

# LAYERED PAPER COVERS

You will need:

text weight paper

heavy paper for cover (at least cardstock weight and able to hold a sharp crease)

decorative paper, image or dimensional element to insert between cover layers

cutting mat

needle

linen thread

scissors

x-acto, scalpel or small craft knife

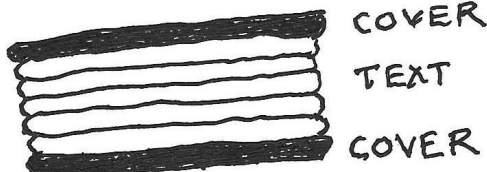
awl

punching cradle (optional)

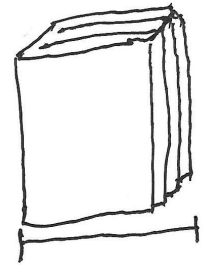
adhesive (PVA and small brush or double sided tape) 3M 415 tape is excellent

<https://www.talasonline.com/3M-415-Tape>

1. This binding style can be adapted to any size or orientation, but works best with small or medium sized books. Cut the desired number of text weight sheets to size, grain parallel to spine.
2. Fold text weight sheets in half, divide into signatures, bone done firmly, and stack together.



3. To make sure the text block doesn't stick out beyond the cover, you need to account for the thickness of the folded signatures. Cut 2 sheets of cover paper a tiny bit (about 1/16") taller and twice as wide (again plus about 1/16") as the folded text block, grain also parallel to spine.



4. Fold cover papers in half and sandwich on either side of text block. Lightly mark tops of both covers and each signature. Put stack under weight until sewing.
5. This style of cover works perfectly to serve as a frame revealing a photo, other image, decorative paper or dimensional element beneath. Before sewing, cut desired shape(s) from front half of cover, and cut any inserts to size. Do not glue inserts in place yet. You will need to be able to open and stitch through cover.
6. The spine will be exposed, so choose a decorative sewing pattern and coordinated thread you like. Punch holes in both text and cover sheets.

7. The covers will be sewn as the first and last signatures of your text block, not attached separately. Stack sandwiched block in front of you and sew as desired, starting with either front or back cover.
8. When sewing is complete and threads tied off, glue decorative cover elements in place. Glue cover layers closed.

CBAS Study Group  
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