Let's Make a Zine!

An Interactive Workshop

The Zine!

By Olivia M.

What is a Zine?

A zine is a self-published booklet with a print run generally below 1000 copies.

Zines are generally written, edited, and produced by the same person or small group of people.

Zines are usually hand made and contain original or appropriated text and art. Zines are often made with a copier or household printer and standard copy paper.

Most zinesters (people who make zines) make zines as a hobby with little expectation of making money.

Zines can be about anything that can be put in print, but here are some common zine genres:

Some Zine Subgenres:

Perzine - personal zine

Compzine - compilation zine generally on a specific topic

Fanzine - zine on a topic the author is a fan of, not just science fiction or music

Minicomic - a comic zine

Art zine   Fiction zine

Poetry zine or "chapbook"

Photo zine   Graffiti zine

Found object zine

Other common zine topics include: politics, feminism, DIY (do it yourself), and more!

Why Make Zines?

Zine-making is a creative outlet that allows one to write, draw, cut, glue, and create.

Making zines allows anyone to get their voice out there, but in a way that is controllable, unlike with posting on the Internet.

You can avoid the gatekeeping of traditional publishing.

It allows for creative control over content and edits.

Making zines can be therapeutic.

Some people want to connect with new penpals.

Others love print and want to see print and mail culture thrive.

Zine History

People have been self-publishing booklets, newsletters, broadsides, and pamphlets almost since the dawn of the printing press, but especially after the 1700s.

Zine History

But "zines" as something separate from other self-published media became distinct in the 1930s.

The word "zine" comes from "fanzine," which is short for "fan magazine."

The term "fanzine" was used to describe self-published science fiction magazines of the time.

In the 1970s the punk music subculture started making their own fanzines.

This branched out to the "Queercore" subculture of the 1980s and the Riot Grrrl subculture of the 1990s.

Zines as a particular medium of self-publishing have always generally been associated with underground subcultures.

or marginalized

The 1990s was a golden age for zines, when they became almost mainstream.

The zine review publication Factsheet 5 and other more widely distributed magazines introduced many to zines.

After the Internet became more prominent, zine culture didn't die, but moved on to create e-zines and connect zinesters online.

Spill the Zines!

Now Let's Learn How to Make Zines!

Standard US Zine Sizes

½ Size or "Digest" - 5.5" x 8.5"

Full size - 8.5" x 11"

Always & Forever

A ZINE ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

¼ Size - 4.25" x 5.5" or vice versa

1/8 Size - 2.75" x 4.25"

DEAFULA

#8

Some people make other sizes of zines with these two types of paper, such as 1/16 letter size and 1/6 legal size. And other countries have their own paper sizes.

Suggested Zine-Making Supplies

Pen and pencil · Paper · Camera

Scissors or X-Acto knife · Paints

Glue stick · Computer · Stickers

Printer or copier   Ink and stamps

Colorful and patterned paper

Word processing program   Markers

Collage materials   Stapler

Typewriter

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Making a 1 Page Mini-Zine

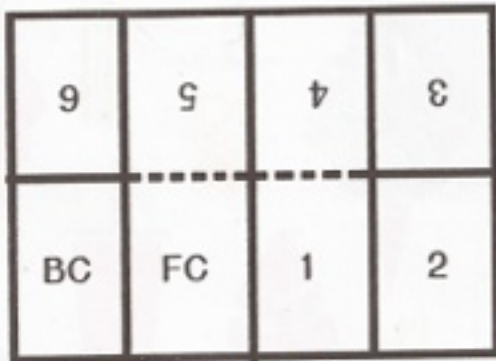Step 1: Fold a piece of letter size paper in half so it is half size.

Step 2: Fold it in half again so it is quarter size.

