year, but it was so enlightening. She said the reason why they don't make more inserts and forms is because retailers don't have enough shelf space for the entire selection. But it seems like so many people are used to ordering things online, they could have a larger selection available from the website. I'd rather have the option of buying inserts from the website instead of not at all.

David Popely (2011-02-11 09:06:04)

I would support the idea of one day a week for functionality discussions and one for form/style, but at the end of the day it remains up to those of us who care about functionality to wade in and discuss, otherwise there is no point! I suggest we all take the opportunity to raise issues of system use when the free-for-alls are 'on', rather than just leave the field to the binder=style and how-many filofaxes-owned lobby (although I respect the need for good designs as well)

Steve (2011-02-11 09:06:29)

From our chat last weekend... the one thing you can't tell from buying on line is what the leather smells like?

Apparently this is quite important to some buyers!! True... I hadn't thought of it myself.... but some peoples nostrils are more atuned than my own!!!

We might be able to get 3D views and fancy multi channel sound over the net... but smell... and touch.. not there quite yet...

I was trying to establish what people get attracted to first, size, colour, layout, ring size etc. I forgot about smell! Naturally I will be revising the Filofax list in the files area once things become more certain.

I've asked my 'source' the Watergate Deep Throat http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_Throat_of_the_Filofax_World if there are any revisions/additions to the inserts part of the catalogue...

Steve

David Popely (2011-02-11 09:13:06)

Steve , please don't interpret that as a slight on the site managers here, yourself included. I think it has far more to do with the general 'weighting' of material, a large percentage of which is reader comments. Of *course* a

major release of new binders is going to merit a post, but I do think FF are beginning to lose the plot slightly. What a lot of us want is results from our system (that's what we have it for - not as a hobby or as an accessory - although they do make nice accessories as well!). And I think Ff are getting caught up in shifting more and more binders, rather than locking in customer loyalty by steering users towards a *system* based *around* the FF and an expanded set of refill options - not just diaries, but task-management options, of which there are generally pretty much zero in the range apart from the bog standard to-do list. It speaks volumes that Jotje had to ver kindly offer to send me over a diary from Holland this year - I couldn't even buy it via internet because the various sites are not all 'joined up' and many of them don't have internet sales facilities. I find this very frustrating. In my years of using my Time Manager system I had all my functionality provided in a joined-up and thought-through way and it's only the price of the refills which stop me from going straight back....and I'm still tempted. FF beware - don't miss the point here.

shepcraig (2011-02-11 09:18:17)

Read2Day, we actually just got the Moleskine Ipad holder and combined notebook in stock, its really nice. I am very surprised to hear people say there is a lack of selection for inside the Filofax itself, we have a stand with over 250 different filofax inserts. I actually think Filofax are very good at seeing what there is a demand for, and avoiding things that are slow selling and gather dust on the shelves. The Chameleon Spring Green was a good example of this, everyone thought it was beautiful but the sales on it were very very poor.

Jotje (2011-02-11 09:26:56)

David, you do have a point there. In my ideal world we would have a marriage between FC and FF, giving us beautiful binders (I like the FF-binders far more than FC's), and also excellent Time Management refills. I love the layout and the variety of Franklin Covey inserts. You can see that people have put time and effort into thinking this through.

Or might the real problem be that you can earn more with leather binders than paper refills?

FF does have the A5 Time Management papers, but those are - for reasons that totally escape me - "hidden" in the website. They won't pop up when you look under the A5-refills. They are nice, but not unique, but at least it's on FF-paper. I would like that for Personal size. Maybe even Pocket-size?

And yes, there actually ARE women who want a Filofax to "work" for them. If I only had it to look pretty in my bag, I'd never buy it to begin with.

SNARLing: (2011-02-11 10:07:48)

i think there is a lot of talk on the tools aspect of filofax because it's a lot of fun to talk about. but yeah, i have this problem with my own work - getting caught up on the 'right' tools instead of the actual art. procrastination, distraction, failure to commit, need for immediate gratification, consumerism, materialism, yeah, it's all there. function is something that will occur depending on the user. i actually started to use the filofax again to help me with my art. i don't really like all the fancy pretty inserts. i need plain white. less distraction. i can't even handle colour really in my filof. i'm trying so hard with the orange finsbury. it's soooooo cute, but, yeah, it's got to be black. less distraction. every once in awhile i think i need new page layout, but my days aren't so filled with appointments and such and i rely on todos a lot which don't necessarily need to get done on a specific day. i need them to be open - not so confined to a specific day. visually, i mean. if it's on a specific day and i don't get around to it, well, then i will most-likely not do it. and in printing (well, when i was still working in it) it goes too quickly to try and track any of it by writing. so i have no need for work in my filof (thank god!) i use the to do list a lot. it's amazing too how that simple todo can be used in so many different ways. i could also make my own inserts and at times i do but it takes some time to make it work really. i'm working on right now (a time map/daily schedule as i currently 'temp' as a stay-at-home-mom heh heh) i'll make something, print it out, place it where i think it will be most effective, try it out for a couple of days, and tweak and tweak and tweak (i'm kind of a perfectionist which isn't always a good thing) thankfully right now i have the time, but...geez i'm going on and on eventually i will blog about it, but yeah, david, i also thought a lot of emphasis is placed on the tool here. i try and search for stuff i feel i need for my own system but in searching, it's fun when i come across pictures of someone's new deco (as i would never get one) and i enjoy reading it and how someone is so excited about it. that thing. the one for me that's gonna help me produce things i want to look at. name it, talk about it, take pictures of it, whatever works, i think. meanwhile, i tweak. i seem to have different needs than the norm

but someone might profit by something in my chaotically cluttered but colour coded brain.

geew67 (2011-02-11 10:38:37)

I use todo pages on a daily basis quite a lot but if I need to do a todo that has no specific completion date, I tend to use a jot pad slotted in the current week and I keep moving it into the following week until it gets done.

On a different note, I have just bought a brown zipped pocket Hamilton from eBay which came with a new 2011 diary. Beautiful to look at with the cream stitching and what a leather smell it gives off! I am trying to use it as a wallet too (the right-hand side gusseted pocket) but I am not sure if it is working for me. It may be better once I buy a credit card holder as there is only 2 slots in the left-hand side but I love the idea that I can just through things in it and zip it up.

justenoughsalt (2011-02-11 11:03:20)

@David Popely you have a point. when i want ideas for improving functionality i go to the flickr feed and peek into other users binders for inspiration. for me it is easier to see how someone uses it or does not use it on flickr. i am LOCKED into my binder and have been since the late 90s. the same one the whole time. i bought a windsor as a backup but it sits on a shelf now.

function wishlist

- larger ruled note paper
- higher quality paper. for goodness sakes a sharpie pen should not bleed through!
- address pages with spaces for multiple email addresses
- address index tabs for three letters at a time rather than two. the pockets have these not the personals.
- an insert that for an elastic pen loop. there is a pic of someone with one on flickr. since none of the leather pen loops accommodate a mont blanc, fountain pen, or a bic multi colored pen they are really missing the function boat. if we invest in a filofax we will invest in a pen to last as long as the filofax will. (yes, i bought a filofax pen and pencil set. it was not a good investment)
- index tabs that are made of all plastic. not just a plastic tab on the edge. these last longer. i have some from filofax and i have no idea where i found them.
- one database for all refills and binders. why is there different stock on different sites? so frustrating
- if i can send my expensive shoes back to let us say cole hahn for refurbishing why cant i send my filofax back to filofax for refurbishing?
- i recently found a stack of ancient probably from the mid 50s ruled paper that fits into my filofax which i have been using a lot. the edges have rounded corners which i enjoy quite a bit.

NOTE i also think that we tend to not use the tools they do give us...the shopping list refill, the day planner pages, the bank account pages, the time table...OR maybe we just need the sites to be revamped with realistic images of the items/pages in use!

Louloudorset (2011-02-11 11:09:00)

I would love to see some more innovation and choice in the range of inserts and diary styles available. I love my Week on One Page / Notes format for my A5 and Personal but there doesn't seem to be a lot of choice in Pocket sizes.

I'd also like to see some of the City Dweller pack sheets available without having to purchase all the diary elements as well.

john (2011-02-11 11:14:10)

I was in my local WH Smith today and a member of staff was going through the Filofax stand, noticed she had a portable bar scanner, so asked if the prices were going up (thinking VAT) and she replied 'out with the old in with the new...soon, but would I like a half price 'Pocket' size Filofax?

and was duly handed a very nice Domino Baroque in brown. On the way to pay for it I had another look inside and it was a 2010 diary, not to worry, it was 'half price' when I paid for it the woman behind the till handed me a 2011 diary (week on 2 pages) and said 'compliments of the manager' I smiled, thanked her and then tripped over my gaping jaw :)

crofter (2011-02-11 11:31:30)

Great discussion this morning!

I have to side with David, and the rest as to the availability of forms. I use quite a number of older forms from over the years and print my own on 24 # paper. It holds up better and is more fountain pen friendly. The Filofax paper has always been somewhat lacking. As far as the planner, I have gone to do2p Day Timer, it just works better for me and the paper seems to be higher quality.

As for the binders, I haven't bought a new one from Filofax in a number of years. I don't care for the "soft" leather, and the pastel colours, but that is just me. All of my binders but three go way back, and the leather smell is just as intense now as they were when I got them, and I appreciate that.

Steve (2011-02-11 11:34:44)

I think we have the makings of an excellent topic for discussion this coming Tuesday... purely on inserts.. nothing on binders... agreed? I will formulate a suitable 'agenda' and we will bring together all of our thoughts with view to submitting these to FF UK to see if we can shift their focus a little....

Steve

DJ (2011-02-11 11:43:29)

It's certainly great FUN to chat about the latest styles, colours, etc.

But apropos David Popely's comments vis-a-vis the content, I do tend to agree. Something akin to this always bugged me at college, where my roommates were photojournalism majors. They were always talking about cameras, lenses, and film, with barely any discussion about what actually *made a good picture*.

In another context, I believe Lance Armstrong once wrote a book entitled "It's Not About the Bike."

The dialectic is "Form follows Function" (Bauhaus) vs. "Form follows Emotion" (frogdesign).

If Filofax can figure out a synthesis, I guarandamntee they're gonna make a lot of money...

justenoughsalt (2011-02-11 11:48:40)

@dj

applause

Jess (2011-02-11 12:38:24)

i'm going to be slightly predictable here and weigh in on the other side of the covers vs inserts debate (i say predictable because i'm probably filofax's new target demographic - 21 year old female, about to start career, obsessed with her pink finsbury and fills it with stickers, and exactly who you would expect to be overly excited about the new range of colours and designs).

i agree that some different designs of the inserts would be nice, even if it was just to make them all consistent - i.e., have all available on cotton cream as well as white, have the same across all international websites, and so on - but for me the beauty of filofax AND philofaxy is that you can make your system your own and discuss it. when we discuss our insert needs, a lot of them are REALLY specific - i for one would love a 2ppd insert in cotton cream in the layout of the day planners, and it would make my life much easier, but would enough people buy it to make it viable? we all want different and specific things because we all use our filofax for a huge range of purposes in a huge range of lifestyles. realistically, no system is ever going to please everyone without having to vastly cut down its target demographic first to students, for example, or businessmen. part of the joy of seeing what other people do with their filofax is, for me, seeing how they work with what's available and make it totally personal by mixing diary pages and to-dos, and printing their own templates - i think that's much more preferable to having a binder full of inserts bought straight off the shelf.

i won't start gushing about how much i like the look of the new grey finsbury here, anyway...

:)

DJ (2011-02-11 13:27:40)

@colie

bow

(arms outstretched, hands forming "peace" signs...)

Savannah (2011-02-11 13:38:19)

David P.-

Why don't we start by having you share how you use your Filofax for GTD?

About form vs. function: I do think the form is important. To like the color, design, and feel of a planner can inspire you in the planning process yet I feel there is too large of an emphasis on this (although topics like does it lie flat are very important to users). I would like to hear more about the psychology of planning which has a lot to do with successful use, and implementation of planning/time management using a Filofax with proven techniques. The good thing about the Filofax inserts is their minimalism and flexibility. I don't feel I need to rehash the disadvantages here - we all seem to be aware of those.

Savannah (2011-02-11 13:39:23)

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Alison Reeves (2011-02-11 14:36:05)

Well I've come back from a couple of days away to so many comments which I have really enjoyed reading!

Whilst I do get enjoyment from reading about the 'hardware' from Filofax, I also have some sympathy for David's point of view. I guess we have to ask ourselves just how many filofaxes we want to/can afford to buy! It is in Filofax's interests to tempt us to buy new binders - that must be where they get the lion's share of their profits - I don't suppose inserts make up a huge portion of their profits.

I have long thought that the inserts are the poor relation and it's very frustrating to not being able to get the insert of choice in the colour of choice. I will certainly make my suggestions if Steve is going to take ideas for us. My overriding request is for high quality paper (preferably in cream) that can take a fountain pen. I'd love the lined/timed 2 PPD diary for the pocket in cotton cream. I'd also love some really useful other inserts in a variety of sizes - shopping lists and time management pages. And all of this in a range of sizes. It really frustrates me that you can get so little in the way of inserts and other stationery items in A5 (for example I'd love a brown A5 ruler!).

It's a bit like having a fountain pen - there is no point having a fantastically expensive and beautiful fountain pen if it writes badly and scratches and skips.

In short I want my Filofax to look smart, be coordinated and make me smile when I look at it, but also to be functional and to help me have an organised life.

Amanda (2011-02-11 14:48:50)

@Alison

Couldn't agree more. I want my Ff to look great but also WORK well for me.

I have almost given up on A5 inserts and now largely print my own (one big reason why me and a personal don't see completely eye to eye - the paper size is so non-standard (and too small)).

I love fountain pens and with that Ff paper was a bit more useful in that dept at times!

I would love a day (or more) devoted to insert-discussions! (Am I sad??)

David Popely (2011-02-11 15:07:23)

Savannah, I'd be happy to if Steve, Nan and Laurie would like that, although you're not likely to get it until the middle of next week as I'm in London on Monday, on business, with back-to-back meetings

caribbean princess (2011-02-11 15:08:37)

I have to admit that for me the style is just as important as functionality (and supports my ethos which is why you won't catch me in stilettos EVER). I definitely enjoyed looking at the new season of Filofaxes and although I

may not purchase any if I see something stunning I would add to my collection. The style and quality of Filofaxes are the reasons why I have bought into the product. I don't want to follow a set time management system. I want the flexibility to use something that works for me.

On functionality I think Filofax should consider making certain inserts available internationally. I could not get a day on 2 pages insert and had to order from Daytimer. That turned into a complete fiasco as after a month no inserts had arrived. When I contacted them I was told it was out of stock until end of February so obviously the website is not kept up to date. I cancelled the order as I refuse to pay full price for only 10 months of diary!

Anyways there are other useful Filofax inserts such as the vertical week on 2 pages. I am sure that these would also be popular in the UK. Filofax should also work on producing higher quality regular inserts together with exciting new ranges of binders!!

So to end I would like a mix of form (style) and functionality, together with the extras such as quizzes, reader questions, humorous posts etc. That and the wonderful comments is what makes Philofaxy a great blog and there is no reason why we need to choose one over the other. So a mixture of both please as although I learn from other peoples' systems in the end I am the only one who can decide what is right for me.

PS@girlinmaths I shall do a post on todos as well as an update soon and expand upon the comments I left on the Shu Box :-)

Butanben (2011-02-11 15:30:50)

Agree with David that any design is about both form and function.

Would like to say a massive thanks to Steve for posting this update and breaking the exciting news about all the ranges!!! Great stuff!!!

shepcraig (2011-02-11 16:16:58)

I just want to say that this Philofaxy website is fantastic, I am totally addicted to reading these posts, and get so excited when we get into discussions like this, I really thought I was alone before finding this site.

The only down side is that I haven't got a minutes worth of work done today as I have been constantly checking for new posts and reading everyones comments.

Now not only do I have a Filofax obsession, I now have a Philofaxy addiction too. You bad people are stopping me from actually going out there and selling the Filofaxes, lol.

Annie (2011-02-11 18:25:04)

@girlinmaths I also received a purple finchley today and mine was also damaged. Mine has 2 scuffs and 4 scratches all on the front cover of the binder. I'm so disappointed and I'll be sending mine back for an exchange. I think you should do so too while you can. You can return it now as faulty, but if you give it time and it grows, you may not be able to return later on.

As far as the inserts go, I'm pretty happy with my filofaxes as they are. My everyday filo is used for my appointments and things to remember, which I use a week on 2 page for. I also use the to do lists, notes pages and address pages. I have some of the pocket type inserts too, which I'd like a couple more of. For my dietofax, I designed and printed out my own inserts, but it's an a5 so printing isn't an issue at all.

I can see why some people with more varied/specific needs would like to see the inserts expanded more then the binders, but personally for me I'm happy the way they are

Laurie (2011-02-11 19:07:46)

LOL Craig!!

I love the idea of having specific discussions about Filofax function.

Unfortunately I won't be able to assist with that for awhile because I am traveling for most of the next couple of weeks. But once things settle down I would love to help with that!!

Filofreak (2011-02-11 21:41:18)

Where as I agree about needing some discussion and content about the inner workings of the Filofax system I absolutely LOVE all the talk and discussion about colors, styles, sizes, pockets, zips, tab closures etc. Call me shallow,, ,, ,

I guess what I'm saying is that I like a mixture of both. Too much of one would be a bit of overkill

Petra (2011-02-12 01:17:21)

Well, David, I would say that if someone does have more than the two Filofaxes you have, it IS a hobby for them, or an art form, or or a collection at least. The blog name is Philofaxy after all, not the love of getting things done – and from what I've seen, the "philo" doesn't seem to extend to the Filofax inserts. Look at how many Filofax users make their own inserts and tabs, or use non-FF ones, and look at how few posts on gtd or even plannerisms are really about FF inserts (often they're about how to get other companies' inserts to fit the beloved Filofax!). In my case, although I have over 10 Filofaxes now, for "getting things done" at work I use a single desk size DayTimer (US version of A5). Why? Because it is a true slimline (3/4" rings and flat covers), because it takes Franklin Covey and DayTimer inserts, and because I don't want to lay out a bunch of money for such a utilitarian purpose. Does it evoke the kind of feelings that my Filofaxes do? Not at all. But for my personal life, goals and projects, ahhh, there's room for more – or is that amore ;-) And that's what I come to Philofaxy for – that feeling of something beyond just managing time, tasks, and information.

Petra (2011-02-12 01:30:33)

Ah yes – found it. I knew I'd read something similar to David's complaint before somewhere, and here it is, on one of those "other" websites like gtd, gsd, etc. that I also like to browse through for life-management tips: <http://www.43folders.com/2005/05/18/because-buying-new-running-shoes-is-more-fun-than-actually-running>

Nellie (2011-02-12 02:53:48)

This is a really interesting topic.

Personally, I like reading the whole range of posts and comments from the "what does a purple Finchley look like in real life?" to "how do you organise your to-do lists?"

I don't think there is anything wrong in appreciating the beauty and quality of a binder at all. Equally, getting new ideas of how to make the most of it is also very helpful.

As for the idea of a discussion on inserts, I think that's a great idea.

Iris (2011-02-12 05:56:28)

I absolutely agree with Petra: collecting Filofax is my "hobby"/passion/addiction (whatever you may call it), and I love to discuss colours, styles, materials and the like - as well as inserts, diaries, pens...

To me, this blog is mostly about (the brand) "Filofax", not about time management or GTD.

Silver_Elixir (2011-02-13 01:05:55)

"I am very surprised to hear people say there is a lack of selection for inside the Filofax itself, we have a stand with over 250 different filofax inserts."

Shepcraig - do the 250 insert you talk about cover all Filofax sizes? Do we see everything that is available in your store also online? If not, what is missing?

Steve,

Can we do something regarding 'homemade' inserts, like asking people what pages they make and how they make them and add them to the ones already on here? What if people could write in and 'request' people to design pages in a way that they might not have thought of?

Amanda (2011-02-13 11:13:18)

@silver

What an excellent idea! That would be a brilliant post.

I use lots of 'homemades' in my A5 filofax (they could probably be re-sized for personal and printed on personal-sized paper) and it would be great to see what everyone else uses!

I think the 250 inserts in Edinburgh must be covering all the sizes (having been there... Hi Craig!). And I do think that Filofax could spend a bit more effort on market research to find out what we as users want as inserts, and a little less on the new season-new filofax range. Not *abandon* the new season-new filofax range, but just divert *some* of the energy towards inserts.

Steve (2011-02-13 11:16:45)

Hi Everyone.

Just a quick update.

I'm working on a new post about GTD with your Filofax, this is just an introduction post, with some ideas and hopefully some indicators for some of you to write on this topic as guest posts.

What I think I also need to do is to get back on to creating some more personal size templates, just personal size ones of those we have on the list already rather than even more ones. Any preferences?

Someone asked for one of the Mac ones in PC format, but I've lost the message (possibly on Twitter) But yes I will do those as well.

Regards

Steve

Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign (2011-02-11 12:00)

In this mornings post was a certificate thanking me/us for our recent donation. So I thought I would share it with you. And although it has my name on it, it should really say 'Philofaxy' of course.

Once again thanks for all your support and helping me to make it happen.

Steve



[1]

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-jm-fy9QumHI/TVUuQgUa2_I/AAAAAAAAI7Y/4usKTNpk9Po/s1600/Scan+2.jpeg

caribbean princess (2011-02-11 15:25:55)

Well done Philofaxy and readers! Thanks for organising.

Laurie (2011-02-11 19:05:20)

Three cheers for Steve and everyone who contributed!! Thank you!!

Jotje (2011-02-12 02:06:58)

Also from me a big big thank you!!! I'm so glad with all the publicity breast cancer receives!

Reader Under The Spot Light - Alison (2011-02-12 00:00)



[1]

It's been a while since we had on of these posts, but Alison volunteered to be put under the spotlight after seeing the previous posts whilst taking part in the quiz!!

Alison has her own blog which is called [2]Globe Trotting Cacti, Alison blogs about various travel topics and has lots of useful travel tips.

1. When did you buy your first Filofax and what was it?

I received a grey Filofax for Christmas when I was around 8 years of age and felt so grown up. My passion for stationary and organising was ignited. My first purchased Filofax was bright blue, it fitted my teenage years perfectly.

2. What other brands have you used or considered using?

Planner pad, spiral desk diary, iPhone calendar and various PDAs. Electronic organisation does not work for me (despite repeated attempts to embrace the technology) and I need the customisation that Filofax offers.

3. Out of the organisers you own which is your current favourite (Style and Size)? Personal Malden in Ochre. So soft, lies flat, great inside layout and the perfect size to carry around on a day to day basis. Can you tell that I am in love....?

4. How many Filofax organisers do you own?

Two. My personal Malden and A5 Finsbury (raspberry). I sell any Filofaxes that I am not using on Ebay as I like the thought of them being used rather than gathering dust on my shelves. The Filofaxes I do own get heavy usage though.

5. What do you use your Filofax for?

Personal Malden is my diary, list carrier, planner, contains my bucket list, what to read list, child related bits and finances. Basically my day to day life (my heart rate rises thinking about loosing it). It is supplemented by my iPhone which I use for my address book. My A5 is more of a reference folder for house and work projects and for tracking my PhD.

6. What was the feature about Filofax you like most?

The ability to customise the design and layout. No crashing or syncing requirements and I can write things down (electronic diaries just don't cut it with me).

7. If you could design your own Filofax what would it feature?

A digital photo frame at the rear. Insert a memory card and the photos would rotate (just like the ones

on display in houses). Not sure the technology exists right now for such a light-weight device but maybe in the future.

8. *How do you carry your Filofax?*

My A5 stays in my home office and my personal gets thrown in my bag (loving the trend for larger handbags!)

9. *Which Filofax in the current range do you like the most? Are you going to buy it?*

A pocket Malden as a list and idea book but I am waiting for the new season designs to be launched.

10. *What is the most you have ever spent on a Filofax? Which model?*

A5 Finsbury in raspberry which was £75.

11. *Turning to Philofaxy, what do you like the most?*

The community spirit, the shared love of organisation and that every-one just gets it (that love of Filofax!).

12. *And what do you not like about Philofaxy?*

It gives me ideas on how to reorganise my Filofax with virtually every post. If I followed all the suggestions I would be constantly changing my set-up. I have to remind my-self of what works for me now and focus on that and just implement the suggestions that would enhance my organiser.

13. *What was the last music album CD you bought or downloaded?*

Stereophonics - Just Enough Education. I had odd songs before but wanted the complete album for my travels next week. Kelly Jones = amazing voice.

Thank you Alison for putting yourself under the spotlight... and if anybody else would like to take part please drop us an email.

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-FCyK41r9oMY/TVPhSc5HtuI/AAAAAAAAI64/m08JmG0he00/s1600/IMG_P259.JPG

2. <http://www.globetrottingcacti.blogspot.com/>

Jotje (2011-02-12 02:08:29)

Hi Alison! Thanks for taking part, it's always so lovely to be able to put a face to a name (and Globetrotting Cacti certainly is a name that ignites a lot of inspiration - haha).

Good luck with your PhD!

caribbean princess (2011-02-12 06:04:30)

Yay Alison! Nice to have more details on you. How much longer do you have before you finish the PhD?

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-02-12 08:55:18)

@Jotje Thanks for the warm welcome...

@Caribbean Princess - studying part-time and data collection will occur just before London 2012 so I anticipate another 2 years (ish!). Just negotiating ethics clearance right now.

Steve - thanks so much! Loved answering the questions. So much fun.

Rori (2011-07-19 09:31:09)

Um, how did I miss this post, do you suppose? What a maroon...

Glad to find it now!! Ahh, personal Malden in Ochre..yummy :D

Thanks Alison!

Nancy's Urban Filofax customization and Moleskine fusion (2011-02-12 12:00)

If you haven't seen Nancy's guest post over on Plannerisms you might want to check it out:

[1]<http://www.plannerisms.com/2011/02/nancys-filofax-moleskine-cahier.html>

There are some great photos of how she customized the cover of her Urban (wow!!) and how she's using a Moleskine cahier in the back as a day on two pages diary.

Many thanks to Nancy for sharing her system with us!

1. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2011/02/nancys-filofax-moleskine-cahier.html>

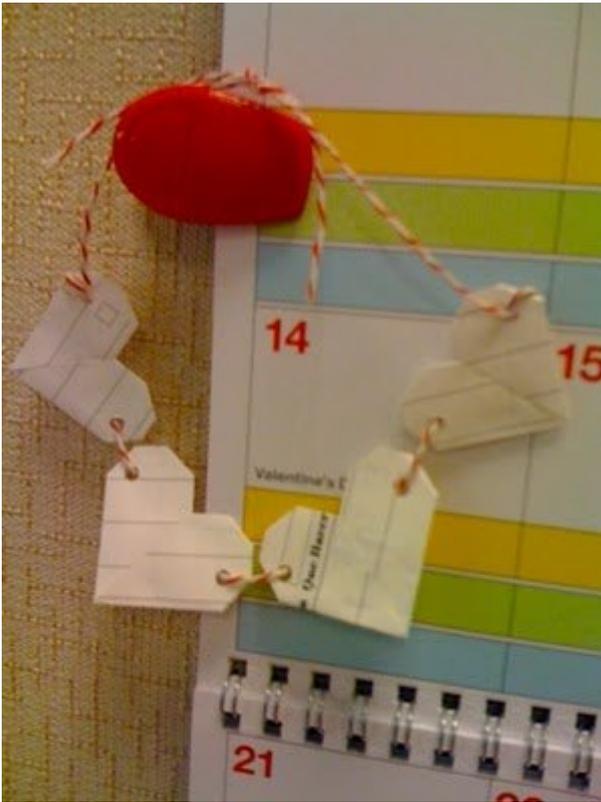
Web Finds (2011-02-13 04:00)

So amongst all the other news... I don't stop looking for new blog posts, or being sent links to them for you to read and look at:

- [1]Filofax Love - Gracie Bella Butterfly
- [2]I love my Filofax - Vaguely in Vogue
- [3]Organised with Filofax - Girl in Maths
- [4]Are your phone numbers up to date? - I hope that's the case for these guys!!!
- [5]How Twitter made handwriting cool - Daily Telegraph
- [6]Drop the Dead Diary - Daily Telegraph
- [7]Have £90.Cant decide. Makeup? Skin care? or filofax????? TUTION FEES? - I'm sure you will be able to help!
- [8]When Harry Finsbury met Sally Finchley - A romantic tale..

And from Robin one of our readers came this:

This is what happens when a couple of "to-do" pages don't make the cut in a new planner! It's still all good!



[9]

My favorite heart is the one that says "que hacer" - so fitting
And finally another video, this time on 'Personalising your dividers'

[EMBED]

1. <http://graciebellabutterfly.blogspot.com/2011/01/filofax-love.html>
2. <http://vaguelyinvogue.blogspot.com/2011/01/i-love-my-filofax.html>
3. <http://girlinmaths.wordpress.com/2011/01/06/organised-with-filofax/>
4. http://www.thewestonmercury.co.uk/news/bosses_bail_money_race_1_797465
5. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/8080511/How-Twitter-made-handwriting-cool.html>
6. <http://my.telegraph.co.uk/expat/annanicholas/10136494/drop-the-dead-diary/>
7. <http://www.weddingdressbirmingham.co.uk/have-90-cant-decide-makeup-skin-care-or-filofax-tuition-fees/>
8. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/02/when-harry-finsbury-met-sally-finchley.html>
9. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-D35v239xXiE/TVRr34JT_DI/AAAAAAAAI7U/eWEXVnQRpXg/s1600/feb14filohearts.jpg

Task and Time Management with your Filofax (2011-02-14 00:00)

This is a short introduction to a series of articles to help you (and me) get the most from our Filofax Organisers, whether you only have one or several of them.

I think before we get stuck in to this topic too deeply I think it's worth stating the following:

- Just because you have a Filofax doesn't automatically make you an organised person... although it can of course help you become one.
- It doesn't matter which organiser you own, the content of your organiser is more important to becoming an organised and efficient person. This is no different to having an expensive digital SLR

camera, until you know how to use it, you will still make the same mistakes as you would with just a point and shoot camera.

- Which particular organiser, style, colour, material etc, is a very personal choice and for now we will put that choice to one side and concentrate on the content of our organisers and how we use them to achieve your goals in life.
- There is not just one way to use a Filofax to organise your life/work etc. We all have different demands on our time. Some of the ideas we will share through these articles you might already be using, which is great. Some might not work for you, why not? Tell us, we might be able to suggest a variation. Let's learn and share together.
- I don't pretend to know everything there is on this topic, so I would like to ask you now, if you have any input then please contact me with your own ideas, which I will include in future posts or as a guest post on their own.

What we hope to cover over the next few weeks are the following topics:

- Why Manage Your Time? The benefits, advantages, improvements for you;
- Online resources - website, articles, templates etc;
- Book reviews - which ones are worth reading?
- [1]Filofax Time Management inserts, courses;
- Case Studies - how different people use their Filofax organiser to help them get things done/manage their time;
- And anything else that we discover that is relevant to the topic.

To get us started, you might like to take another read of [2]Jotje's excellent guest post on how she has set up her own Filofax. As you can see it's still one of our most popular articles on the blog. Lots of useful tips and some great info in the comments too. What can you learn from this article, what have you started to use?

I'm looking forward to learning and sharing our thoughts together, lets make it both informative and enjoyable too...

Thanks.

1. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=timemanagement&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Ftimemanagement%2Fannual_update.asp%3Fcm_mmc%3DAwin-_-%21%21%21id%21%21%21-_-AFFILIATE-_-DEEPLINK

2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/12/guest-post-task-and-time-management.html>

Alyssa (2011-02-14 01:51:29)

I'm really excited about this! I just got my first Filofax this weekend.

Alison Reeves (2011-02-14 03:48:05)

This is a brilliant idea. Really looking forward to future posts.

girlinmaths (2011-02-14 04:59:23)

I look forward to reading these posts. I think I might have some ideas to share, but I will think about them a bit more and then email them.

Femke (2011-02-14 05:06:36)

Oh I'm quite excited to read the future posts for this! Great idea!

gdigesu (2011-02-14 05:16:17)

On February 17, there will be a webinar about paperplanners and GTD. Look for gtdconnect.com

Imy (2011-02-14 06:04:08)

Thank you this is just what i need!!! ive been trying to be organised and it isnt working, ive done loads of reserach but this may be what i need!! Im excited!!! :D

tommies-s-net (2011-02-14 08:58:23)

Hi Steve, yet another great effort! I'm really looking forward to learning just a bit more. I will try to contribute wherever I can. Thomas

caribbean princess (2011-02-14 09:11:26)

I am looking forward to this. Jotje's guest post was fantastic so hopefully there will be some more guest posts included too.

I think simplicity is the key so will probably blog some of my own ideas too :-)

Amanda (2011-02-14 10:36:29)

I'm really looking forward to this series!

My best way of working (though not perfect) is to have a global list of 'To Do' (that sits behind a tab in my filofax), with a bit of an indication of how urgent a task is (indicated by * to *** - that way, as it gets more urgent, I can add more *)

The first part of my work day goes a bit like this:

1) check my diary to see what's on

2) check my to-do list

3) Plan my day (which of those ten zillion things on my to-do list will go into today, and roughly when?). I tend to run a daily to-do (using scrap paper roughly A6 in size, landscape format, punched with 3 filofax-spaced holes, that I put into my ff so that I can still see what I am supposed to be doing today - they worked better with the horizontal format diary if I'm being honest, but I prefer the vertical for work!). **Really** important things get a time slot scheduled too.

4) Prepare the day (read minutes/prep for meetings/prep my teaching/get student record files ready etc)

5) Gulp. This doesn't really happen easily - check my emails and try and sort all of them into 'information (store sensibly)'; 'to-do' (put on to do list); trash; until all my inbox is 'gone'.

I got the 5-stage system from an online time-managemnt place (I *think* time-management ninja - <http://timemanagementninja.com/>)

So far it's working well for me (but my life is pretty uncomplicated!). I'm sure I will pick up some great tips from everyone though!

Petra (2011-02-14 11:12:36)

Amanda, great idea with the *** to indicate priority! I've used the FC ABC method, but you're right - the stars make it much easier to change priority upwards!

CP - I think simplicity is important too, which is why I like gsd ;-)

Amanda (2011-02-14 11:30:06)

Thanks Petra!

Found the time management ninja post:

<http://timemanagementninja.com/2010/04/the-best-dead-simple-way-to-s-tart-your-day/>

I generally do okay until step 5! :-)

crofter (2011-02-14 11:33:31)

Well done Steve, I am looking forward to this.

"Owning a Filofax does not make you an organized person." Brings to mind the paraprodikian of "Going to church doesn't make you a christian anymore than standing in a garage makes you a car."

Much to learn, and I am sure there will be many ideas put forth that one may be able to adopt to their current system.

Amanda (2011-02-14 11:35:28)

This might be helpful too (replace most of the 'systems' with a filofax!)

:-)

<http://timemanagementninja.com/2010/03/why-you-must-define-your-time-management-system/>

I think that knowing your system is always going to help you use it, and planning it around yourself is sensible (but in my workplace, usually overlooked!).

Hope that helps guys.

Amanda

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-02-14 15:14:27)

Looking forward to this series and I am sure that I will learn loads. Just reviewed Jotje's post and there was lots of useful take away tips in there.

I love her daily to do pages... off to have a search for them (I don't remember seeing them in Filofax UK).

caribbean princess (2011-02-14 17:07:23)

Crofter I love those quotes!! Will have to remember them

:-)

Ashykay (2011-02-14 17:22:51)

I agree, this sounds like a great idea. I am a bit of a "traditional" user in the sense that I basically use my Filofax how it came - just for a diary, to do list and that's about it. However, I work in corporate and take copious amounts of notes, so I would be interested in how I can best use a Filofax (maybe an A5 size?) to record my notes and use as a time management mechanism.

crofter (2011-02-14 20:58:14)

@Princess

I have a whole Filofax full of them. I keep the new and most current in a pocket slimline. Once a month I copy them into a personal filed alphabetically under such title as "on Life", "on Agriculture", "on democracy", and on and on. These are quotes I have gathered over 30 years or so. When I am asked to speak in public, I can go to my Commonplace Book, where I can come up with something appropriate for what ever subject I want.

The added bonus is that I always have something interesting to read as I have the pocket with me all the time.

David Popely (2011-02-15 03:09:50)

hi Crofter

Great quote....I'm going to print that one out and stick it right in the front of my FF!

David Popely (2011-02-15 03:11:07)

@gdidesu I'm signed up for the GTD and paper planners webinar on Thursday....is anyone else registered?

Jotje (2011-02-15 03:14:50)

Wow, look at that? The sheer mentioning of my guest blot had it rocket up in the list of most popular posts LOL Meanwhile I have made one change to the system (due to some related comments). My Todo-list is no longer an unorganized colourful bucket. I now have one Todo-Sheet per category and only colourcoded the title. It's a great improvement, because now it easier and faster to assign category-related Todos to my categorized timeslots. If this isn't making any sense to anyone: you better re-read my guest blog ... LOL

Tim (2011-02-15 11:05:03)

The best course I EVER went on was in 1986 and organised by Time Manager International (TMI). Their time management system was - and in many ways still is - streets ahead of Filofax (sorry guys!). Following TMI (and other similar systems) helps you plan your year, month, week and day effectively and break down tasks into "bit size chunks".

Filofax has always been great for storing data (The name is short for "File of Facts" after all) but only their Time Management version is really a proper planner!

I've used the Filofax A5 Time Management pages for the past 5 years or so. However, I have to confess to now running my old Time Manager Compact alongside for 2011. This is because of the bulky A5 size (same old dilemma!) compared with the smaller size of compact binder with 18cm x 11cm pages. I may end up going back totally to Time Manager in future years.

All of the time management systems are good - just beware that transferring pages between binders made by different companies doesn't always work due to the different hole configurations!

David Popely (2011-02-15 11:47:37)

Tim, I went on a TMI course almost exactly around that tie (I had a beneficent employer then!) and I agree that both the TMI planner and the philosophy is the absolute 'business' in terms of results tools....I have been an on-off TMI user ever since (in between bouts with FF) and only stopped this year because of the price of the refills - and I suppose feeling a bit miffed that they no longer do the open user evenings like they used to - or indeed any open courses at all, to my knowledge. Do you still use the Key Areas system? I've moved more into GTD now, but I still sometimes hanker to go back to my old Key Areas system....

Drop me an email and let's compare notes! davidpopely (at) gmail (dot) com

Tim (2011-02-15 13:03:28)

David - I'm amazed that there has been little reference to the Time Manager system on this blog in the past. TMI was huge in the UK and most of Europe for many years and only seems to have lost it's way since the company sale by the Danish founder and guru Claus Møller. There has been no product development since and hence why I switched to Filofax Time Management.

It sounds like we've had the same "on and off" with TMI and FF. There are the same size issues between A5 and Personal (A5 and Original in the TMI system) and I tried to go paperless for a while with a PDA and laptop.

So I currently use A5 FF on my desk and Compact TMI to carry around. I still have my nine TMI Key Areas - 6 for work and 3 personal. There are only 7 key areas in the FF Time Management system so I had to combine all my personal areas into one! I still set my annual goals, yearly planner, monthly and weekly "elephant" task.

www.timemanager.com is their international website if you want to see the system. (Naturally, I have no commercial links with Time Manager other than having spent a lot with them over 25 years!)

I have to say that Time Manager binder quality is streets ahead of Filofax but then, so are their prices alas!

David Popely (2011-02-15 13:32:31)

Tim, we seem to have had pretty much parallel histories...I have also been through the PDA/electronic 'thing', but at the end of the day it was the results tool I wanted, and the fact that only paper could keep me organised as well. I still use the TMI inserts with my beautiful black eather binder when I am 'on' TMI - I also had a compact but its become lost over the years. I have been trying on and off to get down to a personal size FF permanently, but always end up in frustration because of the size - and the decision base aspect of TMI put them streets ahead as well.

I've tried the six key area system in the FF A5 TM system, but so far haven't managed to make it work. At the end of the day the TMI tasks and activities sheets worked a treat for me, and that's why I'm so disappointed that FF don't follow suit with some properly thought through refills to fit inside the TM system of their own.

Amanda (2011-02-15 15:01:57)

Not that I'm necessarily advocating TMI, but I had a look at their site and although the pack price is higher, it looks like most of the refill packs have 50 sheets per pack, which makes them better value (I think). Is the 6-ring stuff the same spacing as a filofax?

Maybe filofax should sit up and take notice of how much discussion there has been on this!

David Popely (2011-02-15 16:26:04)

Amanda, sadly I think the chances of FF taking notice of *anything* beign said by *anyone* are pretty slim....I think they're interested only in shifting boxes of pastel-coloured binders at teh moment - which is a shame, because the fashion icon factor is going to leave as quickly as it came when it's time for it to go, and then they will be stuck.

Tim (2011-02-16 05:18:52)

Personal Filofax pages will fit into any TMI original or compact 6 ring. Their pages are 18cm x 10cm so easier to write on than Filofax personal (especially if you're left-handed like me - binder rings always in the way!) TMI A5 is four ring and different spacing to Filofax A5 six ring. TMI A5 binders are just too big but their compact size is great (in my view)

Amanda (2011-02-16 15:20:49)

I don't really mind the pastel and the binders in many ways and they have probably worked out that people will change them like they would change a handbag or a pair of shoes etc, BUT, I would like Filofax to think a bit about their inserts. After all, they're not like milk - they won't 'go off' and if they did a bit of serious market research, they wouldn't necessarily make costly mistakes. I am pretty sure that if they surveyed the people who post on here, or whom they have sold binders too, what other things they would like to see (and I mean that THEY asked, not that we just gave our two penn'orth regardless...), they would get some detailed and sensible information.

Just a thought...

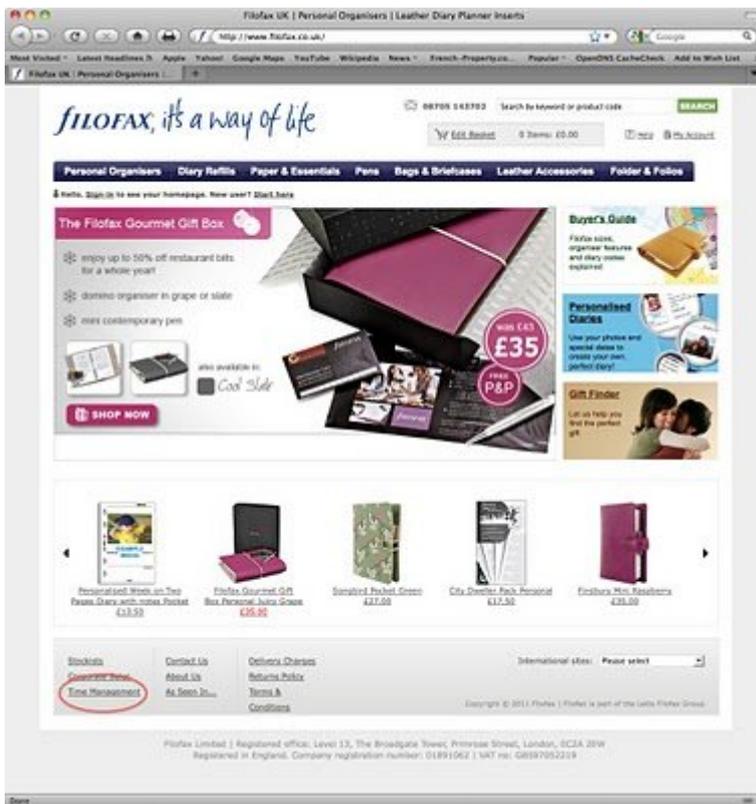
kanalt (2011-02-16 20:02:33)

I'm looking forward to this series. Let me know if I can contribute in any way. I have lots of to-do lists and ways of managing my time.

Time Management from Filofax (2011-02-14 17:30)

So continuing with our [1]Task and Time Management theme. As well as all the inserts we are familiar with and the organisers themselves, Filofax you might not have realised have a Time Management range of inserts, these fit in to any A5 Filofax organiser.

If you didn't know about these, it's most probably because the link to this section of their UK website is not very obvious, see the picture below.



[2]

Click on the [3]Time Management link and it's like going through a [4]Worm Hole in to another dimension!

What you will find is their range of [5]Time Management inserts. Details of the [6]training courses they run in conjunction with an external training company, [7]Time Workshops. Has any of our readers ever attended one of these courses?

The TM inserts are quite different to the usual ones you can buy from Filofax. They are sold as [8]annual update packs with the option of a Week to View Dated, or Day to View Dated, both in A5 format. Also included in the packs are various monthly, yearly and project planners.

There are also [9]Undated Packs available that contain some of the usual pages you will find in a regular Filofax fill, but there are some additional ones that aren't on the normal part of the site that are dedicated to project planning and performance monitoring etc. Check out the To-Do lists, very different to the normal ones.

If you click through to the Filofax site from the links above and then click on the various links you will see all the pictures of these different packs.

You can also buy some of the sheets individually on the [10]Refill Stationary page.

Do any of our readers use these Time Management Packs? What is your experience of using them? Please share your experience with us via the comments or please consider sending us a Guest Post by email. Thank you.

Then I remembered this photo from our November 2010 meet up...



[11]

That if I'm not mistaken that is Oni looking at Adam's A5 Filofax and he appears to be using the Day to a View TM pack?

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/02/task-and-time-management-with-your.html>
2. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-Ar4k_7uW1bM/TVk76NRVDHI/AAAAAAAAI7k/Nok4QerLX6Y/s1600/fftimeman.jpg
3. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/timemanagement/>
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worm_hole
5. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=timemanagement&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Ftimemanagement%2Fannual_update.asp%3Fcm_mmc%3DAwin_-_%21%21%21id%21%21%21-_AFFILIATE_-_DEEPLINK
6. http://www.filofax.co.uk/timemanagement/tm_training.asp
7. <http://www.timeworkshops.co.uk/>
8. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=TimemanagementUpdate&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Ftimemanagement%2Fannual_update.asp%3Fcm_mmc%3DAwin_-_%21%21%21id%21%21%21-_DEEPLINK_-_PAGE
9. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=TimemanagementUpdate&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Ftimemanagement%2Fannual_update.asp%3Fcm_mmc%3DAwin_-_%21%21%21id%21%21%21-_DEEPLINK_-_PAGE
10. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=TimemanagementUpdate&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Ftimemanagement%2Frefill_stationery.asp%3Fcm_mmc%3DAwin_-_%21%21%21id%21%21%21-_DEEPLINK_-_PAGE
11. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-7RC4TEu5RG0/T01gyI_CPKI/AAAAAAAAIpI/Q08D-PSiuaY/s1600/IMG_9655.JPG

justenoughsalt (2011-02-14 23:10:05)

PERFECT example of why they need to update their website. I swear my browser laughs at me when I go to their sites. "Ha! Good luck here! Maybe you can update your Geocities site while you are at it!"

Robin (2011-02-14 23:27:13)

I was really glad you put up the links to the UK site - otherwise I would have been in the dark over "time management," which apparently doesn't exist in the US. (OK - *time management* exists ... just not the FF inserts. Ha!)

I did like the meeting planner I saw, but I must say I *love* the setup and paper quality of the Rhodia Meeting Book - <http://rhodiadrive.com/2007/06/15/rhodia-meeting-book/> This is something I would like to see in a FF-compatible refill format.

Jotje (2011-02-15 03:18:16)

One of the reasons I decided to downsize from A5 to Personal, was the lack of 2PPD-refills from Filofax in A5. I did complain about this several(!) times on the Filofax facebook page. Not once did anybody point out that those refills already existed!! Which makes you wonder if the personnel even knows that there is a Time-Management worm hole????

I found this when I was just "clicking" away on their site. Of course I had already done the switch Personal by then. The latter offered several additional advantages, such as improved portability, greater range of nice binders etc. So I'll stay with the Personal.

David Popely (2011-02-15 03:29:56)

I'm personally really bemused by Filofax's attitude towards the TM inserts....it's as if they are slightly ashamed of them, when in fact they could be one of their *major* USPs.

I find myself gradually being dragged back into the A5/Personal dilemma, feeling constricted by the size of the page, etc etc. Might call in at Neal St on Friday and chat to the people there re adopting the TM inserts - IF they can give me a coherent explanation of how they are meant to work together as a whole. I'm still committed to GTD as a philosophy (I'm on their 'GTD and paper planners' webinar on Thursday), so maybe all of this will come together into some kind of new, more coherent system (although I think my system isn't bad as it stands!).

David Popely (2011-02-15 04:23:32)

Just revisiting the FF TM inserts as shown on the website, it strikes me that they are pretty useful, especially in a GTD context, maybe with a few minor gripes, such as expenses - 4 lines for a week on the weekly dated pages. I rack up more than four lines' worth of expenses a *day*, never mind a *week*, and I would think most busy business-people do as well. Four lines of delegation reminders? I guess that would work for me, but then I only have one person I delegate to!

The 2PPD inserts look pretty good - much more sensible space allocations for expenses and delegation reminders, and obviously more space all round, but I do worry about losing perspective when using daily views. My preferred unit of time for working with in a planning phase is a week, so I'm not sure how this would work for me.....a combination of the two maybe? The year plan and project plan matrix look to have been lifted more or less as they stand from my old TMI templates, which is fine by me, because they work! I could see myself using those..... Generally I'm not unimpressed, and strongly tempted to pop along to either Neal or Conduit St on Friday.

This might mean a binder upgrade given the parlous state of my A5 Strata. I know Conduit St will discount the binder if bought empty - does anyone know if Neal St will do the same?

Tim (2011-02-15 04:41:27)

I've used the Time Management dividers and pages since they first launched about 5 years ago. I find the week to a view and general structure much better than the standard Filofax A5 products. Also, the dividers are plastic and last much longer than the normal card ones. Recommended!

David Popely (2011-02-15 06:43:08)

I've already got the TM dividers, and I have to agree - they are far more durable than the usual card ones, and they seem to form the basis of some kind of 'system' within the covers. I would also recommend, even if you're not using the whole of the TM range.

David Popely (2011-02-15 06:43:41)

Tim, how do you set up your system within the 'confines' of the TM plastic dividers? I'd be interested to know.....

Iris (2011-02-15 06:51:49)

Filofax Germany sells a similar range called [1]Professional that is available in Pocket, Personal and A5.

1. <http://www.filofax.de/search/search.asp>

Alison Reeves (2011-02-15 07:30:00)

I wonder if Filofax Time Management is run under a different company which would explain why it seems to be

treated differently.

The whole thing is presented in a way that is difficult to understand or figure out how it should be used. I feel like that part of the website needs a total overhaul. Perhaps they are just hoping people give up and book on one of the courses!

Tim - I'm also interested in how you setup and use these pages.

Alison Reeves (2011-02-15 07:31:27)

Just been thinking - they could do a great job of building a time management community if they published an ebook on how to use their time management inserts in exchange for your email address - then they could market directly to really interested parties!

Amanda (2011-02-15 14:42:38)

@Tim/David

What are the TM dividers like? How are they labelled? In a stunning (lack of) sales pitch - you cannot get any images of them off the Filofax site.

Thanks!

Amanda

Jeff Abbott (2011-02-15 16:11:40)

They should be selling these refills in the US. I would def use the notes, the project/mind planner, and the enhanced todo lists.

kanalt (2011-02-16 20:04:25)

LOVE* that photo!

Hamish MacBear (2011-02-18 16:30:55)

I've been using the 2PPD inserts since about 2002, and I love this format. Initially, I used it solely for work, but now I use it as a combined home / work diary and it works really well. I keep a year's worth of the monthly objective sheets in the diary and 2 months of the 2PPD insert (usually about a week or so in the past to pick up on tasks that still need to be followed up, and 6 - 7 weeks in the future.

I like the A5 size anyway, and the 2PPD is really the icing on the cake!

ArchiMark (2011-02-18 22:47:30)

FWIW, since I could not find the Filofax TM pages here in the USA...I searched and found/purchased the excellent TimeSystem pages for this purpose.

Very pleased with their system.

They fit perfectly in my A5 Filofax Cuban....

Check out their US website at:

<http://www.timesystem.us/>

FYI, I called the US office to find out where to buy them locally. They don't have it at retail stores in US, but the woman I spoke with was very nice and helpful. She said she'd put together a set of sample pages and send them to me.

Was pleasantly surprised at the generous amount of samples I received. This helped convince me to order their kit....

For those of you in Europe, there's a European website. As I recall this system started in Europe (Germany?) and then opened US office. Now, I think US is its own business entity...

Think it's worth comparing....especially, if you're busy at work with lots of projects..

Karel (2011-02-20 06:57:27)

I have used the Time Management Stationery since it came out. The diary inserts are a bit labourious - I prefer the business day per page, slightly modified.

I use the To Do, Results Planner, and a stack of undated project planners that I bought from the Neal Street shop before they stopped selling them as individual packs.

The most useful inserts are the monthly fold overs but you cannot buy these sperately any more.
Nor can you buy the little pocket book or the Time Mangement book that goes with the series. I got fed up writing to Filofax about the stationery. The pocket book was stupid - a bound diary??? - what possessed them? - I used to take the pages out, punch holes in them and use them in a pocket filofax. Never understood why Filofax didn't do this themselves.

Amanda (2011-02-20 07:07:23)

I emailed the time management email address at Filofax to ask what the dividers were like and have had no reply... Do they really want to sell this stuff? I'm generally a patient woman, but when I want to get something, I want to get it and if the website doesn't show me enough detail and the 'sales' team don't reply to queries... well, frankly, I take my business elsewhere!

Does *anyone* know what the time management dividers from filofax look like?

David Popely (2011-02-20 10:05:45)

Amanda, I've got a set of TM dividers and they are in grey and dark blue polypropylene - much more substantial than the standard card ones. The first set of dividers (grey) are 'Plan', 'Diary', 'Notes', 'File', 'Expenses' and 'Directory'. Behind these lie a secondary set, 9-part, in blue, labelled 1-7 plus 'Ideas' and 'Personal'. Then there is a set of 13 dividers back in grey which are basically an A-Z, which I suspect is really designed to fit behind the 'directory' tab.

Hope this helps. They're difficult to photograph adequately in use, but I'll have a go if you want me to. If you really want to know anything about FF stuff, I would strongly recommend calling either Neal St or Conduit St in London, as the staff there are a hundred times more helpful, and I suspect more knowledgeable, than FF themselves. Personally I think FF are all at sea without any kind of coherent sales policy or strategy for the future, and that all they are now interested in is basking in their current 'fashion icon' status, which is so short-sighted as to be almost suicidal (if it isn't, actually). I despair - really.

David

David Popely (2011-02-20 10:17:47)

...and while I'm in 'rant mode'...I just looked up the price of what I want/need to do with my A5 in terms of getting a better binder (one that closes!) and TM inserts, and realised what a heck of a good deal the TMI annual refills are at £32 for the whole lot. Buying the FF daily and weekly sets would cost way more on their own, without them forming part of a cohesive, joined-up system that links task management to diary, as does the TMI stuff. *And* the binders are streets ahead for style and quality.

Think I'll be heading off to the TMI website very soon.....

Amanda (2011-02-20 12:16:16)

@David

Thanks for letting me know about the inserts - that's really helpful!

I too had a look at the TM annual inserts and thought they were good value (even adding in VAT at 20 %!). Does anyone know what they are like to write on with fountain pen? Maybe these are the things to convert me to personal size (though tbh I'm not averse to re-punching the A5 to fit my A5 binder!)?

I really can't imagine that producing well-researched 'productivity inserts' (for want of a better phrase) would be a major financial risk for FF. Surely that would then **extend** the range of FF products, rather than limit it??

Just a thought...

Karel (2011-02-21 19:26:42)

@ArchiMark - thanks for the information about TimeSystem. I found their UK site and ordered a load of A5 refills there. Looking forward to trying them all...

Amanda (2011-03-05 12:39:04)

Incidentally, don't waste your time emailing the email address on the Filofax Time Management part of the site. It would appear that it is either not staffed or that they just ignore ANY emails that come in. I have chivvied them three times about a query (that thankfully David answered for me on here) and have **never** had a reply.

Utterly **terrible** customer service. Makes me think I would rather have nothing to do with their products if they can't even answer an email (or 4).

Okay. Rant over.

Steve (2011-03-05 13:11:10)

Which possibly explains why I've not heard back from them either!

As a company they aren't doing themselves a lot of favours at the moment.

Bertie Boy (2011-03-07 15:24:26)

I'm desperate for the dated inserts - but without the diary part! Can you order them like that? I can only see the undated pack for sale without the dairy parts.

DanishGTD (2011-03-28 03:02:01)

Great to see Filofax has made a Time Management-inserts. Strange though that they are hiding it.

I first got interested in the Time/Design-system when David Allan mentioned it in one of the podcasts on iTunes. It's a company founded in Denmark (my homecountry) so I had to check it out. Unfortunately I found the the Time/System (they changed their name when they came to the US) didn't fit in the personal sized Filofax. I got sample-pages from the Time/System compact size sent to me to try it out and the holes do NOT fit.

The Filofax TM-inserts seems to be the same or at least very very inspired by Time/System.

Could be the way to go for my to-be-A5-Filo...

Tim (2011-05-15 12:50:08)

Ooops! Just realised I was asked some questions back in February! Most points have been answered by David and others regarding the Time Management Professional system. Filofax launched it around 2006 - I've got the brochure from that year. If you click on "Stockists" at the bottom of the UK page you can find all who stock (or who deal in) the Time Management range. They are indicated by a clock symbol. After an initial flurry, any promotion petered out and I bet they haven't held any courses for a while! The TM Pro System is (or was) definitely run in house from Burgess Hill (Unit 3 Victoria Gardens, RH15 9NB as I understand).

I use it very much as the booklet that comes with the system advises. Advanced monthly planners under "Plan". The next few weeks (week to a view) under "Diary". Blank pages under "Notes". Current projects under "File" sub-divided into the 7 key areas plus "Personal" plus "Ideas". I don't use the Expenses tab (I work from home) and finally there's a "Directory" section.

By the way, beware that A5 Time Manager pages have a very different hole configuration to A5 Filofax.

Steve (2011-05-15 13:41:23)

Tim

In what way is the hole configuration different in the Time Manager A5 pages to those of a conventional A5 Filofax?

Dimensions of hole spacing would be useful to compare them. Assuming it's two groups of three, what is the spacing within the groups of 3 (hole 1-2 2-3 etc and then what is the spacing between 3-4, measuring where possible between hole centres.

Thanks

Steve

Tim (2011-05-16 09:27:28)

Time Manager refers to the system sold in two sizes by TMI. Their "original" page size is 180 mm x 110 mm with hole spacing identical to Filofax Personal. That is 6 holes - the first centered 25mm from the page centre and then 19mm and a further 19mm.

Time Manager's A5 size is 210mm x 148mm. They use 4 holes, identical to Time Manger original (and therefore Filofax personal) but without the middle holes.

Time Management Professional (as opposed to Time Manager) is the system sold by Filofax in standard A5 only. So that's 6 holes, but with the first 35mm from the page centre and then 19mm and a further 19mm.

The only paper I've ever seen that will fit in all A5 binders is the Oxford International A5 Detachable Notebook

(model 01212). This has TWELVE punched holes (2 x 6) on each A5 sheet, although I notice that the latest production run has merged a couple of these.

Hope this helps!

Tim

Free For All Tuesday No 2 (2011-02-15 00:00)



[1]

So here is your chance to fire away with some Filofax related questions no matter how major or minor they might be.

Thanks for the great response to last weeks questions and answers.

1. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-iWM2EGJg8j8/TUh0H0Lo4aI/AAAAAAAAI6E/2WfvsKUfHgc/s1600/IMG_9777a.JPG

Alex (2011-02-15 07:00:42)

OK, I'll go first. Which filofaxes do you think are the most 'masculine'/guy-friendly?

My dad always carries around a Moleskine and was admiring my Mini Finsbury, which I was also using as a wallet at the time. He said he'd love to get one and just fill it with blank paper, so that he wouldn't need to carry a separate notebook and wallet. However, after looking at some he came to the conclusion that they were all 'too girly', even the black and brown ones.

Similarly, I'd love to get my boyfriend one and reckon he'd get loads of use out of it, but don't know which ones are most suitable.

