
Make a Zine – You’ll Be Glad You Did

Some time ago, our Programs Team announced that at the Club meeting on April 16th members will be coming together to share our printed “Zines” and discussing the process of making them. While mid-April seems a long way off, and it is, you will need a fair bit of time to put together your Zine project and to get it printed.

On Feb 28, a baker’s dozen of us got together to share information about Zines. This is a collection of some of the information and ideas that we discussed.

Why Make a Zine?

Many of us have hard drives and phones filled with images that no one ever sees beyond a quick social media post. Of course, thanks to Anna’s hard work, many of us have made single prints to frame and hang in exhibits.

Printing single images is definitely a good thing to do. Having a tangible product that we can hold in our hands is very rewarding. But there is something special about thinking of our images in series, or collections. Making a printed version of such a collection can be even more fulfilling.

Why a Zine rather than a book? The difference is one of degree, rather than a hard line. A Zine tends to be soft-cover, and fewer pages. If you are getting it printed, that will mean it is less expensive, which we can all love. Maybe think of a Zine as a test project, a chance to try out a collection of images and see how they work together. It is slim and light, and easy to mail, so a great way to share images with distant folks.

Inspiration

The Vancouver Public Library has a collection of Zines

Ted Forbes has lots of episodes that cover printed books and zines. These cover a range of ideas. Caveat, good for inspiration but not concrete how-to.

[New Photography Zines](#)
[Now THIS is a Photo Zine](#)

[What “Work That Matters” Looks Like](#)
[The PERFECT way to lay out a Photography Book](#)

And lots more on our website. Peter and Dee created a [very helpful list of links to online resources](#) to help make a Zine.

Getting Your Zine Printed

Unlike even a decade ago, we are awash in printing options – everything from printing yourself at home through to a formally laid-out project with a professional printer. We have created a list of resources

that are easy to use, have good reputations and / or are modestly priced. They all offer either an online tool for formatting your Zine, or a downloadable app.

HINT: If you aren't sure what type of project you would like, go to the local printers. They will have samples of their products that you can actually hold in your hands.

1. Local Resources (as in you can go into the store and pick up your Zine. No shipping needed. Better for timing and cost.

London Drugs: LD offers a wide variety of printed books, including several sized of [Soft Cover books](#), and a product they are calling [Magazine Style](#). Several of the people at the meeting have had books printed at London Drugs and were quite happy with the results. AND, shortly, club members will have access to a significant discount. Watch your email next week for details.

The Softcover books are less expensive. The Magazine Style books are made with a higher quality paper – much more magazine-like.

New West Photo Lab: Our good friends on 12th Street offers several style of books, [including soft cover](#). While he isn't the cheapest printer, remember he gives NWPC members a 10% discount, and he is a wealth of information, and is happy to help us make our prints and projects work.

Staples: Staples offers a [softcover option](#) in a variety of sizes. The prices are quite reasonable, and you should be able to pick up at your store.

2. More Resources – Canadian, except for Blurb:

Lightroom / Blurb: If you are a Lightroom user, you can make your zine directly from your Lightroom Classic, and have it printed by Blurb. It is quite simple to do and has the advantage of being able to tweak your images, and have the changes appear in your final product. Through LR, Blurb offers a “magazine” at 8.5 x 11, and three other softcover formats, 7” x 7”, 8” x 10”, and 10” x 8”. Each of these is a minimum of 20 pages, and quite moderately priced. However, there is a significant shipping cost to consider when comparing prices. For example, I just had a Zine printed for \$10.80 USD, but printing cost \$12.00.

Several people at the meeting have had books printed through Blurb, and were happy with the results. The big advantage of using the LR / Blurb option is that you don't have to download your images before you start working on your book. You can make changes to make images work together on the fly.

This is a short series of videos that take you through the steps of [making a book on Lightroom / Blurb](#).

If you aren't a Lightroom user, you can still print with [Blurb](#), using their Bookwright software to create your zine.

