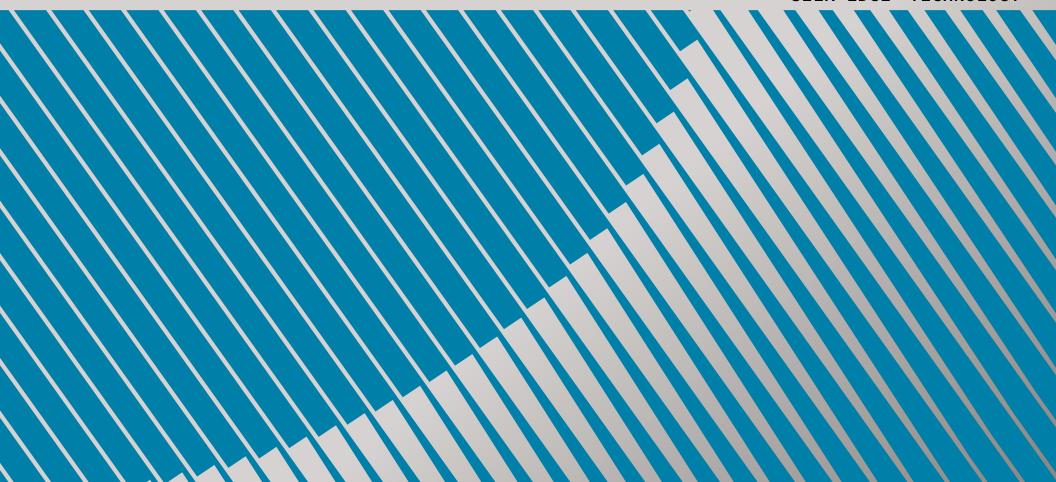


SILK EDGE™ TECHNOLOGY



CONCEPT. RESEARCH

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Early 2022 I became briefly fascinated with early 1990s dot matrix printers, more specifically the way these printers handled paper and the form factor the paper had to be in order to be printed properly. The reams were accordion folded, connected by perforated edges and lined with rows of circular holes for the printer to anchor and pull the paper through the machine. It felt so intentional, mechanical and precise, yet it was designed that way for the singular purpose of running through dot matrix printers so I started to wonder if there was a way to use that form factor for other purposes.

My initial concern with using (or rather, re-using) dot matrix paper was in the way recycling was handled. Most companies stopped production on this form factor in the mid 1990s, and I could only imagine that recycling procedures were not very mindful or creative, with most paper simply mulched and reprocessed into other forms. However, I found that Ebay.com has quite a surprising amount of sellers holding onto dot matrix paper in its original packaging - and in surprisingly large quantities.

I decided I would approach this project from the perspective of a company attempting to upcycle old dot matrix computer paper. I found that the simplest way to achieve this was to turn it into a sketchbook. The paper already came pre-bound with perforated edges, so it would simply be a matter of attaching cardboard covers to reams of 100 pages to keep the paper flat and protected.









BRANDING. RESEARCH

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As for the packaging and brand design itself, I decided to mimic office surplus and supply companies. Designs varied very little, had very little public marketing, and most business was dealt between third-party buyers and direct-to-seller. Although not the most "beautiful" designs in the world, there's something to be said about the clean-cut simplicity and utilitarian design each of these companies harbored.





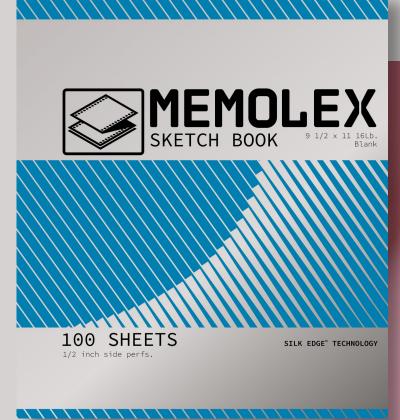


Above are examples of simple, straight forward ads and logos that achieve the minimum requirements to sell their products. No nonsense design and corporate.

BRAND.MOCK-UPS

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Repeating vector patterns, mixed copy hierarchy, and simple vector icons make up the final design mock-ups. The goal was to imitate the unobtrusive design of corporate office supply sellers, taking something traditionally not public-facing and placing it on shelves with more notable art-book brands. Ironically, this approach created a stand-out design among a sea of creatively organic products.





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MISC. EXPLORATIONS

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After creating my initial sketchbook concept I decided to branch out and experiment with applying the Memolex branding to other media forms. I thought a cassette tape was appropriate to the time period I was working from and decided to try my hand at creating packaging for a bulk consumer cassette tape. My research was decidedly less than my sketch book exploration. I picked out a handful of design inspirations as well as measurements for cassette tapes to create an accurate model and jumped off from there.





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