I know we have lots of filofax-using gents on here so hopefully someone can advise!

David Popely (2011-02-15 08:21:55)

Alex, I think the Graphic is fairly 'blokey', or anything leather, surely?

crofter (2011-02-15 09:49:36)

@ Alex

You might consider the Topaz pocket slimline. I have one that I carry daily, and have for a number of years. They are "old stock" but at present I see one on e-bay. Mine is black, and I think masculine enough that most men would appreciate it. Check it out!

plaiditude (2011-02-15 12:00:19)

What kind of pen/pencil do you use in a mini filofax? I'm not sure what fits. I think I'd prefer a mechanical pencil but I'm not sure one exists that would be short enough. Any ideas? I currently have my fisher space pen in the loop, but I can't write small with that pen.

plaiditude (2011-02-15 12:02:39)

In terms of the first question, I think that the Kendal line is one of the most masculine. I have the black in A5 and a brown mini which I just got.

Jotje (2011-02-15 12:09:31)

I was suggesting the same as Plaititude. Definitely the Kendal. It has a cowboyish delicious leather smell.

Or wait for the Mini Malden to arrive! I reckon that one will be need too.

From the older models the Kensington has nice leather and a no-fuss-just-work kinda style.

In my Mini I carry the Mini Stabilo pt68 pens. The original Filofax pen is also a very nice fit and it writes quite pleasantly. The downsize though is its weight!

Alex (2011-02-15 12:28:30)

Thanks all! Lots of good suggestions to look at! I think my Dad's probably not looked at the whole selection, just a few he's found in department stores etc, so I'll encourage him to check out some different designs.

All of the mini Filofax pens should fit in the Mini. I used the Mini Classic Ribbed pen in my Mini Finsbury, until I lost it, then I bought the Mini Contemporary pen (which is a bit girlier - it's kind of sparkly) Jotje's right - they are a bit on the heavy side. They are a good fit and suit me fine, but you can probably find something better if you shop around.

katka (2011-02-15 13:40:43)

hello, may I have another one? Any suggestion how to fix "loose" rings in filo? I mean that the rings don't close properly and there is a small gap between.

Mrs. Grievous (2011-02-15 13:41:59)

Are there any minis that are better at laying flat than others? I'd like one to carry around work (I'm a legal secretary) to jot down due dates.

Unknown (2011-02-15 15:32:02)

I've been thinking of switching from Personal size to A5, I am a student and I think the size increase would do me well.

What are the pro's and con's to this potential size switch?

SNARLing: (2011-02-15 15:33:24)

plaid - zebra makes a mini mechanical pencil that might work:

http://www.jetpens.com/index.php/product/view/products_id/576

and i love the topaz pocket slimline. it is pretty masculine but i tend to love things that are targeted more for men especially when it comes to small leather goods & wallets.

Timeless Expressions (2011-02-15 16:12:22)

Okay.. well, maybe I'm just a nosy git, but I'd love to know what's on the pages on the photo below...

the one on the far side of the table looks very interesting....!

I love looking inside peoples filofaxes and this site is so great it fulfils that aspect most of the time... but this photo has me intrigued! lol.

David Popely (2011-02-15 16:22:32)

Sara, for me the main pro is obviously one of extra space....the main con is that I have to lug it around with me at weekends and in the evenings, and I just don't like carrying something that bulky - not having a handbag to fall back on. Its a real dilemma....

David Popely (2011-02-15 16:23:58)

Katka.m, I've got that problem with my A5 Strata - I dropped it in PC World car park and now the rings are bent. Nothing i can do seems to work, to get them properly aligned again. Any advice on this would be appreciated....

Steve (2011-02-15 16:35:47)

@Jo take a look at this post for more of the same:

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/11/london-meet-up-20-november-2010.html>

shepcraig (2011-02-15 16:36:59)

To the people with damaged organisers, you can send them to the following address,

Filofax Customer Returns

Filofax UK

Free-post RCC 1173

Burgess Hill

RH15 9ZA

99 % of the time Filofax will repair it free of charge or replace it if it cannot be fixed.

the only down side is that you will be without your organiser for a week or two, but from experience they are very quick.

All you do is write a small note explaining the fault and your return address, then just pop it in the post.

Steve (2011-02-15 16:39:21)

Thanks for that Craig, I will add that info to the FAQ page...

I was about to put in a link to a another site that showed how to take apart the ring mechanism yourself... but you know once an engineer always an engineer!! Sometimes it's best to leave these sort of things to the experts...

Steve

Petra (2011-02-16 00:31:55)

Okay, Steve, you can't whet people's curiosity like that and then not provide the link! I've taken apart the ring mechanism on one of my filofax, and then wondered how one would take out the rivets that tied the last metal piece to the binder. Some Franklin Covey ring mechanisms have bolts that remove with an allen wrench, but Filofax don't seem to work that way.

Steve (2011-02-16 03:05:33)

Here's the link:

http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/~m-task/repair_cover.htm

It's how to get the cover off. I think the only way to remove the rings is to drill out the rivets, but that would effectively wreck the organiser because you would need to get some similar rivets to reattach the rings again...

Personally I would send it back for repair..

Followed by the usual disclaimer....

Jotje (2011-02-16 06:49:00)

Craig, do you know if this also applies to buyers from abroad? I bought a binder at Filofax UK, but the rings also started not closing properly. While I never ever pull at the rings directly!

Timeless Expressions (2011-02-16 11:28:30)

Steve.. well.. thanks for that Mate... just took a peek and now you've whet my appetite to know what a craftofax is !! Sharon? Are you on here??? lol..

Sounds like just hte job!

shepcraig (2011-02-16 11:39:56)

I am not sure if it applies to customers outwith the UK, I imagine that they would fix it but they may charge you postage for returning it, not too sure

Amanda (2011-02-16 15:27:49)

@Jo - which photo are you talking about?

@Sara - There was a big post about pros/cons of the A5/personal a few weeks ago...

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/01/big-debate-a5-vs-personal-size.html>

pilgrim (2011-02-16 18:13:01)

Hi All,

I've just been idly Googling around for A5 Filofax inserts & found these.

Looks interesting in it's own way, if also expensive.

<http://www.mumsoffice.co.uk/>

[#http://www.whsmith.co.uk/CatalogAndSearch/ProductDetails.aspx?productID=34233917 #](http://www.whsmith.co.uk/CatalogAndSearch/ProductDetails.aspx?productID=34233917)

Regards

Pilgrim

Unknown (2011-02-16 18:39:50)

@Amanda

Thats exactly what I was looking for, not sure why I couldn't find it on my own. Thanks!

Timeless Expressions (2011-02-17 11:45:50)

@Amanda.. here you go..

http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-7RC4TEu5RG0/TOlgyI_CPKI/AAAAAAAAIpI/QO8D-PSiuaY/s1600/IMG_9655.JPG

This is the image..

And gosh.. I'm getting to dislike this site - I've just been onto the planner / time management link on here and ended up spending a fortune on the organised mum site..

Sigh... I'll never be rich with a Philofaxy blog... Have you thought about doing a loyalty card? lol.

Babs (2011-08-02 06:30:49)

Following on from the broken rings post ... the leather is peeling off my trusty Classic (see pic here ■ http://www.flickr.com/photos/_babs_/5997235975/). Is it worth contacting Filofax about that? Or does it just need to be retired?

I would have expected the leather to wear, but not peel off. But I have no idea when or where I bought it, it's been so long! (It would have been in the UK but other than that I can't be sure)

Steve (2011-08-02 06:51:00)

Babs

Yes contact Filofax regarding your Classic, I've heard of them being replaced before when this has happened.

They will know the age from the quality control letters on the leather strap, look on the inside of the strap, embossed in to the leather you should see three letters...

Contact Filofax first and send it to them.

I've heard of them exchanging Classics for other models because of this problem. Hope my A4 doesn't suffer the same issue over time.

Steve

Time Management - Readers links (2011-02-16 06:00)

The following are links recommended by our readers. Thanks to everyone who has submitted a link in a comment, I will continue to capture them in posts from here on so they are easier to find on the blog.
Thanks

- [1]Why You Must Define Your Time Management System - TMN
- [2]The Best Dead Simple Way to Start Your Day - TMN
- [3]Four Buckets for Maximising Your Time - Day Timer Blog
- [4]Building a Smarter To-Do List - 43 Folders

- [5]Getting started with Getting Things Done - 43 Folders

David Allen the well known author of 'Getting Things Done' has a free downloadable article on his website called [6]Organising a Paper Planner, in it outlines how he would set up his planner sections to fit with his GTD philosophy.

I used his recommendations for setting up my A5 desk planner. To get a copy of the article and his other free articles go to his [7]website and click on the 'Buy Now' links, they are free, but you will have to set up a simple account on the site.

IFRAME: [8][http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank &bc1=000000 &IS2=1 &nou=1 &bg1=FFFFFF &fc1=000000 &lc1=0000FF &t=pemburyvillag-21 &o=2 &p=8 &l=as4 &m=amazon &f=i&asin=0749922648](http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank&bc1=000000&IS2=1&nou=1&bg1=FFFFFF&fc1=000000&lc1=0000FF&t=pemburyvillag-21&o=2&p=8&l=as4&m=amazon&f=i&asin=0749922648)

And to finish today... a bit of humour from November 1992



1. <http://timemanagementninja.com/2010/03/why-you-must-define-your-time-management-system/>
2. <http://timemanagementninja.com/2010/04/the-best-dead-simple-way-to-start-your-day/>
3. <http://daytimer.wordpress.com/2011/02/09/the-four-buckets-for-maximizing-your-time/>
4. <http://www.43folders.com/2005/09/12/building-a-smarter-to-do-list-part-i>
5. <http://www.43folders.com/2004/09/08/getting-started-with-getting-things-done>
6. <https://secure.davidco.com/store/catalog/ORGANIZING-A-PAPER-PLANNER-p-16162.php>
7. <https://secure.davidco.com/store/catalog/Free-Articles-p-1-c-254.php>
8. http://rcm-uk.amazon.co.uk/e/cm?lt1=_blank&bc1=000000&IS2=1&nou=1&bg1=FFFFFF&fc1=000000&lc1=0000FF&t=pemburyvillag-21&o=2&p=8&l=as4&m=amazon&f=i&asin=0749922648
9. http://dilbert.com/dyn/str_strip/00000000/00000000/000000/000000/20000/8000/700/28782/28782.strip.gif

Jotje (2011-02-16 08:03:01)

Love that comic strip! I can relate: with all ToDo-lists neatly in place, I sometimes wonder why they don't do anything?

A friend of mine found "To Do" too ambivalent and started calling his list "Do it!".

I kinda get his point ...

Gareth Buxton (2011-02-16 08:43:55)

I can recommend the GTD Virtual Study group which is a podcast of regular GTD "followers" sharing hints and tips. Great stuff. <http://gtd-vsg.blogspot.com/>

danniolo (2011-02-16 11:15:43)

If you'd like a tool for managing your time and projects, you can use this web-application inspired by David Allen's GTD:

[1]<http://www.Gtdagenda.com>

You can use it to manage and prioritize your goals, projects and tasks, set next actions and contexts, use checklists,

schedules and a calendar.
Syncs with Evernote, and also comes with mobile-web, Android and iPhone apps.

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

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-02-16 11:37:14)

Thanks for sharing the links.

I am changing my "to do" list to "DO IT" list! LOVE that idea...

Amanda (2011-02-16 14:28:37)

The four-bucket post is excellent. I hadn't quite thought about it like this, but it works really well. At work tomorrow, (lack of the usual crises allowing!) I might re-jig my work file with this post in mind. I can see 5 tabs ending up as:

Monthly bucket, catch-all bucket (a.k.a. "Do it!"), daily bucket, info bucket, and the extra tab (since it is supposed to be 4 buckets...) would have blank note paper. The info bucket may end up with some sub-categories to find things a bit better, but the core would fit.

How do others set up their work files/work method?

caribbean princess (2011-02-16 15:08:26)

I Love the DO IT list!! That is such a great idea Jotje. I have been using the weekdate solely for ToDos and it is working wonderfully with my Adelphi work file :-)

Tim (2011-02-16 15:09:49)

GTD may be the "in" thing, but the original Time Manager results tool (from 1975!) is still hard to beat to my mind! Here's a link to a short article on the key principles: -

<http://www.timemanager.com/timemanager/int/webmenu.nsf/framesets/Abo ut+Time+Manager>

Tim (2011-02-16 15:11:47)

<http://www.timemanager.com/timemanager/int/webmenu.nsf/framesets/Abo ut+Time+Manager>

Petra (2011-02-16 19:21:58)

Part II of the Building a Smarter To-Do List has been especially invaluable to me. In the past I've just put everything that needs doing or that I think I should be doing on a long to-do list, with the result that most of the list just gets shifted along for weeks or months.

Timeless Expressions (2011-02-17 11:47:37)

love the comic strip.. so much like me!!

However, I did spend nearly three hours 'doing up' my filofax yesterday. I now don't have plain inserts.. I have customised beautiful coloured ones.. all laminated and perfect for scribbling on!! lol. Just don't know how to show you the pics..

Jo xx

Petra (2011-02-17 13:25:16)

Jo, upload them to Flickr and then give us a link. Sure do want to see colorful and laminated inserts!

Katie (2011-02-23 09:22:02)

Woah, that comic strip is two months younger than I am! I feel so young!

Filofax Finsbury wallet (2011-02-17 13:34)

If you are interested in broadening your Filofax collection to include accessories, here's a recommendation for you: the Finsbury wallet (purse). I've been wanting a pink one for a long time, and discovered it's

on its way out. So I knew I had to grab it fast! I found it on the Filofax France website for half off, and delivery to the UK was fast and reasonably priced. [1][Click here for the product page.](#)

Here are some photos:

The wallet comes in a nice Filofax gift box.



[2]

I love this color!



[3]

Hard to see, but "filofax" is imprinted in the leather.



[4]

Wallet open with card slots at the left and popper coin pocket at the right.



[5]

Again hard to see but "filofax real leather" is printed inside.



[6]

The left side folds open to reveal a mesh ID pocket and more pockets for cards. Also behind the popper coin pocket is a pocket.



[7]

There are two separate full-length pockets for bills.



[8]

The fabric inside the coin pocket has "filofax" printed.



[9]



[10]

Very nice wallet! I'm really glad I ordered it before they are gone!

1. <http://www.filofax.fr/store/businessdetails.asp?catId=6&productId=327>
2. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-h1I2hf4EX2k/TV1k_f2msDI/AAAAAAAAABoM/6WQjw4EDCJ8/s1600/Diaries+2010+315.jpg
3. <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-mFyMTaq0tdw/TV1lVrI4yQI/AAAAAAAAABoQ/4Ggb6PnZykM/s1600/Diaries+2010+318.jpg>
4. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-g0vWyx02EU8/TV1lt4dR_tI/AAAAAAAAABoU/jhv10sU2CXQ/s1600/Diaries+2010+319.jpg
5. <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-Jv7FDG66U4Q/TV1mE1BjVtI/AAAAAAAAABoc/0IS9ITm0t7Y/s1600/Diaries+2010+320.jpg>
6. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-QtRK0cmLy9c/TV1mZw0kmvI/AAAAAAAAABog/RkQ_KDJYczY/s1600/Diaries+2010+321.jpg
7. <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-bi51qBdfQtU/TV1mvr60N4I/AAAAAAAAABok/A-8ayEmP2fw/s1600/Diaries+2010+322.jpg>

8. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-Ue-V_dnGTww/TV1nCwS243I/AAAAAAAAABos/xZvQgNuo3jg/s1600/Diaries+2010+323.jpg
9. <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-5IKBlAYkygU/TV1nZDE3wQI/AAAAAAAAABow/Ot1kWfrJieY/s1600/Diaries+2010+324.jpg>
10. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-EpsuRPxya1U/TV1nyn4W_QI/AAAAAAAAABo0/w58dc0801GU/s1600/Diaries+2010+325.jpg

caribbean princess (2011-02-17 14:05:17)

Laurie this is beautiful (and would match my personal and mini finsburys). However I need to use a bigger wallet to be functional! I enjoyed drooling over the pictures though..... as vacuous as that may make me look. haha

Laurie (2011-02-17 14:53:04)

CB you're in luck! ;D They make a larger version:

<http://www.filofax.fr/store/businessdetails.asp?catId=6 &productId=333>

caribbean princess (2011-02-17 15:59:53)

thanks! :-)

Steve (2011-02-17 16:54:15)

CP Parlez-vous français?

Jotje (2011-02-18 02:53:55)

Evil enablers!

caribbean princess (2011-02-18 03:01:28)

Non Steve!! But all I need to do is check the equivalent on Filofax uk!

The Adelphi purse is also stunning.

Free For All No. 118 (2011-02-18 02:03)

There is a feeling that Spring is just around the corner here in France, temperatures in the mid teens most days, which is very nice, but it's only February and we could still get bad weather.

I suppose it's the same with our Filofax Organisers, we might have made some change at the start of the year and we have been 'settling in' to our new set up, everything might appear to be going well up to now, then there is a change of circumstances that suddenly means you have to change your set up again. I don't think any of us like changing our set up, it takes a few days to find everything again, but sometimes the change is for the better and we wonder why we never tried that before.

So have you had to change anything in your Filofax this year?

But as it's Friday the floor is as usual yours to discuss anything Filofax related.

caribbean princess (2011-02-18 05:38:31)

ooh I get to be first today. I will play around with my diary inserts in my Adelphi. I received a week on one page with notes page diary and this would probably work for a PhD planner. I will keep you updated. TGIF.

michele (2011-02-18 05:55:21)

Good morning everyone from NY.. I have a few minutes before I wake up my 16 year old for school.... I am LOVING my Christmas pocket Eton - so soft like butter!.. This week I starting moving the "to do" list from it's own section to the week I'm in. Even though this view blocks my full week's view, I find it absolutely necessary!.. Well I have one more week before my global PMP certification exam. I decided that in my A5 Time Management calendar I'm going to set up a timed agenda for the next 7 days with milestones to meet! After I pass I'm going to force myself to use Flickr so I can show you some lovely pics... Yesterday, I had my Black Eton with Blackberry

and Mont Blanc pen sitting in a pile - so pretty!

Femke (2011-02-18 06:01:25)

CP - I have those as well for this year and I love them.

On a more random note - I ordered the A5 Domino snake in bronze yesterday, I have no idea what I'm going to use it for yet. Any ideas?

Jotje (2011-02-18 06:49:11)

Femke, I have the A5 in Bronze too! It's very nice, and the cover is a lot more durable than the regular Domino covers. My youngest daughter commented with awe: "Wow, this looks like gold!"

I'm using it as a school-related record keeper on my kids. Each of my kids has his own tab and own colored note paper.

In case you don't have kids: I also have an A5 Domino in Red set up as a recipe book. I print the recipes from www.ah.nl/recepten (I know, this will only make sense to fellow-Dutch people, so this one is entirely for you! LOL).

Spandrel Studios (2011-02-18 07:05:02)

Good morning! I just purchased my very first Filofax yesterday - Personal Chameleon in black - after struggling through the first six weeks of 2011 with a week-at-a-glance planner that wasn't working for me because of too little space allotted for each day... But the filo's One Day on Two Pages Calendar looks like it will solve that problem nicely, and since my iphone and computer store all my contact info, I've pared back all the inserts to focus on the diary and a few pages for notes. Can't wait to read what other inserts people are using and how. Would love to find some notepaper in bright colors or with fun graphics to jazz things up.

Alex (2011-02-18 07:08:13)

Well I'm certainly not complaining, but I'd already bought a 2011 diary insert for my Mini and written in important dates, birthdays etc. when my boyfriend presented me with a pocket Deco at the end of January (which should have been my Christmas present but was repeatedly delayed). The Pocket's replaced my Mini as my day-to-day, always-in-my-handbag filofax, so I had to copy out all the dates I'd already written into the Mini and now the Mini's kind of redundant. But I'm sure I'll find something to do with it eventually!

I've never got along with using the 'ToDo' inserts for day-to-day stuff. I use them for more long-term stuff which I don't have to do this week, but which I need to keep in mind - stuff like 'get vaccinations for trip abroad' or 'book dentist appointment'. For anything which I need to do in a hurry (like 'post mum's birthday card') I've just started using one of those little post-it things and sticking them on the current week.

Femke (2011-02-18 07:27:10)

Jotje, I am quite excited, I saw the photos on your flickr, when I searched for the color of it.

And I have an A5 already set up as our "family" organiser, ie recipes etc, so that's already taken. I've handwritten all my recipes (takes up a lot of time, but it's so much fun!). I use the A-Z index for it, it's so fabulous!

I'm thinking of using the Domino to replace my monthly Moleskine which I use for recurring events, and keep it as a log for my college work.

Alex (2011-02-18 09:38:16)

Jotje and Femke, thank you!

I have a red A5 Classic which was given to me as a Christmas present a few years ago (my first filofax, in fact) but after the novelty of using it at work wore off, I found I really couldn't think of a good use for it. I don't work in a job where I need a 'desk' organise and it's too big to carry around. Now it's just sitting in a wardrobe feeling lonely.

I love cooking and cannot believe I've never thought of using it for recipes before. That will be perfect!

pilgrim (2011-02-18 10:16:24)

Hi all,

I seem to remember a post somewhere about using Personal sized pages in an A5 Filo-can anyone point me in the

right direction please?

I'm thinking of using an A5 Filo with a Dodo pad insert, but I've got stacks of Personal sized inserts from 17 years usage that I'd like to make the best use of.

Whilst I've got the chance, thanks to Steve, Laurie, Nan & all for being the fellow filofaxers and being so usefull and helpfull at the same time

Pilgrim

Sandra (2011-02-18 10:22:39)

Hello to all. I am making a big planner move this week from using my Chocolate Classic A5 as my go-to Filo to a personal Malden—it is on order and I cannot wait for it arrive (your photos inspired me, Jojte!).

Too much browsing for Filo ideas gets me thinking about a Finsbury personal and a Domino personal. One would be an Ed.D. planner and the other a "me" binder. Any suggestions on which will wear better, and color combinations, are welcomed. Have a wonderful weekend!

Amanda (2011-02-18 10:34:24)

@Pilgrim

Cut the bottom left hand corner off the personal inserts and then they will fit in the A5 - just one of the holes in the insert won't be being used.

Hope that helps!

@CP TGIF indeed!

caribbean princess (2011-02-18 12:39:24)

@ Amanda Thanks

@ Femke I am excited to use them

@ Skhen the Domino and the Finsbury are great binders. The Domino is cheaper as it is not leather but the suede interior may get dirty. The Finsbury might wear better. I like pinks and purples, so raspberry, pink, lavender shades would be my favs. You could always get them both!

Nellie (2011-02-18 13:10:08)

Oooh! The amethyst Deco is on the filofax UK website: <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiser-details.asp?sizeId=3 &rangeId=118 &dsId=3>

I must control myself*

Nellie (2011-02-18 13:11:12)

... and it comes in slimline!

I wonder if there are any other new additions?

Amanda (2011-02-18 16:00:14)

Seemed like a good idea at the time...

I changed my work set-up this week and am completely in the 'oh lord, where have I put *that!?!'* phase, NOT helped by still not having re-labelled the dividers so they still say 1-6. :-)

Now, WHY did I do it in one of my busiest weeks?? I've been A*** for Elbow all week.

Doh.

pilgrim (2011-02-18 16:21:46)

@Amanda

Thanks, I knew it was probably something simple, but couldn't remember for the life of me.

Kind regards to all

Pilgrim

justenoughsalt (2011-02-18 17:21:51)

okay. those of you that find filofax organizers at tjmaxx. what section do you find them in?

Sandra (2011-02-18 20:50:25)

@colie I am on the hunt as well. My local store puts them by stationery. They said to call on delivery days and they would check for them for me. :) Good luck with the hunt.

@caribbean princess-thanks for your input! I try to buy/implement one Filo, but multiple newbies might be fun. Your collection is amazing, btw!

Robin (2011-02-18 21:22:22)

OK Filo-nation, your posts are a lot more exciting than mine, but I'm giddy nonetheless to report that I got a whole batch of lined inserts for my *new* personal Sketch. (They're actually DayRunner size 3 loose-leaf note pages that work like a charm. Everything in size 3 fits.)

Maybe more exciting news is the new Sketch in all its chocolate-ness, which is a bit of a trainer for a nice someday leather model.

Yay for a three-day weekend for Presidents Day in the US!

Steve (2011-02-20 04:20:38)

Well it's been a busy week for me... working.. ah that word!! Yes but it's been quite enjoyable work, looking at houses here in France for someone in UK who is looking to buy a second home. I like spending other peoples money!!

Nothing much to report on webfinds this week, Google hasn't plucked anything significant from the interwebs.

I'm in the process of thinking out my next post on our time management series. More on this later.. got to go and help plant some trees...

Cue the lumberjack song by Monty Python!! Or play it in reverse I suppose if you are planting trees...

Happy Sunday!

kanalt (2011-02-20 15:34:32)

My planner set up has been working very well since the beginning of the year. At the start of 2011 I started using 2PPD instead of the Day planner sheets. Only once did I think about switching back to the day planner sheets. But the 2PPD seems to be working well with my weekly and monthly sheets.

As spring approaches, I may change binders, from my personal black malden to my personal ochre malden - it's lighter, though I wouldn't call it a "spring" color. We shall see...

Filofax Gourmet Gift Box - Further Price Reduction (2011-02-18 20:00)

You might not have noticed that the Gourmet Gift Box set has now been reduced to £35. I think this is very good value for money.



What do you get for your £35:

- **Filofax Organiser – date, dinner, done**
- - contemporary personal organiser with a smooth leather-look cover and cream suede-effect lining
- - special 'lifestyle' diary and papers, everything you need to balance work and play including party and outfit planners, top takeaways, shopping lists and even a little black book to rate those dates (**Normally costs £17.50**)

Mini Organiser Pen (normally £20)

- - chrome and acrylic mini pen, designed to fit into your organiser

Gourmet Society Dining Card

- - 12 months membership to the Gourmet Society (**normally costs over £50**), saving you **£££** on restaurant bills
- - fantastic discounts at over 3,500 leading restaurants across the country. Enjoy 2-for-1 meals, 50 % off food, or 25 % off food AND drink at a wide variety of participating establishments, from Michelin starred establishments to award-winning independents and famous names like Café Rouge, Loch Fyne, The Living Room and Prezzo
- - restaurants from famous names like 'Marco' from Marco Pierre White, Gary Rhodes' 'W1 Brasserie' and Atul Kochhar's 'Benares'.
- - see [2]www.gourmetsociety.co.uk/filofax for a full list of restaurants, offers and terms and conditions.

Also see Laurie's excellent video review:

[EMBED]

So if you are thinking of buying a friend or relative an Easter present, why not get them this excellent gift box set. Or treat yourself and make good use of the discount card over the Easter and May Bank Holidays.



1. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?s=219480&v=2457&q=110796&r=97790>

2. <http://www.gourmetsociety.co.uk/filofax>

3. <http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?s=219476&v=2457&q=110795&r=97790>

Amanda (2011-02-20 06:38:54)

Okay. You've convinced me. We're taking our holidays in the UK this year and although there is NOTHING within 100km of Mull (our first holiday), there are places in the scheme near our main holiday. At £35 I'm sure we'll get the money back over a couple of meals. There are loads of places in Edinburgh though (60 miles away and somewhere where we go for the day soemtimes) so don't feel so bad that the west of Scotland haven't joined the party!

The Gournet website is annoying in that you can't see the full offer for a place until you get the card... slightly poor sales technique for those of us who like to know what they're buying before they purchase. Now, the next question is... will I actually use the filofax? Wrong size for me, but I will do my best.

Steve (2011-02-20 06:46:20)

Well done Amanda, I would appreciate it if you order your gift box by clicking on the advert in the article.

Thanks

Steve

Amanda (2011-02-20 07:18:48)

Hi Steve,

Um... had already ordered it when I saw your message, and I'm a member of Easyfundraising, which generates money for the charity I helped set up, so did it through their site (to get £1.40 for my charity...)

Sorry!

Jess (2011-02-20 16:47:19)

if anyone wants to check out the offers on the gourmet society site, my membership number is FF1136...

Amanda (2011-02-21 06:01:55)

Thanks Jess, that's very helpful! Let me check out lots of places!

Thanks!

Timothy (2011-02-24 10:05:17)

I find the Gourmet Society Dining Card is a great for a gift to someone you have no idea what to give them. I give it to myself mostly for the specials at the [1]Prezzo restaurants which make taking the family out for dinner mercifully reasonable (read cheap) as it does with most chain restaurants. What surprises me most is the comprehensive coverage of the UK that Gourmet Society Dining Card offers, wherever I go I go safe in the knowledge that there's going to be a participating restaurant somewhere close by...

1. <http://www.bookatable.com/uk/restaurant/prezzo>

Amanda (2011-02-24 11:13:49)

Three quick comments...

One

The card I received wasn't valid for 12 months (as stated on the filofax site); it expires the end of December 2011. That probably won't dissuade anyone as it is still a great price, all in all, but I just wanted to alert people to it.

Two

Although coverage south of the border seems great, and major cities are well supported, if you live rurally (especially in Scotland) be aware that coverage isn't excellent. Where I am in Scotland, there are a few places within half an hour's drive (about 15 or so). If I lived an hour north of where I am, the number would plummet to almost fingers on one hand level. An hour south and Edinburgh would make up for the deficit; an hour west and Glasgow would. I guess, if you're in Scotland and not in Edinburgh or Glasgow, just be sure how much is nearby.

Three

The filofax and the pen (which I described as 'came free with the gourmet card' to my DH! :-)) are lovely. The grape colour is a lot more intense than I was expecting from pictures on the web and the ff is very light in weight. The inserts are not so useful to me to be honest, but that hardly matters much at the price.

Amanda (2011-02-25 07:43:39)

I note that Filofax have now changed the description to say membership for 2011(because I pointed it out to them??).

Filofax sighting: Home Alone (2011-02-19 10:41)

Last weekend I watched the movie Home Alone with my kids. It was the first time they had seen it (and they loved it, proving the 80's have trans-generational appeal), and I hadn't seen the movie in at least 10 years. So imagine my delight and surprise to see a Filofax in the film!

For those of you who have seen the movie, the Filofax is at the part when the parents are in the Paris airport and are trying to phone someone back home to check on their 8 year old son, whom they inadvertently left home (alone). The mom hands a big, fat, black-covered Filofax to her sister-in-law and says, "Here's my address book," and asks her to call everyone in it. It's a classic 80's Filofax moment! Filofax to the rescue in a crisis.

Have you discovered any surprise Filofaxes in movies or on TV recently?

justenoughsalt (2011-02-19 11:27:25)

oh man i used to watch that movie like every three days on vhs for years of my life. so happy you posted this.

Roanne (2011-02-19 19:35:31)

I posted this on the Filofax Club board on Facebook a couple of days ago:

Noticed today while watching a last season episode of Sex and the City ... character Aleksander Petrovsky (played by Mikhail Baryshnikov) is sitting in front of a coffee table with what looks like two filofaxes in front of him. The personal size is lying open so I can't tell what kind of binder it is, but then ...there is a closed pocket sized one sitting further away from him on the table that looks like a pocket sized mini in chocolate brown ostrich ...

Jotje (2011-02-20 07:37:22)

Jennifer Aniston's character in "Friends with money" uses what looks like a black pocket Filofax as her address book.

And in the 2nd movie of the Millennium-trilogy appears a binder that is an organiser and doubles as a wallet as well. It is brown, and appears to be wider than the Personal. I guess it might as well be a FC Compact.

In "The Women" there is a very short desk shot with an opened Filo.

michele (2011-02-20 11:26:27)

Something's Gotta Give" with Diane Keaton (a famous Filofax user so much so that Filofax designed a coin purse named after her) has at least one filo in the movie. One situated on the corner of her writing desk and the second on her night table. Also, anyone in the states knows about this reality show with Gene Simmons of KISS called Family Jewels. He is ADDICTED to his filo.. There are scenes of the show of him going thru and making notes in his filo as his family goes to him for advice...

Jess (2011-02-20 16:45:58)

there are quite a lot of filofax appearances in sex and the city. in the episode where charlotte starts treating her love life as a business, she uses one to arrange dates/appointments! and samantha uses them at various points throughout the seasons, off the top of my head there is a red one that i would guess is a classic?

Steve (2011-02-20 16:48:26)

Thanks for that Jess... you just reminded me.. I was going to include a character question in the 'Reader Under the Spotlight along the line of

'Which of the Sexy in the City characters are you?'

I can have a wild guess about some of them!!!

Chan Woo (2011-02-21 00:19:24)

Diane Keaton used them in several 80's movies, I guess. I am pretty sure she used one in Baby Boom when she was the high-powered ad exec.

Alex (2011-02-21 06:33:28)

I'm not sure if it's in the first SATC movie (I think it is) or in one of the episodes, but Samantha definitely has a red one, possibly an A5 Classic. She has a stack of fliers for different events in it, and she pulls one out and hands it to one of the other girls.

Jotje (2011-02-21 08:15:01)

Alex, I think it was rather in one of the episodes. In the movie she has this iPhone that she's constantly talking on ...

Karena (2011-02-21 10:20:40)

The villain character in the Die Hard movie uses a Filofax.

Alex (2011-02-21 10:28:34)

@Karena - that's great! Filofaxes: not just for the good guys.

Jotje (2011-02-21 12:48:46)

I would imagine that there's some fat Filofaxes in Wallstreet. It's THE 80s-movie, so it just has to be. Can anyone confirm?

Silver Bell Girl (2011-02-21 13:58:06)

This is slightly off topic since the filofax wasn't in a movie or on TV, but I just spotted a beautiful ivory filofax on the shelf of a desk unit in my latest Lowe's woodworkers magazine. It was beautiful. Made me think maybe I'd like that Ivory Deco, even though I don't like the big clunky buckle.

Laurie (2011-02-25 13:51:14)

I just remembered that the movie Cast Away has a scene where Tom Hanks' character discovers he has to take his fateful trip on Christmas. He and Helen Hunt both whip out their Filofaxes to figure out dates. They both flip past world maps and calendar pages. It's a great Filofax film moment!

Web Finds [Updated] (2011-02-21 16:26)

As I mentioned the other day, not many new Filofax related blog posts on the interwebs this last week, but what there has been is definitely worth a look.

- [1]Wardrobe Challenge - Paper r u s h blog - I think you agree the use of different colours makes the diary pages stand out and help with they organisation for each day.
- [2]Adding structure to an unstructured day - Caribbean Princess - As CP prepares to start her PhD studies.. we explains how she is going to plan her days to get her work done, not easy but I'm sure there are some tips for all of us in this post.
- [3]Filofax gets a lead role in a film along side Jennifer Love Hewitt! - review of a new TV movie coming out soon I believe.

And finally I am sure you will join me in wishing one of our readers David Popley a speedy recovery after an accident yesterday afternoon. He is currently recovering in hospital in Somerset.

David and I were due to have a telephone chat this evening about Time Management, but I got an email from his wife this morning telling me that our discussion is postponed until David is settled back at home.

1. <http://paper-rush.blogspot.com/2011/02/wardrobe-challenge-success.html>
2. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/02/phd-planning-101-how-to-add-structure.html>
3. <http://gofugyourself.com/fug-the-fromage-the-lost-valentine-starring-j-lo-hew-02-2011>

caribbean princess (2011-02-21 16:31:50)

Steve please pass on to David my best wishes for a speedy recovery. I really hope he is all right and that he has not been badly injured. I am sending positive thoughts his way.

Alison Reeves (2011-02-21 16:40:36)

Yes, please pass on my best wishes as well. Poor DAvid - I hope is will be OK.

justenoughsalt (2011-02-21 17:20:14)

NOOOOOOOOO!!!! Oh my, that is awful! All the best to David and his wife. I hope he feels better soon, very soon!

Nellie (2011-02-22 01:16:51)

Best wishes from Hampshire too, I hope David is feeling fighting fit again soon.

Jotje (2011-02-22 02:56:29)

David, hope you are fine and don't have any major injuries. What a fright! Get well soon!!!!

Amanda (2011-02-22 04:25:27)

Oh, please add all my best wishes too? Here's hoping for a speedy recovery and no lasting problems.

gdigesu (2011-02-22 08:48:09)

David, get well so that we can chat about getting stuff done, 8 sectons, and the like.

J (2011-02-22 14:30:52)

David, all the best and a speedy recovery. I hope all is alright.

Butanben (2011-02-22 17:56:01)

David, so sorry to hear you have been injured. I join in with a lot of fellow filofaxers in sending my warmest wishes for your recovery. Take it easy and give the body its own time to heal, rest up and recover. Thinking of you lots. Jane x

Free For All Tuesday No. 3 (2011-02-22 00:00)

Once again thanks for your great response to the various questions last week. So once again you can ask any Filofax question you like and let's see if we can answer your questions. Don't worry how minor your question might be, or if it's been answered before, things do change and we might have some more recent information.

So the floor is yours...

Enjoy

Nellie (2011-02-22 02:25:24)

Do Filofax make paper with a margin? Most paper or notebooks I see don't have a margin printed on them, so I haev to draw one in.

Does anyone else find the lack of margin annoying?

Have a good day!

Kate (2011-02-22 03:28:25)

Any ideas how I can buy the print to size software on the US site without oohing them, which is what they told me to do. I think it's stupid that we can't buy internationally, especially a download. Help gratefully received.
Kate

girlinmaths (2011-02-22 04:01:28)

I don't think there is any paper with a margin. At least I have never seen it in a store or online. It doesn't bother me since I hate margins. They make me feel that I waste paper.
I have a question of my own: does anyone know of a diary refill in horizontal week on two pages format that has times printed on it? I have been trying out the space24 planner, and I really like the day space layout they have. If filofax has it, I might try to go back to my filo.

Amanda (2011-02-22 04:34:00)

I haven't seen any commercially available pages with margins, but there are templates for pages with margins on DIY planner I think, if you print your own. I certainly find pages with margins useful for some meetings as I can put action points or similar in the margin as the meeting progresses. Perhaps bizarrely, I like the margin on the RHS for that!

Alison Reeves (2011-02-22 05:46:55)

Yes, girlinmaths - I would also like a week on two pages - portrait with either some lines or times printed on each day.

Jotje (2011-02-22 07:03:37)

@girlinmaths: like the French? Go to filofax.fr and enter 6843811.

justenoughsalt (2011-02-22 09:44:46)

@nelie not enough room for margins. what would you use them for?

@kate no idea but good question

@girlinmaths here you go <http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2372>

i only received one answer last week so i will ask again, those of you that pick up filofax items at tjmaxx, what section do you find them in?

justenoughsalt (2011-02-22 09:48:38)

also i read on some blog this week that the worst thing you can do for your productivity is not look at your planner when you start your day. how many of you sort of coast on what you remember and then occasionally pick up your filo for back up? or do all of you start the morning with coffee/tea, cereal, and your filo?

Amanda (2011-02-22 10:31:08)

@colie

At work, every morning, *without fail* (polishes halo...), I check my filofax for what I have ahead. I'm usually in early to get that first cuppa and filofax check all to myself.

At home... hmmm. I work part-time and sometimes 'home days' are 'work days' in disguise (either relating to my job (boo!) or my writing or charity stuff) and then I'm pretty good at checking my schedule (even though home days are invariably empty!). It's more a checking of to do lists tbh.

'Home days' that have no work in them... not quite such a shiny halo! :-)) They generally go to H in a handbasket regarding productivity!

Re: margins - I use margins to pop notes in during meetings. Usually who has become responsible for something, but also to indicate who was speaking or which agenda topic we're on, without breaking the flow of the meeting notes. I actually find them really useful and use an adapted note page which has a block of space at the top (for filing reference) and a margin on the RHS for adding these minor notes to.

For general 'landing pad' notes I don't use margins. What do you want to use them for Nellie? And what size FF

are you using?

Kels (2011-02-22 11:43:23)

okay i've been waiting for this since I missed FFAF...my plea for help below:

I can't figure out why my Filo isn't working for me :(I have a personal Domino and I love it...but it gets very little use. Actually I think I do know why I don't use it. It might be too small for me. So the next size up is A5 which will be too big for daily carrying (or so I imagine)...so what do i do? I feel i would use it a lot more if it were bigger plus I could make my own custom pages as well.

I had a moleskine weekly before and it was okay. The filo is where i want to be but I just need help making it work for me. I love the flexibility that I have with it, which is why i wasn't crazy about my Mole...but now I am thinking on going back but I don't want to!

Help!!

Sandra (2011-02-22 12:36:05)

@Kels

Are you asking one Filo to do too much? Or not enough? To explain, for me I have benefitted from the helpful Philofaxy users sharing wonderful ideas on the nontraditional use of the Filo.

One reader recommended the what/where approach to discern if the info should be in your personal Domino (what color? Just curious!) or in another Filo. If writing space is the issue, perhaps you could use less pre-printed inserts and use plain paper instead. Or print A5 inserts and Z-fold them (thank you, Steve) into your planner. This was in a previous posting as well.

My A5 classic is a wonderful size for writing but too much to tote all over. Maybe you need to park the A5 at work for work only and use the personal as your appointment book and other reminder functions?

Sorry to go on—I wasn't using my Classic A5 well due to it's size. (I know, blasphemy!) It's now a family resources binder that stays parked at home. I now have a pocket Urban as my diary and reminder pages for shopping and what not and to track on the go to-dos. I am getting a personal Fins this week to create a nterests/growth binder (thank you, Kanalt). My personal Malden is on order—that will usurp the pocket as my diary when it arrives. It will also include a doctorate tab to help me continue to make progress in that area.

Who knew my life would necessitate 4 Filos? I know many readers have, and need, many more...hope this is helpful to you.

Nellie (2011-02-22 12:42:01)

Interesting that so many people don't use margins. I use them for a few things. I tend to number stuff, so the number of an item in a list goes in the margin. I also mark things in the marking with stars to show important things... but most of all, how do you keep a straight edge without a margin?! My writing would be all over the place! You can see my margin use in the book-o-fax post from a while ago.

Nellie (2011-02-22 12:46:55)

@kels, it took me a while to work out how to use my filo so it worked for me.

Reading some of the posts on here gave me ideas for how to use my filo differently, and eventually I came to something that worked.

What are your trying to do with your filo? Is it for taking notes? Storing important info? Diary and task management? All of these things will influence how you set things up.

Alison Reeves (2011-02-22 13:10:46)

@Kels - I had a similar problem. I have ended up with a work A5 filo and a pocket one for my diary and general notes on the go. I have another A5 as a household binder which works well and also includes favourite recipes.

I feel a mini one coming on to use as a wallet when on holiday when I need different currency.

Laurie (2011-02-22 13:46:47)

Kels, what you are experiencing is common among Filofax users, and is what I call the "big book/ small page problem." I too have struggled for a long time to work with the small page size of the Personal, but the A5 is just too big and heavy to carry around everywhere.

Check out Jotje's post below (if you haven't already) for some great ideas on making a Personal size Filofax work for you:

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/12/guest-post-task-and-time-management.html>

Kels (2011-02-22 15:18:11)

You guys are the best!

@skhen: My Domino is Lavender :) My work life isn't that busy so I won't need a separate Filo for that right now. (thanks for all your advice!)

I also have a Red Finsbury that I'm using for coupons because the rings rusted for some strange reason! it never got wet, was stored away from humidity, etc and still looked HORRIBLE! I cleaned it with some CLR but it's nothing like it used to be. Didn't want to waste it so I used it for something that is very important to me.

I've already made plans to make a 'home' binder so that will be separated out of my Filo. The lists for the home can come with me so I can always know what I want if I happen to catch something on sale.

@Nellie, I want to use my Domino to track my day! I want to track the important things that happen and keep up with what's coming up. I want to have my shopping lists on hand. I want to be able to take quick notes and to do's, but sometimes I think a notebook will work better for me and just have the filo for my diary?

@ Alison & Laurie: Thank you both! I will do some planning for my planner! I really am trying to get on the ball this year...I'm working hard at my NY Resolution.

Petra (2011-02-22 15:32:59)

Girlinmaths – if you're using personal size, DayTimer has several nice week on two page inserts that fit (it's their portable size). The Flavia, Garden Path, and Coastlines series all has times printed down the middle of each day, while the Serenity has the times printed down the left side. All are lined as well. The tabs come with a one-page monthly calendar too.

Colie, I didn't know which country you were asking about, but in my U.S. TJMaxx's I've found Filos in the stationery department and also in the display stands close to the checkout registers. But here they must be a seasonal item – I haven't seen any since early January :-)

Alex (2011-02-23 08:01:24)

@Kels,

The way you want to use your filofax sounds very similar to the way I use my pocket Deco.

What I find really helpful is having the little selection of post-its and coloured tabs. I also recommend buying some blank indexes rather than trying to use the pre-labelled ones because then you can be much more flexible about what you use each section for, without feeling constrained by the ones filofax have chosen for you.

I have my diary first, and use the 'today' ruler to mark the current week (as do most people, I expect). I don't really get along too well with the 'To Do' pages, but instead I use one of the little post-its to keep track of things I need to do, and stick it somewhere on the current week.

I then have a 'notes' section and this is for everything - random scribbles, shopping lists etc.

THEN I have an 'events' section. This is for holidays/big events I'm planning. I just have the ruled notepaper in there, but I use the coloured sticky tab to separate each event. Currently I've got a section for a Hen Party I'm planning, a section for a music festival I'm going to, and a section for my summer holiday. I use them to keep track of various things e.g. people who owe me money for tickets I've bought, stuff I need to buy, and anything else I need to remember to do.

Then I have my 'financial' section - I just use that to keep track of what I need to spend this month, so I can keep an eye on saving money for all the above events!

Finally I have a 'To do' section which has some long-term stuff in it - like furniture I want to buy for my flat at some point but which I can't afford right now.

I have addresses right at the back, organised using the alphabetical tabs. I decided I didn't need to waste one of the main index tabs on 'addresses' since they're all behind their own letters anyway.

I also have a tube map and a couple of transparent envelopes which I use for coupons/vouchers I get.

kanalt (2011-02-23 21:29:39)

skhen - Thanks for the mention!

I also have an A5 with family/household information that stays home at all times. I used to keep most personal items in a personal binder for stay-at-home use and use the slimline as an on-the-go planner, but that failed for me. It was too confusing to know what was where. So I moved everything back into my personal Malden and just accepted that I'd have to carry a full planner with me. I still use the Slimline for trips - I'll take only what I need in it and leave the rest at home. Then of course, there's my happiness binder that I'm currently working on.

Jotje (2011-02-24 02:52:29)

@Alex, that is amazing that you can accompany so many things in a Pocket sized Filofax!!!

Filofax Offers Exclusive to Philofaxy - Up dated (2011-02-22 14:00)

Filofax UK have generously sent me a promo code for 50 % off the [1]Filofax Finchley Large Briefcase in chocolate coloured leather.



[2]

To get 50 % off this bag and only pay £97.50, click on the link to the [3]Finchley Large Briefcase, and when you get to the check out insert the promo code '**philol1**' and you will get 50 % off the full retail price.

Or alternatively if you would like a [4]Filofax Classic Purse in Cherry for £27.



[5]



[6]

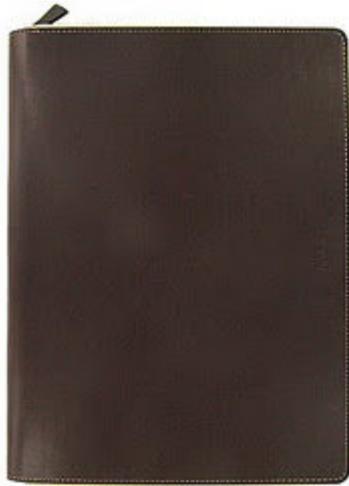
To get 50 % off this purse/wallet, click on the link to the [7]Classic Purse in Cherry, and when you get to the check out insert the promo code '**vcodes1**' and you should get 50 % off the full retail price. Additionally how about 50 % off [8]Topic Filofax Pocket Organiser in Mahogany for £44.00



[9]

To get 50 % off this stylish Filofax Pocket Organiser, click on the link to the [10]Tropic Pocket Organiser in Mahogany, and when you get to the check out insert the promo code '**c2b1**' and you should get 50 % off the full retail price.

Or how about 50 % off a [11]Domino Zipped A4 folder. Note this is not an A4 Filofax Organiser, no rings.



[12]

To get 50 % off a this item click on this link to the [13]Domino Zipped A4 folder and when you get to the check out insert the promo code 'mvcodes1' and you should get 50 % off the full retail price. All offers end on Friday March 11th 2011.

1. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=BriefCase&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Fbusinessdetails.asp%3FcatId%3D3%26productId%3D365%26spId%3D365%23%26cm_mmc%3DAwin_-_%21%21%21id%21%21%21_-_DEEPLINK_-_PAGE
2. <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-5q1ILDhV0-Q/TWLZbtQTpI/AAAAAAAAI8Q/BC16-IKLovk/s1600/finchley-lgbcase-choc.jpg>
3. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=BriefCase&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Fbusinessdetails.asp%3FcatId%3D3%26productId%3D365%26spId%3D365%23%26cm_mmc%3DAwin_-_%21%21%21id%21%21%21_-_DEEPLINK_-_PAGE
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9. <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-V7EJxmLqrPI/TWQW14CpYCI/AAAAAAAAI8c/UsnM27y5YLQ/s1600/tropic-pkt-mahogany.jpg>
10. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=Tropic&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Forganiserdetails.asp%3FsizeId%3D2%26rangeId%3D131%26dsId%3D2%26cm_mmc%3DAwin_-_%21%21%21id%21%21%21_-_DEEPLINK_-_PAGE
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13. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=DomFolder&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Fbusinessdetails.asp%3FcatId%3D10%26productId%3D355%26cm_mmc%3DAwin_-_%21%21%21id%21%21%21_-_DEEPLINK_-_PAGE

New Filofax products for the North American market (2011-02-23 13:40)

I was very kindly contacted by an anonymous source about new Filofax products for the North American market. This person had the opportunity to preview some of the new items and they sound very exciting!! Here's the info:

"The new line up:

Aston - is a very soft leather as soft as the Finchley and it has very unique lines on the front

Metropol comes in lavender with lime green stitching

And they have added a new size its called compact

also the Holborn comes in slim line very nice line as well"

Sounds like the Aston is replacing the discontinued (except for the purple) Finchley. I'm excited about the Compact size, I've heard it's between a normal Personal size and Slimline. And the Metropol in lavender with green stitching sounds cool!!

What are you excited about?

Petra (2011-02-23 20:47:01)

The Finchley in purple has been discontinued on FilofaxUSA except for the A5 size and the mini (and the mini has been sold out a while – don't know if they'll restock). I had to go hunting several alternative vendors before finding my purple personal Finchley. I'm surprised, because it's a gorgeous color and is the first thing pictured on their opening webpage!

Did they mention any new Finchley colors being introduced instead, perchance?

kanalt (2011-02-23 21:39:17)

This is all very intriguing. I'm looking forward to actually seeing the new items. Any idea of when they might arrive?

Petra (2011-02-24 00:43:51)

I sent an e-mail to FF-USA last week asking about whether I could get the new catalog from them (the UK one), and when the new items might be coming to the U.S. They wrote back to say they didn't have the U.S. catalog yet (I wanted the UK one), and ignored my other question. They did say they'd send me the U.S. catalog when they get it, so we'll see.

I notice on their website, they don't have the compact size in the checkboxes on the left when looking at all planners, nor in the size guide, but it is listed on the drop-down menu if you go to the Organizers heading.

Jotje (2011-02-24 02:47:43)

The compact has been listed in the drop down menu's for quite some time. I always wondered why it was there. Well, this explains.

In the new Catalog the Finchley is only listed in Purple, so apparently, no new colours for now.

So the "babyblue" Metropol on the catalog cover is lavender after all? Interesting.

Last year the new catalog was online around 20th March. My guess would be that it'll be around the same time this year for the new catalog to appear.

Laurie (2011-02-24 04:41:00)

from what I understand, in the UK market the Finchley will only be available in the Imperial Purple color, all other colors are discontinued. But, I don't know if the purple will be available in all sizes. Does anyone have this information?

Each country chooses what products will be available in their lineup, so Filofax USA may do something completely different. The suspense!! ;)

shepcraig (2011-02-24 05:27:02)

The compact has been available in the uk for a little while now, they had one in the Guildford range. It did not prove very popular at all, and it just took the pocket size refills

shepcraig (2011-02-24 05:29:58)

Hi Laurie, according to the new catalogue I have received, (not available to the public yet, the finchley purple will be available in Mini, pocket, personal and A5, same as it is now.

Jotje (2011-02-24 07:13:04)

Craig, you are right! (about Compact being a sort-of Pocket slimline).

Whereas the new Compact seems to be a size between Personal and Slim, right? I wonder if this will market well ... I had rather had a Personal XL, with 30 mm rings (and then complain about backache of course - but that's another story ...).

R (2011-02-24 09:45:04)

the difference between slimline and compact is bigger rings and the compact has a snap closure were as the slimline does not

Petra (2011-02-24 18:14:51)

Funny that the compact is in the drop-down menus in the U.S. and Germany, but not the UK, where it has supposedly been available and is being introduced first in the new format. Wish they wouldn't call it "compact" – just more confusion with Franklin Covey's compact size!

JJ (2011-02-25 07:26:08)

I would like to see Filofax binders and paper in FC's compact size. It's a very handy and comfortable page size. It's the one thing about FC that I do like.

f. (2011-03-04 06:05:06)

Hi, do you have info. about the "Hamilton" serie?

I am searching hard on the internet, but got little information about this serie. Do you know when the serie was introduced to the market and when it's discontinued?

Strangely, there are very little photos & info. of this serie that could be found from google, specially for the personal size (non-zipped).

Filofax Medical Journal (2011-02-24 10:41)

I just got back from the travel clinic, where I got seven (yes 7) vaccines. Ugh. While the nurse was writing down everything I had today, I asked if I was set for life for all of these or if I need boosters eventually. Turns out some of them need to be boosted 3 years from now, some 5 years from now, some 10 years and one 20 years from now. I'll never remember which is which.

Of course my kids and husband are getting all the same vaccines as we prepare to move to Indonesia. How will I ever remember who needs what and when?

Add that to the fact that we move so often we usually see a different doctor each year. This gets complicated when I have to have my annual female exam, my annual skin-cancer check at the dermatologist, kids' medical, dental and eye exams, on and on. Each new doc needs to know our history and anything that needs to be followed up.

I've realized that as we move (and move and move) and especially as the kids get older, I am going to have to figure out a way to keep it all straight in an accurate and accessible way.

Filofax to the rescue! I have decided to start a Medical Journal Filofax in one of my Personal size Filofaxes with a tabbed section for each of us to keep track of when we are due for vaccines (and which ones), who is due for which exams and when, general medical history, test results, and anything else that we

might need when visiting a new doctor. In the A-Z section in the back I will record addresses and phone numbers of doctors we have seen, to make it easier to contact them later if needed. Shuffling around all over the world makes it impossible to have any medical continuity, so I have to create it for myself. Does anyone else use a Filofax as a medical journal? Do you have any tips for me as I create mine?

Steve (2011-02-24 11:05:42)

Bravo Laurie, I bet you feel like a pin cushion after that lot. I hate needles at the best of times, but to have that lot in one go..urgh!!

Great to see you have found another use for Filofax... Custom pages required?

Regards

Steve

Laurie (2011-02-24 11:08:48)

Ooh, custom pages are a great idea. Vaccines received and future booster dates is the first page that comes to mind!

caribbean princess (2011-02-24 12:45:01)

Laurie

You could also do a print out of the immunisation schedules although they vary by countries. It would be useful to keep a copy of the current one for the UK. Here is a link

<http://www.patient.co.uk/health/Immunisation-Usual-UK-Schedule.htm>

I needed loads of travel vaccines for when I worked in a refugee camp in Thailand. The japanese encephalitis one was quite nasty and made me feel unwell! Anyways I am all for immunisations :-)

Laurie (2011-02-24 13:10:57)

Thanks very much for the link CB! I agree, even though vaccines are unpleasant, they are much better than getting the diseases themselves!

R (2011-02-24 13:39:34)

What about a family organiser

code #6848610

Or a 4 year planner

code #6840311

Alison Reeves (2011-02-24 13:54:04)

Poor you Laurie! But great idea for the filofax. We are lucky and have had the same doctor for 25 years! However I do have blood test regularly so I like to keep track of the results - I do note them down freehand at the moment. I think for the vaccines you need to have a customised sheet which lists each one, the date and the date when the booster is required - a bit like a spreadsheet.

Laurie (2011-02-24 16:18:18)

R great idea about the 4 year planner. I already have the Family Organizer (in both A5 and Personal sizes) and the thing it needs but completely lacks is any kind of medical pages. I told Brigitte in London that they should think about adding a page or more for each family member to record when vaccines are due, medical/ dental/ eye exam dates, etc. Back in the day when Go Mom planners were available for purchase in stores, they had excellent Medical pages for recording things like this.

Alison I think you are right, I do need a page just like that. Then I think I should freehand a separate page per yer for future years 10 years out and write on each year's page what is due that year.

Petra (2011-02-24 23:18:38)

Franklin Covey has some medical record pages. I keep my info in a spreadsheet, but I plan to eventually print them out and put them in a medical section in my personal filo.

My 5 bunnies already have a bunny filo with tabs for each and medical records behind each tab. I bought a little booklet made for cats last year that has numerous pages for records of all sorts, and I am going to create some more pages for my bunnies using these as templates (even though in the States bunnies get no vaccines like cats do).

I keep addresses for suppliers in the bunny filo; but for veterinarians, I just keep the business cards in a business card holder in the filo.

Robin (2011-02-25 00:21:16)

I have a medical page set-up for my mom because she's elderly and takes lots of medication for various things. It's mostly just a chart to help keep track of meds - name, dose, times per day, when/by whom it was prescribed, allergies ...

But time goes by fast! So I send an email "invitation" to myself for about 3 months in the future. This reminds me to check in on mom's updates and make them. As soon as I do, I set up another invite. (It's sort of like setting up and inviting myself to meetings.)

This has worked really well - for the past 5 years or so, nothing has slipped through the cracks. Maybe you could set up similar electronic "invitations" for immunizations, appointments, etc., to go along with your paper record!

Mare Biddle (2011-03-04 21:15:32)

Hi Laurie when I saw your post my ears perked up. I have kept a medical journal (filofax) for my son for years. He lives with several chronic illnesses and is followed by five specialists and his pediatrician.

I use the week-on-two-pages as a daily diary of not only appointments, but more importantly a record of what is happening in his body and his life each day. Over time we look for connections.

The tab dividers read: meds, labs, dr notes, cy sum, contacts & research. "cy sum" is current year summary. Behind research I put high level information and websites. Notes comes in handy when I need to refer back and say, "you said..." or "she said". The A-Z tabs take up too much space for me, so I have a sheet for each doctor, lab facility, hospital, pharmacy, etc behind the contacts tab.

I carry a pdf and hard copy of his total "medical resume" with me always so the filofax brings the detail behind the sheet I hand out at each appointment.

The filofax is an incredibly powerful tool for me. Couldn't make it a week without it. :-)

Laurie (2011-03-11 13:45:41)

Mare thank you so much for sharing how you use your Filofax to manage your son's medical details. And, that is an excellent idea to use a "medical CV" summary sheet to give to new doctors! I'm sure they appreciate your being so organized because it saves so much time and energy (and money) not having to repeat tests etc. I'm sure your son is much better off for your efforts, and it helps you keep it all straight too! Thank you. :)

Free for All Friday No. 118 (2011-02-25 00:35)

While using my one Personal Filofax for several years now, I was recently faced with a long weekend of traveling for a work conference. I realized that I need a separate Filofax to hold all of my reward cards, reservation slips, and so on. I ended up making the trip carrying my usual Personal Filo stuffed with information I need for permanent reference, but which isn't very helpful while traveling.

The next time I travel, I'll definitely have a dedicated Filofax, including all of my travel documents, rewards program numbers, maps, and so on.

Does anyone else use different Filofaxes while traveling?

Soraya Leila (2011-02-25 02:32:40)

I am going to have a personal Filofax with the travelogue inserts and my normal Filofax pocket next time I go abroad. I think it definitely makes sense!

