

A free project for you compliments of...

Sue Bleiweiss

Hand Coiled Wire Bound Notebooks!

Make these wire bound notebooks using any kind of papers that you like. If you like to work in watercolors or wet media, consider making one filled with water color paper. Or make one and use a combination of blank paper and decorative post-cards or ephemera from a trip you took.



I'm using mat board for my wire bound notebook but any sturdy cardboard will do. You'll need 2 pieces cut 5"x7".

Cover the boards with decorative paper.

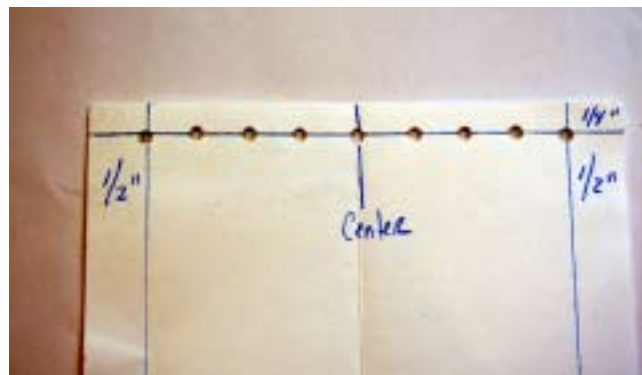


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I used a flower print paper on the outside and a pink distressed look paper on the inside. Let the glue dry thoroughly.

Cut a stack of paper 6 3/4" x 4 3/4" for the inside of the book.

Now you need to make a hole punch guide. Take one of your inside pages and punch a set of evenly spaced holes across one top edge.



Make your holes 1/4" from the top edge and 1/2" in from each side edge. I like to punch the two outer holes first, then the center and then fill in the gaps with evenly spaced holes. It doesn't matter how many holes you punch but you should space them about 1/4" or so apart. Use the hole punch guide to punch the holes in all of your inside pages.

To punch the holes in the cover boards center the hole punch guide on top of the boards and punch the holes.



Install eyelets in the board holes. You may need to widen your holes a bit to get the eyelets to fit. I'm using a one piece eyelet for this.



Adding the eyelets is optional but I think it makes the holes look neat and finished and sets it apart from any store bought notebook.

Now it's time to wire it all together! I'm using a 20 gauge craft wire for my notebook. Cut a piece of wire 4 times the width of the notebook plus a little extra for some wiggle room.

Stack your notebook together with the back cover on the bottom inside up, then the inside pages and then the cover with the inside down. Start "sewing" the notebook together with the wire through the first hole from back to front.



Grab a pencil and place it along the top edge of the notebook and sew back through the hole again over the pencil. Twist the tail end around the wire edge a couple of times to keep it from slipping out of place.

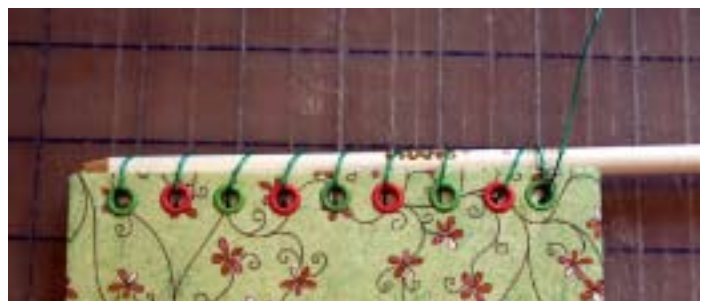


Now continuing sewing around the pencil and through the holes.



The pencil helps to set the loops. Without the pencil you would end up sewing the notebook together too tightly for it to open smoothly.

When you get the last hole, go around and through the hole twice and then wrap the end of the wire around the last coil a bit.



Trim off the excess wire and it's ready to use!