

Paper Bag Book Instructions

by Janine Tinklenberg

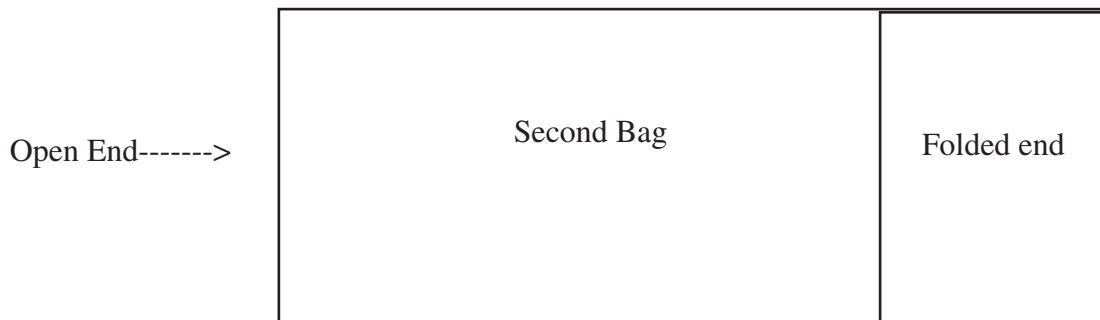
You can make paper bag books out of any paper bags you may have, but these instructions are for standard sized lunch bags such as you can find at your local grocery or discount store. White bags or kraft bags are commonly available, but if you search you can find different colored bags. There are also glossy treat bags, these can be used as well.

You can use any amount of bags starting with two. The books in these instructions have been made with three bags. If your bags are really wrinkly, you may want to iron them first to reduce the wrinkles.

1. Place the first bag so that the folded end (bag bottom) is to the left facing you:



2. Place the second bag on top of the 1st bag so that the folded end is to the right facing you.



3. Place the next bag on top of the second bag so that the folded end is to the left facing you.



You can keep on adding bags if you wish, but this configuration gives you 10 interior pages. You will also be able to place pull-out pages in the open ends of the bags, so you don't need a lot of pages.

Once you've gotten as many bags as you wish, fold them in half to form the book towards you (so the outside is the smooth side of the first bag.) Now you need to decide how to bind the bags together.

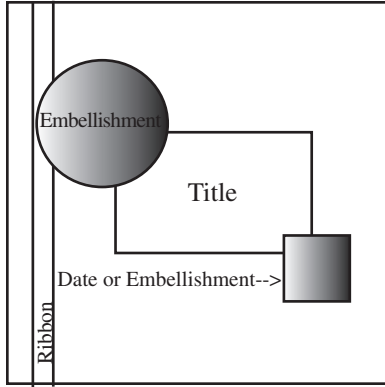
You can simply tie a ribbon around all the bags, or you can sew them together using a sewing machine. What I did was punch two 1/8" holes through all the layers in the center about 1" from each edge, then threaded cording through it and tied it. You can bind them any way you can think of.

Now you start decorating them. I used a Simply Scrappin' Kit to do mine and found that one kit will do two books. The standard size of lunch bag takes a 5" square page both adhered to the bag and to slide inside the open ends. For the folded end of the bag, you can choose to simply cover it, or you can take advantage of the little pocket made by the bottom of the bag. I adhere a 3 1/4" x 5" piece of cardstock over the bag bottom and use brads to attach the two inner corners to the bag beneath, making sure to only go through one fold of the bag edge. In this pocket you can put a little journaling slide-out, use it for ephemera like tickets or even more photos!

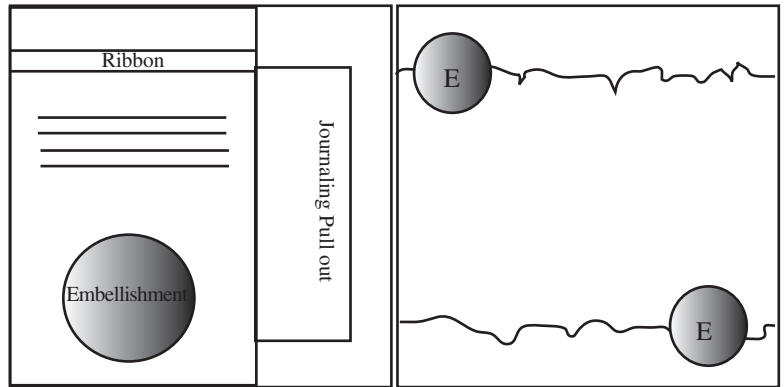
Now it's just a matter of decorating your book. You can be creative as you wish; I've included sketches of my layouts, but you don't need to stick to those. For the pull-out pages, I use a 5" square piece of cardstock and make a tab to help slide it out. This tab can be mirror image die cuts from a scrappin' kit stuck back to back (with the page adhered between them), or you can punch circles or squares and adhere them back to back. I put photographs on both sides of the slide out, but that is up to you! You can put one pull-out page in each fold of the open end (for two pull-outs) or you can add more than that.

If you like, you can use a circle punch to make a notch in the cardstock adhered over the open ends where the bag is notched; that makes the pull-out tab more accessible and noticeable.