On a different note I'm thinking of buying a pocket Deco for everyday use. Can anyone tell me how hard wearing it is? I've been to all the stockists in my area but none of them have one I can actually see in real life. I'd have to buy one online!

caribbean princess (2011-02-25 02:49:46)

I always use a pocket sized Filofax when travelling within the UK. I use a Panama for conferences and my butterfly for tutorials or short courses. I have a personal travel pack to use in a domino for overseas travel. I will probably take my pocket spots as well for planning places I will visit and to use daily as a diary.

I have too many Filofaxes! :-)

Jotje (2011-02-25 04:13:33)

I use my Lavender Personal Domino as my Travel-Filofax. Perfect! We usually stay in one place, so I make a list of daytrip-destinations and events beforehand and print and punch it to fit my Filo. During the holiday I collect interesting Brochures and Flyers. I take my hole punch with me, so that I can punch and file the flyers. The usual format (A4 folded in three) is a bit too long so it sticks out at the top and bottom, but it really doesn't bother me that much.

I also insert the weekly pages for the duration of the trip, for a brief record of daily events. Love it, and wouldn't be without it!

I might switch to an old battered Personal Urban that I have but never used, because it has that neat zip-pocket on the outside, and that way my Travel-filo could also double as a wallet. Hey, that's actually a cool idea! (If I may say so myself ... ;-))

caribbean princess (2011-02-25 04:31:12)

@Jotje my personal Domino overseas travel filofax is also lavender. I think our filofax families are related!!

Laurie (2011-02-25 04:41:18)

I've mentioned this here a couple of times in the past but I wanted to mention it again: I use a Personal Domino in Grape specifically for Scotland travel. I have tabbed sections for each region of Scotland, and also tabbed sections for Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and London (because we go through there on our way to Scotland). I have a section where I record the details of where we stayed for each trip, so if we want to stay there again I have the info handy.

I need to convert my Personal Urban to an other-destinations Filofax so it's ready to grab and throw in my bag when traveling. As of next month I'll have a whole new part of the world to explore! In my Urban I'll put the usual travel stuff like emergency numbers, addresses of people back home (for sending post cards or in case of emergency), my frequent flier and hotel points numbers, and destination information. I have the Travel Pack from Filofax and it has excellent packing lists, currency conversion pages and lots of other useful things so those will live in my Urban too.

I love the flexibility of using a Filofax for travel, because you can take only what is relevant for that particular trip, add and remove pages as needed. And, I always use the pockets to stuff in tickets, itineraries, and little things I pick up along the way. :)

Laurie (2011-02-25 04:45:33)

Soraya, I have a personal Deco and I think it would be very hard-wearing. The leather is thick and substantial. I use mine gently though because I am so worried about messing up its beauty!

You can look at my Flickr photostream of my Deco for lots of interior photos:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/plannerisms/sets/72157622672507897/with/5281087764/>

Alex (2011-02-25 08:33:24)

I'm planning on taking a dedicated travel filofax with me when I go to South America in the summer. I won't want to take my regular Deco so I'll be on the lookout for a cheaper, Personal sized one to take instead.

Since it's FFAF, I have a question. Did Filofax ever make a Filofax specifically for kids? I'm sure that in the early 90s I had one which had stuff like homework planners in it, and lots of funny pages and brightly coloured stickers you could put into it. But I might be imagining it, or it may have been something other than a Filofax.

Polish and Powder (2011-02-25 08:34:03)

@Soraya

I too have the Personal sized Deco in ivory. This thing is built like a tank, it is easily the most solid of all my filo's. I have been using mine since Xmas and it has not a mark on it, it doesn't even look like its ever been used, let alone opened numerous times a day and lugged around with me everywhere. I can pack loads into it too, it really does hold a lot.

Alex (2011-02-25 08:36:31)

@ Soraya, the Deco is extremely tough! My pocket one rattles around in my handbag all day and it's fine. Although it is the Amethyst so it's quite dark and I don't need to worry so much about it getting a little dirty/dusty - I guess you might struggle with the Ivory (I don't have one so can't say for sure).

The cover is quite thick and very rigid, and the clasp is very tough and much more likely to stay put than some of the poppers on the other ones.

Alex (2011-02-25 08:38:00)

@Baby D

I stand corrected then - sounds like the Ivory Deco is just as hard-wearing as the rest of them. I guess it helps that it's such a shiny material - it's not going to stain very easily even if you do get makeup or something on it.

caribbean princess (2011-02-25 09:39:25)

@Alex and all those lucky people with Decos, you are making me jealous!

I should probably just get one but I am trying to be strong. Plus our car died on us today so I shall need to be good!

Green eyed.....someone needs to put me out of my misery.

;-)

stoko77 (2011-02-25 09:57:39)

Hi, Soraya:

I have an ivory Deco that I use daily (i.e. it's in my purse) since late 2009. It isn't dirty or has scratches.

I put crystals on it (leather and rulers), and they hold up well in my purse and with the daily wear, too.

Here are some pics: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/filofaxdecobling/>

Hope that helps! :o)

crofter (2011-02-25 10:39:06)

I always use a slimline for traveling I have several, all with 1/2 rings. The difference is the duration of the trip, and if air travel is involved. In those cases if I plan to be away more than a week, I will pack a cheap binder with the extra sheets I might need in my checked baggage. With the airlines propensity of losing things, I am not about to entrust them with one of my good Filos. Shorter trips of just a few days, I can get everything I need into a slimline.

Alison Reeves (2011-02-25 12:59:26)

Stephanie - which glue did you use to stick the crystals on your filo and ruler?

justenoughsalt (2011-02-25 13:19:09)

hey does liz lemon use a filofax? possibly an a5? it is on her desk at the 15:08 mark here is a link

[#s-p1-so-i0](http://www.hulu.com/watch/218968/30-rock-tgs-hates-women)

does anyone else see it? can you identify it?

Soraya Leila (2011-02-25 14:42:00)

Thanks everyone! Looks like I will be getting a Deco after all... And I'll be looking at those pictures later! :) xxx

Petra (2011-02-25 15:23:44)

Since it's FFAF, I noticed that FF UK has personalized photo diary inserts available – has anyone tried them? Franklin Covey recently discontinued theirs, and FF USA doesn't have any either.

Amanda (2011-02-25 16:01:22)

Another FFAF Q

Does Filofax ever start reducing the price of the diary inserts (since we have now only 10 months of 2011 to go)? Do they drop in price and if so, when? Or do they stay the same price all the way through the year?

Annie (2011-02-25 16:57:57)

I have a question, since it's ffaf. Has anyone ever received a damaged filofax? Because I've just received a second damaged Finchley. I don't even know now if I should bothr returning it to whsmith again, just to risk getting another damaged binder, but I don't have anywhere local that stocks the Finchley.

Also @Alex, I'm pretty sure they used to make kid orientated filofaxes, but if I remember correctly, they were called 'funfax'. The inserts you could get for them were educational with fun facts about history, geography, science and stuff like that. I think there were also things like puzzle packs and other general fun kids stuff. I used to want one so bad, but we could never afford it as a kid :)

Soraya Leila (2011-02-25 17:51:55)

@Alex and @Annie I had Funfaxes they were AWESOME. Particularly the Spice Girls one and the Spy one...

x

stoko77 (2011-02-25 17:58:28)

Hi, Alison:

I used E9000 glue. If you haven't tried it, it's thick. I pull some out of the tube with a flat toothpick, dab some on the crystal back, then position the crystal with tweezers.

The next time I redo the rulers, I'll so a mix of pink & white crystals and flat-back pearls. I saw the combo - beautiful! :o)

Bling'ing the Filofax & rulers didn't take much time at all, too. Easy project. :o)

shepcraig (2011-02-25 18:08:06)

In reply to the question about reducing the price of the inserts. I guess this would be up to the retailer, but it is not very likely, in our store, round about April time, Filofax count what diaries we have left, this then gets credited to us as a discount of the next years order, meaning there is never a loss to the retailer for marking them down, as we get full price credit. Once Filofax has done this, I guess the retailer could reduce them, but we keep selling them all year through, we had at least 10 customers who wanted to buy the 2010 inserts in December 2010, and paid full price, Very strange but true.

stoko77 (2011-02-25 18:15:19)

Oops - E6000 glue to glue crystals onto rulers and/or leather Filos.

E6000 works well on leather. In the 1+ years my Filo has lived in my purse or school bag, only a handful of crystals have fallen off.

Steve (2011-02-26 06:21:12)

I wonder is anyone at FF will take notice of my latest comment on their Facebook Discussion page....

"How about going slightly retro and offer the same size of organiser but with different ring sizes like the Winchester was available in 2 or 3 ring sizes back in the 1980s"

A5's in thin, normal and large, Personal in Slim, Normal and large....

Look at the pictures of the old Winchesters with 1¼ inch rings... (32 mm approx) and lots of pages...

A thin A5 although promised has never been produced yet.

Butanben (2011-02-26 07:52:04)

A different subject here, but as it is FFAF.... here goes!!! I had to give an educational presentation lecture last week, a minor part of which involved discussing learning styles and the way individuals approach the world. There are bags of free quizzes on the internet which you can do, to help you find your learning style. Mine, although I am a musician, is a mixed learning style, but with a visual predominance. No accident then that my Filofax is decorated with stickers, has colour coded tabs, that I use colour coded pens, bags of clip art stuff on my home made pages, love photos, post its etc. All visual. Soooooo..... are you an auditory learner, do you need to carry your i- pod in your Filofax, is your style mathematical and you need data, charts, a calculator and numbered tabs, are you a kinaesthetic person and learn from touch, so love the feel of good quality soft paper and leather, and also love to tap into an electronic diary, do you learn from nature and need pockets for your National Trust Cards, garden plans and seed packets?? Maybe take a learning style quiz for fun, and adapt your Filofax and Filofax purchases to the way you approach the world. By the way, all the original research on this was done by Gardner at Harvard.

caribbean princess (2011-02-26 08:13:57)

Butanben do you have a link for the learning styles website? I have to do it for my certificate in teaching and learning in higher education and the reference they used in the teaching was very dated! From that I had a mixed learning style but I would be interested to use another quiz. Thanks :-)

Jotje (2011-02-26 11:13:37)

@Colie: no idea, since that video is restricted to US only. Can't see it.

You know what else I can't see? All those Sneak Previews of new Filofax models on their facebook site. Because they have RESTRICTED IT TO UK-VISITORS ONLY!!!! Why, is totally beyond me, and I'm very hurt!

@Annie, like I said on Flickr: return it! And keep on doing so until they get it right! That said, if they manage to return a third faulty Filofax, I would complain at Filofax directly.

@Amanda, you could try Ebay for some cheaper deals on Filofax inserts. Some people buy the wrong size, or switch planner size/style during the year (nah, I don't know anyone who does that ...) and thus let go of their refills.

app1eg (2011-02-26 20:52:06)

@stephanie

Have you seen my blinged out ruler? i used pink and clear rhinestones w flatback pearls! :)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/app1eg/5453634414/in/photostream/>

app1eg (2011-02-26 21:03:15)

it sounds from above that the deco is very tough! I really want one in amethyst, but i'm going to have to wait till i graduate and get a job to be able to afford it.

I love the idea of producing filofax in different ring sizes! I bought a cuban zipped personal because it had a 30mm ring that other personals didn't, i used it for a while but went back to my pink finsbury cos i hate that it looked so monotonous! It would have been great if we do not have to be restricted to certain models if we wanted a specific ring size!

crofter (2011-02-26 21:36:01)

@app1eg

It appears to be the exception rather than the rule!!!!

New purposes for some of my Filofaxes (2011-02-26 06:03)

Lately I have come up with new uses for Filofaxes that had previously not been in active use. Here are their new purposes:

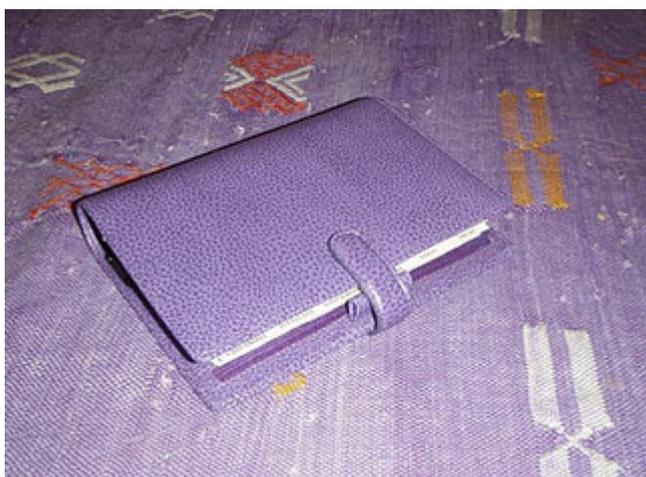
I'm using my personal Deco as my Information book ([1]which looks particularly nice with my cream-colored Coach tote).



[2]

I have all my local contacts, maps, addresses, emergency info, business cards and whatever else in it. But I'm using a [3]separate planner book, and [4]another separate notebook for my moving info (in an attempt at permanence due to having lost my previous move's Filofax pages). Even for me, carrying three books around is a little crazy.

So I'm thinking of creating a new Move section in my Deco, and when I'm done with it I'll archive it (carefully and thoroughly!) in my purple personal Finsbury. I can create a section for each move I do, and even make sections for each location. I think my future self will thank me if I do this.



[5]

I posted recently about creating a Medical Journal Filofax to keep track of when everyone in the family is due for which vaccines, records of medical, dental, and eye exams, and everything else. [6]You can click [here](#) to read more about it. I will put this into the Grape personal Domino from my Gourmet Gift Box:



[7]

I already use my first Grape Domino as my Scotland Filofax which I add to with every trip here. [8]You can click here to see photos of it and some contents on my Flickr set.

Now that I'm moving to Southeast Asia, where I've never been, I'll be doing a lot of traveling in entirely new (to me) areas. I've decided to make [9]my wonderful personal Urban procured for me by our beloved Oni into my grab-and-go comprehensive Travel Filofax. It contains my [10]Filofax Travel Lifestyle Pack pages (click here to see my review), so it's loaded and ready to go! **Edited to give credit where it's due: [11]Nan's post about creating a designated travel Filofax gave me this idea.



[12]

The good thing about using my Deco for my Information book (even if I do continue to use a separate planner book) is that I can add travel, medical, notes or other pages when I'm out and about and file them into their respective designated Filofax when I'm done actively using them. Or, I can bring along the entire designated Travel, Medical or Moving Filofax, and since it's Personal size it's not too big to bring the entire binder.

The individual designated Filofaxes will serve as long-term records over the course of many years, and can be added to easily.

I really like this new system!! I'm hoping the divide-and-conquer approach to keeping information in these portable and flexible Filofax systems will help me organize my frequently-moving, on-the-go life.

1. <http://bagsey.blogspot.com/2011/02/coach-tote-with-filofax-deco.html>
2. <https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-XGffG1tPcpc/TWjYcfjeqkI/AAAAAAAAABr4/D733nmMLtDY/s1600/Diaries+2010+327.jpg>
3. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2011/02/moving-on-to-quo-vadis-minister-habana.html>
4. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2011/02/lost-filofax-pages-drive-me-crazy.html>
5. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-x-oiL8PPqaQ/TWjaZsb0B0I/AAAAAAAAABr8/qCIrq_KT3vs/s1600/PurpleFilofax2.jpg
6. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/02/filofax-medical-journal.html>
7. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-GmYW9qeFgnw/TWjbIR9ZbRI/AAAAAAAAABsA/E9WTA_Kzo9c/s1600/Diaries+2010+102.jpg
8. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/plannerisms/sets/72157622035170176/>
9. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/09/my-urban-filofax-thanks-to-oni.html>
10. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/06/travel-journal-review.html>
11. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/02/free-for-all-friday-no-118.html>
12. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_CPeL-KIUmkw/TKG2pPvRStI/AAAAAAAAABR8/bWSjHgaPBcY/s320/Diaries+2010+031.jpg

Vidya (2011-02-26 20:33:37)

I'm starting to feel like a Filofax fuddy-duddy– I just have my Finchley and my Lizell wallet/ agenda. I used my old Day Timer until the binding around the edge started coming off and I retired it– it holds archived pages. But I have to admit I am intrigued about having a "wardrobe" of Filofaxes...

Jotje (2011-02-27 05:59:59)

Laurie, that pic of your Deco with the Coach tote bag is awesome! And I'm happy to erad that you put your Deco to such good use!

Same style different ring sizes? (2011-02-26 12:00)

In case you missed this in the depths of the comments of FFAF.

I wonder is anyone at FF will take notice of my latest comment on their Facebook Discussion page....

"How about going slightly retro and offer the same size/style of organiser but with different ring sizes like the Winchester was available in 2 or 3 ring sizes back in the 1980s"

A5's in thin, normal and large, Personal in slim, normal and large....

Look at the pictures of the [1]old Winchesters with 1¼ inch rings... (32 mm approx) and lots of pages...

A thin A5 although promised has never been produced yet.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/45091016@N07/4143816033/>

Jotje (2011-02-26 12:36:34)

Must be the ones starring in the movie "Filofax-Taking care of business"? Those were soooooo fat!

I think I'd stay with the 23mm rings, even if bigger rings were offered. I now if I had 32mm rings, I would just stuff even more paperwork into my filo. Whereas now I have to be selective, which is actually a good thing (or so my shoulderbag would think).

Soraya Leila (2011-02-26 16:23:29)

I'd love bigger rings in my Pocket. At the start of the year it's way too rammed I can barely turn the pages. Guess we'll have to wait see...

Jenn (2011-02-26 19:02:19)

This is so funny- just yesterday I was complaining that I need bigger ring sizes on my Domino Personal Filofax. I'm glad that you mentioned that they used to have ring size options in the past, maybe I can find one on ebay or something!

Jenn

shepcraig (2011-02-26 19:47:09)

Again, with the A5 slim, they brought out the Adelphi in a slimline and it has very very low sales. I think to make one even thinner then that would make it unfunctional.

Steve (2011-02-27 07:38:18)

Yes I know they did Craig, but then they put quite a fat cover on it with pockets so it was just as thick overall as any other A5... which is why it didn't sell. IMO

Laurie (2011-02-27 08:41:08)

I agree, I saw the Adelphi "slimline" A5 and despite the smaller ring size, the big gusseted pocket inside the front cover and the notepad in the back prevented it from actually being slimline.

Lots of us here at Philofaxy (myself included) have been begging for a truly slimline A5 for years. I think it would solve the "pages too small/ book too big" problem.

Tim (2011-05-15 06:19:55)

Just spotted this. I've recently exchanged emails with Filofax on this subject. Here's my email and their reply...
"I've been a loyal Filofax user for many years, currently using Time Management pages in an A5 Kendal binder. Like many, I now use a PDA/iPhone for much data, but still like to maintain an overview and business planning/ data on A5 paper. However, the 30mm ringed binder is now far too much to lug around and, as a left-hander, a daily struggle to work around those fat rings!

You used to do a 19mm A5 Executive model - I've hunted high and low in vain for any old stock. I had hoped when you introduced the 20mm A5 Adelphi, you would do something similar for guys, but, alas no! The "haute couture" Adelphi in red is just not for me!

So, to stop many of us abandoning Filofax (and please don't suggest me going to a smaller size paper one, or Flex), why don't you produce a slim (max. 20mm rings) A5 model for men?

Given the lead times for manufacture (even if you did produce a new slim A5), is there, in the meantime, any chance of me being able to PURCHASE a 20mm Adelphi binder ring. With just two rivets holding the ring, I can easily loosen these on my Kendal and replace the 30mm ring unit with a 20mm one (at my own risk, of course!). I could also let you know how I get on and any problems encountered using an A5 with such slim rings"

Reply...

"Thank you for your email and feedback regarding an A5 Slim organiser. Unfortunately we do not have ring mechanisms here, as all our products are manufactured overseas.

I will forward your comments on to our Product development team for future consideration however the range has been selected for this year.

Thank you for taking the time to contact us and relay your ideas."

Steve (2011-05-15 06:34:03)

Tim

Thanks for your feedback. I have a slimline Malden A5 with 25 mm rings.. but this was a mistake rather than by design!!

The reply you have received from Filofax seems to be a fairly typical reply. I have also submitted suggestions to them in the past and received similar replies.

Most A5's are in fact 25 mm, with only a few being 30 mm. Take a look at

<http://www.philofaxy.com/files/Filofax.pdf>
for a list of the different sizes available.

Date For Your Filofax - Sunday 6th March (2011-02-27 00:00)

We are going to run another conference roundtable voice chat using Skype.

I'm sure we are gradually getting to know each other's voices, but I will make a point of going 'around the table' to get everyone to introduce themselves this time.

So...When, Where, What, Who and How?

When? - Sunday 6 March from 12am (US East Coast time), 5pm London time, 6 pm Paris time etc.

Where? - an on-line chat using [1]Skype.

What do I need? - just a micro-phone and a free Skype account.

Who - All of you... connect up with **Philofaxy** and we will attempt to get as many of us linked in to the audio conference as possible.

How -

1. Connect to **Philofaxy** by firstly searching for **Philofaxy** in**Skype**, I will then add you as a contact.
2. Then '**Start Chat**', I will then add you in to the chat room.
3. Then if you request it, I can add you to the audio conference as well. But if you just want to chat via keyboard that's fine. That way it's slightly less hectic for me!

Come and join in the fun, even if you only pop in to say hello...

As with previous round-tables there will also be a parallel text chat room going at the same time as the voice conference.

If you need any assistance setting up Skype, please pop a comment in this post and I will try and help you get one line. Skype is free for computer to computer calls....

Hope to be chatting with you next Sunday, if I can work out how to drive the new version of Skype!

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

Giveaway: Gourmet Society Membership Card (2011-02-27 03:02)



[1]

I am moving out of the UK in 4 weeks so I won't be able to use my Gourmet Society membership card that came in the Gourmet Gift Box. I'm keeping the Filofax, the pen and the City Dweller insert pack, because I do use all of those. But the Gourmet Society membership card is good all the way through the end of December of this year, and it would be a shame for it to go to waste.

[2]Click here for the Filofax UK page with information about the Gourmet Gift Box. Scroll down on that page and, if you can stand to watch the video of me, I explain how the Gourmet Society membership card works and how to use the website to find participating restaurants. The membership is for the entire UK, but depending on where you live there may be more or fewer participating restaurants near you. The catch, of course, is that the membership is good only in the UK, so this giveaway is only for UK people. Sorry to everyone else!

To win the Gourmet Society membership card, all you have to do is be the first person to post a comment on this post with the correct answer to this question:

What was **my** (Laurie's) very first real Filofax?

Good luck everyone! :)

1. <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-XO6l-4TpdL0/TWlPp1BdFqI/AAAAAAAAABsE/1bwmTJIIarU/s1600/Diaries+2010+102.jpg>

2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?COLOURID=196&RANGEID=159&SIZEID=3&DSIZEID=3>

Minnie (2011-02-27 03:28:47)
a black personal Buckingham =)

Minnie (2011-02-27 03:53:54)
I realized that I seem to be a random person popping up only on the quizzes ;)

Laurie (2011-02-27 05:30:34)
Yasmin wins! Congratulations!
Email your mailing address to me at:
laurie758@gmail.com
Enjoy the discounts on your restaurant meals this year! :)

Minnie (2011-02-27 08:22:25)

Yasmin aka Minnie (technical issues) hehe

woo! I never win anything! Thank you very much Laurie! I have wanted to purchase the gift set for the membership but wasn't sure about how much I will be using it but this will be a great chance to find out as my hubby loves to try new food so this will be a good chance =) thank you so much and hope you have a great trip :)

Far-future in Filofax (2011-02-27 05:41)

Here's another idea I had recently for my Filofax: adding pages for future years beyond what are currently available in print.

Here's an example: This month my family and I are getting shedloads of vaccines before we move to Indonesia. In addition to recording what vaccines we receive in my Medical Journal Filofax [1](which I wrote about here), I will also create annual "ticklers" (for those of you who are familiar with tickler files) in my main Filofax for things that need to be boosted in future years.

Here's the specifics: This month my kids got vaccines that are due for boosters 3 years from now. In May my daughter is due for another vaccine that will need boosted after 3 years, and my son will be due for the same vaccine in September. So I will write a page with "2014" at the top, and down the page I'll write, "February: D & S Rabies vacc booster," "May: D typhoid booster," "September: S typhoid booster." As the year approaches and more events need to be recorded, I'll fill them in.

Similarly, some of the vaccines they've gotten this month need to be boosted in 5 years. And, other vaccs need to be boosted in 10 years.

I'll write a page per year for the next 10 years and fill in what needs to happen each year in which month. I'll keep these years sequentially in my Diary section of my Filofax. Then when those years' calendar pages are available, I'll buy them and fill in the dates as appropriate.

Someone had the very good recommendation recently that I get a fold-out 4 year calendar, but I don't need that daily level of detail. A page per year for the upcoming 10 years will work well for me, and as each year approaches I'll already know what needs to happen in that year.

Does anyone else do far-future planning in your Filofax?

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/02/filofax-medical-journal.html>

appleg (2011-02-27 05:57:19)

its a very good idea making lists for each year in the future!

The only list that i keep for future years, is the birthday list. I'm gonna have to implement your idea :)

Jotje (2011-02-27 06:04:28)

Great idea, Laurie! I wish my parents had been so organised, because I never got the tetanus boosters that I should have gotten 20 years ago ...

LJ (2011-02-27 06:21:12)

Fantastic idea - I only wish my Filofax had arrived already so that I could make a note to do this (or better still, implement it straight away). I will have to add this post to my favourites ready for the arrival :o)

Amanda (2011-02-27 07:10:06)

Great idea. I kind of do it for just one year ahead, but this is an excellent idea (especially as I have loads of boosters for vaccinations to remember about too!).

Thanks for a great tip!

caribbean princess (2011-02-27 07:21:14)

I have bought a one year and four year inserts to use in my PhD planner. I havent put them in it as yet as I want to do a major re-organisation and treat myself to a new filofax in the process.

Laurie (2011-02-27 07:31:44)

CB, ooooooh! Which new Filofax will you get? :)

Sandra (2011-02-27 09:38:26)

@CP A new one? How will you ever decide?! And won't the other Filos get a wee bit jealous? ;)

Excellent post, Laurie. We have four young children, and I must schedule so many appointments and such 6 months to one year (or more!) ahead. Hooray for fold out inserts and good old list making a la Filofax. The older I get, the more I must jot things down or it is g-o-n-e. I am sure many fellow readers can relate to that!

caribbean princess (2011-02-27 10:04:19)

@Laurie If the vintage rose malden looks as good in reality as in the pictures I will get that. Or I may just bite the bullet and get a ruby Deco (to inspire me to do my PhD).

@Skhen aah the Malden is finally calling me in the new rose colour and yes they may get jealous (especially Adelphi as she is very career focussed) I may have to reopen the lonely hearts dating agency just for her!

Laurie (2011-02-27 10:04:46)

I can definitely relate! If I don't write it down (quickly!) it is gone. Especially with other people to keep track of, I find it impossible to remember everything (or anything at all, really!!).

Using your A5 Filofax at home (2011-02-27 12:12)



[1]

Do you find that your A5 Filofax takes up too much space on your desk or your kitchen worktop? Why not use a [2]book stand to elevate it off the surface.

There are plenty of different styles to choose from as well. And the ones for kitchens have a sheet that your Filofax could sit behind and it would be protected.

Also if you use it sat next to your computer screen it will be more visible and easier to read.

1. <https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-z0eFimwpa4M/TWqFs1R-tuI/AAAAAAAAI9U/xaXeJ97JxTg/s1600/bookstand.jpg>
2. http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/redirect.html?ie=UTF8&location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.co.uk%2Fs%3Fie%3DUTF8%26redirect%3Dtrue%26ref_%3Dsr_nr_i_0%26keywords%3Drecipe%2520book%2520stand%26qid%3D1298826100%26rh%3Dk%253Arecipe%2520book%2520stand%2520Ci%253Akitchen&tag=pemburyvillag-21&linkCode=ur2&camp=1634&creative=19450

Laurie (2011-02-27 14:07:20)

I love this idea!

Filofaxaloon (2011-02-27 14:27:25)

Hi! This is my first post on Philofaxy (I have been lurking around since before Christmas though!)

I haven't got an A5 Filofax but I do like this idea!

If I did have one I would use my music stand :)

Annie (2011-02-27 16:03:23)

I have an a5 filofax on my desk at home. I don't find it too big really, but I use mine as a diet'o'fax so I don't have it open all the time.

I have mine closed up to the side of my desk, as seen here <http://www.flickr.com/photos/aquilla429/5441634957/> but when I need to refer to something inside it, or write in my food diary I just bring it out to the middle, open it and do what I need to before putting it back to the side.

For people who use it more work related though and have it open on a page all day, I guess it probably could get in the way a bit so this is a neat idea.

J (2011-02-27 20:39:20)

Ooo, I wonder if I could manipulate one to work for an personal Filo... while I just leave it next to me at work, it would be great to prop it up while using it with recipes in the kitchen!

Thanks for the idea!

David Popely (2011-02-27 12:49)



[1]

You might recall I [2]mentioned David Popely's unfortunate accident at the beginning of last week. Well I'm pleased to report that he is out of hospital and now back at home and recovering. He was very kind to send me a message for you all to see:

This is just to thank all of you who have posted such wonderful messages of goodwill over the last week, on Twitter and on the Philofaxy website. As some of you know, I had a bad accident at home last Sunday, falling from a step-ladder, breaking my right elbow (which had been previously broken in 2005 and was already subject to internal wiring and metal plating) and also compound-fracturing my upper arm in four places. I've spent a week in Yeovil District Hospital, Somerset, England, been to surgery twice (once on an 'emergency' basis, which was a new experience!) and am now back home to continue my recovery.

The good wishes of all my friends on Philofaxy has been so much appreciated, and I wanted to put this message somewhere where it can be seen by all, without getting lost further down the site in the comments - so thank you Steve!

My Personal FF has been at my side throughout the last week, but typically of me it's my writing arm I have damaged, so I am currently finding it much easier to type than to use pen or pencil and paper....so I will most likely be resorting to some electronic means of organisation while my dexterity improves!

Thanks again to all my friends here, and I look forward to being a full contributor once again very soon!

With very best wishes
David Popely

Take it easy David and let us all hope you make a speedy recovery and keep off the step ladder!!

1. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-_re2kWhiD7w/TWqNNkZdGiI/AAAAAAAAI9Y/C18L8_uu2FI/s1600/13172.JPG
2. http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/02/web-finds_21.html

caribbean princess (2011-02-27 13:11:42)

David I am glad you are feeling better and that you are out of hospital now. I hope you aren't in too much pain. Wishing you a speedy recovery!

justenoughsalt (2011-02-27 13:36:05)

David, so happy to hear that you are doing better. best wishes for a speedy recovery to you and your family. i would send you a casserole or something if i wasn't in another country.
steve, thanks for posting this. i had been thinking of david everyday since the post about the accident.

Laurie (2011-02-27 13:59:56)

David I'm so glad to hear you are recovering at home. I hope your recovery is quick and comfortable!
Steve thank you very much for posting this!!

David Popely (2011-02-27 14:06:07)

CB thank you...I know you will understand when I say that I have an excellent consultant, who has been an absolute genius over the last week. The pain is fine so long as I stay on the tablets!
Colie, a casserole by post (jiffy bag?) is an awesome thought, but probably not worth the effort! But thank you!
Laurie, lovely to hear from you, and I trust all is well with you.....looking forward to being back in full swing very soon! First I have a whole raft of doctor and hospital appts over the next 4 weeks, so I will mostly be concentrating on fulfilling those and doing my physio in a proper manner!

Louloudorset (2011-02-27 14:35:21)

Glad to hear you are on the mend - I grew up just outside Yeovil in North Cadbury so I know the area and the hospital very well. Hope they are taking good care of you
Here is to a speedy recovery so you can get back to writing in your Filo soon :0)
Lx

Butanben (2011-02-27 15:38:30)

David, I am so relieved to hear you are on the mend! I thought of you a few times in the week. My dad lives in Ilminster, so not too far from your neck of the woods. I hope you are not in too much pain, and that they have given you regular and effective pain killers to come home with. A nice tasty steak from Bonners in Ilminster will speed up your healing no end I'm sure!!!!Bags of iron!!! Spinach quiche from their deli, if you're veggie!!!
Seriously, get well soon and treat yourself kindly whilst on the mend. Jane. xx

crofter (2011-02-27 16:03:06)

Best wishes for a continued speedy recovery David. I always enjoy your comments, and will look forward to future updates on your condition.

David Popely (2011-02-27 17:02:24)

Thanks to all of you. Jane, I'll definitely remember the Bonners recommendation, although we tend to find the Martock and South Petherton butchers really good as well! Crufter, I'll definitely be aiming to be dextrous enough

to comment soon, although as already mentioned, I'm migrating short-term to an electronic organisational solution, as typing is currently so much easier!

Loulou thanks, they are definitely taking good care of me, as evidenced by the drugs mountain which has invaded the house and the serial hospital and surgery appointments which I now have to fulfil over the next few weeks!

Karensa (2011-02-27 20:24:35)

So glad to hear you are doing better!

Hope your recovery is speedy!

Look forward to hearing from you in the future - both that you are doing well and your time management tips.

J (2011-02-27 20:26:31)

Glad to hear you are mending well, David! After breaking six bones in half as many years, I understand what a process it can be.

Continue resting, and let those around you spoil you!!! Then you can spoil us with more Filo comments :)

Alison Reeves (2011-02-28 03:57:06)

Hi David, Really pleased to hear you are on the mend now. I know when I broke my arm (nowhere near as bad as yours) I took to using some software that I could speak into and the words appeared on my screen! It's amazing what you can do whilst in a cast as well!

Hope you are on the mend now - make sure you get plenty of rest and relaxation whilst you can! It will be fun to discuss what new method you come up with to keep organised whilst you can't write properly!

Amanda (2011-02-28 04:24:08)

Dear David,

Really pleased to hear you're on the mend. I know it will be frustrating while your writing arm heals but just take it steady.

It'll be great to read all your posts again once you're up to it.

Hope you have a speedy recovery.

Amanda

michele (2011-02-28 05:44:52)

David, I wish you a very speedy recovery!!! Will be back to reading blog and commenting with all my Philofaxy friends now that my exam is finished!

28e0e8c2-3557-11e0-82ac-000bcdcb471e (2011-02-28 15:17:50)

David - I hope you are feeling much better! Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery!

lauren.

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-01 03:18:14)

David - hope that you are resting and recovering. Take care...

Web Finds - 28 Feb 2011 (2011-02-28 00:00)

I have to say a big thank you to [1]Caribbean Princess for being my web scout this week and sending me the links to some of the following posts. Strangely Google Alert hasn't told me about any of these posts this week, odd.

- [2]Filofax Revisited - The Crazy Life of J
- [3]Monthly Plan and a Filofax Hack - So Very Robin
- [4]Book-o-Fax - Paper Pens Ink

- [5]Jade Finchley Goes to Work - Paper Pens Ink
- [6]Filofax as a Sketch Book - Cat's Corner
- [7]The Gourmet Gift Box Set - Caribbean Princess
- [8]Reader Question - What planner is right for me - Caribbean Princess
- [9]Lost Filofax - St Mungo's
- [10]How I use my Urban Filofax - Sense of Gravity
- [11]How I use my Urban Filofax Part 2 - Sense of Gravity
- [12]Coach Tote with Filofax Deco - Bagesey Blog
- [13]What's in my Filofax - Positively Prettyful
- [14]Day 92 - New Filofax - Yvotchka's Daily Truth
- [15]Filofax - Serendipity - Malden...
- [16]How to plan effectively - Slam
- [17]Ruths Reflections - Someone who is in the middle of the New Zealand Earthquake

Enjoy....

1. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/>
2. <http://thecrazylifeofj.blogspot.com/2011/02/filofax-revisited.html>
3. <http://somenotesfromafar.blogspot.com/2011/02/monthly-plan-and-pocket-mini-hack.html>
4. <http://paperpensink.blogspot.com/2011/02/book-o-fax.html>
5. <http://paperpensink.blogspot.com/2011/02/jade-finchley-goes-to-work.html>
6. <http://www.cathryncook.co.uk/blog/2011/02/filofax-as-a-sketchbook/>
7. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/02/filofax-gourmet-gift-box.html>
8. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/02/filofax-gourmet-gift-box.html>
9. <http://www.stmungos.org/?p=7648>
10. <http://senseofgravity.blogspot.com/2011/02/heres-how-i-use-my-urban-filofax.html>
11. <http://senseofgravity.blogspot.com/2011/02/heres-how-i-use-my-urban-filofax-part.html>
12. <http://bagesey.blogspot.com/2011/02/coach-tote-with-filofax-deco.html>
13. <http://positivelyprettyful.blogspot.com/2011/02/whats-in-my-filofax.html>
14. <http://yvotchkasdailytruth.blogspot.com/2011/02/day-92.html>
15. <http://madi-serendipity.blogspot.com/2011/02/filofax.html>
16. <http://luinaemcanish.blogspot.com/2011/02/how-to-plan-effectively.html>
17. <http://realruth.wordpress.com/2011/02/26/day-5-3am-inside-the-christchurch-cordon/>

michele (2011-02-28 05:47:11)

Love this post! I feel like I'm back with the living after studying so hard! I passed my exam on Friday so I'm now a certified PMP! (Project Management Professional) with the global organization, PMI. I'm looking forward to utilizing my filofax even more! Miss you all.

Laurie (2011-02-28 05:52:04)

Congratulations michele!!!

caribbean princess (2011-02-28 08:55:18)

Congrats Michele! Very well done! Maybe you deserve a filofax treat?? Will we see more of you on philofaxy now? Thanks Steve! Now everyone knows what I get up to when I am on call for public health/health protection (so housebound all weekend and chained to my phone). I scout for filofax related topics on the net!

haha.

:-)

Butanben (2011-02-28 09:41:07)

Congratulations to Michele!! A great achievement. I loved reading this week's Web Finds over this morning's cuppa.... (and I have to confess, a couple of Jammie Dodgers!!) A good read...better than a weekly mag treat this week. Thanks CP!!

Alison Reeves (2011-02-28 10:04:52)

Really enjoyed this feast of filofax posts - thanks very much! And congratulations from me as well michele - sounds like you have had to work really hard, so well done!

I'm looking forward to seeing if you come up with any interesting project related custom pages we can all share!!! (Hint Hint!)

Amanda (2011-02-28 10:53:16)

A veritable treat! Which means my morning went to H in a handbasket (yes - 'working' at home day - aka read Philofaxy day!).

But have just ordered myself a 30 min sand timer to try and control this habit!!

:-)

@Michele

Congratulations! And I echo Alison's plea for sharing pages/ideas.

Amanda

SP (2011-02-28 13:42:44)

Thanks for sharing! Always fun to read about other's people Filo passion.

Nellie (2011-02-28 14:28:22)

Someone else with a book-o-fax! I don't feel quite so geeky now. :D

Amanda (2011-02-28 14:42:38)

A book-o-fax isn't geeky... it's essential!

:-)

Michele (2011-03-01 05:39:20)

Thank you everyone for your congratulations, and yes, CP, you will see more of me! While I was cramming these last 3 months, my boyfriend kept asking me to go onto Philofaxy - he loves the stories I tell him.. "They're your friends!!!!" My Filos kept up with the studying and one day I have to post a blog on the exam study site.. I'll make frequent references to Filo for a whole new audience!

Laurie (2011-03-01 06:58:19)

michele I would love to know how you used your Filofax(es) to manage your busy life these last several months! If you would like to do a guest post about it here on Philofaxy please email me! laurie758@gmail.com. :)

Filofax System Maintenance (2011-02-28 15:41)

I'm in the process of setting up several of my Filofaxes in a new way ([1]as I blogged about here). The time I'm spending doing this is making me wonder if other people spend so much time tweaking and

maintaining their Filofax systems.

Here's a summary of my tweaking: I'm revamping my Deco, which is my main Filofax. I made the mistake of writing local addresses into the address pages in the back, instead of writing them into my Aberdeen section. So now I've removed those address pages from the Addresses section, moved them into the Aberdeen section, and am re-writing permanent addresses only into new Address pages for that section. (That way I don't have to create new Address pages every time I move, I'll keep local addresses with the local section and archive them together.)

Also in my Deco I'm creating an "Indonesia" section, and a "Move Scotland -> Indonesia 2011" section. It's nice to have this information consolidated into my Filofax, but it involves a lot of re-copying from various sources.

In the end I'll have a completely updated Deco, a new Medical Journal Filofax with sections for each of us (which I'm currently working on too), my Urban Travel Filofax and my purple Finsbury Moving Filofax.

As you might imagine, this process is proving to be quite time-consuming. But I am taking the time to do it now, even though I'm already so busy, because I know once it's done I'll have the peace of mind of knowing exactly where to access all this information. I want to get it done before we move, to have these Filofaxes handy during and after my transition.

Putting these Filofaxes together made me wonder how much time, on average, people spend on "Filofax System Maintenance." How much time does it take you to set up, and then maintain, your Filofax system? I can image at the fastest end of the time spectrum the minimal amount of time it would take to remove a year's worth of diary pages and insert a new year's worth of pages. All done.

Then at the other end of the time spectrum...I see myself! I can spend endless hours re-copying into diary pages, moving things around, expanding into other Filofaxes, and generally tweaking my system. (And to be completely honest, I find it enjoyable and even relaxing.)

Where do you fall on the time spectrum? Do you set up your Filofax once a year and you're done? Or, like many of us, does your Filofax system require maintenance throughout the year to update pages, glean unnecessary material, and other general upkeep?

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/02/new-purposes-for-some-of-my-filofaxes.html>

Louloudorset (2011-02-28 16:49:41)

I am forever tweaking/changing/swopping my system in the Filofax as well as changing over binder (I've just transferred my contents from the Chameleon into my Magenta Adelphi for a bit of a change....and ive moved some sections around as well.

I have the City Dweller diary insert coming as well so that will no doubt mean a happy evening writing in my diary dates and things - first thing on to do list is get a hobby clearly!!

But I think even small things can change how you use your planner let alone the massive moves that you need to keep track of. I mean we all update our clothing according to the weather and the seasons so why not the adapting of your planner according to the seasonal changes as well.

Lx

Susanne (2011-02-28 18:44:36)

I also find the re-doing of tabs, inserts, whole binder, etc. very relaxing. One of my favorite pastimes.

justenoughsalt (2011-02-28 23:08:57)

lol. i had to google "Aberdeen". i didn't realize it was a place, i was thinking to myself there was some section (notes, finances, personal, addresses) i had never seen in my filofax....good grief colie get it together!

Robin (2011-03-01 00:31:44)

I couldn't agree more with the "fun" aspect of reorganization. It brings back memories of school where I could arrange my binder and all my papers and pens just so for the first day! I copied my class schedule endless amounts of time to make it look like something effortless I just happened to have taped inside my notebook.

I think this is why I consider September as the "real" the New Year.

David Popely (2011-03-01 02:38:59)

Hi Laurie. I'm *always* changing my FF set-up (and my implication the underlying system of managing tasks and time), which by all accounts makes me a very bad manager of time - but it seems to work for me. I have several different index options within my 'stock' of refills, and I tend to use them all, including the standard 5-part, a 1-6-part numbered which is Dutch but which I managed to get from Conduit St, and a 1-10, which a very nice man in the US kindly mailed over to me! Like you, I find it very relaxing and part of my 'personal maintenance' routine, which I think we all need - a time of reflection and re-ordering, getting things 'set back up' in a way which suits us. And hey! - now that I get to sit in the cafe area of the gym for 90 minutes each time my wife does her gym session, I get to do all this in a great, relaxing environment as well!

Jotje (2011-03-01 03:01:19)

@David: how can a numbered index be "Dutch"? We have the same numbers here, I assume ;-)

My setup requires frequent maintaining. Once a month: a new month of DO2P, old one gets archived. Then the past month of weekly pages gets archived, and a new month (about 5 or 6 months from now) gets inserted. The sticky tab on the monthly pages gets moved. The journal pages get archived in my Journal Filofax, while new pages get added. Sounds like a lot of work, but takes me about 5 minutes to do it. Plus, I frequently change binders in between - just for the fun of it (though it's striking how fast I return to the Malden every time ... LOL).

David Popely (2011-03-01 03:25:43)

Hi Laurie

Apologies...what I really meant to say was that the 1-6 numbered index is available through the Dutch website rather than in the UK, but that I managed to get a copy from the Conduit St store!

Femke (2011-03-01 04:49:41)

I am always tweaking. I started with wo2p, now using the wo1p + notes, which works better. For busy days I use the day planner, as that's mostly my days off that I'm busy.

I love doing it, and since I'm relatively new at the filofax system, I love exploring the different sizes & stuff I can add to it. Though it costs a lot of money at the moment ;)

Filo Shanahan (2011-03-01 11:00:25)

Does anyone have the hole layouts for a Mulberry Agenda, please? Trying to do this without buying the incredibly expensive paper!!!

J (2011-03-01 13:55:36)

I am definitely part of the "Filo is constantly changing" party. Although my tabs have remained the same, I keep rearranging within the tabs and of course adding more! I too find it fun and relaxing- especially when I come across some new memento that will make me happy to see every time I open my Filo :)

And don't worry colie- I didn't look it up, but it took me a while to figure out what "Aberdeen" was too! Glad I'm not alone on that one.

Amanda (2011-03-02 14:49:44)

LOL at "is Aberdeen a new category in filofax sections!!"

:-)

:-)

:-)

But back to the question - I've just had a bit of a FF reshuffle - creating the book-o-fax, and re-jigging my work FF. My work FF is working well (now) but my home FF is a mess and I am hoping to sort it out this weekend. Always glad to know that I am not alone in my FF-world!

kanalt (2011-03-03 06:49:03)

I update my binder's inserts on a weekly basis, which takes me about 5 minutes or so. Plus, I do an archive twice a year when I add 6 months of new inserts and take out 6 months of old inserts. That takes a little more time, but still not a whole lot.

I too find rearranging and updating tabs fun and relaxing. The biggest time consumer is when I update my tabbed sections and that's because I bring out the label maker. That takes more time than anything, mainly because I end up fighting with separating the labels from the backing and getting the labels perfectly on the tabs. Setting up a new binder takes a lot of time, mainly because I can't just sit down and do it from start to finish - I have to do it in chunks which irritates me - work really gets in the way of such fun activities!

1.3 March

Free For All Tuesday No 4 (2011-03-01 00:00)



[1] So what questions do you have for us this week?

1. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-iWM2EGJg8j8/TUh0H0Lo4aI/AAAAAAAAI6E/2WfvsKUfHgC/s1600/IMG_9777a.JPG

justenoughsalt (2011-03-01 00:08:01)

now that we are officially in march i figured this would be a good time to ask...what do you do with your old months? do you immediately archive the individual pages and the month tab? do you archive the individual pages but put the month tab behind december and keep it rolling?

for the moment, i like to archive the day to day pages and the tab, that way the filofax gets lighter with each passing month till around september when i buy new refills.

does everyone keep all twelve months in all year long? does anyone keep only a few months in at a time, like say the current month and two months out while the rest is archived? i have been thinking of doing this again. when i was working for this very busy very big not-for-profit i was using two pages per day + day planner pages to keep track of everything so my filo was huge and heavy then i finally started only keeping three months at a time in it. those three months rotated obviously. when i had to plan out further than that i would just put it on the year planner instead (sort of like the far-future planning laurie was describing the other day).

what about you all?

bonus question: on the filofax sticky notes accessory, you know the black one we all have that has postits at the bottom and 5 colors of flags at the top...yeah that one, does anyone besides me wish those flags were made of paper instead of plastic? ughh i get so annoyed when the ink doesn't set because it is so glossy.

Soraya Leila (2011-03-01 02:25:49)

When I was using my personal filo I would keep the whole year in, but now I've changed to a pocket I am archiving the page a day pages as I use them. I keep six months page a day in my Filofax and then have the rest of the year on week on one page pages. That way I can write in important dates later in the year without the bulk. I have been thinking of changing to a month on one page to reduce it down even more but we will see!

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-01 03:16:48)

I have a Jan - Dec calendar but work in academic years (Sept - Sept) so will leave my old months in my diary now but in Sept I will archive the beginning of 2011 and add 2012 in my diary for forward planning for the next academic year.

Hope that makes sense.... read back through it and it sounds more complicated than it actually is!!!

Yes - I know what you mean re) tags. I use washi tape (Japanese rice paper tape) throughout my filofax as you can write on it and it peels off with no damage to the paper underneath (and I love the colours that it comes in!!!). I also use it on my tabs as they can be changed easily (without buying new dividers).

katka (2011-03-01 03:32:03)

I usually clean up my filo every few months, so right now I have only Jan, Feb in there + empty pages till end of the year. What I do, I use the folded year planner, where I have all important dates and information. So in that case even in December I can find out, what important happened in January :o) Hope it makes sense.

Louloudorset (2011-03-01 03:45:15)

Question - does anyone have a Pocket City Dweller or Travel lifestyle pack - only I'd love to see some photos of how they look in Pocket size as the Filofax website only has the Persona sized images that I can find. I'm guessing it looks quite small?

As to archiving....I keep a whole calendar year in my filofax until we reach about November and then I add in the new year and archive the old once I've transferred over important dates and things :) I absolutely love having a new, fresh clean diary insert to start writing in

Femke (2011-03-01 04:45:41)

I was thinking of archiving my months, but since my filofax isn't bulky anymore (surprisingly), I decided to keep them all in my filofax. I'd probably archive my old months in November to add in the new year.

Laurie (2011-03-01 04:46:30)

Re: archiving the months: I like to keep as much "time" in my Filofax as possible. I keep all forward months of the month on 2 pages calendar, and about 4 months past. I keep the next year's pull-out vertical calendar, and single pages per year for the upcoming 10 years.

When I'm ready to archive any monthly pages, I put them into that year's archive binder (I have a separate archive binder for each year's diary and notes pages). So for example, yesterday I archived my month on 2 pages for Sept-December 2010 and put them into my 2010 binder.

Having so many pages does tend to fatten my Filo, and I realize many people like to keep their binders more streamlined!

Butanben (2011-03-01 05:18:26)

I agree about the plastic tags!! I prefer paper.... but as I've bought some.... I am using them up. Question... a silly one, but I'd appreciate philofaxer's opinions. My God daughters gave me some stickers, and I bought a few extra to jazz up my Filofax, so Halloween stickers on Oct 31st, Little presents for birthdays, glittery cherries for meals out, theatre etc etc. Now my Filofax looks a bit teenagery for sensible middle age hood and work!!! Do you think this is too naff for words, or as it is my Filo and my whole life is in it, then anything goes, including enjoying my inner child!!!!Thoughts please!!!!

Sharon (2011-03-01 05:30:57)

Butanben - I put stickers in my Filofax, pretty little ones and you know what, who cares! It is my life and my Filofax and I will pretty it up how I want to! Let the inner child out! LOL! Off my soap box now!

Louloudorset - the travel pack I really wouldn't buy in Pocket size. I just bought my brother the Personal size one and I am so glad I did, because even though it is Personal it is still small, so the Pocket would just be tiny! If you struggle to use a Pocket Filofax for day to day life then I wouldn't try and use it for Travel. I can't use Pocket size just too small, so I am back to Personal and loving it, so much in fact am about to buy myself the Travel Pack for my holiday!

As for archiving, I run 6 months of Day per page in my Filofax and I always keep the previous month, so at the

moment I have Feb - July in my Filofax and it works pretty well for me.

Annie (2011-03-01 07:56:53)

@Butanben - I use stickers in my filofax too and Although I'm not middle aged, I'm no teenager either. I use them to visually display things at a glance, like things involving my fiance have a love heart sticker next to them. For events involving my mum, I have little flower stickers, stuff like that.

I also have some stickers purely for decoration, I've stickered my transparent page at the front, my personal information page and the inside cover of my binder, where the card slots are. I even have little sticky gems stuck to my ruler/page marker and the sticky notes I use have owls or cupcakes on them. I've also decorated all my page dividers by printing pictures on them!

I don't think it's at all naff to do such things, at the end of the day it's my organiser and I'll do what I want with it, I don't give a thought to what anyone else might think of it. If you like your stickers in your filofax, then sticker it up, who cares what anyone else thinks!

M Ng (2011-03-01 10:09:40)

Butanben, I think anything goes for your Filofax! If the stickers please you, then you should keep using them. I like basic colors and shapes, so I use transparent stickers to mark my appointments and patterned washi tape to decorate. I order transparent stickers from various etsy sellers. Here are some [1]dots, and here are some [2]triangles. (I imagine someone with more rigor could use these in a coordinated and color-coded manner, I just stick as I go.) I tend towards the plain/boring, but I love how people decorate and personalize their planners.

As for archiving, I try to keep from 3-6 months of planning pages and at least a year of month per spread in my planner. I write down the memorable events and appointments in the month per spread, which is sufficient for future planning and quick reference; I slip in a further future month when I archive the just-finished month of week per spread pages. I like to keep my binder as lean as possible.

Am I the only person without the post-its and flags insert? I have a holepunched postcard with some post-its and (paper) flags stuck on it at the back of my Filo, but it's more back-up bookmark than anything else. I try to keep the in-planner flagging to a minimum; I feel it becomes a kind of visual noise that reduces the overall effectiveness of flagging after a while, esp since those post-it flags are either wild florescent or bold primary colors.

1. <http://www.etsy.com/listing/40797946/t457-sensitive-sticker-ver-3-dots>

2. <http://www.etsy.com/listing/67828653/triangle-decor-stickers-4-sheets>

Laurie (2011-03-01 10:25:52)

I cannot function without the post-its and tape flags insert. I have one in each Filofax. Now I buy replacement tape flags instead of a whole new insert because it's cheaper.

Amanda (2011-03-01 10:30:06)

I have a 'daily bucket' in my filofax which has the day's tasks on and I trash that at the end of each day (they are made from scrap paper, punched with 3 holes to go in either the top or bottom 3-hole set in my A5 FF). The main appointments diary is a vertical WO2P and I currently have from Sep 2010 to Dec 2011 in there (see why below).

@Globetrotting Cacti

I know exactly what you mean! I work in academia too and so currently have from September 2010 to the end of Dec 2011 in my FF but in Sept (2011) I will archive the Sept (2010) to August (2011) to make sapce for session 2011/2012.

@M Ng

No - I don't have the post-it inserts either! You are not alone! :-)

@Butanben

It's your life, your filofax and no-one else's. Do what you want with it!

Butanben (2011-03-01 11:04:05)

Thank you so much Philofaxers, I am so grateful!!!! I feel much better now and I shall continue with my stickers for

compartmentalising my life!!! Even though they are stickers, I use them like Annie does to symbolise and categorise different events. The handiest have been the little presents for birthdays and motor cars for Bank Holidays, both

bought in Accessorize, cars to remind me that shops are closed and not to book travel on those days!!! Was updating my Outlook diary on my laptop, on the train, from my Filo when a smirky bloke opposite sarcastically said in a babyish tone, "OOh Stickers!!!" making me feel very childish, and frankly wanting the earth to swallow me up!!! Hence the question this week.

Thanks Philofaxers for making me feel I CAN run my Filo MY way after all with cheerful sticker categories!!! By the way, I keep a whole year's diary, as my work needs me to plan forwards from the backwards months, if that makes sense!! A pain, but the minute I archive, I find I need the last lot!!!

justenoughsalt (2011-03-01 11:08:40)

@Globetrotting Cacti do you have any pics of the washi tape in your filofax you could share? i would like to see that!

@Butanben i hear what you are saying, i bought some stickers to add a little something to my pages. i put something on each week, now i wish i had left it to more special occasions as i miss the space and feel like a toddler. at least i know for next year.

@M Ng just about every filofax i have seen has one but you know now that i think about it i only use the post-its. on occasion i use the flags but i use them mostly as transparent stickers now since i can't really write on them. also i just realized i never see anyone with a winchester using them...hmmm

Alex (2011-03-01 11:37:27)

I don't have stickers in my filofax but I totally would, if I found some good ones! I don't really like the ones that filofax make themselves.

@Butanben, that guy on the train is an idiot! What you do with your filofax is none of his business - don't let it bother you.

I've never heard of washi tape before but now I'm intrigued.

@M Ng - I do have the post it/tab insert, but I wouldn't bother buying it again. I use the post-its all the time and do use the tabs on a few pages, but not enough that I need the whole lot of them. When it runs out I'll just buy a pack of little post-its and keep it in the pocket at the back of my Deco instead.

Laurie (2011-03-01 11:49:55)

I was going to say, the stickers you can buy from Filofax are subtle icons that still give you quick-reference at a glance but are grown-up looking.

And what a jerk, the guy sitting across from you making snide comments about your stickers!! It automatically makes me wonder what's wrong with him and his life that he feels the need to try to put down complete strangers.

Revisionista (2011-03-01 12:02:36)

Question: I'm thinking about an A5 finsbury in aqua but I can't tell if the color is closer to blue or a sea green. The color on the website seems to be more of a sea green (which I'd prefer) but pictures on flickr make it look bright blue. Has anyone seen one in person? Is it bright blue or does it have a greenish hue? Thanks!!

Nan (2011-03-01 12:12:48)

@Revisionista I have a Pocket-size turquoise Finsbury, and it's definitely greenish. Mostly blue with a good amount of green mixed in.

Soraya Leila (2011-03-01 13:27:55)

@louloudorset I have the City Dweller pack in Pocket and it's working better for me than expected. Which pages in particular were you interested in? I can post some quick photos from my twitter account. X

Annie (2011-03-01 13:43:40)

That guy on the train must be a total plank to say something like that, as if its even any of his business! Don't let a minority of people like him put you off, do what you like and be proud of what you do :)

Also, I'm Googleing washi tape when I get home, it sounds like something I need in my life.

Nellie (2011-03-01 14:06:30)

I have a Filofax emergency! Somehow a red pen mark has appeared on my almond amazona. I am not happy. It's either red biro or possibly red frixion. Does anyone have an ideas on how to get rid of it?

Yours, in a stressed state

Nellie

J (2011-03-01 14:08:15)

@Butanben- Don't worry about your stickers- it looks like most of us use them! Plus, how pathetic must that guy have been to make fun of you for something as small as stickers?!? How sad for him, I say.

On to the original question: right now I am keeping a full year of W02P in my Domino. I really have no reason to archive, as there is plenty of space.

I might have to change around for next year, as I am thinking about moving up to the day per page. I suppose then I'll have to do some sort of archiving, although I really don't want to. I'm hoping I can manage to cram the whole year in there but it might just explode!

Saffy (2011-03-01 14:14:25)

@Butanben-The hide of some people always amazes me. That man on the train does not warrant thinking about. I am just tipping the middle aged make :-(although I don't feel it and I have the Filofax stickers which I bought to try although I only use some of them. They are small enough not to take up too much room which is a bonus but are a good visual reminder that a birthday or doctor's appointment is coming up, good for my nearly middle age rubbish memory.

@M Ng - I do have the flag/post its but wouldn't bother buying again. I don't use the flags as mini tabs but more as highlighters, saves carrying around a highlighter pen.

Is this the patterned washi tape you are talking about?

[http://www.papernation.co.uk/crafts-and-kits/craft-embellishments/mt](http://www.papernation.co.uk/crafts-and-kits/craft-embellishments/mt-tape.html?gclid=COHBwpeIrcqCFdFX4Qod-0lmBQ)

-tape.html?gclid=COHBwpeIrcqCFdFX4Qod-0lmBQ

As for archiving, I only carry around 3 months at a time. Last month, present month and next month. Carried over from my Franklyn Covey days I guess, but it works for me and I don't want to carry around a fat Filo.

Saffy (2011-03-01 14:21:07)

Does anyone change from Personal to Pocket midyear or do you stick out the year with what you started?

Steve (2011-03-01 14:40:18)

@Nellie

Whatever you do don't use anything harsh, use cotton buds. I would start with just some mild detergent and take it slowly and concentrate on the stain area only.

Steve

caribbean princess (2011-03-01 15:19:49)

Now catching up on today's post.

@Butanben that guy is an idiot and quite pathetic if he has nothing better to do with himself than make snide remarks.

Ignore!

@Colie I clear my diary at the end of the year although I tend to keep September from the previous year as my actual year is the academic year like so many others stated. Also I am always a month or two behind on expenses forms so I need to refer to past months.

