

Bookmaking: How to Do It

Being a bit complex, this project is done best with tweens or teen groups - but if you have plenty of volunteer helpers or parents, it can work with younger school age children, too. My detailed instructions are adapted from the project "Journal Companion" in *Making Books That Fly, Fold, Wrap, Hide, Pop Up, Twist & Turn* by Gwen Diehn (Lark Books, 2006, ©1998), specifically to do this project with groups.

MATERIALS

- 1 piece 12" x 4" cardboard, corrugated on one side, smooth on the other, for the cover
[good source =
<http://www.discountsschoolsupply.com/Product/ProductDetail.aspx?product=25157>]
- 3 sheets 10" x 3" white or colored paper, for the interior book pages
- 1 sheet 11" x 3" white or colored paper, slightly heavier stock, for the endpapers
- 24" length of strong thick thread (carpet thread), or flexible cord for beading, to make a very simple sewn binding
- 10-12 large colorful plastic beads (for example, 1/4" diameter pony beads)
- 1 peel-&-stick blank label, approx. 4" x 2.5" for front cover

TOOLS

- large plastic craft/yarn & bead needle
[good source =
<http://www.discountsschoolsupply.com/Product/ProductDetail.aspx?product=2616>]
- washable stamp pads & stamps of various designs, OR
- crayons / markers / colored pencils / as preferred, to decorate endpapers & label

***For adult use only, recommended to do ahead of time** : ice pick, small awl, or something to poke small holes*

ADVANCE PREPARATION

1. Pre-cut the cardboard cover, endpaper, interior pages, and thread to the sizes given above.
2. Fold in half (or measure to the halfway point) the covers, endpapers, and pages.
3. Pre-punch 3 small holes about 1 inch apart in a vertical row along the folds.
[hint: it can be helpful to put the plastic needle, thread & pony beads in individual cups or ziploc snack bags]

CRAFT TIME!
Making Your Own Blank Book

1. Each participant gets a cover, endpaper, pages, blank label, thread, needle, & beads .
2. Decorate one side of the endpaper sheet, and the blank label (can also wait & do label last) with whatever you have chosen to use.
3. Thread the needle with the string.
4. Lining up the 3 holes pre-punched in each, lay the page sheets on top of the endpaper sheet (decorated side up), and these two layers on top of the **smooth** side of the cardboard cover.
5. Thread the string in & out through the holes at least twice to bind the book elements together, and tie a knot on the **outside** of the book's spine (center fold of the cardboard), leaving at least 8-10" of thread beyond the knot.
6. String the beads onto the thread, wrapping the thread around the last bead to tie it off. For a neater look, thread the string back through the beads to the knot you tied at the spine, and make another knot to finish.
7. Trim off any extra thread, but not too close to the knot! (leave at least 1/4").
8. If you haven't already done so, decorate the blank label (with a stamp design, a drawing, or a title such as "Travel Diary" or "Shawn's Book" or "Autographs" ...etc.
9. Peel and stick the no-longer-blank label onto the front cover.

Voila! You have made a book!
Now you can fill it however, wherever & whenever you want...