

Concertina binding.

A simple binding without any sewing, often used for artists books, as it is on a continuous strip

Fold a strip of paper in half, matching the corners carefully, hold down with one hand and move towards the fold with the other hand, checking that the edges are still aligned. Press the folded edge with a ruler, back of a knife or bone folder. Fold each wing in half again, and then fold each resulting half, in half again. You will need to refold alternate folds to make a zig-zag.

It is very important that all the folds are as accurate as possible, and make sure that each fold is sharp by using the bone folder.

Make a cover out of a slightly stiffer card, almost the same size as the section, but allow an 1" extra at each of the fore edges to create a fold in.

Place the folded zig zag into the middle of the cover, then, fold over the extra width to match the width of the pages, or just a little deeper. Paste the turnover to the first page to make a slightly firmer booklet. Allow the paste to dry for a few hours under a light weight.

Variations:

If you want to make a larger book, when you start with the strip of paper, make a tab of about 1" before folding the remainder in half, and half again, and half again. Make two of these strips with the tabs, but trim one of them off with a sharp knife. With the tagged zig-zag, with the tab on the right paste the other strip to it with the tab on the back. Make the cover as before.

If you only paste one edge of the cover to the paper it is then possible to use both sides of the paper, but it might be useful to have a larger extra left hand tab on the cover which can then be folded over the front one to help to keep the book closed