I also find it annoying that I can't write on the Filofax flags but they look pretty!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-01 18:12:03)

@Nellie - I got a biro mark out of a sheepskin gilet using hairspray on a cotton bud. Try a tiny bit of the mark with it first, and if it works immediately wipe off the hairspray, then pop in some protective leather cream.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-01 18:18:18)
You can get the Washi tape in Amazon

Robin (2011-03-01 18:50:43)

@colie and @annie: Washi tape is excellent for marking, making tabs, and plain old decorating. I used in on a Filo "evidence page" if you want to take a look: <http://somenotesfromafar.blogspot.com/2011/02/break-out-good-stuff.html>

and here:

<http://somenotesfromafar.blogspot.com/2011/02/stick-em-up.html>

David Popely (2011-03-02 06:14:46)

@Butanben Frankly, my response would have been, "So what makes you think I should care what you think?" - no smile, direct in the eyes, and then back to work. Some people don't deserve good manners.

shepcraig (2011-03-02 06:32:12)

@Nellie, there is a product on the market call "Amodex" which is specially designed for cleaning off ink. We use it here in the shop, as you can imagine, selling fountain pens, there is always ink everywhere. It takes ink off any material, great stuff, does not smell nice though.

Butanben (2011-03-02 07:07:11)

Thank you again guys!!! Your comments made me feel so much better and not so be-littled by a pure stranger, who'd evidently failed his diploma from charm school— Haa Haa!!! I agree with Laurie, the Filofax stickers are a little bit more business like and "grown -up" looking perhaps for coding, so I may give those a go. Colie, you made me smile, as yes, I hold my hands up and am guilty of over enthusiasm in the jazzing up a Filo department!!!

Saffy, you are exactly spot on.... visual reminders for a middle aged memory ie like mine are VITAL!!!! If it's not in the Filo, then it's not remembered... even if it's in the filo it can be not remembered- (only kidding) as in go into a room and forget what I have walked in for.

OMGoodness Nellie....Nooooooo..... red pen on the almond Amazona. YIKES!!!! I hope you get it out. Let us know!! I pray you do.

Now as for Washi tape, I really and truly must look that one up.Philofaxy's just great for tips. ALL TOGETHER....WE LOVE PHILOFAXY!! xxxxxx

Annie (2011-03-02 07:57:57)

On the topic of the filofax sticky note pages. I don't have those, I have some cute sticky notes with owls printed on them that I keep in a pocket insert at the back.

I do have some coloured flag page type markers, however they were ones brought from Tesco. They come on a sturdy plastic strip, so I cut it to size and punched holes in it. You can see it here http://www.flickr.com/photos/aquilla429/5489612009/in/set-7215762605_1474995/

I like it better then the filofax one because I think the big dark black background on the filofax set isn't very pretty. This one is much more subtle as it's transparent.

Petra (2011-03-02 10:47:00)

Nellie, if it's red frixion, it is heat sensitive and should disappear with a bit of heat applied – maybe blow dryer?

Amanda (2011-03-02 15:42:50)

Just browsing eBay and found some hilarious tabs: search for Jetoy Sticker - they are two-sided stickers to fold over and make a tab and they made me smile! Not sure I would put them in my work FF but maybe at home...?

Louloudorset (2011-03-02 15:56:31)

Amanda I just had to look up your Jetoy stickers they are adorable!! I love my Filofax stickers for highlighting upcoming things (I've used the medical ones extensively recently makes it easy to see at a glance when we are off to hospital visits etc)

Butanben your Filofax is your own precious world nobody has the right to make any comment especially in all

likelihood some frustrated, weasely, jumped up nobody who was just jealous!!!!

Stickers, Filofaxes and Philofaxy rules :)

Lx

Butanben (2011-03-02 21:09:16)

Thanks Loulou!! I just love the idea of my Filofax being my own precious world. What a lovely way of framing what Filofax is about. Hopefully that's how many folks feel too. It is so great that something so workaday as a planner with tables, lists and diaries, can be arranged so individually, don't you think???

That's what sells Filofax to me!!

stoko77 (2011-03-03 01:47:39)

Here's where I order washi tape from (California/USA, but I think ships overseas):

<http://www.ginkopapers.com/store/tape/>

You can search, "Japanese masking tape." Etsy has a number of sellers.

Enjoy your washi tape! :o)

Butanben (2011-03-03 12:23:03)

Have just discovered that the little plastic flags I have (Staples) and as Colie rightly says are difficult to write on, are see through.... so I have begun to stick them across vital appointments of which only a few a year and.... voila.... the flag acts as a highlighter, without the messy highlighter look!!! Find Frixion pens fabulous but the Frixion highlighters smudgy.

Task Management With Your Filofax (2011-03-01 06:00)



[1]

Continuing our discussion series on how to 'Get Things Done' using your Filofax, I think it's time I was a little bit more open and disclose a bit about my own methods, or rather the lack of them !!

You see whilst I don't work in the same sense that most people do, I'm just an assistant to 'The Boss' I still I suppose have to 'Get Things Done' otherwise nothing would get done, but my 'tasks' might be a bit more mundane than most... we aren't talking 'Blue Sky Thinking' here.

It's stuff like doing the ironing before we run out of shirts and blouses to wear. Making sure I remember all those small things I intend to purchase that we can't get easily in France on our next visit to UK. Or stuff I would like to get done some day but there's no particular deadline, but if I don't note it down somewhere the xyz component I need to order to accomplish the task will get forgotten about. OK I'm sure I'm not alone with this sort of every day stuff.

So here's the confession... Up to now it's all been a little haphazard, sure it's written down somewhere I'm sure but in a variety of lists and bits of paper. How anything has gotten done is a minor miracle I suppose.

However, since I started using just my Slimline Finsbury for my To-Do lists a few weeks ago, I certainly have felt more 'focused' in being able to get a grip with my various tasks and projects. But it was far from perfect, because all I had done was transferred my pages across from other organisers. So how can I improve on this...

Looking at a few different on-line sources including some electronic task managers... which I've tried and

never really got on with! They seemed to have a common approach. So this week I'm going to try a new approach with my To-Do lists.

I have separated my tasks in to:

- This Week
- This Month
- And sometime in the future
- Projects
- Blog Posts

This isn't a standard set up, because I know most people advocate having a 'Today' list as well. In my case that is not critical. Also there's nothing particularly radical or new in this idea, but by paying attention to your comments and other peoples suggestions I think this might work for me.

Although I've only been using this set of To-Do lists for a couple of days, already I feel more focused and I feel able to remember to do more things and get more things done. I just wish now I had made this change sooner!

Can you think of any improvements I might implement?

1. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-64YVXsJrHAc/S4RbmntgEBI/AAAAAAAAAH-c/gAgj01e2fWs/s1600/IMG_8746.JPG

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-01 10:26:30)

Love having separate categories for to-do lists. I always have a work goals list (on a regular to do sheet) for work aims for that year (not just projects, but bigger aims). I also add unexpected work related achievements to this list and then at the end of the year I transfer them to my CV (as I am terrible at keeping it up to date as I go along!). Always pleasantly surprised to see what I have achieved at the end of the year (when sometimes it feels like I am not getting any-where). I guess this principal could be applied to personal life, house/home improvements etc.

Laurie (2011-03-01 10:30:45)

GC I love this idea!!

Graphmed (2011-03-01 11:31:51)

I guess you have more than one Filofax ;-). So if you follow GTD's logic, you may have different lists in different Filofaxes. For instance, my @Computer and @Home to-do's are in my Personal size that is sitting on my desk close to my computer at home, and my @town and @Hospital lists are in my mini that I always take with me when I leave home.

At least it gives you an excuse to use TWO Filofaxes for GTD!

Patrick

Savannah (2011-03-01 18:54:29)

I like this Steve. It's good to keep it simple. I use a similar master lists by category. What I do with my weekly task list is group my to do by type and occasionally by place. This helps me feel less overwhelmed and to focus working on these groups linearly during a specific place or time. To do this I must use a lined note sheet rather than a to do page. I also do daily planning but apparently you don't feel the need. I need that sense that everything I need to remember on any given day is funneled into one small location. I tried the monthly to do myself which I abandoned because of constantly changing priorities. How about adding a to do list for fun or soulful things you would like to do?

Steve (2011-03-04 07:59:46)

Well a few more days on and this is working really well for me.

I'm also trying out a Mac/iPod Touch app in parallel with the same tasks listed on it. Just to gauge which in fact works best for me.

First thing is it's quite slow entering new tasks on the iPod, ok on the Mac though. So the iPod would be a 'slave' device. Where as my Filofax... just works.

The App if you are interested is at: <http://www.6wunderkinder.com/>

Mid Week Webfinds (2011-03-02 00:00)

Once again we go off in search of other peoples mutterings and pictures of their Filofax organisers.

- [1]Size? - Filomaniac
- [2]My Songbird - My Beauty Bible
- [3]The Downsizing Experiment continues - LoulouDorset
- [4]Listography - Miss Kirsty's Blog

Enjoy....

1. <http://filomaniac.blogspot.com/2011/03/groen-wahn.html>
2. <http://the-beautybible.blogspot.com/2011/03/my-songbird-filofax.html>
3. <http://louloudorsetsmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/pocket-experiment-part-deux.html>
4. <http://misskirsty.blogspot.com/2011/02/listography.html>

Jotje (2011-03-03 02:55:23)

That's actually the wrong link to LouLous blog. She wrote a new entry about the pocket size dilemma a few days ago. This links dates from a few weeks back.

Guest Post - Filofax Best Friend - @mrs_eddieizzard (2011-03-03 17:44)

I will make no apologies as I can see I'm amongst friends. I am a stationary geek. People are always shocked to hear that I love all things stationary and that a nice notebook or a new pen will make me squeal with delight. I'm lucky to have a friend who shares my obsession and will accompany me to visits to Staples and upon a recent trip to Paris she made her family find a stationary shop in order to bring me home 3 different types of notebooks! It's via her that I discovered what I consider to be the cherry on the top of my filofax.



[1]



[2]

It's a pencil case that clips onto the filofax and with elastic straps it will fit an A5 to A4 filofax. It's wonderful and really does finalise my filofax into being the best thing in the world excluding (but only just) my children! It's from Staples and is in their "binder gear" range; it was less than £10 and was hanging on a point of sale display on the ring binder isle. Despite it not being available to buy on line it is well worth a trip to your local store to pick one up.

Disclaimer – I have not been given this item to "review" (i.e. bribed by free products into saying good things about it), I feel really strongly about this in the blogging / twitter world and would not do it. This recommendation is genuine and I have received no kick backs for doing so. @mrs _eddieizzard

Thank you @mrs _eddieizzard for your great guest post, I think that case is a great addition to an A5 Filofax and a very neat solution.

1. <https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-Uy21qGqXZd0/TXAY2Z1NzQI/AAAAAAAAI9g/g-IsWnEoeMY/s1600/oo5zdj.jpg>
2. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-1TOVq_mKns8/TXAaKKAGbfI/AAAAAAAAI9k/eEbVroQGMUU/s1600/1fwdfoaa.jpg

m (2011-03-03 18:56:20)
will they fit on Personal sized filofax organisers?

Laurie (2011-03-04 01:46:41)
Wow what a cool thing!!!!

I can't help but wonder if something like this will be part of Moleskine's new lineup of accessories coming out in April. People are always hacking their Moles to hold a pen, seems like the company would come up with a solution.

Either way, this attachable case is great for those of us (myself firmly included) who like to use lots of different writing implements!

Just curious, about how many pens will it hold?

Laurie (2011-03-04 01:50:31)

Someone just emailed me a link to a similar idea: an elastic band that goes around your book and holds several pens:

http://www.etsy.com/shop/cleverhands?section_id=7638498

Schollert (2011-03-04 05:43:05)

Wow! Cool ideas. I like the pencil case and the elastic band is brilliant! I have been thinking about making something like that myself.

I found something similar DIY'ed...

Hang on... (* Browsing-through-heaps-of-paper icon *)

Check this: <http://gnatgnat.com/moleskine-pen-holder/>

Bertie Boy (2011-03-04 11:42:06)

It holds a number of pens, far more than I should really put in it. At least 7.

I don't know if it will fit on the personal organiser, as long as it's A5 height then it would.

Free For All Friday No. 119 (2011-03-04 00:02)

Now that it's March it feels like spring is on its way here in Scotland, with flowers coming up and leaves budding out. Is it feeling like springtime yet where you are?

Are you making any plans in your Filofax for spring cleaning, trips for spring break, or other seasonal preparations?

And as always on Fridays, feel free to post comments about anything Filofax-related! :)

Happy Friday everyone!

Yvotchka (2011-03-04 05:51:24)

In the northeast of the US, it is most definitely NOT spring yet. Right now it is -11 outside.

However, I am busy making plans in my trusty Pocket Filo for vacation March 15-29 when my BF comes home from Kuwait on leave.

I've also been booking a lot of social events in my Filo lately...Monday is my birthday so invites to dinners out abound!

Oh, and I got a birthday bonus from work yesterday which just happened to coincide with the cost of a Crimson Pocket Malden on deep discount on Goldspot, so I ordered one before they are gone :)
Happy Friday!!

Iris (2011-03-04 06:21:45)

To celebrate spring, I ordered the Chameleon (Personal) in Spring Green yesterday! There was a "25 % off" code in a German Magazine... (Gala) - so how could I possibly resist?

caribbean princess (2011-03-04 06:22:37)

oooh Yvotchka birthday bonus! You lucky girl. Maybe I should leave the NHS.....

I am looking forward to planning my trip back to Trinidad in my lavender domino travel-o- fax. I may also swap my pocket butterfly for the songbird when out of office at tutorials, meetings etc.

My pocket spots will also be making the long trip across the Atlantic to use as my diary there :-)

And I have fallen in love with the vintage rose malden too, so hopefully that wont disappoint.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-04 06:35:22)

Can anyone help me please? I've jsut bought a mini Finsbury (in green) off ebay - it arrived this morning and is very pretty. I plan to use it when on holiday as a purse for my foreign currency and to add any notes to. From experience, can anyone suggest a suitable pen or other writing implement for this please? It has a 'fixed' pen loop which seems quite small.

caribbean princess (2011-03-04 06:46:23)

@Alison, usually the mini filofax pens will fit with no problems. It fits in my pink mini finsbury. You can get one quite cheaply off ebay.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-04 06:53:56)

@carribean princess - Oh thanks! I'll just pop over there and see what I can find, I may be gone for a while ...

Imy (2011-03-04 07:02:56)

I know this isnt a normal post for something like this, but i just had to let you know, i started this thing, that this blog set up, its called 30 days of lists, and its really good, ive been using my filofax for it, every day they give you a prompt on what the list is about then you do the list in your own way, some people have done like collages and stuff, and just lists, i just wanted to let all the other filofaxers know,

<http://30daysoflists.blogspot.com/>

I just thought i would let you know incase anyone else is fanatical about making lists :-D xxx

Steve (2011-03-04 07:13:10)

@JBB Added to Philofaxy links and I've also 'grabbed a button'....

Steve

Imy (2011-03-04 07:18:18)

@ Steve - YAY its so exciting!!! i cant wait for the enxt day!!!

caribbean princess (2011-03-04 07:36:08)

@ Jelly Boo thanks for linking! what a great idea! Another fun thing to do with my pink finsbury and fountain pens :-)

Annie (2011-03-04 07:45:06)

I started spring filo cleaning early when I got my new Finchley. It has scrumptious cotton cream inserts, so I rewrote everything from my old white pages onto the cotton cream. Tedious, but worth it because the cc is soooo lovely.

I also printed pictures onto my page dividers in the Finchley, to liven things up a bit and make it more 'me'. So

now I have a lovely colourful organiser to see me through to spring and beyond. Now I just need to do something about rewriting the tabs on the binder, into something more 'me' too than I'm all set.

I have a question too, how many people use the financial inserts and do you find them useful? I'm thinking of getting some to add in so I can keep an on-going and immediate track on my money and where it's going. Because even with online banking, you still can't always see what you need, when you need to.

Steve (2011-03-04 07:56:02)

Whilst Alison was in a business appointment in Saumur this week, I went for a wander around the shops and discovered that Quo Vadis diary inserts were on 30 % reduction at the newsagents. Not that I needed to get any. But what I did spot was that in the personal size (Timer 17) their 'pocket' model is slightly narrower 17x9cm (Filofax is 17x9.5cm) and their 'prestige' range is 17x10cm

The Pocket was a week on one page with a notes page on the facing side, the week having appointments. Being narrower it would fit a slimline quite nicely I guess.

Butanben (2011-03-04 08:41:59)

I've started a recipe Filofax just today strangely. A pocket Mode in mint green and pink. Very Spring like colours. Was on a bargain shelf at just £5, so utterly thrilled. My goal is to fill in 2 recipes a day from Jamie Oliver 30 min meals and from Nigel Slater. Aim..... to eat more healthily and to try some new ideas..... apart from my usual repertoire of spagh bol and Chilli con carne, and to slip pocket Mode into handbag on supermarket trips.

Butanben (2011-03-04 08:50:27)

Jelly Boo, there's also a fantastic list site called 43 things, which is really rather addictive..... especially when I should be doing Spring cleaning instead.... blushes the colour of a Vintage Rose Malden here... Sorry I don't know how to post a link on here so it accesses straight to the site..... otherwise would have posted that for you. It can be found on Google though.

crofter (2011-03-04 08:52:50)

@Annie,

I really like the Filo check register. It works so much better for me than the ones which come with the checks. It always seemed before I started using the Filo, that one would get lost or misplaced, and when it came time for taxes time was wasted in locating it. This way they are all in one place.

I also use the credit card one, just makes it easier to keep track of what is coming as far as bills are concerned.

On trips, I use an old Filofax 'Personal Expense Log', it is their form 800 from 1983. It has four days on the front and 3 on the back. I think I have license to spend a bit more on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It is seldom that there are any more than 7 expenditures in a day anyway.

Any of these will help bring order to your life!

Imy (2011-03-04 09:38:58)

@ Butanben

Thank you i will check that out, sounds good, i love making lists and having something to do

I love to put as much in my filofax as possible and use it as much as possible :-)

Karen (2011-03-04 12:40:36)

@Alison - I use an Ikea pencil in my finsbury

Jotje (2011-03-04 13:16:57)

@Alison: For my Fins mini I use the Stabilo Mini (point 88), have them in a rainbow of colours, which is nice!

Also working well: those cheap mini gel pens that are intended for kids (little girls most likely). Cost next to nothing, are really small and write quite nicely!

justenoughsalt (2011-03-04 13:19:43)

i have spent a lot of time this week thinking about how best to spring clean my filofax. my biggest struggle has been my long lists of items to do. lately i have been thinking of switching from 2 days per page to 2 pages per

day because of all the things i need to do...no decision yet though.

@Jelly Boo Barbie i have a had a tab open in my browser with that project for a few days now. thanks for the reminder i will start it today.

@annie i do use the bank account ref #130313. they help me keep track of how much money i do or do not have.

SSA (2011-03-04 14:06:09)

Does anyone else find they buy inserts they think they will use and then not actually use it for one reason or another. I constantly think about how I can use this insert or this one and then i buy it and use one page and then for one reason or another it didnt work like i thought it would and boom its done. Its not worth selling the inserts on ebay, once you add postage costs its just not worth selling. so, does anyone else have inserts they bought and never use?

I currently have (all personal size):

year calander vertical (German):

<http://www.filofax.de/store/paperessentialsdetails.asp?productId=838>

zipper envelope (the zipper annoyed me coz it made the pages not lie flat)

meeting notes/work plan pages (German):

<http://www.filofax.de/store/paperessentialsdetails.asp?productId=193> 8

I am not one to keep stuff i dont use. so if you want something let me kno. I am based in Munich i am not selling this stuff. maybe we can start a swapping idea. For example I would like to try the financial pages and the day planner pages. but there is no point me buying 20 if i wont use them. so if someone wants something from what i have and maybe in exchange you can send me 1 or 2 pages of 'day planner' if you use them.
just an idea.

J (2011-03-04 14:15:25)

Definitely not spring in Chicago either! While it is a bit warmer today, snow is on the way tomorrow!!!

In the meantime, I am still working on rearranging my Filo and trying to pencil in some fun, spring-ish events.

In March I am going with some friends to a maple syrup farm- should be fun!

No new spring Filos for me, but like most I am oogling that Vintage Rose Malden!

justenoughsalt (2011-03-04 15:35:13)

the only inserts i have that i have never used are the timetable ones. @SSA i will happily send you a few day planner sheets if you email your exact address to greenfilofax at gmail dot com. i am in the US so it may take a while to receive them.

Sandra (2011-03-04 15:48:06)

@Yvotchka-Happy birthday early!

@J We don't need more snow around here. Argh.

I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of my Personal Malden and am cleaning up my Classic A5 now. My Pocket Urban is happy and not overstuffed-yet.

On the subject of lists, I found this site that allows one to track 101 things that one will accomplish in 1001 days.

There are also a multitude of list ideas suggested by other members of the site. Happy planning/writing!

<http://dayzeroproject.com/about/>

shepcraig (2011-03-04 16:37:09)

@ Alison Reeves, Hi Alison, most of the filofax pens should fit the mini organiser, however, go to our website www.penshop.co.uk and look for the Kingsley Silhouette Ball pen. It is half the price of the Filofax pens and they go with most colours. They are very popular, we pretty much sell one with every organiser now.

shepcraig (2011-03-04 16:39:19)

Hi everyone, I have set up a facebook page called "the pen shop - Jenners", check it out, I have been updating it with our recent Moleskine books and paperblanks books. I am going to set up a photo album, either this weekend or at the start of the week with pics of all the Filofax organisers we have with 30 % off.

shepcraig (2011-03-04 16:42:37)

I got a pic this week of what the new display stand is going to look like for the Filofax flex notebooks, it looks amazing, with a videoscreen at the top showing how it works, I will get a picture to you Steve asap, along with a list of what inserts will be available for it.

My staff think it is really sad how excited I get about Filofax, but then I come on here, and seeing I am not alone makes me happy again. They call me Filoman.

Steve (2011-03-04 16:45:03)

You aren't sad Craig... dedicated to the brand... much like us... if they lets us that is...

pilgrim (2011-03-04 17:03:41)

Hi all, I'm setting up a couple of pages (1 blank notes page & 1 to-do page) for each room in my wonderful A5. I'm then going to plan the cleaning, decorating & restoration of each room in our house.

Tie that up maybe with an Evernote folder or possibly a One Note Notebook and I can keep the house going.

I can also tag appliances and paint colours either on paper or on screen and keep our house a home.

Regards

Pilgrim

Laurie (2011-03-04 17:50:25)

Pilgrim I love your method of lists for each room!

Laurie (2011-03-04 17:56:19)

Craig I now "Like" the pen shop-Jenners! Great pictures!! I love that jade pen.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-04 18:18:38)

Thanks for all the comments on pens for my mini finsbury. I'm checking them all out!

I like to use an A5 for Work - I really wish they would do a 'glamorous' filofax - something like the deco in that size.

Robin (2011-03-04 23:59:11)

@shepcraig - Is there a possibility of getting price estimates for sending a Filo to the US? I've been looking for the Domino personal-sized snakeskin in bronze, but I apparently can't get it in the US. But I did see it on the Jenners site! :-)

shepcraig (2011-03-05 04:46:32)

@Robin, I will look into this on Monday for you.

shepcraig (2011-03-05 05:59:19)

Uploaded the pics of our 30 % off filofax organisers on our facebook page
pen shop jenners

Butanben (2011-03-05 18:49:03)

My family come from Edinburgh, so I was thrilled to read all about Jenners's Pen Shop!! Shame they no longer have the old fashioned lunch/afternoon tea room in Jenners-used to have crisp white tablecloths and silver service when I was a child and went with granny!!!! Sigh!!!

shepcraig (2011-03-07 12:02:19)

@Robin, I have just been on the Royal Mail website, it would cost £11.00 postage to send to America

Web Finds - 5 March 2011 (2011-03-05 00:00)



[1]

Some more finds from the web for you to enjoy this weekend.

- [2]Two resolutions to my Filofax Woes Part 2 - Plant Millie
- [3]A tale of Filofax woe - Planet Millie
- [4]The P.A.L.O.M.A.L - The Snarling Post
- [5]Book o Fax - Paper Pens Ink
- [6]New addition - Filomaniac
- [7]Planning in my Filofax - Bylovinnea
- [8]Filofax Lust - Absolutely Alchemy[9]
- [10]Buying pretty things - Absolutely Alchemy

I've also reformatted the [11]Files page in to different page sizes, which will hopefully make it easier for you to find the template you are looking for... You might also notice that there are some more Personal size templates available now as well.

1. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-aHrAC14ewso/TFW11nG5VDI/AAAAAAAAIGQ/JmfFuap01Cg/s1600/IMG_9237.jpg
2. <http://mslogica.com/blog/1918>
3. <http://mslogica.com/blog/1613>
4. <http://thesnarlingpost.blogspot.com/2011/03/paolo-mal-up-close-and-personal.html>
5. <http://paperpensink.blogspot.com/2011/02/book-o-fax.html>
6. <http://filomaniac.blogspot.com/2011/03/ein-neuzugang.html>
7. <http://bylovinnea.spotlife.se/2011/03/04/planing-in-my-filofax/>
8. <http://absolutelyalchemy.blogspot.com/2011/02/filofax-lust.html>
9. http://www.blogger.com/goog_309306181
10. <http://absolutelyalchemy.blogspot.com/2011/02/buying-pretty-things.html>
11. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/files.html>

justenoughsalt (2011-03-05 01:19:03)

one more

Filofax Lust

<http://absolutelyalchemy.blogspot.com/2011/02/filofax-lust.html>

justenoughsalt (2011-03-05 01:23:25)

and...

Buying Pretty Things

<http://absolutelyalchemy.blogspot.com/2011/02/buying-pretty-things.html>

Steve (2011-03-05 01:45:53)

Thanks Colie, I've added those two. Google alerts has been missing quite a few lately. So I've started doing a manual search instead this week.

Millie (2011-03-07 16:49:15)

Thanks for the links, Steve (sorry, I'm uber behind with the blogosphere so this comment is a tad late!).

Russian website: "My Filofax" (2011-03-05 05:29)

Many thanks to colie for sending me this link to a Russian website called "My Filofax":

[1]<http://www.myfilofax.ru/>

On their "rubber fashion" page there is a great photo of the new Apex Filofax line coming out soon:

[2]<http://www.myfilofax.ru/rubberfashion/>

[3] ✖

***Photo from www.myfilofax.ru

And there is an entire Filofax section of the website too:

[4]<http://www.myfilofax.ru/category/filofax/>

At this point I think I've forgotten more Russian than I learned to begin with, so I can't translate it for you. BUT, I did notice there is a new shop in Moscow called "Predlog" that has an amazing selection of Filofax binders and accessories, an entire wall of Moleskine products, and who knows what else in there!



[5]

[6] ✖

[7]<http://www.myfilofax.ru/prize/>

WHY didn't this shop exist when I lived there?!?!

1. <http://www.myfilofax.ru/>
2. <http://www.myfilofax.ru/rubberfashion/>
3. <http://www.myfilofax.ru/wp-content/themes/yamidoc/scripts/timthumb.php?w=310&zc=1&src=http://www.myfilofax.ru/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Apex.jpg>
4. <http://www.myfilofax.ru/category/filofax/>
5. http://www.myfilofax.ru/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/IMG_P0126.jpg
6. http://www.myfilofax.ru/wp-content/themes/yamidoc/scripts/timthumb.php?w=310&zc=1&src=http://www.myfilofax.ru/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/IMG_P0128.jpg
7. <http://www.myfilofax.ru/prize/>

Steve (2011-03-05 05:39:00)

I don't know... expats can't view Filofax UK on Facebook, so we end up looking at a Russian site instead... 'I don't believe it'

Yours sincerely

Victor Meldrew

22 Arcadia Avenue

Sandra (2011-03-05 06:21:32)

Thanks, Steve! Hooray for Google Translate-I was never brave enough to to learn Russian...

Minnie (2011-03-05 06:53:21)

I went to the filofax store in Camden London for the FIRST TIME yesterday and they are already selling some of the new items like this one and the the new grey Finsbury (which I bought in a pocket size and I LOVE) and they said more and more are going to be coming! I was thrilled and wanted to buy more if I wasn't in a rush (probably a good thing for my budget)

Njuton (2011-03-06 02:01:28)

Жаль что у нас в России нет многих моделей Filofax, которые я обожаю(((

Steve (2011-03-06 02:50:33)

Njuton: Thanks for your comment, may be this year will see an increase in the number of models available in Russia as there appears to be most of the new ones shown in this post.

Regards

Steve

Jotje (2011-03-06 06:53:34)

Can't see any of the pics you posted with this blog. So I went to the linked pages, but - no luck: none of my computers will open them

Another restriction issue?

Amanda (2011-03-06 07:28:49)

@Jotje

(tongue in cheek)

Maybe the US doesn't want you seeing Communist Filofaxes?

Steve (2011-03-06 08:31:33)

Jotje:

I'm seeing the pictures ok. They are linked from the .ru site.

May be a restriction on your PC or your ISP?

Steve

justenoughsalt (2011-03-06 12:00:39)
@jotje i am in the US and i can see them with no issues.

Jotje (2011-03-06 14:06:25)
I guess my PC was teaming up with my wallet and just reluctant to let me view more filofaxes. Because a few hours after I wrote this, I can see the pics all of a sudden!?

Katia (2011-03-06 15:52:21)
Hi, I'm glad you've found our Russian site :) The shops are not in Moscow though, we are official distributors and we are based in St Petersburg. If you like some of translations, I could be of help. I'll comment in facebook, too. So you'll see my name.

Laurie (2011-03-06 17:17:28)
Thanks Katia! :)

Time Management with Filofax - Diary Options (2011-03-06 00:00)

I've seen many comments about finding the ideal diary refill to enable people to do the right sort of time/task management on a typical day.

It is all about juggling time, tasks, appointments and remembering all those small things that go together to combat our busy, hectic modern lives. It doesn't matter if it's fitting in those four clients before the end of the week or working out if you can fit in that hair dressing appointment before the children come home from school, we are all trying to get 30 hours out of a 24 hour day.

'My day is already full and unfortunately I can't add any more hours to it'

Which is a play on my favourite quote

'The radio spectrum is already packed and unfortunately they have stopped making any more of it'...

From the cries (yes!) I've seen in the comments on the topic of diary refills in the past, there is no obvious one that works for everyone... and before you get your hopes up... I'm sorry people, I'm not going to throw you a curved ball and point out to you that magical one that we have all ignored... well not quite... read on.

A few weeks ago we 'uncovered' the [1]Filofax Time Management series of refills. I've tried to contact the 'Time Management Team' at Filofax, but I've not head back from them.

So I've had another detailed look through the various Filofax on-line sites looking specifically for suitable refills.

Going back to this photo of Adam's A5 at the London Meet up in November 2010:



[2]

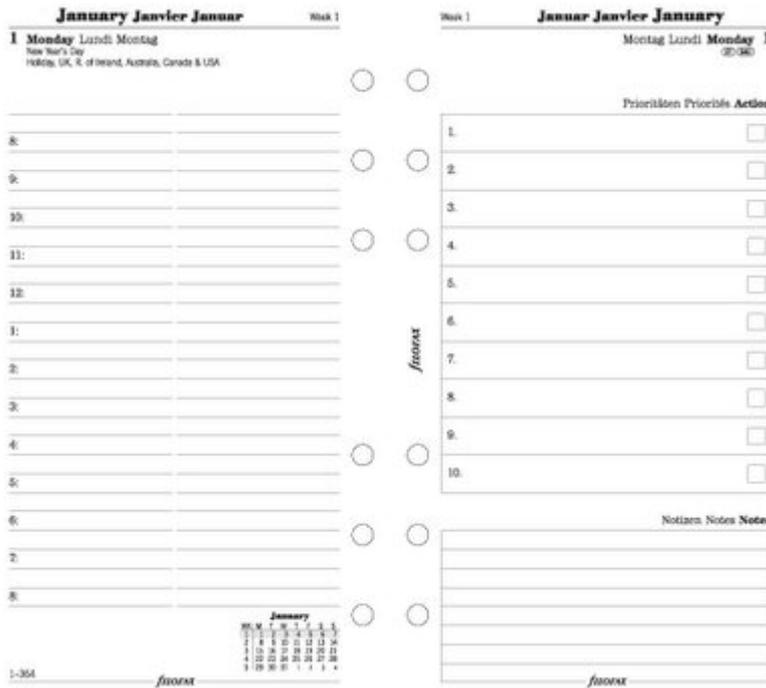
Adam's not confirmed it (I guess he's busy), but I believe he's using the [3]A5 Business refill, this refill is a day per page with space for appointments, To-Dos, Notes etc:



[4]

Now I know a lot of you will say ah yes but it's in A5 size... too big.. but in case there is anyone that says it's not big enough... there is an [5]A4 version. I had to include it for completeness.

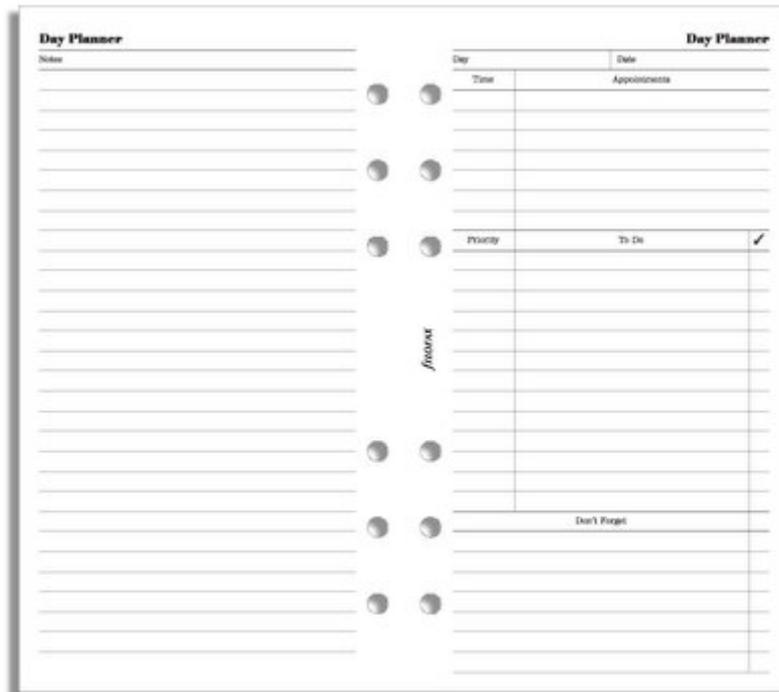
OK, let us now look at what is available in Personal size. You will of course all remember Jotje's excellent guest post on [6]Task and Time Management. In it you will recall the [7]Day on Two Page refills she uses:



[8]

Take a look at Jotje's post to see examples of these pages filled in, this will give you a much more accurate picture of how it works for her.

Another feature of Jotje's Filofax is her use of [9]Undated Planner Pages:



[10]

You will also find my own version of these type of pages in the [11]Files page:

- A4/A5 Day Planner undated - [12].doc [13].pdf
- Personal Day Planner undated - [14].doc [15].pdf

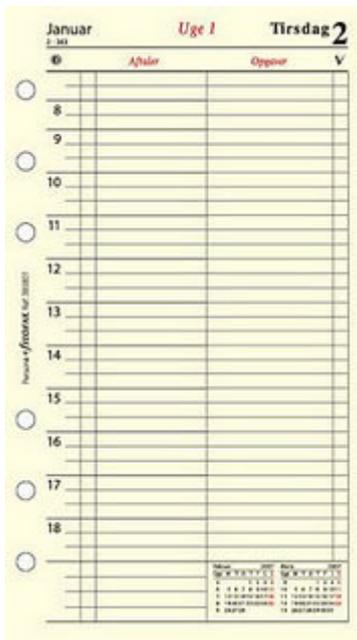
Note: there are a whole host of new Personal Size pages on the Files page now as well. So far these are all 'English' pages, although not all of them are available on the UK Filofax Site. So

going a little further a field. I came across the following [16]Day on One Page design on the Filofax Germany website:



[17]

Then there is this refill available on the [18]Filofax Denmark site:



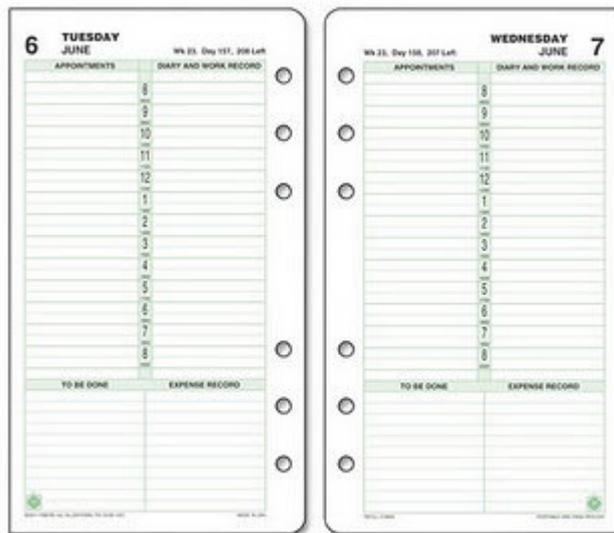
[19]

It's also a Day per Page refill with space for notes and to-do's in the right hand column. The layout of these pages are very similar to ones available from [20]Quo Vadis here in Europe (France)



This particular example is in Personal size (Timer 17)

[21]Day Timer also do a similar set of refills in their Portable size that fit Filofax Personal size, here is just one example:



[22]

Franklin Covey Compact size is similar to Filofax Personal size, but the pages are wider so they would stick out in most Filofax organisers, not ideal.

Thanks Colie for reminding me... There is also the [23]DaVinci inserts that you can import from Japan. I've most probably only touched the surface, have you found anything else similar to these? Drop a link in to a comment and share your knowledge.

Thank you.

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/02/time-management-from-filofax.html>
2. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-7RC4TEu5RG0/T0lgyI_CPKI/AAAAAAAAIpI/Q08D-PSiuaY/s1600/IMG_9655.JPG
3. <http://tidd.ly/e43051c>
4. <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-emcCVMzQVmk/TXK4Rxd-uI/AAAAAAAAI9o/sG7f9Ax--lM/s1600/68519x.jpg>
5. <http://tidd.ly/aa5f7372>
6. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/12/guest-post-task-and-time-management.html>
7. <http://www.filofax.nl/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2416>
8. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-fl7Iksm_tQ4/TXK5wqa4QLI/AAAAAAAAI9s/PAmn4xJBrqI/s1600/68417x.gif
9. <http://tidd.ly/e4c1754f>
10. <https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-0eRPP01-6RA/TXK8hwhsgGI/AAAAAAAAI9w/7qGnHGlyUtE/s1600/131319.gif>
11. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/p/files.html>
12. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/DayPlanner.doc>
13. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/DayPlanner.pdf>
14. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/PersonalDayPlanner.doc>
15. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/PersonalDayPlanner.pdf>
16. <http://www.filofax.de/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2523>
17. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-zCBT-rlBJ9I/TXK_RLELCoI/AAAAAAAAI90/nQvvJqRP_vI/s1600/68474x.gif
18. <http://www.filofax.dk/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2478>
19. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-idTFR_ZfzTc/TXK_-UZkoCI/AAAAAAAAI94/ToHMBuVOPYo/s1600/38580x.jpg
20. <http://quovadis.eu/site/page-collection/agendas/organiseurs/>
21. http://www.daytimer.co.uk/Diary-Refills/Diary-Refill---1-Page-Per-Day---Portable/12800/View_Front/MoreInfo.aspx
22. <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-KwnkfeV060/TXLCSqn8x9I/AAAAAAAAI-A/9go5ZAc8h5E/s1600/12800.jpg>

23. <http://www.raymay.co.jp/davinci/index.html>

justenoughsalt (2011-03-06 00:51:21)

this post is further push to move back to the 2 pages per day format i used a while ago. the BEST part of using a filofax is the ease at which i can change formats.

here is one you may want to add steve. it starts at 6am and ends at 4am...there are two sections for notes, one with boxes to check off the other as a grid. PLUS it is all on one page. i saw it the other day on the philofaxy flickr set.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stirwise/4942620046/in/pool-40748476@N00/>

that german day on one page layout almost had me at hello until i saw that the day goes from 8am to 6pm. are they kidding me? ughh whose day ends at 6pm...or 8pm or 7pm.

caribbean princess (2011-03-06 04:27:36)

Thanks for this post Steve. The skype conversation we had when I was trying to sort out my Phd planner was so helpful as I didn't know much beyond my week on 2 pages diary!

I am a person who needs to view an entire week in one go so I am looking forward to trying out the week on one page with notes that came in the city planner inserts in my Filofax gourmet gift box. But first I need a new Filofax! Hehe.

I had also loved Kanalt's day on 2 pages which is available on the US site but not here :-)

Iris (2011-03-06 06:10:15)

As for the German "Professional" range diary, you can see some more pics I posted on [1]Flickr. As you see, on the back of 'Sunday', there is a W1P overview for the upcoming week.

1. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/48943937@N07/5225733923/>

Alison Reeves (2011-03-06 06:31:48)

I suppose there is also another way of looking at this. I use a diary in my pocket which give me my weekly view. I'm thinking of using a day per page in my A5 work filo for more details and also to carry date specific todos.

Jotje (2011-03-06 06:47:58)

Like Steve said I use the DO2P inserts. I also need a weekly overview, therefore I also use the vertical W02P in another section in the same filo.

For those working with a Pocket size Filofax, there are also various Day per Page-inserts available. To mention but a few:

"conventional" DPP by Filofax

DPP by Filofax.fr (wider line spacing)

DPP by Filofax.dk (cotton cream)

Quo Vadis Timer 14 DDP

That said, I haven't yet anybody who uses the Pocket as a Work filo (I know Yv uses DPP, but that's for personal stuff only, right Yv?).

Timeless Expressions (2011-03-06 06:58:29)

it's the diary at the top of this photo I'm interested in.. lol.. the Craft Diary? who's is it??

It looks very interesting and seems like this could benefit me..

Amanda (2011-03-06 07:10:04)

I need advice from all you filofax experts out there (I'm quite a newbie).

Time-management using my FF at work is fine - no issues. My problem is time-management at home. The method I use at work just doesn't seem to work at home, mostly because I need more definite planning and also because I really want to try and use a personal size FF.

In my work FF (A5), I use a vertical W02P, with then landscape, A6 pieces of scrap paper, with 3 holes punched in them, to use as my daily 'to-do'.

At home I need more detail than this system allows for and it would probably work best with DO2P (like the one Jotje uses, shown in one of the pics above).

But... I also need to see my week at a glance to keep me straight. I could use 3 diary inserts across the 2 FF - the work one, a WO2P for a personal and a DO2P for the personal, in different sections (like Jotje does), but then, I would be writing appointments 3 times - once in each set of inserts.

To me, this feels like a) a waste of time and b) a chance for errors to creep in. After all, most TM systems say to have **one** of things, not three.

So my questions are:

1. Do others feel like it's a waste of time? Or is it something you put up with to make the rest of the planning work well? Or do others have a magic/secret way of avoiding all the multiple writing?
2. How error free is it?

I really would like to get my personal FF to work for me, largely because it's lighter than the A5 and also because there are so many other inserts available (from FF and others).

Any help/advice would be gratefully received!

crofter (2011-03-06 09:03:55)

I am using the Day Timer do2p this year, and it is working out great. In the portable (personal) format there seems to be plenty of room, and if more should be required I just insert a regular lined or quad in between the days 2 pages.

In the appointments section on the left hand page, I put appointments in pencil, and then put the work record in the same section in ink as the day goes along, then assign each a letter as needed and label notes on the facing pages with the same letter in the margin.

Day Timer does make a 24 hr. d02p. Unfortunately it only comes spiral bound. I use one to track my bride's medication, she has a chronic health problem, and needs medication at all hours, but never on a schedule. This has worked well for 14 years, and even though it is spiral bound, I couldn't keep track of everything without it.

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-06 09:39:02)

I was looking for the undated day planner recently on the Filofax UK site and couldn't see them and now they are there - have they recently added or did I just miss them?! Thanks for pointing them out... off to order this evening. They will be a PERFECT addition to my filofax.

Butanben (2011-03-06 12:17:16)

Have started to trial the day planner with to dos and notes. A useful overview summary of my day. Am following my dad's permanent advice for everything in life, including Time Management, which is KISS— Keep Things Simple Stupid. Obviously not so simple that we write nothing down at all (Doh!!) but as simple and useable as possible!!!! If the planning method works for you and your life, then it probably needs little fixing.

stirwise (2011-03-06 13:28:44)

A quick note on the Japanese DaVinci pages (that's my photo Colie linked to):

They can be purchased worldwide through the Japanese website Rakuten.co.jp. The Japanese equivalent of Filo Personal size is called "Bible Size."

On Rakuten you can also find inserts from other Japanese manufacturers, there's a lot of really interesting stuff out there.

I've ordered a lot of stationery via Rakuten, feel free to email me (the address is on my blogger profile) if you have any questions.

Jotje (2011-03-06 13:39:11)

Amanda, I totally agree with the One-System-Only rule. That is why I left my A5-work filo behind and integrated it in my Personal. I note all appointments in my WO2P. I usually transfer the appointments 1 or 2 days prior to the DO2P. Yes, that means some copying, but since it's only 1 or 2 days at a time, I don't mind one little bit. Especially if you - like me - love to write and fancy nice writing gear (for me that's the Frixion gel pens currently).

stirwise (2011-03-06 15:14:38)

@Amanda:

How much info do you usually need for your weekly view? I use the month on 2 pages with tabs to divide up my agenda, and it makes a handy overview for a couple weeks at a time, but obviously it only has enough room for a few items per day.

You could also utilize these progressive task cards as a kind of list view for the week ahead:

<http://store.franklinplanner.com/store/category/prod1570014/US-Personal-Forms/Progressive-Task-List-?skuId=32025>

I use them for tasks that either don't need to get done on a particular day or have a longer timeframe than one day for completion. It would be easy enough to list your week's appointments with day and time on a card and then you just move it with (or use it instead of) your pagefinder.

Christy (2011-03-06 18:20:51)

@Amanda -

I totally understand your dilemma about using more than one planner. Although I know that using only one is the ideal, it really doesn't work for me. I enjoy planning, writing, practicing my handwriting, etc. too much, so using more than one type of diary works for me. Although rewriting things can be tedious at times, it really isn't a big issue.

Right now I am using a Personal size with three different diary inserts.

- 1) Filofax folded yearly planner
- 2) Filofax Week on one page with notes
- 3) Daytimer Flavia Day on 2 Pages

I use the yearly planner for quick glance info (birthdays, bill due dates, vacations, etc). It's probably not really necessary, but I appreciate not having to flip pages when I am looking for one specific thing that I know has been written in ahead of time.

I use the week + notes for weekly planning. Appointments or important to-do's that MUST be done at a certain time on a certain day go here. If something happens that I need to remember (ie, sick for 3 days), I'll also mark that here, so that if I need to, I can easily find the exact dates later on (detailed info goes in the daily planning section). I keep my weekly to-do list on the notes page, which I make at the beginning of the week and add to throughout if necessary.

I use the DO2P for daily planning. Appointments go in the schedule box, daily to-do's (taken from my weekly list) go in the to-do box, and the journal box (2nd page) contains notes, things to remember, medication tracking, phone numbers, etc. Basically just anything that I need to write down during the day. On days when I am superbusy or stressed, I use the schedule box to actually plot out my day. Most of the time I don't need to do that, though. The DO2P isn't a necessity either, but there are some days when I really appreciate having the extra planning space!

Also, I only keep the current one month of Do2p in my planner. Each month is inserted into the Week + Notes section, after the first week of the current month. At the end of the month, I remove the previous month and add the current.

Errors aren't such a big concern for me because I feel like each format serves its own purpose. The yearly planner is very much an at-a-glance record of things that I know way in advance will be coming up. The actual planning goes in the weekly pages, and the daily pages are for daily info or planning in addition to weekly. They are rarely touched before the night before each day.

Hope this was helpful!:)

Saffy (2011-03-06 18:36:55)

Franklyn Covey make these pouch page finders which you can slip a to do list in or one of their pre-printed/perforated pages.

<http://store.franklinplanner.com/store/category/prod990002/US-Planner-Accessories/Compass-Pouch-Pagefinder?skuId=31653>

or

<http://store.franklinplanner.com/store/category/prod561/US-Business-Forms/Pouch-Pagefinder?skuId=20216>

I don't know if they would fit the FF rings though? The first one might? Would be very useful if FF made

something similar.

stirwise (2011-03-06 19:33:25)

Saffy:

I can confidently say that the ring spacing for FC Compact items fits a Filo Personal. I can't confirm for other page sizes, though.

Amanda (2011-03-07 05:45:01)

Hi guys,

Thanks for all the advice and comments!

I have too many appointments to cope with the month to a view pages (sadly). The to-do day marker things look interesting but I have way too many things to go on them for a day. The notes/appointments on one side and the to-do on the opposite side for a day looks like it will be the best format for me.

My A5 at work is 'one stop shop' at the moment and I don't think that moving my diary to the personal would work. I currently just pick up my A5 and go when I have meetings etc, and have my diary, notes, previous minutes, etc. etc. all with me. If I shifted the diary into a personal I would then have to carry 2 FF with me.

Since the main problems I have are the 'not at Uni' days, I think I will trial using notes pages and to-do pages interleaved (and just write the date on the top), rather than buying *another* diary insert! I know the notes and to-do pages will swap sides every day, but I don't mind that. I'll try and cope without the week to view in the personal (so I'm only transcribing once not twice).

I'll let you know how it goes (and no doubt ask for more advice soon!).

Thanks for all your help. This is a great community.

Amanda

Alison Reeves (2011-03-07 08:44:01)

The cost of shipping inserts from Franklin Covey to the UK is eye watering these days as they no longer ship from the UK - only from the US. However Day Timer do so I'll be checking them out for a similar type of insert recommended by Saffy and Stirwise. Thanks guys!

Butanben (2011-03-07 11:41:25)

Amanda, it sounds like you have a lot of appointments to cram into a day. Maybe making your own accordion pages, the same as how the year overview looks would work for you, but to a smaller time scale?? Or buy and adapt into your own usage of the Filofax Family planner??? Just musings!!

JJ (2011-03-08 21:05:58)

■ I've tried to contact the 'Time Management Team' at Filofax, but I've not head back from them.

I guess they don't have the time.

Laurie (2011-03-09 03:21:18)

JJ LOL!!!

Steve (2011-03-09 03:38:20)

JJ.... if they still exist!

I think the craft Filo in the picture belongs to Sharon.

Adam R (2011-03-17 18:56:21)

Steve, apologies for not confirming sooner. It is the Time Management two pages per day system which can be found here:

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

Free For All Tuesday No 5 (2011-03-08 00:00)



[1]

So what questions do you have for us this week? But to get you started off, I have a question.....

How often do you re-write your To-Do lists? I'm presently reorganising mine on a Sunday evening for the forthcoming week, along with checking that my pocket Filofax is up to date with my appointments for the forthcoming week.

1. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-iWM2EGJg8j8/TUh0H0Lo4aI/AAAAAAAAI6E/2WfvsKUfHgC/s1600/IMG_9777a.JPG

justenoughsalt (2011-03-08 00:12:11)

i re-write/re-do/re-allocate items from my to do list ALL THE TIME. i would say at least a couple of times a day i shuffle the TO-DO-load since you never know what will come up. for instance, i had a rather long list of errands to run on wed...well they all were shuffled around today when i found out i am going out of town. i tend to keep to-do items either on a post-it or written in pencil so i can do the shuffle when i need to.

+ are there any examples of users binding their past years inserts i.e. book binding the lot by years instead of archiving in a box? i have a personal and have been thinking about doing this next year.

+ how many sheets come in the personal size organizer stickers? <http://www.filofaxusa.com/store/paperessentialsdetails.asp?productId=2438>

+ do you think a horizontal day on two pages format (personal) might be a good idea? bad idea?

SSA (2011-03-08 00:55:13)

Organiser Stickers = 2 sheets personal size

Horizontal diary - I also wonder about its use. I have never seen one in store to actually look at but I imagine the rings getting in the way?

Soraya Leila (2011-03-08 02:24:45)

I rewrite my To Do lists every morning but this means I have to do it outside my Filofax - uses too many pages - so I use a cheap spiral notepad that lives on my desk at work. Long term goals stay in my Filofax on the To Do list pages and short-term home plans, ie what to look up online later, live on post-it notes on the day I think of them.

Amanda (2011-03-08 05:15:05)

I have a 'global' to-do list and then a daily 'to do' list. The global one has urgency indicated by stars - * (or no stars) means low urgency; up to *** which means **do it now!** That way I can add more * to an item as the urgency increases.

These items get transferred to a daily list (and if they are really important actually get scheduled into the diary at specific times - seems to make me do them better - hence my issues with needing a day on 2 pages kind of schedule if I'm going to use a personal size FF!).

Once something's done, it gets crossed off both the daily list and the global list (extra good fun - I do love crossing things off, so having to do it twice is a double-reward!).

I review my global lists each morning and add what I think I can get done to the new daily list. Since my daily lists are on scrap paper, I just throw them away at the end of the day.

Jotje (2011-03-08 05:26:30)

Soraya, didn't you get a Pocket Deco? How will you set it up? Thought I read you mentioning it somewhere, but might be mistaken ...

Amanda (2011-03-08 05:31:14)

RE: personal horizontal DO2P diary

The rings could get in the way, but I always put my diary in the middle of my FF at the start of the year so that there is enough stuff under the LHS to make writing on the LHS easy.

By about June or so I will shift it to the start of the FF (the joys of a flexible system) because there will be enough under it of the diary (since I leave an entire academic year's diary in at a time) to make writing easy.

As for the format - not sure how a DO2P is either horizontal or vertical... surely the day is on one side and the notes are on the other? Or am I missing something obvious (very likely!).

On an entirely different note...

Does anyone else find the shiny bit on the tab of the dividers, really annoying? If you want to print your own pictures etc onto them, the ink won't stay on the tab bit. Wouldn't it be better to leave it not coated? Does anyone *like* the shiny aspect?

tommies-net (2011-03-08 06:12:32)

@collie: I have been binding my diaries for 13 years in the Filofax archives. And I have to say it's practical, but on the other hand also a lot of fun to go through old entries!

Thomas

Butanben (2011-03-08 07:02:18)

Amanda, I love your post. I too have a global to do list and a daily one, which I keep to 6 tasks max, but I never thought of using stars to flag up the DO NOW to do's. An obvious and brilliant idea. I will borrow that. I also have a third 'ideal world' to do..... things I would like to do one day or need to get round to, but can't do now financially, because it needs more time.....or needs forethought/planning..... for example fit that loft ladder, (need to save,) buy a digital TV... The list for that has questions to ask at the store and essential requirements I need. This list is actual actionable to do's, but on the back burner to do's, rather than hopes and dreams. Dreams have a list of their own, which sometimes become to do's!!!

justenoughsalt (2011-03-08 07:14:59)

@amanda sorry i like that the tabs have been laminated. they last longer that way. i hear what you mean though.

@tommies-net cool! do you have any PICTURES?!?!!

Amanda (2011-03-08 07:21:29)

@Butanben

Thank you! I know other people use the A1, B1, etc method, but then if something changes priority, it's a bit of a fiddle re-allocating the priority. I've found that the stars system is simple! I am a bear of little brain so simple works for me!

I'm glad to have helped someone else too.

I have a dream-list as well and then this year (since nothing ever seemed to happen off my dream list) I have decided to plan how to make these things happen - breaking down the big things into smaller steps and then scheduling them/putting them on my to-do list. It's working well-ish... not as well as I would like but at least *some* progress is happening! (These are things like "sort out the books in the study" - broken down into: sort the first bookcase in April -> sort the top two shelves in the weekend of... etc. Or "Learn some basic Chichewa" -> in June buy the CD -> on Mon night and Wed night do half an hour of vocab. and so on. If I don't do that, then next year the exact same things are written on my dream list!)

Jotje (2011-03-08 07:42:50)

Amanda mentioned the 3 stars system before, and I have been implementing this in my system ever since. It is great! I'm reluctant at assigning ABC, 123 numbers to a task, but stars I can do! LOL

Amanda (2011-03-08 08:19:27)

@jotje

:-)

Glad it was helpful!

tommies-s-net (2011-03-08 09:09:26)

@collie:

Have uploaded some pictures to Twitpic:

- http://twitpic.com/photos/Tommies_S

Best wishes, Thomas

crofter (2011-03-08 09:25:50)

@Colie

Do you mean to have them actually sewn into a hard cover book?

I use the FC 3" binders. They work really well and if you need to remove something to make a copy it is very easy to do so, much more than the FF post binders.

holyboyroad (2011-03-08 10:30:29)

Does anyone know whether the GORGEOUS ultraviolet A5 Domino they're selling in the UK will eventually be available in the states?

justenoughsalt (2011-03-08 13:07:14)

@tommies-s-net great pics? i didn't realize the archive binders could hold so many pages! thanks

@crofter yes, i mean sewn up like a regular hard back book. i know lots of people use just boxes and some use the archive binders but i was wondering if anyone has them hard bound.

@holyboyroad i had never even seen that one before! what a beautiful purple...and no idea when/if they will be available here in the states

Jotje (2011-03-08 14:24:01)

The lavender Domino and all the other colors made it to the states, so I don't see a reason why this one wouldn't?

Nellie (2011-03-08 14:31:57)

A question from idle curiosity. Does anyone note things in their diary which aren't to do with their planning? For example, each day I put a little symbol to note the weather. I'm not sure why I do it, but I started on Jan 1 and have kept it up. Perhaps I'm a bit odd!

Soraya Leila (2011-03-08 14:39:57)

@jotje I did get my Pocket Deco and I love it! I have a combination of page a day and the City Dweller week on a page with notes for the diary section, and a variety of the City Dweller inserts in the front. Have moved all my work contacts to a Moleskin address book and am using the address pages for people I write REAL letters to. And I've split the months using Moo mini cards I had printed of the family and dog, and then hole punched so they stick out the top of the pages a little. :) The Deco is awesome and feels really special. X

Soraya Leila (2011-03-08 14:43:28)

@Nellie Ooooh I love that idea! Might start noting something similar in mine. I sometimes write my weight at the top of the diary pages. X

Laurie (2011-03-08 15:06:23)

Nellie I also like to note the weather on the day spaces, it's fun to look back at what the weather was like at different times of the year and compare across years.

justenoughsalt (2011-03-08 15:45:23)

@nellie whenever i eat a piece of fruit that comes with a sticker on it i put the sticker in my filo. i loved seeing that everyday. now i don't see them as much as apples are much cheaper at farmers market.

Sandra (2011-03-08 20:06:40)

@Nellie-Cute ideas!

On a "to-do" note...

Tonight I read about the Hedgehog principle on the Filofax Russia site. An author named Jim Collins proposes two behavior profiles:

-The Fox is committed to several targets simultaneously, and sees the world in all its complexity. They are "scattered, trying to get a lot at once."

- The Hedgehog, for its part, "simplifies the world, reducing it to a simple organizing idea, principle or concept that ties it all together and directs their actions."

I want to be a hedgehog.

In conjunction with this broad idea, the concept of creating a "stop-doing" list, in contrast to a to-do list, was proposed. This list identifies the behaviors that hinder ones productivity. While I love my to-do lists, this is one to add to my Filofax.

The information is at the link below. Additional links to the author and his material are there are well.

<http://www.myfilofax.ru/jimcollins/>

shepcraig (2011-03-09 11:27:42)

@Robin, just incase you get this, I have been to the post office to get a price for postage of your domino organiser and it would be £11 for postage.

email me at

penshopjenners@hotmail.co.uk if you need any more information.

Butanben (2011-03-09 11:30:14)

Amanda, your way of planning sounds so like mine!!!! I am also one for breaking down into smaller tasks from the bigger to do's and will diary them often rather than put on a to do list, as they seem more important and get done!!!I love the stop doing idea here as well, and have recently started to plan my week's tv and radio viewing online from Radio Times onto a my programmes list and print off each day's page which goes into my A5 planner. That has been a boon, as it's stopped me idle tv grazing and tasks now get done between programmes!!!!!!

