

## MAKING YOUR OWN PERFECT BOUND BOOK

### Materials:

- ✓ The center pages for your book, blank pages or pre-printed depending on the type of book you want to make, any size.
- ✓ The cover for your book, blank or pre-printed, slightly larger than the center pages.
- ✓ Gorilla Glue
- ✓ Binder Clips
- ✓ Large Craft Sticks
- ✓ A box, container or other device in which to place your book while drying the glue.

To make a 5 ½" X 4 ¼" book:

### Step 1:

For a blank book: Holding 8 ½" X 11" copy paper in landscape, trim ½" from the end of the sheets so you now have 8 ½" X 10 ½" sheets of paper.

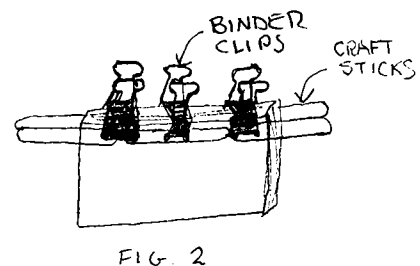
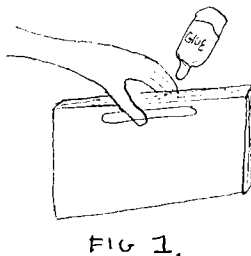
For a pre-printed book: In your word processor program's page set up menu, change the settings to Landscape and the left and right margins to at least 1"; format into 2 columns, using an at least 1 ½" spacing between columns. You will have to do some experimenting with your computer and printer to get it to print the pages double sided and in the order you want. If you're lucky, your printer driver will have a book printing setting which makes it much easier. After printing, trim ¼" from each end of the landscape pages. Include 2 or 3 blank sheets at the front and back of your book.

### Step 2:

Cut your pages in ½ so you now have 5 ¼" X 8 ½" sheets. If making a printed book, arrange them in the desired order. Try to make the stack of paper as straight as possible.

### Step 3:

Place a craft stick on each side of the stack of your center pages; holding the pages and sticks together off to the side, apply a thin layer of glue to the edge, spreading it to ensure coverage of all of the pages (See Fig. 1). Next, place a binder clip over the sticks and paper, being careful to make sure the top of the binder clip is not resting on the pages. Repeat with craft sticks and binder clips on both ends of the book. Apply enough glue to the pages to ensure an even layer of glue along the entire book's spine. (See Fig. 2).



### Step 4:

Use the craft sticks sticking out beyond the book to rest it in the box, container, file cart or whatever device you found to hold it while it dries. Let the book dry at least 12 hours.

### **Step 5:**

Once your book is dry remove the binder clips and craft sticks, carefully wiggling the craft sticks to loosen them without damaging the page too much should glue have inadvertently made them stick. If necessary, tear off the damaged sheet. Next, fold your cover material around the book and crease at the natural folding points. For the 8 ½" X 5 ¼" book, a regular piece of cardstock should work unless your book is too thick. If the book is too thick, you will need to cut a piece of poster board to size. (See Fig. 3). Covers can also be made of chipboard, cardboard or plain paper as well. Once your cover is shaped and folded, it is ready to be glued to your book.

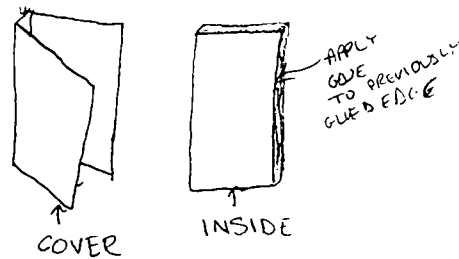


FIG 3

### **Step 6:**

Apply a thin layer of glue to the book's spine (the side where you applied the glue in Step 3) then carefully place the cover over the spine and secure with craft sticks and binder clips as in Step 3. (See Fig. 2) Again, place the book in your container, box, etc. to dry for at least 12 hours.

### **Step 7 (Optional):**

If you wish you can carefully trim the cover to the exact size of the pages with a metal straight edge and sharp craft knife. If you'd like to go a step further, you can sand the edges of the book to make a smooth professional finish.

Otherwise, your book is ready to be read and/or written in as you wish.