

BOWLING ZINE PROCESS BOOK

Chloe Tyner

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## INTRODUCTION

Bowling is making a comeback! What better way to show off your moves than to have a zine dedicated to leveling up your bowling skills?

I have been bowling since my freshman year of high school, so bowling has been a big part of my life. It's my favorite sport to watch and play. I even go bowl every Tuesday and Thursday night for league. While some love to watch football or basketball, I have the skills and knowledge to put it in a portfolio-worthy piece called 5 Tips to Improve Your Bowling Average.

I picked bowling as my topic, with an emphasis on improving your average because no matter what stage you are in, everyone can level up their skills in bowling. I wanted to create a magazine design that shows and tells you how to increase your bowling average and be the cool kid on the block.

Originally this project was a school piece, yet I turned it into something new or experienced bowlers would use after some changes. I took two things I am deeply passionate about, graphic design and bowling, and created one masterpiece.


## RESEARCH

## OBJECTIVE

The objective for this zine project was to further develop my typographic skillset further. This zine project made me play with typography and layout, explicitly emphasizing creating something visually compelling. I wanted to make a narrative story comfortably read by the viewer and a layout that guides the eye through the zine purposefully and logically. The topic and target audience was my choice because this project's primary focus is on typographic and layout skills. The deliverable is a minimum of five spreads ( 10 inside pages) plus a front and back cover. The size must be a minimum of $8.5 \times 5.5$ inches, and the binding can be no coil, spiral, wire, or comb binding. Thus, I had to create and print two bounded zines, one for the client and one for the designer.

## OBSERVATION

As I mentioned in the Introduction, I created this zine to help a beginner or advanced bowler improve their average. This zine would feature insightful tips and tricks on achieving the end goal. I didn't know how to approach this assignment with the bowling concept. When it comes to bowling or any generic topic, you have a lot of things to think about. Yet, I have chosen the topic of how to improve your scores because no matter who you are, whether you are a beginner or advanced, you can still learn something to make you a better bowler. Before I could get any design work done, I had to research what a zine is and figure out what would make people want to read my specific zine about bowling. I did historical research and looked through magazine layouts to get an idea or a feel of how I wanted to make my bowling zine.


## DISCOVERY

After gathering all the research I needed to complete this zine, I had to pick the content of what I wanted to add to my bowling zine. I had to brainstorm on what photos I wanted to include and lay everything out because creating a zine is like completing a challenging puzzle. All the pieces have to fit together perfectly to make sense. Some of the content I gathered was from my fiancé, Dylan, many photos from Unsplash, and some from PBA bowlers and local bowlers from Hijinx. After picking the photography and copy for content, I moved on to how big I wanted to have my zine and created a grid. A grid is the basic structure of layout and composition. Without a grid in a magazine, booklet, or flyer, the design and the document with different elements will fall apart. I learned this through critics and why grids are essential for magazines. I moved on to creating sketches, but I changed the layout. Throughout the visual research, I discovered and noted how each magazine spread show movement and how the typography was laid out to speak on the topic. This inspires me to do something similar with each spread. With this knowledge started brainstorming.


## BRAINSTORMING

## IDEATION

I wanted to prepare the viewer of what each spread contains. Going through my copy from the sources as mentioned earlier, I wanted to shorten the headlines to make them more visually appealing. Since bowling was about movement, I wanted to incorporate the style into my headlines. I wrote down many different headline ideas to get the topic across without showing too many words within the headline. For example, "Practicing is Better than Nothing" into just "Practice" because the viewer will understand what practice means when you read the article.



## ROUGH SKETCHES

Rough sketches always help me get the ideas going before jumping into a program such as Procreate or Adobe Illustrator. I was still brainstorming on headlines while playing around with a large amount of text to make the flow better. In this stage, It was all about letting the ideas flow and getting a rough idea of the full concept I wanted to achieve when it came to tight sketches.


## REVISIONS

## TIGHT SKETCHES

After the ideation process, I tightened up my sketches but still wasn't happy with the concept I was going for. After a few ups and downs, I didn't avoid this issue but rather embraced it by forgetting what each letter visually reads instead of focusing on trying to make the letters fit.


## DIGITAL RENDERS

Initially, my digital renders were a mess because I wasn't entirely confident in the headlines, especially the front and back covers. I was, however, pleased with the first and second spreads and used the same style from the first spread for the last spread. I was still playing around with the headlines and layout on the front and back to match the movement I was hoping to achieve from the other spreads.


REVISION 2
The large amount of text from each spread was difficult to move around, especially when you are trying to make the baseline match up with one another without making it seem off. After receiving critiques, I removed all hard returns and deleted all quotation marks from quotes. I adjusted the white space between the paragraphs to make it more visually pleasing. I got it down from this and was very aplomb in my skills.


## RETHMEN



## FINAL WORK

Showing the client and local beginner bowlers was the best feeling to have. I understood the marketing objective and achieved what my target audience wanted. Knowing the subject and the style helped me feel more self-assured as a designer. The zine was consistent, from the colors to the typography to the body copy. It even won a Gold Student Chapter Addy.



## BETTER EOUIPMENT







## MOCKUP



## CONCLUSION

From the beginning, I doubted my skills as a designer and wasn't very confident. Yet, after many revisions, this project turned out amazing and was better than I had hoped for. This zine project is another passion of mine because it talks about bowling and lets me explore my typography and how I made the letters fit. Overall creating this zine was challenging yet thrilling. The end goal was to play with typography and layout, explicitly emphasizing creating something visually compelling. I hope to inspire young designers to create something they are passionate about and just go for it. Having a worthy portfolio piece that shows different skill sets makes you valuable in the field.



# THANK YOU FOR READING MY BOOK! 

GET TO KNOW ME<br>(0) @thecreativextra<br>(in Chloe Tyner<br>\# thecreativextra.com<br>( thecreativextra@gmail.com