Amanda (2011-03-09 15:26:23)

I want to be a hedgehog too!

:-)

@Butanben - you and I do sound similar! DH is a TV-grazer, whereas I go through the Radio Times and highlight what I want to watch and only watch that. DH will put the TV on and I'll say 'ooh, what's on?' and he'll say 'Dunno.'

At which point I roll my eyes. :-)

And then go on the Philofaxy site.... hee hee hee

My A5 Domino Filofax in the NEW Ultra Violet color! (2011-03-08 13:17)

My new Filofax arrived today! I've been waiting for a year for an A5 Domino in a purplish color, so of course I couldn't resist ordering up the A5 Domino in the new Ultra Violet color. I'm extremely glad I was able to get it before I leave for Indonesia! (Which is just two weeks from today, and yes I'm slightly freaking out. Need Filofax distraction!)



[1]

First, about the color. "Violet" by definition is more on the blue side than true purple, so I braced myself for a blue binder. My photos make it look a little more blue than the true color, but it's definitely not a purply purple. So if you do order this binder, don't be expecting a very purple look, it's definitely bluish. In fact, the color on the Filofax page is a very good representation of the color ([\[2\]click here to see the Filofax UK A5 Domino product page and hover on Ultra Violet to see the color](#)).

Here are some photos comparing my A5 Domino in Ultra Violet on the left, my A5 Finsbury in purple in the middle, and my Personal size Domino in Grape at the right, to give you a color reference.

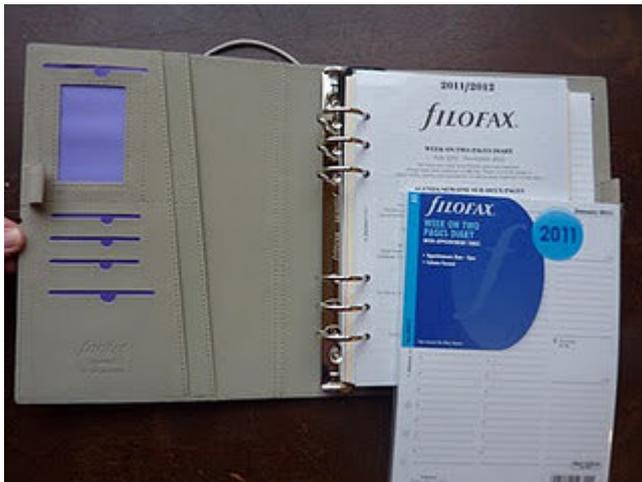


[3]



[4]

The A5 Domino came loaded with a July 2011-December 2012 horizontal week on two pages (AWESOME) and ALSO a 2011 vertical week on two pages with the days as columns! Thank you Filofax!!



[5]

Inside the July 2011- December 2012 weekly pages there are Course Record and Timetable pages that would be handy for students (or teachers, parents, and anyone else who keeps track of students). There are also pages of holidays for lots of countries for 2011 and 2012. I was very excited to find that all the holidays for Indonesia for both years are listed! There are also pages that list Notable Dates and Religious Holidays for various religions for all of 2011 and 2012. These are very handy reference pages! Also loaded on the rings are A-Z tabs, 1-6 tabs, several pages of colored paper, address pages, To Do forms, a black ruler page marker and a clear top-opening envelope. It is very nicely kitted out and has everything you need to get started on your plans for world domination.

The inside of the interior pockets is lined with purple fabric, which is much more purple than my photo shows. (I wish the cover were the purple color of the pocket lining.) The Domino has a great interior layout with card pockets and a full-length pocket behind, and a notepad inside the back cover. And the A5 Domino has two elastic pen loops to hold pens of any size!



[6]

The A5 Domino binders are great because the cover is very lightweight and the rings are huge, so you can really load it up and it still doesn't weigh as much as a filled leather binder.

I have an A5 Domino in red that I bought last year, [7]which you can read about here. (And if you do click through to that post, you'll notice my last line was, "If they come out with a purple one you can bet I'll get it!" True to my word!!) As much as I love my other A5 Domino, I always wished for a color

that's more "me." (As my husband says, I'm not a "red" person.)

Even though the Ultra Violet isn't as purple as I would prefer, it's still a really beautiful color. In fact, I have to be honest and say that this color is more professional-looking than a very purple purple would be. I would be happy to use this binder at work or home. I'm very glad to have it!

In fact, I love this new Filofax so much it's already throwing me into a planner quandary. This is definitely a possibility as my Planner for my New Life in Indonesia!

1. <https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-q46qIymfLwI/TXZrraYTsRI/AAAAAAAAABuE/NzTRkr5bQqs/s1600/Diaries+2010+354.jpg>
2. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/organiserdetails.asp?sizeId=5&rangeId=54&dsizeId=5>
3. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-CNxpwci_cCo/TXZsf7kYjGI/AAAAAAAAABuU/DHQc7ovWJMc/s1600/Diaries+2010+357.jpg
4. <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-K2fil1LTR8s/TXZs0m98oqI/AAAAAAAAABuY/KX10NoCNBJ0/s1600/Diaries+2010+358.jpg>
5. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-Ih_Wvc1WGVA/TXZr8g9CM6I/AAAAAAAAABuI/ROKz3xZ09AI/s1600/Diaries+2010+355.jpg
6. <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-TxviCF00uJ4/TXZsLak9LBI/AAAAAAAAABuQ/lewqMn-pqXo/s1600/Diaries+2010+356.jpg>
7. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/04/my-new-a5-domino-filofax-with-dodo-pad.html>

Jess (2011-03-08 13:29:57)

haha laurie i love your posts! today i was working in the library and got distracted by your posts on plannerisms about the measurements of daily spaces and felt very pleased for you that you'd come close to planner perfection. four hours later and the a5 domino throws a spanner in the works! in a selfish way i hope you never find planner perfection. i enjoy reading details of your quest too much!

x

Laurie (2011-03-08 13:59:07)

LOL Jess! Yes at this rate, just when I figure out what works my circumstances will change and I'll need/ want something completely different! I am so smitten with this new Filofax that it is making me question my entire system.

Sandra (2011-03-08 14:13:19)

@Laurie-So pretty! I was debating a new A5 for use in the kitchen as a home binder...love the vertical weekly insert as well.

Wonder when we Yanks can get our little grubby hands on one? I know the shipping expense is a bit high from the UK to USA...

As Jess said, you did sound quite settled in the planner debate, but then along came this A5 cutie...good luck remedying that! Thanks always for your enthusiastic posts. I am still all geeked out over my recently acquired personal Malden. A colorful A5 would be so nice, however...

T (2011-03-08 14:14:48)

Laurie, it is absolutely gorgeous! It makes me smile just looking at it. I'm sure it will be a joy to use.

Silver Bell Girl (2011-03-08 14:16:03)

Looks like a pretty color. Apparently NONE of the new products or colors are coming to the United States.

Jotje (2011-03-08 14:21:19)

The color on the FF-site is so very purple, and your binder looks totally blue to me!?

I'm with Jess. I would love for you to find your one perfect planner, but for myself, I hope the quest will continue a bit longer, cos I love to read your posts!

Mrs. Grievous (2011-03-08 14:26:59)

Oh my GOD I freakin' LOVE IT!!! It's the perfect color! Congratulations. :)

Nellie (2011-03-08 14:34:56)

Ooh! Pretty! I hope you enjoy it. I was also enjoying your post today Laurie about space in different planners. I love the mathematical approach!

Laurie (2011-03-08 14:54:17)

Thanks everyone! :)

Jotje, I tried different settings on my camera but every time the photos came out too blue. In these the cover looks pretty much straight-up blue. But in the link I gave to the Filofax page you can see the real violet color. Compared to a "true" purple it looks bluish. Violet is a very accurate description of the color—that not-quite-purple, not-quite-blue color. It's very nice. :)

Steve (2011-03-08 15:27:03)

Laurie

Try it in full sunlight outdoors. Any form of artificial light will alter the colour temperature of a picture. You can correct this but it's difficult to get it absolutely right.

Regards

Steve

Laurie (2011-03-08 15:43:10)

Thanks Steve, I'll try that when our weather clears up. Today wasn't an "outdoor" day for my new Filofax! ;)

caribbean princess (2011-03-08 16:43:27)

I think it is lovely although it does look quite blue in the pictures. I could see more purple on the Filofax site. It is great you get the different inserts. There should be loads of space to write.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-08 17:33:10)

Very pretty. I love my bronze domino - it's a real workhorse Filofax. I've never been very keen on the plain colour domino's but this looks a pretty colour. Hope you solve your planner dilemma. I think we all jsut have too many options!

Butanben (2011-03-08 18:47:13)

New Filofax for new beginnings and this looks just gorgeous!! Enjoy!!

Laurie (2011-03-09 14:17:59)

To give credit where it's due: Many thanks to Jotje for pointing out to me in the new Filofax catalog that the Domino comes in Ultra Violet this year! I hadn't even noticed it until she pointed it out! So, thank you to Jotje for leading me to this beautiful Filofax! ;)

Filofreak (2011-03-09 18:30:07)

Love the color Laurie! Wait, didn't you just move to Scotland?! Now you are moving to Indonesia??!! You are quite the adventurer! Tell us more!

Skype Round-Table Chats (2011-03-08 19:00)

Firstly, thank you to everyone who joined in on Sunday. I was fearing the worse with the new version of Skype for Mac, but in the end it all worked without the headaches I was expecting! I got the usual 'ribbing' for not being able to chat and type at the same time... but I'm getting used to that!!! ;-)

So if you have never taken part in one of our 'Round-Tables' then you should give it a try. Generally

there is a voice chat and text chat both happening at the same time. So if you can't come up on voice or you prefer to just type then you can, there's no problem with that. Both streams happen in parallel, but the topics and participants are independent. It is also possible to log in to the voice chat and just listen if you don't have a microphone!

Generally we chat about Filofax stuff, but it's very much an open house to discuss anything and mainly to get to know each other better, and also to relax and enjoy chatting with people you have seen comment on the blog. This week we discussed a variety of topics some in great depth, others we breezed over a bit! As usual a popular topic was the new range of organisers coming out this year, colours, styles and the like. We also discussed the forthcoming London Meet Up 'What are you bringing?' etc.

I really enjoy the chats because I get a lot of great feedback and it generally sparks off ideas for posts on the blog. I sometimes get to explain in more detail something I have written on the blog, but wording it differently so it's better understood.

I will put out the usual announcement on the blog about the next chat. But to give you advanced warning the next one will be on **April 10th**. Normally they are the first Sunday of each month. But I will still be in UK on 3rd April so I won't be able to host the chat, so it will be best delayed a week and I will then be back here in France that week.

We have tried to set the time at 5pm GMT to try and attract the most people, this equates to about mid-day on the East Coast of the US, and 6pm in Europe. Would moving the time forward or backward a couple of hours help more people join in? Please post a comment and we will see if we can come to some common preferred time. Our chats tend to last about 1.5 - 2 hours, although you don't have to stay the whole time.

Thanks for your feedback

Jotje (2011-03-09 03:27:40)

Sundays are generally difficult for me to join, but if it were at 7pm (European Time) I would be better able to join. Or really early like 3 pm.

I'm jealous of all of you joining the meeting on the 26th! I'd loved to break my back by bringing all kinds of filofaxes with me LOL

Maybe we could have pics of the various (insides of) Filofaxes as well? Then, when we have questions, we could ask them here. That way us pitiful stay-at-homers could get some inspiration as well ...

Reader question: Finsbury Mini – zipped or clasp? (2011-03-09 03:51)

A reader emailed me recently with a very good question about the Finsbury Mini Filofax:

I'm planning on using it both as a wallet and a personal mini-dictionary and phrase book. I am moving to Flanders soon and starting to learn Dutch, and I thought it would be a practical idea to use the mini to put vocabulary words and some stock phrases in.

I'd love to hear pros and cons of both styles.

Thanks!

Please post comments with pros and cons!

Jotje (2011-03-09 04:03:10)

I use the Finsbury Mini as a wallet/shopping list as well. I chose the clasp version, because the zipper seems to be so fiddly. When you are standing at the register, you want to be able to get your money or cards in a second.

Oh, when you move to Flanders, you really should learn Flamish, not Dutch, although Dutch will get you a long

way ... ;-)

appleg (2011-03-09 04:09:03)

I read Jotje's comments from previous posts and I've started using my mini Finsbury as my wallet and notebook too, to ferry notes from my main Filofax Personal

I would say, get the clasp version because it has the full length note compartment and zip compartment for your change. The mini finsbury zip does not have the note pocket, and no coin compartment as well.

T (2011-03-09 04:24:53)

I'm the one who posed the question.

Thanks Jotje and appleg for the input; I appreciate it.

Jotje, I may be asking you some Dutch (or Flemish) questions from time to time, if you don't mind – I will certainly need all the help I can get!

Also, if anyone out there would like to weigh in on the question of Mini versus Pocket size for the purpose I am wanting to use them, I would love to hear your opinions.

Decisions, decisions!

Butanben (2011-03-09 11:17:23)

I adore my mini Finsbury zipped, in a lovely baby pink colour. The shape is divine. I don't know enough about the clasped one to compare, but use the back of my mini for 2 passport photos of my gorgeous God daughters and books of stamps... handy as my mini is a mini out and about diary and address book..... I often see pretty cards and it's handy to write and post them in one go sometimes. I use a pocket mode as a recipe and supermarket filo. It is certainly bigger and roomier than the mini, and holds coupons etc, but I am in love with my baby mini I must say.... something awfully cute about the mini Finsbury!!!

Amanda (2011-03-09 15:47:38)

I use a clasped baroque mini as my purse-and-notes combo. I would agree with Jotje that clasped is quicker and easier to open and you don't want to be flapping about in a shop trying to get to your cards and money etc. Also, if the clasp version has the note pocket and coin compartment and the other one doesn't, it would be more practical! That said, check you can get coins in and out of the zipped bit - I couldn't easily with my baroque once I'd got my cards in the card holders, although I did do a hack to get around it (punching rivets into a spare zipped purse that came free with something else so I could hook it on the rings - see <http://paperpensink.blogspot.com/2011/02/mini-baroque-filo-purse.htm> if you're interested). The Finsbury mini might be better than the baroque for that - I haven't seen one so I don't know. Jotje and appleg - do you have problems getting things out of the zipped bit?

Amanda (2011-03-09 15:51:16)

oh and possibly a daft question - but can you get credit-card holders for the mini? I have my everyday-use cards in the card slots and then the other ones I need to carry around are stuffed in the vertical note-block pocket in the back cover and I would rather have them in a card holder on the rings... I can't spot them on the FF site though

Steve (2011-03-09 15:59:26)

@amanda Take a look at FF Denmark

<http://www.filofax.dk/store/paperessentialsdetails.asp?productId=489>

Steve

Steve (2011-03-09 16:00:06)

And yes it is sad that I know that that is the only site with them on!!!

appleg (2011-03-09 21:49:17)

@Steve

I believe that link was for the pocket size?

There doesn't seem to be a credit card holder for the mini.

that said, i did use a little hack for my mini. I'll take some photos and put up a link to flickr later when i've got the time

appleleg (2011-03-10 03:58:10)

hey guys!

I took some photos of how i added a card holder in the rings for my mini:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/appleleg/5513921741/in/pool-40748476@N00/>

and if you wanna know how much coins the mini can hold:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/appleleg/5513922669/in/pool-40748476@N00/>

Setting up a new Filofax (2011-03-09 11:36)

As you all know, I'm in love with my new A5 Domino in Ultra Violet ([1]which you can read about and see photos of here if you haven't already). I'm resisting the urge to fill it completely up right away.

Normally when I set up a new Filofax, I put into it everything I think I might possibly need. Maps, forms, papers of various types and colors, accessories, and tabbed dividers. Lots and lots of tabbed dividers, with labeled tabs for a range of topics. By the time I've got my new Filofax set up, its rings are nearly bursting and I haven't even started using it yet!

This time I'm holding back from doing that to my new Domino. I really like it in its simplified form. It's not groaning at the seams like my other Filofaxes, which are laden down with things I rarely, or never, use but are in there "just in case."

This time I'm taking a new approach: If I discover I need something in my Filofax, THEN I'll put it in. I'll start with nothing, no labeled tabs, no reams of paper full of information.

But, this is ME we're talking about here. Some things are necessary.

For example, I've already added a World Map with time zones. That's a requirement in my Filofax. In fact, I've referred to it in there already.

I also added a zip-closure clear pouch, because the Domino doesn't have a zip pocket so anything that needs to be secured will go in there.

And, I added a business cards holder, because I use those.

I'll probably add a sticky notes accessory and my Filofax calculator eventually, because I find both of those very convenient to have.

For now I'm not adding any labeled tabbed dividers, which is a huge step for me. Usually I would've labeled and organized my usual tabs by now. But this time rather than prescribe my same-old setup for myself, I'm going free-form and seeing what I actually use and what's worthy of entering my Filofax. It's very liberating, like starting with a blank slate.

How do you set up a new Filofax? Do you transfer things over from your old Filofax, set up the tabs in a certain way, and load it up immediately? Or, do you prefer to start with a blank slate and let it grow organically?

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/03/my-a5-domino-filofax-in-new-ultra.html>

Eva (2011-03-09 11:48:53)

I just bought a metropol pocket over the weekend and I immediately put everything I needed right away and like you said, it's now bursting at the seams. I'm not sure I would be brave enough to start with nothing in it like you did. It would feel like jumping in the ocean with no life jacket... It does make sense though to start everything from scratch, still, probably not for the faint of heart!...

tommies-s-net (2011-03-09 12:00:36)

I have re-setup my everyday Filofax when changing the diary for 2011. Although I have added a new tab, it's

leaner than before. I was very surprised what was in it - and what I have hardly ever (let's say never) used. Now I try - as you described it very well - only to put in it what I really use...

Kind regards, Thomas

Sally (2011-03-09 13:25:19)

I have just bought a Domino Personal (LOVE IT!!) and have filled the diary but that's it. Am labeling the tabs with temporary post it notes until I have decided exactly how I want them. In just 3 days it is already filling up, am letting it happen naturally.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-09 15:08:54)

I've always thought it's a good idea to set the filofax depending on what you want it for. However this is an interesting idea, because how I think I want it is not how it ends up! To grow it organically seems a really good idea!

Amanda (2011-03-09 15:31:58)

Ah... I started out like Alison - thinking I would set it up for what it was for...

and then along the way I morphed into letting it sort itself out organically!

And yes, I do realise I have now given the impression that my filofaxes are sentient beings...

:-)

kanalt (2011-03-13 10:10:57)

I tend to just move what I have in my current binder to the new one (since it works for me), unless it's a smaller binder, in which case I am forced to re-evaluate the system. I am actually contemplating going back to my slimline, however I tend to think that I'll end up right back where I am, with my personal malden. I love that binder but the slimness of the slimline, it just calls to me. We shall see what happens...

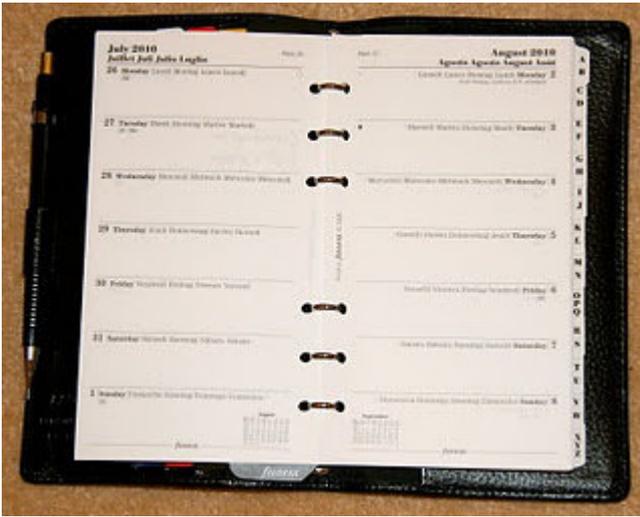
Filofax Organisers - 'Laying Flat' (2011-03-10 03:24)

I'm sure you have seen comments on Philofaxy about the ability of different Filofax organisers to 'lay flat' But it got me thinking yesterday about why some organisers lay flatter than others. It is obviously something to do with their construction.

At the time I was carrying my Finsbury Slimline. I wondered was it because the interior of this particular model isn't all leather that makes it more supple than others therefore it can 'lay flat'. I jotted down a note to look in to this a bit more when I got home and put the thought to the back of my mind and got on with the job in hand of noting down how many south facing windows this particular house we were viewing had in its salon se jour (living room).

When we got back home again I grabbed my other Finsbury, a personal size one to compare it to the slimline, the interior looks similar, but the cover is much more stiff and it doesn't lay flat at all.

Now I could have just photographed the two, but in a static state the pictures wouldn't tell the full story, so I thought ah why not make a short video.



[1]

Apologies first, this was hastily put together last night using my compact digital camera and the office lighting, so the quality isn't that brilliant. But I think you will see it illustrates the point quite well.

First you will see the slimline and how well that just opens under its own weight and how easy the cover is to bend without causing it any permanent damage. Then the Personal Finsbury is put to the same test. It just won't open fully under it's own weight and it is quite full of paper.

I haven't done anything to either of these organisers in terms of 'training' them or extra polish they are both about the same age. The slimline has been used more than the personal, which might give it a slight advantage I suppose.

Anyway take a look at the video, which amusingly I thought about calling '**How Stiff Is Your Organiser!**' but I think it might have caught the attention of the You Tube Censors for all the wrong reasons!

IFRAME: [2]<http://www.youtube.com/embed/EaMgebSwN7k>

Hope you enjoyed that, I might try making some more videos, but I will look in to improving the lighting and the quality. I think I look like a failed magician, no rabbit appears from between the pages!

1. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-Eq33Z_Vdk14/S4RbUhjKL7I/AAAAAAAAAH-U/UA-pceUQc1Q/s1600/IMG_8745.JPG
2. <http://www.youtube.com/embed/EaMgebSwN7k>

caribbean princess (2011-03-10 03:31:40)

Loved it! I do wish a Deco had magically appeared though. That would have been amazing. My finsbury personal is also very stiff which I find annoying. Other people have mentioned finsburys that lay flat.

Imy (2011-03-10 04:02:24)

i think maybe it depends on the leather, the Amazona i would of thought wouldnt lay flat but it seems to near enough, as its quite stiff leather?

Maybe they just need alot of use to soften up? or maybe the leather is streched tigher over it? :-S

appleg (2011-03-10 04:07:33)

I don't know about the clasp personal Finsbury.

I've had a Zipped Personal Finsbury for years, and I can't remember the time when i first got it, but it lays flat as a runway right now with zero effort.

Laurie (2011-03-10 04:54:33)

I won't take a video but I can tell you the Deco lays flat immediately. This is helped by the leather, and by the weight of the clasp on the front cover.

(Go on CP, you know you want to!!!!)
;D

Laurie (2011-03-10 04:56:37)

Oh and PS Steve I loved the video! Especially the tagline at the end!!! LOL

Femke (2011-03-10 05:21:06)

The reason I got rid of my personal finsbury is because it was so stiff. Annoyed the heck out of me. My personal classic isn't laying flat either, but it's not closing quickly either.

Saffy (2011-03-10 05:52:16)

I have a slimline Amazona which lies flat and did so from new, my favourite filo at the mo. The personal size Amazona does not which really puts me off using it.

I have a pocket sized classic which was in constant use for 6 years and it never laid flat. I was so relieved when I finally stopped using it and bought a new filo.

I have seen some people's finsbury's laying flat though perhaps due to constant use.

I imagine after 6 years it would?

Imy (2011-03-10 06:27:34)

@Saffy - Ive had a Personal Amazona for a few weeks now, and its not staying completly flat, but its getting there i think, the more i use it the more it flattens out and becomes a bit more soft :)

Amanda (2011-03-10 06:56:56)

I sometimes have the opposite problem - neither my A5 domino nor my personal domino will stay shut without the band being put around them - they stay sprung open!

Annie (2011-03-10 08:07:11)

My first Filo was a Domino but I didn't use it much as the cover got all dented up. I switched to a cherry cross in personal size and that thing just will not lay flat! It's is a stubborn as an old mule. It just wants to close up on itself all the time making writing a real hassle.

I loved the overall look and feel of the cherry cross, but just couldn't take the stifness and gobbling of my hands as I wrote. I've now upgraded to a personal Finchley which lies wonderfully flat, right from the box and stays flat too. It's made using my filo much more pleasant.

Saffy (2011-03-10 09:29:24)

@JellyBooBarbie - thanks, perhaps I will give it a try. I thought that it was going to be stubborn like my old classic I mentioned (it was called a Cross in those days) so I can relate to Annie's frustration. I couldn't wait to 'retire' it.

Imy (2011-03-10 10:20:34)

@saffy - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo2LubBE9go>

i did a video to show how flat it lies, :-) xxx

Saffy (2011-03-10 12:19:38)

@JellyBooBarbie - ha, ha, you made me laugh. I love the end 'yes' :-) smiley face. Thank you so much, I will give it a go now.

Your Filofax looks so well loved and used (and fat). Love it.

Imy (2011-03-10 12:25:47)

@SAFFY - THANK YOU. IVE NOT HAD IT THAT LONG BUT I DO LOVE IT SO MUCH, I WANTED A PINK ONE ORIGINALLY BUT THIS ONE I CAN USE SO MUCH MORE AND ITS MORE VERSITILE :)
YAY

Saffy (2011-03-10 14:59:56)

@JellyBooBarbie - I know what you mean, that is how I feel about my slimline Amazona. It feels so lovely to the touch and looks great (I have the almond colour).

I bought a slimline Adelphi to switch to for variety but can't bring myself to use it cos I just love the Amazona.

Robin (2011-03-10 23:56:25)

I'm OK with being the outlier here.

The fact that my personal Sketch doesn't lay flat doesn't bother me at all. When I'm using it, the weight of my hand keeps it in check. When I'm done, it sort of snaps closed.

Also, the extra effort I use to fling it open makes me look very important. LOL!!

The Crazy Suburban Mom (2011-04-18 15:44:26)

I have a personal sized Portland that has to be over 15 years old and lays flat as a pancake - I wish I could remember if it always did or it does just because it's pretty darned old!

The leather is really really soft though and always has been - I don't think the new ones have leather like that

Tracy

I'm gonna buy a new Filofax every year. (2011-03-10 10:58)

There, I said it. Let the controversy begin!

I was recently fretting, as I tend to do, about archiving my Filofax pages. I'm wary of even starting to use a Filofax now because I've been burned badly in the recent past by lost Filofax pages. I'm not good at faithfully archiving my pages, and lost pages drive me crazy. And even when I do manage to get my pages into the archive binder, I still tend to get rid of random notes on pages that don't seem important at the time but could be useful as a reference later.

A bound-book planner doesn't have that problem; everything that's in it stays in it. I was thinking about how I could re-create that with my Filofax. How could I keep all the little newspaper clippings I tuck into the pockets, keep my diary and notes pages intact and in order, and archive all my contacts for that year in a way that I can find everything again? I want to preserve my entire year encapsulated within my Filofax.

Then it occurred to me: the perfect way to do this is to treat my Filofax like a bound book. Everything that goes into it STAYS in it. Then at the end of the year, the entire book goes on the shelf.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yes I know what you're saying: that's a little expensive, isn't it? Well, yes and no. First of all, I spend so much money on planners each year that buying just one Filofax instead of 10 different planners would actually be cheaper. And second, if I limit myself to non-leather Filofaxes, it's really not that expensive considering they come with the diary, addresses, and other pages included. If I bought a Filofax archive binder and a new diary insert, that's only a few dollars/ pounds cheaper than a new Domino with the diary insert included (plus lots of other pages and inserts). So, it's not quite as extravagant as it sounds. Steve had a great idea awhile back, actually I think it was last year when I was moving, that something a Filofax is great for is not necessarily using it for a calendar year but to use it for a particular period of time. Then at the end of that period of time (for example after my move is completed) I can archive the now-irrelevant pages and put fresh new pages in my Filofax.

So I was thinking I could use, and subsequently archive in its entirety, a Filofax for each "era." For example: my husband's contract in Indonesia is 18 months, with the possibility of extension for a further 3 years. If at the end of the 18 months the project is not extended, we could find ourselves moving again. I could easily use my Filofax for the 18 month period we are there, then switch to a new, empty Filofax at our new destination. That way my Indonesia time is archived in the one Filofax, and when we move to our new place I can start a new Filofax without any irrelevant leftover information. I really like this idea.

I've never personally heard of someone archiving their entire Filofax each year, but it seems like there

must be someone who does this.
Do you?

caribbean princess (2011-03-10 11:07:21)

Ahhhh. Makes sense. No lost pages. So far that is how I am archiving my pages. In my old Botanic. Let me top your statement. I'm gonna buy a filofax whenever I damn well feel like it!
haha.
Isn't that we do anyways?

Alyssa (2011-03-10 11:15:18)

That's an interesting idea. I would love to be able to buy a filofax every year or whenever I felt like it...but alas, I'm a broke college student and will probably stay with my new Metropol for years and look with longing on the others. :)

SNARLing: (2011-03-10 12:11:07)

oooh i totally love that idea. i tend to remember best by colour so i could see thinking ultra-violet=indonesia or something like that. can't wait to hear how it goes!

crofter (2011-03-10 12:32:27)

Hi Laurie,

I applaud your decision. I have no idea as many systems as you try how you are able to keep track of anything, but, obviously you seem to be able to do it, I could not.

One thing that you might consider, and maybe you already have, and that is to look ahead not to next year, but 25, 50, or 100 years from now.

You and your family have an extraordinary life, and yes, many of us are envious. What you are doing now as far as planners, journals, and whatever else you use, these are the footprints of your life. I don't know how old your children are, but the same footprints are theirs also. Your notes, planners and journals will be important to not only them, but their children and on down the line. I would urge you, and your husband, to create a written record of your travels over these years. At some time after you are long gone, one of your children will be looking at this valuable record and say, "oh I remember that!" Now they may not remember without your "cue cards"

What vessel you use to hold these treasures really doesn't make any difference, Filofax would be great, but there are many more out there, heaven knows, you are much more well informed than I, but the idea is to pick one for the family record, and use it every day. Your children will love you for it.

I have both my Dad's and Grandad's journals and they are one of the most valuable of the things I have.

Good luck with this WONDERFUL endeavor.

Yvotchka (2011-03-10 12:44:48)

the magic 8 balls says..."all roads point to yes!"

i think it's a great idea...and fun for us readers who will get to enjoy the reviews too :)

Laurie (2011-03-10 12:52:49)

LOL everybody!

CP yes I guess we pretty much do buy a new Filofax whenever we feel like it. Just in the past year I've bought at least 3. Not to mention about a dozen different planners. So if I manage to stick with just one Filofax per year that would be a record!

crofter, I agree, I would love to create a record of our lives. A major hazard of my short attention span is that our records of the years are scattered throughout dozens of books, a bit here and a bit there. I desperately want to find something that works for me and then stay with it consistently. I get so tempted by other systems! But it would be nice to have just one book per year to look through and remember our lives. I'm so bad about journaling anymore that my planners are the record now.

crofter (2011-03-10 12:56:52)

Laurie, I have been told that I have the attention span of a bartlett pear. Guess that is why I need to make lots of notes!!!

Sandra (2011-03-10 13:01:02)

It makes perfect sense.

In retrospect, I should have created a Filo per child to track their memories and information. Their baby books are half full anyway, and the baby memories are fleeting and fading. (my dear children are ages 8, 6, 5, and 3, by the way).

Yes, I can justify purchasing additional ones... ;)

katka (2011-03-10 13:21:41)

I do archive all my filofax pages like this...<http://www.flickr.com/photos/54020897@N02/5004028488/>

I used to use the filofax binders, but let's say it loud...filofax binders suck. You can't open them and list in them. I thought about Laurie way in past, but never had the courage to do it.

Good for you Laurie

I found one great picture on purse forum. Those are not filofaxes, but OMG !!! Unfortunately you can only see it if you log in. But it's worth to register in.

<http://forum.purseblog.com/louis-vuitton-clubhouse/the-agenda-club-4-3043-132.html#post14671968>

Let's say it's like Laurie project in 70 years :o)

Saffy (2011-03-10 15:08:13)

Laurie - I think this is a great idea. Just looking at the binder will remind you of a certain year in your life.

Was it Oni who said it was like a little time capsule of your life?

It would be great to look back on over the years, even the binder colours will show what was 'in' that particular year.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-10 15:37:07)

Great excuse for a new filofax each year!!!! I love the idea of creating a history for your family. You get to choose a great new colour for each year/trip.

Robin (2011-03-10 23:47:38)

I think it's an excellent idea since these binders aren't going to be tossed into some landfill - they will be treasured mementos of a time and place in your life! Even the style and color of the binder will have some association because of its tactile nature. Each one will be part of your "story."

I just read a bit in the book "Creative Journal Writing" that reminded me of you and your Filo collection: "There will be times when you reread something you regarded as 'nothing much' or as dull while you were writing it, if you thought about it at all, and now find something in it that seems astonishingly helpful or new."

Go for it!

Laurie (2011-03-11 03:19:50)

Thanks everyone! I knew I could count on you all to enable (I mean SUPPORT) me in this endeavor! ;)

Robin I love that quote! That always happens to me. At the time, something that seems very mundane later is very revealing of what my life was like at that time in that place.

Crofter, I remember that you have a great planner/ notebook/ journal system, but I forget exactly what it is and how it works. Would you mind telling us all again what you use? Especially, what do you use for your planner? Thank you!!!

Jotje (2011-03-11 04:25:25)

OT@skhen: I know the feeling! So this year I've chosen an XS Moleskine DPP diary and note one or two sentences for each of my kids (they are aged 10,8,6 and 4). It's wonderful. A sentence might not have a great meaning on the day you write it, but looking back from a few weeks you can still relive the specific events. Love that!

I also have a pitiful attention span. I have journal pages in my filofax, and if I don't write everyday, I simply forget about the day. For example: it's impossible for me to remember what 3 days ago was exactly like. Makes me feel I "lost" that day entirely!

@Laurie: wonderful idea! Especially if you decide to stay with the Domino. I can already picture a bookshelf full of bright colored Domino's ...

For what's worth: I wish I only had 1 Filofax for every year. Then I would have 2 or 3 filofaxes right now. Which ... ehm ... I don't.

crofter (2011-03-11 12:22:57)

Hi Laurie and all,

I'd be happy to relate my system, of course there is a risk here of people falling to sleep before they finish!

I use a day timer do2p for my planner. On the left hand page there are spaces for appointments from 0800-2000. Since my days frequently are much longer than that, at times I use FF undated planner pages to supplement that. Below that is the to do list with space for 11 items. If need be I will start another column besides that so in essence I can have 22 items on the to do list. Knowing myself, and my propensity to keep plowing up snakes, I very seldom have more than 8-10 items, just one item that has complications can render the whole list worthless. Items that are completed get a slash through them, items undone get a circle and are transferred to the top of the next days list.

On the facing page is where I make my notes. Appointments get an alpha designation, to dos have the number that they are on the list. If a to do is related to an appointment they get both, for instance A1 and so on. If there are more details than I have room for, that entry also gets a * which means more detail can be found in my journal. I show the journal volume and page number for that day at the bottom of each page. That way, I can quickly and easily find every detail about most things that happen each day.

One thing that I have started doing in just the last few years is supplementing the journal with pictures using the little Polaroid portable printers. The pictures are calling card size and have self adhesive backs so you can put them in wherever you want. Sometimes, pictures really are worth a thousand words.

I don't keep a separate journal for work and home, simply because there are no set hours for either one, they are very much intertwined, as it should be with someone in a agrarian profession.

As a side note, I also use Filofax as a herd record of my cows. Each cow gets her own sheet just like a checking account. Expenses are shown like a check, calf sales are shown as a deposit, and that really shows me which cows are the best and which ones to look very closely at when I am choosing my replacement heifers. But that is a whole different story.

If anyone has questions, I'd be more than happy to answer, as there other details, but in the interest of brevity I don't want to take up to much space.

Laurie (2011-03-11 13:39:58)

Thank you crofter for the insight into your system! I love your Filofax system for tracking your cows, I'm intrigued by the way it easily shows who is producing well and who isn't. And I absolutely love the small photos idea, I've never heard of those but I may have to find such a thing to add in my journal.

Not to probe you too much, but how do you archive your DayTimer pages? Do you bundle them annually? Thanks!!

And PS this just shows the extreme flexibility of Filofax that people of so many different lifestyles and professions can use a Filofax to keep themselves organized!

Crofter, would you be interested in doing a guest post on Plannerisms with the full details of your system? If you can be bothered to write it all out, I would love to have an entire post about it.

caribbean princess (2011-03-11 17:16:56)

Oh Crofter say yes please to Laurie! It would be fascinating to read. :-)

crofter (2011-03-11 18:34:35)

Hello again,

Yes I archive, and have them all back to the early 70's. I never could get to excited about bundling. To me, an archive should be one that is easily accessible from which you can go back and pull information from easily and

quickly. A bundle would be as useless to do that with as a boat anchor would be, and would weigh approximately the same. I use the FC 3" binders, they come in two colors, burgundy and black. I use the burgundy for planners, and black for everything else. I have a whole book shelf full of them as you can imagine going back that many years. Each is dated and kept in chronological order.

Why archive? Here is a quote.

"For want of records, much information is continually lost. Though many many individuals have derived advantages to themselves from experiments, but few have recorded them. Even those that make experiments are liable to forget them so as to give incorrect representations when they try to relate them."

Lennard E. Lathrop 1826

This from my commonplace book in, yep, you guessed it, another Filofax.

Laurie, I would be glad to do a guest post for you, it might be awhile as this is a very busy time of year, but I will be in touch when I have something ready for you.

Jotje (2011-03-12 03:09:26)

Yay for a guest blog from Crofter. I hope it contains LOTS of pictures from your Filofax insides!

dapv (2011-06-25 15:27:44)

I'm arriving at the party a bit late, but this is great!! I cannot wait to show my wife this thread. She thinks I'm the king of rationalization, but I am humbled by this thread. I bow to the greatness herein.

I'm new to FF and have a basic newbie question. I guess it's a bit off topic. I'm trying to decide between a black Finsbury Slimline and a black Finsbury Personal. While I'm confident you could spin me a story to get both and have me convinced, my question is does anyone find the larger rings in the Personal intrusive when writing? My dilemma is the Slimline's rings are a bit small, but I don't want to be bothered while writing by the larger rings of the Personal. Thank you.

SNARLing: (2011-06-25 19:01:16)

dear dapv - i just bought a compact chameleon in black. the compacts have 15mm rings (slimline 11mm; personals - 23mm) i love the compact! not too thin, not too thick. and the rings are close enough that it's not too bothersome while writing. from my understanding, this year there are 5 compact styles offered - the chameleon being the least expensive. i think the leather is similar to the finsbury it just has a sort of snakeskin embossing as opposed to a pebbled leather embossing. i think it works well for either male or female. i have pictures of it in my flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/aliceklar/sets/72157626997088920/>

i have a slimline finsbury as well from awhile back that i love - it's just a little small. being somewhat new to filofax, i would go for the compact first and see how that works - you can always sell it later if you don't like it and get a new one...or just get a new one heh heh

dapv (2011-06-26 12:02:44)

Thank you, SNARLing, very helpful. I do like the Compact, and assume it takes the same paper as the Slimline and Personal. I will let you know. Best regards.

Free for All Friday No. 121 (2011-03-11 00:00)

Today's FFAF is brought to you by the letter...F!

Some Filofax leaves are all FUN and GAMES. For example, they have games like Noughts and Crosses (Tic Tac Toe), word puzzles, and so on. The City Dweller pack contains some game leaves.

Of course, printed games aren't the only way you can have fun with a Filofax. When my nephew was a toddler, he thought it was fun to pull my Pocket Filo out of my handbag and bang it on the floor.

What's the most FUN you've ever had with (or because of) a Filofax?

Of course, this being FREE for all Friday, you're free to be inspired by other F words as well.

Soraya Leila (2011-03-11 01:39:28)

I used to have hours of fun with my Filofaxes when I was a child - that's where my Filofax obsession started!

Iris (2011-03-11 06:59:16)

Using my Filofax is always great fun!

Kate (2011-03-11 07:34:11)

F for fantastic! I have acquired an amethyst Deco in pocket and personal sizes with colour matched papers from maudiemade on Etsy (found through this site). The pocket is my book filofax and the personal is my everyday one. I love both of them.

Laurie (2011-03-11 09:54:13)

Hey this is slightly off the Fun topic, but if you haven't seen this month's Carnival of Pen Pencil and Paper yet, go check it out!

<http://notesinabook.wordpress.com/2011/03/08/the-march-carnival/>

Steve's excellent post on Time Management - Diary Options is featured, as is my recent post about my Moleskine weekly notebook. There's loads of other great posts about paper and writing implements, something fun to read on a Friday! :)

Yvotchka (2011-03-11 11:03:19)

My F is for Fashion. Since I have apparently found a home with Filofax Pocket, all I do now is change out the binders for color/texture based on what outfit or handbag I will be wearing!

That sounds horribly vapid, I know, but it has been FUN accumulating Pocket Filos (of which my collection was lacking) to switch in and out of :)

Lame. But that's how I'm rollin' today!

Livelovelaugh (2011-03-11 12:08:40)

F is for frustration! I am not sure if I should be posting this on FFAF or as a question on Wednesday!...but here goes. I am really really bored with the BORING week to 2 page view from Filofax. I love the layout, blank pages, big blocked sections for each day BUT hate the boring font and colour. I have been using a Filofax for over 20 years now and that is a long time with exactly the same pages. I have checked out DayTimer which are heavenly with their colours and font/patterns etc but I don't like the lines or times printed on them. Are there any other sites out there that offer different diary refills? I use a personal size btw. Thanks!!

Livelovelaugh (2011-03-11 12:09:35)

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Butanben (2011-03-11 12:23:18)

Surely F is for Vive La Filofax France Steve!!!!

Steve (2011-03-11 12:40:21)

Yes Viva la Filofax France... indeed..

But my F is for Fascination. I've become fascinated by the way our readers all use their Filofax organisers for different things. You are a great source of ideas and inspiration to others I think.

But to sign off I would like to have some thoughts for any of our readers in Japan today. I know at least one reader there and I'm pleased to say that she and her family are safe.

My thoughts are with everyone there at the moment, hoping you are safe and well.

Savannah (2011-03-11 15:13:06)

Livelovelaugh-

Try Day Runner weekly Nature, Inspire or Poetica.

Laurie (2011-03-11 15:58:51)

Savannah did you see my post on Plannerisms, I got the Moleskine Info book like you recommended and it's great!

Thanks for the suggestion.

<http://www.plannerisms.com/2011/03/moleskine-info-book.html>

caribbean princess (2011-03-11 17:14:32)

F is for fabulous, like the Deco and the lovely Philofaxy community :-)

My prayers go out to those in Japan who are dealing with such tragedy.

Nan (2011-03-11 20:16:07)

@livelovelaugh There are lots of options for the Personal (B6) size. Check out our Links page for some of the manufacturers.

Petra (2011-03-11 22:58:59)

Livelovelaugh, I have used the Serenity from DayTimer and although it does have lines and times, the lines are very faint and the times are down the left side where they can be ignored. I love the Flavia inserts, but don't like the times right down the middle of each day. I solve it by having my monthly and address sections from Flavia – then it doesn't matter what the weekly is since I have my color "fix"!

Savannah (2011-03-12 10:21:19)

Laurie- I love it. Indiana Jones goes to Indonesia. I'm happy that you like it and hope this portable little cutie serves you well.

Laurie (2011-03-12 10:23:47)

Thanks Savannah! :)

Butanben (2011-03-13 07:49:49)

I too would like to add my prayers and thoughts to the people of Japan today, and those who have relatives, friends and colleagues in the earthquake regions. So glad that Philofaxy friends and their families have checked in safe so far Steve.

Web Finds (2011-03-12 00:00)

Some of the posts I've discovered this week:

- [1]Nothing New in Time Management - 2Time
- [2]Filofax Love - Miss Kirsty's
- [3]Filofax Pens - Shazza
- [4]How to be an Organisation Goddess - Happy Brittany
- [5]How to start being organised - Michelle
- [6]Time for bright lipstick - Elaine

Enjoy

1. <http://www.2time-sys.com/2011/03/11/nothing-new-in-time-management/>
2. <http://misskirsty.blogspot.com/2011/03/filofax-love.html>
3. <http://shazzastitching.wordpress.com/2011/03/10/filofax-pens/>
4. <http://brittanytoll.blogspot.com/2011/03/how-to-be-organization-goddess.html>
5. <http://michellemay.co.uk/blog/2011/03/how-to-start-being-organised/>
6. <http://elainehanzak.blogspot.com/2011/03/time-for-bright-lipstick.html>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY STEVE!!! (2011-03-12 05:29)

Our friend Steve, Philofaxy blogger extraordinaire, is celebrating his birthday today! Please join me in wishing him a wonderful birthday, and many many more happy years to come! Have a wonderful birthday Steve! :)

caribbean princess (2011-03-12 05:46:07)

Happy 20th birthday Steve! I am counting in Philofaxy units. Hehe!
Hope you are doing something nice today.

appleg (2011-03-12 05:47:38)

Have a good one Steve! :)

tommess-net (2011-03-12 06:00:12)

A very happy Bithday, Steve! Have a wonderful day...
Thomas

Saffy (2011-03-12 06:35:20)

Happy birthday Steve, hope you have a fabulous day, and get lovely pressies. Filofax related perhaps?

Steve (2011-03-12 07:17:55)

Wow, thanks guys, I wasn't expecting this.
Yes I'm 25 today if you reverse the numbers!!
You have just made my day even more special, many thanks.

Nellie (2011-03-12 07:28:59)

Happy Birthday! Have a wonderful day!

Nan (2011-03-12 07:30:43)

Happy birthday! Have a great day and don't forget to write "26" in next year's diary!

joffreyca (2011-03-12 08:16:50)

Steve: Happy cakes and gifts day! :-) Hope you'll get that special something that you've always wanted.

crofter (2011-03-12 08:41:04)

Happy Birthday Steve!!!

Hope it is a special day for you, do something fun, buy a great bottle of wine, and just enjoy!
I appreciate all your efforts at bringing are ever growing community together. Thank you!

Yvotchka (2011-03-12 08:56:30)
Happy Birthday Steve! May it be wine o'clock all the day long ;)

gdigesu (2011-03-12 09:08:56)
Steve, happy birthday!

Sandra (2011-03-12 09:09:49)
Happy birthday, Steve! Thank you for your diligence and dedication to this site and community.
Enjoy this 22nd anniversary of your 30th birthday! ;)

SNARLing: (2011-03-12 09:20:04)
happy birthday! hope you have a good day and a great year

Minnie (2011-03-12 09:39:26)
Happy Birthday Steve! hope you're enjoying it to the max!

nickynic (2011-03-12 09:50:18)
Happy Birthday Steve! Have a lovely day. Cheers!

Alannarama (2011-03-12 10:15:24)
happy birthday steve! :) hope you have a lovely day!

justenoughsalt (2011-03-12 10:43:59)
congrats on turning 25 steve! wishing you a happy birthday filled with prancing filofaxes!

D (2011-03-12 11:30:48)
Happy Birthday, Steve! Enjoy your day.

J (2011-03-12 12:54:01)
Happy Birthday, Steve! Thanks for all your hard work building this awesome community!
Have a great day (and year)!!!

Amanda (2011-03-12 12:58:15)
Happy birthday Steve! Hope you're having a great day with lots of love and presents!
Amanda

Soraya Leila (2011-03-12 13:39:33)
Happy Birthday! Have lots of what you like best! X

Robin (2011-03-12 14:00:52)
Happy Birthday* seems far too simple, but as you can see from myself and all your cyber-cohorts, it is heartfelt!
I hope you have a memorable day!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-12 15:43:13)
21 again Steve? Happy Birthday from me too - hope you have been enjoying a great day!

cgarsnrealest8 (2011-03-12 16:16:42)
Happy Birthday Steve! Keep up the good work.

Butanben (2011-03-12 16:49:02)
Right then.... all together Philofaxers!!!
Happy Birthday to You
Happy Birthday to You
Happy Birthday dear Stevieeeee,

Happy Birthday to You !!!
Tra la la la !!!
None of us could forget, we've Filofaxed the date!!!

katka (2011-03-12 18:31:25)
Happy birthday !!! My sister has also birthday today :o)

Thank You (2011-03-12 16:04)



[1]

Hi Everyone.

Thank you to each and everyone of you for all your messages and comments on my [2]birthday today. I couldn't wish for a better bunch of people to be associated with.

You are such a brilliant community. Thank you.

I've had a great day, with home-made carrot cake for birthday cake this afternoon.

We have friends over for lunch tomorrow, so we will continue the celebration tomorrow.

And now I have to live up to all your kind messages and thoughts with some awesome posts in the next few days/weeks. Well it's two weeks until the London Philofaxy meet-up which should be fairly awesome! Looking forward it even more now.

Take care everyone and again thank you.

Steve

1. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-trWGdver7e4/TGmo5ApBYDI/AAAAAAAAIJ8/kk4KQCsc_R0/s1600/WWParty+221.jpg
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/03/happy-birthday-steve.html>

Femke (2011-03-12 16:32:21)
Happy birthday!

pilgrim (2011-03-12 18:36:40)

Sorry it's a bit late, but Happy Birthday Steve and thanks for all your help, hints and above all enthusiasm for helping and organizing us fellow Filofaxers.

It really is appreciated and my Philofaxy RSS feed is what I turn to first when I log on in the morning

Regards

Pilgrim (Andy)

girlinmaths (2011-03-13 08:05:55)

I am late too, but happy birthday! Have a nice lunch today.

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-13 16:19:18)

Sorry this is a little late! Just popped on to wish you a happy birthday! Hope you had a great day.

Filofreak (2011-03-14 00:29:51)

Happy Birthday Steve! sorry I'm late in the wishes but hope you had a fabulous day!

gdigesu (2011-03-14 01:03:31)

A pity I can't speak German.

David Popely (2011-03-14 03:55:59)

A very happy belated birthday to you Steve - I trust your weekend was full of good things and good company. Although late. my best wishes go to you, as always!

angela (2011-03-14 05:34:03)

Two days late - sorry!

Happy birthday! Hope you had a good weekend celebrating it :]

Web Finds (2011-03-13 19:36)

So in between eating some lovely [1]birthday cake! I was sent some links to some excellent posts on the internet:

- [2]Is this the most adorable Filofax you have ever seen?
- [3]Moving in to a Malden - Again
- [4]Planner Crisis Part 3.... Help!
- [5]How to order your To Do lists
- [6]Filofax Hamilton
- [7]Filofax Richmond
- [8]Filofax Adelphi Purse
- [9]Happiness Binder

Enjoy.

1. <http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/3229/yummy-scrummy-carrot-cake>
2. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/moslive/article-1253755/Keep-blackberry-Even-Gordon-Gekko-didnt-filofax-like-Berluti-Macassar.html>
3. <http://audsalley.blogspot.com/2011/03/moving-into-malden-again.html>
4. <http://louloudorsetsmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/planner-crisis-part-trois.html>
5. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/phd-planning-102-how-to-organise-your.html>
6. <http://filomaniac.blogspot.com/2011/03/more-oldies-but-goldies-1-hamilton.html>
7. <http://filomaniac.blogspot.com/2011/03/more-oldies-but-goldies-2-richmond.html>
8. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/my-lovely-adelphi-purse.html>
9. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/2011/03/happiness-binder-big-reveal.html>

justenoughsalt (2011-03-13 23:27:07)

WOAH!!! that Berluti...i have no words

lisa (2011-03-14 05:40:42)

Just wanted to say how much i love your blog, ive started using my filofax again and ive jst done a posting on my blog about it
thecherrypiefamily.blogspot.com

Do you think you have to work fulltime and be a very busy person to need one ?, im a stay at home mum but still find it nessecery and it keeps me on track.

Laurie (2011-03-14 05:53:36)

Lisa I love your Filofax! I am also a stay at home mom and I could not cope without my planner. With multiple family members to keep track of and seemingly endless tasks every day, I have to write everything down to keep it all straight!

Butanben (2011-03-14 08:48:49)

Ohhh that Berluti really is a stunner!!! When I win the biggie lottery, think it will be Berluti's on my first gift list for moi and friends!!! Sigh!!! Steve, loved your birthday cake recipe. Shame I am allergic to oranges, or I'd have given it a whirl. Maybe I could make it into a ginger cake instead with that yummy looking drizzly icing!!! Of course a cup of Assam would be in order too!!!

Steve (2011-03-14 09:03:01)

Yes we will finish off (or should that be demolish!) the last of the carrot cake this afternoon.
The recipe is in this weeks Radio Times magazine. Yes we get it sent out each week!

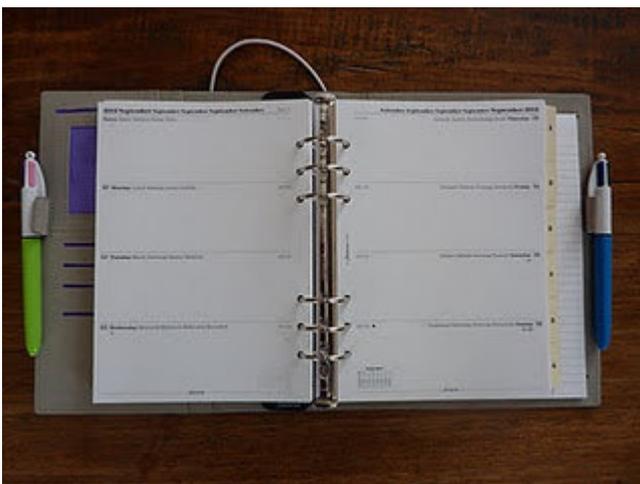
caribbean princess (2011-03-14 17:01:10)

The Berluti is great isn't it? Absolutely beautiful. Lisa I am going over to your blog to say hello!

kanalt (2011-03-15 09:44:51)

I LOVE that Berluti. It would make a great reference binder (which I'm currently working on).
I love these web finds posts, but I always end up adding several new blogs to my reader. I'm going to have to quit my job to keep up with all the Filo blogs out there!

8 ink colors in one Filofax! (2011-03-14 08:54)



[1]

Because my A5 Domino has two pen holders, I can put both my Bic 4-color pens in the original colors (black/ red/ blue/ green) and the fashion colors (purple/ pink/ turquoise/ bright green) in my Filofax! The color-coding combinations are endless!
And yes I do realize what a huge geek I am! ;)

1. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-wHQ1P_rdjiE/TXuKKvhkB1I/AAAAAAAAABuo/nlFLIQfwrSQ/s1600/Diaries+2010+359.jpg

Steve (2011-03-14 09:01:18)

Neat idea Laurie. It almost sounds like the line from a song... or it should be!

SNARLing: (2011-03-14 09:04:12)

geek? are you serious? practical is more like it!!! can you imagine having to carry around 8 pens??? i am such a fan of the multi-pen in the filofax and 2 of them are even better!!! i, in fact, ordered 2 more multi-pens last week - (pilot coletto's) one of them with the mid-grade plastic case to house a .03 AND a .05 pencil (if they had a .07, i would get that too) an eraser and a colour (i'm thinking .05 black gel ink) the other is the cheaper case that holds 5 colours where i will put apple green, clear blue, apricot, orange and pink - .04 gel inks... how's that for 'practical' heh heh

appleg (2011-03-14 09:18:38)

I loved my mutipens before i started using the frixion pens. Like Laurie, i love loads and loads of colors in my Filofax! But since using the frixion pens, i couldn't go back to using regular inks.. wish Pilot would make muti-Frixion-pens!

J (2011-03-14 12:02:54)

This is purely awesome. Not geeky at all!!!

lisa (2011-03-14 12:05:57)

Love all the colours , i like my planner to be bright and cheerful !

LJ (2011-03-14 15:32:05)

OMG - I didn't know you could get those in fashion colours now. Will have to get the next person visiting me to bring some over. Definitely something I can't live without. Will have to get 2 so I can have one for my A4 Metropole that I have just ordered for work, and the other for my personal Finsbury in aqua - too cute :o)

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-14 16:22:08)

Sounds perfectly reasonable to me (but I LOVE different colour pens!!!). Just seen the post with your new set-up... look forward to reading an update as to how your new system is working for you.

kayleena (2011-03-14 18:01:47)

I can't get the fashion colours in Canada....but I totally love the idea...

My tabs setup in my new A5 Domino (2011-03-14 09:50)

I set up my tabs in [1]my new A5 Domino this weekend. I previously [2]posted about letting my Filofax evolve organically, and that has worked for the most part.

I realized quickly that most of my standard info needed to go in right away like family addresses and phone numbers, and accessories like my world map, sticky notes and calculator.

Many of my standard tabs went in, but some tabs that I used to have in my Personal Filofax didn't get reproduced in my A5 because I don't need them now.

I used the colored sticky flags from the Filofax sticky notes accessory to label the numbered tabs that came pre-loaded in my A5. To create the purple color for the Me section I layered a pink sticky over a blue sticky.

You can see my tabs setup below (click on the photo for a larger view):



[3]

Near the front of the book I have an **Emergency** tab, where I will keep emergency contact numbers and information for medical and car insurance. In a country where you can't dial 911 or 999 in an emergency, I need to have my entire list of emergency numbers easily accessible.

Next is a **Planner** tab, behind which is the Filofax year at a glance, month on 2 pages and weekly planner pages. I have weekly planner pages all the way through the end of 2012, and as soon as I can I'll get a 2012 monthly calendar too. This section is very thick with almost 2 years' worth of pages, but I like being able to plan so far ahead so I'm willing to deal with the bulk and weight.

After the thick Planner section, the tabs start from the top again. Right now each section only contains a page or two, but I will add pages as I need them. The tabs are:

Lists contains my to-do lists, projects and other ongoing things.

Me right now holds my strength training regimen, and I plan to add Goals and inspirational quotes into this section.

Blogs is a new tab in my setup. I realized it's nice to have a handy place to write down post ideas and keep lists of what's been posted and what's yet to post.

International is a standard tab for me, where I keep my world map and other maps, frequent flier and hotel rewards numbers, and other info I need when traveling or making reservations.

Indonesia is a new section, for my new place. I plan to keep all local contacts and info consolidated here.

Financial is also a standard tab for me, but one that normally gets rarely used. This time I plan to really use it to keep track of bank accounts, expenditures, and savings. My Filofax calculator lives on the rings directly behind the Financial tab, which I find extremely handy.

Behind that are my address tabs and pages, then my clear zip-pocket, a clear top-opening pocket, and a business card holder page, all of which are empty right now.

Because I have from now through the end of next year's monthly and weekly pages already in my Filofax, it's pretty thick already. As the year goes on, I know I'll be adding pages in the tabbed sections. There's still plenty of room on the Domino's huge rings, but I have to decide whether I want to lug around such a big and heavy book. Something I've considered is removing August-December 2012, which would lighten it up a fair amount and still take me through the end of the next school year.

I am really enjoying my new Filofax! Stay tuned for updates! :)

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/03/my-a5-domino-filofax-in-new-ultra.html>

2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/03/setting-up-new-filofax.html>

3. <https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-z471T2i2pb0/TXuFCHBj4hI/AAAAAAAAABuk/rEQapPUehc0/s1600/Diaries+2010+361.jpg>

Femke (2011-03-14 10:04:26)

Since I just got my Snake Domino, I was thinking of using that instead of my Personal, but lugging it around would be so difficult! You've giving me some inspiration, though, so thanks!

Steve (2011-03-14 18:28:18)

Since moving to France and stopping my previous career, I think I will reinvent my A5 so that it fits more with my new life here in France.

I have a Finsbury A5, the main advantage of course being the larger ring size which I think it shares with the Domino, to it can hold a lot of pages!

I'm looking forward to sitting down with it over the next few weeks and deciding what sections I need.

Thanks Laurie for the inspiration.

Smiler (2011-03-24 18:50:54)

I've just seen the Domino's going fairly cheap in the WH Smiths sale (£18!!!), and I think this may have sold me on it. I didn't even think how easy it would be to just use normal A5 tabs, and use a hole puncher.

I can see tomorrow being a very expensive shopping day!

