

PocketMod Books



At www.pocketmod.com, you have the opportunity to download a Macintosh or PC version of a great, FREE program called *PocketMod* that creates an ingenious and customizable 8-page organizer out of a single sheet of paper. The program takes pre-designed organizer forms and lets you arrange them anyway you want. The program comes with scores of pre-designed pages for you to choose from. These 8 pages you choose are each shrunk to 1/8 of a piece of paper, so that when you fold the one page print-out, your new organizer can fit easily in your pocket or purse.

The author recently created a second, Windows only application called *PDF to PocketMod*. You can also download it, free of charge at the website. This highly versatile program allows you to change any 8 page PDF (made in any program of your choice) into a PocketMod. (You will need a PDF creation program such as *PDFCreator* (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/>) to turn your 8-page file into a PDF.) Once your file is a PDF, you start *PDF to PocketMod*, find your file, and with one click it becomes a one page *PocketMod*. If you are creating a PDF in a program like *Word*, do not use a text size smaller than 24 point so that it is readable when turned into a 1/8 page that is part of a PocketMod.

PocketMod and PowerPoint

Many special educators know how to create great storybooks in PowerPoint. These on-screen stories show in the landscape orientation on the computer. If you create a PocketMod out of a standard PowerPoint, the pages will flip up to maintain this orientation. If you know, though, that you want to turn a PowerPoint presentation into a PocketMod only, then choose your background design and go to File Menu → Page Setup. There you can choose the Portrait orientation for the slideshow layout. Now, when you make the presentation into a PDF, you end up with a book in the typical orientation.

PocketMod and Database Programs

To create a book with data base information (like the Solar System PocketMod attached), create a data base in any program but make sure that your record is a full sized sheet of paper (get at this setting when you lay out the fields). Otherwise, you'll end up with blank space at the bottom of each page after you PDF the eight records.

From Print to Book

Once your book is printed, you have to cut and fold. **Be sure to cut off the edges of the paper first.** Then fold the book according to instructions.

Making Sure the Books Last Longer

We've experimented with laminating PocketMod books, and we've run into a few problems – primarily caused by the thickness of the laminating plastic and then trying to fold the book. The solution that seems to work best is to use a single laminating sheet (3mil or less) over the printed page side (leave the blank back of the sheet alone). Then trim the edges. Then fold. Spend time really pushing down on the folds by using a ruler or pen to create a sharp fold. When the book is together, stand it up and fan out pages. Use a piece of tape at the top of each page to hold front to back of pages together. They tend to gap more when the pages are laminated.

PocketMods for Younger Students

PDF to PocketMod is an ideal tool for creating "little books" for children to carry and use whenever they want. They make ideal books for social stories or daily living sequences. Create these books by making an 8-page file in a word processing program like *Word* or an 8-slide presentation in *PowerPoint*. Because the screen or page is going to be shrunk in the book to 1/8th of a piece of paper, be sure to use large enough fonts as well as fonts that match lettering that the student is learning. **(We use 24-36 point as a minimum.)** When the book or

presentation is finished, save it and then turn it into a PDF file. The file is now ready to be made into a PocketMod. In addition to books, here are some other ideas for K-6 student PocketMods:



- ☞ Activity choice books
- ☞ Frequently misspelled words
- ☞ Vocabulary words for a unit
- ☞ Picture/word dictionaries
- ☞ Number fact families – especially good for multiplication. Assume they know 1's and 0's. Use the eight pages for 2 – 9.
- ☞ Letters with common objects starting with that letter. Three books will do the entire alphabet.
- ☞ Regions of the US maps (maximum of 8 states can be a little tricky, but it can be done. Create with a data base program so that the same info appears on each page
- ☞ The eight planets (Thanks to the International Astronomers Society for getting rid of number 9, Pluto!)
- ☞ Weather journals. Each page is a day, or every page is for recording different weather info for a period of time (cloud type and cover, temperature, precipitation, etc.)

PocketMods for Older Students

One of the most popular uses of the PocketMod for the older student will be the base program on line or downloaded for organization. Students can maintain daily, weekly and/or monthly calendars as well as note-taking paper, to do lists, and reference materials. If they lose one organizer, they just print another. The contents of the organizer can be changed from week to week as needs change. Remember, students can write on PocketMods.

Here are some other ideas for individually created PocketMods for older students:

- ☞ Most frequently misspelled words
- ☞ Most frequently confused homonyms with meanings
- ☞ A glossary of terms with readability appropriate synonyms or definitions, especially valuable for new science units or difficult texts
- ☞ A rubric check list for note-taking or writing
- ☞ A translation aide for foreign language
- ☞ A summary of a chapter to be read
- ☞ One chapter question per page with room for the answer to be written or the page number on which the answer is found
- ☞ Important formulas that need to be remembered or could be used on tests
- ☞ Software quickstarts
- ☞ Dates for a given history chapter in divisions that cover the length of the chapter. Students take notes on events within the time period for each of the pages. The result is a chronology of events. This is particularly important when info is coming from different books.
- ☞ Data collection “journal” for fieldwork. For example, every page could be a different test or observation that the student needs to make.

