
Pamphlet book

Project one: Single signature pamphlet

Materials

One sheet of 18" x 24" sketch pad or newsprint

One second color sheet

One sheet of translucent

One 8.5"x11" sheet of card stock

Needle, Thread, Ruler, Awl

Bone folder is optional

Step I

Choose materials that are pleasing to you or that might be appropriate for future projects. Be prepared to discuss the reason for making these selections and what they will help convey. Maybe your choices are made for technical considerations, i.e. *watercolor paint works great on this paper*. Or *I selected this sheet because it holds up very well to different types of media*.

The main section of the book will be made from a sheet of sketch pad paper or other sheet of your choice. Determine the direction of the paper's *grain* on all of your materials. Cut the sheet by folding it down to a sheet size of 9'x6'. Fold those sheet into your folios. From an 12"x18" sheet you should end up with four folios and 16 pages of 4.5"x9".

Next, fold and trim the translucent sheet and the second color sheet to fit the inside pages. Most likely these will not be 12"x18" and will need to be trimmed. Make every effort to keep the grain parallel to the spine of the book.

Finally, fold the cover stock. The cover stock can be trimmed to the same page size or it can be slightly larger. If the cover stock is larger, your book will have a slight edge on three sides. We call this area around the book form the *square*. It is a good practice to wait until you have assembled the main signature of the book before cutting the cover. The fore edge of the book will stick out slightly. The thicker the sheet of paper will result in the fore edge sticking farther out of the center of the folded section.

Step II

Once the pamphlet book is assembled by gathering the inside sheets, the second color and translucent sheets and the cover into one signature, we can start the process to sew it into a pamphlet.

The majority of pamphlet style books use three holes or sewing stations. The world will not end if you use more than three holes, but more holes are seldom needed and it will create a different sewing pattern. For this assignment lets just use three holes. The placement for the holes should be in the crease or paper fold approximately 1/2" from the top and bottom and the third should be half way between the other two.

Cut a piece of thread three times as long as the height of the book and thread your binding needle with the thread. You only need one thread thickness. A rule of thumb for where to start the sewing is the knot will end up at the location from where you start the sewing. If you want the knot to end up inside the book, then start your sewing from the inside. And if you want the knot to be on the outside of the spine, then start sewing from the outside.

For this project, start sewing at the center hole from the inside. Take the needle out of the center hole and move the needle to the top hole. Once you have passed the needle back into the signature, pull the thread to the opposite or bottom hole and push the needle and thread out from the inside of the signature. Next, take the needle the center hole, where the sewing started and thread the needle back into the middle of the book. The sewing is now complete. Make sure the last stitch goes on the other side of the middle thread and tie it a knot. Make sure you knot catches the thread so that it will not slip out. You are finished with the sewing and you can cut any remaining tread after tying the knot.

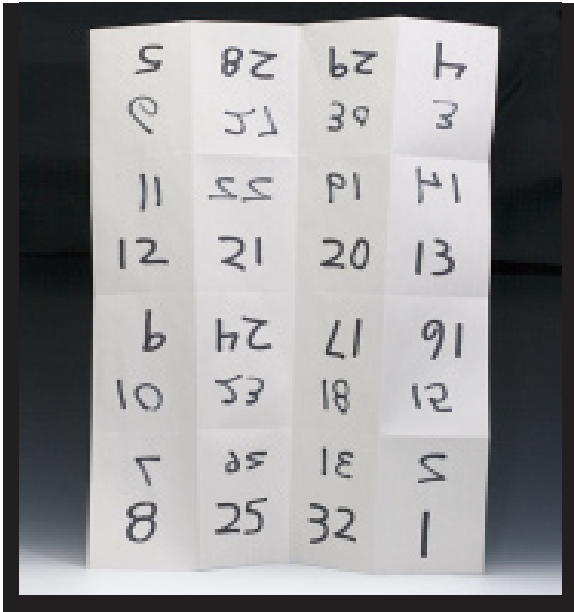


Fig. 1. Single sheet with folds to make a 32 page signature.



Fig. 2. Folded in half four times to make the final size.

