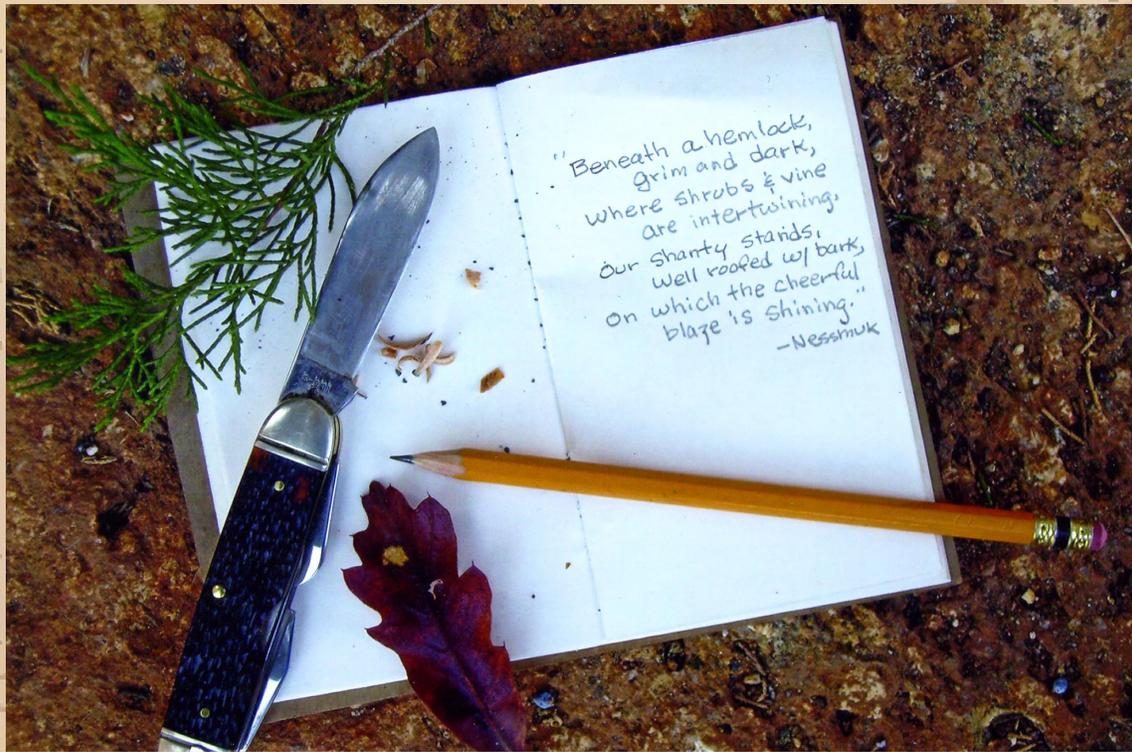


# The Vest Pocket Notebook

By Steve Watts and David Wescott



*"There should be a pocket made in your shirt or vest to fit your notebook, and a part of it stitched up to hold a pencil and a toothbrush...."*

*No camper, be he hunter, fisherman, scout, naturalist, explorer, prospector, soldier or lumberman, should go into the woods without a notebook and hard lead pencil. Remember that notes made with a hard pencil will last longer than those made with ink, and be readable as long as the paper lasts.*

*Every scientist and every surveyor knows this and it is only tenderfeet, who use a soft pencil and fountain pen for making field notes, because an upset canoe will blur all ink marks and the constant rubbing of the pages of the book will smudge all soft pencil marks.*

*Therefore, have a pocket especially made, so that your notebook, pencil and fountain pen, if you insist upon including it—will fit snugly with no chance of dropping out."*

**Daniel Carter Beard, 1920**

*American Boy's Handybook of Camp-lore and Woodcraft*

*A pencil and a notebook stuck in a shirt pocket can save your memories, your sanity or your life. Homemade notebooks are the cheapest and can be custom fitted to your needs. Pencils are preferred over pens. They are easily sharpened and there is no fussing around with spilled or dried ink. Pencil notes will not be washed away or smeared by the rain or an unexpected dip in a stream. Dan Beard suggests a #3 pencil over a #2. The harder graphite is more resistant to smudging.*

"Pocket notebooks were part of the arsenal of a long list of great men from Thomas Jefferson to Thomas Edison... The repositories of eminent men's personal effects nearly always includes a pocket notebook full of their ideas and musings." *The Art of Manliness*

"A commonplace book is a central resource or depository for ideas, quotes, anecdotes, observations and information you come across during your life. The purpose of the book is to record and organize these gems for later use in your life, in your business, in your writing, speaking or whatever it is that you do."

