

# THE CREATIVE BOOK EXCHANGE

[www.insightexchange.net](http://www.insightexchange.net)

## Making a book from scratch

There are many techniques for making books. This is just one approach.

### Tools

These are the tools you will need to start the book making process. A link to alternate or substitute tools can be found in the resources page on the website.





## Materials

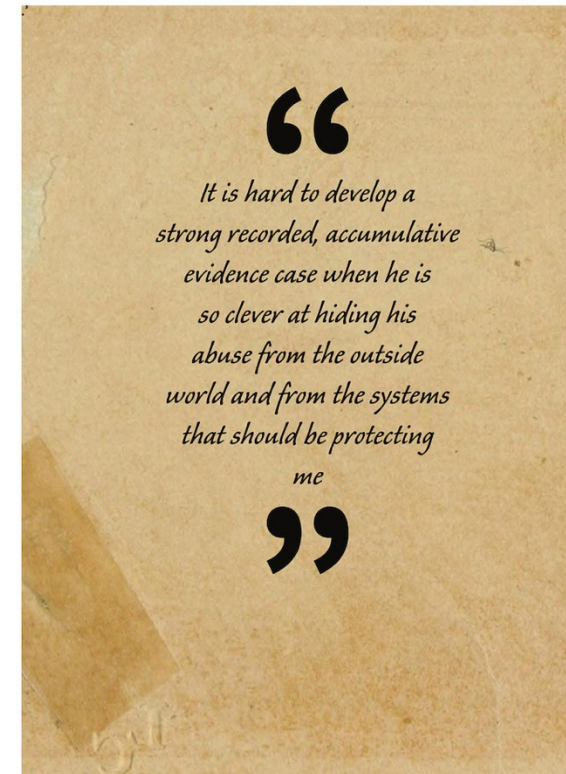
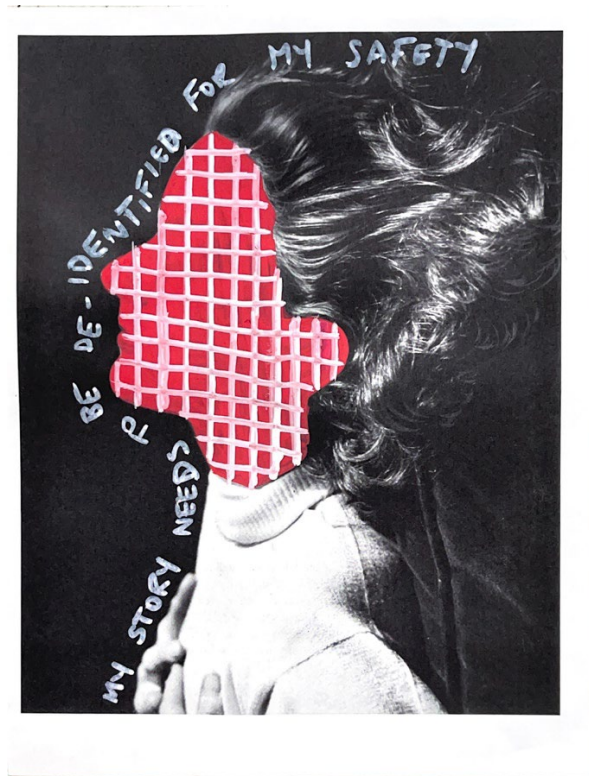
These are suggested materials, other mixed media, or approaches can be explored.

- Book Board
- Book cloth
- Hand dyed fabrics
- Calico
- Calico backing fabric

- Old books and papers
- Art paper
- Bond paper
- Handmade papers
- Book papers
- Hand painted or marbled paper
- Magazines for collage
- Printed photographs
- Image transfers

## Materials

There are the standard approaches to book making, using book cloth and book papers, however many other options can be explored in the process. These include hand dyed or painting or printing on fabrics. Digital and analogue collage, printing photographs and graphics, hand drawing, repurposing old book and magazines and handmade papers and many more.



