

How to Make a Photography Sketchbook

Every street photographer would benefit from making a sketchbook. My advice: **delete your Instagram and create a sketchbook!** Instead of sharing an Instagram handle with those you meet, let them flip through a physical sketchbook. It's personal, tangible, and leaves a lasting impression. Just give them your name and contact info to stay in touch.

Step 1: Buy a Small Notebook

For a compact, easy-to-carry option, I use the **Muji Passport Memo**. It's small enough to keep in my pocket, making it accessible whenever I'm out. Whether I'm in a coffee shop or just hanging out, I can share my work in a unique way. A small sketchbook makes sharing feel much more **enjoyable and personal** than scrolling through an Instagram feed.

Step 2: Buy a Cheap Printer

To make your sketchbook, a compact printer is essential. I use the **Canon Selphy CP1500** with the **Canon KP-108IN Color Ink and Paper**. The printer is small, easy to use, and works perfectly with the **SELPHY app** on my iPad or iPhone. Here's my process:

1. **Print 8 photos** on one 4×6 sheet.
2. **Cut each photo** into individual frames.
3. **Tape them** into the sketchbook.

This approach allows me to quickly add new images and keep my sketchbook up-to-date with recent work.

Step 3: Make Small Thumbnails

Viewing your work as small thumbnails lets you **shuffle them around** and experiment with sequencing. If a photo holds up as a thumbnail, it's a good indicator that it's a keeper. Working with thumbnails also brings a unique perspective to the flow and narrative of your images.

“If your photo is strong as a small thumbnail, then it's a good determining factor of whether or not it's a keeper.”

Step 4: Start Sequencing

For a more hands-on approach, try sequencing photos on a wall using **wall-safe tape**. A slightly larger thumbnail works well for this, so I print 4 images on one 4×6 sheet for a bigger view. Sequencing on a wall or in a larger sketchbook lets you visualize the progression of your work on a grander scale.

Step 5: Just Have Fun

Ultimately, making a sketchbook should be an enjoyable process. It's a creative way to **rethink and explore your photography**. There's no limit to how you can use sketchbooks to view your work. Don't take it too seriously—*just try it, and have fun with the process!*

Making a photography sketchbook gives you the freedom to think outside the screen, experiment with your work, and create something uniquely yours. So grab a notebook, get printing, and start sketching!