



Narrative Textile Bookmaking

Materials needed to participate in the online workshop led by

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Fabric

- **Choosing fabric:**
 - Half a yard of fabric (is more than enough quantity) of your choosing, in a single light color, or with not a distracting pattern (as your lettering and graphics might get lost). Also or/and diverse fabric scraps, leftover pieces, quilting squares, old clothes, or any fabric available at hand. A variety of textures and colors would be interesting. If you would rather work with a dark color fabric, that is ok too, just keep in mind the type of thread you would need to use to make a contrasting effect and to make the thread show on top and that transferring images would be a little more challenging (but not impossible with dissolvable paper, for example).
 - Choosing fabric: Variety is good for the design factor but for the construction it is better to keep to a single type of fabric like Kona Cotton, linen, monks cloth, or anything you might like to work with. For this project I like needlework linen, flour sack kitchen towel fabric, Kona Cotton from Robert Kaufman or anything with a bit of an open weave that is easy to handle, not too thick (example to avoid, upholstery fabric or velvet). As long as you feel you can work the needle through it.
 - Specialty Fabrics: Consider adding fabrics that are easy to stab with the needle of your choosing, also upcycled clothing to cut out. And textiles like felt, linen, silk, for unique textures. Remember, if you can sew through it, you can use it.
- **Cotton Batting:** Useful if you choose to add cushioning to your book. I use cotton batting from Warm & Natural brand in many of my projects. I would buy the craft- or crib-size pack or the cheapest you can find if you don't already have some. You can always use a discarded t-shirt for this and to make ribbon. Cost estimated at \$9-16.
- **Embroidery Hoop:** *Optional* but very practical for some. I do not use one. I feel it's always on the way, but some prefer the fabric to have some tension to be able to work and see clearly the design development. If you get one, consider the size you will be making your book to select the size. I recommend a smaller one, like the Darice brand 5" (item 39103). You might need to go smaller.

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Thread and needles

- Thread
 - Variety of colors and types: When possible, include cotton, embroidery floss, Sashiko, and common sewing thread for different effects. I mostly use Sulky embroidery thread, Sashiko Daruma Thread, and Aurifil Mako 50 (which is normal caliper sewing thread, orange spools). Variety is key with this project.
 - Thickness consideration: Ensure that you have both fine and thick threads depending on the desired aesthetic for your narrative. For this project, it would be ideal to have normal sewing thread (thin), Sulky (Cotton Petites Hand Embroidery Threads—medium thickness) embroidery thread for texture, and a couple of DMC embroidery (either pearle thread balls or skeins) or Sashiko threads—thick) to create different textures, effects, and visual interest.
- Needles
 - Assorted sizes: Remember to choose needles that correspond to the thickness of your thread. Ensure to have both small-eyed and large-eyed needles for various thread types.
 - Specialty needles (quite *optional*): You can opt for embroidery, tapestry or/and sashiko needles for specific needs. I mostly just use sashiko needles and long darners. For this project, I recommend tulip Sashiko needles or embroidery needles if you prefer shorter needles.
- Scissors
 - Fabric scissors: Sharp scissors dedicated to cutting fabric.
 - Thread snips: Small, sharp scissors for precise cutting of threads. Or you can use the fabric scissors, too.
- Embellishments
 - Buttons: If you have them, a variety of sizes, shapes, and materials (wood, plastic, metal).
 - Lace, yarn, threads, ribbon: Different patterns and widths, either vintage or modern; remnants, cutouts, parts of clothing to upcycle, anything you can sew.
 - Decorative Items: Beads, sequins, fabric paint, small fabric remnants, more thread (like metallics or yarn), whatever comes to mind. I often use old jewelry that has fallen out of use or is falling apart. Creativity is the limit here. An old t-shirt to cut up is ideal for making “rope” closures.

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- Marking Tools
 - Fabric markers: Like a Hera Marker, pen (like FriXion, Clover, or other), or pencil to make stitching guides on fabric. I use a pencil. I prefer HB, but you can definitely work with most pencils and fabric pens available in the market. Try to avoid the ones that disappear with time, and go for the ones that disappear with heat or water, so you have time to work on the graphics.
 - Transfer paper: Used to transfer images. You can use tissue transfer paper or tracing paper. I use crepe discarded gift wrapping paper. You can use Sticky Fabri-Solvy (Sulky brand) which is really awesome to transfer printed and hand drawn images that will dissolve in water after sewing on top of it.
 - Ruler and measuring tape: *Optional*, but helpful to ensure accurate measurements for your textile book and cutting. I do not measure anything.
- Additional tools
 - Pins: To hold fabric layers together during assembly. Super useful. I use golden brass curved safety pins. (I use the Prym brand 38mm size, item 071 380). Cost estimated at \$12.
 - Iron and ironing board: For pressing fabric pieces to ensure smooth, crisp folds, and work sections. Also useful to finish panels before binding the book and during the process. Not super necessary. I often do not iron fabric books.
 - Thimble: *Optional*. You can use quilting soft thimbles to work with your piece or a sashiko thimble. I use the Olympus leather thimble. Cost estimated at \$6.
 - Threader: *Optional*. I sometimes use the steel threader from Dritz “Needle Threader 16003”. Which is a type of flat steel piece with a small hook on bottom and a bit larger on the top. If you have problems threading, this is a game changer. Cost estimated at \$2.