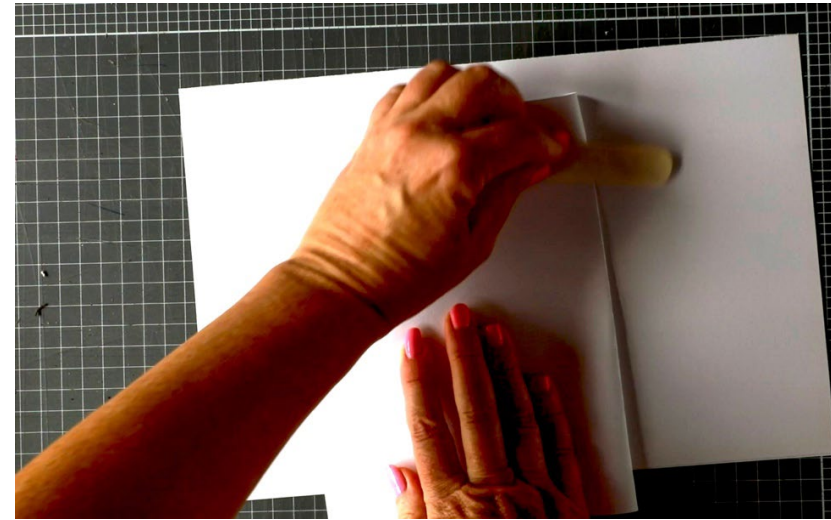
## Handmade Book Technique – Two

### Making a book from Scratch

Decide on the size of your book based on the contents, or size of the paper you are using. Cut the pages from an art diary, or paper of your choice. Trim the papers.



Fold the papers for the book signatures (sections) and crease with the bone folder. Cut signatures to size.



Cut to size. Here the paper signatures have been cut in half.



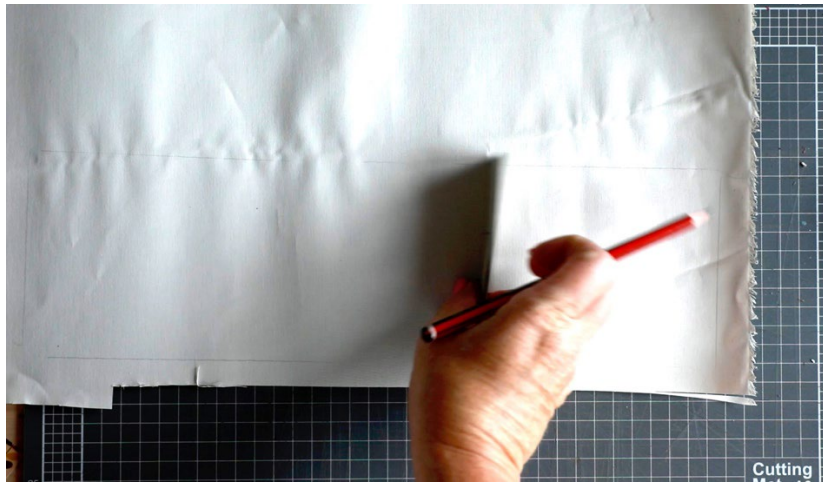
Establish the size of the book cover, based on the size of the signature (book section). Cut the book cover to size, using the book board.



Cut two covers and one spine. The thickness of the spine depends on the thickness of the contents. This is a generous size spine as the book will be added to over time with pockets and pages for contribution.



Measure, cut and glue the calico backing fabric to the book covers and spine. Use the ruler to make sure the spine, and two covers align at the top and bottom.



Spread the glue in an even, thin layer.



Use the metal ruler to align the top of the books and spine. Use the bone folder to smooth out the wrinkles after gluing the calico to the board.



Trim the calico fabric and cut the corners of the book cover.

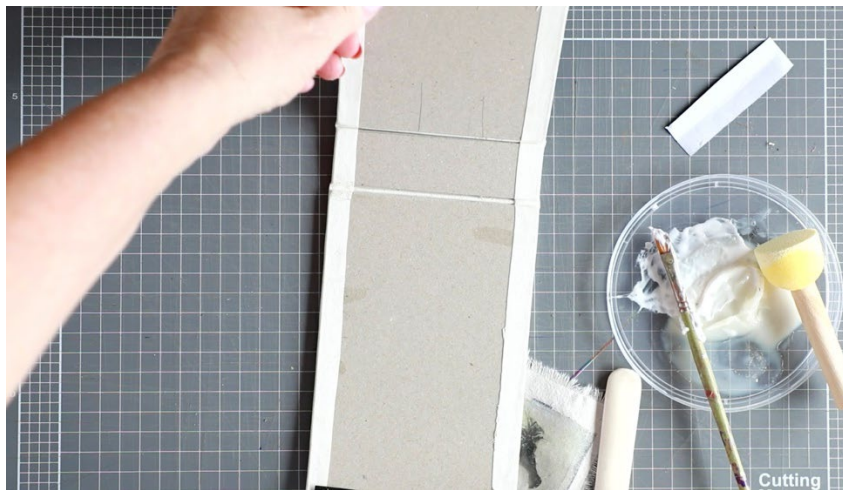




Run the glue along the edge of the book and fold the calico over the edge. Neatly tuck in the corners of the book at the point where they have been trimmed.



