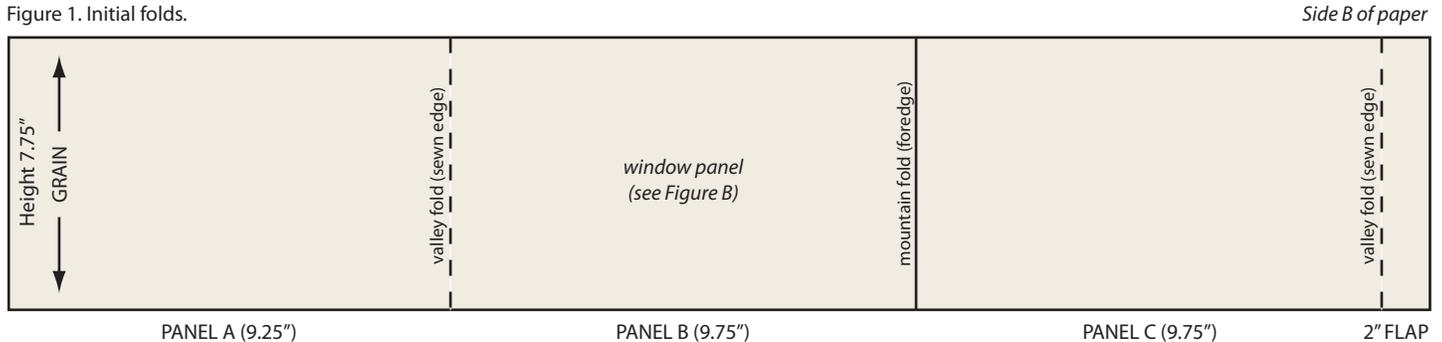


Collaborative Woodblock Books

by LIBROS Study Group

This PDF of illustrations accompanies the article in *Bound & Lettered* magazine, Spring 2010.
Project designed by Dale Harris. Text and illustrations © Trish Meyer.

Figure 1. Initial folds.



Signature: 7.75" high x 30.75" wide (for 8" x 10" woodblock cover)

Figure 1. Cutting & Folding the Signature.

One signature (which includes two sewn folds) is needed to hold each print. Choose a paper that looks good from both sides. The figures are marked as paper Side A and Side B.

Note that Panel A is slightly smaller in width so that it is easier to turn the page that will cover the print, but this is optional; if you prefer, make Panel A the same size as Panel B.

The center panels (B/C) are 1/4" smaller than the woodblock cover (8" x 10"). The flap at the end should be approximately 2". If using expensive paper, practice the folds using a cheap paper mockup.

Note: The full width of this signature is 30.75" so you may need to use either roll paper or a large sheet such as Arches Text Wove (25" x 40").

If using 30" wide paper, reduce the width of panels A, B, and C by 0.25"; the print window will then have a width of 7.5". (This is the size we used for the original project, but at its completion we decided that a slightly larger page size would have been better, and would be less likely to "sag" at the spine.)

Figure 2. Creating the Window

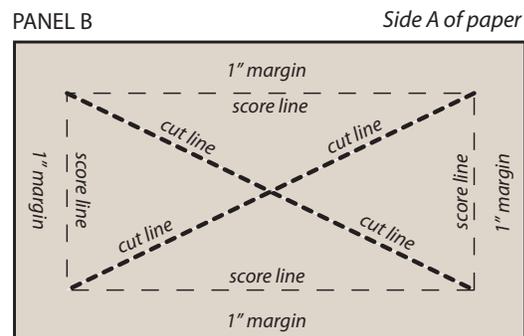
Step 1: Concentrating just on Panel B, turn over the paper and mark dots in pencil 1" in from all four corners (one inch will be the "frame" around your print).

If the paper is thick, score along the straight edges between each dot.

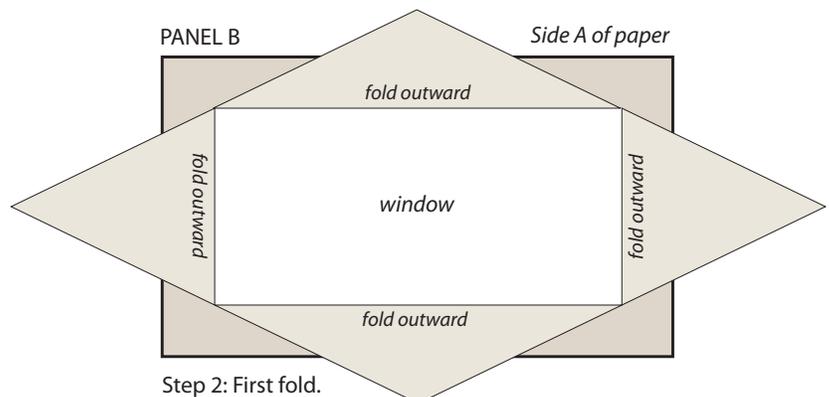
With a scalpel, cut from one corner to the opposite corner, being careful not to overshoot the corners.

