

Make Your Own Sketchbook

Relates to artist books in BAM's Permanent Collection.

Materials needed

- Scissors
- Paper
- Stick (wooden skewer, chopstick, stick from outside...)
- Hole punch
- Rubber band

Step 1

Choose your pieces of paper, and cut them so they're all the same size. These will be the pages of your sketchbook. A handy trick if you're using standard 8.5" x 11" paper is to fold it in half, and cut along the crease. Be creative with what paper you use! You can use old maps, grocery bags, magazines... whatever you can find! For your cover, choose paper that stands out from the rest.

Step 2

Once all of your pages are cut to the same size, choose a page and draw two dots, one towards the top of your sketchbook, and the other towards the bottom. Leave around a half inch to an inch of space between your dots and the edges of the paper for strength. Punch holes with your hole punch on the dots.

Step 3

Use the page with the punched out holes as a guide to punch holes in the rest of your pages. Stack a few of your pages, and line up your hole punch with your pre-punched holes, and punch through the stack. Repeat this step until all of your pages have two punched holes.

Step 4

It's time to assemble! Cut your stick so that it's about an inch shorter than your sketchbook. Stack all of your pages in the order you prefer, making sure your cover is on the front. Line all of your holes up, and thread your rubber band through the top hole, securing the top of your stick as you pull the rubber band through. Pull the rubber band down the back of the sketchbook to the bottom hole, and thread through to the front. Put the bottom of the stick through the bottom loop of your rubber band, and you're finished!