

Artwork by SloppyJoseph

# Experimental Formats: Zines

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Si Hui & Vanessa

# Zines

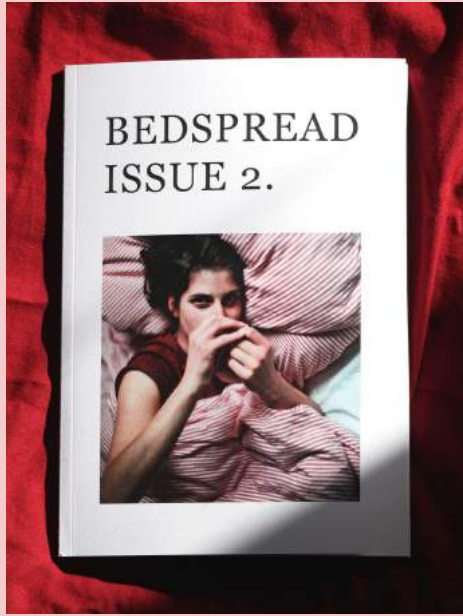
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A **noncommercial**, often **homemade** or **online** publication usually devoted to specialised and often **unconventional subject matter**

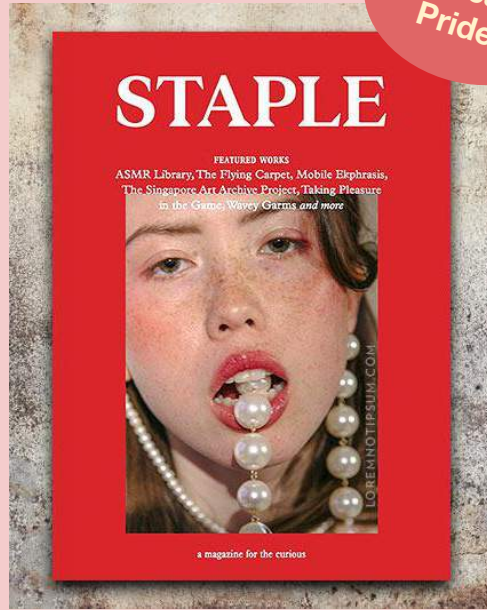
*Small-circulation*

*Self-published*

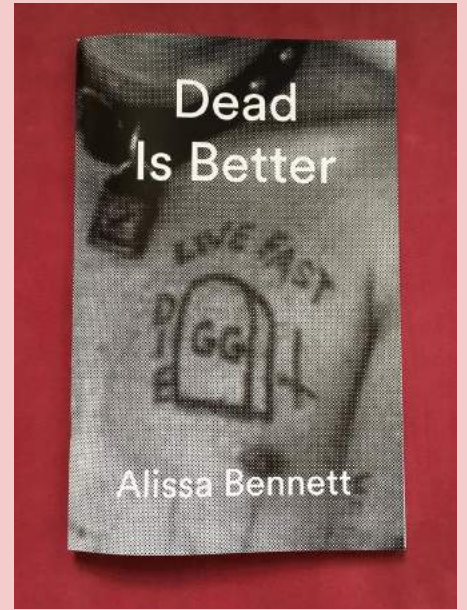
*Often inexpensive or free*



Bedspread



Staple



Dead Is Better

# Zines

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1930s - Today

1930s



- *The Comet*
- Effort by the Science Correspondence Club, Chicago

*The Comet*

1970s



*Use of mimeograph*

- Easier creation of zines
- Production of works became cheaper and quicker
- Upgrade from mimeographs

1980s



*Sniffin' Glue (left)*

*Slash (right)*

- Main hub of zine culture became the punk scene
- Grungier and DIY aesthetic

1990s



*Riot grrrl-inspired art*

- Flourished because of riot grrrl scene

1993



*Jigsaw (left)*

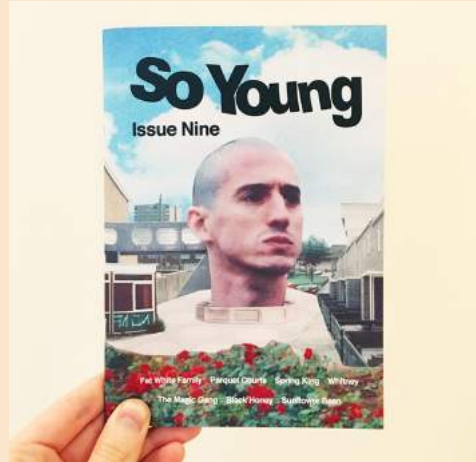


*Bitch (right)*

- Estimated 40,000 published zines
- Many devoted to riot grrrl music and politics