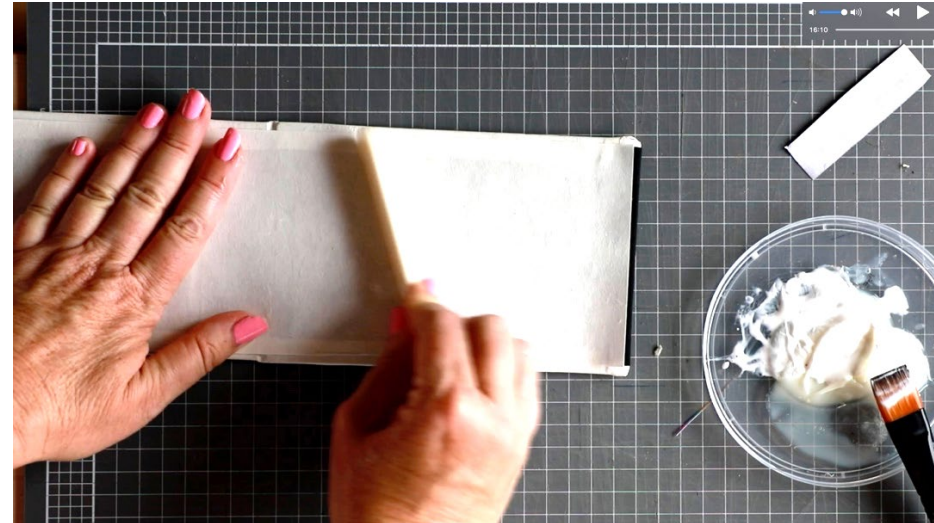
Check the seam or folding part of the book to make sure the book can open and close.



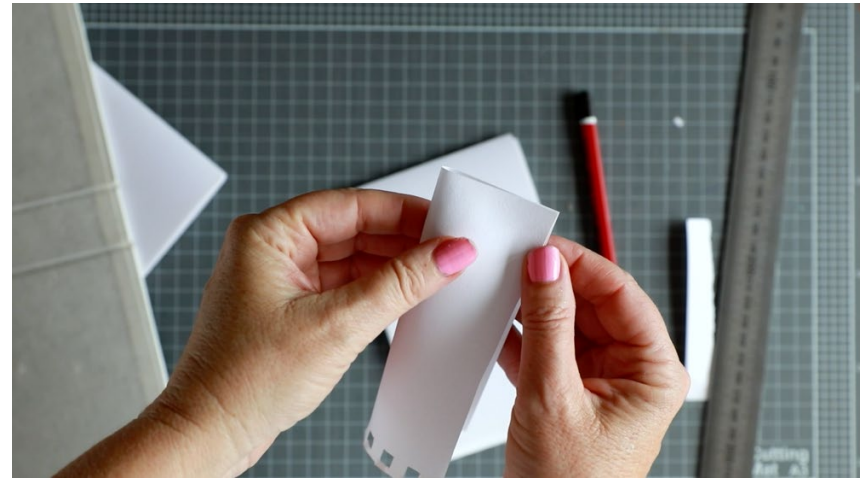
Choose a fabric or paper to cover the book. I have used black linen book cloth. An image transfer has been applied with glue to the cover.



