



ANNE'S TIPS & TRICKS
a guided knit-along session

FOR BOOKMARKED KITS

WELCOME!

Hello, Let's knit some tiny books!



I'm Anne: your kit-maker and fellow knitter.

I am a knitting artist.

I hand-dye yarn, make my own clothes, and write about knitting as a way to better care for ourselves and unwind from all the things that make our world hard.

I value equity and social justice.

WELCOME!

Hello, Let's knit some tiny books!



I think you're a knitting artist too.

Whether what you make is beautiful, or a hot mess, the act of creating something is **art**.

Here's how we'll
spend our time
together



1. OPEN YOUR KIT



2. MY TIPS



QUESTIONS



Hunter's pattern is all you need.

Truly.

I'm here to share things I found helpful when I knit my own little books, and to encourage you.

You can do it!



SLIDING BOX KIT

WHAT'S IN YOUR KIT?

SLIDING BOX -or- ALTOID-STYLE TIN KIT

- Yarn
- Sliding box (flat pack) or an Altoid-style tin
- Cardboard covers & spine
- Magnets
- Silk embroidery floss
- Superglue

Sliding box kit only: button,
satin ribbon +
two pieces of wool felt

ALTOID TIN KIT



OPEN A NEW BROWSER TAB

DOWNLOAD YOUR HAND-OUTS

1. ANNE'S TIPS
2. IDEAS FOR EMBROIDERY

bit.ly/bookmarked-kit

BOOKMARKED
IDEAS FOR EMBROIDERING YOUR BOOKS

An adorable way to embellish your knitted books is to make them look like antiquarian books by embroidering the front cover and spine with gold or copper embroidery floss. I used gold silk embroidery floss, but any color will work.

Before blocking your knitted book, separate the thread (e.g., do not separate the threads) and embroider the knitted fabric in a way pleasing to you.


In these pages, I have drawn arrows to point to the stitches as guides or jumping off points.

Your Bookmarked pattern is truly all you need. It takes you through each step of knitting and assembling these adorable knitted books.

If you're like me, though, you enjoy having a knitting friend tell you about the parts they found tricky and the ways they avoided trouble. Or, even, the ways they got *into* trouble so you can learn from their misakes!

Here are *my tips* of things to be mindful of:

- 1. SWATCH**
You want your knitted books to fit a very specific size of cover and "pages". Save yourself the trouble of your knitting not fitting, and swatch.
- 2. GLUEING THE FLAT-PACK SLIDING BOX CAN BE A BIT TRICKY**
I've made a video on how to glue the flat-pack boxes that I offer in my kits. You can find it here: bit.ly/bookmarked-kit
- 3. BE REALLY CAREFUL WHEN USING SUPERGLUE**
Have a bowl of water in your work area. Then, if you get glue on your fingers, like I did, *immediately* submerge your fingers in the water and rub them together. This can sometimes help. If the glue has dried, you can sometimes accelerate the "shedding" process by filing the glue with an emery board or a nail buffer. Just be careful and try to file away the glue, not your skin.
- 4. CHECK THE POLARITY OF YOUR MAGNETS**
It's really important to match polarity. Hunter says this in her pattern. So, of course, I did it wrong. It's a pain to fix, so here's a tip for doing it right:
Put your magnets together and mark the outsides with a Sharpie. Open the magnets like a book, and remember to glue the side with the X to the cardboard.
If you do it wrong, you can cut around the edges of the glued magnet with an Xacto knife and pry the magnet up. It will rip part of your cardboard, but you know what? It's fine. The magnets are strong enough that you can reglue them, and they'll still hold.
- 5. HOW I ADDED MY RIBBON LOOP**
Measure the exact distance your ribbon loop needs to span: from back cover, around the button, and back. Glue *both ends* of the ribbon to the cardboard back cover. This will make a very secure loop. Just remember to glue *both ends* to the *inside* of the back cover (the same side as your magnets). Tape over it. Saturate the tape with glue. Then, when you're assembling the cover pouch, pull the ribbon loop through the knitted pouch using a knitting needle to stretch open stitches, and a pair of tweezers to grab it.
- 6. CONSIDER HOLDING YOUR EMBROIDERY FLOSS DOUBLE**
I liked the sketchy look of a single thread of floss, but many folks doubled it for a stronger "gilt" look.


