

home reference manual

Cool paper projects for kids



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Observations

home reference manual

I started my project with the discovery of similar books in bookstores. Because I did not know nothing about designing a home reference manual especially for kids. I have never done a graphic design work for kids, naturally, it was a big challenge. Luckily, I did not expect in the beginning, but my passion about colours and illustration made this project more enjoyable for me. I also tried to empathize with children and put myself in their shoes when I discover this genre and also create my design concept. First, I examined and analyzed the design systems of these books and made comparisons between their design approaches. For instance, I tried to observe that is there any difference in design for different age groups or what are the design approaches generally used, such as photography, illustration or collage. The first thing that I noticed that, designing a book for kids -especially a do-it-yourself book- is not like designing a book for adults. DIY books for kids are substantially different in both content and presentation of information. Designers are aware of the clarity of the project steps and its components, like text and image, while designing a DIY book. When, however, it comes to children's books, the feasibility and easiness of the spread design require more conscious decisions. The approach that a designer should have when s/he designs a book for kids is presenting the information accurately while designing enjoyable content to attract them. I was already aware in the beginning about the difficulty in communication with children. Discovering the books in that genre made me more comfortable and informed about the project and made easier to understand the requirements of a home reference manual for kids.

At the end of my discovery, I decided to design a paper project book. It is a really basic do-it-yourself book type, but generally I found the content of these books not so innovative and witty enough for the new generation, because they have lots of decorative paper projects which are not so useful and practical. For this reason, I wanted to design a home reference manual which has a more fresh content. After this decision, I named my book as "Cool Paper Projects for Kids" and I identified the paper projects that I am going to use mainly from the online sources.

Audience

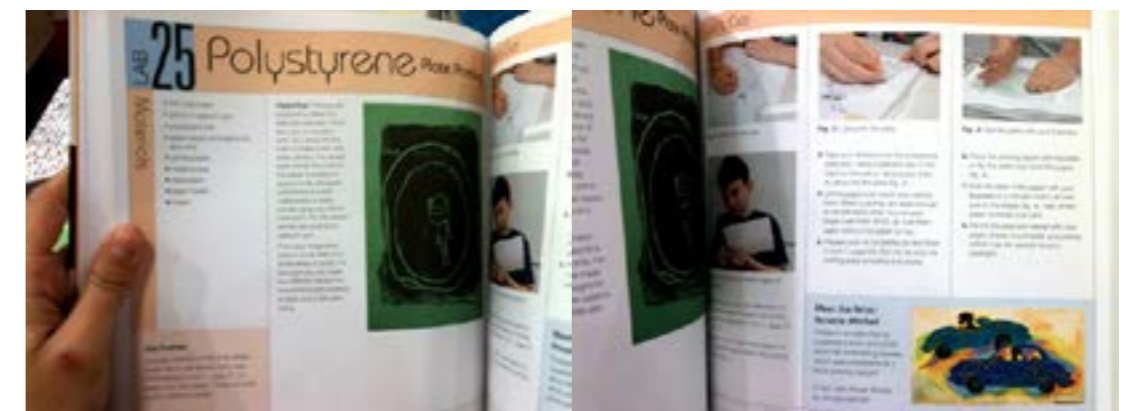
When I positioning my target audience, I got the clue from my paper projects. My paper projects generally require to use scissors, so it was an indicator of the age group of my audience. I decided my age range which is from 8 to 12 years old. Furthermore, this range is more suitable for handling with the projects in this level and using scissors in a more controlled way. The kids in this age group could also use these paper projects in their daily life and enjoy more than younger kids. After identify my audience, it becomes more easier to focus on my design approach. Before taking this step, I had to make a broad research about the other approaches.

Analysis of existing market and different editions

I examined the spreads of DIY kids books by looking both online and bookstores. There were some good examples as well as the bad examples. My general overview for the spreads that I examined is that they generally are not well-considered designs that suitable for the age of kids. Even, some of designs were more like for adults. Some of them have a style and fancy visual elements and typefaces, but they look too crowd on the page together and there are lots of visual elements, so it becomes harder to follow instructions clearly. Besides the dense spreads, some of them had more clearer and nicer approach, but had a problem like being too organized and a little bit dull for a kid.

