

How to Make a Sketchbook by Hand

Supplies to make a 5x7 inch sketchbook you will need:

1 sheet of heavier cardstock, cut to 10 ¼ x 7 inches

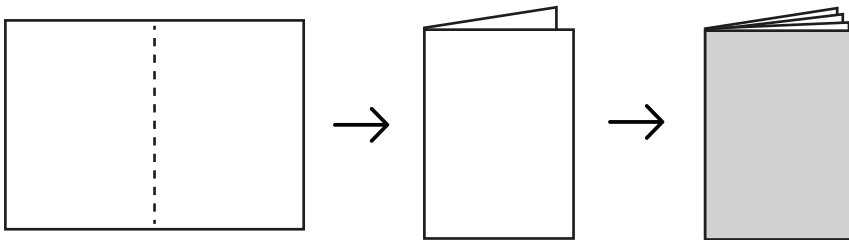
25 sheets of drawing paper cut to 10 ¼ x 7 inches

Long Reach Stapler

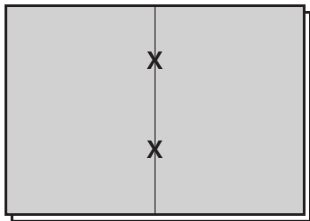
Utility Knife

*You can customize paper choices, for example add a sheet of watercolor paper or toned sheets

1. Consider if you want to create a printed design on the cover. This could be done by sumigashi, paper marbling, erasure prints, paste papers, monoprints, gelli prints, linoleum prints, watercolor paint textures, or even design your own image digitally and print on the cardstock, etc. These techniques are best done prior to assembly while other decorative work like drawing and collaging can be done after assembly.
2. Fold paper in half. For the cover, if the paper is heavy, you can first score the card and then bend over a ruler. See it documented here, <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/crisp-fold-in-paper-and-cards-stock-2905223>. Sandwich all the folded papers within the cover sheet.



3. The paper will not be flush as the binding pushes out the paper incrementally. We will solve that shortly. First, we will bind the book together. Open up the stack of papers, cover on the top. Use the long reach stapler to staple the papers together as indicated.



4. Next, we will simulate a flush cut. A flush cut is when a printer trims a book cover and pages evenly. Most popular soft cover books are flush cut. If you don't have a clamped style guillotine paper cutter you can simulate the effect using a ruler and a utility knife. Place the folded book on table and place a ruler over the book (you can measure and mark 5 inches from the spine at top and bottom and then line the ruler up with these marks. Pin the ruler down and run the utility knife over the paper with moderate pressure to cut excess off. Keep holding the ruler and repeat until all the excess paper is removed. You can watch this technique at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GovpbzSld8U>
5. OPTIONAL: Create rounded corners. There are a variety of crafting tools sold to cut rounded corners. Beware the less expensive ones might not stay sharp enough to do a class worth of sketchbooks.