

Making a book with a wrap cover

What you will need to create your own book:

Sturdy, heavy weight card - for book covers

Paper - for the pages

Decorative paper (2 x A4 sheets) - to cover book

A binding machine & combs **OR**

Office punch & hinged book rings, &/or ribbon or twine

Paper trimmer

Adhesive Velcro



Just a few notes before we begin:

Books are really easy to make if you have a binding machine & a guillotine, then it is just a case of trimming a bunch of papers to the same size, cutting out the covers & the binding machine does the rest.

But there are ways around everything; so you could get by with a paper trimmer rather than a guillotine – it will just take a bit longer. If you don't have a binding machine, an office punch will be fine & even if you don't have any heavy duty card, go find a cardboard box – (the kind they mail things out to you in - the corrugated stuff) & take that apart! If you don't have adhesive Velcro use regular with a good strong glue & allow to dry overnight.

How to create your book:

Cut out all three templates from the following pages, for once it doesn't matter if your printer has shrunk down the page content to fit its own format – they will work anyhow!

Get the drudgery over with first & cut out your pages, I used 120-140gsm paper for my pages & made 70, but if you are using copier paper you will need to cut more. Basically your little stack of paper should be no taller than 1.2 cm for it all to fit inside the cover I designed. I got two pages out of each A4 sheet & had waste, so you could easily use US letter size for this project.

Use the other two templates & cut out the covers from your card/cardboard, lightly score in the two fold lines on the back cover & flex them slowly until little by little they fold flat.

If you are using heavy duty card the folds may crack but don't worry, so long as they remain intact. But if they do crack, quickly go over them with an emery board to remove the excess, so it won't spoil the line of your book.

Okay! It is **SO** easy to slip up here & end up with your decorative paper on the wrong side of the card, or even upside down, so before you start take a moment to look at the covers & orientate them so you know which paper goes where & which way up!

I used tacky glue & scribbled it all over the surface of the board & with my paper face down I stuck the board to the paper. You have to ensure that it is completely stuck everywhere or it will soon come astray in use. Before the glue is completely dry, flex the folds on the back cover to keep them supple. Trim away the excess paper & use it to cover the other portion of the cover, then you need to put both covers aside to dry for a while. I then took the emery board to the edges of the covers once the glue was dry, just to add a little 'shabby chic' effect.

Before assembling your book, check that the paper hasn't come unstuck anywhere & fix it before binding if it has.

Now whether you are using a binding machine or office punch, you need to know exactly where the holes on the book will be, you don't want the binder cutting half a hole at the top or bottom if you can help it, nor do you want to go to all of the effort with the office punch to discover that the holes are not quite central so the book is 'off balance'.

It is really easy to check: if you are using the binding machine cut a piece of scrap paper the same size as the cover & practice to see where you need to position it in the machine for the best result & mark this on the machine with a pencil.

If you are using an office punch, fold one of your pages in half – top to bottom - & if you look on the punch in between the holes, there is normally an arrow indicating the centre, open up your page & line your fold line to the punches centre mark & punch. Use this sheet as a template to punch all of the other pages simply by adding it to the top of each little stack before you punch.

