Slot and Tab Books with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Slot & Tab Books

Slot & Tab Books

(upbeat music) - Hi everybody, it's Faith coming at you live from Creativebug. Whoo, I switched up my sentence there. Like we do every Thursday at 4:00. Evan last Thursday, which was the 4th of July. I hope you didn't miss me too much. I didn't miss you because I was watching Stranger Things. Don't forget we are live, so if you have questions about the project or wanna talk about Stranger Things, without any spoilers, feel free to do so in the comments below. Today we're making a book structure called a slot and tab book. This is really great for paper but especially for fabric. I'm really excited to show you. And it's one of those structures where the first time you make a model you're like, Oh, gosh, I have to make more. What can I do with these? And you stay up late at night fantasizing about the possibilities. So for this you'll need a stack of folded paper. I'm doing this in two different colors. So you can see the two different cuts we're making. And we'll be cutting a slit in one sheet and slots in the other. And this measurement should be approximately the same. So this here is, our X value is one inches. And I'm going to make a mark on these folded sheets. An inch from the top. I'm just gonna do this with pencil on the outside. And an inch from the bottom. Now for the books we're going to make for the pages, excuse me, we're going to make slits into we're going to go just above and just below the dot. So maybe by an eighth of an inch. And this wiggle room is important for wiggling purposes surprisingly enough. And then where we have the pages we're making cuts into, we're going to go just above and just below the dots we've made. Now the best way to assemble, I think, is to prestack your slots and slits. And alternate, that's another reason why I've done these two colors is so that we can see pretty clearly what is where. And also, Sam will be posting a link to my other book art class. I've taught a couple, but the one he's posting the link to is my absolute favorite. If you are a paper person and this gets you excited and you wanna make some more books there's plenty of ideas in that class. That'll be linked right now. So now we have our stack of pages. And we will begin with our slot. And we will take this page, actually I'm gonna use this one. I like this one better. And we're going to curl the edges in gently. And insert them into the slot from the outside in. Now the reason you'll see soon why this is a little bit better for fabric rather than paper is the paper gets a little bit chewed up while it is going through. This is more for illustrative purposes. But if you're using a floppier paper like a kozo paper, you won't get those wrinkles. This won't be a problem. And then, because we have this tab fold, we're going to get another one of the slit sheets and insert this into here. So you'll end up with these sheets with the slits back to back with the tabbed piece in between them. Now that sounds a little bit like a puzzle, but you just have to try it. And then it makes so much more sense. Pull it through and it pops up. So we have here our slit page. What do we do now? Oh, we do another slot. I told you slits and slots. Which I could have sworn there was a TV ad. You have boots and pants. Or do you ever go grocery shopping and you make a song to yourself? Like, sourdough and liverwurst. That was me yesterday. And then you just sing it softly to yourself all the way through the grocery store until you get both sourdough and liverwurst. We don't need to talk about the liverwurst. It's this new thing for me. Everyone's grossed out by it. But I think it's delicious. All right, so now we have the slots. You know what's next, the slits. I could keep assembling this for a long time in front of you, or with you is how I like to think about it. I do, of course, read your comments after every live shoot. So even though my response might be delayed, I'm always appreciative to see what you have to write. So you can see,

