

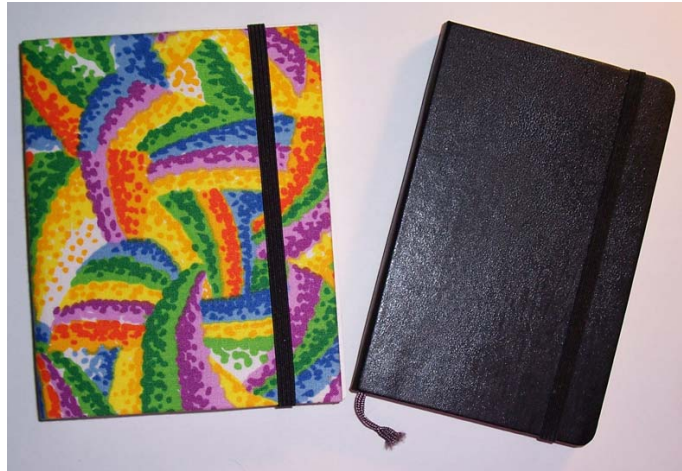
# A VISUAL GUIDE: HOW TO MAKE A MOLESKINE KNOCKOFF

This little guide will help you make your own Moleskine like book. These little books are also affectionately known as Hedgehogs over on the Yahoo group Hedgehogsforever. The terms Hedgehog, Pup and Echidna were created by Wire Woman(Lee Peterson) who runs the above mentioned group. For some excellent written instructions and many other great ideas for personal customizations of your books head on over to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hedgehogsforever/> and join in the fun.

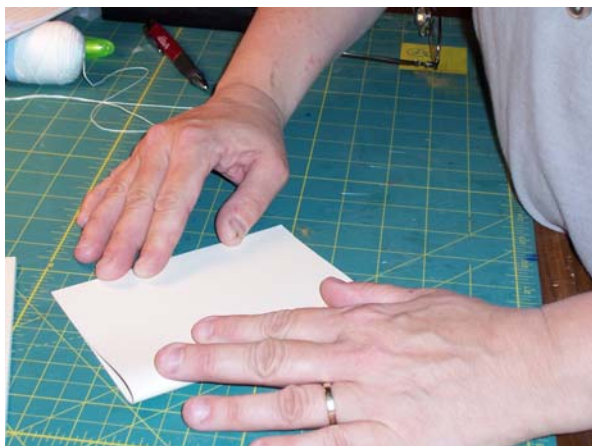
## Materials Needed:

(All materials can be found locally at craft, sewing or scrapbooking stores)

- 15 Sheets of 8.5" x11" lightweight card stock cut in half widthwise
- 1 sheet of 5.5"x12" heavy card /Bristol
- 1 sheet of decorative paper for cover
- White glue/PVA (Elmers or Sobo)
- Tapestry needle
- White crochet thread (cotton quilting thread works fine too)
- Beeswax to wax thread (can be found in any store that sells sewing supplies)
- Ribbon for marker
- 9" piece of 1/4" black elastic
- Wax paper
- Cutting mat & Xacto knife
- Scissors
- Awl or pushpin to punch holes
- Bone folder (optional)
- Paper covered brick (hand weights used for exercising work well too)



My handmade book next to a real Moleskine.

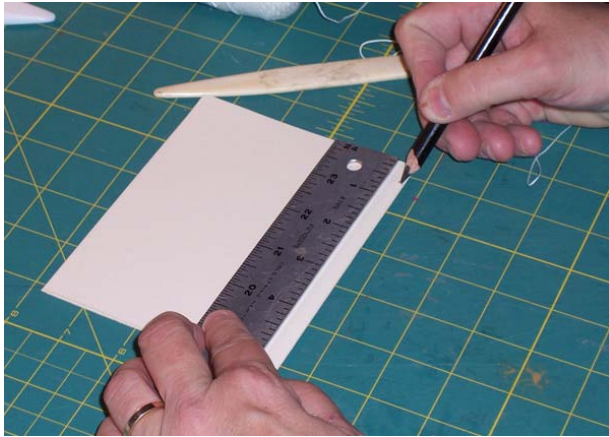


Cut paper then fold 6 sheets together to make a signature. (Note: A signature is a group of sheets of paper folded together.) You should have enough paper to make 5 signatures that will be approx. 4.25" wide x 5.5" tall.



