

THE POET

COME SONG LYRIC, PROSE, OR POEM, THIS LIGHTWEIGHT BOOK IS FOR KEEPING YOUR INSPIRATION WHEREVER IT MAY FIND YOU.



Finished Dimensions

$3\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ inches (8.3 × 21 × 1.3 cm)

Binding Technique

Stab-binding variation, instructions below

What You Need

Basic Bookbinding Toolkit (page 11)

Bookbinding thread: one 10-inch (25.4 cm) length, one 12-inch (30.5) length, and three 18-inch lengths (45.7 cm)

45 sheets of text-weight paper, 3 × 8 inches (7.6 × 20.3 cm)

2 sheets of decorative paper, 3 × 8 inches (7.6 × 20.3 cm)

Cardstock for template

2-ounce (0.8 mm thick) leather: $3\frac{1}{4} \times 19$ inches (8.3 × 48.3 cm) for cover,
 $1 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (2.5 × 3.8 cm) for button

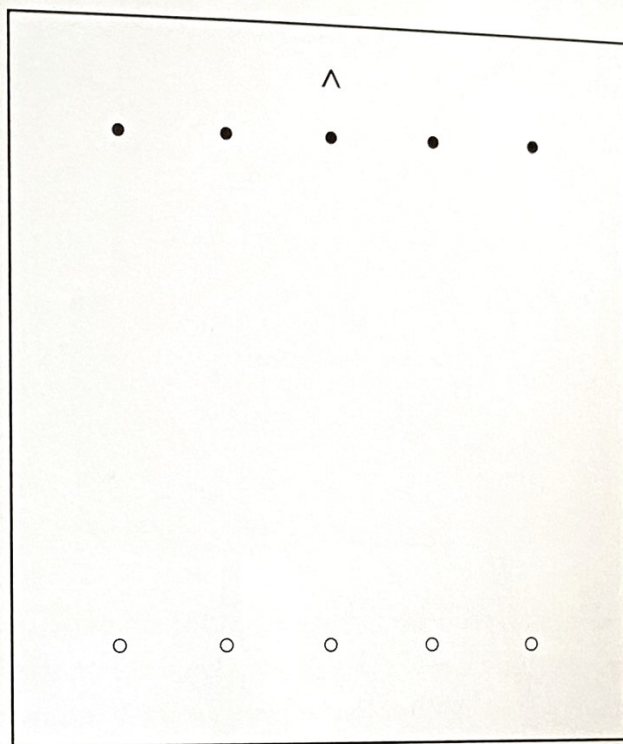
$\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (3 mm) thick leather cord or 2-ounce (0.8 mm thick) leather strip, 16 inches (40.6 cm) long

MAKE THE TEXT BLOCK

1. Stack all 45 sheets of text-weight paper into a single text block. Place a decorative sheet on the top and bottom of the text block with the decorative sides facing outward.

PUNCH HOLES IN THE SIGNATURES

2. Create a punch guide on cardstock using Template 1.



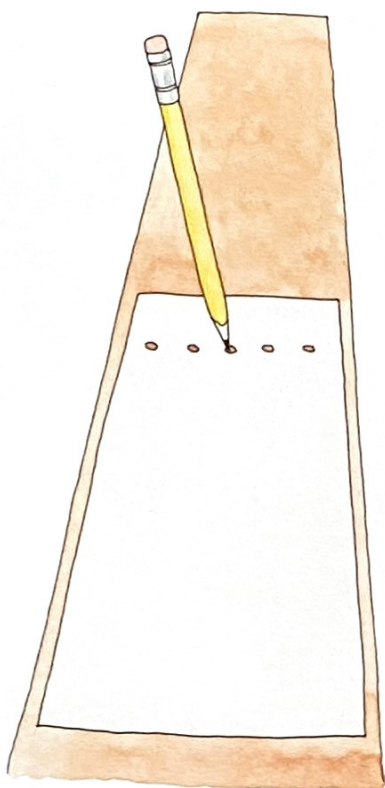
Template 1: Signature and Cover Punch Guide, 3 × 3¼ inches (7.6 × 8.3 cm). Shown at full size.

3. Position your text block so one of the short edges is facing you. Pull the top sheet from the text block and position the edge of the punch guide with the arrow pointing towards the top of the sheet over it. Using a 4 mm leather punch or paper punch, punch the black marks of the guide onto the sheet. Lay the sheet facedown beside the text block. Punch each sheet in the text block in the same way. To save time, you can punch two to four sheets at a time.

