



# MINIATURE BOOKS:

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS  
PAPER RECIPES  
IDEAS

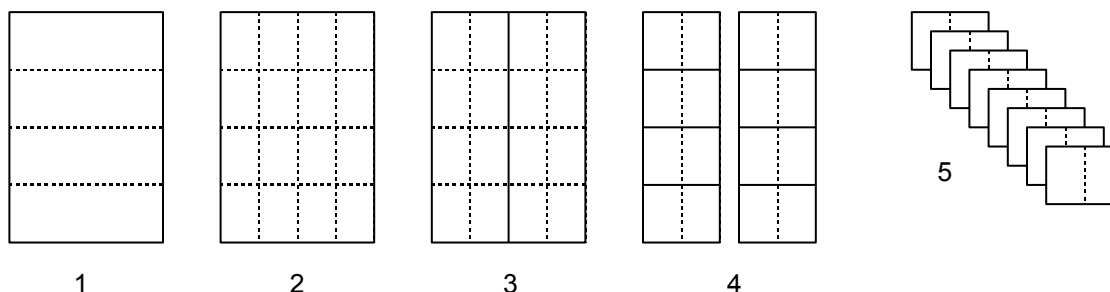
# BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

## Step 1: Create a book cover

Use a pencil to trace around a book cover template onto cardstock, or just print the templates on the wrong side of any paper that will go through your printer. Cut out with scissors. Make light pencil marks on your book cover where you need to fold (use the dashed lines on the template as a guide) and score with a bone folder or dull side of a butter knife.

## Step 2: Make the pages

All the templates use an 8½ x 11" sheet of paper for the book pages. Regular copy paper is fine unless you want something more fancy. Fold the piece of paper in half with the short sides together, then in half again. Unfold and smooth out (figure 1). Next, going the opposite direction, fold in half, then in half again. Unfold and smooth out (figure 2). Cut along the solid lines with scissors or a paper trimmer (figures 3 and 4) then stack the pages together (figure 5).



## Step 3: Bind

There are many ways to bind books, but for these tiny books the stapler works best (use a standard size stapler, not a mini-size). Place the book cover on top of the stack of pages, lining up the fold of the pages with the fold (or spine) of the cover. Staple directly on the spine through all the pages. One staple at the top and one at the bottom is plenty. If you aren't happy with the placement of the staples on your book, use a staple remover to pull them out and try again.

# PAPER TO USE FOR BOOK COVERS

Here are a few ideas for found papers you can use for book covers. If the paper you are using is too thin to make a sturdy cover, coat the entire back of the paper with a glue stick and press it onto cardstock.

- \* Decorative paper left over from other projects
- \* Greeting cards, envelopes, postcards
- \* Wrapping paper
- \* Junk mail, brochures, flyers
- \* Old calendars
- \* Thin cardboard boxes (cereal, tissue, etc.)
- \* Index cards
- \* Poster board
- \* Office file folders
- \* Thin notebook covers
- \* Heavy paper bags
- \* Paint and wallpaper samples

- \* Newspaper, magazines, catalogs
- \* Empty seed packets
- \* Paper candy wrappers
- \* Sheet music
- \* Old game or playing cards
- \* Pages from used books
- \* Photographs

## PAPER RECIPES

Here are a few recipes to decorate plain paper for book covers.

### Watercolor Paper

- \* White watercolor paper
- \* Crayons
- \* Table or kosher salt
- \* Watercolors (use an inexpensive brand of artist "tube" watercolors if possible)

Decorate the watercolor paper with crayons (whatever design you desire—stars, hearts, stripes, polka-dots, etc.). Then, lightly wash over the watercolor paper with watercolors. The wax from the crayons will resist the watercolors and show through. For a "starry sky" effect, sprinkle table or Kosher salt over the paint while it's still wet. Let the paper dry and then brush the salt into the garbage can. Let the paper dry thoroughly. If the paper warps, leave it under some heavy books overnight.

### Paste Paper

- \* Wheat wallpaper paste (sold in the hardware department)
- \* Water
- \* Acrylic paint (the kind in squeeze-type plastic bottles)
- \* Paint brushes
- \* Blender

Whirl six tablespoons of wheat paste with one cup of cold water in a blender until very smooth (add more water if necessary). Pour into a disposable container with a lid (such as a clean plastic food container). Pour some paste into a paper cup and add a small amount of acrylic paint (adding more paint will not make the color darker—add white or black to lighten or darken the color). With a clean brush, spread the paste all over one sheet of regular copy paper. Use your fingers to create patterns in the paste (you can also use foam stamps, old combs, etc.). Let the paper dry thoroughly. If the paper warps, leave it under some heavy books overnight. Any leftover paste can be stored in the refrigerator for future paste paper making sessions.