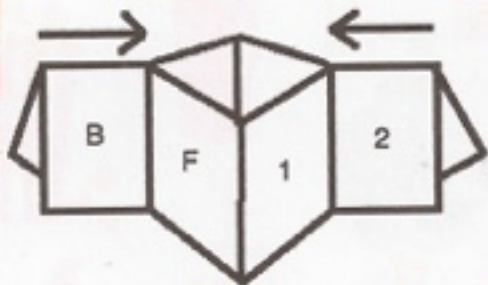Step 3: Fold it in half again so it is 1/8 size.

Step 4: Unfold the paper and fill up its sections according to the diagram below.
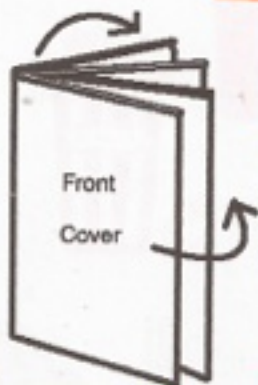
Step 5: Scan and print or copy the page.

Step 6: Fold the paper in half and cut it like this along the dotted line:

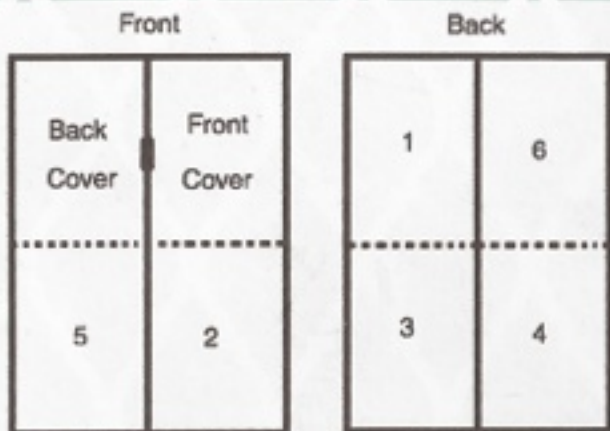| 9	5	ⱱ	Ɛ
BC	FC	1	2

Step 6: Fold the page like this:

Step 7: Fold the page into a booklet with F as the front cover and B at the back cover:

Single Sheet ¼ Size Zine

Step 1: Fill up the sections of the page according to this diagram:

	Front			Back	
Back Cover	Front Cover		1	6
5	2		3	4

Step 2: Scan and print or make a copy of the page, two-sided.

Step 3: Cut the new page along the dotted line.

Step 4: Put the pages together and staple in between the front and back cover.

2 Sheet ¼ Size Zine

Sheet 1

Back Cover	Front Cover
11	4

Front

1	14
5	10

Back

Sheet 2

13	2
9	6

Front

3	12
7	8

Back

Two Sheet ½ Size Zine

Step 1: Fill out the pages like this:

Back
Cover

6 5 4

1 2 3

Front
Cover
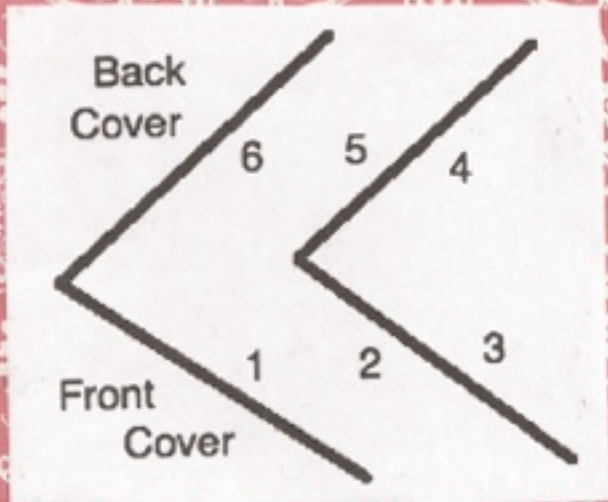
Step 2: Scan and print or copy the sheets.