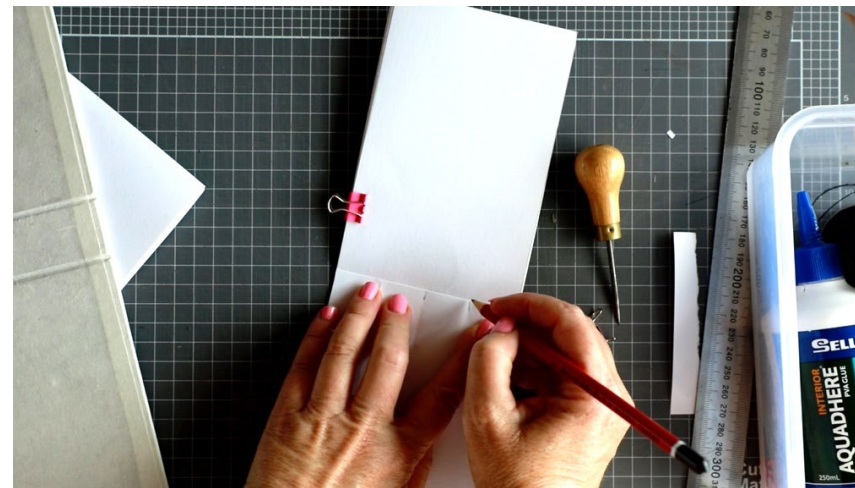
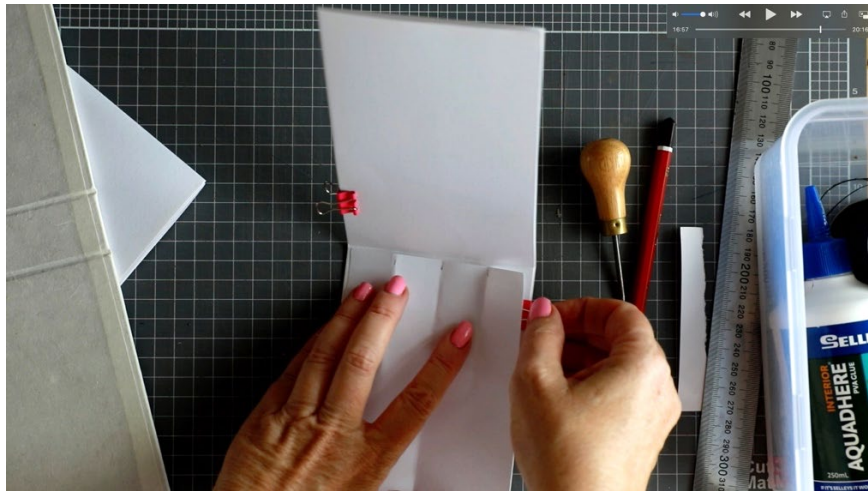
Choose a fabric or paper for the end papers of the cover. Use the same technique with glue and bone folder.



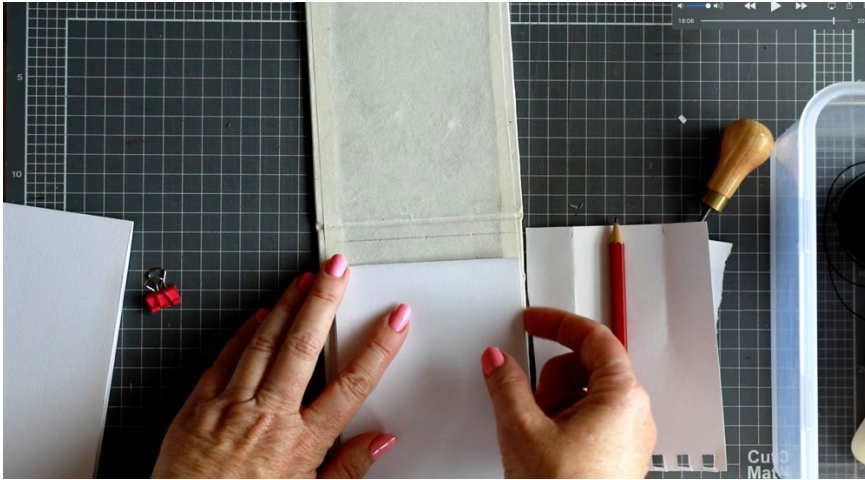
This is a simple technique for binding the signatures into the book cover. Cut a piece of paper the width of the signature. Fold the paper in half, then in half again. This will establish evenly spaced points for the sewing holes. This is usually an uneven number. Three have been allocated here, but five is also a good number for holes. Mark the signature ready for the awl (hole punch).



