

## Binding Techniques

coptic small booklet, thread bound

materials sharp x-acto, bone folder, metal ruler, awl, non-cotton thread, [curved] needle, wax; suggested: newsprint, xerox, clay coated, or butcher papers

practice example 4 X 6" booklet

- 1 trim paper to size [8 X 6" spreads]
- 2 bone fold paper into crisp folios: 4 X 6" pages
- 3 collate folios into equal paged signatures [then, collate the signatures :: make sure they're in the right order before you bind them]
- 4 make a jig with measured placement for holes along the spine; the size of your paper will determine the spacing in between each hole. generally, divide the height of your booklet by the number of holes to have equidistant spacing. for the holes adjacent to the head and tail of the book, leave two times the amount of space in between the hole and the edge; mark with a pencil where you want your holes
- 5 cradle the spine of your signature into the spine of a magazine; use an awl to punch holes into the spine of each signature; if you do not have an awl, use a hammer and nail and be precise
- 6 drill holes into your cover using the same jig; place holes at least 3/8" in from the edge of the spine
- 7 wax your thread; you will need enough thread to cover the length of your book times the number of signatures plus two extra. if this is too long to work with, you'll need to do it in two parts; this ensures a tight knot, and sturdy binding; thread a [curved] needle [do not knot the end of your thread]
- 8 start your initial stitch from the inside of your first signature, first hole from the top, or head of your book.
- 9 loop around to the outside of your first hole of the front cover and pull the needle on through to the inside of the front cover
- 10 insert the needle back through the first hole of the first signature
- 11 inside the signature, [square] knot the two ends together
- 12 proceed to the second hole [from the inside of the first

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- signature] and repeat steps 8-12 with each subsequent hole and bind the first signature to the front cover
- 13 on the last hole towards the tail of the book, do not reinsert the needle back through the first signature. instead, get your next consecutive signature, and pull the needle through the corresponding hole
- 14 now from the inside of the second signature, cross over to the next hole over and pull the needle through to the outside [you will essentially be doing a switchback stitch, or reversing directions, for each new signature]
- 15 kettle stitch :: means you will tuck the needle one signature below and loop around the stitch in the direction of the switchback. in other words, you are essentially securing the first signature to the second and tightening the two together by wrapping the thread around the previous loop; if you are working from left to right, you loop your thread around from left to right. if you're working from right to left, you loop your thread around from right to left. the results of this are apparent after several signatures have been added and you can see how the stitches add up to be a clean line of knots
- 16 stick the needle back through to the inside of the signature
- 17 repeat steps 13-16 with each subsequent hole and each subsequent signature.
- 18 with your final signature, you will also be binding your back cover, very much like you did with your front cover and first signature
- 19 insert the needle through the outside of first hole in your cover
- 20 next, perform your kettle stitch around the loop below the last signature
- 21 insert the needle into the first hole of your last signature. the needle should now be on the inside of the last signature
- 22 cross over to the next hole over and pull the needle out
- 23 repeat steps 19-22 for each subsequent hole
- 24 your final kettle stitch will be a knot. do this a couple of times for strength; cut off extra thread