

Sketchbooks! Making Your Sketchbook Your Own

Part 2: Making Your Sketchbook Your Own

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We are going to start by making a sketchbook. You could just use a bought sketchbook, but if you do, we'd like you to spend some time *adding on* to that sketchbook before you

start working *in* it.

The reason we are going to start by making a sketchbook (or developing a bought sketchbook), is because then the book will start to feel like it belongs to you right from the start. The sketchbook becomes *owned* the moment you start to make – you

**make personal choices,
and you think
creatively from the
outset.**



Another thing happens when you *make* a sketchbook.

When you turn a page to work in your sketchbook and are presented with a pockets instead of a white page, or a piece of graph paper which unfolds, or a piece of old map, it will inspire you to be more creative in the way you

write and draw in the sketchbook.

So, let's get started. Decide if you want to make a sketchbook from scratch, which is very simple, OR adapt an existing sketchbook. Either way, we'd like you to end up with a sketchbook that really feels like it is yours, even before you start

to work in it.

Making an Elastic Band Sketchbook

Elastic band
sketchbooks are a
really great way to
make books which have
plenty of personality

and character!

Start off by collecting paper of all kinds – recycled paper, white paper, graph paper, brown paper... the more varied the better. You'll also need corrugated cardboard for the cover, and an elastic band to fasten it all together.

Whatever size

sketchbook you want to make, cut a piece of corrugated cardboard which is twice as wide as the finished book. Bend it in the middle to form a spine.





Next cut or tear a series of pages, again twice the width of the finished book. Fold these in half too, and then simply use the elastic bands to fasten it all together. the great thing about these books is that they are

**completely flexible –
you can take them
apart, take pages out,
and add more pages, and
really personalise
them.**

**The cardboard provides
a versatile cover which
can easily decorated to
personalise them
further.**





Extending a Bought Sketchbook

**and adding
“Spaces &
Places” to
made
sketchbooks**

**Take an existing
sketchbook – it can be
any kind, shape or
size. The idea is to**

change the structure of the sketchbook. That might mean adding new pages made up of different types of paper, different sizes, even different shapes. Think about how you can create “places and spaces” within a sketchbook. When you start working in your sketchbook, coming across these altered

**pages can really help
you make exciting work
in your book.**



So for example, you might want to bend and glue pages to create pockets. You might want to add bags to create collecting areas, or add fabric so you can paint on that instead of paper. Add whatever you can find or whatever you are attracted to, to change the shape of the places and spaces within the

sketchbook.

The idea is to be as creative as you can in terms of the way you change the look and feel of the book, so that when you are working in your sketchbook later, you are not only inspired by the world around you and by what's in your head, but also by the

sketchbook itself.



**Have fun when you are
doing this, and also**

remember that when you are drawing and writing in your sketchbook later, you are still free to keep changing the shape and the structure and the nature of the pages. That's part of the fun of working in a sketchbook. So it isn't a one off process, it is a starting point, and hopefully you'll

**keep coming back to it
as you continue to work
in your sketchbook.**

**Remember you
can post
images of
your
sketchbook**

work on

Instagram

Tag

@accessartorg

uk

#accessartske

tchbook

Next...

3. Collage Exercise



**Introducing
different ways to
work in a
sketchbook**

Or...

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“Sketchbooks!”
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