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Step 3: Fold the pages in half and staple according to this diagram:

Staple

Staple

Front

Cover
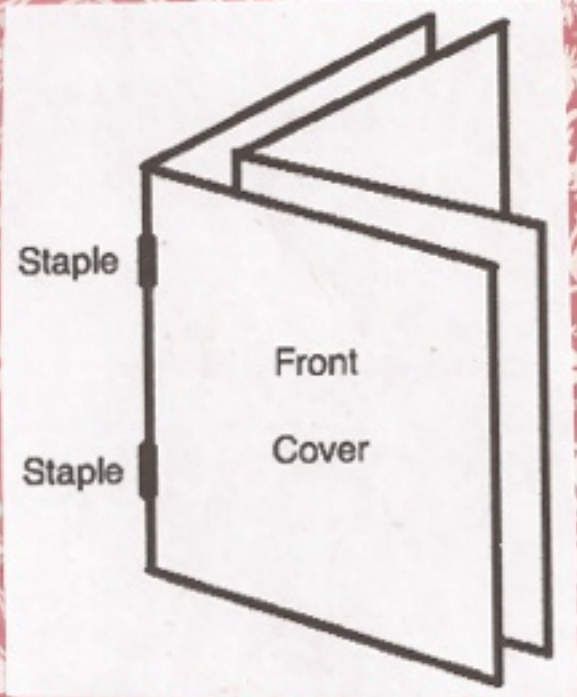
You can extend this pattern to make a longer zine.

Brainstorm!

Think about which of these three zine types you'd like to use for this workshop. What do you want to write about or draw?

Layout Advice

Make sure to keep at least about ¼ inch of blank space between text and the edge of each sub-page within the sheets.

You can cut out background images in the size of the finished zine (⅛, ¼, etc.), glue text and images to that, and then glue the pages to the master sheets according to the previous diagrams.

Hand-write the text for your zine, use a typewriter, or print out text in a chosen font if you'd like, but make sure it is legible.

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Know in advance whether you want your zine to be printed in color or black and white. If you paste color images into a zine that will be black and white, be sure the image will be fully visible when it is printed.

Pasting images and text in your layout is known as the "cut-and-paste" aesthetic. This is common with perzines and punk fanzines.

Before you start your zine, think about whether you want your layout to be entirely cut-and-paste, drawn and/or written directly on the master sheets, entirely digitally created, or some hybrid of these.

I usually print out my text and images and then do a cut-and-paste layout with background images found on the Internet.

Find free fonts for zines at http://dafont.com/ or other similar sites. Make sure to use a font that is free for commercial use if you plan on selling your zine.

To print out text for a zine and make sure it fits, follow this advice:

If your zine is going to be ½ size, open up a new landscape document in a word processor. Then set it so there are two columns. Then type up your text.

If your zine is going to be ¼ size, open up a new portrait document in a word processor. Then set it so there are two columns. Then type up your text.

If your zine is going to be 1/8 size, open up a new landscape document in a word processor. Then set it so there are four columns. Then type up your text.

E-Zines

You can do a zine entirely in a word processor (or scan and compile each individual cut-and-paste page) and save it as a pdf and distribute it on websites such as http://issuu.com/ Then you can make the pages any size you want.

But if you want it to be printable, make the pages ¼ size. Put the pages in this order: Front cover, inner pages, back

cover. If the number of pages is not a multiple of four, add blank pages in between the inner pages and the back cover until it is a multiple of four.

To print the e-zine from your pdf, open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader. Click print and choose the "print as booklet" option. You'll need a printer that can print on both sides of the page. You may have to change another setting on your printer so the pages won't print upside down on one side.

Note that there is a significant part of the zine community that does not consider e-zines to be "real zines."

Image Options

You have four main options for including images in your zines. You can draw your own images, take your own photographs, collage using previously printed material, or find images online and print them out.