Walmart offers a range of [soft cover book](#) sizes, and very modest prices.

Henry's offers many options, including a range of [softcover](#).

Photo inpress by Black's has a wide range of sizes in [softcover books](#), and modest prices. They offer downloadable software to help you create your book.

Hand Made Zines:

As Peter and Dee demonstrated at the meeting, you can definitely hand make your Zine. It can be as informal as regular pages stapled together. The idea is to put together a collection of images that work together and / or tell a story. The format is up to you.

I was considering making a small self-printed zine, and wanted to do one that was 8.5" x 14", folded in half and stapled. I almost gave myself a stroke trying to figure how to organize the pages. Happily, I found a resource to help me put my images in the correct order for printing. It is attached on the last page.

This Modern Met article has links to several [hand-made Zine making](#) resources.

More Resources:

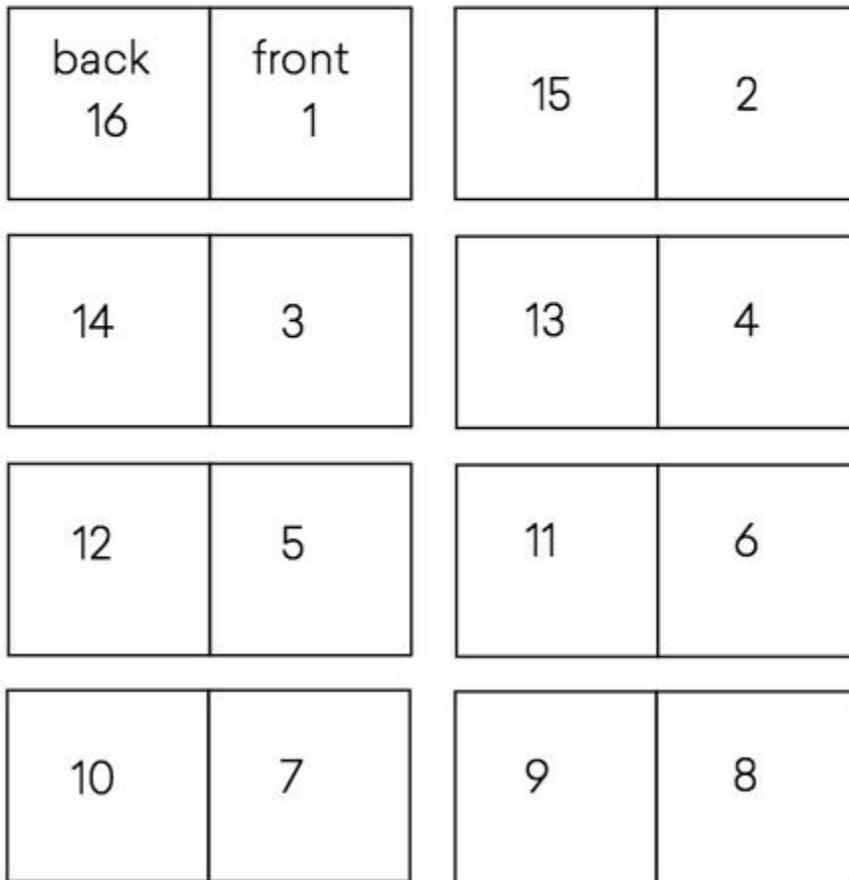
Peter and Dee created a [very helpful list of links to online resources](#) to help make a Zine. The afternoon I spent browsing the resources will time very well spent. You can find it on our website, under the MEMBERS ONLY tab, at DOCUMENTS AND FILES TO DOWNLOAD, choosing the WORKSHOPS, ASSIGNMENT AND MEMBER SHARING INFO

HANDMADE ZINE

Page number/order

When you fold your sheets, your front cover and back cover should always be the first and last pages of your layout, then to follow 14/3, 12/5, 10/7, 15/2, 13/4, 11/6, 9/8

Here's a template for making a 16-page zine.



side 1

side 2
