



make-a-thek in a box

A starter kit to activate your make-a-thek journey

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A starter kit for your make-a-thek journey

make-a-thek in a Box is a compact physical and digital starter kit designed to help libraries take the first steps in setting up, communicating, and activating their make-a-thek space.



The box brings together printed materials, communication tools, activity resources, sewing supplies, space planning tools, and links to the digital kit.

It is conceived as the first practical support for libraries that are beginning their make-a-thek journey and need a tangible, ready-to-use set of resources to start engaging staff, users, communities, and local partners.

The box is not meant to contain everything needed to run a makerspace. Instead, it works as an activation kit: it helps libraries introduce the project, explain the make-a-thek approach, start simple activities, plan the space, and connect physical resources with the digital toolkit.

The box is also designed for libraries with limited space that want to activate make-a-thek in a pop-up or temporary format. All materials can be taken out, used during activities, and stored back in the box after use. At the same time, the box itself can function as a small showcase, making communication materials, project resources, and first activity tools visible and accessible to users.

make-a-thek in a Box represents a minimum setup for activating a make-a-thek space, even when the space is temporary or pop-up.

The box includes physical materials, printed resources, small tools, and access points to digital resources.

The Box

The make-a-thek in a Box is stored in a [Eurobox](#) format (40 × 30 × 18 cm). The Eurobox format was chosen to make the make-a-thek in a Box easy to replicate: libraries can create their own version using standard supplies that are widely available almost everywhere.

The Eurobox was selected also for its practicality, sturdiness, and ease of storage and transport. Its **lidded design allows the opened box to double as a compact display module for presenting materials, communication tools, and project resources.**



If you want to build your own box with recycled materials, see also the resource **“Build your own “M-A-T in a Box” Storage Box”**

What is inside the Box

Space planning materials

These materials help libraries imagine, test, and discuss how their make-a-thek space could be organized, which machines to introduce, and how to set up the space based on library and community needs and desires.

Included:

- **make-a-thek Space Planner (physical kit + guidelines)** to learn how to design a make-a-thek space using a physical and digital planning kit
- 1 pouch for the Space Planner (physical kit)
- **Machine Cards** - A practical set of cards to explore key machines: what they do, their pros and cons, required skills, and approximate costs.
- **Output Cards** - A set of cards connected with the Machine Cards to start learning about what you can do and

The Space Planner supports libraries in working with floor plans, machines, furniture, and usage scenarios. It can be used internally by staff or during suggested co-design moments with users, makers, facilitators, or community members.



If you want to discover more about the usage of those tools, see the online resources **“make-a-thek Space planner”** and **“Machine Cards”**

Tools and activity materials

These materials support first hands-on activities, help libraries understand and manage the make-a-thek approach in practice, and help users approach making in a simple and accessible way.

Included:

- **sewing sets**
- **Activities** sheets with beginner-friendly formats for first-time users
- **Wearable Wall Organizer** - A step-by-step guide to sew a versatile tool organizer that can be worn, hung, and customized for your m-a-t space.
- **Learning game cards** to start peer learning activities on machines, materials, and circularity

Those materials can be used to introduce basic making, repair, textile activities, and playful exploration of tools and materiality.

Communication materials

These materials help libraries explain the make-a-thek project and make the space visible and recognizable.

Included:

- flyer postcards about the make-a-thek project
- folded brochures about the make-a-thek project
- folded brochures about the digital kit and open materials
- Main main make-a-thek poster
- Manifesto poster
- “Welcome to this space” poster
- newsletter sign-up card
- stickers with pouch
- bookmarks
- machine stickers
- Press pages

These resources can be used during events, workshops, library introductions, community meetings, and pilot activities.

How to use the box

The box can be used in different moments of the make-a-thek journey.

1. To introduce the project

Use the postcards, brochures, posters, bookmarks, and stickers to explain what make-a-thek is and invite people to discover the space. These materials can be placed:

- at the library entrance, near the make-a-thek area, on information desks
- during public events and workshops
- in welcome packs

2. To start a conversation with users

The box helps make the project tangible. Instead of explaining the make-a-thek only through words, libraries can use the materials to show its values, tools, activities, and possibilities. For example:

- use the Manifesto poster to introduce the values of the space
- use the Welcome poster to explain how people can enter and use the space
- use Machine Cards to discuss possible machines and activities
- use Learning Game Cards to understand new things and start the chat!