Use your bonefolder or a smooth sided object to press the folded edge of each signature.

## **Step 2: Mark signatures and punch holes**



Mark your signatures for punching the holes. Measure 1/2" from each edge over and place a mark. Then, from the first mark you made measure over 1" and place a mark. Make sure to do this on each side. You will have 4 marks for holes.



Punch your holes using an awl. A pushpin or sharp nail will do also.



6 signatures with holes punched and ready to sew.

### **BOOK IDEAS:**

- Instead of using plain white paper spice up your book by using diff. colored sheets of paper.
- How about making each signature a diff. color or maybe every other sheet.
- Also, try diff. weights and kinds of paper.
- How about watercolor paper if you like to paint while out sketching?
- Instead of paper on the cover try cloth or even a coffee bag.
- Instead of paper and board what about a piece of leather for the cover
- Just try diff. things and have fun with it.

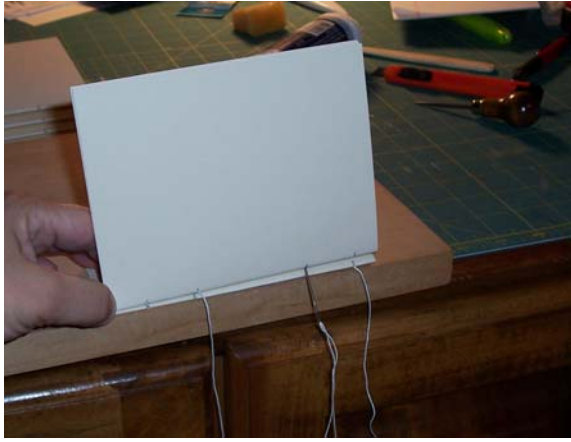
## **Step 4: Sewing the signatures together**

Prepare your thread. Cut of about a 3' length. Run it over the beeswax several times. Thread it through the needle about 4". Do not double the thread. Lay the first signature out on the edge of your table with the folded edge facing you. Starting on the right hand side run the needle through the first hole from the outside. Pull the thread through leaving about a 6" tail. Follow the holes in and out all the way down the signature.

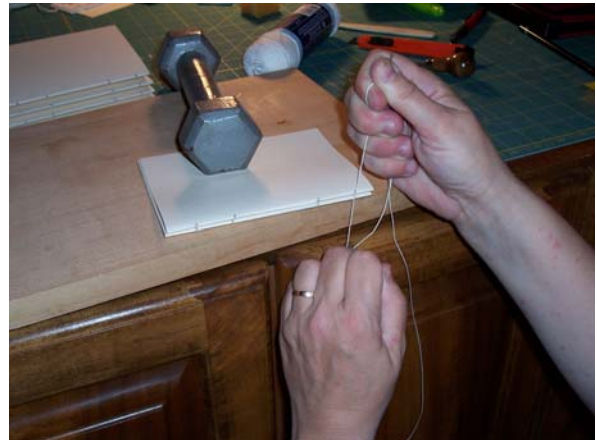




#### **Step 4: continued**

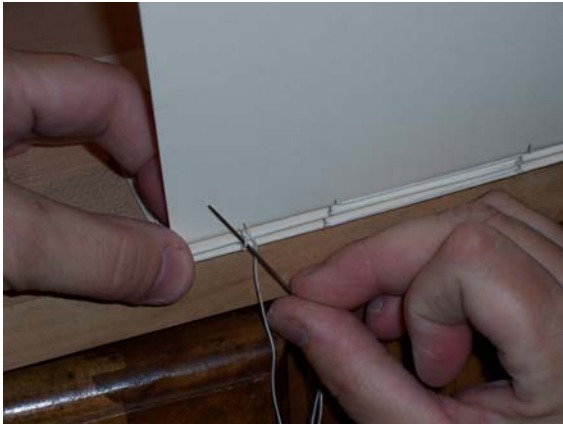


Once you have finished sewing the first signature close it and lay a second one on top. Follow the holes going back the way you started.