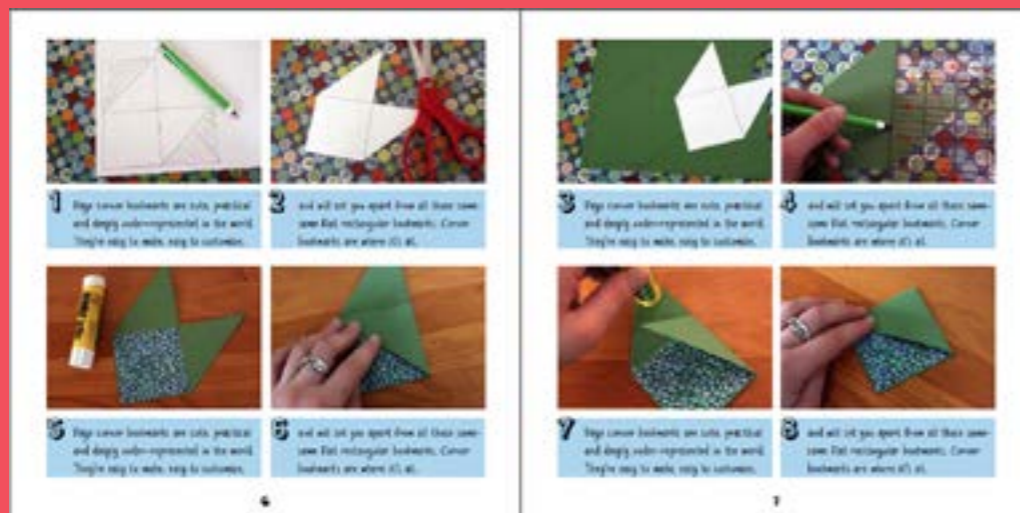
I also encountered some good examples as well. The presentation of the instructions were more successful and clearer. Additionally, the use of illustrations and visual elements were more appropriate and stylish enough to have a unique design concept. Some of them used both photography and illustration in order to create more dynamic spreads.

This research and examination made easier to decide my design approach and the visual elements that I am going to use. It guided me to find the voice what exactly that I want in this project.



Spread designs from different home reference manuals for kids

Transformation



Initial Approaches

home reference manual

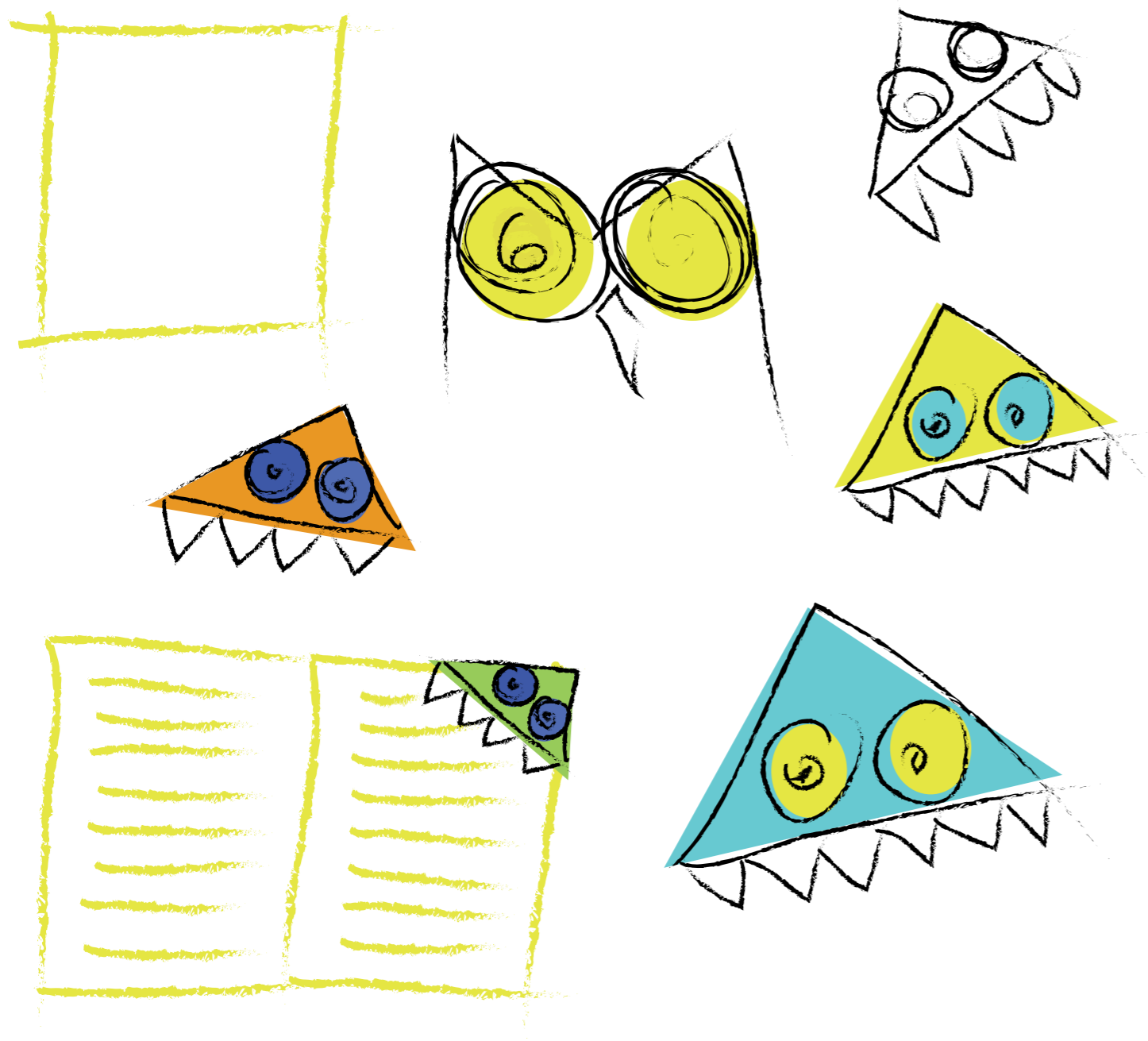
After I found some suitable projects for my certain age group, I started to identify possible visual and design elements for my book. Possibly with the impact of crowded spread design of other books, I designed a very simple and plain spreads at the beginning. After feedbacks in the studio by our tutors, I was encouraged to design more bouncy spreads, especially for the process pages. The process pages should be clear and doable, but at the same time, it should create an excitement for kids with its design elements and visuals. Thus, my designs were a bit dull and boring for kids because of my usability concerns, so I reconsidered whether I should have a regular margin or not.

