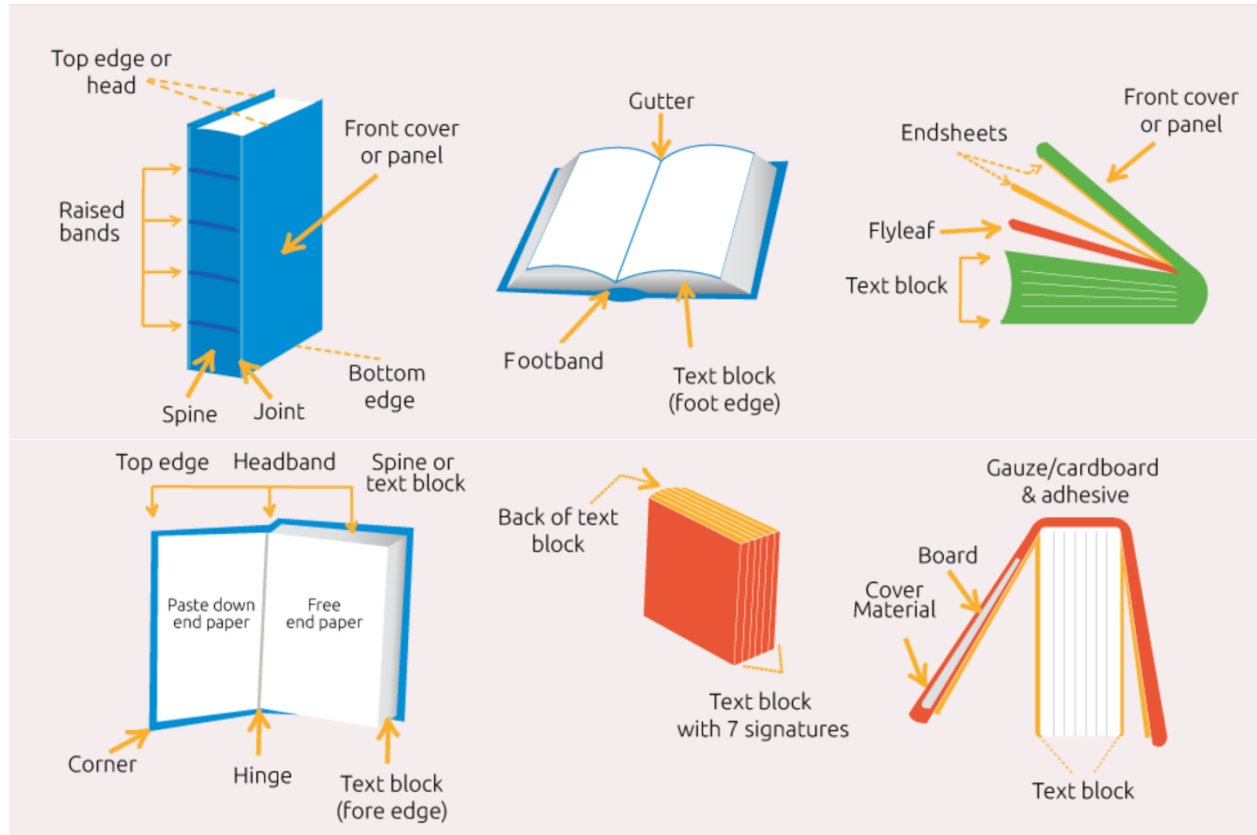


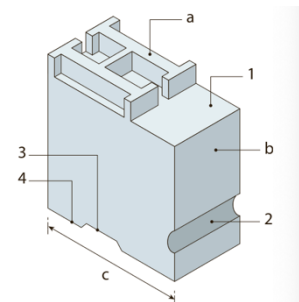
**Walt Whitman Initiative Book Making Workshop:  
DIY WhitGuides!**  
Please visit us at the Tane Poetry Library (91 South Street, NYC)  
or online at [waltwhitmaninitiative.org](http://waltwhitmaninitiative.org)  
Contact: [walt@waltwhitmaninitiative.org](mailto:walt@waltwhitmaninitiative.org)

