

The Pamphlet Stitch Book | *Inspired Design: Fabricating the Handmade Photographic Artist's Book*
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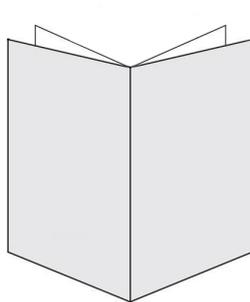
The pamphlet stitch book is an ideal style to use for a book with a small number of pages and lays relatively flat when opened. This binding works best with 10-15 pages and can be bound with a hard or soft cover. Traditionally it had a soft cover and was held together with a staple. For decorative binding purposes, any strong thread or cord will work fine for sewing. The paper for the body of the book can be very thin or a medium weight cover stock. A heavier weight plain or decorative paper should be used for the end sheets.

The pamphlet stitch cover can be finished using decorative papers or fabric. The decorative paper should be thin enough to fold without cracking. For this demonstration we will be constructing a soft cover utilizing paper from the Canson sketch book & decorative paper for the endsheet/cover.

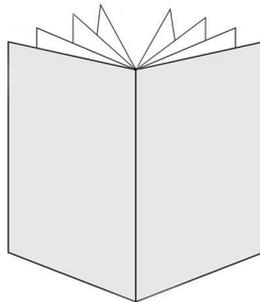
Book Construction:

1. Assembling pages:

- Determine size of pages
- Pay attention to the grain (grain should run parallel to the spine)
- Tear or cut paper to desired size (use paper cutter or tear around template)
- Fold each piece in half while carefully lining up corners (use bone folder)
- Build a stack of folded pages (folios) placing each inside one another.



2 folios = quarto



4 folios = octavo

2. Tear or cut decorative paper for end sheets & soft cover

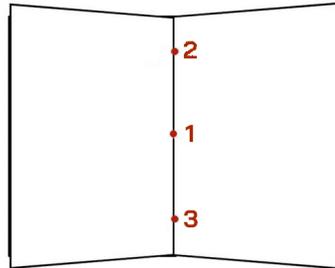
- Most books use two full sheets for end-sheets
- Use a heavy weight cover stock or decorative paper
- Fold paper same as above to wrap around the already folded folios

3. Hold the stack of pages in hand with fingers inside and thumb outside

- Gently pound folded edge on a hard surface
- Make certain edges line up straight - Clothes pins work nicely to secure

4. Create a paper template for dissecting holes (same size as height of book)

- Measure and mark "1" at the center of the template
- Measure and mark "2" & "3" (1- 1.5" from top and bottom)
- These are marks to guide you in sewing



5. Dissect holes from the inside of the book

- Place signature into a sewing cradle or the gutter of a magazine
- Use a dissecting needle to pierce through signature at each mark
- Make sure pages are pierced properly through the entire signature

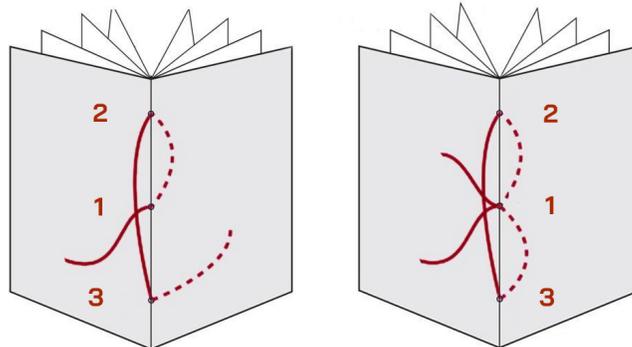
6. Cut a piece of linen thread 3x the height of the pages

- Use a strong quality thread so as not to break with your hands
- Wax thread & tie a double knot (single strand) 4" from the end
- Thread needle (yarn darners work great)

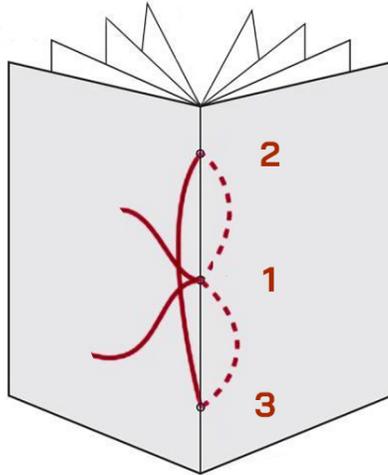
7. Begin sewing from the outside or from the inside of the pages

Note: The finished knot or bow will end wherever you began

- Begin sewing by pulling needle and thread through center hole (B)
- Next place needle through top hole (A)
- Skip past center hole to go through bottom hole (C)
- Next go back through center hole (this takes you back to where you began)
- Always tighten sewing by pulling thread in the direction just sewn



8. To finish, tie together the two ends of thread that come together where you started
- To add stability, straddle the thread ends over the stitch line
 - Then tie the book off with a triple knot and trim to 1/2" or make a bow
 - Burnish folded area using folding bone



9. Pamphlet books can be finished with a hand-torn or trimmed edge
- For a straight cut trimmed-edge, trim book using cork back ruler & a thinn X-Acto knife or scalpel
 - Note: Hand trimming works best on a 10-15-page book

Pamphlet Stitch Video Resources:

Charmaine Martinez

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHfPAS1kHhw>

Jim Escalante – 5-hole Pamphlet

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzM_BcebjTg

Debbie-Anne Parent (Ephemera's Vintage Garden)

Alternative method with multiple Pamphlets

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RFB0wUR7u0>