### Marbled Paper

- \* Liquid starch (found by the laundry supplies)
- \* Water
- \* Acrylic paint (the kind in squeeze-type plastic bottles)
- \* Straw or eye dropper
- \* Toothpick
- \* Glass baking dish

Pour liquid starch into a glass baking dish (large enough to hold your cardstock). Pour one teaspoon of acrylic paint into a paper cup and thin it with two teaspoons of water, mixing well. Using a straw or eye dropper, drizzle the paint over the starch. Most of the paint should float (if it doesn't adjust the amounts of paint and water). Use a toothpick to swirl the paint into an interesting pattern, being careful not to over mix. Float the cardstock on the surface of the water for a second or two. Remove, rinse gently under running water, and let the paper dry (repeat until you get a design you like). Let the paper dry thoroughly. If the paper warps, leave it under some heavy books overnight.

### **Handmade Stickers**

- \* 2 tablespoons Elmer's® (or other non-toxic) white glue
- \* 1 tablespoon vinegar
- \* Paintbrush (new is recommended—if you use an old one, make sure it hasn't been used with anything toxic)

Cut images out of magazines and catalogs or use paper punches to create shapes. Place the images and shapes good side down on a piece of waxed paper. Mix the glue and vinegar together in a paper cup. Dip the paintbrush into the solution and coat the backs of desired paper with a thin layer. Let dry (some of the shapes may curl, but they will still work).

Lick the backs of your handmade stickers and decorate the cover of your album. The vinegar and glue solution sounds terrible, but it doesn't taste too bad and it's non-toxic. Don't lick the stickers too much or you'll remove all the sticky stuff and they won't stick.

### **Tea Dye**

- \* 1 tablespoon instant tea
- \* 1 cup warm water

Add instant tea to water. Place in a dish large enough to hold a sheet of white cardstock. Let the cardstock soak in the tea for about 30 minutes, then remove and place it on top of several sheets of newspaper to dry. Let the paper dry thoroughly. If the paper warps, leave it under some heavy books overnight.

## **IDEAS FOR CLOSING MINI BOOKS**

### **Basic Book Cover**

- \* Trace around the Belly Band template onto your chosen paper. Cut out. Score and fold the belly band as indicated on the template. Wrap the belly band around the book and secure with a glue stick (be sure to only glue the belly band to itself, and not to the book cover). Let dry. Open and close the book by slipping the belly band on and off.
- \* Bow Tie: Cut out two book covers. Sandwich a ribbon or string in between the two covers and glue together. Tie to close.

### **Square Flap Book Cover**

- \* Cut strips of magnetic tape (about ½" wide) and attach one piece to the book cover and the other piece to the flap so they stick together when the book is closed. Trim away any excess magnetic tape.

### **Envelope Book Cover**

- \* Attach one side of a Velcro circle to the inside of the flap. Attach the opposite side of the circle to the book cover so when you close the book they lock together.

### **Petal Book Cover**

- \* Fold each flap into the center starting at the top and working clockwise. Tuck the edge of the last flap under the first flap.
- \* Use an 1/8" hole punch to make a hole through two of the flaps (on opposite sides). If you don't have an 1/8" hole punch, place the book cover on a sheet of cardboard or a self-healing mat and create the hole with a sharp pencil. Make sure the holes are centered and that they line up. Insert a brad into

each hole and fasten. Tie the string around the top brad and knot. Trim the shortest length of string as close to the knot as possible. Close the book by wrapping the string around the brads several times (like a button and string envelope).

## THEME IDEAS

Here are a few ideas for decorating and using miniature books.

- \* **Pocket-size Art Studio:** Make a set of mini sketchbooks. Fill a small tin or other container with a sharpened pencil stub, broken bits of crayons, charcoal, or pastels, and a pencil-top eraser.
- \* **Wallet-size Photo Album:** Cut the backs off of two photo corners. Using a glue stick, attach the decorative fronts of the photo corners to the corners of the book cover opposite the spine. Attach photos to the pages with photo corners, double-stick photo tabs, or a photo-safe glue stick.
- \* **Flower Press:** Sandwich small flowers in between the pages of your book and place under a stack of heavy books until the flowers feel dry and thin (usually a couple of weeks). Use a glue stick to attach the pressed flowers onto the pages in your book or onto note cards for beautiful handmade stationery.
- \* **Explorer Journal:** Make a kit with miniature books, a pencil, magnifying glass, and a roll of clear tape (for taping seeds, leaves, and other things of interest into your book).
- \* **Collection Book:** Start a collection of postage stamps, stickers, fortunes, ticket stubs, pressed leaves and flowers, tiny photos, squashed pennies, bubble gum wrappers...anything small and flat! Either attach them directly to book pages or make pockets using the Keepsake Pocket template. For each pocket, fold flaps A and B to the center. Run the glue stick along the edge of flap C and then fold over flaps A and B. Press down to seal the keepsake pocket. Use the glue stick to attach each pocket to a book page.

## EXTRA IDEAS

- \* Use a craft punch to round the corners of the book cover.
- \* Use the Spine template to cut out a spine from coordinating paper and glue it over the binding of your book.
- \* Make your book into a keychain. Use an 1/8" hole punch to make a hole through the entire book at the top corner near the spine. (To make it easier, punch through one half of the book then close the book and punch through the rest of the pages using the first hole as a guide). Thread a beaded key chain and fastener key chain through the hole.