## Today

- Diversity
- Rise of the **internet**
  - Cost of production can be almost zero
  - Easier collaborations
- **Zine fairs** and **online**
- Usefulness as **historical documents**



*So Young (left)  
Dad Tweets (right)*



# Types of Binding

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*Accordion Book*

*Saddle Stitch*

*Stab Binding*

## Accordion Book

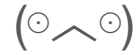
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A **folded structure** made simply by folding a sheet of paper back and forth in page-width increments

*A **continuous folded sheet** of paper  
Either **expanded outward** or **kept flat***

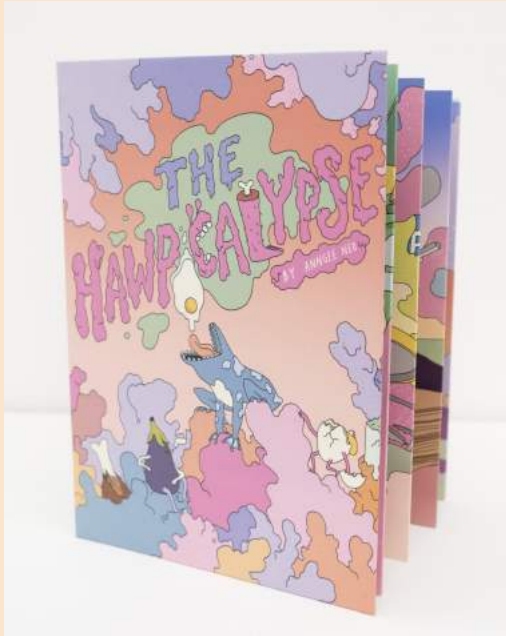


- + Appropriate for holding **mounted material**
- + Can be **stood up** and viewed from **both sides**
- + No binding required, **easy** to fold
- + Allows for **continuous** graphics



- Page **alignment** is a headache
- Not appropriate for zines with numerous pages

# Accordion Book: Zine Examples



*The Hawpocalypse*  
by Angee Neo



*Random Zine*  
by Shanlyn Chew



*But I'm Really Tired*  
by Esther Lim

# Live Demo: Accordion Book

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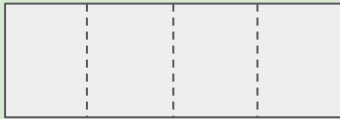
Materials needed: A sheet of paper

## Accordion Book Instructions:



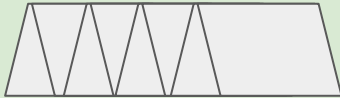
1 Fold paper in half along the longer axis and cut

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2 Fold the paper into 4 equal sections

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3 Fold the sections in alternate directions like a fan

## Saddle Stitch

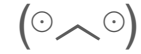
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A stitch of **thread** or a **wire staple** passed through the **fold** of a magazine or booklet

