

Side-Stitch Book



Dea Fischer

artist & artisan

403-609-3579
rock-paper-scissors@live.ca

Materials:

1 large sheet of paper for the pages (any weight)
2 x light weight book board or flax board
13 x 14.5cm each
2 x light weight book board or flax board
13 x 2 cm each
2 x paper for the cover 16 x 20cm each
2 x endpaper for inside cover 12 x 16cm
Rivets, screw posts, heavy chord, wire or other
medium to bind.

Supplies:

Bone folder
Scissors
Glue stick
Punch, awl or drill
Decorative paper or embellishments.
Text or decorative elements: printed; stamps; etc.

Pages:

1. Fold your large sheet in half across the width. Crease with a bonefolder. Turn the folded paper so that the folded edge is to the right (or left if you are left-handed). Slit the paper. Insert your bonefolder into the fold from the bottom edge. Keeping your bonefolder close to the table and holding the paper firmly with your left hand, slide the bonefolder out and up in short movements as though slitting an envelope.
2. Fold the two sheets you now have in half again across the width. Crease. Slit again (with heavier paper, separate and slit them one at a time). You now have four sheets (quarto).
3. Fold each of the four sheets individually and slit again (octavo). You now have eight sheets. Fold each of the eight sheets one last time and slit to make sixteen sheets.
4. Go through the pages and turn them all the right way up (top surface of the paper showing, neat deckle edges. If you find any cut edges, try to turn them toward the spine if you can. Tidy the stack and set aside. This is your block.

Cover:

1. Cut cover paper 3cm larger than the cover board in both directions (16 x 20cm).
2. Apply gluestick to the larger piece of board and set down on the cover paper piece. Lay it about 1.5cm from the bottom and right-hand paper edges, leaving a wider section to the left. Rub down carefully on the inside of the board with your bonefolder.
3. Apply gluestick to the small piece of board. Lay on the paper about half a centimeter to the left of the large piece, lining them up carefully top and bottom. Rub down.
4. Apply gluestick to the overlapping paper top and bottom, ensuring glue is run carefully along the edge of the board itself. Clear away any excess with your bonefolder.
5. Lay a clean piece of scrap paper, and then your cover, paper side down onto the scrap paper. Carefully lifting the edge of the scrap paper, use it to lift the overlapping paper up and over the edge of the cover board. Rub in, ensuring a tight fit. Lay back the scrap paper and rub the cover well with your bonefolder. Repeat top and bottom, and then left and right, making sure you tuck corners in well at each turn. Rub carefully into the hinge between the two pieces of board, being careful not to tear the paper. Rub down well all around. Repeat for the other cover.
6. Apply glue to the wrong side of the end paper. Apply carefully to the inside of the cover, aligning neatly top and bottom. Lay scrap paper over and rub down with your bonefolder, paying particular attention to the edges. Repeat for the other cover.
7. Mark hole positions in the spine with your four-hole jig. Depending on your chosen binding method, either pierce positions with an awl or drill with a Japanese punch. If desired, apply grommets.

Assembly:

1. Assemble the block neatly into a stack. If necessary, clamp to hold in position while you mark the holes with your jig.
2. Drill the block as you did the covers.
3. Assemble the block with the covers front and back (making sure they are the right way up/around if already decorated).
4. Depending on your chosen binding method, blanket stitch with wire or chord or apply fasteners/brads or rings through the holes.
5. Embellish and fill with content as desired.