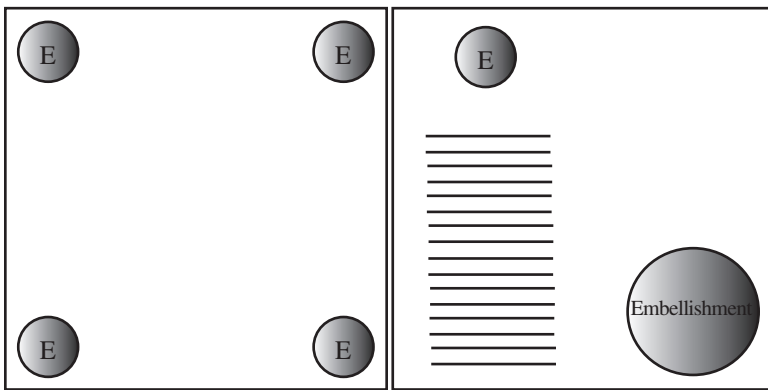
Sketches for 10 page books



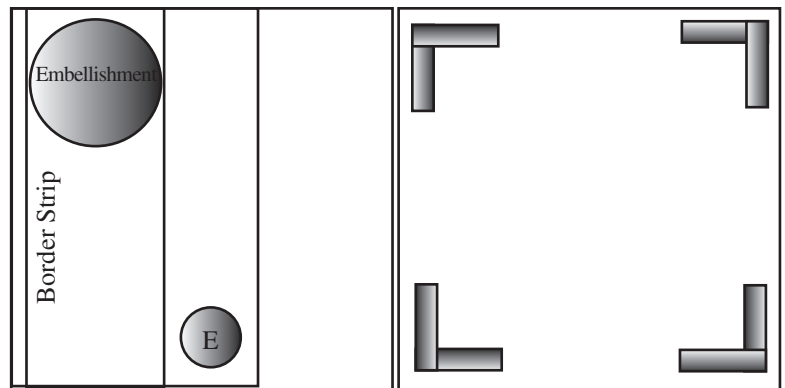
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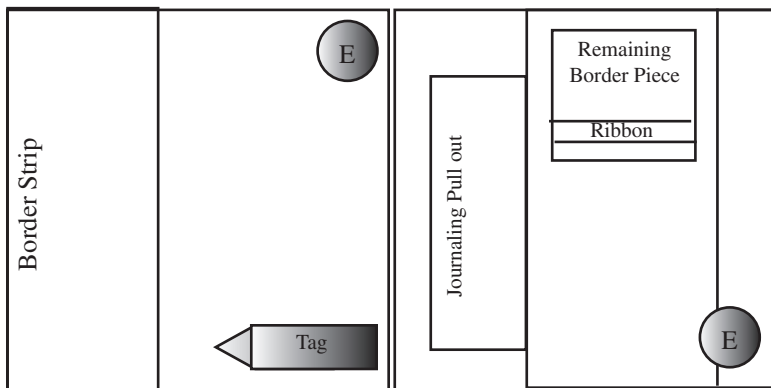
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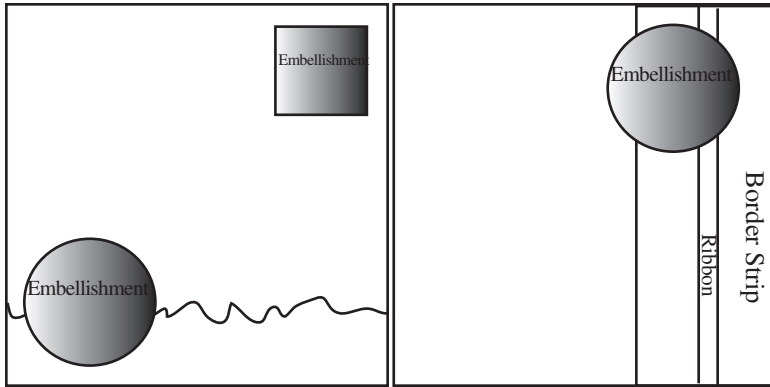
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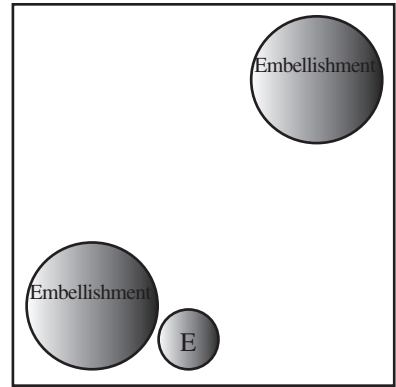
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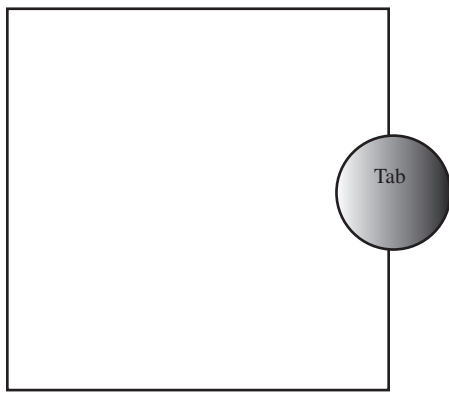
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