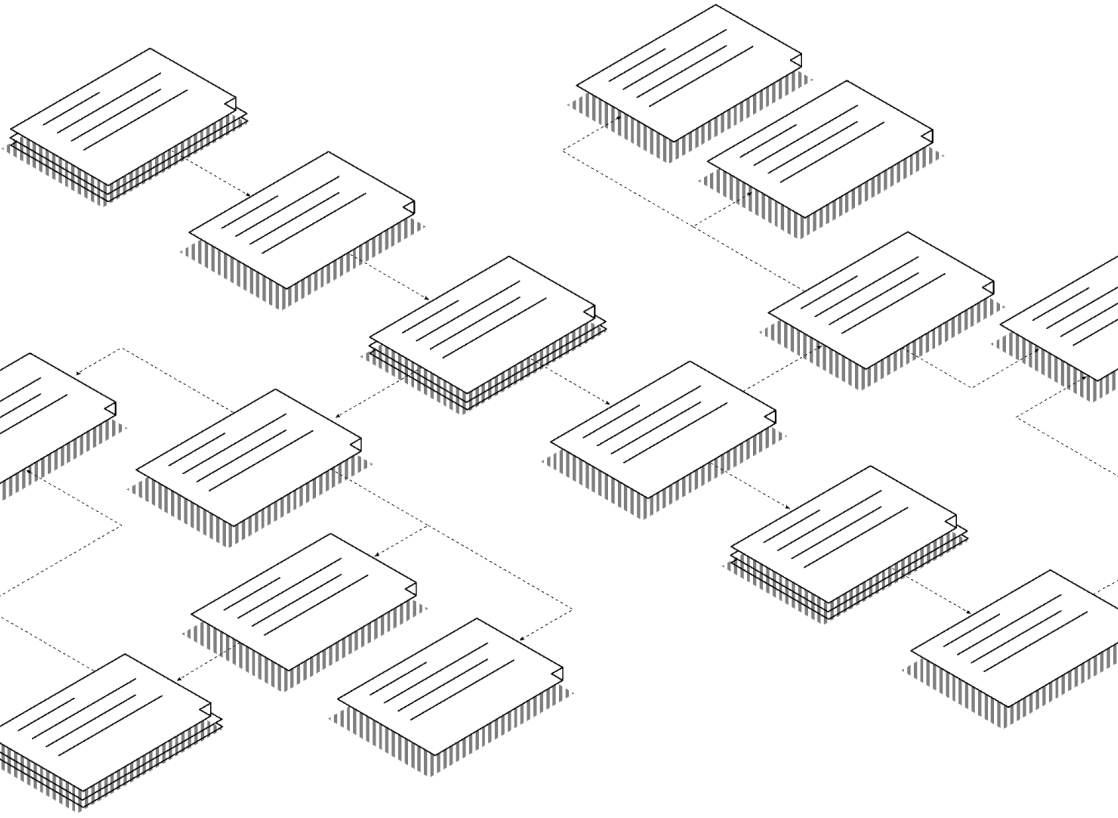

Slipstream

The Supernote Zettelkasten Framework

Tim Waugh

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Introduction

If you are reading this, you probably love Supernote for the same reasons I do: the focus, the feeling of writing and the escape from distraction. It makes you want to write more and externalise your thoughts so you can see them. You may have tried different ways of writing your thoughts down but struggled with the question of whether there's a better way to organise them. The ability to create headings is great but what if you need more than four levels?

It's possible you've tried a digital linked notes system like Obsidian or Logseq, seen the power in having a non-linear network of externalised thoughts at your fingertips and, like me, wanted something with the same feel and utility on your Supernote.

That is why I built this framework. I wanted a system that made it feel natural to write by hand but was structured enough to last.

I have thirty years of experience in software engineering and it has led me to think deeply about effective ways to manage information. I have tried a lot of different tools and the Supernote is the one I'm most excited about. Now I want to share my variation on the Zettelkasten method with you.

The model I use is a Supernote A5 X2 Manta. I use a Lamy AL-Star EMR digital pen with a side button configured as a lasso rather than an eraser to make it faster to copy and paste. I definitely recommend using a stylus with a side button like this.

I've designed this primarily to be useful and lightweight to use, but it is also designed with AI assistance in mind. Using this system makes it easy to give your notes (or a portion of them) to an AI assistant. This may not be for you! You can ignore this aspect entirely and still get a huge amount of benefit using this framework with only the Supernote.

Why call it Slipstream? First, it's a nod to history. This framework is an implementation of the Zettelkasten method, which was originally built around a physical slip box, a box filled with numbered slips of card.

But second, it's about flow. The goal of this system is to make the process of capturing and working with thoughts feel effortless, streamlining the workflow so you can focus on the ideas rather than the admin. It captures the feeling of just slipping a new idea into a moving stream of existing thoughts.

Getting Started

Depending on which version you purchased, your initial setup will look slightly different.

