Isaac Fisher's 10 Steps to making a comic book

1. Idea

   a. What if…?
   b. Wouldn't it be cool if…?
   c. Wouldn't it be funny if…?

Pro-Tip: Talk with friends about your idea, and joke around. Listen to their input and suggestions.

2. Thumbnails and Script

   A. Goal is to make dialogue, setting, action, and page layout.
   B. Can be done simultaneously or separately.
   C. Standard comic ratio is 2x3.
   D. Page Reads in a Z shape.

Pro-Tip: Do not use a regular pencil to make your thumbnails! Instead, try with various colored pens, pencils and/or thin tipped markers.

3. Lay it out.

   A. Use a ruler and black thin-tipped marker to make your panels.
   B. Borders make it easier to see spatial relationships when penciling.
   C. Industry standard is 11in. x17in. comic book board.

4. Pencil in your thumbnails.

   A. Start with just penciling your shapes and action lines.
   B. When shapes and action lines are penciled, add form and details to the sketch.
   C. For cleanliness, you may want to do your pencils on a separate sheet of paper, but you don't have to.
   D. Be sure to save space for dialogue bubbles and narration boxes.

Pro-tip: Your backgrounds are also important characters! Don't forget to draw them in as well!

5. Ink your pencils!

    A. Inking brings your pencils to life.
    B. Inking has various techniques and tools.
    C. Try using a brush-pen, nib pen, and white-out when inking.
    D. Erase your pencils after ink is dry.

Pro-tip: Made a mistake? Don't worry! Whiteout can be used like an eraser when inking, and can also be used to draw on heavily blacked areas!

6. Checkpoint! Save your work.

    A. Scan in your inked pages to the computer.

7. Color in your art.

    A. Use markers or colored pencils to test your colors.
    B. If you like them, they can be your final colors too!
    C. If not, you can use Photoshop to color like the pros.

8. Scan in your final art and format it for print.

    A. Add speech bubbles and narration boxes if not yet done. This step is called *Lettering*.
    B. Make Final touches using Photoshop.
    C. Format your document as a pdf.
    D. Standard comic book pdf is 7in. x 10in., pre-trim.

9. Send to Printer and Post online.

    A. Costs between 50 cents and 3$ to print a 24 page color comic.
    B. Usually you will need to order a minimum of 100 print copies.
    C. Use Instagram and other websites to share your work for free!

10. Sell! Share! Connect!

    A. Free online distribution will attract fans.
    B. Sell print copies in person.
    C. Network with other artists at comic shows and public events.

These are the basic steps to making comic books.. You may do things differently and that's ok! Keep exploring your craft, and try to do something new in every comic you make. soon enough you will be a pro!