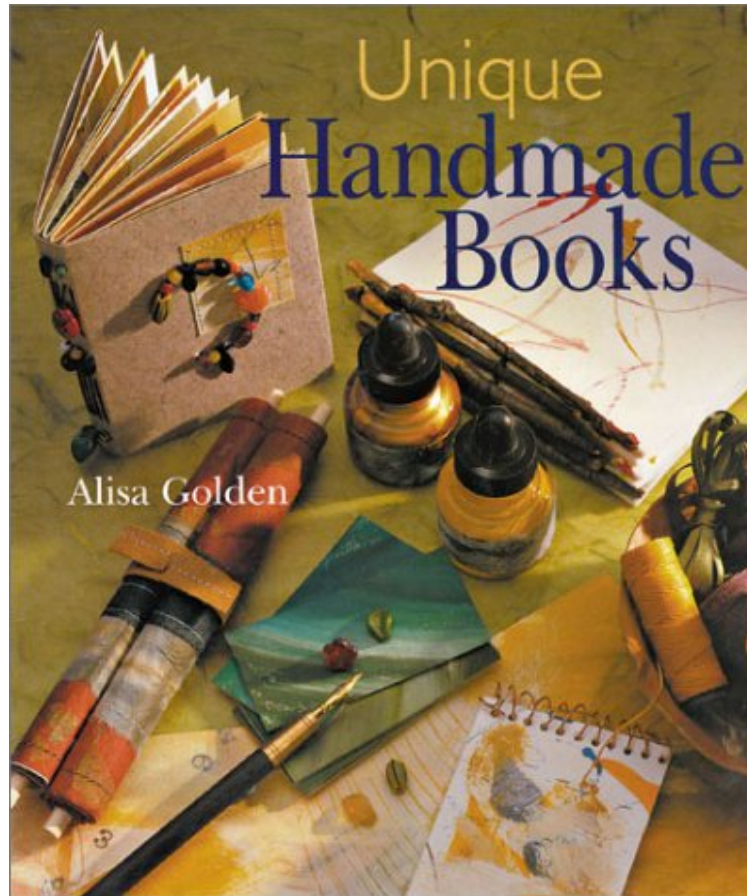


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Every one of these astonishing and original projects will redefine your idea of how a book should look. No simple rectangles here, but one-of-a-kind volumes folded like an accordion; shaped and themed, with windows and envelopes; thickly sewn and decoratively woven; dressed in "wedding netting" for a bride; and made out of paper bags. There are even containers for protection and display, and they can enhance the meaning of a book's text. Along with advice on paints, inks, stencils, transfers, and distressed covers, you'll find fun ways to make collaborative books, including ones to create with a child.

.com Most people visualize a book as the standard set of text-laden pages bound between two covers. But this traditional format is simply one of the nearly infinite possibilities once an artist gets ahold of the concept, as Alisa Golden ably demonstrates in Unique Handmade Books. Against the backdrop of her own work as well as the contributions of 13 other book artists, Golden explores various approaches to creating one-of-a-kind handmade "books." Dozens of project instructions teach you how to make assorted book forms, including accordion-fold constructions, pocket pages, simple binding methods, and more unusual forms such as tunnel books (layered boxed scenes resembling dioramas) or Jacob's ladder books. You'll also learn less tangible skills such as how to find ideas, play with design concepts, and make a collaborative book. Since these creations are often more like mixed-media sculpture than volumes to be read, the projects serve more as a general guide for exploring our own creativity than making exact duplicates of Golden's offerings. Experienced crafters, and even very adventurous beginners, will find a wealth of inspiration here. --Amy Handy