

# Thermal Book Binding

There are many ways to bind a book and this tutorial offers a unique option to add to your repertoire: thermal binding. From Dorothy Simpson Krause in her book *Book + Art*.

The designing and creating of book or journal pages are wonderfully creative. But the binding part of the book can be just as creative, too. Dorothy Simpson Krause, author of *Book + Art*, has an easy book binding technique that requires little more than a frying pan!

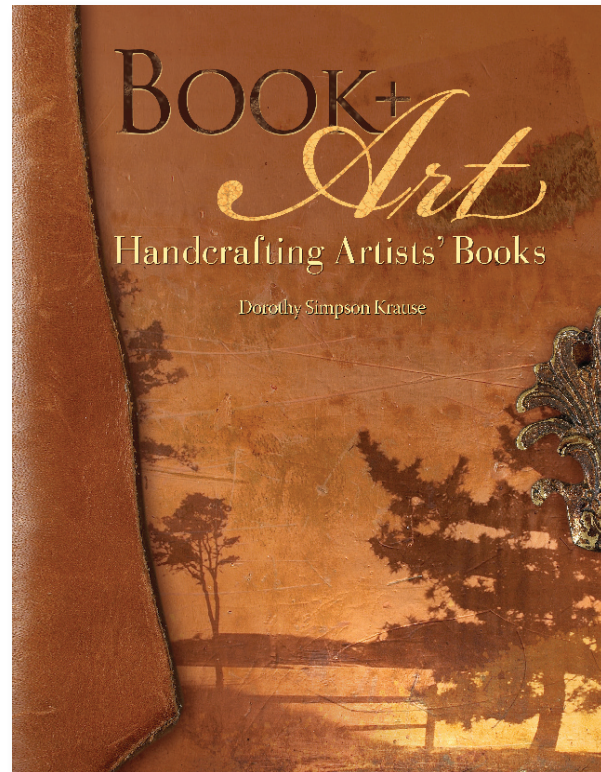
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To learn more about or purchase *Book + Art* by Dorothy Simpson Krause [click here](#).

[www.CreateMixedMedia.com](http://www.CreateMixedMedia.com)

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*Book + Art* is published by North Light Books, an imprint of F+W Media, Inc.

# DIY THERMAL BINDING

If you don't want to invest in a binding machine, you can make your own glue strips with hot melt glue, put them in your own covers and use an electric griddle or frying pan as your heat source. Glue-impregnated spine sheets can be stored indefinitely, and you can cut a spine length from one as needed.

## Materials

- Piece of gauze, mull or nylon net
- Silicon release sheet or Teflon cookie sheet
- Hot-melt glue gun and glue
- Paper cover to wrap
- Glue strip
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Folder
- Scissors
- Single pages, the dimensions of the cover, with or without images and text
- Collage, painting, drawing and writing materials of your choice
- Electric griddle or frying pan



Crossed, 2008, 38 pages, 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" (13cm x 15cm)



1. To create a glue-impregnated spine sheet, begin by placing a piece of gauze, mull or nylon net on a silicon sheet or Teflon cookie sheet. Draw parallel strips of hot glue across the material, about 1/2" (13mm) apart, using a glue gun.

2. Measure the height of the cover material to be 1/4" (6mm) taller than the book—1/8" (3mm) at the head and the tail. Measure the width of the cover paper to wrap around the block of pages, plus extend a bit. Cut or tear the cover to size, and mark the center of the cover width.

Center the page block on the mark and mark the cover at each side of the block. Score lines down the cover at these points and fold sharply.

Cut a piece from the glue sheet the length and width of your spine, with the parallel strips of glue running horizontally across the spine. Place the glue strip between the two folded lines. Collate and align the pages and place them tightly against the glue strip in the cover spine and clamp it all together.

3. Preheat an electric frying pan to 350 degrees. Place the spine flat against the bottom of the frying pan for about ninety seconds for the heat to melt the glue embedded in the spine. Remove the book (turn off the frying pan) and let the book cool.