



MATCHBOX BOOK

I have always been fascinated by boxes, especially small ones. They are just like books in a way—it's all about action and discovery. This project takes off on that theme while combining three things near and dear to my heart: repurposing materials headed for the landfill, creating objects that I can give to friends, and playing with materials.

BASIC BOOKMAKING TOOL KIT

In the following sections, I will discuss some of my favorite tools for bookmaking as well as for various creative techniques, but here are the basics you should have on hand for just about every project in this book:

Bone folder (page 16)
Book glue (page 19)
Craft knife (page 14)
Mars plastic eraser
Fettling knife (page 14)
Glue brush for applying book glue
Glue stick
Pencil
Needle tool (page 16)
Metal ruler
Scissors (page 16)
Self-healing mat (page 16)
Utility knife (page 16)



SAFETY

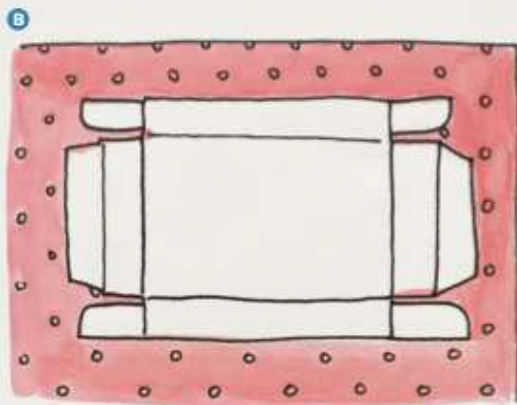
Most of the materials used in these projects are nontoxic, but occasionally there are safety concerns. Common sense and responsible studio practices cover most of the bases. Here are a few of the essentials:

- Always use a mask when sanding, especially when sanding milk paint.
- Keep food containers and studio supply containers separate.
- Wear gloves (page 41) when working with tin or other metals.
- Ensure proper ventilation when using spray paint, shellac, and fixatives.

MAKE

THE MATCHBOX

1. Very gently deconstruct both the matchbox cover and the box. This takes a bit of patience with the box. Once I am able to get the inside end flap up, I use my fettling knife to help release the side flanges. 
2. Decide what paper you want to use for the cover and the box. It can be the same paper for both or different papers for each.
3. Lay both the opened cover and the box down on your decorative paper and carefully trace around the outside of each. 



GATHER

Basic Bookmaking Tool Kit
(page 13)

Decorative paper, 8 x 10 inches
(20.3 x 25.4 cm), for wrapping
the matchbox

Text paper, 8 1/2 x 11 inches
(21.6 x 28 cm)

Card stock, scrap paper, or a
small sheet of acetate for making a
template (you can also cut away the
sides of a clear lettuce box from
the grocery store and use the flat
part for a template)

Scrap paper for hole-making
template (page 23)

Empty matchbox, approximately
2 x 1 1/2 inches (5.1 x 3.8 cm)

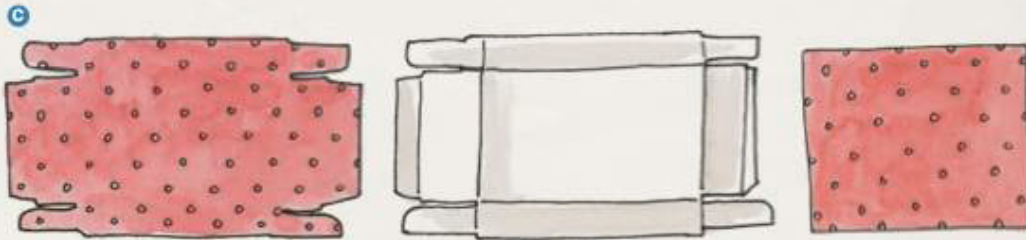
Damp rag for cleaning
excess glue

Old phone book

12 inches (30.5 cm) of 3- or 4-ply
linen thread

Sewing needle

Embellishments and decorations
(optional)



