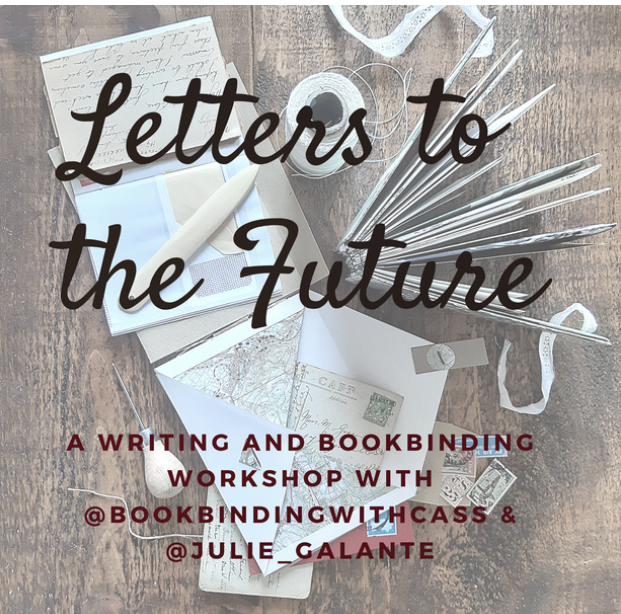


Letters to the Future

Kit list

An overview of what tools/materials you need with info on where to find them. Plus recommended suppliers and advice on scaling up/down.



Tools:

- Awl
- Bonefolder
- Cork punch board or old magazine to use when punching holes
- Bookbinding needle
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Bulldog clips
- Cutting mat or chopping board
- Scissors
- Craft knife or rotary cutter and metal ruler or quilting square for cutting card
- UHU glue
- Glue stick. Pritt Stick or similar

If you need to source bookbinding tools, I recommend locating your nearest bookbinding supplier or searching online. I can recommend [J Hewit and Sons Ltd](#), who are based in UK and ship internationally. Alternatively get in touch to ask about my bookbinding toolkits - bookbindingwithcass@gmail.com

Materials:

In my video tutorial I cover how to make an A6 landscape envelope book containing 12 envelopes and a series of signatures. The material list below provides measurements for making a book of the same size.

If you would like to experiment with sizing, see my notes further on in this document titled 'Scaling up and scaling down - things to consider'.

- **2-4mm grey board for book covers:** 2 pieces, roughly 12x17.5cm - measured to fit the size of envelopes you are working with, see my video tutorial 'Decorating your book covers' for instruction on how to measure, cut and cover your book covers.
 - **Paper for your envelopes:** a mix of plain and decorative paper/thin card to create your envelopes - wallpaper, coloured card, old maps, magazine pages, music sheets and wrapping paper work well for this. You need pieces that are roughly A4 to accommodate the envelope template. The book in my video tutorial is made up of 12 envelopes but you can add as many as you like, I explain this in my video tutorial.
 - **2 sheets of thick paper** (170gsm or similar): to create a sturdy envelope for the front and back of your book.
 - **Sheet of tracing paper** to make windows in some of your envelope.
 - **Stack of plain paper** (170gsm or similar): to create pages within your book and to make a concertina folder in your front and back envelope. See my video 'Adding signatures / pages' and 'Adding signatures & a concertina file' for more on this.
 - **Envelope template:** download and print the [two envelope templates](#) I have created for this workshop. **Please note:** I have detailed the measurements I use in my tutorial on the template, the idea being that each template will fit onto a sheet of A4 paper. If printing on a home printer it may take a few goes at tweaking the scale and margins etc. to get it printed to the correct size. If you can't get it exact, don't worry, you can measure your covers and other components to fit whatever size envelopes you make (as long as all your envelopes are the same size).
 - **Small headed split pins, stamps, tags, decorative paper:** to create fastenings for your envelopes and add decoration
 - **A piece of ribbon:** roughly 4cm wide and 10cm long
 - **Thread:** cotton, linen or embroidery thread that has been waxed to stitch your book
 - **String / bakers twine:** roughly 60cm long to create a fastening for your book
 - **An old cork and a coin or button:** to create a wax seal stamp, this is optional, see Julie's video in the 'Resources' section of the tutorial for instructions
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More info on materials and where to find them:

My style of bookbinding is all about using what is available to you and incorporating remnant and recycled materials into your book making. See below for my tips on the kinds of materials that work well for this book structure and ideas on where to find them.

Please get in touch if you have a recommended supplier or suggestions, and also note that when working with pre-loved materials there is a bit of trial and error - if you are not sure if what you would like to use is fit for purpose, do a test or ask for advice.

Grey board - I generally use 2mm thick recycled grey board for making hardback books, which can be easily found online and at your local art./craft store. I buy mine from [Manky Monkey](#) who supply a range of recycled card and papers. Mount board will also work and scraps can often be picked up from framers if you have one nearby.

Paper - in my tutorial I use a mix of recycled and remnant papers to create the envelopes in my book, including the following eco papers from the Green Stationary Company:

- Heavyweight tracing paper 112gsm
- Petal paper 120gsm
- Cream Straw 120gsm recycled paper
- Brown paper recycled rough craft 130gsm

If providing your own materials for this workshop, you don't have to use the exact same papers as I do but this will give you an idea of the types of paper that work well for this book structure.

As mentioned in the kit list, you can also use old maps, wallpaper samples, wrapping paper, old envelopes and calendars etc to make envelopes and add decoration to your book. Have fun collating your decorative papers!

In my tutorial I use [Artway 170gsm Recycled Cartridge Paper](#) for the signatures and sturdier front and back envelope - you can use the same or similar.

Glue - in my classes and kits I supply solvent free UHU glue. This allows for a strong bond and quicker drying time than some alternatives. PVA can also be used but will require more drying and pressing time. When using remnant papers it is difficult to know how they will react to wet glue, for example, more absorbent papers can wrinkle and warp and shiny papers can be difficult to stick. If you are unsure about how the paper/glue you are using will react, I recommend doing a test before committing to using it on your book,



Thread - there are different options when it comes to the thread you use to stitch your removable booklets, any of the following will work...

> **6 strand embroidery thread** - available in a range of colours from fabric shops, online suppliers and can often be found in charity shops and scrap stores. You will need to wax this yourself with a beeswax block. For **beeswax** I recommend [Livemoor natural beeswax blocks](#), enter the coupon code 'C856C2F9' at checkout to get 5% off.

> **1mm pre-waxed cotton thread** - available in lots of colours from a range of online suppliers.

> **Pre-waxed linen thread** - I use this [18/3 white waxed linen thread from J.Hewit & Sons Ltd.](#)



Suppliers:

The materials and tools required for this course should be easily available via your local bookbinding supplier, art/craft shop or online. You can also pick up great pre-loved materials from charity and second-hand shops.

If in the UK, I recommend:

- [J.Hewit and Sons Ltd](#) for bookbinding supplies
- [Locate your local Scrapstore](#) for remnant materials

Scaling up and scaling down - things to consider:

In my video tutorial I cover how to make an A6 landscape envelope book containing 12 envelopes and a series of signatures. The envelope template I have provided will create roughly the same sized envelopes as I use in my tutorial if printed onto A4 using my printing instructions and measurement as a guide.

Feel free to experiment with the quantity and sizing of your envelopes, using a template that is bigger or smaller, you can then cut your grey board covers to fit and measure your thread accordingly using my video tutorials for guidance. One rule you must follow to ensure you can stitch your envelopes together effectively is that they are all the same size overall.

This resource has been created for participants on my online Letters to the Future workshop, I kindly ask that you don't share this with any third parties, doing so will result in you losing access.