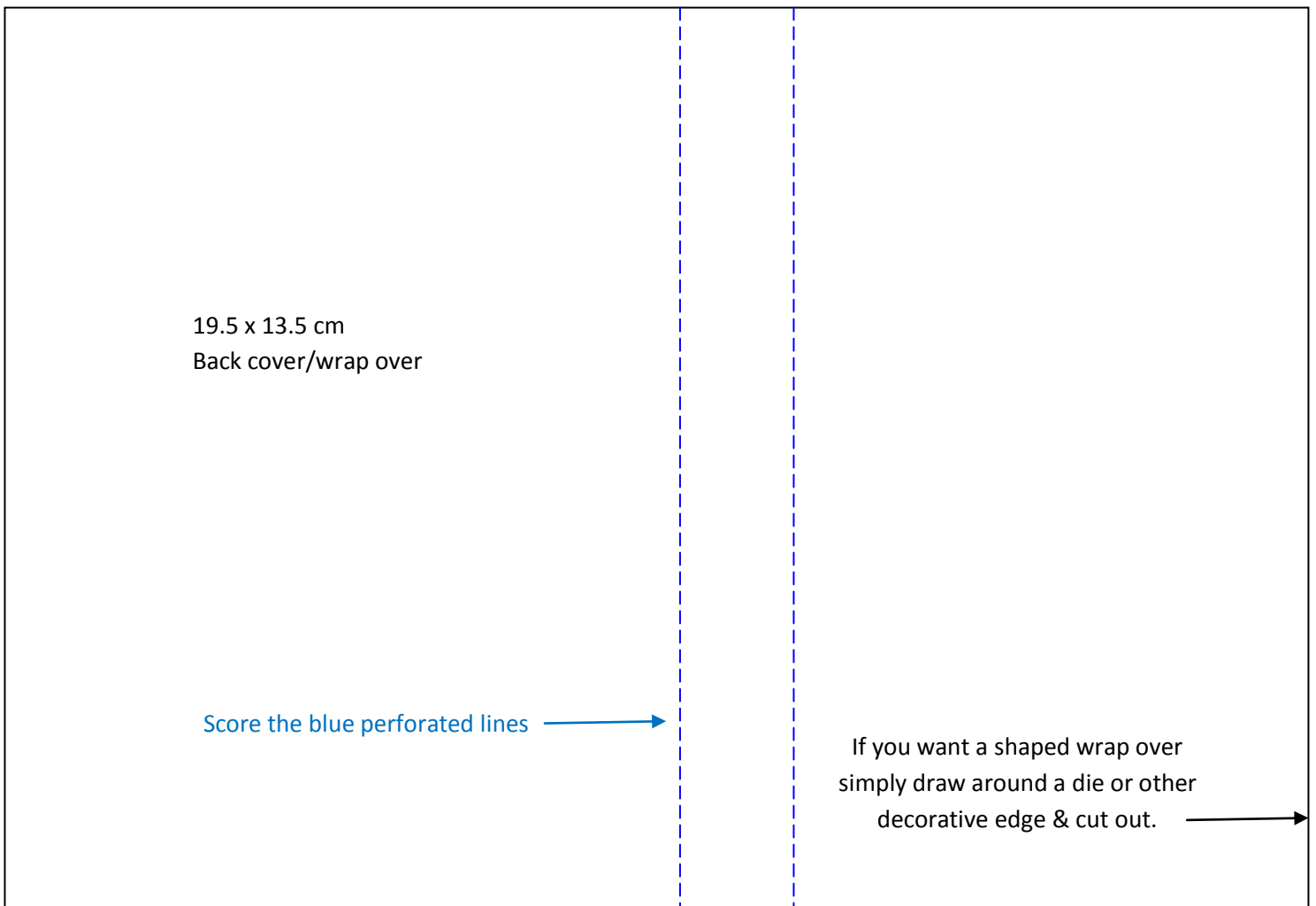
I doubt if you will be able to punch through the book covers with your office punch, so you may need to do this manually with an eyelet setting tool, or single hole punch – use your template (which will be slightly smaller than the book cover itself so centre it) to ensure the holes will be aligned properly.

I am not sure how other binding machines work, but with mine you add the comb into the teeth of the machine & then turn a knob to open up the comb. So I generally do this first & then punch the back cover & add it to the comb first, followed by the little stacks of pages & finish with the front cover & then I release the comb & trim off the excess.

If you have used the office punch, feed the back cover onto the hinged ring, followed by the pages & finally the front cover, repeat with the other ring. If you don't have any rings, simply feed twine or ribbon through each set of holes & tie off.

Put the Velcro face to face & remove the carrier paper from one side, stick this where it will be invisible, inside the flap of the cover & then remove the carrier paper from the other piece & close the book & secure firmly. If you don't have adhesive Velcro use a good glue & regular Velcro.

You can further decorate the binding/rings with ribbon, twine, charms etc. You can further decorate your book cover in any way you choose.



10 x 13 cm
Pages

I used 120gsm weight paper &
made 70 pages, but you can use
any paper you choose, just
adjust the number of pages
accordingly

10.5 x 13.5 cm
Front Cover