The Full Starter Kit

If you purchased the full kit you have access to the complete set of Slipstream files. These include:

- **Supernote templates**: Custom PNG files with spaces for the fields you'll use.
- **Pre-formatted Notebooks**: Two Real-Time Recognition notebooks ready for capturing your notes, first as drafts and later as developed thoughts connected to all your other notes.
    - The **Drafts** notebook includes a built-in Quick Reference page for notes.
    - The **Permanent** notebook includes the note references, plus a Quick Reference page for bibliographic details and a blank, ready-to-copy source record template.
    - Crucially, these Quick Reference pages double as system format explanations. When you export your notebooks to plain text, these pages sit at the top of the file, perfectly contextualizing your formatting for both your future self and AI assistants.
- **Example Notebook**: A reference file (`Example.note`) with a few notes in it to see the system in action.
- **Sticker Pack**: Time-saving visual aids you may find useful for navigation and depth tracking.

To get started with the full kit, follow these steps:

1. Copy the templates to the `MyStyle` folder. They are designed to be compatible with the built in 8mm templates.
2. Create a folder to hold the notebooks, for example `Slip box`.
3. Copy the notebooks into the folder.
4. Copy the sticker pack to the `EXPORT` folder, then tap the **Sticker** tool from any note and then **Import** to install them.

The Standalone Guide (Manual Setup)

If you are reading the standalone guide, you can build this system yourself using standard Supernote tools.

1. Create a new folder on your device, for example Slip box.
2. Create two new Real-Time Recognition notebooks inside that folder. Name the first one `Drafts` and the second one `Permanent`.
3. Choose your preferred built-in template for these notebooks, such as the standard 8mm ruled or dotted lines.
4. **Draft your Quick Reference rules**: To ensure your future plain text exports are machine-readable for AI assistants, manually write out a reference page at the beginning of both notebooks explaining your specific syntax (how you denote links, citations and parent notes).
5. **Create a Citation Template**: On the second page of your Permanent notebook, manually draw and format a blank bibliographic source record template with the fields you want to use. You will copy and paste this page whenever you add a new book or article to your system.

Using The Notebooks

Regardless of how you set up your files, the core workflow remains the same:

- You'll use your **Drafts** notebook for rapidly capturing thoughts and ideas, then developing them until they are ready to be moved into your permanent notes.
- Your **Permanent** notebook will be used for holding and working with the developed ideas, as well as recording bibliographic information.
- **Literature notes** are separate notebooks you will create as needed to capture quotes, summaries and observations while reading specific books and articles. We'll cover how to use these in more detail in the section on Using Digests later on.

You do not need to follow the instructions in this guide rigidly. For a list of ways you can streamline things to suit your taste see the Shortcuts and Simplifications section.

Core Concepts

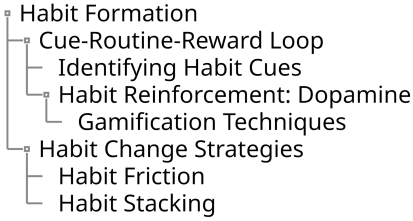
The purpose of Slipstream is to build a flexible notebook you can extend as much as you like, with headings that nest as deep as you like (not just the four levels provided natively with the Heading tool on Supernote). We're building a notebook where you don't just write ideas, but find interesting connections between them.

The Slipstream framework uses Supernote notebooks (`.note` files), templates, level one headings, text boxes and links.

The Tree

Every note has an *origin*—its 'parent' note. This is the note which triggered a new thought, or which is most strongly related. When creating new notes you'll file them next to (or close to) their parent notes. Each note contains a link to its parent note.

By linking notes together in this way, we build a *tree* of ideas, as in this example:



The example shows a set of notes in the order they would appear in a notebook. They nest very much like Supernote built-in headings, except that instead of only four levels there is no limit to the amount of nesting levels in Slipstream.

The origin link defines the note's place in the tree of ideas and assists in making strongly related ideas cluster together in the notebook.

That's the end of the free preview!

Ready to Enter the Slipstream?

You've seen the core philosophy. The full 35-page guide provides the tactical, step-by-step workflows to turn these concepts into a frictionless daily system.

Inside the Full Guide:

- **Visual Depth Tracking:** Use the custom tab layout to instantly see how deep your notes are nested.
- **The Complete Workflow:** Exactly how to capture drafts, locate insertion boundaries, and build your permanent knowledge tree.
- **Structuring & Tagging:** Build "Structure Notes" for complex topics and use text-based tags to preserve connections.
- **Mastering Digests:** Seamlessly link captured quotes from PDFs, EPUBs, and literature notes to your Source Records.
- **Exporting:** Format your notebooks to export perfectly to plain text or Markdown so they are ready for AI assistants.

Get Slipstream Here

More for Supernote

Do you draft, sketch, or design in 3D?

If you appreciate the precision engineering of Slipstream, check out **Diorama** for meticulously designed isometric grid templates (including shaded 3D room, floor, and corner environments) for spatial design on your Supernote.