

HOW TO MAKE A ZINE

WHAT IS A ZINE

ZINES AS A TOOL FOR ACTIVISM

Zines (pronounced ZEENS) are essentially self-published magazines. The word comes from the terms fanzine and magazine. Born from Sci-Fi magazines made by fans in the 1930s, the term zine was said to have first been used in the 1940s in a Sci-Fi fanzine. Rock fans soon caught on and music fanzines appeared in the 1960s. The making of zines increased in the 1970s with the birth of punk, better access to photo copiers and home printing methods. Combining the fandom of the music and punk's more political leanings is what helped create the cut 'n' paste style zine we still see today.

Zines had a resurgence in the 1990s during the third wave of feminism associated with the Riot Grrrl music movement. Heavily inspired by the punk zines of the '70s and '80s, these zines were about music fandom and political messages, made mostly by women. The advancement of technology throughout the '00s also brought a decline in the zine in physical format. Many people started to create online zines and blogs instead of paper ones.

In recent years though, zine culture has come back BIG TIME. People appreciating zines in their physical form, being created by punk fans, feminists, football fans, students, artists, writers and many more!

Zines are no longer just the scrappy, DIY cut 'n' paste rough copies of the '70s, '80s and '90s, we now have chap books, glossy full colour zines, small scale self-published magazines, that are often called zines.

There are zine fairs where people sell their zines held all over the world, workshops you can attend to learn how to make them and even libraries dedicated to just zines!



Political pamphlets have existed for 100s of years, they took on more of a zine format in the 60s and 70s. Many punk fanzines from the 70s and 80s spoke about social activism, protests and human rights. The slogan THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL which came from the feminist movement in the 60s was a driving force behind the feminist zines made in the 90s. These zines were created pre-social media and were a way for women to talk about their experiences and find connection with other women.

Zines are not just used as a form of activism to share ideas, but to give those that often don't have a platform, or a voice, especially in mainstream media, and to be able to take up space, minority groups and those "othered", communities such as women, POC, LGBTQ+, migrant women, fat people, the working class and disabled folk. Using zines to tell their stories in their own voice, remembering that the personal is the political!

Sometimes the hardest part of making a zine is thinking what to put in it, because zines can be made on just about ANYTHING!

I've made zines about my favourite band or TV show, my cat, being working class, crafts, art I have made and even crisps!

There can be sub categories of zines too:

Fanzines – zines that are about being a fan of something!

Perzines- Personal zines, sometimes likes diaries. Can be about yourself, your daily life, mental health issues, and sexuality, whatever!

Sport zines- from football to wrestling and everything in between.

Prose zines- stories, poems and anything literary,

Art zines, craft zines, comics, the list is endless

Whenever I am stuck for a zine idea I often think 'what do I love?' and 'What would I want to read about?'

WHAT 3 THINGS WOULD YOU WANT TO READ ABOUT?

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

WHAT CAN I PUT IN A ZINE



HOW TO MAKE A ZINE

MAKING AN A5 BOOKLET ZINE

Let's make a DIY cut 'n' paste booklet zine

You will need:

- A4 paper
- Pen
- Felt tip pens/pencil crayons
- Scissors
- Glue

Collage materials: old magazine, newspaper, wrapping paper, printed envelope inners, stickers

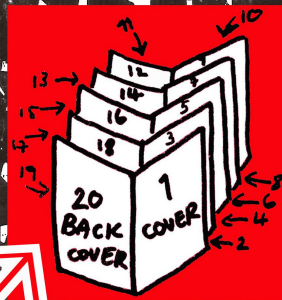
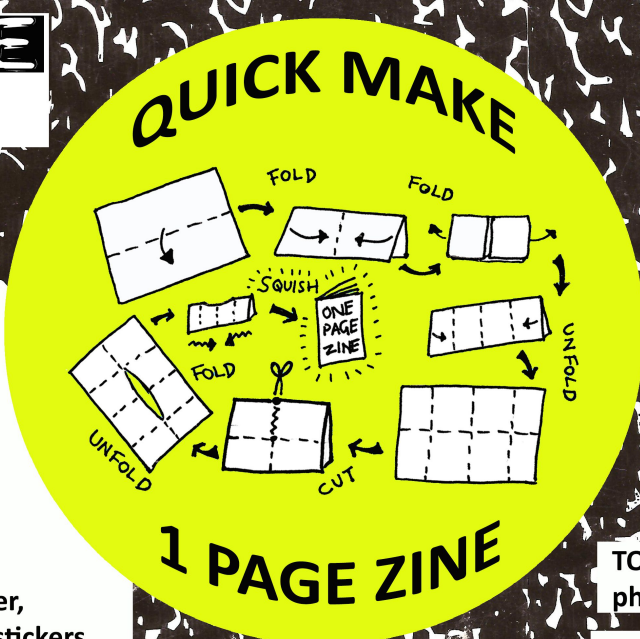
For binding:

- either
- Stapler
- Sewing needle and thread
- String/Yarn/Wool

First, collate your paper, fold in half to make a booklet.

To make an A5 zine you use A4 paper, each piece of A4 paper contains 4 A5 sections, and therefore all booklet zines have pages in a multiple of 4.

For a 20 page A5 zine you will need 5 pieces of A4 paper (20 divided by 5 =4, quick maths!)



A good place to start is the front and back cover. Or maybe an introduction page?

Cut 'n' paste style means just that, cutting things out and gluing them down. You can use wrapping paper or inside envelope for back ground, make collages of people from magazines, cut letters and words from newspaper. Write what you want to say on separate pieces of paper, cut them out and stick them on top. If you like drawing, draw some background patterns, make a mini comic strip, illustrate your written pieces. Just remember the order in which your pages will go.

When you have finished, this is now your master copy of your zine! You can bind it, or if you have access to a printer/scanner/copier, make copies to distribute!

TO COPY: Take each A4 piece of paper and print them double sided, collate the photocopies as you did with the master copy originally.

TO BIND: To keep your booklet zine together, there is a number of ways to bind it.

STAPLE: If you have a long arm stapler you can staple it twice in the spine, but if you only have a regular stapler to hand, then you can staple the zine on the side, near the edge of the spine.



STRING: cut a length of string/yarn/wool that is 3 times the length of your zine, place on the inside centre fold, bring round to the outside and tie a bow at the centre.



SEWING: Pre make 4 holes along the spine with the needle. Double thread your needle and knot at the end, sew through the holes weaving in and out, then sew back down the spine and knot the thread at the end.



ZINES I HAVE MADE