## Book Parts



## Parts of a piece of type (or sort)

- a. **face**
- b. **body** or **shank** (this is also the front of the sort)
- c. **point size** (one em)
- 1. **beard**, curving down at **shoulder**
- 2. **nick**
- 3. **groove**
- 4. **feet**



## Paper terminology

**Sheet** or **leaf**: one piece of paper

**Page**: one side of a sheet (a leaf or sheet has two pages)

**Recto**: "right" or front side of sheet

**Verso**: "reverse" or back side of sheet

**Folio**: folding a sheet in half, making four pages

**Quarto**: folding a sheet in half, then again in half, making eight pages

**Octavo**: folding a sheet three times, making sixteen pages

**16mo**: a sheet folded four times, making thirty-two pages

**Signature**: a section of pages of a book. Books can consist of one or more signatures.

## Making a Quarto Pamphlet with a Simple Stab Binding (for use with WhitGuides “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” and “Whitman the Chemist”)

1. Fold the “WhitGuide” handout carefully on a flat surface, aligning the corners exactly. Hold the paper firmly and press down gently in the middle of the folded edge. Then fold from the center outwards, smoothing with the bone folder to create a sharp crease. With two folds, you will have an eight-page quarto pamphlet (wait to cut the tops of the sheets until you’ve sewn the pamphlet together securely).

2. If you have a book binding kit (as we do at the Tane Poetry Library), use the awl to mark and delicately puncture three holes inside the middle crease (or gutter) of your pamphlet: one in the middle, and an inch above/below. These holes will guide your needle as you sew the binding.

3. Cut a piece of thread, typically  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of your book. Thread your book binding needle with waxed thread, which is sturdy and easy to work with. The thread in your kit is pre-waxed; some book binders prefer waxing their own thread with a block of natural beeswax.

We don’t need to secure the thread for this simple sewing exercise, but in a more extensive project, use the side of your needle to flatten a bit of the thread that you’ve just passed through the eye of the needle (this “tail” shouldn’t be much longer than the needle itself). Pierce the thread with your needle and pass the needle through the thread. Grab the long end of the thread and pull it down, smoothing it out to create a small, secure knot near the eye of the needle.

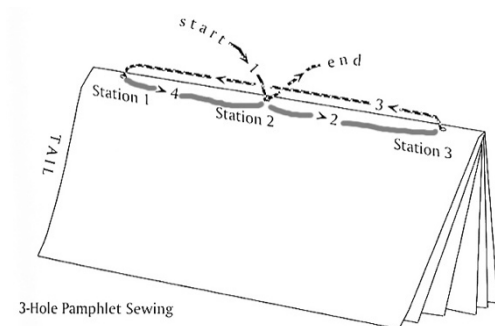
4. Sew the pamphlet binding:

- Go through station 2 to then inside. Leave 4” of loose thread hang on the outside of the spine.
- On the inside go to station 3. Go through to outside. Pull loose end of thread to 1”.
- Go along the spine, to station 1. Go through to inside.
- Go on the inside to station 2. Go through to outside of the spine. Tie a square knot around the stitch on the spine.

5. Tie with a square knot if you want to finish the job with professional flair; a simple bow will hold this small book together as well. Here’s a helpful video for the square (or reef) knot:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fS0TknH4MUc>

Finally, smoothen your work with the bone folder.



6. Cut the tops of the sheets free from each other with a clipt-point shoe knife (or cobbler’s knife; an old butter knife or letter opener does the trick) to enable readers to page through the entire pamphlet. The blade of the knife should be as flat as possible against the work surface, and the blade and the edge of the paper should make a roughly 30-degree angle. Start sliding the paper from the bottom of the blade, and slit the paper in an upward and outward motion.