The Flutter Book
Stephanie Wolff

The flutter book is a simple structure from the Eastern binding tradition. It's a codex that can act a bit like an accordion, since the text block can be gently pulled out from the spine to show multiple pages at one time. Single folios are joined to create the text block, with a variety of possible cover options. A simple soft cover will be made in class, with discussion of other options. This binding is great for single-sided photographs or prints. It can accommodate papers of different weights—from heavier to very light. We'll create two models (one with heavier paper, the other with lighter paper) to serve as reference for future work and discuss possibilities for the structure’s creative use.

**Tools:**
- Scissors
- X-acto knife
- Cutting mat
- Metal ruler
- Awl
- Bone folder (useful)
- Right triangle (useful)
- Pencil
- Any other useful bookbinding tools you like

**Materials:**
- Glue stick OR ¼” glue brush and PVA glue
- Scrap paper strips: a stack of them (30-50 strips) about 1” wide x 6” high.
- Extra scrap paper
- Right angle jig (if you have one)

*I suggest using glue stick for the workshop. But if you choose to use PVA, you will need:
- Water cup for glue brush
- Blotters and/or wax paper
- Pressing board and weights

We will make two versions: one from heavier and one from lighter paper. Both will have a paper cover.

Grain direction of all papers should be parallel to the height of the paper

BOOK ONE: Heavier paper
Choose digital photo, printmaking, or watercolor paper: Rives BFK or another medium-heavy paper used for printmaking, photos, or watercolor, but it’s important that any paper you choose does not crack when folded. A 90 lb watercolor paper, such as Fabriano Artistico or Arches should also be fine. Other alternatives to this include: Arches Text Wove, Rives Heavyweight, Rives Lightweight, or almost any Western paper used for printmaking. You can also use cardstock for the workshop model.

- 6-8 sheets of paper 5” high x 7” wide for the pages. *Grain parallel to the 5” side.
- 2 sheets of paper 5” high x 7” wide of a different color for endsheets (optional) *Grain parallel to the 5” side.
  Generally best to have the endsheets be the same paper weight as the text pages.

BOOK TWO: Lightweight paper
Eastern-style paper: such as mulberry, Okawara, kozo, or another medium weight paper. An alternative would be to use origami paper, “marker” paper, or if you need to use a western text weight or a copy paper, that works also.

- 6-8 sheets of paper 5” high x 7” wide *Grain parallel to the 5” side.
- 2 sheets of paper 5” high x 7” wide of a different color for endsheets (optional) *Grain parallel to the 5” side.
  Generally best to have the endsheets be the same paper weight as the text pages.

COVERS:
The same paper can be used for both covers of the books. Or choose a slightly lighter paper to use with the lighter weight (Eastern) text paper. *Grain parallel to the 5” side for both pieces.

- 1 sheet of paper 5” high x 8.5” wide (cut 2 sheets if you don’t have paper wide enough for the other cover option)
- 1 sheet of paper 5” high x 11.5” wide (this would be for an optional style cover)

Rives BFK could be used for the cover, but it’s a bit soft. Another medium-heavy paper used for printmaking, photos, or watercolor might be better if it has more sizing so the folds are “crisper” but again it’s important that any paper you choose does not crack when folded. A 140 lb paper, such as watercolor papers Fabriano Artistico or Arches would also be fine. Or 140 lb paper such as printmaking paper Somerset Satin. Other alternatives to this include Fabriano Tiziano or Canson Mi Tientes. You can also use cardstock. Or a medium cover weight handmade paper would also work well for the cover.

Stephanie Wolff • stephaniewolffstudio.com • © 2022 • Please do not reproduce without permission. • Flutter Book