Quo Vadis Timer 21 (A5 Filofax) inserts from Steve! (2011-03-14 14:03)

Many huge thanks to Steve for very kindly sending me his Quo Vadis Timer 21 inserts from France!! Thank you Steve!

Steve recently upgraded to his A4 Filofax and didn't need these A5 size inserts any more, and very generously offered to send them to me. I'm currently completely in love with^[1] my new A5 Domino, and he knew I would really like this diary insert to put into it. When he offered to send the pages to me, of course I said I would be thrilled to have them but only if he was absolutely sure he wouldn't want them. He assured me that he doesn't need them and sent them out to me right away.

There has been much speculation in the past months as to whether the Quo Vadis Timer 21 inserts might just be my perfect planner solution: the size and format I love most (same format as my Quo Vadis^[2] Trinote planner which has worked so well for me in the past) with the flexibility of my Filofax. Could this be **The One**??



[3]

The Timer 21 inserts fit my A5 Filofax perfectly, after Steve went to all the trouble to punch holes to fit the Filofax rings. He did a beautiful job with the hole-punching, and the pages are perfectly centered in my Filofax. None of the holes are close to the other holes or to the page edge, so I have no worries of tearing through.

You may remember Steve's posts here on Philofaxy and guest post over on my blog Plannerisms about the Timer 21 inserts, but if you don't here they are for your reference:

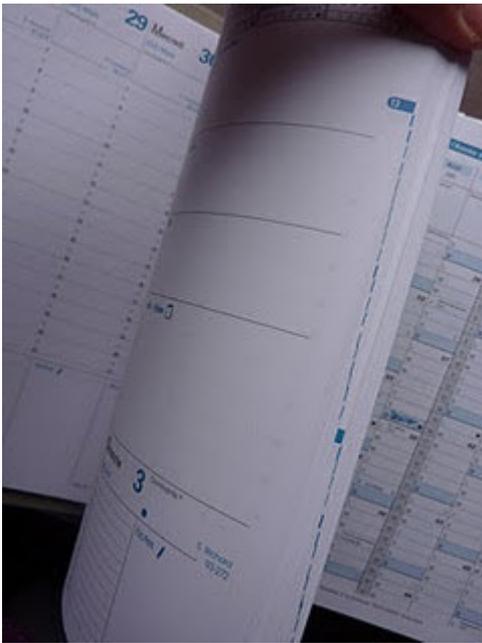
Steve's post here on Philofaxy^[4] Alternative Refills for your Filofax shows the Timer 21 inserts and explains how he did the hole-punching.

Steve's guest post on Plannerisms^[5] Planners Without Frontiers has much of the same information but more info on the company and how it got started.

In Steve's Philofaxy post [6]All change! he talks about the 3 sizes of Quo Vadis inserts that are compatible with Filofax binders (Timer 14=Pocket, Timer 17=Personal, Timer 21=A5) and the various formats they come in.

So let me show you some photos of these inserts in my A5 Domino. First of all, I knew I loved the weekly format like I said from using my Trinote with the same weekly format. But what I didn't consider before is that these diary inserts also come complete with loads of other excellent features.

Colored areas at the edge of the page make it easy to find specific weeks:



[7]

The anno-planning pages I love for this year and next year are very handy, and saved me from having to buy the vertical pull-out Filofax calendar for next year:



[8]

There is a page showing other Quo Vadis inserts, to tempt me!



[11]

Here is a side-by-side comparison of the Quo Vadis and Filofax pages. Click on the photo for a larger, more dramatic view. The first thing I noticed is that the ultra-white, thick, super-smooth Quo Vadis paper (left) makes the Filofax paper look not so nice in comparison. Quo Vadis is famous for their gorgeous paper which is designed for use with fountain pens. Another thing to consider is that Quo Vadis paper is acid-free, but Filofax paper is not which could be an issue for those of us who like to archive our pages forever.



[12]

Here's the photo of the Timer 21 layout again, and I'll discuss features of it:



[13]

As I noted before, I loved using this weekly layout in my [14]Trinote with the Notes spaces each day and the categorized list boxes at the right. I thought it would bother me that it's in French, but it doesn't at all. Really I look more at the position of the days across the page than the name of the day anyway, and I know my days in French so it's fine. I love the other features too like the handy reference calendars with the weeks highlighted, and moon phases on the day spaces.

In the past, despite it working so well for me, I've been not completely satisfied with the bound-book Trinote because it doesn't have monthly pages or enough notes pages. This is solved in my Filofax. I have the format, features and gorgeous paper of my Trinote, with the flexibility of my Filofax! This is extremely exciting!

The only question will be, is the A5 book too big and bulky? Or will the convenience of having my ideal format and all the pages I want "outweigh" the weight and bulk of the book?

I've learned the hard way in the past not to change planners while I'm preparing to move, so I'll keep using my Quo Vadis Minister planner for the rest of the week. The movers come Thursday and Friday, and our going-away party is Saturday so by next Monday all the moving preparations will be finished—which means starting a new planner is fair game! One week from today I'll officially move into my A5 Domino with Timer 21 inserts. But as we all know, preparation is required so I'll be filling in upcoming events etc.

And finally, let me just say this: I know I'm emotional right now with all the moving upheaval and all, but Steve's thoughtfulness and generosity in sending me this makes me a little bit teary! Thank you Steve!

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/03/my-a5-domino-filofax-in-new-ultra.html>
2. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2010/08/planner-that-saved-my-sanity-quo-vadis.html>
3. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-iKug61PT1Sk/TX4tIUZLrJI/AAAAAAAAABvI/L3_Ea-_dkTo/s1600/Diaries+2010+370.jpg
4. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/09/alternative-refills-for-your-filofax.html>
5. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2010/09/planners-without-frontiers-steve-morton.html>
6. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/10/all-change.html>
7. <https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-lqL4YXDa2CQ/TX4tUFgtSRI/AAAAAAAAABvU/Ry4coAAQdx0/s1600/Diaries+2010+371.jpg>
8. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-V07_6xnYTHA/TX4tmHRWafI/AAAAAAAAABvY/dBuKnIJLuzk/s1600/Diaries+2010+372.jpg
9. <https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-afY25DXZ4z8/TX4t0pfnvBI/AAAAAAAAABvc/oQTYU5lqREQ/s1600/Diaries+2010+373.jpg>
10. <https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-YkRDgMagrr4/TX4uDpN5tiI/AAAAAAAAABvg/8G8gvTH59VE/s1600/Diaries+2010+374.jpg>
11. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-OUKxaufhpT8/TX4uSCqGPeI/AAAAAAAAABvo/UWVK6_1vW8M/s1600/Diaries+2010+375.jpg
12. <https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-jQVScUODQ10/TX4uioztYaI/AAAAAAAAABvs/zTprjhU0hE0/s1600/Diaries+2010+376.jpg>

376.jpg

13. [https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-iKug6lPTlSk/TX4tIUZLrJI/AAAAAAAAABvI/L3_Ea-_dkTo/s1600/Diaries+2010+](https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-iKug6lPTlSk/TX4tIUZLrJI/AAAAAAAAABvI/L3_Ea-_dkTo/s1600/Diaries+2010+370.jpg)

370.jpg

14. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2010/08/planner-that-saved-my-sanity-quo-vadis.html>

Amanda (2011-03-14 15:12:16)

I must say, these look like possibly the perfect format for me. Are they only available in France? Can they be ordered via the web?

Good luck with the move Laurie - hope all goes well.

Steve (2011-03-14 15:50:22)

Hi Amanda.

Yes these are mainly available from France only.

But you can order them in UK as well.

See here:

http://www.quivadis-diaries.co.uk/acatalog/TIMER_17_-_French_.html

You can also order them from Amazon France:

See here:

[http://www.amazon.fr/s?ie=UTF8&keywords=Quo %20Vadis %20Timer &index=blended](http://www.amazon.fr/s?ie=UTF8&keywords=Quo+%20Vadis+%20Timer&index=blended)

Although their prices are considerably higher than what I paid in my local newsagent for the inserts. May be I should go in to the export business!

Steve (2011-03-14 16:44:15)

I'm very pleased that Laurie is going to try out the Timer 21 inserts. I hope it proves successful for her.

If you have seen Laurie's blog post on Plannerisms, the Timer 17 will be up against some stiff competition... bring it on!!

<http://www.plannerisms.com/2011/03/upcoming-planner-battle-filofax-vs.html>

Amanda (2011-03-16 16:32:12)

Thanks Steve! Had a quick look on the first link - is it the refill that I should get (when 2012 one comes out)?

There are no pictures or anything to be able to tell, but I'm guessing the others (Vlub and Soho) include binders?

And on Amazon, is it the timer 21 planning (rather than timer 21 prestige)?

Sorry for all the questions!

Many thanks,

Amanda

Steve (2011-03-16 16:37:32)

Hi Amanda

The Timer 21 Planner and Timer 21 Prestige are slightly different in content and layout the Prestige is more a cotton cream in colour and rather than the different notes boxes on the right hand side it has one large note box.

I will try and find some links to show you the differences..

Steve

Amanda (2011-03-16 16:42:48)

Ah... one large box would be better than more, smaller ones... and cream? I may well end up in heaven...

What's your export charge??

:-)

Steve (2011-03-16 16:52:52)

Here they are:

<http://quivadis.eu/site/page-collection/agendas/organiseurs/>

Steve

Steve (2011-03-16 16:54:16)

And places to purchase on line if you don't live in France:

<http://quovadis.eu/infos-pratiques/ou-acheter/>

Steve

Amanda (2011-03-16 17:02:32)

Thanks Steve... Ah, now I look at them, the appointments bit is too small for me on the presige, but I do still like the "planing"

Sunday sure is a day of rest in France, huh?

Steve (2011-03-16 17:07:31)

Sunday (dimanche) is certainly a day of rest here, no shops open, apart from the bakery in the morning, but it's very different to UK in terms of shopping. A lot of shops close for two hours for lunch. Although our local supermarket is open all day.. but not Sundays! Alot of businesses if they open on Saturdays they don't open on Mondays.

I've got used to it now, but it can be frustrating when you first come here!

Amanda (2011-03-16 17:17:29)

I've spent many a happy holiday in northern France and remember the utter lack of activity on a Sunday! We arrived once and needed to fill up with petrol on a Sunday... not a chance! Good job we weren't needing to go any further that day! There used to be a great ferry service from Rosyth (near Edinburgh) to Zeebrugge which was our way of getting to France (indirectly) with the least hassle (and coming home we were an hour and half of the ferry, rather than a day's drive through Britain).

Loved my vacations in France!

Steve (2011-03-16 17:54:21)

Filling up with fuel isn't a problem, you can use your bank card 24/7! But there used to be problems with non-French cards at petrol stations, I'm not sure if this is a problem still.

We are in Deux Sevres, south of the Loire.

Amanda (2011-03-17 05:54:27)

It was quite a few years ago and 'petrol pump says no' when we tried to use bank or credit cards! This was in rural Brittany. The last time we were there (when the £ to euro made it more viable and the Rosyth-Zeebrugge ferry still took passengers...) it was okay.

Filofax UK - New Designs and Colours - Now available (2011-03-14 17:06)

So the eagle eyed ones amongst our readership will have spotted the new items that appeared on their website today.

They include:

- [1]A5 Malden, although not in stock on line. It is available in Neal Street
- [2]A5 Chameleon, in new colours Brown and Aqua
- The Apex, in [3]Personal and [4]Pocket sizes
- [5]Metropol in Lavender

I'm sure you will be looking forward to these new additions.

1. <http://tidd.ly/b1b0e8f7>
2. <http://tidd.ly/50106c8f>
3. <http://tidd.ly/affa605f>
4. <http://tidd.ly/eb16c903>
5. <http://tidd.ly/cbc48ec5>

Annie (2011-03-14 17:21:35)

I don't need a pink Apex...I don't need a pink Apex...I don't need a pink Apex...

caribbean princess (2011-03-14 17:22:11)

Oh I am such an addict.Under the pretense of educating a soon to be public health registrar about filofaxes I had a good browse at lunchtime. I am not keen on the aqua chameleon (will need to see in person) but the vintage pink malden looks lovely.

I really hate the Apex! What were they thinking?

caribbean princess (2011-03-14 17:22:55)

@ Annie oops sorry!

Am I forgiven?

Annie (2011-03-14 17:27:03)

@caribbean princess hahaa, you are forgiven, considering I like it because it looks weird. I don't get on with my Domino with the elastic strap, so I'm telling myself I can't get an Apex as it will have the same issues.

caribbean princess (2011-03-14 17:30:25)

@ Annie, :-)I think I don't like it because it is so weird! If you aren't keen on the Domino elastic then you may not like that feature on the Apex. The lavender metropol is pretty and affordable though!

Annie (2011-03-14 17:36:34)

@caribbean princess The Lavander Metropol is very sweet, but I'll be sticking with my Purple Finchley. I spent a lot of money and hassle getting her, so I'm not about to buy a new binder any time soon, no matter how tempting they are!

Katie (2011-03-14 17:40:18)

It's such a shame that the green Apex has a pink clasp! I've been hoping for a nice green filofax to get my dad for ages :(

Louloudorset (2011-03-14 17:41:44)

Ooh is the Vintage Pink Malden not available in Personal size? Very sad face....

On the plus side this could be a new work Filo...hmmm watch out Neal Street :)

Butanben (2011-03-14 19:26:22)

@ Annie,

I too am trying self- talk, and self-hypnosis!!!! As in I don't need a vintage pink Malden, I don't need a vintage pink Malden, I don't need a vintage pink Malden!!!

PS- I had a Domino personal many moons ago, and fell out of love with the stretch strap too!!!!

justenoughsalt (2011-03-14 23:52:29)

@katie have you thought about a green windsor? i have one in the personal style i like it.

here is one on ebay that ended recently

http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/Green-leather-pocket-Windsor-Filofax-/30052258_9982_#ht_500wt_1071
and mine

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/justenoughsalt/4797719584/>

i really like the look of the apex though like you i wish they had gone with something other than pink as the accent color

Katie (2011-03-15 03:42:16)

@Colie Thank you! I'll have to have a look out for another going on sale

Laurie (2011-03-15 06:43:41)

I've already promised myself that if I'm still using my A5 Filofax as my planner by summer I'll get an A5 Malden in Vintage Pink. There's incentive to stick with my Filofax!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-15 07:20:04)

Well theoretically it should save me a fortune - but I really don't like any of the new colourways or binders and I am in mourning over some of the filo's they have dropped. I'm obviously not on the same wave length as their designer!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-15 07:21:20)

Well theoretically it should save me a fortune - but I really don't like any of the new colourways or binders and I am in mourning over some of the filo's they have dropped. I'm obviously not on the same wave length as their designer!

Jotje (2011-03-15 09:49:55)

Same here, Alison. Maybe I have outgrown their current target group ...

Loulou: the Personal Malden in Vintage Pink is going to come, but maybe at a later stage?

R (2011-03-15 14:35:38)

For those of you that you have out grown the current trend , i suggest looking at the Aston it's very smiliar to the Finsbury but with a little more accents in the leather the scarlet (purple) has contrasting light pink stitching. The Apex i think they are targeting more of the college and university kids with it.

Amanda (2011-03-16 15:41:07)

Hmmm... I'm mostly with Alison, and definitely with CP - I don't like the Apex...

But...

The Malden in A5... leather **and** 30mm rings... hmmm... might be tempted.

Butanben (2011-03-18 16:19:05)

Only positive about the Apex is that it has an academic year diary grrrrrrrrrr!!!! Why oh why is this not available from Filofax for other binders I wonder???? Have had to buy one from WH Smith!!!! On that note, as @ R says it is possibly because the Apex is targeted at student users.

Free For All Tuesday No 6 (2011-03-15 00:00)



[1]

So what questions do you have for us this week?

justenoughsalt (2011-03-15 00:10:57)

why do people like the winchesters SO much?

AND

what in the world did i do before i learned about this blog? no seriously...what did i do?

Jotje (2011-03-15 03:21:36)

I think the appeal of the Winchester is their great craftsmanship. They are so well-built that even time cannot break them. This was truly an organiser to last a lifetime!

No idea what you did before this blog. Couldn't answer that even for myself!

JuliaG (2011-03-15 03:56:36)

As a very recent switcher from Personal to the Pocket size (new Malden, yay!), I looked around for alternative refills but had a very hard time finding anything? Am I missing something or are Pocket users pretty much stuck with whatever FF puts out?

Annie (2011-03-15 09:03:10)

Add me to the club of "What did I do before this blog" lol Totally hooked, its one of my most recent checked sites now!

In fact, I don't know what I did before Filofax altogether, I feel lost without it now if I ever leave it at home.

Steve (2011-03-15 09:13:00)

Is it just me? Or do other people feel slightly non-plused when they do a little job that needed doing, but it wasn't on your to-do list.. there's no thrill of ticking it off when you finish it..

I almost want to add it to my 'This Week' list so I can tick it off and then have the satisfaction of seeing another task completed at the end of the week....

It's just me I suppose!!!!

Laurie (2011-03-15 09:17:30)

Steve I do that! When I do something that wasn't on my list, I write it in today's space and check it off. Partly because of the satisfaction, but mostly because I have such a faulty memory I need to have the record of what I did and when.

kanalt (2011-03-15 09:19:52)

I have a question: somewhere along the line, when discussing new offerings for the spring, someone mentioned a binder whose ring size would be between the slimline and the personal. I have tried to search the blog but am not finding it. Any insights? And does anyone know if this binder will be available in the US?

kanalt (2011-03-15 09:21:03)

Steve & Laurie - I have done the same thing as well. I always chalked it up to my type-A, slightly OCD personality, maybe it's a list-lover's thing.

Annie (2011-03-15 09:34:38)

@Steve I do that too, done it just today in fact. I have a lousey memory so if I don't add something on to my to do lists, not only does it irritate me, but I might forget if I ever did it.

Jotje (2011-03-15 09:56:25)

Another one adding completed Todo's!

Kanalt the new size is called Compact, it has 15 mm rings. I'm quite interested in the size, though not so much in the design they come in ...

You can find it on Steve's initial post about the new design. If you click on the screendumps, you'll find Compact

in the list on the left.

Actually, France has been offering the Compact (the Luxe) for quite a while and still does!

kanalt (2011-03-15 10:00:06)

Thanks Jotje. I don't know why I couldn't find it before.

Saffy (2011-03-15 10:30:08)

I too have been interested in the Compact size anxiously waiting to see the new line. I hope there is more than just the Luxe, it is so uninspiring, boring even. I would like an Amazona compact, pity I can't just send my slimline filofax to be 'mended' and have the larger size rings fitted.

I also write in completed tasks on my 'to do' lists though have never told anyone before because I thought it was somehow cheating or something. Though as Laurie and Annie said it needs to be written down so you can remember doing it. That's my excuse and I am sticking to it.

@JulieG I have struggled with the dilemma of which size filofax to use and have a collection in both sizes. Though at the moment my all time favourite would have to be my slimline Amazona. It is also this indecisiveness that attracts me to the compact size.

D (2011-03-15 11:12:58)

JuliaG- I am using the Kate Spade planner refill in my pocket Filo this year. It's more expensive than Filofax refills but I got it half off. It's slightly more narrow paper but it fits fine. The paper is better quality IMO and I can use my fountain pens without bleedthrough. Hope that helps a little.

SNARLing: (2011-03-15 11:26:00)

JuliaG -> i too am currently in the process of transitioning from personal malden to pocket malden. i am actually sitting here with cream 2 dpw, week pp and 2dpw trying to figure out which will work better for me. i really liked my personal setup (todos on one side and wpp on the other) but with the pocket i kinda want a little more room to write some stuff in the days. the cream week on 2 pps seems like the best fit but i can't fit all my todos on the THIS WEEK section. i do realize that i repeat a lot of todos since there are certain things i really want to try to emphasize in my brain as i seem to have selective vision and see only what i want - even if something's right there in front of me i might not 'read' it. but yeah, i'm wondering about davanci refills - they come in pocket but it doesn't seem like the same size. there's gotta be something. i'm gonna continue looking and will report whatever i find

and yeah, i also write in todos formerly not on the list but then accomplished. of course heh heh

Sandra (2011-03-15 12:23:18)

I am guilty of the to-do list after-the-fact action as well! I tried living without endless lists and records. That was ugly. This idea sounds like a future survey question...

My question today: why is the flexibility and personalization that draws me (us) to Filofax the very thing that flummoxes me (us)?

I debate with myself over size. And style. And price. Then there are the inserts and the accessories...the wanting of UK Filos that make to to the US months from now if at all...

Maybe I am just Filo-crazy. However, I do love my go-to personal Malden and its set-up...for now. ;)

SP (2011-03-15 13:15:05)

This may be addressed already, but is there a cheaper hole punch available than the official FiloFax one? I live in the US and have a personal size Filo. I have seen a few hole punches around the web but without using it personally I cannot tell whether the hole spacing and size are correct. Thanks!

Jotje (2011-03-15 13:28:25)

@JuliaG. Since you're living in Germany, here are a few suggestions:

Check out www.beiz.de (also represented on ebay.de btw):

Chronoplan Mini = FF Pocket

(Chronoplan Midi = FF Personal)
bsb Opbacher A7 = FF Pocket
(bsb Op A6 = FF Personal)
Rido Idé A7 = FF Pocket (with a very nice 1DPP layout)
Brunnen A7
Herlitz A7
Paper sizes may be off by a few mm, but the rings fit.

Petra (2011-03-15 13:29:28)

For those with pocket size in the U.S., several companies used to carry the 3x5 size punched the same as FF pocket – now not many do. If you have a Brighton store nearby, you can ask if they have that size refill – it fits the FF pocket and is quite nice, but only monthly and wo2p, though both in the same pack. Also check calendarrefill.com, I think they call it their mini size but it fits FF pocket. Maybe PlanAhead (someone said they found one that size in a CVS store).

Petra (2011-03-15 13:30:31)

Oh, and then there's always diyplanner.com (that's what I did before I found Philofaxy!).

Jotje (2011-03-15 13:34:18)

@JuliaG and SNARling: forgot the most important question: why downsizing to Pocket?

@Saffy: the luxe is actually an old model, that was apparently only sold in France.

The new ones will be Osterley and Regency only (<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-JuUkMknRh6w/TVRfVb2yooI/AAAAAAAAI7E/oIfz2jgZyi8/s1600/Filofax+3+001.jpg>)

The Plum Osterley "could" be nice, but that would depend on the leather it's made of.

Would have loved a totally unexpensive compact Metropol. Small investment and good for trying out the compact size. Seems a bit over the top to invest at least 129 GBP (Osterley) for a size, that I might not like after all once I've tried it ...

Steve (2011-03-15 13:34:36)

SP take a look at this post on this blog.

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2009/08/rapesco-diary-punch-66-p.html>

Or for other punch posts! See this link:

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/search/label/Punch>

justenoughsalt (2011-03-15 14:04:29)

i do not know how many of you live in nyc but if you do here is the rundown of who has filofax on sale at the moment...

+Paper Presentation 23 W 18th st sale on dominos and a few other models.

+A.I. Friedman 44 W 18th st wide selection of models but nothing on sale

+Kate's Paperie 72 Spring St wide selection of models on sale including dominos, finchleys, finsburys plus kate spade models at 30 % off

+Sam Flax 900 Third Ave none on sale but so many models including ones that are discontinued. will send pics later

+Lee's Art Shop 220 W 57th St lots of models and sizes on sale for 30 % off or more.

+Westside Stationers 2815 Broadway refills and planners 25 % off

+The Daily Planner 43 W 33rd St okay selection of planners BUT they are 40-70 % off. the refills are also 40-70 % off. check out their site http://www.thedailyplanner.com/planners-datebooks-bsaleb-filofax-c-1_15_103.html

justenoughsalt (2011-03-15 14:07:14)

just posting this again

The Daily Planner has an okay selection of planners BUT they are 40-70 % off. the refills are also 40-70 % off. check out their site

<http://www.thedailyplanner.com/planners-datebooks-bsaleb-filofax-c-1-15-103.html>

also good news. i found a yellow piccadilly personal filofax on ebay. waiting for delivery! i am still looking for a personal green piccadilly but am excited to see this yellow one in real life!

S.A. (2011-03-15 14:34:30)

I love the A5 format (print & punch-style) - but really miss a A6 paper format in the Filofax-lineup...

Am I really the only one?

- Honestly, have been looking at FC's compact as an alternative...ups...now I am in trouble...

And do you need the print-to-file-software to go with the pre-punched and perforated computer paper e.g. for the personal or pocket size?

Laurie (2011-03-15 14:35:14)

skhen I agree the flexibility of Filofax leads to a lot of self-struggle while figuring out what works best. That is what's so great about it, there's so much choice and customization. But it can lead to a lot of angst about it.

BUT, it's not as if everybody in the bound-book world has it figured out. (I'm a prime example of bound-planner angst!) There's all the same size and format issues but with less flexibility to make your current system work for you (with different inserts in the same binder etc.) You have to either limp along with it or abandon it altogether. I know it's hard to find the perfect Filofax solution, but don't think the grass is greener on the bound-planner side. It ain't! ;)

SNARLing: (2011-03-15 14:38:47)

jotje -> i am downsizing so i can carry it everywhere. i love the personal and everything fits just fine it's just a little too heavy especially since i still have to carry stuff for the 3-year old as well. and then of course, everything fits just fine in the pocket too (except for the checkbook but i don't really need it when i'm out)... so it's the classic size issue. i decided that i will just go back and forth when i get sick of current size as i have the black malden in both personal and pocket and i'm psyched that i'm not really jonesing for another right now

S.A. (2011-03-15 14:43:37)

Don't want to lead anyone into temptation, but there is a sale "occasion" going on Filofax's Italian website.

JuliaG (2011-03-15 15:37:39)

@Jotje: my reason for switching from Personal to Pocket is basically the same as SNARLing's: more portability. Sometimes my Personal Finchley is just a bit too large and heavy to cart around - especially for a weekend trip when just my backup is coming along, stuffed to the max. I also realized that I have more space in the Personal than I actually seem to need. Before discovering the FF world, I was quite content for several years (I think 4 without changing! Record!) in a row using the same planner (A6 Terminer by Heye). While I love my Finchley, I always thought it was a bit big and never felt quite 'at home' with it. I have the feeling that the Pocket Malden will suit me much better - at least according to my vast experience so far of about 2 days. ;-)

And thanks for the refill suggestions! I'm not 100 % sure if I'll stick with the standard FF 2ppw.

Soraya Leila (2011-03-15 15:37:46)

WHSmith has Filofax sale on at the moment for any UK people who might have missed it! I spent a small fortune this morning! X

Saffy (2011-03-15 17:28:40)

@Jotje - thanks I didn't realise the Luxe was an old model. You are right, the plum Osterley looks very nice, like a re-vamped version of the Amazona. That could be one to look out. The Regency looks just as dull as the Luxe. And I agree, a more affordable compact would be great so that a possible expensive mistake can be avoided.

DanishGTD (2011-03-15 18:10:40)

Best Filofax Store in London???

I visiting London in May and are wondering which store has the best selection of Filos and accessories??

Susanne (2011-03-15 20:04:40)

S.A. - not a good idea mentioning the sale on the italian site. There is also a sale on the french site, which I had to check out and now I sent my sister a message to place a few orders for me. hmmm

J (2011-03-15 20:27:53)

Hi SP,

I am also in the US. I got my punch from Montgomery Pens- it is the Filo punch, but it was only \$32. Plus there was free shipping and it got to me in just a few days! I can definitely vouch for their service.

Here's the link:

http://montgomerypens.com/product_detail.asp?product_id=3161

P.s. I am not affiliated with them- just experienced fast shipping and a Filofax product I knew would last!

Petra (2011-03-16 01:15:20)

SP, sorry I didn't see your hole punch question earlier. I have the Franklin Covey compact size punch and it works great for personal size. Sign up for their e-mail updates and you get 15 % off coupon, the normal price is \$24.95, with free shipping on orders over \$60 right now. It is a lot sturdier punch than my FF punches (I have those too in pocket and A5, off eBay). You can add some compact index dividers to your order and cut off the 1/2" with holes and repunch to match FF personal exactly :-)

Steve (2011-03-16 05:14:56)

DanishGTD I've only been to the Filofax store in Neal Street near Covent Garden, but I would definitely recommend them as the staff in there really know the product range and they carry the full range, which considering the size of the store is quite surprising.

SP (2011-03-16 10:28:58)

Thanks for all the input!

Steve-I contacted the company that makes the Rapesco Diary Punch 66p and unfortunately it is not available in the US and US eBay didn't have any either.

Petra-Thanks for your advice. I ordered the FC hole punch. If you use the code 75063 you get 20 % off your purchase and \$10 off a new binder. It came out to roughly \$27 after shipping.

DanishGTD (2011-03-17 15:12:04)

Steve, thanks. Can't wait to begin the process of researching which Filo I should get when I visit London.

Hmm, A5 or Personal???

makayla (2011-07-12 13:36:46)

i love filofaxes but i dont know if the domino is right for me is my first one

Filofax Inserts at Maudie Made (2011-03-15 13:07)

We often receive emails from people wishing to 'advertise' on our blog, 99 % of them totally unsuited, but I was pleasantly surprised when I opened this particular email last night.

I replied and asked Maudie to tell us abit about themselves and their products.

m maudie made

[1]

I am currently studying to be a book conservator and have always had a love of stationery and paper. I think I got my first organiser about 11 years ago, which was a mini WHSmith Filofax imitation, which was great and really small - I was immediately hooked! A few years later I upgraded to a Mini Finsbury Tan Filofax, which still remains my favourite and has a good worn look to it!

When I moved onto a Filofax, I quickly became disappointed with the lack of colourful and interesting inserts available for the mini Filofaxes in comparison to other sizes, specifically I was after colour - colourful dividers and colourful squared paper (there's nothing quite like squared paper!), which was annoyingly hard to find if it existed at all - so I thought I would make my own - and Maudie Stationery was born.

My mum has a pocket filofax, so naturally I started making pocket sized inserts for her, and then moved onto the personal size as I started using a Personal Slimline Filofax. I have also dabbled in the covers, but have not had much luck finding the snap opening systems, so they remain ring binders with fun fabric covers.



[2]

I found people seemed quite keen on my stationery so attended a couple of fairs, and now have an online shop with Etsy called [3]maudie.made. I'll also be at [4]The Crafty Fox Fair in Brixton on the 16th April if anyone would like to pop along and say hello!



[5]

Future plans hopefully include a few more fairs before the year is out and attempting to make personal

sized diaries for 2012, which I haven't done before!

Thank you Maudie, and I've already seized on that last paragraph... could we at last have a source of that ultimate personal size refill? Look out for a future post about this I'm sure between us we can come up with something that will be something we will all want, but we can't at present buy it from a convenient source.

If you want to see more of Maudie's work take a look at the [6]Website, they are also on [7]Facebook and the [8]on-line shop.

1. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-Jhvho5Z_zkQ/TX-b8dyepYI/AAAAAAAAI-c/3cGlyT6lZs4/s1600/maudie.jpg
2. <https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-vC-U0x0v2wA/TX-b9zWooMI/AAAAAAAAI-k/fNlB3bLtKP4/s1600/tabs.jpg>
3. http://www.etsy.com/shop/maudiemade?ref=si_shop
4. <http://craftyfoxmarket.blogspot.com/>
5. <https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-RCrFiJS3pVI/TX-b7Tst1II/AAAAAAAAI-U/Ah-s1AeLYwc/s1600/diarytwopage.jpg>
6. <http://www.maudiemade.com/>
7. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/maudiemade/182682695090224?sk=wall>
8. http://www.etsy.com/shop/maudiemade?ref=si_shop

Jotje (2011-03-15 13:15:15)

That looks so great, Maudie! Can I submit a wish list? Would love a 2pages per day Personal COLORFUL refill ... LOL

Kate (2011-03-15 13:57:29)

I have bought several items from Maudie. All were custom orders and were delivered quickly. I recommend her highly.

tommess-net (2011-03-15 14:19:53)

Right Steve, this is an advert worthwhile. I have bookmarked the website and will keep an eye on what's coming up for the Personal size.

Thanks once again, Thomas

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-15 15:39:58)

I love what is on the site and will always keep my eyes on new personal size items. Thanks for sharing.

maudie.made (2011-03-15 17:05:49)

Thanks so much Steve for including my website and inserts, and for all your kind comments - especially Kate, who suggested this site - big thanks!!

Maudie

xx

Alannarama (2011-03-15 17:54:07)

!!!! this is the kind of stuff i LOVE. thanks maudie!

Behind your tabs: chronological order or priority first? (2011-03-16 09:29)

While pondering the nearly-infinite flexibility of Filofax, I thought of different ways to set up my pages behind my tabbed dividers.

Normally I arrange pages behind my tabbed dividers in order of priority. When I turn my tabbed page, the first page I see is the highest priority in that section. Subsequent pages are in order of decreasing

priority. This works for my lists, my reference information, my personal goals section, and most other things.

But I realized that a different way of doing things would be to put things in chronological order to be able to flip through and see a progression over time.

A combination of the two methods above would be to put pages in reverse-chronological order, with the most recent page seen first, and working back in time as you turn the pages.

Do you use one of the three methods above to organize your pages behind your tabbed dividers? Or do you use a different method altogether?

Jotje (2011-03-16 17:32:44)

Chronological is the only way for me. Anything else would only confuse me and mess up my entire system. I have 3 rulers in my file, plus various sticky tabs to show me the priority (or just the current page) in each section. No chance of missing anything! ;-)

DanishGTD (2011-03-16 18:24:52)

I don't prioritise things at all.

I use the GTD-approach of making various actionlist and thereby keeping projects and just "next- actions" moving along and getting done.

I think making list according to contexts instead of priority works better for me as my priorities always changes, something which any system won't be able to take into account.

For instance, if I really really really need to write someone an email, but I'm not at my computer, there is really no need for me to be alerted of my need to write a certain email unless I'm at my computer. This goes for everything - phone-calls, errands etc. etc. etc.

Having a list of ten-fifteen emails I should write whenever I have the time - some of them with due-dates in my calendar - makes me much more effective because I can enter email-mode and crank away in stead of having to follow a priority-list of say three errands, one call, review a note, two emails, one call and another email.

Petra (2011-03-16 19:10:05)

I agree with Danish about context lists rather than priority lists, although I do it a bit differently - I have to do lists for work, shopping, financial, creativity, and have them separated by color-coded top tabs. I do think, though, that a priority list would be helpful in telling you to go to your computer to write those e-mails! I can see how the deadlines would be enough though.

Laurie (2011-03-17 04:29:37)

I have to do priorities because I don't normally sit at a desk, so if there is an important email or phone call I have to do, my list tells me to go to my desk and get it done by a certain time.

JJ (2011-03-17 11:04:53)

My own method is somewhat psychotic, but it's been working for me well enough.

The object is to have the pages that are changed out the most towards the middle of the binder, with the stuff that changes the least are at the front and back.

Checkbook, dairy pages (about three months of week+notes), and the numbered tabs are all in the middle. Numbered hold are Dumb-Things-I-Gotta-Do lists. (My life is too simple for Covey or GTD systems to be applicable.) Contacts, which change little are split: A-N are in front and O-Z are in back.

A little hard to explain why, but it works well enough and means I can change a page without reworking half the binder.

DanishGTD (2011-03-17 15:08:19)

JJ, I most say that your life don't have to be complicated to get use out of GTD.

I implemented the system into my life when I had a slow and rather calm term at university (only studying and no working). It greatly helped me as the initial process of collecting and organising didn't take forever (as there

weren't that many things to do).

Since I found my way of using the system I can now slowly increase the complexity of the system to account for my increasing obligations and tasks.

Just a recommendation...

JJ (2011-03-17 16:51:07)

DanishGTD: I've read David Allen's first two books, and the third is on my reading list. I've enjoyed them and picked up some decent tips. But the whole full blown system just isn't for me.

Maybe I'm just jealous that I don't have anyone I can delegate stuff to.

Amanda (2011-03-18 17:46:05)

@JJ

Have you ever read the Zen to Done guide? It incorporates a lot of GTD but in a simpler way...

<http://zenhabits.net/zen-to-done-ztd-the-ultimate-simple-productivity-system/>

And to keep this FF (and not GTD)-related, the ZTD system works brilliantly in a FF!

International information in Filofax diary pages (2011-03-17 10:01)

I'm one of those people who actually uses the international information pages in my planner. Several brands of planners have good international information including dialing codes, time zones and country holidays. I have found that the international information included in the Filofax diary inserts is some of the best and most comprehensive in the planner world.

The international information pages included in the standard Filofax monthly or weekly diary inserts are: **Notable Dates** for the year for the USA, Canada, UK, Ireland and Australia.

Religious Festivals and holidays for the following religions: Christian-Western, Christian-Eastern Orthodox, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish and Chinese. I especially appreciate this list as I'm about to move to a country where Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Chinese, Buddhist and probably others are recognized.

European Union Members for the current year are listed with their capital city, currency, time zone, dialing codes to AND from (which are hard to find in most planners) and dates of their national holidays.

International Information has this same info listed for many countries of the world, including Indonesia much to my delight!

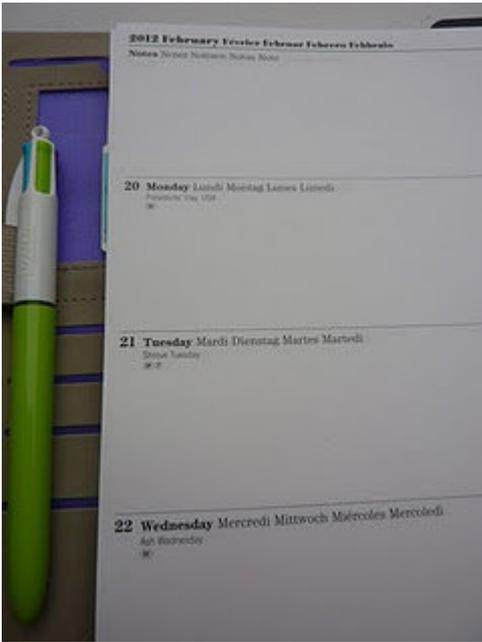
Weights and Measures is a page I use often, especially the Temperature Conversion scale.

The World and Time has loads of interesting facts about seasons, days, years and more.

World Temperature Guide has average daily temperatures for many cities around the world. Here's an interesting fact: I'm about to move to Jakarta, which is on the list. If you average the listed temperatures given for the year, Jakarta shares the highest annual average temperature with Bangkok (28.33 degrees C). Guess which city has the coldest average annual temperature? Moscow, where I used to live, at 5 degrees C. One extreme to the other!

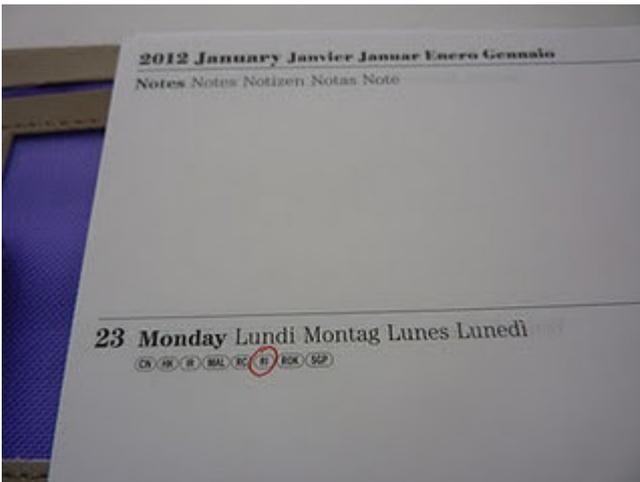
Clothing Size Equivalents has men's, women's and children's clothing and shoe sizes in American, British and European sizes. I refer to this page a fair amount, and I especially appreciate they included children's sizes which planners rarely do.

Something else I really appreciate is that Filofax prints holidays on the day spaces in the weekly diary pages. It's that much less work for me because if they're not pre-printed, I hand-write in holidays. (Click on the photos for a larger view.)



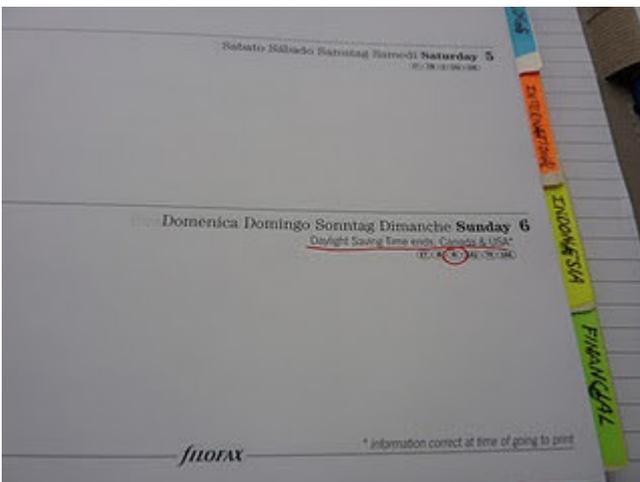
[1]

Another exciting discovery is that countries that are listed in the European Union Members and International Information sections have their country ID initials printed on days when they have national holidays. I was very happy to find Indonesian holidays printed in the day spaces (indicated by RI).



[2]

Filofax even prints useful information like beginning and ending Daylight Savings Time and European Summer Time, and moon phases on the day spaces which I really like.



[3]

The Filofax international information is a very handy reference for anyone who works or travels internationally, or for anyone who is interested in other countries and cultures.
Thank you Filofax!

1. <https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-jbMiHm2O1WU/TXueCzKbfKI/AAAAAAAAABus/87KD7ag6gBs/s1600/Diaries+2010+368.jpg>
2. <https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-mIb61TVATL4/TXueViv-OEI/AAAAAAAAABuw/c9Ab9dvHo2Q/s1600/Diaries+2010+364.jpg>
3. <https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-Sp6XVYH1QqE/TXueoZ0GVCI/AAAAAAAAABu8/x30QdUj2ktA/s1600/Diaries+2010+365.jpg>

Free For All Friday No 122 (2011-03-18 00:00)

Well an especially busy week for me this week, mainly because I'm travelling back to UK on Sunday for a couple of weeks stay there, including the Philofaxy Meet Up on the 26th. Today I will be sorting out things to pack to bring to UK, important things like which Filofax Organisers to bring!
I also need to make sure I have all my information stored in my Pocket Chameleon for the trip back to UK. It goes without saying that I'm really looking forward to the meet-up next Saturday.
However, as it is Friday the floor is of course yours to discuss anything Filofax related.

Robin (2011-03-18 00:19:21)

Oh! The meet-up is a mere 5500 miles away! LOL. So envious! :-)

DanishGTD (2011-03-18 04:56:47)

Notepads? Do people use them?

I, off cause, mean the notepads that some Filos have in the back.

Do people use them?

Thinking they could be great for capturing (in the GTD terminology).

Alison Reeves (2011-03-18 05:14:39)

I use one for making notes when I don't know where I want the info to be stored yet. I also use it for making notes if I go to a seminar or worksheet.

They also provide a nice bit of 'padding' at the back of the filofax to write on the later pages.

DanishGTD (2011-03-18 07:31:20)

Alison, which size do you use? I could imagine that an A5 sized Filo with a pad pretty much becomes to ultimate office/studying tool, whereas the pad in a personal sized would be more some sort of capturing device (as you described "...when I don't know where to store it").

plaiditude (2011-03-18 07:59:00)

Question for those who have a Kendal personal. How do you find the closing strap? Is it long enough? I have a Kendal A5 and my only disappointment with it is that the strap is so short it is very difficult to have a pen in each loop and still be able to snap it shut. It stays unsnapped most of the time because of how difficult it is to close. Makes it hard to stuff my binder full, and with the smaller rings in a personal, I'm a bit concerned as to how much I'll be able to have in it. I sometimes have my Scanda stuffed pretty full. Uhh ... not that I'm planning to buy yet another filo of course (ok maybe I am :)

Alison Reeves (2011-03-18 09:08:35)

@DanishGTD - I tend to use either an A5 or have also used an A4. I agree the personal would be a bit small for general note taking - depends on the quantity of notes you have to take and how big your writing is!

justenoughsalt (2011-03-18 10:24:47)

@plaiditude when i was first using my piccadilly personal the pen loops(it has two) and the closing tab was quite tight, problematic tight. but after time it loosened and it closes easily and fits much larger pens and pencils now than it used to. a while back there was a post on stretching pen loops.

<http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2010/12/from-around-web.html>

Mrs. Grievous (2011-03-18 10:30:36)

I've had a mini piazza for a couple of weeks now, what do you use your mini for?

Amanda (2011-03-18 12:39:35)

@Danish GTD

I use an A5 pad as a 'landing pad'/capturing tool in my work A5 - and I use it in meetings to write meeting notes on. I don't really use a personal FF but I imagine it would work fine for capturing.

@Leslie

I use my mini Baroque as a purse-o-fax (wallet-o-fax) - I've posted about it on my blog - Paper Pens and Ink (link on the links page).

Mrs. Grievous (2011-03-18 16:03:34)

Ah, I love that little coin purse you put eyelets in. So creative! I don't think Piazza has a zipper pocket, so I will have to think of something like that too.

Butanben (2011-03-18 16:28:35)

@ platitude. My graphic zip strap seems to have stretched out with use. Don't know if they all do this??? I have never used my note pad at the back. It is too bulky for me, and the quality of paper is thinner. I'd rather use a few coloured note sheets inside my planner and transfer dates notes etc to final destinations. Handy to colour code stuff too. Must look up GTD capturing etc!!

Butanben (2011-03-18 16:30:07)

PS- Safe journey Steve!!

Silver_Elixir (2011-03-19 00:09:27)

Platitude - I have a Personal Kendal and I have had no trouble closing the strap with both pen loops in use and my Filo is quite full. I can move the strap popper to just past the hole on the Filo, so there is a bit of give in the strap. The Kendal is a great Filo. I want to get a second one as a 'back-up' in case anything happens to this one. I would love to get an A5 one too. Hope this helps.

Amanda (2011-03-19 13:44:47)

@Leslie

Thanks for the comments on the coin purse! It's still working well (and I'm contemplating doing something similar with a small pencil case for my A5! Then I can keep more pens with me.).

Hope you manage to do something similar for your mini.

M Ng (2011-03-19 16:09:58)

Hi,

Notepads: I really don't use the notepads in Filofaxes, because (1) I have a catch-all notes section, and (2) those notepads are kind of pricey. During those times when I have a ton of random information to capture, I keep a small stack of notepaper in the very front of the binder beneath a transparent flyleaf.

A request for information/images: Does anyone have a +2 year-old Amazona (any color, but esp the almond)? I'm contemplating a new Filofax this year and I'm hoping to see how the Amazona ages. I've only seen pictures

of new binders, in which the leather looks very shiny and stiff, so I wonder if it breaks in nicely. There's the pleasure of buying and setting up a Filofax, and then there's the daily pleasure of handling the well-used and beautifully-aged binder; I appreciate the former, but I'm really aiming for the latter.

M Ng (2011-03-19 16:11:12)

P.S., Speaking of meet-ups, will there be one in NYC this spring?

justenoughsalt (2011-03-20 20:09:30)

@M _NG nyc meetup? YES PLEASE

kanalt (2011-03-21 17:06:41)

M Ng - A few of us have discussed the idea of having a spring meet up in NYC. It hasn't been mentioned in a while, though it's on my list of things to post about. Are you interested? I know there were 3 or 4 others who are but I haven't heard from anyone on this is a while. Maybe we can set up a discussion in the Philofaxy discussion group on this to get the ball rolling and discuss dates and places to meet...

Email me at kanalt17 at gmail dot com if you're interested.

Very low prices on Filofax-compatible Dodo Pad diary inserts on Ebay (2011-03-18 10:20)

On Ebay right now there are some very low prices on Filofax-compatible Dodo Pad diary inserts. It's a great chance to try the product for a very low price if you've never tried Dodo Pad diaries before. As I've posted before, I love Dodo Pad products for their humor and art. They give me a much-needed reminder not to take myself too seriously!

Here is the post on the Dodo Pad blog [1]Miss Peabody Writes with the links to the Ebay deals:

[2]<http://dodopadblog.com/2011/03/18/dodo-pad-diary-bargains-on- ebay/>

1. <http://dodopadblog.com/>

2. <http://dodopadblog.com/2011/03/18/dodo-pad-diary-bargains-on-ebay/>

Sandra (2011-03-18 12:48:58)

Just ordered my 1st Dodo pad personal refill. While excited to see, and use, the format, I wish it was sold locally in the US. We need humorous, clever planner inserts, too! ;)

Laurie (2011-03-18 15:44:57)

skhen I think you will like the Dodo Pad inserts! I have ordered Dodo Pad diaries from Amazon in the US before to avoid international shipping, but Amazon doesn't have the full product range.

Sandra (2011-03-18 19:33:32)

@Laurie Thanks for the tip, and I will note that for the fall.

The Dodo sale on Ebay was such a deal—even with international shipping it was under \$13 USD. Can't wait to doodle and plan with it. Take care!

'How I Use My Filofax' - James Franklin (2011-03-19 00:00)

James very kindly wrote in to Philofaxy a couple of days ago, the title of his email was 'How I use my Filofax' and he included a couple of photos and some text, but it triggered one of those 'Steve moments' with 'this would be a great series for the blog' so James is the first of hopefully a regular series on Philofaxy.

I hope you enjoy it, I know from past comments we all love learning from other peoples experience and seeing the pictures of the inside of their Filofax.

If you would like to submit your own story about 'How I Use My Filofax' please email philofaxy at gmail dot com

'How I Use My Filofax' - James Franklin

I first fell in love with Filofax when I saw the Winchester at age 14. I was too small to spend a few hundred bucks on a leather-made black binder. My dream came true a few years ago when I managed to buy one at an online auction and absolutely love it since then.

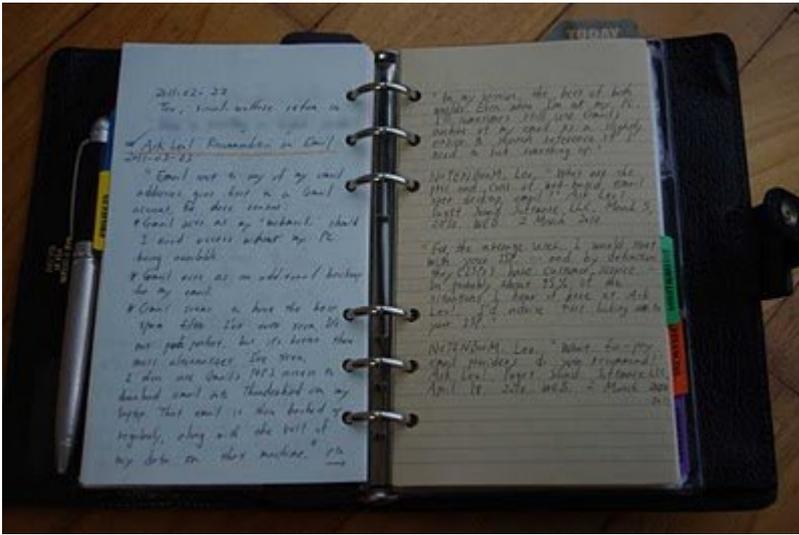


[1]

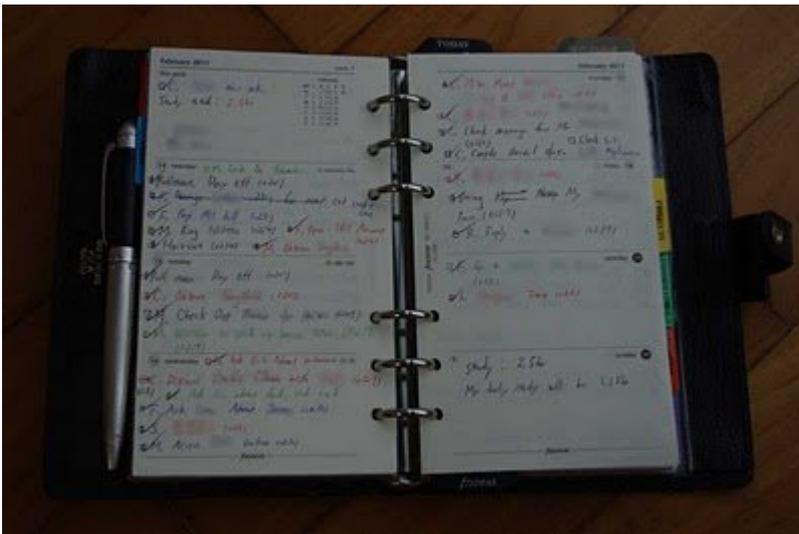
My organiser is divided into these sections:

- The goal section keeps my mission statement, my wife's and my annual targets
- The schedule section has to-do lists, yearly and weekly schedule sheets
- The note section stores diaries, ideas, extracts from newspapers and magazines
- The finance section keeps records of my spending and household budget
- Some plastic envelopes hold receipts and business cards

Every morning, I begin my day by opening weekly schedule sheets to check what should be done. Each item listed there has a tick box, like a to-do list, and a symbol that shows which category the task falls in. I divide my activities into seven categories, namely Health, Relations, Intelligence, Career, Finance, Leisure and Soul. If the task is marked C, for example, it is supposed to help achieve my long-term career goal of making my work like a hobby.



[2]



[3]

Diary sheets keep records of when I woke up, went to the office, left there and went to bed. I also write down at least one thing that I am grateful for, for instance good health, support from my spouse or the fact that I have work. It's repetitive most of the time but is fine because this is based on my belief that happiness stems in part from gratitude.

For note taking, I use a Filofax leather jotter holding three blank sheets. Each note has a title and a small box. I tick the box after inputting the title in a computer text file so that it's easy to search later. Notes and diaries are archived in plastic binders, which I read regularly, like a book.

Although I use an iPhone mainly for calling, texting and checking news sites, I don't think it can replace a Filofax. My organiser is like a map, compass and travel journal, tracking my progress to long-term goals, showing where I am and pointing to where to go.



[4]

I believe "you never actually own a Filofax. You merely look after it for the next generation." Sounds familiar? Google Patek Philippe!

Thank you James, you might also like to check out his [5]blog. James also sent me a pdf of his [6]daily diary page which is available for you to download and try out.

1. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-1JcXf3NLXeE/TX95I_gTOII/AAAAAAAAI-Q/fWqw07ivqr8/s1600/Winchester.JPG
2. <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-svkQgXAN9Eg/TX95HzMCfSI/AAAAAAAAI-I/ValBvGkoYJI/s1600/Note.JPG>
3. <https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-UXOaiYbTplc/TX95IRjbUCI/AAAAAAAAI-M/6zXywtsXJsc/s1600/Weekly.JPG>
4. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-4WUZU_fneow/TX95HwBfm_I/AAAAAAAAI-E/kfUhONrWJbc/s1600/Archive.JPG
5. <http://jffjournal7.blogspot.com/>
6. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/jfdiary.pdf>

T (2011-03-19 06:24:51)

Great post, beautiful Filofax!

Thanks, James!

caribbean princess (2011-03-19 07:18:44)

James, thanks for sharing your filofax with us. It is nice to see a male filofax! Where did you get the lovely binders in the last photo?

James Franklin (2011-03-19 09:35:03)

To T,

Thank you! I was really lucky to get that almost brand-new Winchester though it was made 20 years ago.

To caribbean princess

The last photo shows my plastic binders that keep old diaries and notes. I bought them at a nearby stationary shop when I was in Japan. It may not be convenient for you to order them from there but I believe Filofax offers a similar product.

Sandra (2011-03-19 10:06:48)

Thank you for sharing your pictures, pdf, and story. I especially like your categories and designating to-do's by those areas.

Congrats on finding a Winchester in such great shape—the quality is amazing!

Amanda (2011-03-19 14:35:23)

Lovely to see how you are using your filofax. It's always interesting to see how similar components can be put together so uniquely! I suppose that's one of the joys of filofax - the combinations and permutations are almost infinite.

Thank you for sharing your set-up with us all.
And yes, Steve, this will make a great series!

M Ng (2011-03-19 16:34:07)

I really enjoyed this post, thanks, Steve and James.

I like the idea of using a letter to designate categories; it reminds me of how I prefaced action items by class codes in high school and college. I may try this system out again.

Butanben (2011-03-19 18:03:33)

Enjoyed reading your post James... thanks for sharing your ideas.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-19 18:33:50)

It's always fascinating to see how others use their filofaxes - so I've really enjoyed reading this.

James Franklin (2011-03-19 23:06:40)

Thank you very much for the positive feedback. I'm glad to hear everybody enjoys my post and hope this will become the beginning of a long last series of 'How I Use My Filofax.'

Adam R (2011-03-20 09:30:32)

Brilliant post James! Also, love the PP Quote! Perhaps you are horological enthusiast too? :)

Adam

James Franklin (2011-03-22 07:30:34)

Thank you, Adam! Glad to hear you enjoyed my post. I happened to find PP's ad on the Economist magazine and couldn't forget about it because of its lasting impression. I cannot afford such an expensive watch though.

Rich J (2011-03-28 17:29:20)

This is a nice article - where did you find the leather jotter? I can't seem to find any in the US

James Franklin (2011-03-29 08:08:53)

Rich J, thank you for your comment. I'm glad you enjoyed my post. I bought the leather jotter on a Japanese shopping site, which said it was made almost 2 decades ago and unused. I'm afraid it is no longer available. You may want to check EBay, as there is a chance somebody will sell it at times. Good luck!

Web Finds (2011-03-20 03:00)

So a quick dash around the internet....

- [1]Slimming down my A5 Balmoral - Cathryn Cook
- [2]Trinidadian Travel Filofax - Caribbean Princess
- [3]Planner Battle! - Plannerisms
- [4]Filofax Belle - Strickmuse
- [5]Filofax iOS doesn't need an update! - Productive Living
- [6]The Paper Blog - Cecilia Frid
- [7]Slimline Travel Fax? - Modern Musings...

Additionally Imogen has been busy doing some Filofax Video's

[EMBED]

Enjoy

1. <http://www.cathryncook.co.uk/blog/2011/03/a5-balmoral-filofax/>
2. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/trinidadian-travel-filofax.html>
3. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2011/03/upcoming-planner-battle-filofax-vs.html>
4. <http://www.strickmuse.com/2011/03/filofax-belle.html>
5. <http://productiveliving.blogspot.com/2011/03/filofax-ios-update-needed-i-dont-think.html>
6. <http://ceciliafrid.com/>
7. <http://louloudorsetsmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/slimline-adelphi-travel-fax-obvious-no.html>

Rori (2011-03-20 09:54:06)

Love Imysworld!! Did you see her comparison of A5 and Personal? She also did 2 videos on the Cuban A5 zip a while back that she was using at the time. Excellent videos!

Her comparison video was in response to a conversation on You Tube that she and I had..I did a video about my Personal Domino being too small, and wanting to upsize to an A5.

Thanks for posting this video though, she's awesome!

Butanben (2011-03-20 16:19:36)

I enjoyed your video blog Imy!! Love all your stationery stuff!! Take care of that cold xx.

Saffy (2011-03-20 18:30:53)

Really enjoyed your video. Yay for Amazona's lying flat. :-)

Saffy (2011-03-20 18:33:33)

Ooops, I mean laying flat. :P

Imy (2011-03-20 18:56:56)

thank you all very much :)

I love to do vidoes about filofaxes and stationery, maybe there is a job i could do that covers both thoes grounds lol :) xxx

Jamie (2011-03-21 04:10:34)

Great video! Just recently found this blog and there is so much useful information on it!

Free For All Tuesday ? No. 7 (2011-03-22 00:00)



[1]

So what questions can you conjure up for us today....

caribbean princess (2011-03-22 03:02:25)

I have a Deco! I have a Deco! Yay!

Question. For those who use 2 different diary inserts, will I be able to fit my entire week on 2 pages with a week on one page with notes? Or would that be abuse?

Steve (2011-03-22 03:10:23)

Have you tried it? That is quite a stack of pages I've not counted how many pages will fit in a 23mm ring yet.. Slimline will take about 100-120 pages.

Something to do when I get back, don't have a personal with me...yet!