7. For the inside of the box you will need to cut a separate piece of paper. To figure out these dimensions, measure the inside of the box's bottom plus both long sides (for me that was $2\frac{1}{8} \times 2$ inches [5.4 x 5 cm]) then add $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) to the length (up-down) measurement (so mine became $2\frac{1}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ inches [5.4 x 5.7 cm]). The extra $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) in length is used to wrap the paper over the edges of the sides. ③

NOTE: You can make a template for the three pieces if you plan on creating a lot of these. You will still need to deconstruct the cover and box, but a template makes it easier to cut out multiples. Just trace the cover, box, and inside box dimensions (after you add the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch [6 mm]) onto card stock or acetate and cut them out. Acetate or a see-through template allows you to easily position the paper to take advantage of a pattern if you are using patterned paper.

5. Using a glue stick, apply glue on the back of the cover paper and glue it onto the open cover. Use the bone folder to remove air bubbles. Trim off any excess paper.

6. Using a glue stick, glue the paper for the inside of the box in place, positioning the paper so there is a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (3 mm) overhang on the top and bottom. Fold the extra bit of paper over the edge to the back of the box. Use the bone folder to crease it. ④

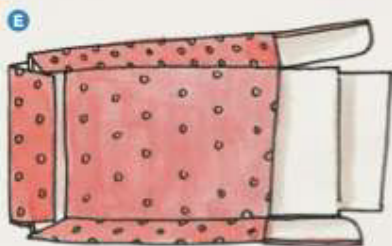
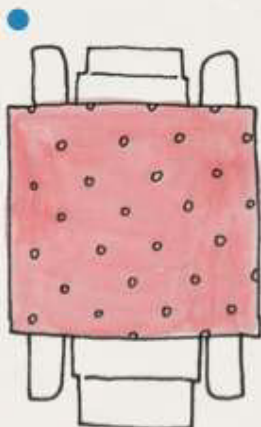
7. Glue paper to the outside of the flattened box. Crease it with the bone folder. Trim off any excess paper.

8. Apply straight PVA glue (see page 19) for a faster bond on the inside flanges and flaps of the box. Fold the box back together and hold it in place with your fingers until the glue is set. It doesn't take very long for the glue to set, but once you remove your fingers, let the box sit for 10 to 15 minutes before putting any stress or pressure on it. I glue one end of the box at a time and use a damp rag to wipe up any excess glue on the box edges and my hands. ⑤

9. Brush PVA glue on the inside flap of the cover and reseal it. Hold the pieces together with your fingers until the glue is set.

10. Once the box and cover are dry, make sure they slide from side to side easily.





THE BOOK

1. Decide on the dimensions you want for your book. In the example here, I created one that measures $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ inch (3.8 x 2.5 cm). You can adjust the size, as long as the finished book fits into the box with enough room around it to be easily removed.
2. Cut the text paper. I generally use three or four sheets that are folded in half to make a 12- or 16-page book; for this project, the cut paper measures 3 x 1 inch (7.6 x 2.5 cm) before folding.
3. Cut the cover paper $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3 mm) or so larger in width to allow for the folded text paper (mine was $3\frac{3}{8} \times 1$ inch [7.9 x 2.5 cm]).
4. Fold the cover and text paper in half.
5. From scrap paper, make a template for a three-hole pamphlet stitch (page 23). Adjust the template size to fit this book (mine was about 1 x 1 inch [2.5 x 2.5 cm]).
6. Working in an old phone book, line up the fold of your template with the fold of the text paper and the cover. Use the template as your guide and punch three sewing stations with the needle tool.
7. Bind the book with a three-hole pamphlet stitch (page 24) using 1 ply of linen thread and a sewing needle. To get single-ply thread, untwist a short length of 3- or 4-ply linen thread, separating the individual plies or strands.
8. Decorate as desired.