HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF KOREAN BOOKS

The hand scroll (두루마리) was the earliest type of mounting. In the early days (Unified Silla period - Goryeo Dynasty, 5th-14th centuries), scrolls were used for Buddhist sutras. Later during Joseon Dynasty (14th-19th), scrolls were used for royal documents. Rods at each end allowed scrolls to be rolled up for storage and transportation.

Folding books (albums and accordions) were a natural development from the hand scroll, to allow for easy opening and viewing of pages. Early accordion books were often used to house hand-copied sutras. Later, folding books were used for sheet music, lists, ceremonial procedures, royal calligraphy or drawings. Advances in printing techniques (such as printing with movable metal type) spurred developments in bookbinding, resulting in the stab-bound or metal bindings.

ANATOMY OF A KOREAN BOOK

GBW Standards of Excellence Seminar in Hand Bookbinding Steph Rue | 2023
How to Make a Korean Side-Stitched Book

MATERIALS:
- 20-30 sheets of hanji for textblock
- 2 sheets of cover paper, cut slightly larger than textblock
- 2 twisted paper cords
- Cotton or silk binding thread, 4 times the height of the book
- 2 small pieces of book cloth for corner pieces (optional)
- 1 small strip of hanji for title strip (optional)
- Paste and/or glue stick

TOOLS:
- Work mat
- Awl
- Hammer/mallet
- Straight-edge ruler
- Needle
- Paste brush (if using paste)
- Bone folder
- Scissors/acto knife
- Binder or bulldog clips
- Press boards + weight

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Fold each sheet of hanji in half and place in a neat stack.
2. Make sure the textblock is aligned and clip together.
3. Use an awl and hammer to punch 4 holes (2 sets of 2 holes) 3/16” from the spine. (Use punching jig, and make sure your work surface is protected!)
4. Make 2 paper cords and thread one cord through each set of holes.
5. Tie the cords tightly, pound knots down with hammer, trim cord ends and pound until they lie flat.
6. Attach fabric corners. (optional - see below)

Fabric corner version 1:

Fabric corner version 2:
7. Measure size of covers using inner binding as a reference.
8. Using bone folder, turn in margins of covers in this order: spine, head, foot, fore edge.
9. Trim margins, leaving approximately 1/2” on all four sides.
10. Miter corners using scissors.
11. Apply a little paste/glue stick on all four edges and dry flat under weight.
12. Gather entire book together (2 covers and inner binding), clip or keep under weight.
13. Using an awl and hammer, punch 5 holes 3/8” from the spine. (Use punching jig and make sure your work surface is protected!)
14. Wax thread (optional), thread needle, and sew according to demo.
15. Apply paste/glue stick on inside cover turn-ins and adhere to endsheets.
16. Attach title strip. (optional)

Done!
Hanji: Book + Paper Resources

Hanji/Eastern Papermaking + Related Arts
- Korean papermaking and recent lecture on hanji with Aimee Lee
- Hanji-making + art-making process with Steph Rue (Asian Art Museum)
- Eastern Papermaking by Peace Paper Project
- Japanese Papermaking PDF by Don Farnsworth (Magnolia Editions)
- Momigami (Japanese kneaded paper) PDF by Don Farnsworth (Magnolia Editions)
- Korean paper weaving with Aimee Lee
- The History & Characteristics of Traditional Korean Books & Bookbinding by Minah Song
- Steph’s research blog: stephruejournal.wordpress.com
- Aimee Lee’s website and book: aimeelee.net, Hanji Unfurled.
- FIDES International (Bokyung Lee, hanji distributor based in Seoul): ifides.com/
- Hanji Edition: publishers of fine art and prints on hanji (Steph Rue, Lars Kim)

Paper/Papermaking Suppliers in the US/Canada
- Hiromi Paper in Los Angeles, CA. paper (including hanji), book cloth, tools. hiromipaper.com
- Paper Connection in Providence, RI. paper (including hanji). paperconnection.com
- Washi Arts. online store. washi, tools/supplies. washiarts.com
- Japanese Paper Place in Toronto, Canada. washi, tools. japaneepaperplace.com
- Carriage House in Brooklyn, NY. papermaking supplies, equipment, paper. carriagehousepaper.com
- Talas in Brooklyn, NY. bookbinding and conservation tools, paper (including hanji), book cloth: talasonline.com
- The Morgan Conservatory in Cleveland, OH. paper (including hanji), kozo/dak fiber for Asian papermaking. morganconservatory.org/shop
- Amy Richard Studio in Gainesville, Florida. kozo/dak fiber for Asian papermaking. anyrichardstudio.com/shop
- Twinrocker Handmade Paper in Brookston, IN. book art and papermaking supplies, paper. twinrocker.com
- Arnold Grummer in Appleton, WI. Papermaking supplies, great for beginners or classroom use. Great presses. arnoldgrummer.com

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Book/Paper Suppliers in Korea/Japan

- Paper Nao in Tokyo, Japan. huge selection of plain and decorated handmade paper, including hanji. papernao.com/
- Masumi in Tokyo, Japan. bookbinding and conservation tools, book cloth, washi. masumi-j.com/
- Goo Ha San Bang (구하산방) in Insadong, Seoul, Korea. brushes, etc.
- Baekje Hanji (백제한지) in Insadong, Seoul, Korea. conservation/bookbinding/mounting supplies, hanji.
- Jangjibang in Gapyung (hanji mill) and Insadong (shop): hanji.
- Andong Hanji in Andong, Korea. largest hanji mill in Korea.

Websites on Hand Papermaking

- Paper Slurry: general info on hand papermaking
- Catherine Nash: resources on papermaking, encaustic, and photography
- Helen Hiebert: Paper Talk podcast and blog
- Peace Paper Project: lots of great resources, ideas, tutorials, esp on pulp printing
- Magnolia Paper: resources and downloads on Western and Japanese papermaking
- Hand Papermaking Magazine: free articles for beginners

Institutions/Organizations Dedicated to Hand Papermaking

- North American Hand Papermakers
- Hand Papermaking Magazine
- International Association of Hand Papermakers and Paper Artists (IAPMA)
- Dard Hunter Studios
- Dieu Donne
- Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory & Educational Foundation
- Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking at Georgia Tech
- International Association of Paper Historians