*The Thought Catalog*

"...the commonplace book is like a record of what that memory might look like."

*Max W. Thomas*

Your notebook serves many functions:

- A journal or diary of the mechanics and logistics of your trip.
- A place to record your thoughts in verse or prose.
- An inventory of gear taken and a list of changes and ideas for the future.
- A place to record a "patrol map" when venturing into unknown territory.
- Paper to leave a note when away from camp for a companion or potential rescuers.
- Paper for fire starting when good dry natural tinders are unavailable.
- A sketch book for natural history illustrations.
- A press for collecting natural history specimens.

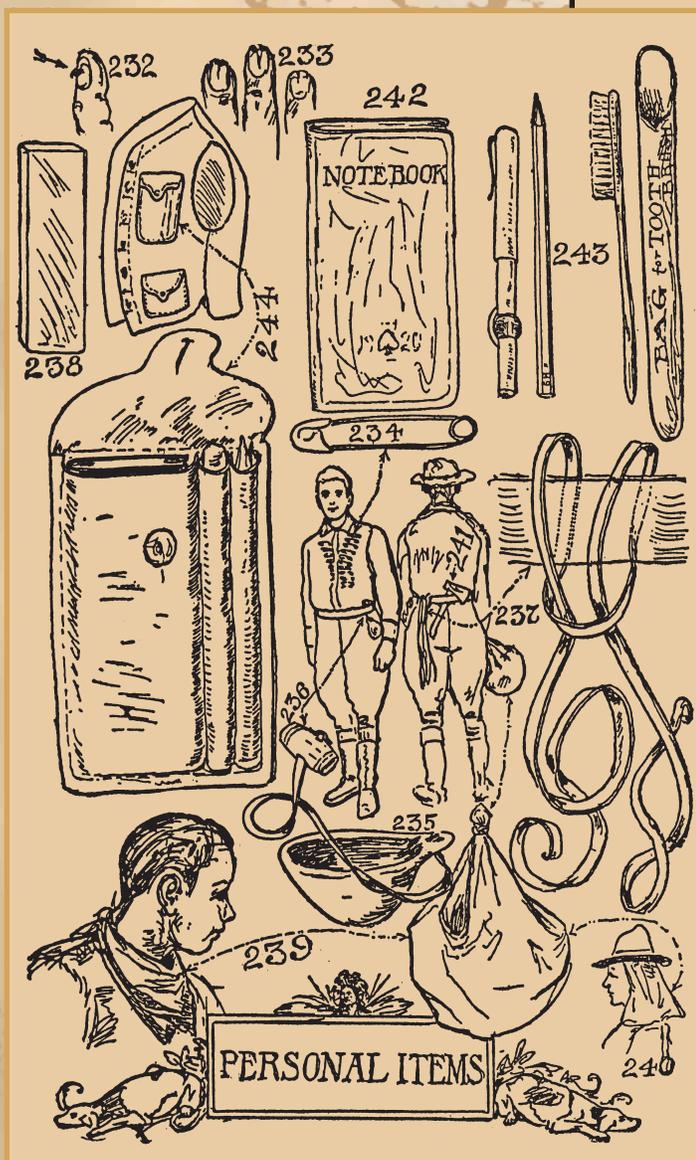
## The Commonplace Book

Carrying a pocket notebook has become a contemporary fad...great if it gets people to write their thoughts down by hand. One popular notebook with a historic pedigree boasts that their notebook is "an accumulator of ideas and emotions which are then released over time....capturing reality on the move, preserving details, impressing the unique aspects of experience upon paper." Much of what we now know about classic style comes from the notes of masters of the past that are once again being "released over time."

Kephart kept extensive journals and scrapbooks of notes and ideas that were the basis for *Camping and Woodcraft*. Having seen his journals, it is clear that he knew that the skill-set of the outdoorsman was not a one-size fits-all approach to living in the outdoors. He clearly points out the differences between the woodsman, the plainsman, the frontiersman and the highlander in a number of entries. Gaining a mastery of the skills needed to live in your place is what Aldo Leopold called "a working knowledge of the land."

Start collecting your insights by creating a notebook of your own.

