

Bookbinding

So you want to make a book!



ASK YOURSELF

1. How many pages/sheets?
2. How many books do you want in the end?
3. What's the aesthetic you're going for?
4. What is the purpose of this book?
5. When do you need them by?

YOUR VISION

Books can function as art objects, information vehicles, and can be as simple as a couple pages folded and stapled together or bold colourful pop up books. It's important to visualize how you want readers to express your book.

STITCHES

The big question is how will you bind the pages together. Will you use a simple saddle stitch, sewn bound, accordion style, do you want a hard or soft cover?

The size and type of paper as well as the quantity of paper will also help determine how you should bind your book.

TO BIND OR NOT TO BIND

Depending on what you are picturing to create and on the quantity you're looking to produce, you still have to decide if it's going to be you binding these books or if you're going to outsource some or all of the labour. Be that getting the pages professionally printed so you can bind them yourself, or sending the project off to a reliable company.

Note: Otherwise Studios has a printing press that you are welcome to use under safe circumstances if you are interested in incorporating engraving, embossment, or print.

LIST OF BOOKBINDING TYPES



Saddle Stitch

- PRO: Don't need glue to bind (can use thread or staples)
Super duper easy and fast
- CON: Not super fancy, but still nice
Only one signature, so less pages



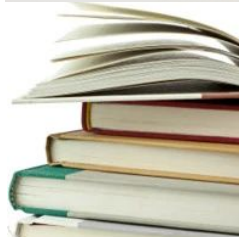
Sewn Bound Saddle Stitch

- PRO: Sewn completely with a sewing machine
Again, super easy
- CON: Need a sewing machine



Long Stitch

- PRO: Very decorative
Can customize the stitch in many different ways
- CON: A wee bit more complicated



Case Bound

- PRO: Probably most common hardcover
Looks really great and very professional
- CON: Making just one takes quite some time
You'll need more materials



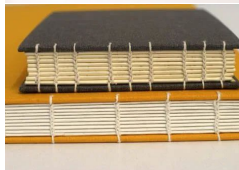
Kettle Stitch

- PRO: No glue needed
Holds more sections than saddle stitch
- CON: Can "look bare" to some people



Perfect Binding (also Notch or Burst Binding)

- PRO: What most magazines look like
Very professional aesthetics
- CON: Difficult process for simple aesthetic (better to get outsourced)



Coptic

- PRO: Can hold more pages and more signatures
No glue required
- CON: Slightly more complicated knots than saddle stitch



Japanese Stab

- PRO: No glue required
Very customizable!
- CON: Doesn't lay flat due to the binding



Hardcover Case Binding

- PRO: Very professional and very rewarding to create
Can hold many more pages and signatures
- CON: Takes the most amount of resources and time to bind



Otabind

- PRO: Lays completely flat
Can hold more signatures
- CON: On the more challenging side of binding



Accordion Book

- PRO: Becomes one long piece of art as you unfold
Not typical and unique
- CON: Quite delicate in terms of others holding and handling

RESOURCES

Sea Lemon actually has great DIY videos on youtube and loads of inspiration!

GO TO "DIY BOOK PROJECTS" PLAYLIST

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGbxOeCBuGSsKvt4g9IEv3A>

Some clear examples of the most common ways to book bind

<https://www.bookbindingworkshopsg.com/bookbinding-techniques/>

Blurb makes custom books and I can show you a few I've sent through them. These aren't homemade, but for bigger projects are great

https://www.blurb.ca/?gclid=aw.ds&gclid=CjwKCAjw5cL2BRASEiwAENqAPkCqPs7xUNiKpOssZaZic5PAer0vXCIIH3SwhK8JP5sNCPPhIKeROxoCxvsQAvD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds

Publication Studio (we have a PSGuelph!)

<https://www.publicationstudio.biz/books/>

Printed Matter in Toronto

<https://www.printedmatter.org/catalog>

A list of great artist books for inspiration

<https://journalofartistsbooks.org/about/>

Great diagrams

<https://ebookfriendly.com/book-diagrams/>

Feel free to email us at ahmriandabby@otherwisestudios.com with any questions.