

Stratford Arts Social: At Home

With artist Louisa Tock



Making Sketchbooks

Watch Louisa's instructional video here: <https://youtu.be/dpw4Mh8WSpE>

Watch Louisa's introduction here: <https://youtu.be/oKMkrhJTn3c>

Aim of activity

Make your own unique sketchbooks out of materials from around the home.

You will need

- Paper – this can be copy paper, recycled, tissue paper, lined paper, packaging, tracing paper, newspaper, anything you find lying around
- Card – this will be used for the outside of the sketchbook, so a cereal box or anything similar
- Elastic bands, ribbons or string
- Sticks – you can use a pen, tent peg, or any other stick-like object
- Hole punch
- Scissors

Activity length

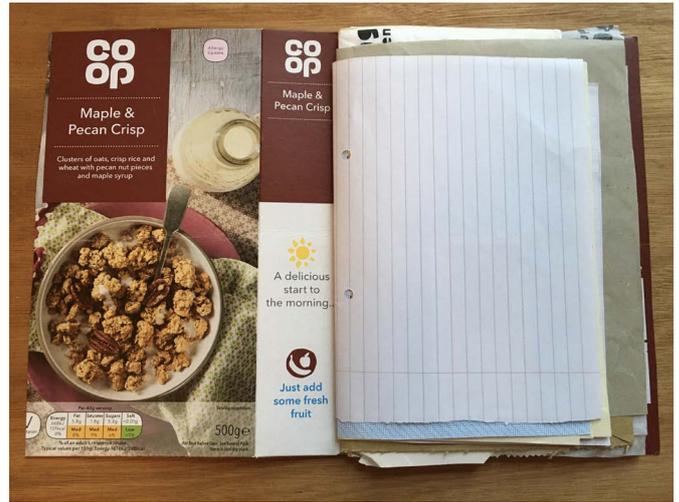
10 minutes

Introduction to Making Sketchbooks

In this activity you will learn how to make three different types of sketchbooks. Once you get started, you will likely come up with lots more different ways to make them too. You can use the sketchbooks you make to draw or write in, and take them out with you or keep at home.

Instructions: Sketchbook 1 - Hardback

1. Cut the card to size and fold in half to make the outside cover of your book, then open it up again.
2. Place your sheets of paper on top of the card. - you can use as many as you like - then fold the whole pile in half again to make the spine.
3. Use one or two elastic bands to slip across the middle of the book to hold the pages in tight.



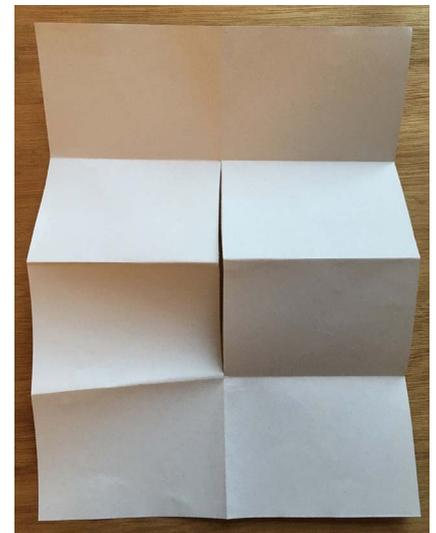
Instructions: Sketchbook 2 - Stick Fastening

1. Fold your selected papers in half in the order that you want them to sit in the book. If they are already the size you want them, there's no need to fold, just place them neatly on top of each other in a pile.
2. Using a hole punch, make the holes just inwards from the spine.
3. Place the stick over the punched holes, and push the elastic band through the hole, looping over the stick. Do this for both holes so it holds the stick in place.



Instructions: Sketchbook 3 - Fold and Cut

1. Take an A4 sheet of paper (or bigger if you prefer) and fold in half three times, dividing the paper into eight segments.
2. Open up the paper to flatten it, and then fold it in half again, short edge to short edge.
3. Cut a neat slit along the fold seam in the middle of the paper, making sure to stop halfway so you don't cut the paper in half.
4. Open up the paper again, then fold in half lengthways. With the slit now in the middle of the fold and facing up, push the two ends toward each other, folding into a book shape, then flatten.



Reflection

- Would you choose different papers next time?
- Can you think of other interesting ways to fasten the pages?
- Could you present some work already made in your own sketchbook, or maybe make a photo album?

We'd love to see what you have created! Tweet us your artwork @StratfordCircus, tag us on Instagram @stratford_circus or find us on Facebook.

If you'd like to share or discuss your reflections on these exercises, please email your thoughts or images to info@stratford-circus.com.

You can find more Stratford Arts Social: At Home videos at stratford-circus.com

