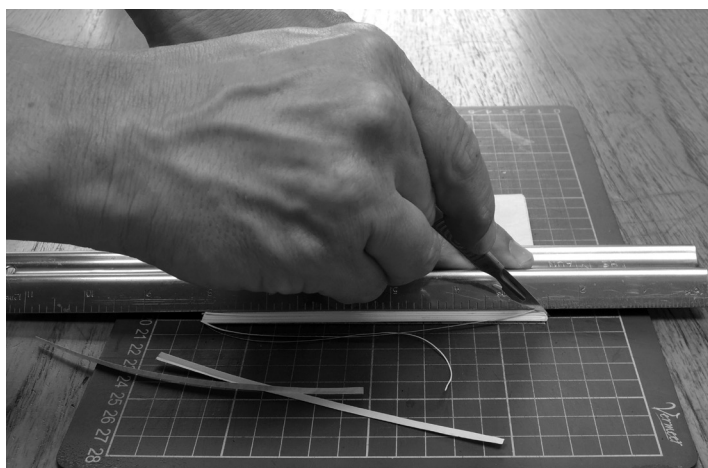
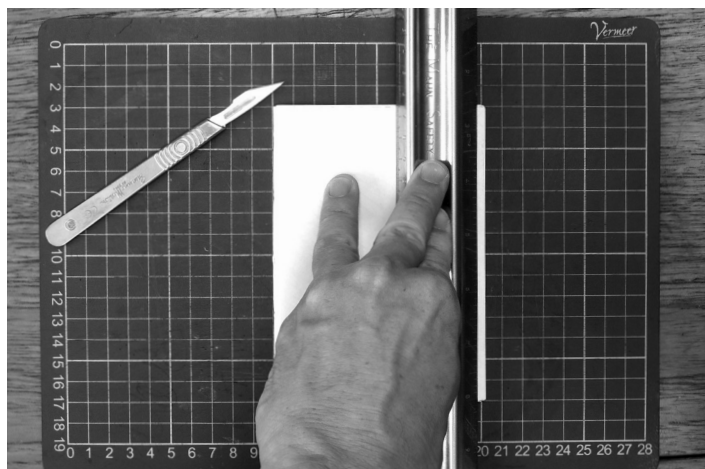
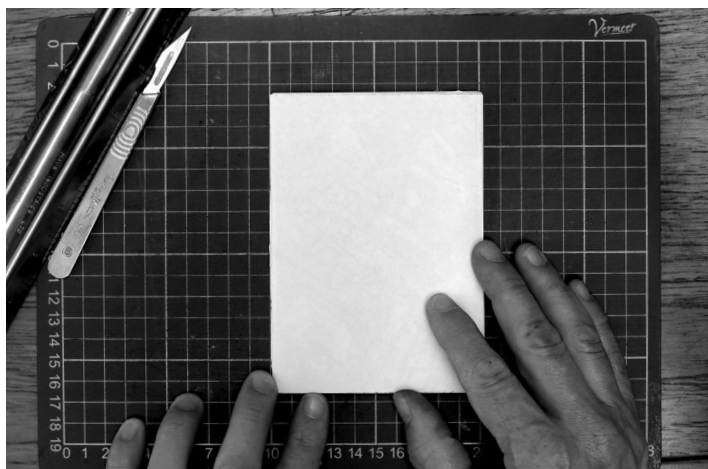


Bookbinding - Essentials

Trimming A Book With A Scalpel



You can trim your book with a scalpel if you don't have access to a guillotine. This technique is suitable for thin books made up of one or two sections. For books with more sections it is recommended to trim the sections individually before making the bookblock. You will need a cutting mat, metal ruler and scalpel with a new blade.

01. Always trim the fore-edge first. Line up the spine of the book with the grid on a cutting mat.
02. Place a metal ruler on the fore-edge leaving as much of the edge that you wish to trim. Ensure your ruler is square to the grid and in turn parallel to the spine.
03. Hold the ruler firmly in place (it is best to stand at the work surface to do this).

04. Use a scalpel with a fresh blade, carefully and gently cut from the head to the tail of the book. Let the knife do the work - don't try to cut the book in one go; repeated light strokes will cut the book more efficiently and with a cleaner finish.
05. The head and tail may be cut in the same manner. Ensure the ruler is square to the spine by using the grid of the cutting mat or a set square.
06. Carefully and gently cut from the spine towards the fore-edge with repeated light strokes.