*Multiple pages bound  
together along the fold*



- + Easily carried out, **less time-consuming**
- + Easily **read**



- Nature of bind **limits** number of pages
- Not very experimental



# Saddle Stitch: Zine Examples



*Oh You Terrible Monster!*  
by Shanlyn Chew

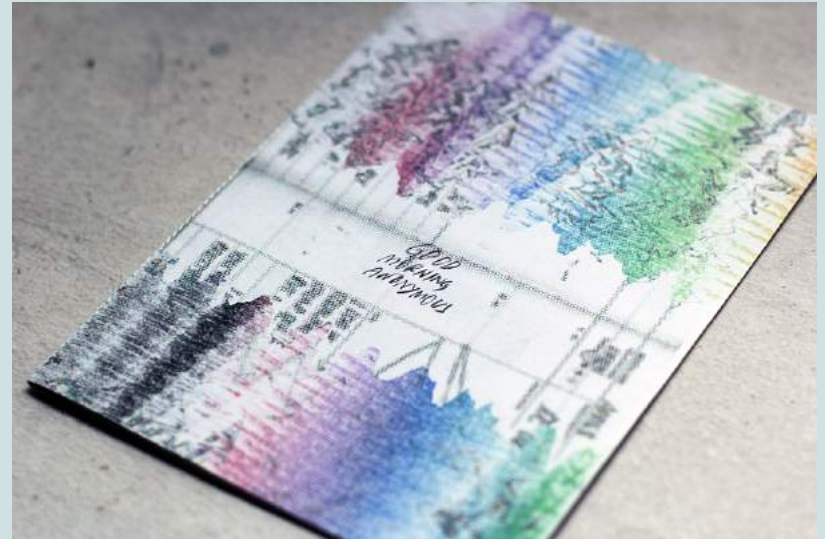


*Summer School*  
by May Chiang

# Saddle Stitch: Zine Examples



*Adventures in DIY by Evon Tay*



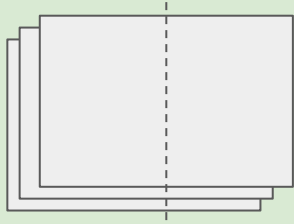
*Good Morning Anonymous by Beverley Ng*

# Live Demo: Saddle Stitch

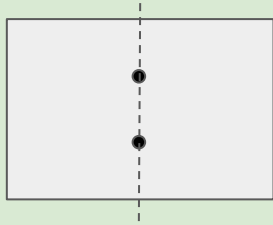
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Materials needed: 2 - 3 sheets of paper / Needle / Thread / Awl

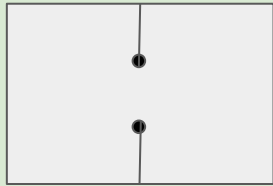
## Instructions:



- 1 Make a stack of 2 - 3 folded sheets.



- 2 On the center page spread, poke 2 holes of equal distance along the fold.



- 3 Thread through the upper hole and make a loop around the spine. Tie a dead knot at the hole. Thread through the lower hole and repeat.

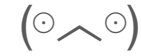
## Stab Binding

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The binder stabs holes along the **edge** of a book in a straight line or more complex pattern and then **sews thread** through the holes to both **bind and decorate** the book