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once we've assembled quite a lot of these, we have kind of a neat spine color effect. Where it'll have this red in the middle. And the gray on the bottom and top. And it's a fairly sturdy structure, surprisingly enough. The problem is that the slot pages do get kind of chewed up. Which is not an issue if you choose a sturdier paper. But I thought that the color was more important to demonstrate. Now if we're doing it for a fabric book, which is where this structure really shines. You're going to do the exact same process, but you're going to be doing it with fabric. And what we've done here is reinforced the spine with some gel medium. And I wanna just show you my specific process for doing that. So I go ahead and I iron the pieces of fabric in half so that I have a crease. And you're going to wanna use gel medium or gesso. And this is gonna serve the purpose of strengthening your fabric. So if you've ever made button holes, you know that you should put Fray Check on the button holes before you cut it open. This kind of operates like Fray Check. And I've made myself this little template where it's just over 1/4 of an inch. And this is so my gel medium doesn't go willy nilly. And I have my scratch paper. Or scrap paper. And I'm just gonna brush it on and try to smush it into the fibers. And I did this with a bunch of sheets, well, I guess we can call them sheets, right? No, we can call them pieces of fabric. Let's be honest with ourselves here. - [Man] We have a question from Meg who asks, "Can you put the paper book under weights "and flatten it out?" - We have a question from Meg who asks, "Can you put the paper books, the paper book "under weights and flatten out?" Yes, Meg, thank you so much. You must be paying attention. You should and you must. Well, you don't have to, it's not required. But you can see here, it's a little, it has a lot of energy to it. And sometimes, when we want to crush the spirit of the book to make it more readable, we put it under weights. And keep it overnight. Yes, it's a great idea. Thank you for reminding me. So now that we have our gessoed page, we're going to set this aside to dry. Fortunately, I have already made a whole bunch of these. And we're going to do the same process. And you'll be delighted to see how much more calm and reasonable this process is. So we'll begin with a slit. I like beginning with the slits, because then our cover doesn't have any dangling pieces. I don't want it to get snagged on anything. The way I read books, you don't know what's gonna get caught. So we have the slots. And this we can, you know, just yank through. And now we find what kind of sheet? A slit. And we tuck this through here. And I just picked a simple selection of stitches that look good on the front and the back. But when you do this, I promise you you'll instantly think, How do I make this into a sampler? Or could I do this with old quilt blocks? Or, you know, could I make a quiet book? My sister made just the coolest quiet book for her kids. And if you do want it to be something that is not going to be seen on the other side, you will want to make two slot pages and then stitch them together so that whatever is on the back side does not show through. So that's a little bit more intensive of a process. But this gives you the basic layout, right? Oh, see? This is a slot page, so now we need a slit page. Oh, and definitely comment if you've ever made a quiet book. I think those are so cool. The ones Charlotte did was, she had an Itsy Bitsy Spider page. She had a camping page with a lantern that lit up. And she would text me anxiously at night. "Do you think that these snaps are okay?" I'd say, you're the expert. And these are just the coolest little books. I will certainly have to make some myself. But first, let us finish our slot and tab book. Oh, which I should have mentioned is designed by Alisa Golden, who is an amazing book artist and her book, she has a how-to book that has a whole bunch of different structures. I think a hundred, it might be a hundred handmade books. I'm not certain. But I will include it in the comments later. It's definitely a must-get book for when you're first beginning your book art journey. And you're like, "What are the possibilities of this form?" My mind was totally blown. I hope to work with her someday. I'd love to take a class from her. And she is local to the Bay Area. So, Alisa, if you're out there, hit me up. Be

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nice to meet you. I love you work. - [Man] We have a question from Phil. - We have a question from Phil, hi Phil. - [Man] Can you put gel medium on the edges of the pages if you're using cotton fabric that may fray? - Oh, Phil asks should they put, should you put gel medium on the edges of the pages if you have a cotton fabric that you are afraid will fray. That is definitely an option. I like your ingenuity, Phil. Good question. You also could run a line of stitching around the edges, depending on if you want it to be a stitch forward book. Or you can certainly hem it. Or you could, yeah, I think gel medium would be a great idea. It might make it a little stiff. You will notice that, you know, the pages are floppy. But the spine is not so floppy. And actually, once you have let it dry, you will want to crease it like it's a book page. So it'll change the feel and the heft of the book. Let's do this final page. But yes, I love that idea. And once I've strung these all together, I'll let you see this groovy spine. Looks so good, I dig it. That's so neat. Okay, let's just tug it into place. Needs a little manhandling. And here we go, we have this really cool spine effect. You can see some of the stitching. And it's a pretty floppy book. But it's great for young kids. I could see this being an awesome alphabet book or a sashiko sampler book. I was thinking about sashiko. We have a great class with Lisa Solomon in it. Or you could even type things out on a small piece of fabric and stitch them in. I think that would be really beautiful. But if you are, if you are book curious. If you're a booky person. You must give this a try. Just use some office paper and don't worry when it turns out a little bit crinkly. You saw, I am a professional book... Or I was a... Listen, I know books. I have a degree in book art, which has ended up being startlingly relevant to my career path. But maybe isn't for everyone. And someone as book accomplished as I, you'll make wrinkly pages. But it'll set the stage for some really exciting experimentation to come. Thank you so much for joining us. I always love spending time with you. And we look forward to seeing you next Thursday. (energetic music)

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