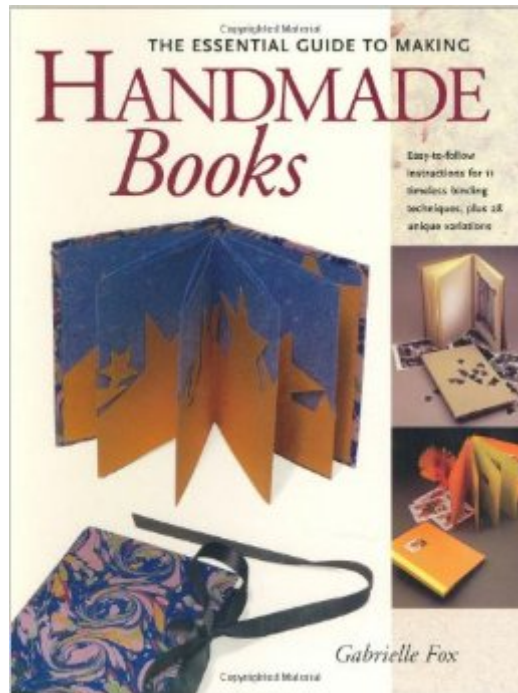


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# The Essential Guide To Making Handmade Books



## Synopsis

Handmade books are unique, personal, sensuous and permanent. This book teaches readers how to make their own books by hand. Through 11 projects with hands-on instruction, Fox teaches crafters how to use ordinary and decorative papers, recycled material and other cool stuff to indulge in their self-expressive creativity. The projects start at the beginning level and progress to more difficult bindings and formats and include complete step-by-step instruction, a materials list and ideas for uses and variations. Readers will learn how to bind their own books using new and unusual materials, how to make unique covers and formats, and how to personalize their books. Tips for personalizing their books along with a bit of the history, culture and the lore of book and paper making are also included.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

As a practicing book artist, and a teacher of many book arts classes, I have tested many books about making books. This is one of the best I have seen. Gabrielle Fox's Essential Guide is full of innovative and stimulating book structures, and the instructions are clear and easy to follow, with excellent diagrams and full-color photographs of the steps as well completed examples. The book structures she guides us through are simple enough for beginners, yet, as her examples show, are also sophisticated enough to be used by seasoned veterans of book arts. Highly recommended!

This book makes even a defiantly non-crafty person like me want to plunge right in. I love books and intriguing treatments. This book offers the support needed to turn wishes into finished projects. The range of possibilities covered is broad enough to appeal to many different tastes. The Jacob's Ladder book is lots of fun, as the star book. The accordion album is a very attractive and manageable project and one of the most useful. This book covers basics like pamphlet binding, portfolios and slipcases. The instructions are clearly written and are supported by excellent photographs that really make it easy to understand what's supposed to be happening. And the Gallery of Ideas -- photos and descriptions of additional, more elaborate variations of each project -- get your mind cranking with the possibilities. Yummy. An excellent book -- not just for the bookmaking crowd, but useful for teachers also. This summer, my daughter attended a camp where they wrote poetry in the afternoon and learned bookmaking (much of it based on this book) in the afternoons, and the kids loved it.

I have a few other books on this subject, but this by far is the most thorough and in-depth one. The pictures are amazing - step by step. I recomed it highly for beginners and even experienced users. There are some unique ideas in it! I can't say enough...BUY THIS BOOK!

This book is really good to follow instructions and to figure out what supplies you will need and shows you how to create something but giving you basic instructions which are good. It's isn't too wordy and you can follow unlike other books I've purchased. If you are a beginner you will enjoy looking through the pages and creating projects.

With a little thought, there are lots of ways to use the instructions in this book to showcase digital photography. Using double-sided matte paper for printing, the pamphlet described can be turned into a softcover book, hand stitched and very durable. Glossy prints can be attached in many ways after a "book" is assembled. Instructions are clearly explained and materials minimal. I used some of my pictures and double-sided matte paper to make a story book.

This version is just so strange. It looks like it is made up of cheap black and white photocopies of the original book by the same name with a publishing date of July 2000. I'm not sure what the publishers were thinking by making this sad edition--a lot of detail of the photos are lost.

This is a very basic book, underwhelming, in fact. The projects mostly involve folding, sometimes -

gluing, only one or two of them are actual sewn books, and even these are the simplest possible. While that would be desirable for a parent who needs safe and simple projects for their kids, an adult who wants to make progress in bookbinding would feel frustrated. One review mentioned that the instructions are overdetailed - that's complete truth! If you need to measure 1" from the top and 1" from the left, these actions will be explained in 4 steps minimum, with big pictures and loads of text.

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