

Basic Three-Hole Pamphlet

Quick—sew this pamphlet to understand the concept of a single signature. Once you do it, you'll be able to make your own chapbooks. My first book was like this—I made it in kindergarten. It was called "How a Seed Grows" and sewn with red yarn. The teacher wrote all the words and drew the pictures on the blackboard for us to copy—schools did not encourage creativity back then. I didn't learn another book for almost twenty years, but that one was enough. I even used it for my college creative writing projects.

End sheets are my favorite part of a book. In some bindings, they are structural, glued to covers to secure the book. They hide the mechanism of the binding, which some people think is ugly—sometimes it is. But end sheets are also the vestibule. The cover is the door that beckons you in from the outer world into the world inside the book. Interesting endpapers function as the passageway between the worlds—once inside the book, you immerse yourself in its content. Endpapers can be plain text sheets that match the interior of the book. But they can be as flamboyant as you like. Even the dullest, plainest, conventional books can let loose with their end sheets. Like a tie with a business suit, an end sheet can be a vivid touch of color. If your book is very wild inside and out, you might want your end sheets to be the calm element between inner and outer worlds.

- 1 Fold text paper, end sheets, and cover paper in half on the grain. {A}
- 2 Punch three holes near the fold with the awl: one in the middle, one about $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13mm) from the top, and the last $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13mm) from the bottom. Punch into an open phone book or thick magazine to protect your table.
- 3 Thread your needle, and start sewing from inside the middle hole, leaving a 4" (12cm) tail of thread. {B} Hold the tail down with your nonsewing hand. Sew back at the top hole, skip the

YOU WILL NEED

- 4–8 pieces of lightweight text paper
- 2 pieces of decorative paper for end sheets, same size as text sheets
- 1 piece of cover paper, slightly larger than text sheets
- Bone folder
- Awl
- Needle and waxed linen thread

middle, and go out the bottom hole. {C–D} Come back in front again at the middle hole, taking care not to split the thread that's already there. {E}

- 4 Tie the two thread ends around the long middle piece with a square knot (left over right, right over left). {F} Because the knot is sewn around the other thread, it will not pull through the paper. Paper fibers can separate and open to allow even large knots to work their way out.