*Drawing of the Buckskin Man's Pocket  
By Danial Carter Beard, 1920*



# Make Your Own Notebook

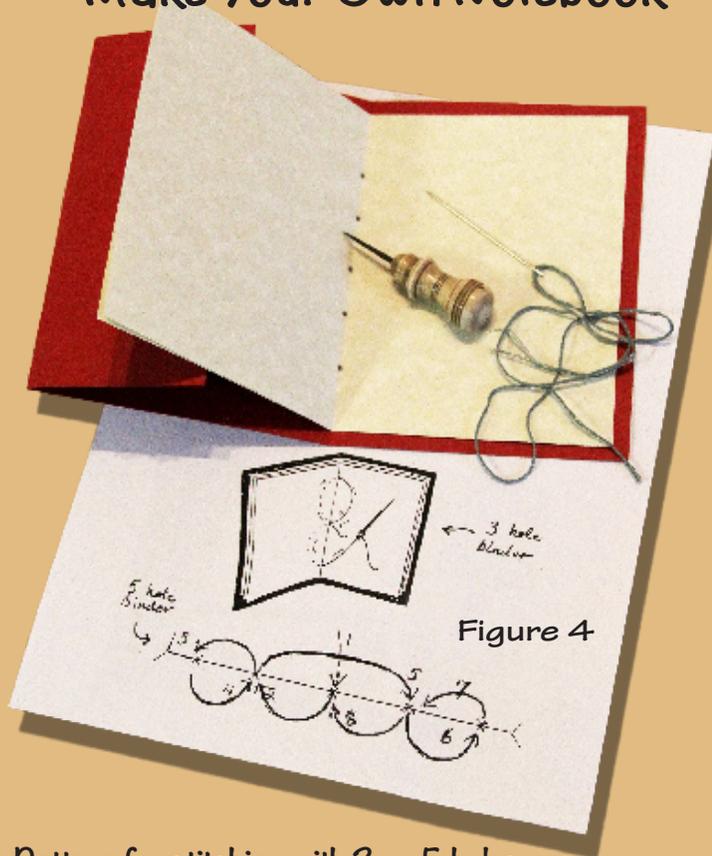


Figure 4

Pattern for stitching with 3 or 5 holes.



Figure 1

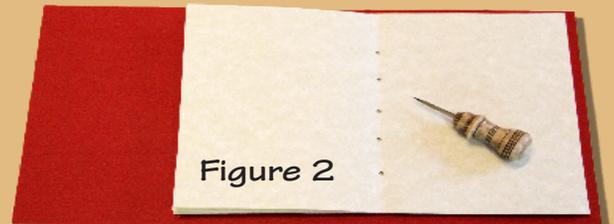


Figure 2

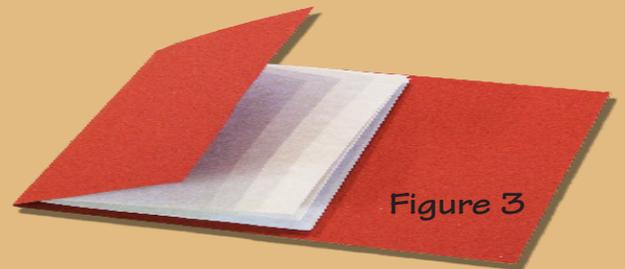


Figure 3

To make a single signature book, cut 6 sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper in half, long-wise. Use 12" x 12" craft paper for the cover. Cut it in half. It will give you a 1/4" border around the paper and extra length to create an internal pocket (Fig. 1). Fold and crease each page separately and then stack them inside each other. Mark with a pencil the number of stitches you want to have, and make holes with the awl (Fig. 2). Place the pages on the cover and fold as shown (Fig. 3). Stitch through the pages and the cover using a darning needle and heavy thread with the pattern you choose (Fig. 4). A marker ribbon can also be sewn in between the pages and the cover at the same time.

If you want to make a book, multiple signatures can be sewn together and glued to a cover by the end papers.

- Materials Needed**

  - 1 sheet 12" x 12" card stock
  - 6 sheets 8.5" x 11" parchment
  - Linen or Darning Thread
  - Scissors
  - A Darning Needle
  - An Awl (optional)



**Campsite Projects**

Toolcraft	Carve spoon	Frame Saw
Pinecraft	Sharpening Stick	Traps
	Tinder Making	Tinder Tube
Camp Craft	Sewing Kit	* Button Sampler
Water Dig		Notebook
Cupcraft		Cotton Dolls
Reprocraft		
Flower	Tongue	
Water Dig	Blanket pack	
Toolcraft	Sketch Map	

\*Fennimore's Broom, Safety pin, Collie/Buttons, Sew, Mowley's pin, Darning needle, Buckle button, Antler button, Toggle, thread, parrot

**Thursday Projects**

Toolcraft	Knife	Sketch
	Leatherwork	Sewing
	Try/Puzz Stick	Gypsy Flower
Tincan Craft	Ball	Woodstone
Reprocraft	6" rope	Splice
	Looking	Scars
Flower	F & S Kits	Old Lamps
	Straw a little pouch	