Great places to find public domain images:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/

https://pixabay.com/

https://www.pexels.com/public-domain-images/

http://www.publicdomainpictures.net/

If you are looking for vintage black and white artwork, here are some good sites to look at:

http://thegraphicsfairy.com/

http://antiqueclipart.com/

http://www.grandmasgraphics.com/index.php

http://thevintagemoth.blogspot.com/

http://www.oldbookillustrations.com/

https://freevintageillustrations.com/

http://olddesignshop.com/

On Zine Names

Perzine writers tend to choose a series title and number each issue. What would you name a perzine (or other zine) if you wrote one?

Copyright

Copyright applies to zines, so you should keep it in mind as you choose sources to use for images and content. Make sure to cite your sources if you use a quote or need to credit an image.

Make sure to include a copyright message on your zine and a message telling readers not to reproduce it if you don't want people to copy it. Feel free to use a pseudonym.

US law automatically grants the protection of copyright to all works as soon as they are created, but lots of

variations on copyright are used in the zine community, so it's best to make yourself clear.

If you don't care if others copy or re-use your content, feel free to mark it as "copyleft," "anti-copyright" or simply say that people can do anything they want with it.

You can also use a Creative Commons license. There are many such licenses that allow readers to do different things with your content, such as reproducing it only with proper credit and without profit. The license also states whether readers can create derivative works.

If you want to use a Creative Commons licensed work in your zine, make sure you look carefully at the license. Find out more about Creative Commons licenses here:
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

You can sometimes use copyrighted material in your works under "fair use," generally for commentary or parody, but this can be a legal gray area. Find our more about fair use here:
http://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/fair-use/

Printing

You have three main options for making copies of your zines. You can scan the master sheets and print out copies using a printer. This is probably the most accessible option.

Or you could use a photocopier. This can take some practice.

Or you could get someone else to print your zines for you. You can submit a pdf to a print or copy shop. Make sure to ask for a quote for the number of pages you're looking to print. Color copies will be more expensive.

There are online services that will both print and bind zines for you in a glossy format and ship them to your address. One of these is http://blurb.com/

What Do I Do With My Zine?

It's perfectly okay for you to make a zine only for yourself, but you can also make a bunch of copies and give them to friends and family, sell zines on a website like http://etsy.com/, trade them with other people, and more!

Zines are generally priced between 1 and 5 dollars, but can be more expensive if they are printed in color or on fancy paper.

Some cities have zine fests or fairs where you can table and sell zines for a small fee.

If you want to sell zines and trade zines with strangers, make sure to stay safe. If you're a minor, do this with your parents' supervision. Consider using a pseudonym in your zines and renting a PO Box at your local post office.

Consider sending a copy of your zine to a zine library.

Some independent bookstores will sell your zines on commission or some other arrangement.

Where Can I Find Zines?

Zines can be found on most handmade craft selling websites, such as Etsy.

Some libraries have zine collections! Some bookstores sell zines too.

Once again, zine fests and fairs.

There are several Facebook communities devoted to zines, as well as a social network called We Make Zines.

Check out the #zines tag on Tumblr, Instagram, or Twitter.

There are some zine archives out there where you can read zines online.

http://issuu.com/ has lots of zines to read for free online.

Some zines have been collected in anthologies, which can be bought on http://amazon.com/ and elsewhere.

Check out http://stolensharpierevolution.org/ for more info.

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Zine Distros

There are small zine selling businesses called "distros" where you can buy zines. Most zine distros have websites. Some distros:

http://www.sweetcandydistro.com/

http://strangerdangerzines.com/

http://mendmydresspress.bigcartel.com/

http://www.antiquatedfuture.com/

http://www.dorisdorisdoris.com/zines.html

https://fight-boredom.com/

http://vampiresushi.co.uk/distro/

Image Credits

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/81/Poor_Richard_Almanack_1739.jpg/300px-Poor_Richard_Almanack_1739.jpg

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4a/Commonsense.jpg/200px-Commonsense.jpg

http://images.rarenewspapers.com/ebayimgs/2.11.2009/image061.jpg

http://www.cartoonstudies.org/schulz/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/sm_fanzine_s.jpg

https://now.uiowa.edu/sites/now.uiowa.edu/files/styles/640_wide/public/hevelinfanzines-640_0.jpg?itok=5kQsfb4G