Sharing PocketMods

We have started a new section on our website at www.onionmountaintech.com. Email us your pocketmod creation as an PDF attachment (jsweney@onionmountaintech.com). We'll double check the PDF on both platforms. In your email, be sure to describe the PocketMod and let us know who should get credit. Then look for the link on our homepage for *Download PocketMods*. With a single click you can download any PocketMod there and print it out.



Venus

Order from Sun **2**

Surface **rock covered by clouds**

Atmosphere **carbon dioxide**

Diameter in Miles **7,519**

Number of Rings **0**

Number of Moons **0**

If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh **88** pounds here.



Earth

Order from Sun **3**

Surface **water, land**

Atmosphere **nitrogen & oxygen**

Diameter in Miles **7,926**

Number of Rings **0**

Number of Moons **1**

If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh **100** pounds here.



Mars

Order from Sun **4**

Surface **dust and rock with ice at poles**

Atmosphere **carbon dioxide**

Diameter in Miles **4,194**

Number of Rings **0**

Number of Moons **2**

If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh **38** pounds here.



Jupiter

Order from Sun **5**

Surface **hot gas and liquid**

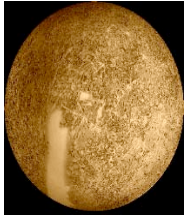
Atmosphere **clouds of gases**

Diameter in Miles **88,736**

Number of Rings **4**

Number of Moons **63**

If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh **265** pounds here.



Mercury

Order from Sun **1**

Surface **rock covered with dust**

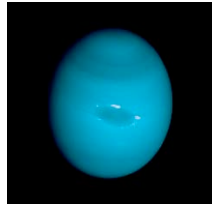
Atmosphere **helium & hydrogen**

Diameter in Miles **3,032**

Number of Rings **0**

Number of Moons **0**

If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh **38** pounds here.



Neptune

Order from Sun **8**

Surface **liquid with cloud layer**

Atmosphere **hydrogen & helium**

Diameter in Miles **30,775**

Number of Rings **4**

Number of Moons **13**

If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh **??** pounds here.



Uranus

Order from Sun **7**

Surface **unknown**

Atmosphere **hydrogen & helium**

Diameter in Miles **32,193**

Number of Rings **11**

Number of Moons **27**

If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh **??** pounds here.



Saturn

Order from Sun **6**

Surface **liquid and gas**

Atmosphere **hydrogen & helium**

Diameter in Miles **74,978**

Number of Rings **1,000**

Number of Moons **31**

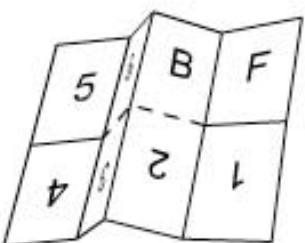
If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh **107** pounds here.

Folding Instructions

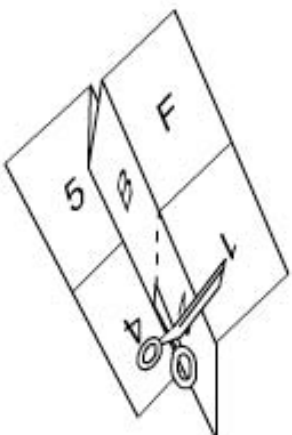
Note: All folds should be to the lines printed on the paper, and not to the actual edges of the page.

F	1
B	2
6	3
5	4

1. Start with front page at top left

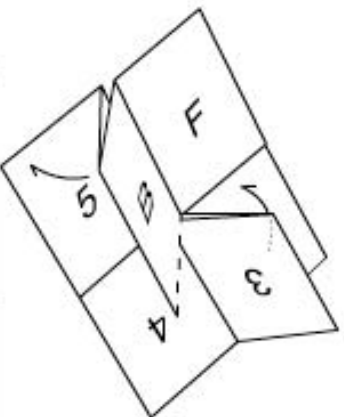


2. Fold in halves

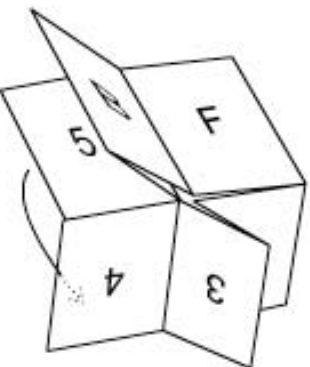


3. Cut at dotted line in center

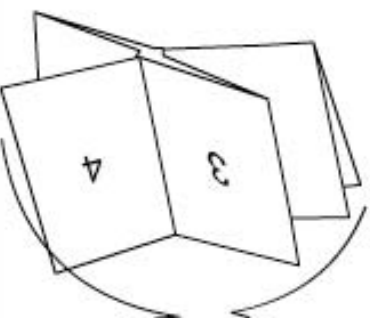
4. Fold to opposite ends.



5. Fold in half vertically



6. Fold in half horizontally



done. enjoy!