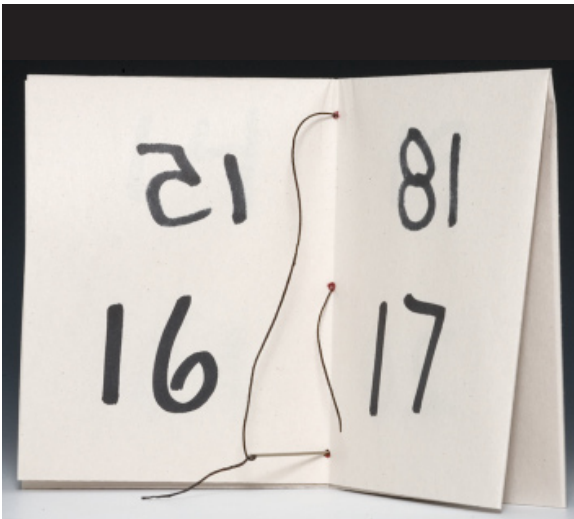


Fig. 3. Punch three holes and start sewing from inside center hole.

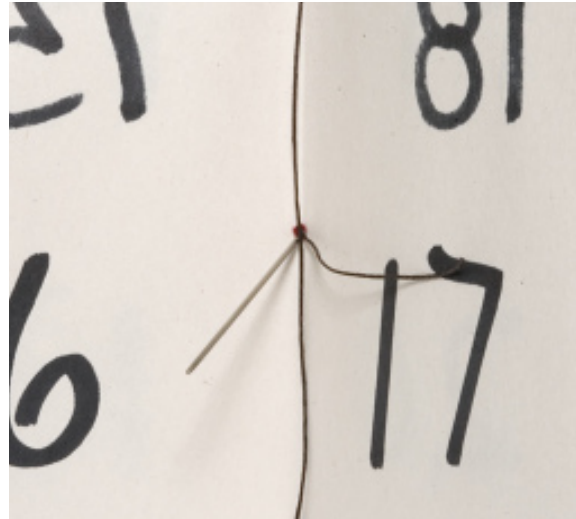


Fig. 4. The center hole is the start and finish for the sewing.

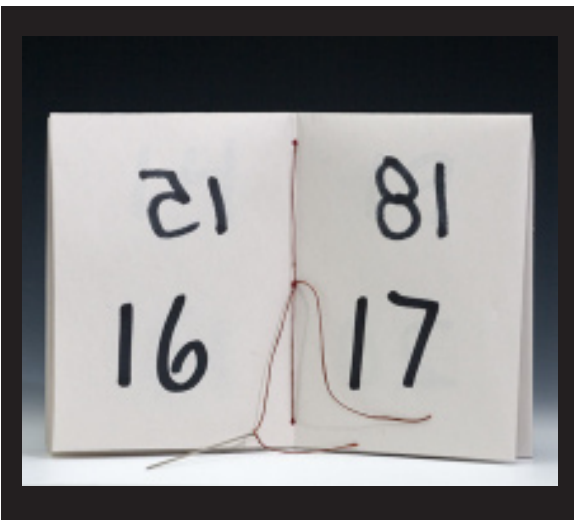


Fig. 5. Tie a square knot so that the center thread is tied down.

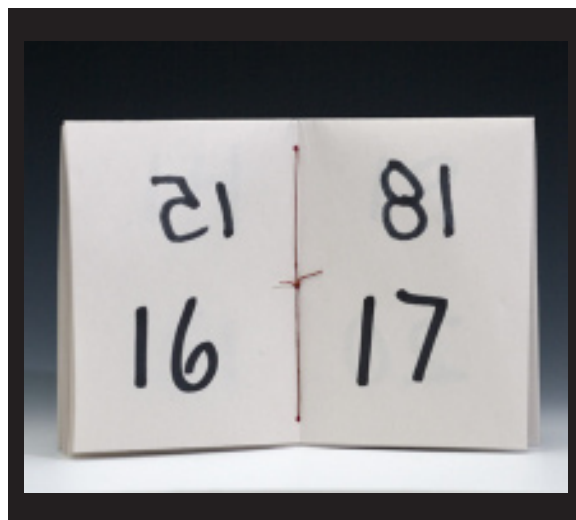


Fig. 6. Cut the excess thread to the desired length.