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punk_zine#/media/File:1970s_fanzines_(21224198545).jpg

http://media.tumblr.com/tumblr_lrffu0gnMq1qelky8.jpg

http://cdn3-www.afterellen.com/assets/uploads/Bikini-Kill.jpeg

http://ashcanmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/zine_pile.jpg

http://reglarwiglar.com/chrisauman/images/FactSheet5.jpg

http://libcom.org/files/61mbdZ6LpZL._SX300_.jpg

Appendices

Some Zine Content Ideas

Write a list of your favorite things

Draw a comic strip

Explain an in-joke

Tell a funny story about something you've experienced

Write a review of something, anything really!

Complain about something you dislike

Write about an identity that is important to you

Write about a community that you participate in

- Write a short horror story
- Document a hobby through writing and photography
- Make a collage to express an opinion
- Explain how to do something that you enjoy doing
- Write down a favorite recipe or playlist
- Collect your favorite Facebook posts or tweets

16 Page 1/8 Size Zine

Back of Page

14	1	9	6
13	2	5	10

Front of Page

8	7	FC	BC
11	4	3	12

32 Page 1/8 Size Zine

Sheet 1

29	2	5	26
30	1	9	25

BC	FC	7	24
28	3	4	27

Sheet 2

21	10	13	18
22	9	14	17

23	8	15	16
20	11	12	19

Books About Making Zines

Stolen Sharpie Revolution: A DIY Resource for Zines and Zine Culture by Alex Wrekk

Whatcha Mean, What's a Zine? by Esther Watson and Mark Todd

Make a Zine! by Bill Brent

Zine Scene: The Do It Yourself Guide to Zines by Francesca Lia Block and Hillary Carlip

Zines! Vol. 1 By V. Vale

Zines About Making Zines

MetaZine by Davida Gypsy Breier

Download and print it here:
http://zinelibraries.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/MetaZine.pdf

Meta (meta)paradox by Olivia M.

Text of this zine here:
http://oliviaszines.tumblr.com/post/156017467559/how-i-do-zines

You Should Know About Zines! by Brusque Babe

Make Your Own Fun: A Zine About Making Zines by Kristyna Baczynski

Self Publish Today: A Guide for Creatives to Get Their Work in Print by Ben Gore

Practical Zinemaking by Vampire Sushi Distro

Download and print here:
http://vampiresushi.co.uk/distro/?p=1076

Make Your Very Own Zine by Nina Echozina

Download and print here:
https://echopublishing.wordpress.com/2015/12/03/mini-zines-on-how-to-make-your-own-zine-engnlfr-download/

Zine Making: An Introduction by Sarah

Other Zine Making Resources:

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Zine_Making

http://zinelibraries.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/davida-presentation.pdf

http://zinewiki.com/Zine

http://www.instructables.com/id/Guide-To-Zine-Making/

http://carnagenyc.com/home/2015/5/11/so-you-want-to-make-a-zine

http://blog.umamidesign.com/ud-content/2013/09/ud_130918_zine-instructions.jpg

https://www.cutoutandkeep.net/projects/mini-zine

https://deirdreedarling.wordpress.com/2013/12/26/how-to-make-a-micro-zine-the-deirdree-prudence-way/

http://www.sherrysnider.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/16PageMicroBookletTemplateImage1.png

https://www.skillshare.com/classes/Make-a-16-Page-Zine-from-a-Single-Sheet-of-Paper/1617717757

http://nuonis.com/how-to-make-a-one-page-zine/

http://dearcolleen.blogspot.com/2013/08/how-to-make-16-page-zine-from-one-sheet.html

https://www.instagram.com/p/BQuWyTYjZOE/

Other Tips and Tricks

One thing I didn't really talk about in the rest of the presentation is methods of binding zines together. In addition to stapling, some people use a sewing machine to sew zines together, and others sew them by hand. Avoid using rubber bands or paper clips or something else that can easily come off to bind a zine. Definitely don't leave the pages of the zine loose.