3. To plan the space

Use the Space Planner kit to imagine how the make-a-thek space could work.

Start from a simple question: ***How do we want people to use this space?***

Then use the planner to explore:

- where machines could be placed;
- where activities could happen;
- how people move through the space;
- where materials and tools are stored;
- how the space can support both individual use and group workshops.

4. To run first activities

The box includes basic tools and resources to support simple first activities. The sewing sets and activity resource can help libraries test low-barrier workshops, especially around textile repair, making, customization, and circular practices.

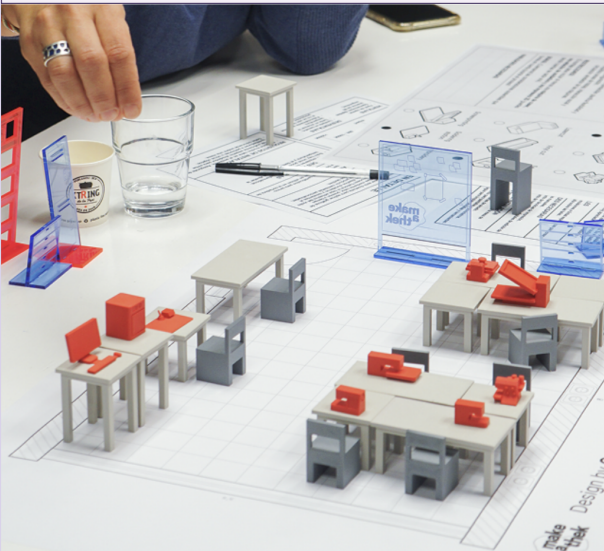
Start small: one table, one facilitator, one clear activity, one visible output, one feedback moment!

Digital Kit makeathek-toolkit.eu

The make-a-thek Digital Kit is the online access point to the full set of open resources developed to support libraries in setting up, managing and evolving their make-a-thek spaces. It complements the physical materials included in the make-a-thek in a Box and allows libraries to access downloadable tools, templates, guides, posters, cards and articles at any stage of their journey.

This allows library staff, facilitators, users and partners to move easily from the physical starter kit to the wider digital resource library.

menu



A toolkit for activating creative spaces

The make-a-thek approach is a flexible path to activate creative spaces in libraries. It's built on four pillars - Spaces, Machines, Activities, Communities - and supports continuous growth. There's no one-size-fits-all: what matters is the process, not the level.

[Discover the digital toolkit](#)

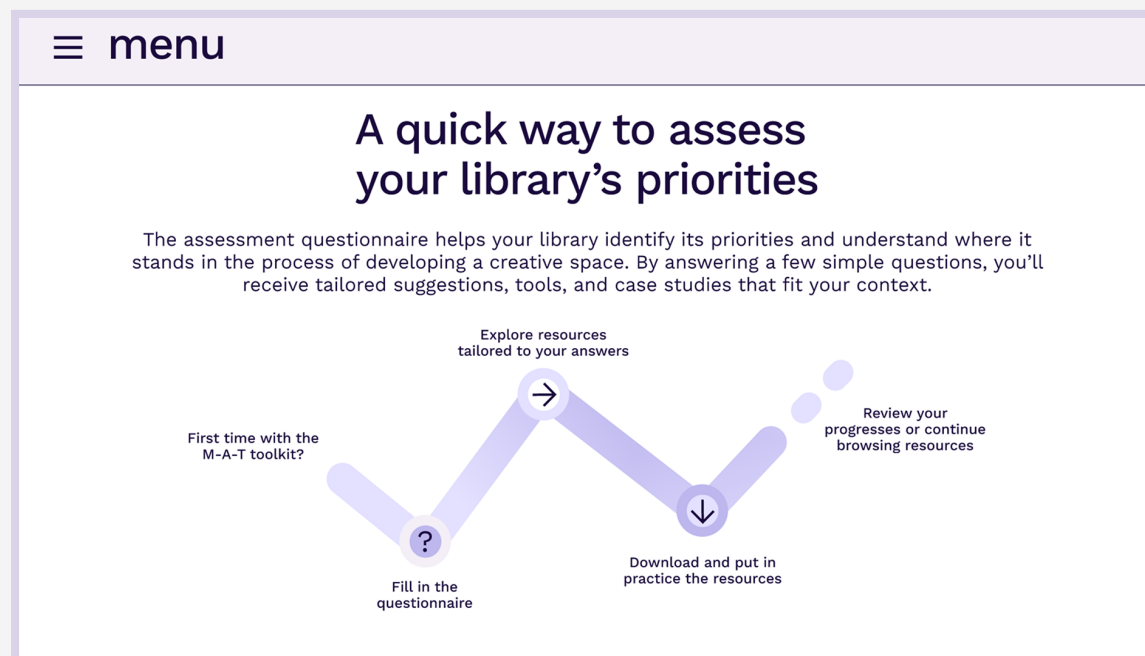
The Digital Kit supports:

- **onboarding and internal alignment;**
- **communication of the make-a-thek values and approach;**
- **space planning and set-up;**
- **machine and material exploration;**
- **activity design and documentation;**
- **community engagement and network building;**
- **accessibility, inclusiveness and shared rules;**
- **storage, booking and everyday management;**
- **sustainability, circularity and energy awareness.**

The resources are designed to be practical, modular and adaptable. Libraries can use them individually, according to a specific need, or combine them to support a broader process of activation and development.

Three ways to access the resources

The Digital Kit offers three different ways to start, so that each library can access the resources according to its current level of experience, needs and autonomy.



Libraries that are approaching the make-a-thek for the first time can start with a short questionnaire, designed to help them understand where they are in the process and receive tailored recommendations. This guided path reduces complexity and supports gradual development.

Libraries that already have some experience, or want to focus on a specific aspect of their space, can explore the resources through the thematic pillars. Each pillar gives access to dedicated resources on areas such as spaces, machines, materiality, activities, network and communication.

More experienced users can directly browse the full repository, accessing all resources freely and building their own path according to their priorities, context and project goals.

Together, these three access paths make the Digital Kit flexible and inclusive: it can support first-time users, intermediate libraries working on specific areas, and advanced users looking for more autonomous exploration.

RESOURCES REPOSITORY

Search for the resource you need or use the filters to explore related content.
Preview and download materials to start your Make-a-Thek experience.

RESOURCES:	
PHYSICAL SPACES	☐
COMMUNITY	☒
MATERIALITY	☐
COMMUNICATION	☐
TOOLS & MACHINES	☐

COMMUNITY
#ARTICLE

BEST PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND STRATEGIES.

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PERFECT RESOURCE FOR: [BEGINNERS](#), [INTERMEDIATE](#)

OPEN

COMMUNITY
#ACTIVITY

For example, a library starting from scratch may begin with the **make-a-thek Manifesto, Glossary, Space Planner, Machine Cards** and **Set-up guidelines for Temporary Spaces**.

A library that already has a dedicated area may use resources such as **How to use the spaces, Storage systems, Booking system, Machine Tutorials, Activity Feedback Cards**, and **Activity Documentation Template** to improve daily management and user experience.

The Digital Kit also includes resources that help libraries connect their space to local communities, materials and expertise, supporting libraries in building local relationships and embedding the make-a-thek in its context.

Other resources focus on making the space more accessible, inclusive and understandable, to help libraries explain the make-a-thek as a shared learning space rather than a traditional service, while setting clear rules, principles and expectations.

The Digital Kit also supports communication and visibility. Resources such as the Manifesto, Glossary, digital communication guidelines, posters and templates help libraries present the project clearly, document their activities, and share their experience with users, partners and the wider make-a-thek community.

The Digital Kit is not only a repository of files. It is a flexible support system that helps libraries move from first orientation to practical implementation, from individual resources to an integrated make-a-thek approach.

It connects physical tools, open knowledge, local action and shared learning, allowing each library to adapt the make-a-thek model to its own space, community, resources and ambitions.

Start Small, Build Over Time

make-a-thek in a Box is a first activation tool.

It does not replace the digital kit, the full set of resources, or the local work needed to build a make-a-thek space. Instead, it helps libraries begin: communicating the project, engaging people, planning the space, testing activities, and connecting the physical environment with the digital resources.

It is a compact starting point for a larger journey.

Open the box, explore the materials, and start building your make-a-thek step by step.



**What if you want more?
Go to makeathek-toolkit.eu!**