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TIP #1

VISUALIZE THE CONSTRUCTION

1. Knitted **pouch** which becomes the outside of the book and holds **cardboard covers & spine**
2. Inside of the book, which is the **sliding box or tin**
3. Embellishments: **embroidery**, and for the sliding box: **button and ribbon loop**
4. *Optional*: felt or painted covering to the sliding box



TIP #2

SWATCH



You need a gauge of 7 stitches per inch

I got gauge with size 2.75mm needles

You will need to swatch to find out what **your** gauge is.

TIP #3

KNIT THE COVER POUCH

- **Knitting instructions** are on page 10 of the pattern, about 2/3rds of the way down the page.
- The **first number** is for the tin and the **second number** is for the sliding box.
- You **don't need to calculate** anything. (You're not making a custom size.)



TIP #4 FOR SLIDING BOX ONLY

KNIT THE INSIDE POUCH

- **Knitting instructions** are on page 13



TIP #5 FOR SLIDING BOX ONLY

ASSEMBLE THE SLIDING BOX

Watch the tutorial video at:

bit.ly/bookmarked-kit



TIP #5 FOR SLIDING BOX ONLY

ASSEMBLE THE SLIDING BOX

- Glue the light cardboard cover (but not too snugly)
- Cut the box pieces
- Glue them together
- Be careful not to glue your fingers
- This part can be tricky



TIP #6

GLUE THE MAGNETS



- Superglue is strong: Don't glue your fingers!
- The magnets are strong: Don't pinch your fingers!
- Check your magnets' polarity. Open them like a book and use a Sharpie to mark the sides that need to touch.
- Glue one magnet to the cardboard and its mate to the box or tin.

TIP #6

HOW TO KNOW WHEN TO STOP KNITTING

Knit until you feel like you're "almost there."

Put a cardboard cover inside your pouch-in-progress.

Stretch the pouch (put it under a bit of vertical tension).

Mark the top of the knitting.

Measure how much farther you have to go.

Calculate your under tension row gauge (count number of rows you've knit and divide this by how far up your cover your knitting stretched).

Multiply your row gauge under tension (1 inch = how many rows?) by how many inches you have left to knit.



TIP #7

AFTER BLOCKING, IT'S TIME TO EMBROIDER!

Double the silk floss (two strands together)

Duplicate stitch -or-

Free-hand embroidery

Ideas at bit.ly/bookmarked-kit



MORE EMBROIDERY IDEAS

Thank you, Luann, for sharing photos of your little books!



MORE EMBROIDERY IDEAS

Thank you, Luann, for sharing photos of your little books!





TIP #8

SLIDING BOX ONLY

Adding a button and ribbon loop

- **Measure** how far the ribbon needs to stretch. (Remember, it's not elastic, so you need to be relatively precise.)
- **Glue** the ribbon to the cardboard
- Use lots of glue and then **tape** over it for extra security
- After the cardboard is inserted into the pouch (and the pouch is grafted shut), **fish it out** through the stitches using tweezers



TIP #9

SLIDING BOX ONLY

How to decorate the plain brown box

- Glue some felt onto it. (Newer versions of the kit include wool felt pieces)



TIP #9

SLIDING BOX ONLY

How to decorate the plain brown box

- Paint the box and use steel wool to “distress” it.

| You can do it!



QUESTIONS



LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

littleskein.com

- Sign up for my weekly newsletter
- Yarn updates are most Sundays
- Follow me on Instagram @littleskeianne