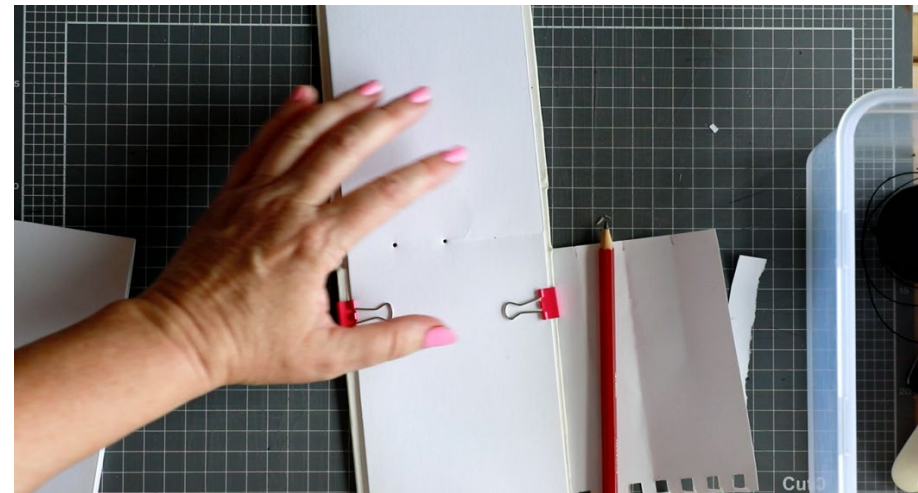
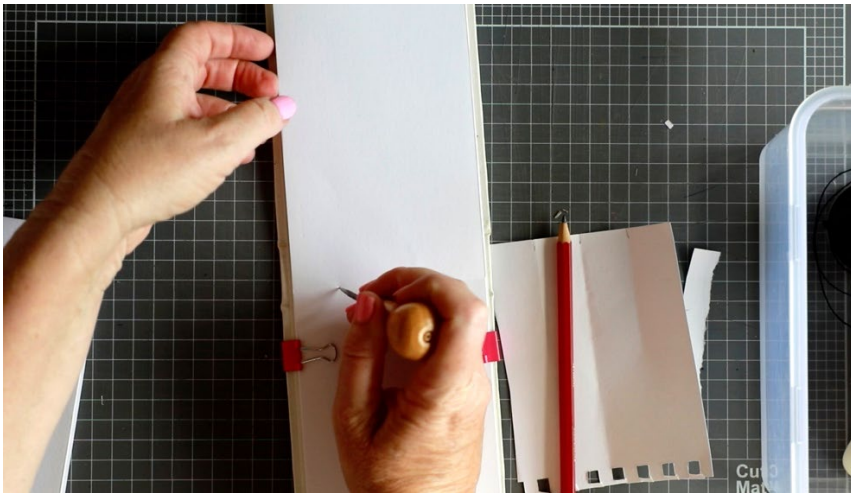
Use the clips to keep the pages together.