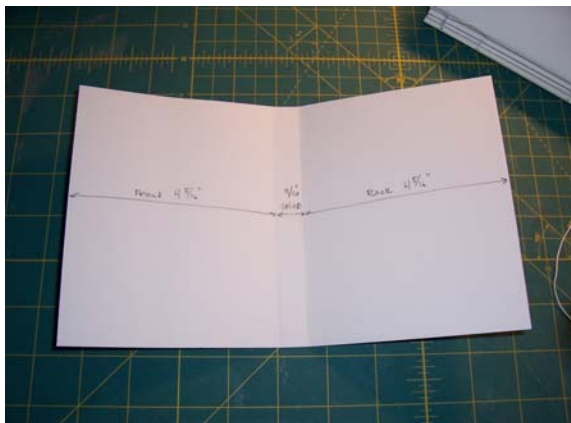
When you reach the end of the second signature pull your thread taught and tie the threads together with a square knot. Put a third signature on top and sew back in the other direction.

Tip: Never pull your thread backward to tighten as you'll rip the paper.



When you get to the end of the third signature, before adding the fourth one, run the needle and thread through the loop between the first and second signatures. Add the fourth signature and sew through the loop between the second and third when you get to the end. Do the same with the fifth signature but after going through the loop between the fourth and third go back a second time and tie off with a knot. Trim the thread end to about 1/2"

#### **Step 5: Prepare cover.**

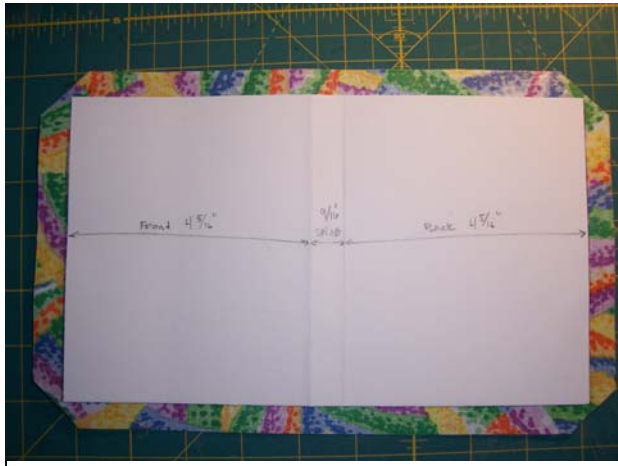


Measure out cover piece on heavy card stock (piece will be 5 1/2" tall by approx. 9 3/16" wide), cut and mark areas for folds around spine. Fold on marked area and press with bone folder or smooth sided object.

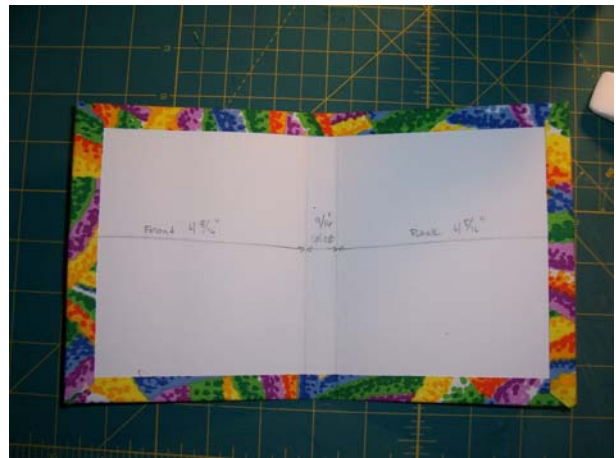


Check fit by wrapping cover around book block.

**Step 5: Prepare cover (cont.)**



Cut cover material 1/2" larger all around than cover board. Spread glue over back of cover material. Center board on glued material. Trim corners leaving approx. 1/8" cover material at corners of board.



Fold over long edges first, then short edges. Press folds. Turn cover over and press material to board using bone folder.



Measure areas to cut slits for elastic band ends. Approx. 1" from the side and 1" from the top and bottom.



Cut slits about 1/4". Push ends of elastic through about 1/2" and glue down. Let dry.



How the elastic looks on the outside of the cover.



Variation of the book with flap. The one on the right has a Duct tape cover.



