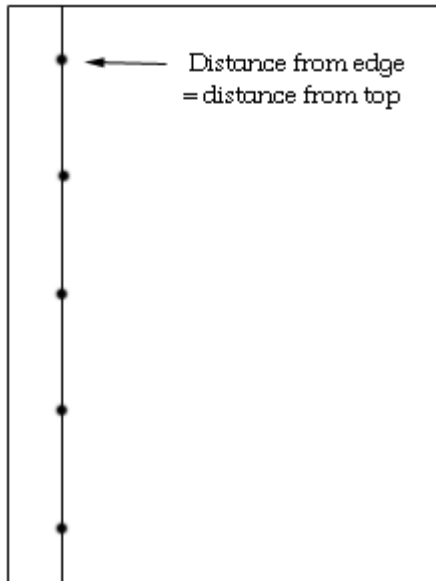


5 Stitch Bookbinding-mini blank books

1. Once you get going, these are so easy you'll make a half-dozen at a time.
2. Materials you'll need for six mini blank books:
3. Twelve pieces of 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper for the pages (9 x 12 or A4 size is also OK; bond, laser printer, or drawing paper)
4. Two pieces 9 x 12 inch cover stock, oak tag, construction paper, etc. for the covers. I use Strathmore Colored Art Paper for covers because I like its texture and weight. Two pieces are really enough for 9 books.
5. (optional) Little bits of decorative papers to add to the front.
6. Thread to stitch it up. Button & Carpet weight thread is perfect, or shoemakers thread, or dental floss (mint or cinnamon for color!)
7. Heavy needle (darning or embroidery needle)
8. (optional) Awl or bodkin, or metal hole punch (1/16 inch size, the kind that you hold and hit with a hammer that people use to make holes before they put eyelets in)
9. Two spring-type clothespins, bulldog clips, or large paper clips
10. Scissors or paper cutter
11. None of the dimensions given here really matter. A little bigger or smaller is OK. Even a lot bigger is OK, but of course you'll need more paper.
12. Cut the 8 1/2 x 11 sheets into the pages of your books. The covers will be 3 x 4 inches and the pages should be a little smaller. 2 15/16 x 3 7/8 is just right.
13. Measure the cover stock. I like a rough edge so I score the cover stock to my measurements, fold back and forth a few times, and tear on the folds. Cutting to size is OK too. Cut the spine edge straight, but you could use decorative edge scissors on the other edges
14. Decorate the front cover with stamping or glue decorative papers on it. I like to glue a 3/8 inch (9 mm) strip along the edge that will be stitched, and glue triangles on the outside for now, let's concentrate on structure. Next time, go wild with greeting card techniques.
15. Score the front cover 3/8 of an inch from the edge that will be stitched. Fold and unfold, to make the book easy to open.
16. Mark locations for five holes along the fold line from the previous step. One hole should be in the middle of that fold line, one each 3/8 from the top and bottom, and the others evenly spaced in between. Here's what it looks like:

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17. Stack the book together with the pages between the covers (naturally) and clip it all together with spring clothespins, bulldog clips, or paper clips. Get the binding-side edges of the papers lined up neatly.
18. With the bodkin, awl, needle, or metal hole punch, punch holes where you have marked. If your thread is on a spool, use the spool to support the book and poke through the book into the hole in the spool.
20. Cut a length of thread at least four times the height of your book and thread a needle singly with it (that is, do not double the thread).
21. Start by stitching up through the middle hole. Leave a couple of inches of thread at the back of the book to tie a knot with later.
22. Stitch down through the next hole towards the top of the book and then around the spine and back down through the same hole.
23. Stitch up through the hole nearest the top of the book and then around the spine and back up through the same hole.
24. Stitch around the top of the book and back up through the same hole.
25. Stitch down through the next hole towards the center.
26. Here's the only tricky part: Skip the center hole and stitch up through the second hole from the bottom, then around the spine and back up through that same hole. As you go past the middle hole, keep the loose end (coming through the middle hole) towards the open side of the book.
27. By now you have the idea: down through the hole closest to the bottom, around the spine and back down, around the bottom and back down, up through the hole closer to the center, down through the middle hole, and finally around the spine and back down through the middle hole. As you go through the middle hole this last time, keep the needle on the spine side of the thread that skipped the middle hole.
28. Tie the ends together over the thread that skipped the middle hole, and trim the knot. That's it!