You can get a long arm stapler on Ebay for about $13. I personally think it's worth the investment, because it makes it possible to staple along the spine of a zine without folding the pages.

If you can't get your hands on a long arm stapler, take a normal stapler that can flip open and a soft yet firm material such as a thick foam pad. Put the pages down on top of the pad and staple down into the spine of the zine. The staple will go into the pad. Pull the pages out and use a scissors to press down the sharp ends of the staples.

If you're planning on making a lot of zines, it may be a good idea to invest in

a paper cutter with at least 6 inches marked out on it to the left of the blade. You should get one that cuts 10-15 sheets at a time if you want to make thicker zines. These can get sort of pricey, but I got mine for about $30 used on Ebay. It's a Carl RT-200N.

It may take a while, but consider adding page numbers to your zines. I don't always do this, and sometimes I end up regretting it. It makes it much easier to cite a specific page or to determine the length of a zine, as well as makes it easier to put together, especially if the zine falls apart and the pages get loose.

Even if you've scanned your master zine copy, it's still a good idea to keep the originals, in case the file gets lost, corrupted, etc.

One thing I do to get interesting backgrounds for zines is to scan patterned fabric from clothing and tablecloths and blankets.

If you want to trade zines with someone, make sure that you suggest a fair trade. Take into consideration price, size, number of pages, print quality, and effort that went into making the zine.

Don't suggest to trade your single sheet mini zine for someone else's 80 page, text-heavy perzine. Trades can involve multiple zines. For example, you may want a zine larger than any of yours, but you can suggest trading multiple of your zines for a larger zine.

Washi tape is a great way to tape down text or provide decoration in a zine layout. This Japanese paper tape often comes printed with beautiful patterns.

If you plan on selling your zines in person, you can get a pamphlet display rack at Staples for under $20.

If you table at a zine event, bring along cards for each different zine you sell with the title, price, and a short description. Consider adding content warnings if you talk about sensitive topics in your zine. You can leave these cards next to zines or clip them to a zine with a paper clip. It will save you a lot of time explaining what each zine is about.

If you really want to get fancy without any extra effort, try getting some colorful paper and mixing a bunch of colors together when you print a multi-

sheet zine. Maybe cover the spine with some washi tape!

If you want to make a 16 page micro zine (1/16 size), you can shrink the template for a 16 page mini zine (1/8 size) and put it into half of a sheet of letter paper. You can fit two of these 16 page micro zines on a single sheet of paper to avoid wasting space.

If you want to learn more about zine libraries and whether there are any near you, visit this link:
https://zines.barnard.edu/zine-libraries

If you want to get into the online zine scene, check out http://wemakezines.com/, which recently relaunched. Also, I'm in the process of creating a zine trading social network Android App called Let's Trade Zines that will launch by August 2017. Find out more at
http://letstradezines.wordpress.com/
Other than that, check search for "zines" on Facebook groups or various blog and social networking sites.

Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg

Oops, forgot a zine on zine-making that is free to download: An Introduction to: Zines by The Public:

https://thepublicstudio.ca/images/diy/DIY-No2-Zines.pdf

That's All, Folks

Thank you so much for reading this zine! I made this zine specifically to accompany the zine workshops I teach, but if you came by it some other way, that's great too! Most of the text comes directly from my Powerpoint presentation for the workshops, but some of the content is new for this zine. I hope you find it to be a useful reference. It isn't any Stolen Sharpie Revolution, but I think it's got some content you won't find in other similar zines or books.

If you want to get in touch or find my other zines, check me out here:

metaparadox11@gmail.com

http://etsy.com/shop/ParadoxNowCreations

http://oliviaszines.tumblr.com/

http://instagram.com/oliviam.11

Olivia M. July 2017

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