**Step 6: Glue spine and glue on cover:**



Glue up spine of book block. Rub the glue into cracks well and leave an even film of glue on top of spine.



If you want to add a ribbon marker, glue it to spine area of cover.



Press spine of book block onto spine area of cover.



Rub spine area on the outside of cover with fingers to help attach the block. Let dry for about 15 mins.



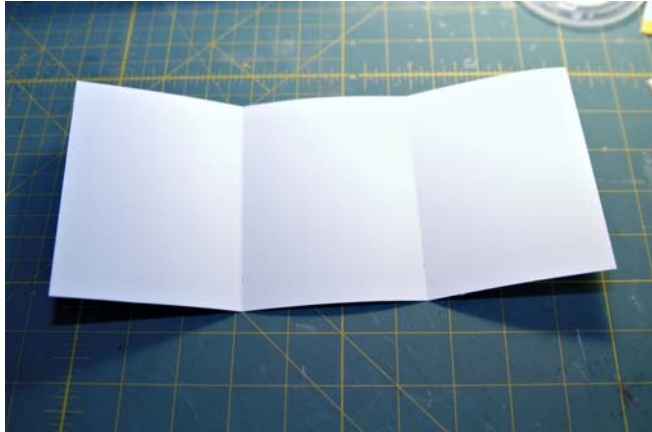
Once spine glue is set put a piece of waste paper between the first and second pages and put some white glue on page.



Spread glue evenly with a brush, remove the waste paper and attach the sheet to the cover. Press with bone folder or other smooth object.

Your book is now done! Just put a piece of wax paper between the cover and the first sheet and put the book under some weight for a few hours to dry. After the covers dry you can add an optional pocket in the back inside cover just like the original Moleskines.

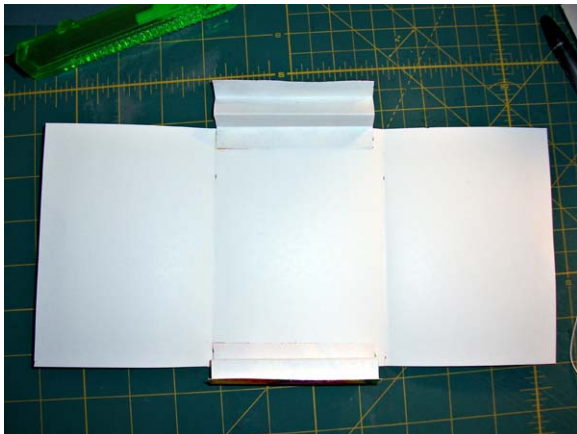
**Optional back pocket:**



Cut a piece of bond paper 11 1/4" long x 5 1/4" wide. Fold it into thirds.



Glue a 2"x7" piece of cover material to the bond paper. When dry, cut it into 2 2"x 3 1/2" pieces. Accordion fold it by folding it in half with the front sides facing then back on each side.

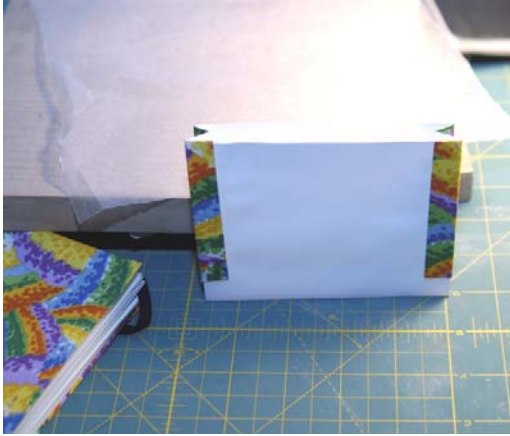


Glue the hinges to each side of the middle part of the paper with right side facing out.



Glue the top third of the paper and fold over middle third covering the end pieces of the hinge.





Fold over the hinge and glue the wrong side to the back part of the paper. This is what the back should look like once the hinge is glued in place. When done, put the pocket between two sheets of wax paper under some weight to dry.



A side view of the back of the pocket with hinge glued in place.



The front of the pocket.



Once the pocket is dry, glue up the back and apply it to the inside back cover with the opening facing up. Place a sheet of wax paper over the pocket, close the book and put it under some weight to dry.

That's it! Enjoy your new book!

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