I started to redesign my spreads and decided to work with a flexible layout to make spreads more flow and bouncy. I developed two different designs. In one of them, I used a frame on the edges of the page like a scissors cut and presented the images with the same approach. In the second design, I made



My initial designs

the spread more bouncy with an illustrative wave line. I used the same line approach as a frame for the instruction pictures. Differently from the first approaches, I also used colours much more than before in order to appeal children.



Process / Methodology

I wanted to use simple but friendly illustrations alongside the photographs. I started to illustrate some of the components of the projects. I did not want to use photographs for the equipments in the reference page. So, I made some illustrations by using my graphic tablet. I also wanted to draw some auxiliary illustrations for the process page as well, but these visuals were more decorative ones to make the spread more fancy for children.



Final Design

Monster Corner Bookmark



★★★★☆
Difficulty Level

YOU WILL NEED:
Paper, scissors, glue,
pencil, ruler.

Page corner bookmarks are cute, practical and deeply under-represented in the world. They're easy to make, easy to customize, and will set you apart from all those same-same fat rectangular bookmarks. Corner bookmarks are where it's at.



1



On a plain paper, draw a square by using your ruler. Draw another square in the same size on the right and the left sides of the first square.

2



Using your ruler, draw a diagonal line across the uppermost square, from its top right corner to its bottom left corner. Do this for the other square as well.

3



Cut out all parts of the entire shape that have not been scribbled out. This should be a square with two triangles attached to it, one on the top and one on the right. This is your template.

4





Trace your template onto your pretty piece of cardstock (or onto the plain piece of cardstock that you intend to decorate), and cut the shape out. your template.





Final Design



Just For Fun


5  Using your ruler, draw a diagonal line across the uppermost square, from its top right corner to its bottom left corner.

6  Cut a square of pretty paper slightly smaller than the one you used for your template and glue it onto the square portion of your shape.

7  Fold one triangle inwards, so it covers the upper half of the square.

8  Apply glue to the underside (the side still facing up) of the second triangle, and fold it over onto the first triangle.

9  **10**  If you've used plain cardstock and want to glue fancy paper on top of it, cut out a triangle of the fancy paper that's slightly smaller than the folded-over triangles of the bookmark.

11  For making eyes to your monster, you can use stencil ruler or you can use coins for drawing a circle, after that cut these circles.

Add any decorations or illustrations you wish. Use by slipping over the corner of the page you wish to mark, like a pocket.

TRY NOW
on your book!

56 57

Final Design

Paper Creations

Paper art can be simple, fun and very creative. You can tear it, cut it, fold it or add it to another material. Paper is used to create many forms of art, such as drawing, painting, paper machè and origami. For example, by using simple folding techniques, you can turn a plain sheet of paper into a three-dimensional sailboat or even a spring flower.

The paper creations section uses a variety of paper products and things such as crayons, scissors and glue. After you turn your simple paper into a rabbit or a beautiful butterfly, you may never look at a sheet of paper the same way again!



Materials

For making 'Cool Paper Projects', it is shown the materials here. These are the basic materials that are used in simple projects and every kid should get these equipments.

The important thing is making your projects in your way! Leave them plain if you like, or decorate them with glitter, take gemstones, sequins, bits of ribbon and other fancy stuff! If you don't have the fancy materials to decorate your project, use your imagination to find something else that will work just as well.

Last but not least, enjoy every bit of your moments while doing these projects!



Final Design

