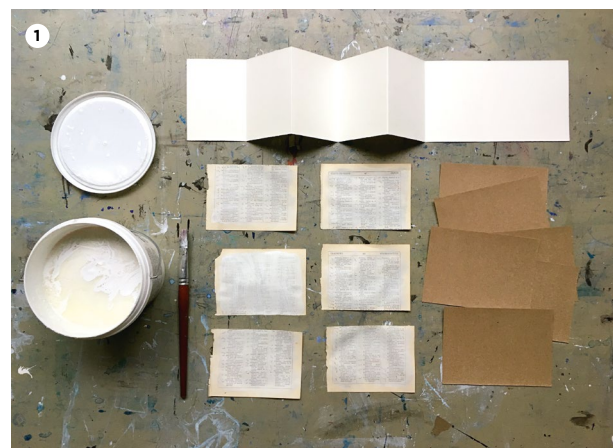




BOOK SMARTS

FOR DRAFTING PLANS OR LISTS, THIS DIY BOOK WILL FURNISH YOUR NEEDS - AND GIVE GREAT SATISFACTION IN THE MAKING

Project & photography: **RACHEL HAZELL**



Wraparound concertina book

COMBINE VINTAGE PAPERS WITH NEW TO CREATE THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND NOTEBOOK

PROUDLY
HOMEMADE

YOU WILL NEED

Long strip of stiff paper (160gsm cartridge), around 60x11cm
Ephemera, such as old encyclopedia pages, maps or annuals
Cutting knife (a blunt straight-edged kitchen knife will do)
Scissors
Ruler
Linen thread
Needle
White paint or gesso
Paint brush
Glue stick
Ribbon, to tie (optional)

1 Make the first fold of a concertina 8cm in from the end of your long strip. Follow by four more folds of the same width. This will give you five pages, with around two and a half widths left over for the cover.

2 Prepare the inside pages by selecting a few interesting papers from your collection of ephemera, then cut them down to size. You'll need five sets of folded pages. Our example uses sheets of plain brown paper cut down to 14.5x10.5cm and pages from a guide to shorthand cut to 12x9cm, then painted lightly with gesso (step 1).

3 Once the papers are dry, put them together in the order you prefer (step 2). In this version, the painted pages are layered over the brown paper pages. Three sets will sit in the valley folds on one side of the

September brings a shift in mood. Making this concertina book is a project filled with the promises of a new beginning, while also giving you time to look back and reflect. Especially because you can use re-purposed papers to make your book (our example uses pages from a guide to shorthand).

The project was devised by Rachel Hazell, otherwise known as The Travelling Bookbinder. She traces the origins of her 20-year career with books back to her childhood when, aged eight, she was “making notebooks from scrap paper and brass binding pins”. “You don’t need special kit to make fabulous books,” she says. “Even brown paper bags and crayons can do the job.” And don’t worry if your attempt doesn’t look quite as neat as you might want it to: “The imperfections are often what makes a book unique,” believes Rachel.

It’s not just using the book that will give pleasure, however: it’s also the process. As Rachel explains, “cutting, folding, marking and stitching is very calming. One part of the mind is focused and another part is relaxed – a lovely state to be in.”

If you like this project, Rachel shares more in her book *Bound: 15 Beautiful Bookbinding Projects* (Kyle Books), and also is running a two-week immersion course from 23 September, BookLove, in designing and making books of your own. You can sign up to her newsletter for more inspiration, thetravellingbookbinder.com. Most of all, experiment and enjoy. After all, as Rachel says: “Turning flat sheets of paper into a three-dimensional book is magic.”

“THE IMPERFECTIONS ARE OFTEN
WHAT MAKES A BOOK UNIQUE”



concertina, and two sets sit inside the folds on the reverse side.

4 Place one set of folded pages (a 'section') into the first 'valley' of the concertina.

Thread your needle with linen thread, three times the height of the book (or one long length if you're confident about not getting it into a tangle).

5 Holding the papers firmly together, prick three holes with the needle, making sure each one is on the crease.

6 Starting at the middle hole from the back, take your needle in to the centre, then up through the top hole to the outside. Miss the centre hole and go down to the bottom one to create a lovely long stitch on the spine.

7 Come up to the middle hole and out, to be reunited with your tail (step 3).

8 With needle and thread on one side of the long stitch, and the tail on the other, tie a double knot to seal the binding like a parcel. Trim the ends, or leave them long.

9 Sew in each section separately using the same stitching technique (step 4).

10 Flip the concertina over and sew in the last two sections into the folds on the reverse (making sure you have the booklet the correct way up).

11 Once you have all the five sections sewn into the valley creases, it should look like this (step 5). You're now ready to fold the cover.

12 Fold up the concertina, keeping the extra strip on your right. Lay a ruler two millimetres out from the vertical edge (step 6).

13 Score two parallel lines, a few millimetres apart, using the blunt edge of your scalpel, to create a spine the width of the book.

14 Repeat on the other edge, so that the paper completely wraps around the book, with a flap.

15 Use a length of linen thread, or ribbon, to create a simple tie which wraps around the book and holds the cover shut.

16 Add your title or name label using a piece of coordinating ephemera. **S**

Share pictures of your finished book on Instagram by tagging @simplethingsmag and @thetravellingbookbinder - we'd love to see what you make