Soraya Leila (2011-03-22 03:37:43)

Do you have a personal or a pocket Deco? My Pocket deco did take all of a day a page but when I tried to fit in the City planner week on one page with notes too it was not happy so I've cut down to just three months a day a page, and the whole year of week a page with notes. That fits fine with some space for some extra city planner and note pages! Enjoy your Deco! What colour is it? I love mine! :) x

Jamie (2011-03-22 04:03:34)

The Deco looks gorgeous CP, I am very envious! I have just received my Domino Snake personal sized and I am loving that right now.

Does anyone know if the Domino Snake originally came as part of a gift set? I got mine on eBay.

caribbean princess (2011-03-22 04:13:32)

@ Soraya Leila, it is personal sized. My deco is ivory. Pics are posted on my blog :-) what colour is yours?

@Jamie. Thanks. The Domino snake was part of a beauty gift box for women.

girlinmaths (2011-03-22 05:43:52)

Good news CP. I loved the pictures on your blog.

I also have a small (silly?) question. I have a new finchley in purple, and I love it. I tried using it but found that I liked the white week insert from my finsbury better, and that I missed the monthly insert and blank tabs with my own headings. But it feels so wrong to me to put my white inserts in a finchley, that so clearly asks for cream inserts. What to do?

Jack (2011-03-22 05:51:51)

Does everyone use all 6 tabs that come with the Filos? I have the 6 in use, with two section divided again by home made top dividers. I am thinking of changing my set up and am not sure I will need all 6 dividers, but it feels odd only having three or four in my Filo...Any suggestions?

Thanks in advance. Silver

David Popely (2011-03-22 06:33:41)

I'm using the extra 'down time' afforded me by virtue of my newly-acquired temporary-invalid status to think through some diary and ring-size issues again. I mentioned this briefly with Steve when we spoke on the phone last week (thanks Steve!), but now that I'm fully committed to the Personal size binder, I need to sort out what will and will not fit within the 23mm rings which are standard on all binders with the exception of the zip models, which I happen to be unattracted to. Now I would like to use a Day on 2 Pages format, but i *know* I won't get a full year inside my 23mm rings, let alone all the other stuff I need to have to hand as well. Even the standard FF Day Per Page would fill up the entire ring on its own. Big problem. I have to carry to-do and other lists, info, financial records (I like to write down what I'm spending, as I spend it), etc etc etc.

Does anyone know of any non-FF Personal size (this is important) binder options with larger-than-23mm rings?

Saffy (2011-03-22 06:53:24)

@CP, Yay, congratulations, it is lovely.

@Jamie, the snake domino (and Fresco) came in a beauty gift box but both were also available to purchase separately.

I struggle with taking original inserts and moving to a different filo. I also struggle with moving the tabs around if they are the pre-printed ones because then they would be out of order. I started buying the blank ones so that I can get around this self imposed problem.

I wish top tabs were available to buy.

plaiditude (2011-03-22 07:51:50)

David Popely: I agree that Filofax really needs to have some Personal binders (non-zip) that have larger rings. I was in even a worse situation with Time/Design when I was trying to use their compact system, rings were only 5/8"! I loved the T/D inserts for the compact, though they were a bit narrow (1/2" less). Ring size was one of the main reasons for my initial switch to Filofax, but almost immediately I knew I would still wish for more. Please Filofax, give us some 1" or 1-1/4" ring options for the Personal size!

crofter (2011-03-22 09:45:49)

The only two binders that have the larger rings that I am aware of were the 5/4 Winchesters, and I have a Portland that also has the 5/4 rings. I am sure someone else with more knowledge than I will be able to shed more light on the subject.

David, I am so pleased to see you post again. I hope your arm is healing well, and that you will be back at full speed soon!

Butanben (2011-03-22 12:39:48)

Hi@Jack! The numbered 1-6 tabs are useful to me as a teacher, as there are six half terms in the year, so I can divide my notes up. If you've got children, would it be useful to divide up their school year stuff too in that way??

caribbean princess (2011-03-22 12:47:56)

@David nice to see you posting again :-)

Another question..... Now that I have been rumbled (DH has started reading my blog and I just happened to forget to mention I bought the Deco... hehe) he wondered whether I would be able to use it daily as it seemed delicate.

So to all you deco owners..... How sturdy is it? Would it survive as a PhD planner?

Thanks!

Butanben (2011-03-22 12:52:23)

David, the jeweller in Ilminster on Silver Street- main High Street bit, sells a lovely personal binder in leather which is non- Filofax, but don't know the ring sizes. It looks larger than 23cm though, but I am not certain. My dad bought one each for both my uncles last Christmas. They were very stylish and beautifully made soft leather. Looked quite deep and in Personal size. Rather liked them myself, but too manly looking for me!!! Know you live nearby, so could maybe pop in and ask if they fit the bill??? They were in black by the way and if they are not in stock, take about a fortnight to order. Know like me you are a Filofax addict. Hope you are on the mend by the way and feeling better. Have you been to the Mill (Mill Stream??) for a special lunch or Sunday Roast. We try to pre- book to get a table near the water wheel. That is such a divine restaurant and worth the trip if you're that way!!! xx

Butanben (2011-03-22 13:07:07)

David, just looked this up on Google, and it is called Hornsbury Mill Hotel and Restaurant, at Chard..... on main back road from Ilminster to Chard. Worth advanced pre- booking, as some days they have small weddings in the restaurant, which is of course the beautiful bit!!! Re- Filofax, cannot remember for sure if the ones dad bought my uncles are zipped or unzipped, but they were pretty gorgeous, and frankly well on a par with Filofax.xx.

Soraya Leila (2011-03-22 15:53:10)

@CP My Deco is Ruby but I think the Ivory is beautiful too! I looked at the pictures on your blog! :) xxx

Mrs. Grievous (2011-03-22 16:54:27)

I might be the last kid on the bus here, but Pens & Leather has posted the new range with smallish pictures, estimated dates of arrival, and estimated cost.

<http://www.pensandleather.com/filofax-personal-organizers.aspx>

I haven't seen better pictures than these so far. :D

justenoughsalt (2011-03-22 21:49:46)

@leslie great find! yes the pictures were small but at least we finally know when those new models are rolling out, yay july. thanks!

Petra (2011-03-22 22:41:46)

Girlinmaths – to me the purple Finchley looks better in white, given the white topstitching. I catalog everything that comes with a model, then remove it all and file it in my inserts box. That way I can pick and choose the best inserts for each filo. The red and spring green Finchleys do look better with cream.

Jack – If you only need 3 out of the 6 dividers, leave out every other one to space them evenly.

Now, off to Pens and Leather ;-)

Petra (2011-03-22 22:45:00)

Oops, thinking about the Chameleon with that spring green. Meant the soft jade Finchley, of course.

Those looking for top tabs that don't look quite as home-made might try the Avery note tabs.

David Popely (2011-03-23 06:15:34)

Thank you all for the good wishes.....yes, I'm on the mend, and getting the start of some mobility back. More importantly, I'm getting some energy for everyday stuff back as well.

Thanks for the tips re binders.....I have to confess to having just ordered a refill for my Quo Vadis Minister diary cover, as the Personal size-s lack of space is really starting to bug me now. I tried to find a large size Moleskine weekly diary whilst in London last Friday, but without success, and the QV desk-sized format has always served me well in the past. So I'm goign to try running hat for a while. As a by-product of my work I produce a *lot* of A4 scrap paper, which I've started reducing to A5 and using as scrap.....so I plan to make my lists (GTD and otherwise) on the scrap and tuck them inside the QV diary, and thus save myself (and the planet) a lot of paper wastage. And I can even recycle it once its been used that way!

Butanben, thanks for the restaurant tip, will definitely check it out. Have you tried the Kings Arms Inn at Montacute? We've eaten there twice this year, and it's fantastic - not cheap, but ideal for an occasional 'special meal'.

plaiditude (2011-03-23 13:02:51)

It's my One Year Anniversary from my very first Filofax order (Personal Scanda). I thought it would be fitting to celebrate by making yet another filo purchase :) I have a personal black Kendal on the way!! Now in the personal size I'll have the Scanda, blk Finchley, a blk Strata I got for \$5, and now the Kendal. I have it in A5 and think it's my favorite model.

shepcraig (2011-03-23 19:40:33)

I had a meeting with the Filofax rep today and got to see all the new lines and actually get them in my hands. Steve I also got the new catalogue so I now have the full list, there are even some organisers coming out for the London 2012 Olympics. My only disappointment was the compact organiser that people have been talking about. First, it is only available in a very expensive range, and also, it is personal size, not pocket like I thought. It is basically a Personal slimline, but with a closure on it. The rings are bigger then a slimline, but smaller than the personal. The most exciting thing though, was the new filofax flex notebook, it is so different and exciting, I cant wait to get my hands on one.

Butanben (2011-03-23 20:09:54)

@David. No we haven't tried that restaurant at Montacute and will certainly give it a go. Dad and myself often go out for a special meal in mid June, to celebrate Father's Day and my birthday, which always fall in the same week. So then would be ideal. I have popped it straight away into my mint green and pink pocket mode, which is now my restaurant and recipe Filofax. Bought for a bargain £5!!! These discount stores can be great for Filofax bargains!!! I love it, because it is in a rubbery plastic material, ideal for the kitchen, as wipeable downable. Keep up the recover and take care!! Jane xxxx

appleg (2011-03-23 21:35:00)

@shepcraig

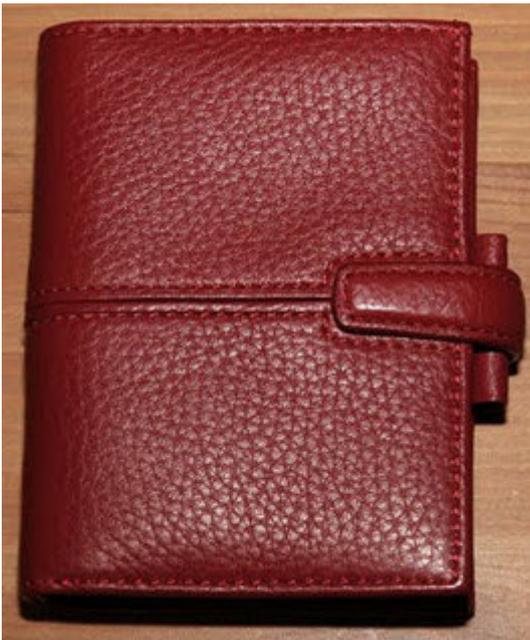
Please do post any new information you have! I can't wait! :)

David Popely (2011-03-24 04:24:41)

Jane, I would definitely try it out - also the Rose and Crown at East Lambrook (although I hear it's not quite as good as it was).

Off for a walk over Ham Hill this afternoon, my semi-invalid status is being revoked by DW and I am back in the gym Saturday, lest all the weight I have lost as a result of hospital food and general malaise make a quick and unwelcome return!

Mini as a Wallet (2011-03-22 03:22)



[1]

You might recall that I got a [2]Finchley Mini a few weeks ago. It's not been tried out other than be admired. But as I'm in UK at the moment I thought I would give it a try as my Wallet/Filofax just to see....

Without the need to carry my passport everywhere whilst I'm here in UK, the mini works just fine.

The two card slots in the front are tall enough to take my four cards by overlapping them, so you can see all four cards when you open the organiser.

The mesh pocket is great for keeping coins in, and the full back pocket fits bank notes and my old style paper UK driving licence a treat.

I still have my Pocket Chameleon with me, but I find the Mini easier to open and extract things from in shops. It slots in to my bag or my back pocket so much easier... but don't sit down!!

Yes the diary space is a little more restricted, but I suspect with the correct choice of diary insert and with a sensible choice of other pages the mini could be made to work as a wallet/purse for most people

who didn't want to carry anything too large around. I will carry on using it for the next couple of weeks and see what my overall experience/impressions are.

1. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-9MYfhM4mVYU/TUCb96ny6uI/AAAAAAAAI5o/jmt2vyqcpmY/s1600/IMG_9769.JPG
2. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/01/my-first-mini.html>

T (2011-03-22 05:02:47)

A timely post for me; my Guilford mini just arrived yesterday!

I'm starting to prep it for use as a wallet and Dutch on-the-go phrase book (for my upcoming move in 2 weeks to Flanders).

I pulled out the diary pages immediately, and loaded it with plain, unlined paper. I left the index tabs in and also put in plain tabs. I plan to use the index tabs to make a mini-dictionary and the plain tabs for sections for words I will need for the grocery store, pharmacy, etc.

I am very pleased with this mini, and am looking forward to using it as my wallet/Dutch life line. I would post a picture, but have already packed the camera.

One question: the mesh pocket is very cute, but how hard is it to pull coins out of?

girlinmaths (2011-03-22 05:39:34)

Please don't post any more! This makes me want to get a mini!

Seriously, looks great. I love finchleys. Have a good time in the uk.

M Ng (2011-03-22 08:24:21)

T, what a brilliant use of the mini with A-Z index!

I've always considered planners smaller than the personal too tiny to be useful (and I have very small and neat handwriting); the brilliant ideas and pics on Philofaxy are starting to convince me otherwise.

Mrs. Grievous (2011-03-22 09:40:25)

I'm liking my mini Piazza so far as a wallet. The only thing I keep in it is note paper for shopping lists. I have to try to keep my files very minimalist or I go nuts and they get too fat to close.

I really love the idea of a dictionary for more often used words and phrases. Seems easier than carrying around a full "pocket" dictionary (which is usually the size of a thick paperback, NOT a pocket).

T (2011-03-22 09:54:58)

Thanks M Ng and Leslie!

I'll be very interested myself in seeing how it will actually work "on the ground", but am looking forward to trying it.

After using it for a couple of months, I definitely plan to submit a post about it.

Leslie, you are so right about "pocket" dictionaries, and Dutch is even worse! The pickings are slim, and since it's the Dutch who learn to speak English, rather than the other way around, normally, their "pocket" dictionary is in 2 volumes!

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-22 10:05:44)

Loved reading your updates. I have never used a mini before but like the idea of using one as an idea book to carry around in my bag/car - any excuse!!!

Hope you are enjoying your travels...

Katie (2011-03-22 10:22:32)

T, I'm VERY interested in your mini idea! I'm learning Japanese, but the dictionary is so big I can't take it anywhere with me. Maybe next time I go shopping I'll spend a bit longer looking at the minis!

Susanne (2011-03-22 12:59:12)

I look forward to hear how you like using the Mini. I have just ordered a Mini Finchley in green through a European site, but do not expect to get it before May when my sister visits and brings it along. I have already planned out in my mind how I would set it up. And as T, I would also remove the diary and replace it with notepaper. It will be fun.

Vidya (2011-03-26 12:49:41)

For over ten years I've been using the Lizell wallet/planners they used to sell as my main wallet. I love having everything in one place. It's a little bulky and when my last one wears out (I stocked up a few years ago and bought two, so I'm set til the end of the decade) I'll buy a Filofax Mini. I do have fits of wanting to ditch the Lizells so I can get a Finchley Mini that will match my beloved Finchley Personal- they would look so cute together!

Departure Day! (2011-03-22 09:00)

Today's the day I depart for Indonesia!

Before I go, I just want to thank all of you for your unfailing support as I prepared for this move, and last year's move too for that matter. You must all be tired of reading my moving angst by now!!!! I really appreciate everyone's kind words.

I'll be back online as soon as possible! :)

SNARLing: (2011-03-22 09:31:10)

good luck! hope all goes smoothly

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-22 10:00:42)

Safe travels.... looking forward to hearing your updates.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-22 10:11:18)

Good luck Laurie!

Gisele (2011-03-22 10:23:29)

Good luck Laurie! Looking forward to hearing about your adventures.

Minnie (2011-03-22 10:27:10)

Good luck and hope everything goes well and you have a great time ! :)

katka (2011-03-22 11:03:14)

good luck and safe flight

J (2011-03-22 12:21:20)

Good luck, safe travels, and many adventures to you!

Butanben (2011-03-22 12:31:41)

All the very best to you in your new venture Laurie!! Sounds very exciting.

Will be great to hear your news and updates later.

Susanne (2011-03-22 12:54:13)

Safe journey Laurie. Also looking forward to hear about the new adventures.

justenoughsalt (2011-03-22 15:08:48)

woah that was fast! safe travels!

28e0e8c2-3557-11e0-82ac-000bcdcb471e (2011-03-23 01:19:38)
Hope you have a safe flight and lovely new adventures to report!
AspireToBe

app1eg (2011-03-23 04:44:42)
Dear Laurie, welcome to South-East Asia! :)

Laurie (2011-03-23 15:40:14)
Thank you so much everyone! We are currently in Singapore for a couple of days on our way to Indonesia. (I'm up in the middle of the night right now with jet lag!)
Yesterday after we got in we went to eat at a big shopping center and I looked around--there's loads of stationery!! Lots of different kinds of notebooks, and I even found a store that had a small Filofax selection!

shepcraig (2011-03-23 19:34:44)
Good Luck Laurie, I am sure you will not miss this scottish weather. Come see me if you are ever back in Edinburgh.

gdigesu (2011-03-23 19:59:14)
All the best to you and your family! You're a globe trotter like I am. I respect you, your husband and your kids. It's tough, challenging and great fun.
When you get "tehere", let us all know.
Cheers, Giovanni

gdigesu (2011-03-23 19:59:52)
... there ...

Phyllis (2011-03-23 21:16:08)
Welcome to Singapore!
We do have quite a variety of stationary here. Filofaxes can be found in most of the bigger stationary shops/stores, but sadly quite limited in range.
Enjoy your stay.

Web Finds (2011-03-23 00:00)

So some excellent posts for you to read today.

- [1]Filofax Set up 3 months on - Sharon
- [2]Library Planner Sightings - Life Well Planned - I really liked this post and I might 'pinch' the idea for a regular feature on Philofaxy, may be a monthly post... on the last day of the month.
- [3]And Yet - Life Well Planned - Malden
- [4]Happiness Binder - Life Well Planned
- [5]Filofaxaloon - Loony about Filofax - aren't we all!!
- [6]Decadent Deco - Caribbean Princess
- [7]New Stuff for my Filofax - Saraccino, also check out the other [8]Filofax posts
- [9]New Filo, more purple - Girl in Maths

Enjoy

1. <http://shazzastitching.wordpress.com/2011/03/21/filofax-setup-3mths-on/>
2. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/2011/03/library-planner-sightings.html>
3. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/2011/03/and-yet.html>
4. <http://lifewellplanned.blogspot.com/2011/03/happiness-binder-big-reveal.html>
5. <http://www.filofaxaloona.blogspot.com/>
6. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/decadent-deco-filofax.html>
7. <http://saraccino.blogspot.com/2011/03/new-stuff-for-my-filofax.html>
8. <http://saraccino.blogspot.com/search/label/filofax>
9. <http://girlinmaths.wordpress.com/2011/03/21/new-filo-more-purple/>

Saraccino (2011-03-23 07:53:00)

Oh, how cool! Thanks for being your "web find" :) Just saw it now :)

Amanda (2011-03-24 15:39:02)

I **love** the library planner sightings! Fantastic!

And yes please... that would make a great regular posting!

kanalt (2011-03-25 07:58:44)

Thanks for the *three* links to my blog! And I agree, the planner sightings would make a great regular posting!

Filofax Address Book Software (2011-03-24 00:00)

I've had the [1]Filofax Address Book Software for over a year, but it's not until recently that I've really got to grips with it. More a case of not having it on my To Do list to use it than anything else!

It's actually quite useful software if you want to maintain your addresses in an electronic format, but you also want them printed out to go in to your Filofax.

Previously I used to maintain my addresses and contacts in Microsoft Outlook. I had about 150 contacts recorded, but I'm now realising that there should be more if I include the number of people I only have email addresses for.

So to get started on using the Filofax software as my central database I exported my contact list from within Microsoft Outlook. Then importing the file in to the Filofax software.

Once imported I have been able to edit the information very easily. You can sort the list in several different ways. The software can handle business and home address, phone and email details. Details such as birthdays and anniversaries are also included.

You can then print out you list in many different ways. You can use the Filofax Computer paper in Pocket, Personal and A5 formats. Additionally there is a Paper File option which will allow you to print on any size paper that your printer can handle. Additionally it can print on envelopes and mailing labels, useful for your Christmas card list!

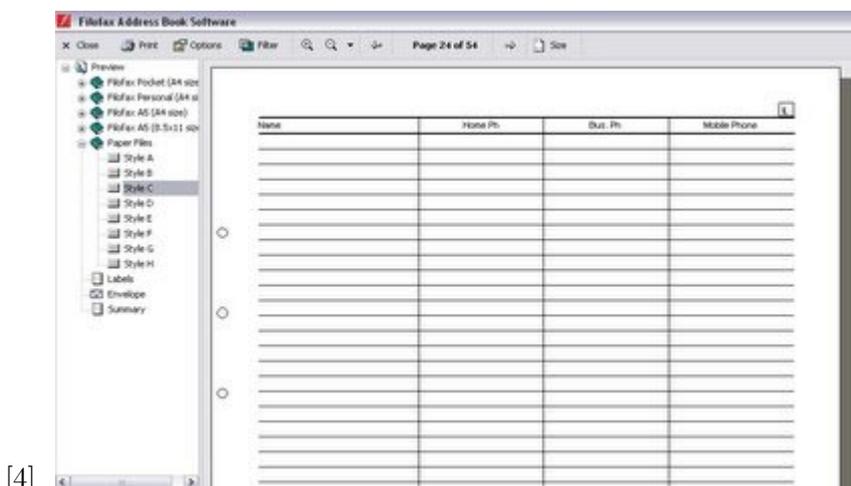
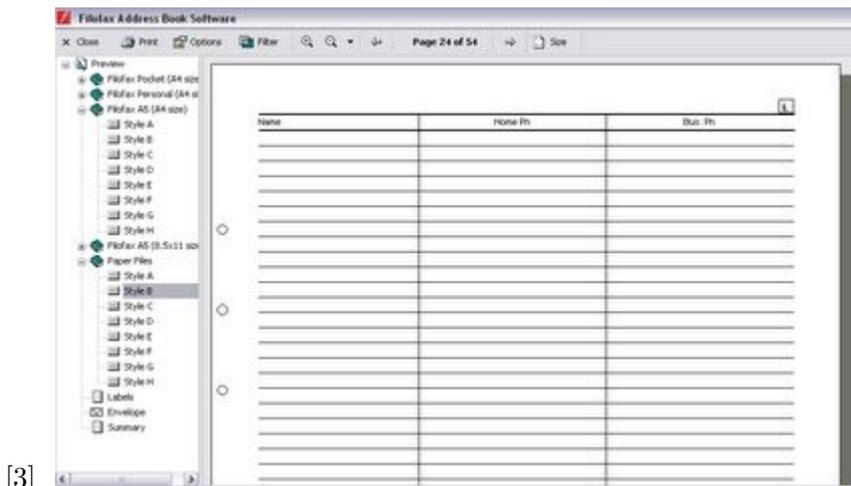
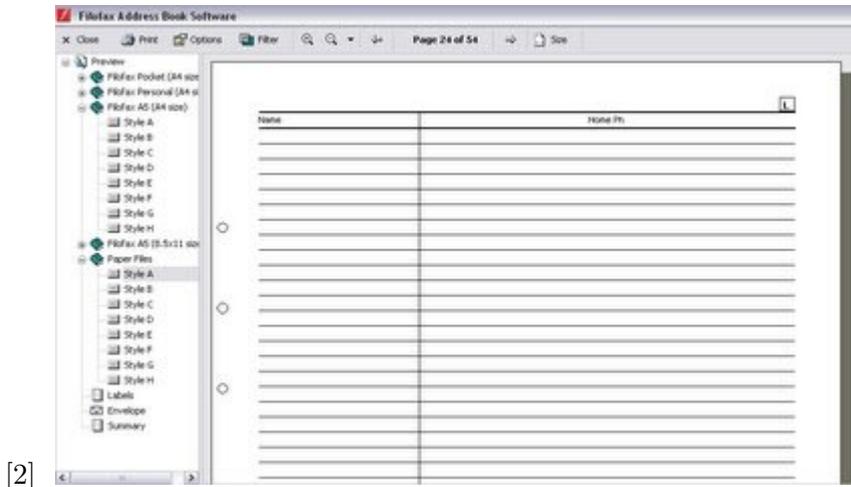
For each size there are a selection of page styles which give you a choice of how detailed to make your printed entries. The print preview mode allows you to see your contacts on a simulated page and switching between styles allows you to see how much detail is included.

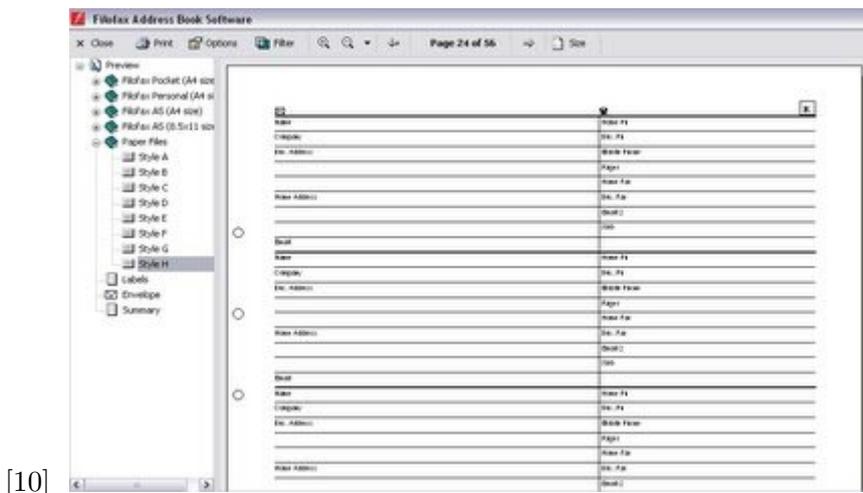
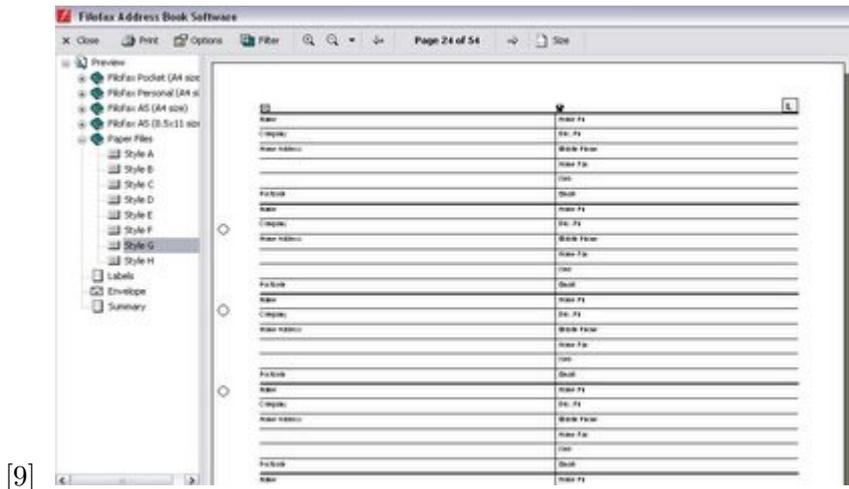
You can also filter your contacts to include or exclude work, personal or a text based filters. This proves quite powerful if you are setting up your contacts exclusively for your work Filofax.

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.

Here are examples of the eight different print styles available each is previewed on the screen before you print out your address list. They vary from a simple Name and Telephone list to a full contact and

address entry for each record.





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. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-BM4LqTUGRrc/TYjxBKozKEI/AAAAAAAAI-4/CBy_-FeOpYU/s1600/StyleA.bmp
3. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-16mKyzUQKF8/TYjxD_39eRI/AAAAAAAAI-8/ug4zgL5LFK8/s1600/StyleB.bmp
4. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-KMez1nKIBUo/TYjxGczD6AI/AAAAAAAAI_A/Kzs0eDwCZaY/s1600/StyleC.bmp
5. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-o00V8kJXjC8/TYjxK4jcc0I/AAAAAAAAI_E/AD21kR2LXSU/s1600/StyleD.bmp
6. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-YaKkpG9hRwQ/TYjxNrgTLRI/AAAAAAAAI_I/R8Lp7cYN-AI/s1600/StyleE.bmp
7. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-ieMF4kf8CNE/TYjxQamnmOI/AAAAAAAAI_M/u7HRnDSW0ps/s1600/StyleF.bmp
8. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-o00V8kJXjC8/TYjxK4jcc0I/AAAAAAAAI_E/AD21kR2LXSU/s1600/StyleD.bmp
9. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-kWia7r5T0sg/TYjxTN7XvEI/AAAAAAAAI_Q/7aAfGSCkpRg/s1600/StyleG.bmp
10. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-e7gyN1aqJhs/TYjw_pQEFrI/AAAAAAAAI-0/UJHLCheV7MQ/s1600/StyleH.bmp

Saffy (2011-03-24 04:52:25)

Excellent post Steve, I have always wondered how it worked and what it looked like. The fact that it can print for any size filo makes it well worth considering. Thanks.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-24 07:56:00)

I did buy this software a long time ago (we are talking years here) and I seem to have lost it. I have to use outlook with my work and I sync this with my phone. I also use a dymo label printer which can link to outlook or have standalone address list. I'm not sure I want to use another address facility at the moment - regardless of how good it is! However it is great to see how it has now developed and I can see it would be really useful for some people.

Butanben (2011-03-24 08:34:52)

Steve, a great idea this, and a very informative post. Would be so useful to print off separate work contacts address book for future reference. You've certainly brought the Spring sunshine with you. Hurrah!!!

DanishGTD (2011-03-24 08:59:35)

Anyone ever tried using this on the Mac??

As some of you might now from my blog, I've been using an iPod Touch for my addresses but it could be nice to get them all into my filofax.

Steve (2011-03-24 09:14:07)

Sadly it is Windows only software although I suspect (but I've not tried it) that it would work on Parallels on the Mac.

Likewise I'm a Mac user as well. So I have been using the software on a Netbook with XP on it.

jjhitt (2011-03-25 11:41:05)

I've asked the developer and never got a reply.. so, I'll ask you, Steve:

Any idea if it is "portable" (ie: can be installed and run on removable media)?

Steve (2011-03-25 14:05:03)

Hi

I'm not sure I suspect you can't easily 'carry it' from one machine to another because of the way things install on Windows machines. I only have one windows machine with me at the moment so I can't test if it's moveable. When I get back to France I will give it a try and let you know.

Steve

Free For All Friday No. 123 (2011-03-25 00:08)

Hello friends,

As you read this, I'll be just about arriving in Jakarta. I've never been to Indonesia before, and moving to a country sight-unseen makes me a little nervous. (Ok who am I fooling, it completely freaks me out.) But, I've done it many times before, so this is just the next phase. I have my [1]new Filofax to help me in my new life here!

How has a new Filofax helped you in a new phase of life, for example starting a new job, after the birth of a baby, starting or graduating university?

To those of you who are going to the London Philofaxy meetup this weekend, have a wonderful time! The question on everyone's lips: What Filofaxes are you bringing???

As always on Fridays, the floor is yours to discuss anything Filofax-related!

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/03/my-a5-domino-filofax-in-new-ultra.html>

caribbean princess (2011-03-25 04:36:46)

Hope you have arrived safely Laurie. I got my first Filofax when I started public health specialty training in August 2008. It was a split post (academic clinical fellowship) so I had to combine normal training (75 %) with research (25 %). In addition to this full time job I needed to study for 2 professional membership exams, write papers, teach, attend conferences, give presentations and try to get a doctoral fellowship. My trusted personal Botanic kept me organised and sane throughout and ensured I was successful! That is why I LOVE my filofax although DH said I should probably give myself some credit! Haha.

DanishGTD (2011-03-25 04:37:02)

I just fell completely in love with a Finchley A5 in Brown/Chokolate. It´s appears to only be available in scandi-navia. <http://www.filofax.no/store/organiserdetails.asp?sizeId=5 &rangeId=84 &dsId=5 #>
Anyone know why this is? It seems strange that it is available over here in different colours than in the UK-store? Anyone have any opinions on the Finchley A5?

Smiler (2011-03-25 05:45:27)

I've only just started reading this blog, so I thought I'd comment! I got my Filofax when I started Uni and I've been so organised compared to usual. We even did "awards" at Christmas, and I was given the "Filofax Award" along with some inserts! However, it doesn't take long before Filofax sucks you back in, so I'm going to buy an A5 Domino today in the sale, which will hopefully be useful when I start teaching in September! Even though I haven't used it yet, I know that the A5 size will make it much easier to organise myself and a class of kids!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-25 06:15:08)

@ Laurie - hope you arrived safely - I can't help feeling a tiny bit jealous about your new adventure!

@DanishGTD - I've seen this colour in other sizes so I think it is a previous colour they did. I have an antique rose A5 Finchley which I use as my household filofax and I love it - very soft and sumptuous!

My question: I had a abberation earlier this week and bought an A5 Black Amazona from City Organiser - on sale at £65. It is very lovely! Matches my black Jaeger business handbag and shoes! Anyway I really wanted cotton cream inserts but can't see any in A5 - has anyone come across them? Otherwise will have to do them myself which is a pain as I'm really busy just now!!!

Also another question - does anyone know of another refill system that fits the A5? I love some of the other refills - I think they are much better thought out (eg day timer, franklin covey etc) but not sure what fits. I like to keep a monthly overview and day per page in my A5, but divided with monthly tabs (which I have) but filofax don't print theres in a very friendly way to sepearate the months.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-25 06:21:13)

Here is another question. What (if anything) do you use to polish or clean your leather filofax's with? Can I just use a standard clear leather cream cleaner/polish?

bernhardS (2011-03-25 06:51:55)

@Alison:

I'd like to recommend "Ballistol" which is a universal oil originally developed for cleaning guns.

With Ballistol, you can polish leather real well but it is even better for oiling a Filo's ring mechanism from time to time.

Hope you can buy Ballistol in your country. In Germany, we pay some 3 Euro for a 50 ml spray can.

Mary (2011-03-25 06:59:51)

Hello, it's my first comment to your blog I check regularly. I want to buy a new personal (although I am constantly changing with the pocket size). I am between a cuban chestnut and an amazona red. I like the amazona because it has two pen loops but the cuban seems so beautiful. What do you suggest?

Alison Reeves (2011-03-25 07:07:55)

@BernhardS - thanks - my husband shoots as a hobby so perhaps I will have to raid his supplies :-)

@Mary - I would say it depends on personal preference - you want to love it for a long time, so take a look at your other accessories and the things that make you smile! I have an amazona pocket in almond which is beautiful and recently purchased one in black which is really classy. I don't kow why I didn't go for red as I am a colourful person normally! In an ideal world I would have several and change them depending on mood and what I was wearing that day(much like a handbag!). I think they will both last a long time. Check out the deals from City Organiser here - I've just got one and the delivery was really fast (no affiliation just a happy customer):

http://www.cityorganiser.co.uk/acatalog/Online_Catalogue_Filofax_Personal_Organisers_-_Up_to_40_Discount_39.html

Alison Reeves (2011-03-25 07:10:08)

Whoops - I think my link was too long. Try this:

<http://bit.ly/g2mvPW>

Dilaila (2011-03-25 07:11:50)

Hey, I'm in Malaysia, just next door to Indonesia. My grandfather's Indonesian.

justenoughsalt (2011-03-25 07:19:16)

happy FFAF! i have one question...in contributing to the upswing in filofax interest, have we created a monster? yesterday someone listed a winchester with a STARTING bid of \$250? come on! really?

http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=140527140430&fromMakeTrack=true&ssPageName=VIP:watchlink:top:en#ht_500wt_1071

Allan (2011-03-25 07:22:18)

Laurie - have a safe trip!

@ DanishGTD - I use an A5 Finchley and I absolutely love it. The leather is fantastic and there's so much space to store and write things inside. I just moved up from a personal size (Portland) and don't regret the move at all - the extra weight is totally worth the extra space.

DanishGTD (2011-03-25 08:08:07)

@Allan, I think I'll be quite happy with it as well. I just bought a used Domino A5 (for just 20 pounds) and I'm looking forward to testing out the format.

I find myself using a junior legal pad for jotting down notes all the time during the work day and it could be awesome to have this in my Filo instead of having to fold the sheets at the end of the day. (A standard junior legal pad fits into the back pocket of the A5, right?).

BTW, just got word from the scandinavian store that the brown/chocolate coloured Finchley is going out of production... Hopefully I'll order it in time - have to wait until next paycheck.

Jotje (2011-03-25 08:19:25)

Discovered that the Domino has been released in bright orange!!! Looks awesome IMO, but I can't come up with a use for it, so won't buy it.

michele (2011-03-25 08:32:00)

Laurie, all my best wishes for you and your family in your new home! I've been off the blog for a few weeks as we adopted a little puppy. Now my filo has all new notes just for her!..

@DanishGTD, I believe Nan has a Finchley A5 in Brown/Chocolate... If you do a search on this, you may find her blog entry from about two years ago!

David Popely (2011-03-25 08:58:21)

@colie Interesting point - my concern is that fashion is very fickle, and I fear for Filofax if they put all their efforts into riding the current wave of popularity for multiple-binder-hoarding at the expense of their core customer base of concerned and astute time managers. Only time will tell - but the 'Filofax craze' will most certainly come to a (probably swift) end leaving the core people who were around before, plus a few newcomers, to carry on.

DanishGTD (2011-03-25 10:06:06)

@michele, I can't seem to find it. But thanks anyway.

On another note, I think the rising popularity of Filofax has to do with maybe people are beginning to appreciate something tactile and sturdy as opposed to the digital-age-craze that has been on the rise the past few years.

But right now us - the trusted users and followers - can try to benefit from the in some cases still rather low prizes on used Filos on the used market. At least over here i Scandinavia...

Alison Reeves (2011-03-25 10:39:36)

I suppose the only advantage to current filofax popularity is that at some point in the future there will be a lot of nice filofax binders on ebay which will be going very cheap!

I really wish filofax would put a lot more effort into the refills.

Laurie (2011-03-25 11:20:31)

We're here! We arrived in Jakarta this afternoon. First impressions of Jakarta: huge city, tropical, and hot! It is very confusing and it will take me some time to figure out how to get around and where to go. Luckily we have the weekend to settle in a little before my husband starts work Monday. We are all still shattered with jet lag, I haven't slept more than a couple of hours for 4 nights in a row (due to ill children before we even started to travel) and the kids are disoriented. (So am I for that matter!) I go through this confusing phase every time I move to a new country and I tell myself it's normal and temporary, and that I'll start to feel more comfortable soon.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Gisele (2011-03-25 11:35:36)

@Laurie I wish you and your family every happiness in Indonesia and hope you soon feel settled in. Your winters will certainly be warmer!

City Organiser - mentioned by @Alison Reeves above - have a 20 % off promo code on their homepage. Some of their Filos are now being supplied with 2011 and 2012 diaries. Not sure the promo code can be used for purchases of the already discounted ones though.

Very tempted by the Ruby Deco but don't really *need* one. If they had Amethyst I'd snap it up.

This is one of my first posts here so I just wanted to say thanks for a wonderfully addictive blog. I've got about 13 Filos and bought the first in 1983.

Currently using scarlet Pocket Malden for work, lilac Pocket Piazza for health/fitness/personal diary and cobalt blue Personal Portobello for planning, big goals etc. This is such a stunning Filo, wish they'd bring it back or do other in that colour.

Happy weekend to everyone!

michele (2011-03-25 11:44:40)

@DanishGTD - Do a search on "chocolate" 2nd tab, entry from 02 January 2009 "New Year/New Filo" Nan even has photos attached. I have the Mustard A5 Finchley which I use for work - love it!

DanishGTD (2011-03-25 12:02:39)

@michele... Thanks alot! Found it!!!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-25 14:11:32)

Does anyone know if filofax have ever done a zip lock envelope for the mini size?

Sandra (2011-03-25 18:36:54)

@Laurie Glad to hear you have arrived and are being to settle in for the duration!

@Colie I saw that crazy Ebay posting! That is simply ridiculous.

@caribbean princess And your Deco will be a key tool in getting that Ph.D. completed. Stylishly, at that!

Happy weekend, all! Hope the meet up is a wild success and not too costly to your pocket books. I envy you all in the kindest way possible. ;)

Nellie (2011-03-26 11:47:45)

Guys - For those of you at the Philofaxy meet, I hope you are OK. I just saw the news about the riots.

Please take care.

Nellie,

x

Edwin61 (2011-03-26 11:55:07)

I use a brown A5 Kendall and though it's a big one, it works best for me. I also have a black personal Kendall, which I bought earlier but I'm too much used and addicted to the A5.

I use it the GTD-way. I have a week on 2P, write my personal appointments with by fountainpen in havanna inkt, my bussiness with another fountainpen in blue-black.

My todo-lists are: Calls, Agendas, Computer, Errands, Home, Anywhere and waiting For. Ik also have checklists: repeating todo's, night away, gifts. My Notes section is my IN-box.

It works for me to keep organized and though I love gadgets, I always carry my FF.

justenoughsalt (2011-03-26 12:32:12)

@nellie what riots?

Amanda (2011-03-26 13:11:55)

@Laurie, hope you get settled in soon!

@everyone at the meet-up - hope you're all having a great time (and managing NOT to spend your entire savings!).

Nellie (2011-03-26 14:43:34)

@colie

there were demonstrations today against the cuts half a million people in London. Mostly peaceful, but a few hundred people broke away and attacked Oxford Street and the Ritz.

Rori (2011-03-26 15:34:59)

Mary:

I just bough the Cuban Zip Personal size...it is GORGEOUS. and the rings are enormous! I have it stuffed full! Love it! The Amazona is a stunning piece of kit too though! You'll love either one. Best wishes!

Steve (2011-03-26 16:57:31)

Hi Everyone.

Thanks for your concern today about us in London. All went well a few hiccups but everyone is ok.

I will be doing a post about our adventures and the meet up with pictures etc. I will be starting on it shortly once I have caught up with other stuff here.

We had another great meet up which I think will come across well in the photos.

Regards

Steve

Mrs. Grievous (2011-03-26 19:09:59)

Jotje, do you have pics of said orange domino? I hope it comes in A5. :D

Iris (2011-03-27 09:56:00)

@Leslie

The Domino in Orange is available from [1]Filofax Germany - but only in Pocket and Personal, I'm afraid.

1. <http://www.filofax.de/store/organiserdetails.asp?nocache=true&iLangId=2&caching=true&sizeId=3&rangeId=54&dsizeId=3#reviews>

Philofaxy London Meet Up - March 2011 (2011-03-26 18:39)

So Saturday 26th March the day of the Philofaxy London meet-up. I had been looking forward to this for several weeks. But someone was conspiring against me to try and not make the day happen.

It started off with delays on the trains to London so instead of going to my local station I drove up to Sevenoaks to catch the train from there instead. No sooner had I got on to the platform after battling with the ticket machine, I realised I had left my mobile phone back at the house... hmm not a good start,

Normally I just grab my 'man bag' and everything is in it.. I wasn't taking that bag today though... I shouldn't have rushed out of the house.

This Saturday was also the day of the Oxford Cambridge annual boat race and also a large protest march in London to protest against the cuts in public sector services and pay by the UK government. But I did a bit of research and looked at the route of the march and thought we could skirt around the route with a bit of planning for our walk from Tate Modern to Neal Street.

In the end I think most of us were delayed for one reason or another and we did manage to meet up at Waterloo and we then walked to Tate Modern to meet up with the rest of the group, in fact we arrived to find everyone outside the building which had been evacuated for some reason! But after just a five minute wait we were able to re-enter the building and get seated in the restaurant for our meal.

Food was ordered but rather than just sitting there chatting whilst waiting, out came the Filofax organisers and they started to circulate around the table!!! Last time we had at least got the main course out of the way... not that it mattered. We had more time today so people really were relaxed and we all changed seats every so often so everyone got to talk with everyone, which was great.

As you will see from the photos we had a lot of fun, chatting, showing each other our Filofax organisers, I passed around the Filofax Facts book. I also showed some people the Filofax Address Book software on my netbook. We also made our own attempt at a Filofax tower record!!

We left Tate Modern for our walk to Neal Street, the streets were very busy, but no sign of any trouble thank goodness. By the time we were crossing the route of the march they were all in Hyde Park.

We were once again made very welcome by the staff at the Filofax store in Neal Street. We all enjoyed looking through the new stock and items not yet on the website. A few purchases were made. I had made a list of inserts I wanted to get for my various organisers and it was a wise thing to do, I got those out of the way first and then got down to the serious business of looking at the new organisers on offer as well as the existing stock. Yes I made a purchase... but you will have to wait to find out what I bought!!!

We even managed to get a group photo taken outside of the shop and then before we started our journeys home we started to exchange thanks and ideas for the next meet up... May be a picnic for all our families or a two day meet up.. Lots of great ideas to discuss in the next few months. Certainly we will be having another meet up.

I've learnt a few things for improving on this and the last meet up as well to make the next one even better.

So thank you to: Thomas (who travelled from Bonn), Jane, Lucy, Sharon, Kyla, Jess and Adam for making it a successful day.

Looking forward to the next one.... if you want to organise a meet up in your area or in your country contact us and we will give you some publicity to help you get things to happen.

Here is a preview of most of the pictures from today... Click on it to see it full size.. a more detailed set will be added to the blog soon...



[1]

1. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-R4Cxwv9ASlw/TY5p-E4JYeI/AAAAAAAAI_U/DNndC8sKDU/s1600/2011_03_26.jpg

28e0e8c2-3557-11e0-82ac-000bcdcb471e (2011-03-26 18:54:36)

Awww - looks like you all had so much fun!!! Jealous over here in the States! Okay, details & photos, everybody! Did you add to your beloved filofax collections???? Dumb question, huh, I see those huge filofax shopping bags! AspireToBe

Mrs. Grievous (2011-03-26 19:08:17)
So jealous!!! I <3 CP with the stack!

Rori (2011-03-26 19:15:03)
So glad it went well, was worried y'all wouldn't be able to have a good time due to the problems.
So jealous!! Can't wait for pics.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-26 19:32:05)
Really jealous and can't wait to hear more about it all! So pleased you had a good time and didn't have too much trouble with the problems in London. Can't wait to hear about all your purchases!

Laurie (2011-03-26 19:39:01)
Really glad you all had a great time and that you didn't have problems from the protests. I wish I could have been there!!
PS Jess I love your hair!! :)

Denise (2011-03-26 20:16:07)
Looks like you all had a great day. Felt quite light-headed at seeing so many Filofaxes all at once.

Steve (2011-03-27 03:57:02)
It was a sensational day despite the few hiccups. I will be doing a follow up post with 'snippets' in it to catch all the small things we discussed/discovered, and I will also post links to other peoples reports of the day as I become aware of them.
So much happens in a day like yesterday your memory becomes a little fuzzy, it's difficult to remember everything in one post if that makes sense.
I've got another fun packed day today meeting some two first cousins I've never met before!!
Regards
Steve

Jess (2011-03-27 07:05:09)
i'm sad to report i didn't buy anything. the sad life of an impoverished student... i was hoping to buy the grey finsbury in pocket size but was ultimately pretty disappointed by the colour, which was a much darker grey than i was expecting.
laurie, thanks for saying you like my hair! i'm surprised i look alive in the pics at all after the nightmare i had getting to the meet up, with the march and so many transport problems... was ripping my hair out at one point! wish you could have been there, it would have been lovely to meet you.

kanalt (2011-03-27 08:13:17)
I'm so glad everyone had such a great time! The photos are excellent.

Butanben (2011-03-27 11:55:32)
It was such a fabulous day!! Thank you to everyone for making it so very special. Steve, I just adore all your photos, especially the first one of Sharon and myself. I look a bit on the elderly side in the other Jane one... Hmmm!!!! Did everyone else get home okay?? I hope so. It was really chaotic going back, with tube stations closed etc. But I got

a rickshaw taxi to Waterloo. Such GREAT fun!!! Smitten with the black personal Deco, will wait until I have a new job maybe to get that!! Steve, measured up and have ordered my Graphic briefcase online today, before it is finally discontinued. Fingers crossed. Thanks ever so much for organizing this Steve. As the famous song says..... We'll meet again???.xxxx

London Meet up - Photos (2011-03-26 19:51)

So here are my photos of the day:



[1]

Food has been ordered... right out with the organisers!



[2]



[3]



[4]



[5]



[6]

Lucy



[7]

Kyla starts her record attempt...



[8]



[9]



[10]



[11]



[12]

Need a few more.... no it's going to collapse...help



[13]

How much is that pile worth then???



[14]



[15]

Jess and Kyla

320



[16]



[17]



[18]

Kyla looking at a Filofax case made by Thomas, very neat.



[19]



[20]



[21]



[22]



[23]

Jane



[24]



[25]



[26]



[27]

Then it was the turn of expensive handbags....



[28]

Shopping time...



[29]



[30]



[31]



[32]



[33]



[34]

And time to say good bye... but not before we had a few quick photos taken



[35]



[36]



[37]



[38]

New stock



[39]

Vintage Pink Malden



[40]

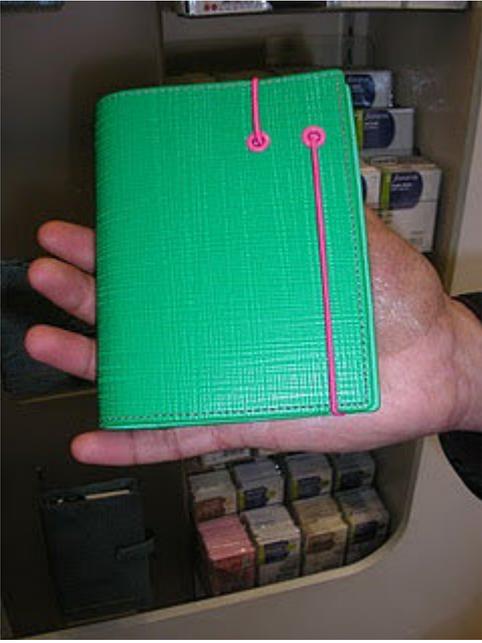
Grey Malden also [41]available in A5 ;-)



[42]



[43]



[44]

Apex



[45]



[46]

Grey Finsbury



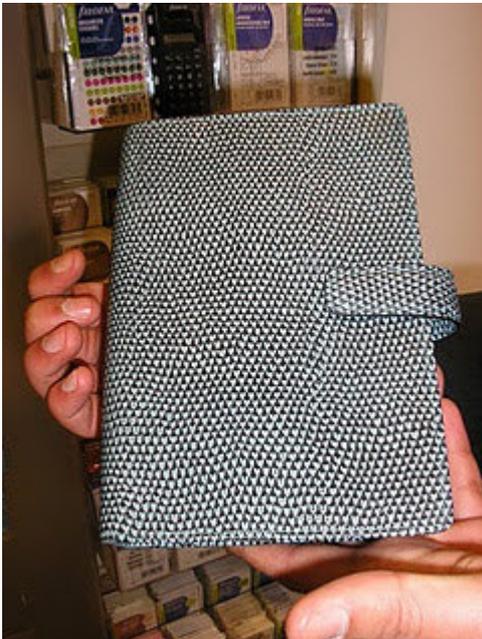
[47]



[48]



[49]



[50]

1. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-WLWrlhp-rEg/TY51w1IrOII/AAAAAAAAI_c/HT01Qcthvfy/s1600/IMG_9840.JPG
2. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/--uk5GfsMIgE/TY5112d-z7I/AAAAAAAAI_k/DJHYNqaN8qg/s1600/IMG_9842.JPG
3. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-glods_jpCQ4/TY514DZuNYI/AAAAAAAAI_o/gX5qBzs8Pb4/s1600/IMG_9843.JPG
4. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-ZePDC2U9dXA/TY515xTJ8EI/AAAAAAAAI_s/UUc3e9hB3mo/s1600/IMG_9844.JPG
5. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-XlbycvHNM9M/TY5172Qu6CI/AAAAAAAAI_w/t7PDgaI2pKY/s1600/IMG_9845.JPG
6. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-BDZT7Pa_2n4/TY519x85qyI/AAAAAAAAI_0/FjmGJ42ZQ2E/s1600/IMG_9846.JPG
7. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-ONLLIYFc56E/TY52HfmcQBI/AAAAAAAAJAE/xQC-Xg66Kds/s1600/IMG_9850.JPG
8. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-ouqBUbGBnJI/TY52JMj_14I/AAAAAAAAJAI/Ca7C_TI5tZo/s1600/IMG_9851.JPG
9. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-A8DjD9qNhUU/TY52LZONB0I/AAAAAAAAJAM/9fxNqiVPyF8/s1600/IMG_9852.JPG
10. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-_fp7oTEys2Y/TY52Nk69SHI/AAAAAAAAJAJ/QH03GosyCTw/s1600/IMG_9853.JPG
11. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-B8rc2-1GSTA/TY52P2P61NI/AAAAAAAAJAU/b4e4q4jMuqM/s1600/IMG_9854.JPG
12. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-h7eU9BS6R6U/TY52R17S_BI/AAAAAAAAJAY/QZSbJ60n_Yw/s1600/IMG_9855.JPG
13. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-4jR-tLBSQ5A/TY52UXB6VjI/AAAAAAAAJAc/iuFwmdnL4Dc/s1600/IMG_9856.JPG
14. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-1PmqEgWGxAo/TY52YH1f1YI/AAAAAAAAJAK/xHbwJfD3zj4/s1600/IMG_9858.JPG
15. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-6umHukGREWU/TY52doCxNoI/AAAAAAAAJAW/Bhazd-nqsY8/s1600/IMG_9861.JPG
16. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-ZdBS590Mbho/TY52fXkyhII/AAAAAAAAJAO/u1yeNKAIc94/s1600/IMG_9862.JPG

17. https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/-917LNKSjtuc/TY52hN7y1ZI/AAAAAAAAJA4/m6CDj3PG2xc/s1600/IMG_9863.JPG
18. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-_9Ydy_hUzfa/TY52jYhLF1I/AAAAAAAAJA8/tBbeQb7NnFc/s1600/IMG_9864.JPG
19. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-uqJsDg4caII/TY52lmuif4I/AAAAAAAAJBA/gzTx0oBWGvc/s1600/IMG_9865.JPG
20. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-jG2EOZyOons/TY52nkE1fiI/AAAAAAAAJBE/R2ejm6lycgI/s1600/IMG_9866.JPG
21. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-wVjrwzGSXU/TY52p3G8hfI/AAAAAAAAJBI/H5qmnCP3Uj4/s1600/IMG_9867.JPG
22. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-5MfcnT1bHwc/TY52r9ly3CI/AAAAAAAAJBM/i3VG2fy-4Uc/s1600/IMG_9868.JPG
23. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-5T5zALJETHs/TY52uD_osFI/AAAAAAAAJBQ/wTH_L88Whog/s1600/IMG_9869.JPG
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27. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-Sjpd7-43xj8/TY52ia2MfoI/AAAAAAAAJBg/kQFRXX3D8tI/s1600/IMG_9873.JPG
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33. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-41eenvmUhHg/TY53PyOfAII/AAAAAAAAJQC/7-ZG-6e7108/s1600/IMG_9885.JPG
34. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-1Ky60iogo20/TY53R4scWfI/AAAAAAAAJCU/wDS1YZODf1Q/s1600/IMG_9886.JPG
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36. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-0dzfBvXYAeg/TY53VzRE7sI/AAAAAAAAJCc/t03Dx9HOVCA/s1600/IMG_9888.JPG
37. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/--cEhHp2zMDs/TY53X_asYfI/AAAAAAAAJCG/oLK9_eiHoX8/s1600/IMG_9889.JPG
38. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-ZysJBh3RjyY/TY51ukcDjVI/AAAAAAAAI_Y/71nYP3qa148/s1600/IMG_9890.JPG
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40. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-6zWsxKHA1rQ/TY53IOZ-XDI/AAAAAAAAJCE/3lS-ybAIRdo/s1600/IMG_9882.JPG
41. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/03/london-purchases.html>
42. https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-pedBnSFCIQU/TY53L6kocpI/AAAAAAAAJCI/1JzC01cD_zU/s1600/IMG_9883.JPG
43. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-41eenvmUhHg/TY53PyOfAII/AAAAAAAAJQC/7-ZG-6e7108/s1600/IMG_9885.JPG
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46. <https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-AuyfGCChSvA/TY57bz0o4kI/AAAAAAAAJCw/uf8999nxdg/s1600/P1011575.JPG>
47. <https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-5kdekKnDSAQ/TY57eUofcCI/AAAAAAAAJCO/EInmgkgJk84/s1600/P1011581.JPG>
48. <https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-eKmbT3bdC20/TY57iaXs-gI/AAAAAAAAJCC/OHYkk401IvA/s1600/P1011583.JPG>
49. <https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/-ojUAsG1HO5Q/TY57sUV6AcI/AAAAAAAAJDA/Y9yT1Ye7bLQ/s1600/P1011569.JPG>
50. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-vvSRis_kZXM/TY57xwX2rCI/AAAAAAAAJDE/C3Mxa0smuyA/s1600/P1011570.JPG

stationery gal (2011-03-26 21:31:08)

Love the pictures! I wish Texas wasn't so far away as I would love to join you for your meet ups! I think I would probably hyperventilate walking into a Filofax store!! :)

Thank you for sharing...looking at all of those Filofaxes definately puts my in my "happy place"!

Laurie (2011-03-26 21:41:55)

Great photos!! Kyla I'm glad to see your Deco is as fat as mine!! ;)

Thanks for the photos of the new stock. The Vintage Rose Malden looks darker in color than on the website.

caribbean princess (2011-03-26 22:13:44)

Oh be sure to check out my take on the day too. Yay! I am up a bit too early for my flight. Ok I shall nap for one more hour. I really hope I have a trouble free flight today!

And that lovely pocket Deco was Lucy's. I left mine home!

It was really a great day! I wish you had been there Laurie!

LJ (2011-03-27 00:23:58)

Was thinking of taking my man to Rome for a long weekend in the Summer, but seeing these pics is encouraging me to bring him to London for a week instead - he doesn't need to know that the decision was partly made because

I want to go to the Filofax shop... Now all I need to do is work out how we can be 'just passing by' so I can be surprised to see it stood there with all its gorgeous wares on display :o)

Steve (2011-03-27 03:53:44)

Laurie: People were rarely photographed with their own Filofax organisers at these events!!

No one has any secrets in their organisers... they get looked at!! But the confidence and trust within the group is just so high that letting someone 'have a look' doesn't scare anyone it seems.

Steve

Laurie (2011-03-27 05:06:57)

I would totally hand over my Filofax to any of you guys. And that is saying a LOT! :)

Alanna (2011-03-27 05:22:03)

That looks like so much fun!! Wish I could've been there, glad you all had such a good time :)

Jess (2011-03-27 06:59:19)

this post is wonderful and really sums up how much fun and laughter there was on the day. my favourite day of the year so far!

katka (2011-03-27 08:00:57)

I'm glad you had fun :o) Have you seen any of new compact?

Sandra (2011-03-27 08:21:04)

What fun! Beautiful photos—thanks for sharing them so quickly.

@stationery gal I wish Illinois wasn't so far from Texas—a coffee and Filo sharing would be so nice. :)

Natalie (2011-03-27 09:02:20)

Jess, which Filo is it that you are holding in the photos? (the pocket one with flowers on it) It looks so lovely!!!

Schollert (2011-03-27 10:44:00)

Looks like a great meet-up. I was very excited to read about the plans for a multi-day event! Ththat would make it even more tempting to join from Norway!

Question: What is the "fat" A5 (?) FF lying in front of Lucy on this pic: <http://tinyurl.com/WhichFF>

The one underneath the rosy FF she is holding.

It looks huuuge - yet rather cool!

I would like to know more about Thomas' FF case as well. I have received an "order" from a friend with an A5 Kendal and am currently in the design phase. :-)

kanalt (2011-03-27 11:32:25)

Great photos!!!

Jess (2011-03-27 12:09:43)

natalie,

the flowery filofax is a pocket classic limited edition that i won in a giveaway on the official filofax uk facebook page. its absolutely beautiful but the leather is soooo stiff and i don't think i'll ever be able to use it sadly :(

x

Saffy (2011-03-27 12:31:17)

Schollert: I think that is Jane's Graphic Brown A5 which was very full, just the way they should be.

Natalie (2011-03-27 15:51:04)

Jess, I absolutely love it!! If you ever happen to sell it, I'm your (wo)man. You must contact me!!!

michele (2011-03-27 19:59:01)

I think I'm going to have to fly over to the other side of the pond for the next London meet up! Great photos!

