

BOOK MARKER

Background

The history of the bookmark is almost as ancient as the book itself. Some of the oldest bookmarks have been found in European monasteries. Made of vellum (animal hide treated to use as a writing surface), they were in the shape of a disc with Roman numeral notations so the reader could identify the last column he/she read. Throughout the Elizabethan and Victorian periods, silk embroidered tassels were a popular choice of bookmarks, and nineteenth-century ladies magazines offered directions for making bookmarks out of embroidery, paper, and other materials. With this style, different kinds of paper were woven together and placed on the corner of the page for a neat and functional bookmarker.

Items Needed

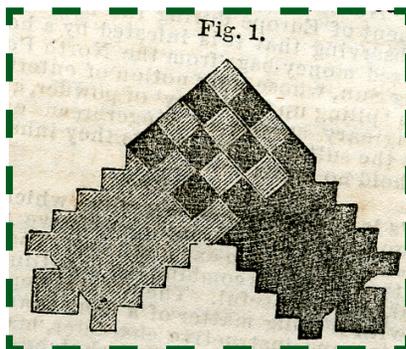
Strips of colored/and or patterned paper

Scissors

Ruler

Directions

1. Take a sheet of paper and fold in half. From the folded edge, cut one strip 2 inches in height and 3 1/2 inches in width. Do the same for the other sheet of paper (**Figure 1**).
2. From the folded edge of each strip, cut three strips 2 1/2 inches in length and 1/2 inch wide to give you four strips of equal width (**Figure 2**). On one, label strips at folded end (from right to left), B, C, D, and E. On other piece, turn sideways and label bottom strip A (**Figure 3**).
3. Put the B piece in left hand and the A piece in right hand, holding them perpendicular to each other.
4. Interlace strip A through B, then C through A, then A through D, and E through A, creating a woven pattern (**Figures 4-5**).
5. Continue to weave in an alternating fashion until complete (**Figures 6-8**).
6. Trim the ends to form a decorative design such as that in the below example from *Godey's Lady's Book*.



Godey's Lady's Book, vol. LXXVIII, no. 467, May 1869.
MDAH Manship House Museum.

FIGURES



Figure 1

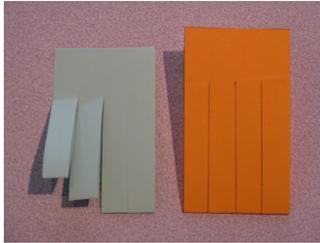


Figure 2

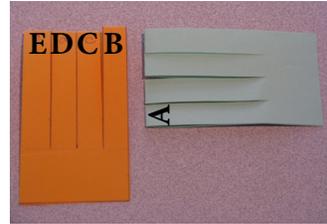


Figure 3



Figure 4

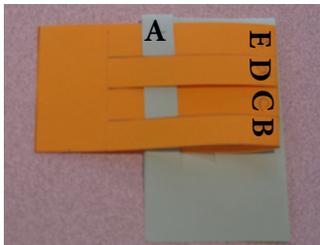


Figure 5

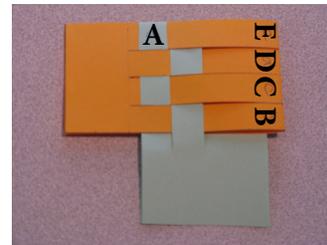


Figure 6

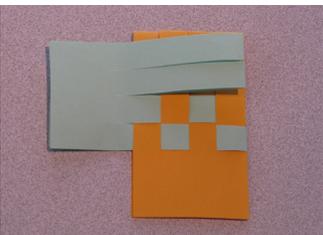


Figure 6 (reverse)

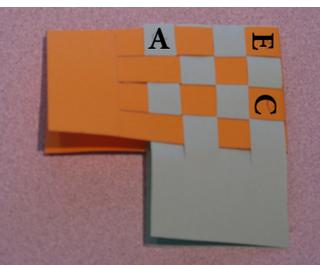


Figure 7

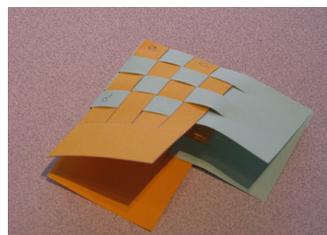


Figure 8

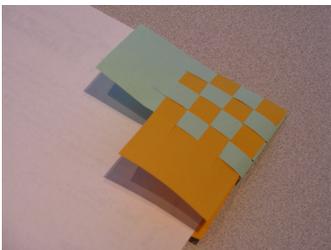


Figure 9