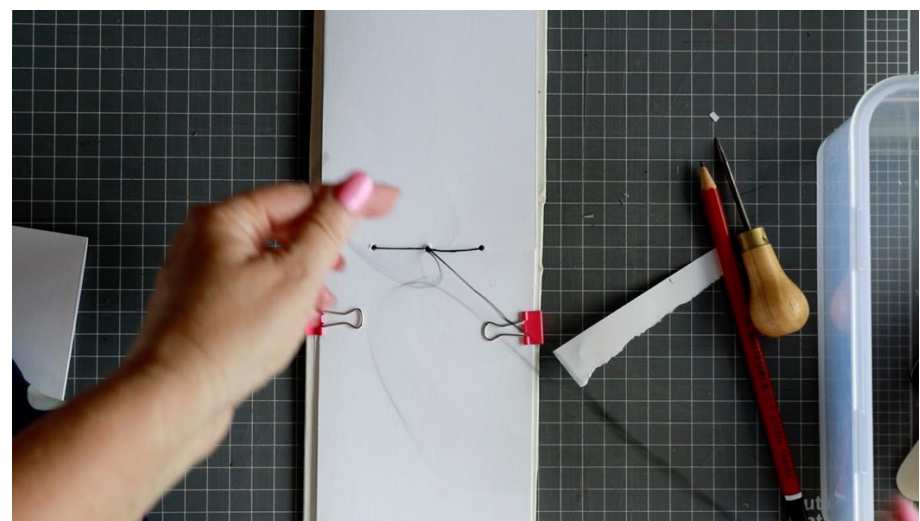
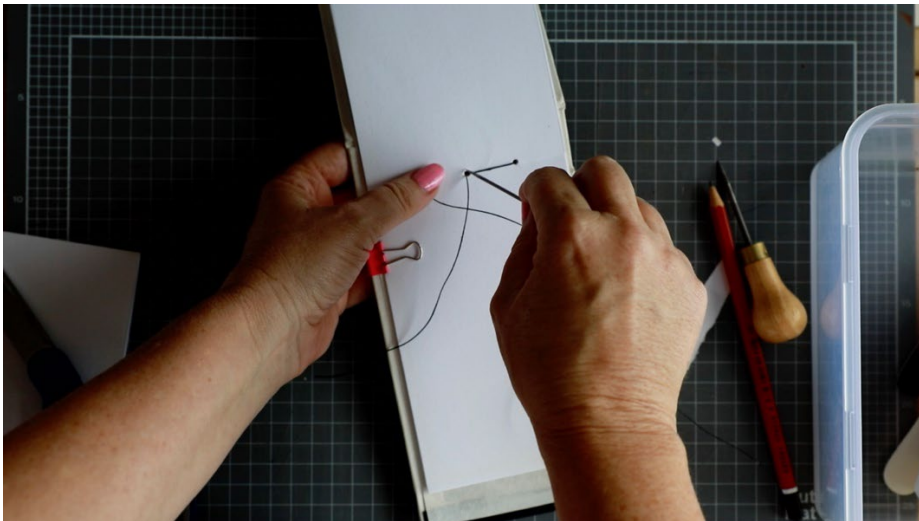
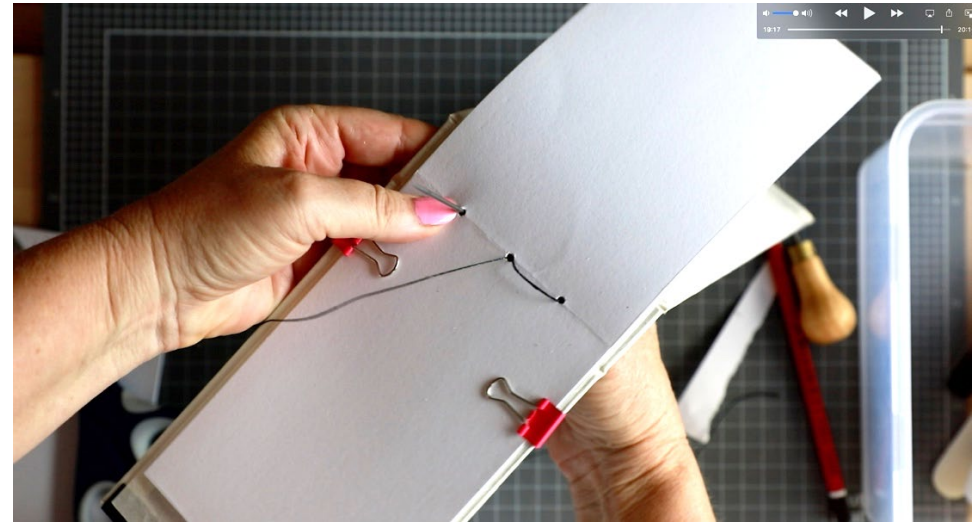
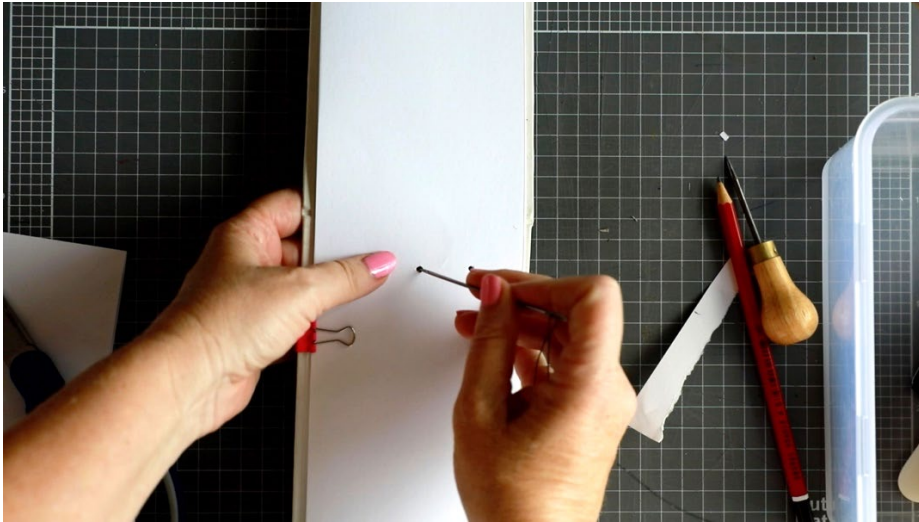
Measure and mark the spine of the book. A reasonable distance has been allowed between the two book signatures in the binding, because this book will be added to with collages and other ephemera.



