

Mini Notebooks – Stapled Binding

Ages 6 and Up

This project is fun and quick with a great finished product. Have fun pulling together different colors and patterns for these adorable mini notebooks. If doing this project with a group, I recommend cutting your paper to size ahead of time. Be prepared for each person to want to make 2 or 3 of these.



Materials:

Printer paper
Variety of colored and patterned paper
Large-Capacity Stapler
Hole-Punch and Hammer
Ribbon, Raffia, or String
Fancy Scissors
Small Tags – optional
Glue Stick

Directions:

1. First you must decide what size you want your mini notebooks to be. Cut your filler paper (printer paper) and cover papers to the height and double the width of the dimensions you've chosen. For example: My notebooks are 3.5" square, so I cut my papers to 3.5" high by 7" wide. Cut some smaller pieces (to cover the spine) to the height of your notebook and 1.75" wide. Don't you wish you had a paper cutter right now? ☺
2. Have your child or group choose two pieces of the cover sheets, two of the smaller pieces, and 8-10 pieces of the filler paper.
3. Stack the cover sheets and the filler paper together and fold the stack in half with the cover sheets on the outside. Staple in three places down the spine of the notebook.
4. With some fancy scissors, your child/group can trim off a 1/4" strip from the outer cover (to reveal the under cover) and a 1/4" strip off the long side of one of the binding pieces. See picture.
5. With the glue stick, they can add the smaller strips of paper along the binding to cover the staples. Make sure to place the trimmed piece on top.
6. Punch 2 holes through the notebook using a hole-punch tool and hammer. Work on a cutting mat. Children CAN do this.
7. Thread a piece of ribbon or raffia through the holes and tie.
8. Add a small tag with a stamped image or label if desired.

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3. and 4.



5. and 6.



7. and 8.