MAKE THE COVER

4. Position the large piece of leather with the front side facing up and the short edge facing you. Pull the top punched sheet from the text block. Align the bottom edges of the sheet and leather cover and

center the sheet between the left and right edges of the leather. With a pencil, mark the holes of the sheet onto the leather **(A)**. Punch the marked holes.

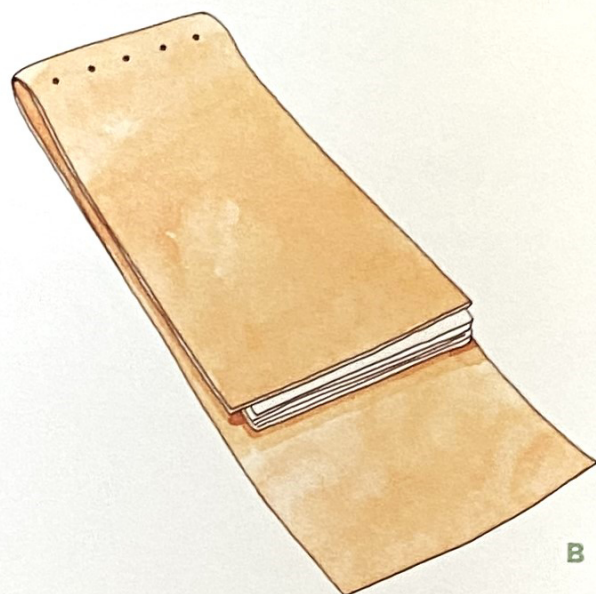


A

5. Position the template on top of the cover so the holes in the cover align with the punched holes in the template. The arrow should be pointing towards one of the shorter edges of the front cover. With an awl, mark the outlined holes onto the leather. Punch the marked holes into the leather.

ASSEMBLE THE BOOK

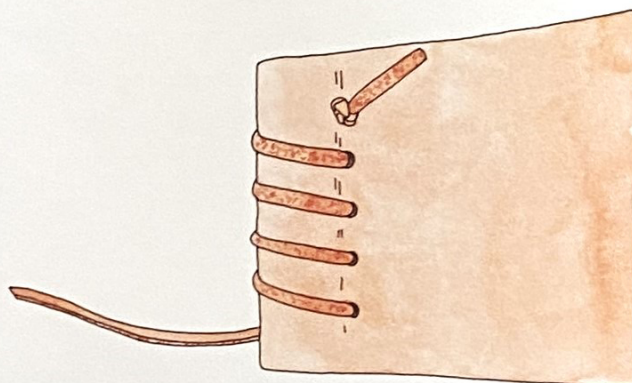
6. Turn over the leather cover so the back side is facing up and position it with one long edge closest to you. Place the text block inside the cover. Fold the top edge of the cover over the top of the text block. Adjust the position of the text block with the cover closed to ensure the holes align on the front and back of the text block **(B)**.



B

7. Fold the front cover over the text block. Tie a figure-eight knot (page 28) 1 inch (2.5 cm) from one end of the leather cord. Insert the loose end of the cord into the top right sewing station of the front cover and pull it to the outside of the back cover. Pull the cord until the knot on the front rests snugly against the front cover.

8. Draw the cord around the top of the spine to the next open sewing station on the front cover. Enter the cord into the station and draw it to the outside of the back cover. Continue binding around the edge until all stations have been bound and the cord end is at the back of the cover at the final station **(C)**.



C

9. If needed, tighten the binding by pulling any loose loops of cord forward at each station. Secure the binding by tying a figure-eight knot in the cord at the back cover near the final station. Trim the end of the cord to 1 inch (2.5 cm).

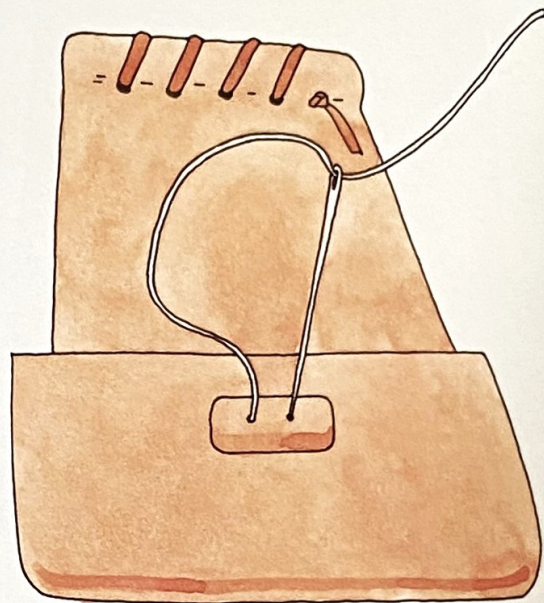
MAKE THE BUTTON AND ATTACH THE CLOSURE

10. To make the leather button, position the smaller piece of leather horizontally on your work surface with the back side facing up. Fold the right edge toward the center of the leather approximately one-third of the way over. Hold the fold with your right index finger. Pick up the left edge and fold it over the top of the folded right edge. Grasping the folds in place, flip the piece over.