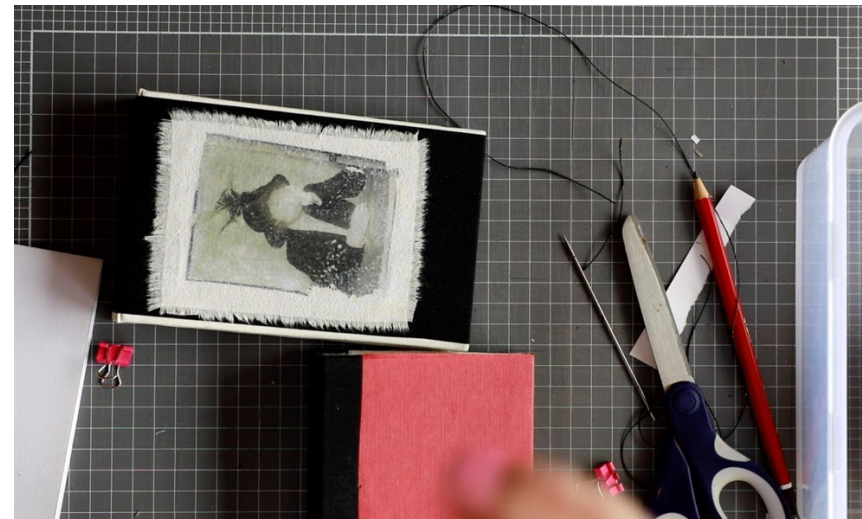
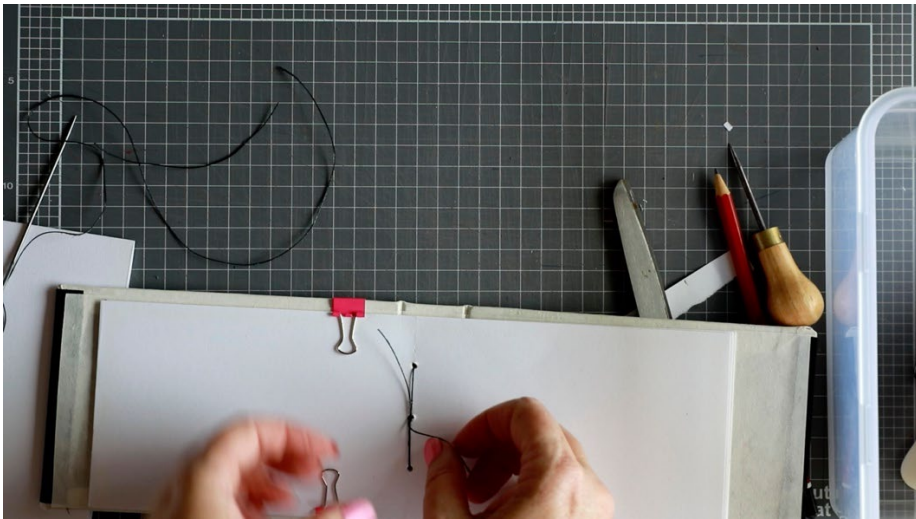
Use the awl to punch the holes in the book signatures and spine. The clips are used to keep the papers together during this process.



Sew the signatures and spine together. Once the holes are complete, the binding can take place. Thread the needle with the bookbinding thread. Start with the middle hole from the inside of the book, leave some excess thread for tying off a knot at the end of the sewing process. Take the thread back through from the hole closer to the spine, then back through the middle hole and repeat on the other size. You should finish with the thread in the middle.



Bring the thread back to the middle and tie a knot in the middle of the book with the excess strand from the start. Cut the thread.



Diagram

