

Step by Step: Here are some tips to make a zine like the one you are holding

Mapping a Rough Draft

- 1 Begin by folding an 8-page zine
(See instructions in my zine on tiny book structures or search the web)
- 2 Prepare a rough draft with text and images
This divides a sheet of $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inch paper into 8 equal parts

Let's say this is a zine about 3 of my all-time favorite books

This step is low tech and can be messy and exploratory. Use pencil, glue stick, pen, Post-its, etc. It will likely take several tries to arrive at a sturdy first draft.

Pages 1+2, 3+4, and 5+6 will be viewed together when the zine is folded and need to be designed with this in mind.

Importantly:

Pg. 1 Pg. 2 Pg. 3 Pg. 4 Pg. 5 Pg. 6

Text + Image Interplay

- 3 Create final illustrations
I usually do line drawings and scan these in at 1200 dpi. Text mode, saved as TIFF images.
- 4 In the page layout computer program, I divide an $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ page into 8 equal parts. Here I combine text and images.
- 5 I tweak and edit until I'm pleased.

Importantly:

- * Leave an approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch space around the perimeter of your design. Most printers don't print all the way to the edge.
- * In the document, wait to flip pages 1+2 and 3+4 until the very end. It's too cumbersome to work upside down.

Pg. 3 Pg. 4

Adding Color to the Computer Document

- 6

A. Decide where to add color.

B. Create black art of the fields to be later assigned a color. Scan these at 1200 dpi Text mode, then save as TIFF images, same as line illustrations.

C. Assign a color and a tint percentage to the black fields. Then place the colored fields in back of the illustration.

80% tint of custom yellow

30% tint of custom yellow

Tools I Use

- * An 02 or 03 Pigma Micron pen for illustrations
- * Apple computer
- * Adobe InDesign for page layout
- * Adobe Photoshop to tweak images
- * An Epson WF 4740 for printing + scanning
- * Plus my own custom computer font made from my hand-writing

Check out www.calligraphr.com

Low Tech Options

Making a zine can be as simple as creating original art on an $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inch sheet of paper, for example:

- * with text and images assembled collage-like with glue or tape
- * or drawing and writing directly on the sheet of paper

A photocopier will make the multiples

Use skills and tools you have at hand

Pg. 5 Pg. 6

Regula Rusnelle, 2025

A zine or book is best organized from the center outward, the way a tree grows.

CEDAR FENCE PRESS
Nutshell Editions
www.RegulaRusnelle.com

A Few Tips about Production Techniques:

Steps I Take to Make a Zine

□ → □ → □ → □ → □

* a tiny **HOW TO** zine *