Step 2: After cutting diagonally, you will have four triangles. Fold these outward along the score line.

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Step 1: Cut diagonally from corner to corner.



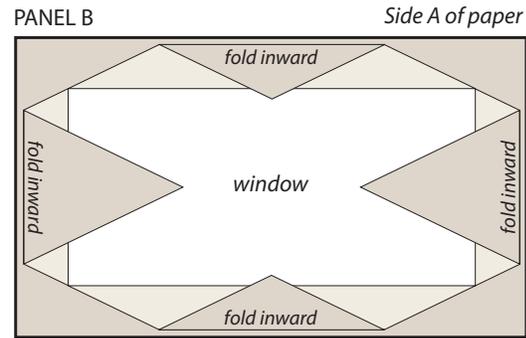
Step 2: First fold.

Figure 2 – continued:

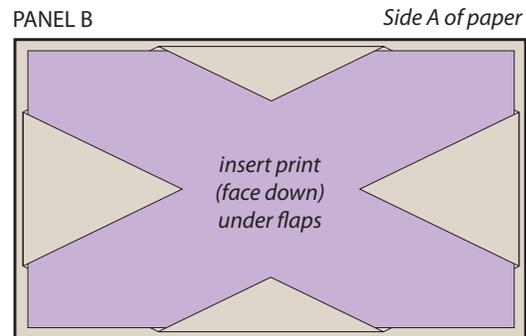
Step 3: Make a second fold just inside the edges of Panel B, folding the tips of the triangles inward. Repeat for all signatures. If you used thick paper and the folds are lifting up, place Panel B under weights overnight. You can also *lightly* glue the first fold you made in Step 2, testing to make sure the paper doesn't wrinkle on the opposite side. Don't glue the second fold as the print needs to slip inside these tabs.

Step 4: The print will be placed face down underneath the tabs created in Step 3. Take a test sheet of paper and figure out how large the print should be: It needs to be large enough so it fits snugly and doesn't shift around, but if it's too tight it will tend to buckle.

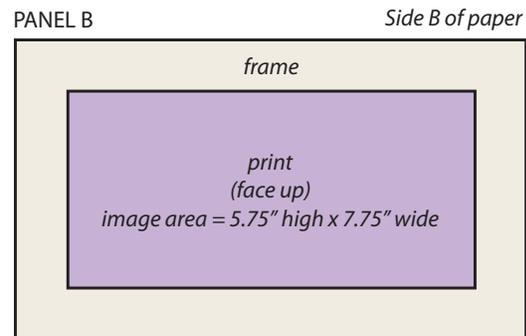
Step 5: Note that part of the print will be hidden under the "frame" when viewed from the opposite side. If the print is signed and you want the signature to be visible inside the window, plan accordingly. Once you've trimmed the prints, you can remove them while you sew the book; they are easy to drop in from the top after the book is assembled.



Step 3: Second fold.



Step 4: Trim print to fit snugly under tabs.



Step 5: View from opposite side showing framed print.

Figure 3. Final Assembly.

To fold the signature, place Side B face up (as in Figure 1).

- Fold Panel A over Panel B; the title of the print can appear on this panel.
- Fold Panel C behind Panel B; this will serve as a backing for the print.
- Tuck in the 2" flap; this fold will be sewn to the spine.
- Sew all signatures to the two wood covers using Coptic Stitch.

Variation 1: The flap at the end is 2" wide in this example, but it could be as wide as Panels B & C if you want to create a two-page spread to display a poem *after* the spread with the print. The total width would be 38.5" wide.

Variation 2: Create all four sections the same size as Panel B; the total width would then be 39". In the final assembly, fold A over B, and C behind B, as before. Then fold Panel D as a mountain fold and bring it back around to the front, so it appears *in front of* A. This gives you a two-page spread for a poem that appears *before* the print. It also gives you one signature to sew, not two.

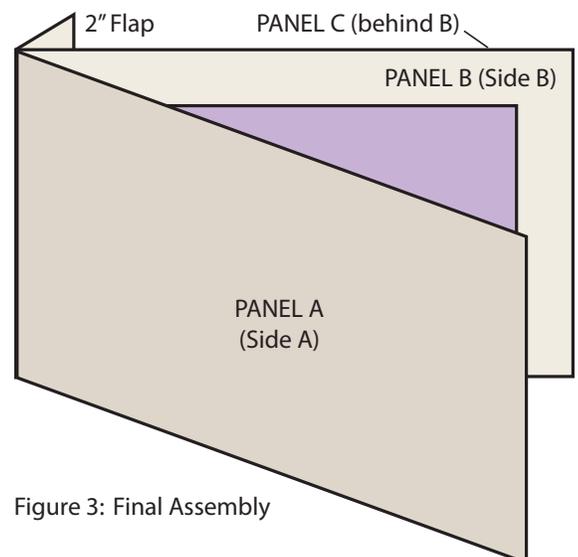


Figure 3: Final Assembly