Butanben (2011-03-27 20:16:20)

Schollert, that is indeed my A5 Graphic Filofax. In reality, not as huge as it looks, but full of home made Filofax pages. Love creative designing. Bought very reasonably in TK Maxx recently at £16. Black one lovely too, more like a slate grey. Glad you think it is cool!!!! Jane xx.

Saffronia (2011-03-27 20:43:20)

I have been reading this blog for some time now, but have yet to comment. I however cannot resist after seeing the Aqua Chameleon. I don't want to get ahead of myself, but is it as beautiful in person as it seems in the pictures? If so, how long must I wait to see it on the US filofax site?

caribbean princess (2011-03-27 23:07:21)

Saffronia the aqua chameleon is really beautiful in reality. It is one of the few new ones that impressed really.

Laurie (2011-03-27 23:18:45)

Does the aqua Chameleon look more aqua in real life? In the photos and website it looks more gray.

tommies-s-net (2011-03-28 04:19:30)

Thank you for these fantastic photos! Brings back the whole day immediately, which was great fun and worth travelling every single mile!

Looks like there's much interest in my travel case... My girlfriend doesn't share my love for Filofax, but accepts it. Just until I came up with this case - she called me crazy. Maybe I could share a more detailed description and a sewing plan on the download page?

Regards and greetings to all!

Thomas

SNARLing: (2011-03-28 10:37:59)

awwww looks so fun! if only there was a nice train system here in the us, (not to mention A FILOFAX STORE) might be nice to have one of those little meetings over here on the other side of the ocean

J (2011-03-28 13:11:31)

Right Snarling? I can't even imagine having a real life Filofax store within (reasonable) traveling distance! Everywhere I've been in Chicago is just so disappointing- the last place literally had to do sheets and lavender paper- that's it! I asked if he had binders, and he said: "No, we don't have the binders in store, but we can order any one you want." Well duh, I can do that myself, thanks!

And Skhen, you are in Illinois? Where about?

Jeff Abbott (2011-03-28 13:25:59)

Which Filofax store in London was this? Everytime I go to London I tell myself I will stop by there and I never manage it.

Steve (2011-03-28 13:31:49)

Hi Jeff

It is the Neal Street store which is close to Covent Garden... also close to the big Apple store.

We met up at Tate Modern on the south bank of the Thames.

Regards

Steve

Saffronia (2011-03-28 14:10:48)

Caribbean Princess, that is rather wonderful! I have high hopes that you were able to capture a few more images of the Aqua Chameleon for me to drool over until I am able to get my hands on one?! New Filo models are so exciting!!!

Millie (2011-03-28 16:53:34)

I want to go!! I really have no excuse - I'm on the main line to Kings Cross. I just hate London!

London Purchases [Updated] (2011-03-27 20:00)

So I suppose you are wondering... what was in the white Filofax carrier bags... nothing they were just posed like that for show... so partners.. you don't have to read any more of this blog post.. it's all just padding and about stuff that will not interest you...

So I started off with my shopping list.. not a very long list but some 'essential supplies' that were not worth ordering on the net and paying silly amounts for postage. Also I wasn't in a big rush for them.



[1]

- A [2]Mini Filofax Pencil, for my Mini or Pocket Filofax, I have the matching [3]Mini Pen already and I like it's chunky heavy styling, the cross milling on the barrel make it very easy to grip to.
- A Mini Today marker, for my Mini Finchley
- A Pocket Underground Map, got one already for my Mini, but not for the Pocket!
- And a value pack (100 sheets) of plain Personal size paper, these are great value for money and I will be using these for printing my own Personal inserts.

So that was it really... or was it.....

Oh what is this then Steve????



[4]

Just another Filofax box... haven't you seen a few of those before?



[5]

Look it even has tissue paper... now partners... please look away now.....



[6]

Oh look what have we here then... cough cough.. who put that in there??? [It's ok I have a receipt for it...]



[7]

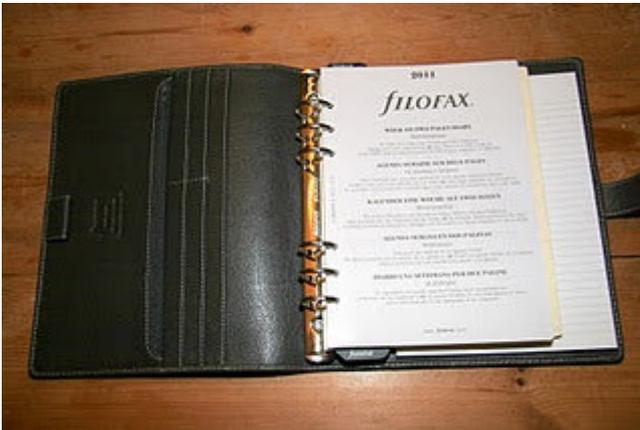
So do you like it? Filofax A5 Malden in Grey leather, I saw the other sizes in the shop and just asked.. do you have it in A5.

To which the lady said 'Yes in our cupboard here, it's not on sale anywhere else, nor is it in the UK catalogue...'

Once the lid was off it was love at first sight.. my attempts to resist buying this could be measured in milliseconds. I tried to look calm and pretend to think about it, but as they say 'resistance is futile'



[8] Standard Week on Two Pages insert for 2011, similar in layout to the one I'm using in my A4 Classic.



[9] 'Lays flat right out of the box... ' the leather is just so supple.



[10] The colour is quite a neutral grey. I will have to 'pose' it for some more photos in proper daylight rather than flash. I've tried tuning the pictures a little this morning. Now you have to help me out here... 'What are you going to use it for then Steve?' I knew that question was coming... It's a [11]birthday present.... of course. Was that a good enough answer... no... I thought not... So what was in the other white Filofax carrier bags.... I'm sure we will find out in the fullness of time... [Update] I got Mr Malden to agree to some more photos this morning. All I have done is crop these ones taken in a very light room indoors, the room has a high ceiling with skylights and big patio windows so lots of light.

As you can see in one of the the grey still looks black. But it's a trick of the light not a fault with the organiser.

The colour of your Filofax I know is so important to a lot of you and I know a few were disappointed when they saw the Vintage Rose Malden, it looked different to the catalogue or web pictures. I think it's down to lighting when the photos are taken a small change can alter the tone of the colour slightly, shiny surfaces are difficult to photograph no matter what the subject is. Matt Vintage Rose Filofax anyone?

[12] [IMG_9903.JPG]

[13] [IMG_9906.JPG]

[14] [IMG_9904.JPG]

[15] [IMG_9905.JPG]

1. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-fovGf01Dt4E/TY_A6FMDo0I/AAAAAAAAJDM/pIuXfU4cwwk/s1600/IMG_9902.JPG
2. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=MiniPencil&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Fpens.asp%3Fcontrol%3Dprocessrequest%26priceLow%3D10%26priceHigh%3D99.99%26brandId%3D1%26typeId%3D2%26cm_mmc%3DAwin-_-%21%21%21id%21%21%21-_-DEEPLINK-_-PAGE
3. http://www.awin1.com/cread.php?awinmid=2457&awinaffid=97790&clickref=MiniPen&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.filofax.co.uk%2Fstore%2Fpens.asp%3Fcontrol%3Dprocessrequest%26priceLow%3D10%26priceHigh%3D99.99%26brandId%3D1%26typeId%3D1%26cm_mmc%3DAwin-_-%21%21%21id%21%21%21-_-DEEPLINK-_-PAGE
4. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-i2Imbe_qitE/TY_CZDcr56I/AAAAAAAAJDU/A3XehNHjL2o/s1600/IMG_9893.JPG
5. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-Dksv0ao3ww4/TY_CbcLXaII/AAAAAAAAJDY/TU2Y5F7-ud8/s1600/IMG_9894.JPG
6. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-MDa_JB1P8Tg/TZA5Iu5J74I/AAAAAAAAJDw/F1fkbnIj93A/s1600/IMG_9895a.JPG
7. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-uyCs2NjonRg/TZA5QS_oY7I/AAAAAAAAJDO/hMER7sRxVoI/s1600/IMG_9896a.JPG
8. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-ouwsL-iSBPQ/TZA5gqHhEbI/AAAAAAAAJD8/Jhavc6EwxUM/s1600/IMG_9898a.JPG
9. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-hU8Ane8M2_Q/TZA5p1hQFvI/AAAAAAAAJEA/1g9x4j82-CU/s1600/IMG_9899a.JPG
10. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-nCPtINrUNEE/TZA5EkitrtI/AAAAAAAAJDS/Q8xZcj8UZP8/s1600/IMG_9901a.JPG
11. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/2011/03/happy-birthday-steve.html>
12. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-jvXw7FjHmns/TZBjPuZn5SI/AAAAAAAAJEM/3ZK4EdWbWqA/s1600/IMG_9903.JPG
13. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-rCL4RfwTePc/TZBjLqHpITI/AAAAAAAAJEI/dw0zYfKbHyo/s1600/IMG_9906.JPG
14. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-4f3fDW7CjxU/TZBjTI9bONI/AAAAAAAAJEQ/hxcMj7itMUo/s1600/IMG_9904.JPG
15. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-Dq0cdM1pjic/TZBjVxjxV-I/AAAAAAAAJEU/43oHHAveEaP0/s1600/IMG_9905.JPG

kateb (2011-03-27 20:19:07)

if someone gave me that in vintage pink i would be a VERY happy girl! love the blog xx

michele (2011-03-27 20:20:56)

An A5 Grey Malden? Wow! It's really beautiful!!! I wish you all the luck with it and fatten that handsome filo! (My A5 for work with it's day per page Businessss is as precious to me as my pocket for personal life)! I would never go beyond one file if it wasn't for Philofaxy!

Steve (2011-03-27 20:25:02)

@Katebernasoni They had them there in Vintage Pink, but it's not quite my colour really. I liked the grey more, even more than the Ochre.

Butanben (2011-03-27 20:25:21)

Ah Steve!!! Thought this would be THE ONE somehow!!! Enjoy.

I am smitten with the personal Deco in black, but will have to wait until my dreamboat job comes up before I celebrate with that purchase!!! Thanks for your chat about interviews by the way. I appreciated that.

Butanben (2011-03-27 20:32:11)

@katebernasconi- in real life, the vintage pink is a slightly different shade to the online pictures. Deceptive really. Better to see in the flesh perhaps before purchasing!!! I had my heart set on it, and ideally wanted to save up for one eventually, but when I saw it up close, did not like it anywhere near as much. You may decide differently though, as we all have different loves and tastes. Loved it in the catalogue, so shows that you have to buy having seen the product really.

Sandra (2011-03-27 20:58:30)

@Butanben I would love the opportunity to gaze and hold (is fondle more appropriate?!) the products before buying them. I love the Finsbury in Pocket size, but only like it in Personal and A5. I know, blasphemy. I trust the readers of this blog and their informed opinions to guide me somewhat. I fear the damage I could do within the store in London...

@Steve Quite a lovely birthday present, Steve! Vintage Pink not your color? Imagine that! ;)

I look forward to additional posts of items from the supposedly empty shopping bags. I don't believe your fib for one New York minute.

Rori (2011-03-27 21:19:05)

Holee Molee that is gorgeous!! I think I want me one...no matter that I just bought a personal size Cuban Zip that I adore...

crofter (2011-03-27 21:27:13)

Really nice looking Steve. Of the current lineup, I like the Cuban and the Malden the best. Curious about the pen and pencil. Do they hold up well, and can you get a fine point for the pen?

Hope you enjoy using both of your new items.

Laurie (2011-03-27 21:49:13)

Wow Steve that gray Malden is gorgeous!! Congratulations to your new addition to your lineup! :)

Saffy (2011-03-27 21:51:52)

It definitely makes a difference to see something before buying rather than buying blind or from a picture.

I think it was last week that I commented the compact Luxe was rather dull, boring and uninspiring. However, after seeing it in the shop the red Luxe is now a contender for my compact purchase. I am going to wait until I see the Osterley before making up my mind but it is out of the two of them now.

Filofreak (2011-03-28 00:23:10)

Hi Steve!

I am so jealous! I am lusting after one of the A5 Maldens and the gray is gorgeous!! I wish I'd known as I could have sent you some money to purchase me one with. Will they be having them on their UK website in the future? Congrats on your new addition.

Erin

Steve (2011-03-28 03:42:00)

Erin, I didn't know it existed until I asked in the shop. I wasn't even sure what I was going to buy on the day apart from the initial shopping list!!

Steve (2011-03-28 03:43:28)

I've tuned some of the photos this morning, the Malden looked too black in the initial shots I took late last night.

I will do some in natural light later this morning. Shiny grey leather is quite difficult to photograph.

Sharon (2011-03-28 04:11:45)

I was so excited to re-setup my Filofax on Saturday night I forgot to take pictures of what I bought! LOL! Will have to just link it when I do the post!

Steve, was it really millisecond you waited, I thought it was even quicker than that! LOL! It truly is beautiful!

caribbean princess (2011-03-28 06:14:27)

The grey Malden is beautiful!!! I almost feel like pretending I am getting it for DH but he won't buy that! Haha. Unfortunately like Butanben said the pink is disappointing. Something about it felt pepto bismol like. Someone said it was too creamy. It just did not set my heart on fire!

Excellent birthday present Steve.

SNARLing: (2011-03-28 10:31:20)

gasp! it's beautiful!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-28 11:47:11)

I must be the only person on the planet that doesn't like the colour grey! Really cuts down my enjoyment of the new models and many of them appear to be grey. Oh well - I've got enough to be going on with.

Butanben (2011-03-28 13:05:16)

@Alison, there is grey gorgeous and there is grey,as in dull and living up to its name.Steve's new grey Malden is most certainly in the grey gorgeous category here.CP I roared with laughter at the Pepto Bismol comment. You are so right.That's what I felt.Didn't match the photograph at all.

Butanben (2011-03-28 13:09:13)

@skhen- gosh real damage could be done in that shop,you are right!!! Good job I was not hankering after a new Filofax and have to look after my pennies a bit!!!Lovely to feel them and to window shop though.A heavenly shop though, and in Covent Garden- perfect venue.

J (2011-03-28 13:19:47)

Steve, you are killing me! That Filo is beautiful- it would be a perfect upgrade to my slate domino, don't you think?!

For me, like many others, it is tough to not have the ability to see/feel/touch/smell our Filos before we purchase. Thanks to all of you who post about true colors and such on the binders- you have no idea how much it helps!

Looks like the grey and black Maldens are the top contenders for my next purchase. I thought the vintage rose could be pretty, but I guess not from the sounds of it here!

Congrats on the new addition, Steve!

Amanda (2011-03-28 13:26:46)

@Alison

No, I don't really fancy grey either... It would have to be something really outstanding to make me want grey. That said, I haven't seen the grey Malden - maybe it would be nice.

@CP - pepto-bismol??? Fabulous description! (You should write names for paint charts!) :-)

Steve (2011-03-28 13:33:54)

@CP love that colour description. I had to Google it:

[http://www.google.co.uk/images?q=pepto+bismol &hl=en &client=firefox-a &hs=f7G &rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official &prmd=ivnsu &source=lnms &tbs=isch:1 &ei=kMWQTeyzDs26hAf05-W7Dg &sa=X &oi=mode_link &ct=mode &cd=2 &ved=0CB0Q_AUoAQ &biw=1024 &bih=421](http://www.google.co.uk/images?q=pepto+bismol&hl=en&client=firefox-a&hs=f7G&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&prmd=ivnsu&source=lnms&tbs=isch:1&ei=kMWQTeyzDs26hAf05-W7Dg&sa=X&oi=mode_link&ct=mode&cd=2&ved=0CB0Q_AUoAQ&biw=1024&bih=421)

Yep that looks about right!!

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-28 14:18:32)

LOVE your new Malden. I love the grey but am holding out for the vintage rose (or maybe not judging by all your comments!!!). Heading to London the 1st week in May so will check it out in person before buying. Congratulations on your new purchase and have fun setting it up.... always a fun part of the process.

Steve (2011-03-28 16:03:23)

I'm laughing my socks off.... my dear wife fell for this post.. she only read the first part of the post and didn't scroll beyond the first part of the post which finishes at the gap before the Malden!!! But when she saw the pictures... Alison didn't complain...

Petra (2011-03-28 16:07:58)

Well, Pepto Bismol is pretty vintagey stuff, after all ;-) I remember when a friend had a stomach ache on a beach trip and in the semi-dark, my mom managed to give her the Caladryl instead – similar colors, ya know. Glad I don't go for pink in any incarnation...

caribbean princess (2011-03-28 18:05:48)

hehehe. when you see the vintage rose in reality you will see what I mean! ;-)
Shame as I really wanted to like it. But did I get a filofax purchase???? Hmmmmmm.....

Steve (2011-03-29 12:37:01)

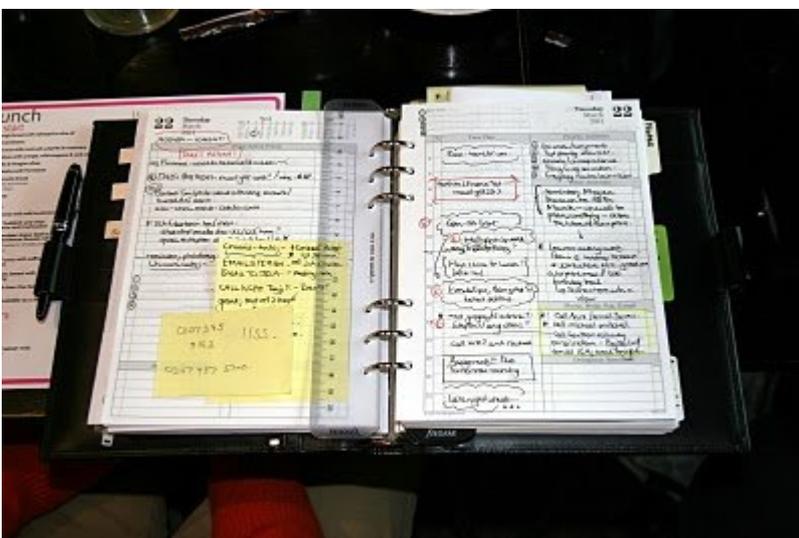
Mrs M has forgiven me for my crafty deception, I don't think I will get away with that again!! I love the colour, my late father had a two tone grey Austin Cambridge when I was a kid and it had huge leather seats and the Malden reminds me so much of that era back in the late 1960's I suppose.. Why it's not included in the catalogue I just don't know. May be they are secretly watching this post and seeing the reaction...

London Meet Up - Snippets (2011-03-28 00:00)

So much happened on Saturday it's impossible to remember everything straight away. But as it has come back to me I have be adding to this post so I hope I have captured some more of the great things of the day.

So in no particular order.....

Adam showed us his A5 Filofax, which he is using the Filofax Time Manager pages in, these are a page per day with additional boxes on them. He's promised to do a more complete post for us to see how he really uses it to the full, but here's a quick snapshot of it up close.



[1]

You might recall that this diary got a lot of attention at the November meet up as well... no secrets at these events!!

Sharon and I noticed that Neal Street also stock some of the inserts that we have noticed that are only available on the France site. For instance [2]this one we saw yesterday. Sharon also pointed out to me some tabbed monthly inserts although I can't find these on line (anyone?) I should have taken a photo of them! Although [3]these ones are similar but not the same as we saw. They had tabs that stuck out at the side like an index, but were coloured not plain.

Neal Street also stock some organisers/colours that you will not see in the UK catalogue or on the UK site... so check with the store if there is something you like elsewhere before you order abroad and have to pay international postage on an item that might be available in the London stores. If they don't have it in stock they might be able to get it for you. The staff there are just so helpful I can't praise them enough. Give them a call on : 0207 836 1977

Someone (may be Lucy?) passed around their [4]Pilot Frixion erasable roller ball pens for us to try out and yes they are amazing, write with them, then rub out the writing with the end cap, it really is very effective. I will be ordering some soon!



[5]

There is no brightness or volume control on my yellow sweater! Yes it is as bright as it looks in the photo's... not very baby friendly or tomato ketchup friendly... but it's very soft wool! Thanks to Kyla for this photo.

Thank you to Tommes for making the trek from Bonn in Germany (about 600 km) to be with us on Saturday and for the highlighter pencils which work just great.

As you may have seen on the news, there was a lot of problems after the main march ended yesterday, but I think we all managed to get out of London via our respective stations just in time before the major problems started in and around Trafalgar Square, a close call indeed.

Blog posts about the day....

- [6]Philofaxy London Meet Up Spring 2011 Part 1 - Kyla... Part 2 soon....
- [7]Super Filofax Weekend - LouLou Dorset
- [8]Sharon's Craft o Fax - Sharon - We saw the new one this time, excellent work

Again thank you to everyone who came along on Saturday, it was a very enjoyable day and I'm certainly looking forward to the next one.

Look out for future meet ups.....

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/--3EM61B89-c/TY527sBWkpI/AAAAAAAAJBs/KiMxFRpkW04/s1600/IMG_9876.JPG

2. <http://www.filofax.fr/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2429>

3. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/store/diaryrefillsdetails.asp?productId=2382>

4. <http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B002XZLV08?tag=pemburyvillag-21&camp=2902&creative=19466&linkCode=as4&creativeASIN=B002XZLV08&adid=1TEZQEGCP3KSFS7YPHCN&>

5. <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-NOMa8D9A6hg/TY-7EFRgZmI/AAAAAAAAJDI/Ls2Xs1v1MEo/s1600/P1011564.JPG>

6. <http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/philofaxy-london-meet-up-spring-2011.html>
7. <http://louloudorsetsmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/super-filofax-weekend.html>
8. <http://shazzastitching.wordpress.com/2011/03/25/craft-o-fax-update-at-last/>

Filofreak (2011-03-28 00:24:32)

Adam

What kind is your black A5? It looks like a cuban? Gorgeous! Love how every surface of the pages are filled. Great photo!

justenoughsalt (2011-03-28 01:33:15)

woah! do those Filofax Time Manager pages come for personal. i would invest.

justenoughsalt (2011-03-28 01:53:56)

[1]david mckay's use of Filofax Time Manager from 2007 part 1

[2]david mckay's use of Filofax Time Manager from 2007 part 2

[3]filofax uk's Filofax Time Manager

sadly, the filofax time manager pages seem to be A5 only. correct me if i am wrong though.

1. <http://organisedlife.com/article/14/why-a-filofax>

2. <http://organisedlife.com/article/16>

3. <http://www.filofax.co.uk/timemanagement/popupfill.asp?tmId=14>

Sharon (2011-03-28 04:09:54)

Steve, the monthly tabbed items, were plain, not coloured.

Great post again, thank you!

Sharon (2011-03-28 04:14:02)

Cult Pens - <http://www.cultpens.com/acatalog/Pilot-Frixion-Pens.html>

Have a fantastic range of colours in the 0.7 nib and I fairly good range in the 0.5nib which is the one I prefer to use for diary use, as alot thinner!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-28 04:31:24)

I'm so jealous - will just have to make sure I can come to the next one!

I find it incomprehensible why Filofax can't put their full range on line - I could understand it if they had a lot of outlets, but all the ones local to me that used to stock filofax now have very little. I would have thought putting it online would have been an easy option and think of all the sales they are missing!

Butanben (2011-03-28 04:45:45)

I agree with Sharon in promoting the Frixion pens. They are just great, work a treat and come in such gorgeous colours. I personally prefer the 0.7 to write with, as I prefer thicker pen nibs and ink flow. Strange how we all have such different preferences!!! Sharon's crafting Filofax was amazing, as was Fiona's quilting Filofax. Such talented and gifted people.

caribbean princess (2011-03-28 06:08:06)

Yes there were some great Filofaxes on display. Butanben's mini was so cute, loved Jess's pink finsbury- that thing is a workhorse. And I could not put down Loulou's pocket Deco either. And well I will need to steal the crafty Filofaxes too, not because I can knit, I can't but so I can leaf through the filofax. I can't wait for Adam's post.

I love the Frixions so much they came with me to Trinidad ;-)

And Steve the yellow was very fetching. You and Thomas were rather stylish with your jumpers. Now which of you is brave enough to wear fuchsia pink

kateb (2011-03-28 06:42:15)

I think I'm going to make my own version of the Time Manager for my new A5 domino, for my uni work!!

Amanda (2011-03-28 11:03:17)

@kateb

If you use A5, then a) check out the files on here for a version you could use/amend; b) check out DIY planner (links on the files page) for files you can use/amend and c) if you use Outlook, they have a number of options for printing your schedule - weekly/daily/2 days per page etc...

Hope some of that's useful.

Butanben (2011-03-28 12:55:57)

Ah, CP. Glad you loved my mini zipped Finsbury as much as I do. It was a real steal of a bargain for £14 in TK Maxx at Christmas time...best time to go there for Filofaxes!!!

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-28 14:13:44)

Looks like a fab meet-up. Really enjoyed reading about it and seeing the pictures. Waiting for more reports on the Malden Vintage Rose (may purchase and swap for my ochre). Off to check out those erasable pens too... lots of inspiration.

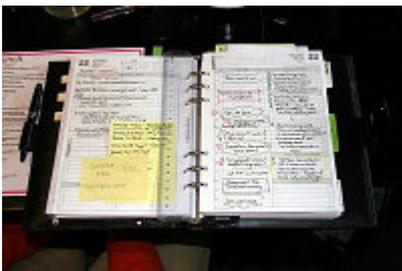
Adam R (2011-03-28 22:22:22)

@Erin, My black A5 is the Filofax Classic (formerly the Cross). Ah yes, most days seems to be entirely filled with lunches, dinners and events..whoops! Thanks :)

kanalt (2011-03-30 07:48:33)

@Colie - I don't think those inserts come in personal - I've asked the same question. I wish they did though, I'd be all over that.

Time Management with your Filofax (2011-03-28 04:04)



[1]

So enough about shiny new Filofax organisers and people being happy and smiling.. it's time to get back to the serious stuff!!! OK well just for a few minutes ok...

Thanks to Colie for spotting these posts from back in 2007. I thought it was worth pulling them from your comment and putting them in to a normal post so they are easier to find in the future.

- [2]Why a Filofax - Part 1 of GTD with your Filofax
- [3]Using a Filofax for GTD - Setting up the pages for tasks and calendars
- [4]Filofax for GTD - Tickler file

I've sent David Mackay an email to ask if he will be writing any more articles, sadly the last post on his blog was in August 2008. I will let you know if I hear back from him.

1. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-Xd50bkA-PA0/TY525RnAdyI/AAAAAAAAAJBo/egDeueFmFtM/s1600/IMG_9875.JPG
2. <http://organisedlife.com/article/14/why-a-filofax>
3. <http://organisedlife.com/article/16>
4. <http://organisedlife.com/article/18/filofax-for-gtd-your-very-own-tickler-file>

Butanben (2011-03-28 04:12:43)

Useful snippet here I thought was in your to do list, put action verbs in capitals. Simple but oh so effective idea, which I shall be copying!!

Butanben (2011-03-28 04:16:32)

PS @Adam Ratani, a weeny thought to share, noticing your post its..... I gave up on post its because they kept falling out of notebooks, Filofaxes etc. BUT the new super sticky post its a)are in fabulous new designs and b)keep stuck in your notebooks.They are heaps better!!!! Have you tried them??? Worth a go.

kayleena (2011-03-28 09:19:45)

what is gtd?

Amanda (2011-03-28 10:22:19)

GTD = Getting Things Done. It's a time-management system devised (adapted) by David Allen.

Personally, I find it a bit too much for my (pretty simple) life and prefer the Zen to Done version (<http://zenhabits.net/zen-to-done-ztd-the-ultimate-simple-productivity-system/>) which works well with a filofax.

London Meet Up - Further Posts... Updated (2011-03-28 19:22)

So people are getting their breath back after Saturday and they have found time to sit down and write a few words about their experiences of the meet up.

- [1]A Super Organised Day Out - LouLouDorset
- [2]Philofaxy London Meet Up Part 2 - Caribbean Princess
- [3]Philofaxy London Meet Up - 26 March 2011 - Sharon
- [4]My Personal Filofax Travel Pack - Tommes S

Also from Tommes S a photo of his new Mini Malden.....



[5]

Thank you also to Jane for sending me some additional photos of the gathering at Tate Modern. Before anyone asks... the menus there aren't in Filofax Organisers, it just looks like they are, because nearly everyone has an organiser in front of them in nearly all of our photos!!!.



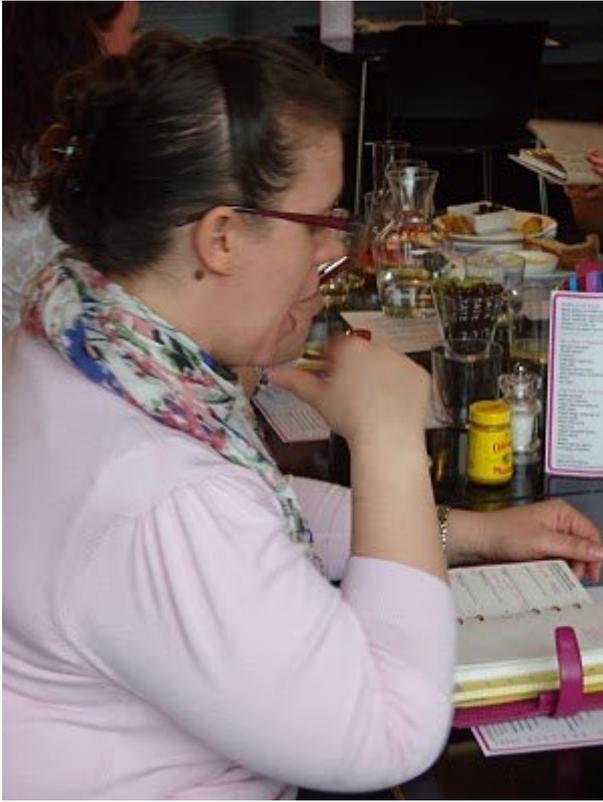
[6]



[7]



[8]

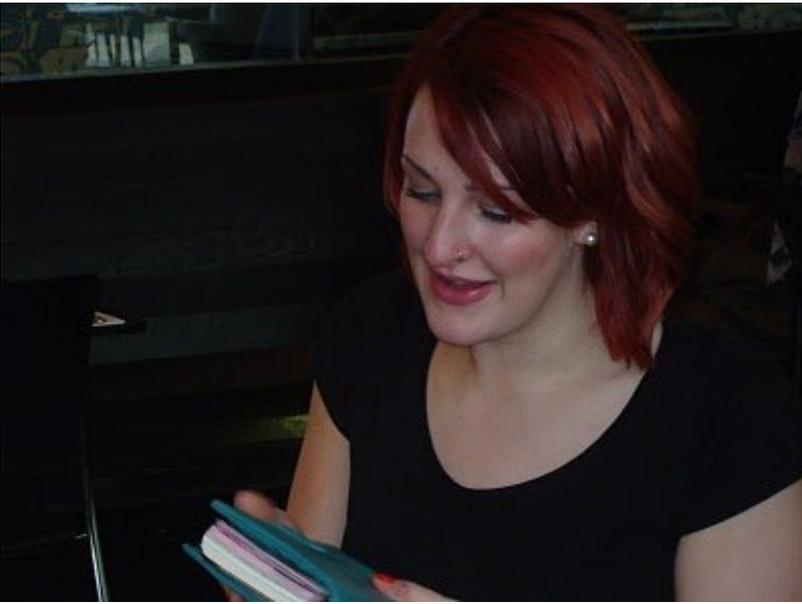


[9]



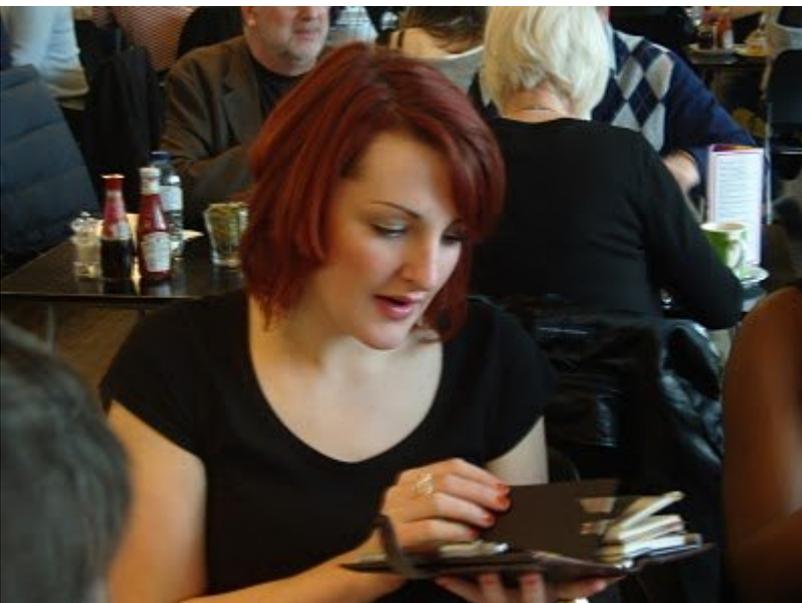
[10]

[11]



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[13]



[14]



[15]



[16]



[17]



[18]



[19]



[20]

Enjoy...

1. <http://louloudorsetsmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/super-organised-day-out.html>
2. http://caribbeanprincessmusings.blogspot.com/2011/03/philofaxy-london-meet-up-spring-2011_29.html
3. <http://shazzastitching.wordpress.com/2011/03/29/philofaxy-meetup-26th-march-11/>
4. <http://tommess.net/?p=801>

5. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-8Mf0CFCDz2c/TZGIhzMBQDI/AAAAAAAAJFU/OP2PBumAdkA/s1600/IMG_0212.jpg
6. <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-aYBoZdeVGfk/TZEU2Yz1mxI/AAAAAAAAJJEY/FMPbCuBevpg/s1600/S1030095.JPG>
7. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-PzBrBWo-R4k/TZEU3_TaluI/AAAAAAAAJJEc/CYhMg80aCYs/s1600/S1030060.JPG
8. <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-AuGy6f1zMww/TZEU5ipN1OI/AAAAAAAAJJEg/ubPNGvg1Dak/s1600/S1030061.JPG>
9. <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-6-xVuTRY8iI/TZEU6xsobmI/AAAAAAAAJJEk/dlw7YYbQArQ/s1600/S1030063.JPG>
10. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-uM2Is87r4Zk/TZEU8n_Pf1I/AAAAAAAAJJEo/ZWUOUKqkL5A/s1600/S1030064.JPG
11. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-r4R59A8HouQ/TZEU-M3LsFI/AAAAAAAAJJEs/M_lhGfN4mm4/s1600/S1030066.JPG
12. <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-Lt2bsBS8cn4/TZEVAXAXkDI/AAAAAAAAJJEw/wcB6fLpCnBM/s1600/S1030077.JPG>
13. <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-8yX52a7e7AE/TZEVDRoHSI/AAAAAAAAJJE0/i7mVFF36wXI/s1600/S1030081.JPG>
14. http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-BP3h50W_Kr8/TZEVFRL8hMI/AAAAAAAAJJE4/jiMRyMk9AaE/s1600/S1030082.JPG
15. http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-KbU6dEGIZas/TZEVH0AW-5I/AAAAAAAAJJE8/G-WIwuo9_hE/s1600/S1030085.JPG
16. <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-hF3hqwkNmWO/TZEVJfZ8LxI/AAAAAAAAJJFA/OLk7ZBGJp94/s1600/S1030088.JPG>
17. http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-B_guXHNCPLI/TZEVK6Zw8QI/AAAAAAAAJJE/cMBfAkApSGg/s1600/S1030089.JPG
18. <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-lDSewSSZzw/TZEVMTX6M-I/AAAAAAAAJJEI/evmlgWIm19U/s1600/S1030091.JPG>
19. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-EAS0lf5MbWg/TZEVN65FokI/AAAAAAAAJJFM/2e8rXzF_3dY/s1600/S1030092.JPG
20. <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-iBGr15YdjiQ/TZEVPWkQPXI/AAAAAAAAJFQ/Wm5q1TnCGks/s1600/S1030093.JPG>

caribbean princess (2011-03-29 04:51:32)

Ooohhhhh that Mulberry. I am dreaming about it. Already told DH we are stopping off at Bicester Village outlet when next we visit his family. It has improved a lot in the 4 years since I lived in the town ;-)

I wonder if Mulberry does Filofaxes? Yum!

Steve (2011-03-29 04:58:02)

CP... I would have thought you would have seen these already???

<http://www.mulberry.com/#/storefront/c5493/c5496/>

Agendas, Planners and Notebooks...

Expensive though...

Alison Reeves (2011-03-29 07:10:48)

Do we know if the Mulberry planner inserts fit the A5? They do an A5 size but not sure about the hole positions. Could be a better bet than the Day Timer ones I was looking at if they do fit as I'm not keen on too many holes!

Steve (2011-03-29 07:13:20)

Alison, I think they might be different in the same way that QV is different to Filofax, but I think I know someone who might know I will contact them and ask.

Regards

Steve

Alison Reeves (2011-03-29 07:17:17)

Bye the way - last time you went to the Filofax shop after a meetup they gave away some goodies to those who purchased - did they do the same this time?

Steve (2011-03-29 07:27:25)

I was given a couple of complementary packs of refills for the two purchases I made, but nothing too expensive, just some samples if you like.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-29 07:34:22)

@Steve - thanks regarding the Mulberry - will look forward to finding out.

Butanben (2011-03-29 09:14:57)

Alison, was browsing E. Bay UK over my lunch snadwich break and saw some brand new Mulberry planners for sale. Very reasonable prices... although of course I am a Filofax devotee!!!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-29 10:20:55)

@Butenben - how naughty are you? Fancy leading me astray like this! I probably can't afford one, but I can't help looking!

caribbean princess (2011-03-29 16:13:22)

@ Steve oh no they aren't pretty enough for me! I guess I will stick with my Deco :-)

Steve (2011-03-29 17:34:49)

Yes they are jolly expensive considering how boring they look.

There is also Aspinal of London that make organisers but again info on those is even more sparing.

I like my Malden...

Steve (2011-04-01 06:16:05)

Alison

The Mulberry organisers use a very different hole spacing to Filofax across their whole range.

Because it is so different I'm going to do a post about it so the details are recorded and you can see the difference between Filofax and Mulberry in terms of paper size and hole spacing.

So if you have a Mulberry binder you would have to repunch all of your Filofax pages, but I haven't seen if they do a punch for their spacing.

If you want to use Mulberry inserts in a Filofax A5 you will have to repunch them with a Filofax A5 punch, it might look a little messy, I'm not sure yet of the relationship between the two sets of holes I will try and draw it up to show you the difference in my post about the two.

Clearly if you want to use the Mulberry inserts they want you to go the whole hog and buy one of their binders as well....

Free For All Tuesday No. 8 (2011-03-29 00:00)



[1]

So what is this weeks big question? Apart from when is the next Philofaxy meet up!!!! Fire away....

1. https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-iWM2EGJg8j8/TUh0H0Lo4aI/AAAAAAAAI6E/2WfvsKUfHgc/s1600/IMG_9777a.JPG

justenoughsalt (2011-03-29 00:46:12)

where else would you like to have a filofax meet up?

i say nyc

J (2011-03-29 01:02:35)

Chicago!

Eva (2011-03-29 02:40:25)

One question that has been nagging me these last few days is which Filofax has the biggest rings (preferably size A5 but any will do). We're not even half way through and my Filo is already bursting with info!

And regarding the previous question, I'd say anywhere in Germany (Hamburg would be the best though ;o)

brodskypv (2011-03-29 04:14:25)
Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia

Sharon (2011-03-29 04:23:09)

Eva - I think the Domino has the largest ring size, I know I have my Craft-o-Fax 1 stuffed to capacity and it holds ALOT of stuff!

There is a file on the Philofaxy website that details ring size, I just can't find it right now!

But I would say Domino!

Steve (2011-03-29 04:33:09)

The Finsbury A5's also have 30 mm rings likewise the new Malden has 30 mm rings.

The file is at the top of the Files page. I need to do a further update to it with the release of some of the new range. I will do it when I get back to France next week, it's easier to do on a bigger screen...

Regards

Steve

caribbean princess (2011-03-29 04:41:41)
Trinidad? Haha

Eva (2011-03-29 04:49:07)

Thank you all for your answers. I am then in trouble since I have a Domino (Snake Bronze as well as Black)... I guess my only other choice is to buy another one!...

appleg (2011-03-29 05:27:39)

The Cuban Zipped personal size also has 30mm rings! largest ring size for the personal.

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-29 05:35:10)

Has any-one got a Filofax folder (have not seen them discussed on here)? Looking at the Holborn zipped in wine. On my list to look at when in London in May...

Alison Reeves (2011-03-29 07:19:31)

Just asked this on the other thread, but it might be better here - does anyone know if the Mulberry planner refills (which are A5 according to their site) fit the holes in the A5 filofax?

Sandra (2011-03-29 08:28:42)

@J Chicago would be nice! Paradise Pen in Oakbrook carries Filofax. Does Paper Source, or another city store, carry them? Regardless, maybe we can set something up with others in the area. :)

@Eva My A5 Finsbury holds a bit more than my Classic....I wonder if the different covers/flexibility impact its stuffability.

Did I just make up a word?

Anyway, whom else wants a mini Malden?

Butanben (2011-03-29 09:10:08)

Edinburgh, The Pen Shop in Jenners..... just love Edinburgh for sight seeing too!! Although a bit like coals to Newcastle, as my family come from there!!! Hence Butanben, a shortened version of Butt and Ben. When I get my dreamboat little house with garden, it may very well be christened Butanben!!! And it would be sheer bliss for me to have a garden Filofax planner one day!!

DanishGTD (2011-03-29 10:00:12)

London on May 10th, as I'll be visiting!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-29 10:19:11)

@Butanben I'm thinking of setting up a gardening filofax - it's anew hobby for me - I decided I really had to sort the garden and making it a hobby seems the best way to achieve this! Now what would you put into your gardening filofax???

Butanben (2011-03-29 10:37:01)

@Alison Reeves. Well I've always wanted a garden, so it is daydreams at the moment, but I would have lots of ideal garden plans on squared paper, with seasonal planting schemes, addressess of suppliers, pictures of my ideal garden furniture from magazines and catalogues,seed packets,a plan for THE herb garden and planters,ideas for my mini salad and vegetable plot, ideas for wildlife attracting, bird tables, bird baths, butterfly and bee friendly plants,(though hopefully not the adder nest my dad has.... yeuckkk!!) ideas for pathways and a small reading hideway corner. I am sure there is more, but this is the beginning of my thoughts. Not on paper yet though!!! Just pipedreams for my little Butanben home!!!

Butanben (2011-03-29 10:41:08)

PS- Oh and there would be a small pull out calendar in my Garden'o Fax to remind me of when to plant and what to do in the garden when. I only want a small handkerchief sized garden at Butanben, but would love it to be full of colour, be much loved and to gain real pleasure from it. I can but dream.... one day!!!

Rori (2011-03-29 11:18:13)

I know the answer Eva!! The Cuban Zip personal size has 30mm rings!! HUGE. It's what I have, and I loves it!

Rori (2011-03-29 11:20:07)

@Eva, not to plug my own videos, but I did a vid about the Cuban Zip in the personal, that shows the size/ring size. If you're interested, my YouTube channel is redforrori. Thanks!

justenoughsalt (2011-03-29 11:37:41)

@rori you rock. i am watching your vids now

shepcraig (2011-03-29 12:40:52)

Thank you @butanben, Maybe this is something we could do here in Edinburgh, there would be no limitations on size as we have a big area and there are a couple of restaurants in Jenners and in the surrounding area. Maybe we could pull this off?

J (2011-03-29 12:44:38)

@Skhen- I've been to Paradise Pen, but I've never heard of Paper Source, although I just noticed they opened one in Naperville where I'm living! Hmmm... this could be bad if they do carry Filos!

I know filofaxusa says a few stores in the city carry them, but I have yet to find a good collection. I just found a store in Glenview, but that is a pretty long haul for me!

Where in Illinois are you?

Sandra (2011-03-29 14:02:05)

@ J Glenview is a haul for me as well...we're SW in Lockport. IF the store has a strong selection it would be worth every mile.

Paper Source once carried items-I have not shopped there lately. Please don't get your hopes up!

One more question today-

Have you converted a non-planner user, electronic or paper, to the wonders of Filofax?

Butanben (2011-03-29 18:20:39)

@shepcraig. I live in Dorset at the moment, so it would be a long way to auld reekie for me!!! But yes, a dream Philofaxy meet and greet venue Jenners,just as Neal Street was and indeed is!!!

Eva (2011-03-30 02:52:03)

@Rori: Thank you for your comments and thank you for sending me to your videos! They're really interesting and give me some food for thought. The Cuban looks amazing with all the pockets and the rings look huge as well. I think the only drawback for me is that it doesn't lay flat but otherwise, it's really nice and definitely worth considering.

Thank you!

caribbean princess (2011-03-30 03:59:53)

@ Butanben @Shepcraig. I would definitely come to Edinburgh as I think it is a beautiful city. I would probably make a weekend trip out if it. I think another lovely lady Amanda would like that meet up too ;-)

Once I knew in advance!

Amanda (2011-03-30 06:23:05)

Oh I would SO come to Edinburgh for a meet-up!!! London's a bit far to get there and back in a day, but Edinburgh would be fantastic!!

Amanda

Amanda (2011-03-30 06:23:50)

and @CP... awww... thanks....

:-)

US (New York) Meet Up (2011-03-29 04:49)

I'm very grateful to Kanalt for stepping forward to take on the organisation of a US meet up. Please see the announcement below..... I will be supporting her as much as possible to make this happen and make it a success.

With all the excitement and buzz regarding this past [1]Saturday's LondonMeet Up, I thought this was a good time to discuss the potential of a USmeet up. There has already been some talkand some interest in this. I amvolunteering to organize a New York City Meet Up.

Like the London Meet Up, there would need to be a limit ofhow many people could attend, for logistical reasons—travel, lunch and shoppingaccommodations, etc. Several items wouldneed to be discussed—date, time and place to meet, a venue for lunch andshopping. There are several shops in NYCthat sell Filofax products.

If you are interested, please email Philofaxy philofaxy atgmail dot com and put “New York Meet Up” in the subject line. Those emails will be forwarded to me and Iwill then email the interested parties myself and create a list so that we canstart discussing ideas.

If you are interested in organising a Philofaxy meet up in your part of the world, you might like to read [2]my notes, most of it is common sense, but there might be something you hadn't thought about.

1. <http://philofaxy.blogspot.com/search/label/Meet-Up>

2. <http://www.philofaxy.com/files/PhilofaxyMeetUp.pdf>

Alison Reeves (2011-03-29 07:16:15)

I'd love a meet up in the Midlands (UK) but of course it wouldn't work properly without the Filofax shop and there are no decent outlets - even in Birmingham the choice is limited! I'll just have to bite the bullet and do a trip to London!

Rori (2011-03-29 11:16:24)

Why, oh why?? Do I have to live at the edge of the earth?? The impossibility of an Albuquerque meetup is just sad....O(

Steve (2011-03-29 12:54:45)

Rori, internal flight to NYC? has to be cheaper than a trans-atlantic flight to London?
Do a bit of research and see if it's feasible or not.

Adam R (2011-03-29 13:19:41)

I am going to be in New York at the beginning of August so if a meet up takes place during that time I would love to go :)

Petra (2011-03-29 13:37:23)

Hey, I'm off in early August too and could check into cheap flights. But what's the best "season" for Filofax-hunting?! After January, I couldn't find a single planner at T.J. Maxx, Marshall's, etc. any more. Maybe August, with back-to-school sales, would be good?

Mrs. Grievous (2011-03-29 14:20:46)

I'd love to fly out as it's a 9 hour drive from WV. Hopefully our crappy airport has puddle-jumpers going out that weekend. ;)

mywormy (2011-03-29 19:35:49)

Ror, I live in Santa Fe, NM - we can have our own meetup!!!

Nan (2011-03-29 21:15:32)

I'm a veteran of the Boston-New York rail corridor...I'd be happy to share advice with anyone who's interested in making the journey.
Expedia can be a big help with getting a discount on a hotel room.

David Popely (2011-03-30 02:14:48)

Although there is no viable Filofax stockist or shop that I know of, I live in the South West of England and would like to propose a meet-up in Bristol. This might *just* be accessible from as far away as Birmingham, but would take in the whole of Somerset and Dorset, Devon for those who were prepared to do the travel, and even Oxfordshire and the Home Counties for the more energetic.
Any takers? And does anyone know of a decent FF stockist in Bristol or the surrounding area? There's a stationery shop on Park Street but it's pretty horrible-looking, and not an 'authorised' FF stockist.

Adam R (2011-03-30 02:55:04)

I think a good solution would be to have scheduled regional meet ups so that everyone can experience the joys

kanalt (2011-03-30 06:31:23)

Adam & Petra - We could definitely do another meet up in the beginning of August. Let us know the dates of when you'll be here and we'll see what we can do. The more the merrier!

Rori (2011-03-30 17:52:44)

@Steve: Will check it out!

@Mywormy HEY!! A NM FILOFAXER!!

Do you have any good stores there? The only one I can find in Albq. has a really small stock.

SNARLing: (2011-03-31 09:52:16)

i would love to meet up in ny! unfortunately i don't think i could do it this year. kinda low on cash these days. boo. it sucks too as besides kate's and sam flax there is this stationary store in the village i used to go to a lot

that had a fairly decent filofax selection. that was awhile ago though so not sure if it's even still there. that place rocked. i couldn't even tell you the streets where it was or the name of the place - i just know how to get there

Web Finds (2011-03-30 10:08)

So what have we spied on the web this week...

- [1]I Spy a Filofax - Paper r u s h blog
- [2]Filofax set up amendment - Sharon
- [3]Notebook Addict of the Week - Notebook Stories
- [4]I added USB to my Filofax - Saraccino
- [5]A5 Domino with QV Timer 21 insert - Plannerisms
- [6]Is Pink The New Power Dressing? - Birds on the Blog
- [7]If only I had a Filofax - Foodie Mummy
- [8]The Premiere - Montague Warner
- [9]Fine Tuning the Filofax - Typecast
- [10]My GTD System 2011 - Parker Quality Consultants also see the page on [11]GTD

Enjoy

1. <http://paper-rush.blogspot.com/2011/03/i-spy-filofax.html>
2. <http://shazzastitching.wordpress.com/2011/03/30/filofax-setup-amendment/>
3. <http://www.notebookstories.com/2011/03/11/notebook-addict-of-the-week-sheapup/>
4. <http://saraccino.blogspot.com/2011/03/i-added-usb-to-my-filofax.html>
5. <http://www.plannerisms.com/2011/03/next-experiment-a5-domino-filofax-with.html>
6. <http://www.birdsontheblog.co.uk/is-pink-the-new-power-dressing-business-dress-doesnt-need-to-be-boring-and-has-its-advantages-business/>
7. <http://foodiemummy.blogspot.com/2011/03/if-only-i-had-filofax.html>
8. <http://www.montaguewarner.com/2011/03/premiere.html>
9. <http://www.iamtypecast.com/2011/03/fine-tuning-filofax.html>
10. <http://www.parkerquality.com/gtd/my-gtd-system-2011/>
11. <http://www.parkerquality.com/category/gtd/organise/>

Savannah (2011-03-30 19:25:55)

I'm always on the look out for meaningful life planning methods but GTD seems ambiguous and too complicated. Does anyone else feel this way? Is there any way to break it down to it's essentials? Can it be implemented simply for ordinary people? What is it's basic concept or purpose in relation to your life other than just getting things done and process? That doesn't sound like much of a life! I think I'm missing something here.

gdigesu (2011-03-30 20:12:13)

Savannah, hi. Fantastic questions? May I challenge them?

How ambiguous and complex is your life? Have you found yet a way to break your dreams, aspirations, fears, wants, and challenges down to their "essentials"?

Do you have a system to deal with the complexities of your life (and the people around you ...) that can be implemented "simply"?

My guess is that if your system is "simpler" than your life requires, your life ends up more complex - not simpler

...

Laurie (2011-03-30 22:36:56)

Hi Savannah, there are loads of people who feel, like you do, that GTD is too complicated. There are loads of alternatives like Getting Sh-t Done (<http://www.utilware.com/gsd3.html>) and Zen To Done.

Charlie Gilkey writes a website called Productive Flourishing (<http://www.productiveflourishing.com/>) that is really great for creative people. (Click on New Here? To get started) He also makes planners that you can download for free at the beginning of each month, or buy the whole year for a very small price. The planners are designed to help you figure out your most productive time of day, track billable hours for freelancers, and plan your annual, quarterly, monthly and weekly goals. You can see the free planners here: <http://www.productiveflourishing.com/free-planners/>

Butanben (2011-03-31 06:09:53)

Thank you Laurie, I am about to look up this site. Actually I think the concept of Get Things Done in using long term and short term goals and objectives is a sound one. It has certainly made me focus on my own personal long term goals and projects far more than before I read about GTD. However, to me the point is to look at various systems out there and to cherry pick from those systems which actually work for you and your life. Your system has to be smooth running, simplistic to implement and something which will actually be used by you daily and at regular intervals, making all aspects of life, home, family, career manageable and run more smoothly. This takes review, trial and error.... what is one persons organisational bliss system simply may not work for you. For example, I do not get along with Dodo pads.... tried....or a diary system without the hours of the day written in, again tried and didn't like. A week on 2 pages with a vertical hourly diary, for me is perfect. Another person may just not get along with that and adore Dodo pads and a blank diary system. It is trial and error and we are all different. That is what is great about Philofaxy. It is a creative site, in that we can design our own planner set ups and inserts, and such a sharing community. New ideas and things to try out I always find so very exciting.

Jotje (2011-03-31 06:14:34)

Steve, something is off with that Notebook-link: it lets my Browser crash each time I try to open it. ????

Steve (2011-03-31 06:24:20)

This one?

<http://www.notebookstories.com/2011/03/11/notebook-addict-of-the-wee k-sheapup/>

Foodie Mummy (2011-03-31 07:16:45)

Hi Phil.

Thank you for linking to my post!

Thomas (2011-03-31 09:04:28)

@Savannah: I think GTD is unique in namely it's simplicity. At first glance it may seem very complex and rather complicated, but I found that when I first got into it, it became more and more simple.

Having said that, I would state that it took me about 9 months to get the system really implemented in my everyday life. I started out reading the book and made the lists (I followed the advices in the book to the numbers...) and started using them.

After a few weeks I really only used the next actions and the errands list plus a little bit of someday/maybe. But it worked on the, using the David Allan term, runway-level and 10K.

After six months I reread the book (audiobook this time) and found it to be hugely helpful. There was a lot of

stuff I didn't do get the first time around but the second time I tweaked my system and it became even better. Now I'm about to re-read it once again and really get into the high-levels of thinking and planning.

I'll post some of this on my blog soon...

What I'm trying to say is "give it another shot!" Start at the ground level and follow the book by the numbers. Make the list of ALL the stuff that's on your mind and continue to do it.

Once you get a "Mind like water" - when there is nothing on your mind and you sit down with a cup of tea/coffee and a book for three hours and think of nothing else (if you do, you just jot it down and put it in your system), you'll never want to go back...

David Popely (2011-03-31 12:07:10)

@Savannah, may I suggest the 'original' 'Key Areas' philosophy propounded by Time Manager International? I have used this for many years, and it has *always* served me well. Details virtually unobtainable online now, but I have some paper-based materials and could tell you more by email if that helps.

Alison Reeves (2011-03-31 17:52:11)

@David - I'd be interested in hearing about this also - would it be suitable for a blog topic on Philofaxy do you think? That's if you are willing of course!

Alison Reeves (2011-03-31 17:53:20)

@Laurie - that website looks really interesting. I've had a quick look around but will be looking at it in more detail. Thanks for posting it up!

Savannah (2011-03-31 19:36:09)

Thankyou everyone for your wonderful input concerning GTD and it's alternatives. It's nice to see the Philofaxy time management guru's come out of the wood work. I hope this discussion will be helpful to others who are interested in implementing or changing their time management.

gdigesu-Yes, these questions were meant to be challenged. I am not for or against GTD I would just like to hear feedback. In the 1990's I used Franklin Covey so I have some experience with defining values, setting objectives etc. Although I have learned valuable lessons on task management the system never fit. Right now my system has been stripped and is perhaps too simple, perhaps not. Need to think more about this.

Laurie- Thanks for affirming that GTD may not be for everyone and giving us other options (sighs). I hope you are settled and familiar with your new location soon so you can explore and enjoy.

Thomas- loved your story about the rewards of GTD. I have limited knowledge of GTD and only know what I know from links on this blog. You may have inspired me to read the book!

David-Hope you will share your Time Manager International System via Philofaxy.

For those of you that like to read about Filofax fun and products, thanks for your patience!

David Popely (2011-04-03 04:05:49)

@alison I'd be happy to discuss doing a post on the TMI concept - I guess some of the form designs are in copyright, but the concept is transferrable. If you could email me at davidpopely (at) googlemail (dot) com maybe we can take this further?

Filofax Related Music... (2011-03-31 06:35)

Fun Thursday... well it's windy and wet outside so why not.....

When you think of your Filofax Organiser, what music comes in to your head? My music is mainly biased towards popular music rather than classical, but looking through my iTunes collection that are sort of related to your diary or planner, I came up with this play list!!!

- Nobody's Diary - Alison Moyet

- Diary - Bread
- She Makes My Day - Robert Palmer
- Working Day and Night - Michael Jackson
- The Diary of Horace Wimp - The Electric Light Orchestra
- Brand New Day - 10cc
- New Year's Day - U2
- Just a Normal Day - Supertramp
- Perfect Day - Lou Reed
- Summer Day - Sheryl Crow
- Good Day Sunshine - The Beatles
- Black Friday - Steely Dan
- Every Day Hurts - Sad Cafe
- Eight Days A Week - The Beatles
- Every Day is a Winding Road - Sheryl Crow
- Wedding Day - Seal
- Hard Day's Night - The Beatles
- Lovely Day - Bill Withers
- Good Day in Hell - The Eagles
- Get 'Em Out By Friday - Genesis
- It's A Beautiful Day - Lighthouse Family
- Everyday - Phil Collins
- Day Tripper - The Beatles

So have I missed any candidates for the 'Philofaxy' play list?

Sharon (2011-03-31 06:51:13)

Excellent play list, although not something I have ever thought of actually!
Interested to read other's comments!

T (2011-03-31 07:24:56)

Off the top of my head:

Monday, Monday – The Mamas & The Pappas

Tuesday Afternoon – Moody Blues

Friday On My Mind – The Easybeats

Working For A Living – Huey Lewis and The News

Control –Joy Division

The Rev'd Blair (2011-03-31 07:25:16)

Ah, you forgot the quintessentially Canadian Rock Band "Rush"
"Time Stand Still"

T (2011-03-31 07:28:33)

September – Earth, Wind and Fire

Saturday Night Is The Loneliest Night of The Week – Frank Sinatra

Time of The Season – Zombies

Globetrotting Cacti (2011-03-31 08:53:58)

Thought of the following:-

Bridget Jones Diary (soundtrack)

Pink - Dear Diary

Travis - Dear Diary

The Beatles - Paperback Writer

Oasis - The Masterplan

Linkin Park - Papercut

Stereophonics - Mr Writer

An interesting playlist when thrown together....

Iris (2011-03-31 09:18:52)

August Was A Heavy Month - Bob Geldof

SNARLing: (2011-03-31 09:42:07)

manic monday - the bangles

tuesday's gone - lynard skynnard

time after time - cyndi lauper

friday i'm in love - the cure

another saturday night - cat stevens

s-a-t-u-r-d-a-y-night - bay city rollers

working for the weekend - loverboy

time is on my side - rolling stones

this is the day - the the

Smiler (2011-03-31 09:43:43)

Friday I'm in Love - The Cure

Lady Emerald (2011-03-31 17:22:17)

I chime in with some more:

Blue Monday –New Order

Church on sunday – Green Day

The Day after Tomorrow – Saybia

Everyday – Erasure

How You Remind Me – Nickelback

Monday Morning – Melanie Fiona

Until the day is done – R.E.M.

Wasted Time – Skid Row

BlogBook v0.4,
L^AT_EX 2_ε & GNU/Linux.
<http://www.blogbooker.com>

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