11. Use your awl to mark horizontal points $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) apart in the center of the button. Then, with a firm hold on the button so it does not loosen, carefully punch each mark through all three layers of leather, using your awl.

12. Continue to hold the button together and position it at the center of the back cover flap about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.9 cm) away from the cut edge. Press your awl into each of the holes in the button and mark the cover flap for button placement.

13. Open the cover flap so the back side is facing up. With a needle and 12 inches (30.5 cm) of binder's thread, sew the button to the outside of the cover flap, starting on the inside of the cover. Enter through one of the holes in the cover and pull the thread to the outside of the button. Enter into the second hole on the button and pull the thread through to the inside of the cover (D). Repeat once to create two stitches between the holes. Tie off the thread on the inside of the cover with a double knot. Trim the thread ends to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm).

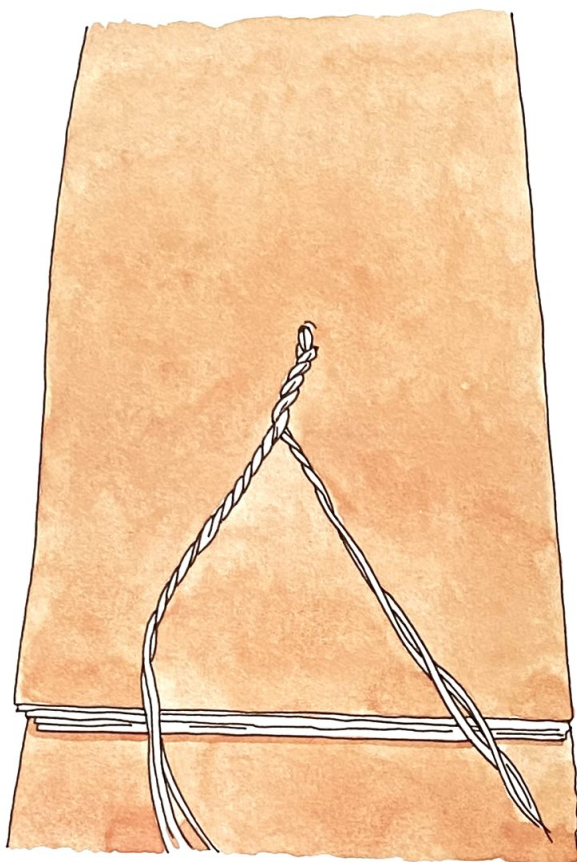


D

14. Wrap the cover flap around the book and press down on the button so the cover is in a firmly closed position. With your awl, mark one hole on the front cover of the book about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) above the edge of the wraparound flap and in line with the right buttonhole. Make another mark $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) directly above the first one. Punch through the marks with your awl.

15. Group the three 18-inch (45.7 cm) threads together. Enter the ends of the threads through the top hole in the front cover. Thread the group of threads onto a needle if they do not easily slip through the holes. Pull the threads through to the inside of the cover, leaving a 3-inch (7.6 cm) tail. Enter the threads into the second hole and draw them back to the outside of the cover. Pull the threads through halfway so the strands are of equal length.

16. Divide the threads into two groups of three. Hold both sets of threads apart from one another and simultaneously begin to twist threads clockwise. As the threads become twisted, begin to wrap them around each other in a counterclockwise direction.



E

This continuous motion will twine the threads together **(E)**. Continue twining until 1 inch (2.5 cm) of the threads remain. Finish with an overhand knot (page 28) and trim the ends to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm).

17. To close the book, fold the cover flap over the bottom of the book and wrap the twined thread around the leather button in a clockwise direction.

JOURNALING INSPIRATION

Walt Whitman celebrated life and its myriad forms of expression in his poetry. What do you celebrate about yourself? Write a song or poem praising the wonders you see in yourself and in the multitude of life forms around you.



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