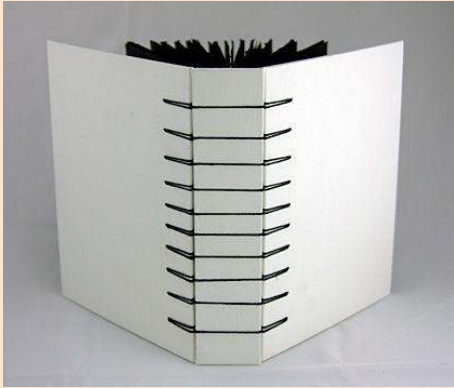


- + Pattern on spine
- + Book can lay **flat**
- + **Unlimited** number of pages



- **Time consuming**
- Requires more effort than previous methods

# Different Types of Stab Binding



Secret Belgian  
Binding



Coptic Stitch Binding



Long Stitch  
Binding

# More Ways of Stab Binding



Cassette Tape Binding



Bread Binding



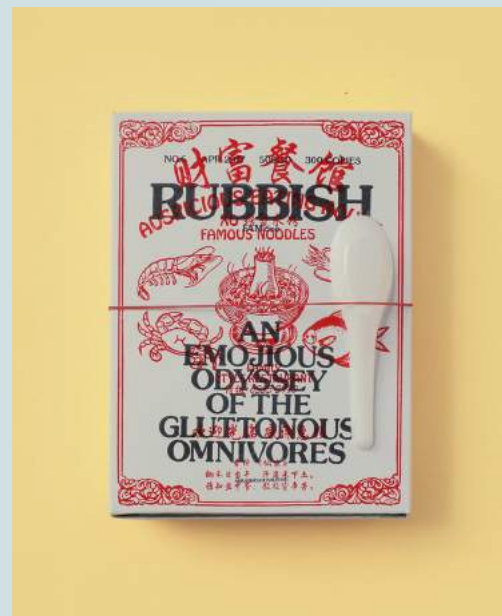
# Stab Binding: Zine Examples



*Rubbish FAMzine No. 1  
by holycrap*



*Rubbish FAMzine No. 2  
by holycrap*



*Rubbish FAMzine No. 6  
by holycrap*

# Live Demo: Coptic Stitch Binding

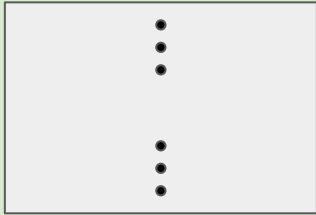
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Materials needed: Minimum 4 sheets of paper / Needle / Thread / Awl

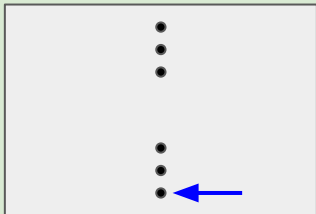
## Instructions:



- 1 Fold 1 piece of paper in half. Make more sets of folded papers according to how many pages you want.



- 2 Poke 3 holes of equal distance at opposite ends of the fold. Repeat for every sheet of paper.



- 3 Thread through from the inside to outside on last hole.

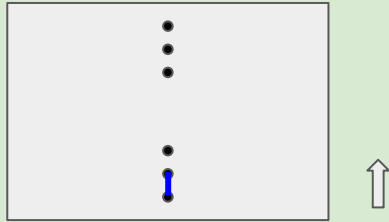
Tie a dead knot here.

\*Always sew from the inside to outside.

Instructions:



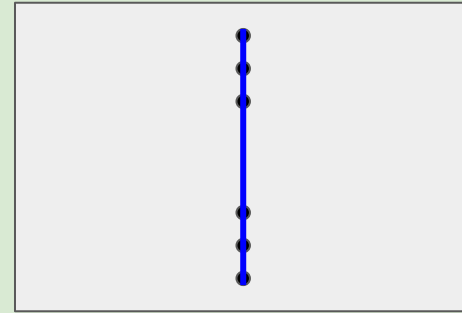
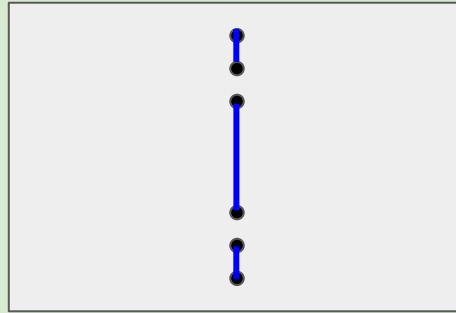
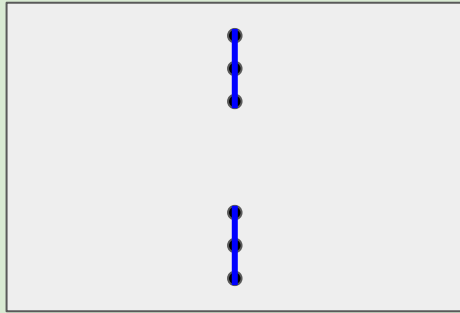
- 4 Now that your thread is outside, thread into the hole of the next folded paper.



- 5 Thread into the next hole. Continue travelling your needle in and out of the folds.



Instructions:



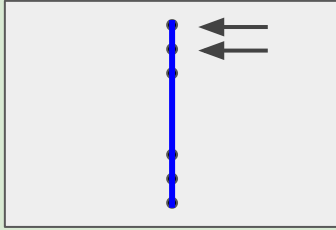
Inside: When you reach the end, you should get something like either of these.

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Outside: You should get something like this.

Instructions:



- 6 When you reach the end of one paper section, tie a knot between the last 2 holes. Thread your needle through the last hole.



- 7 Your needle should come out from row B. Tie a knot with row C. Then thread into row A.



- 8 Continue threading in and out of the folds until you get a bound book.

Thank  
you!



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