

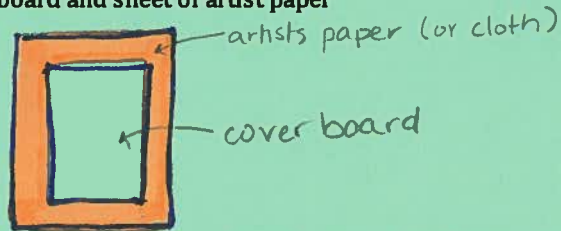
Coptic Binding

Materials:

- 1 UNSEWN text block
- 2 pieces of binder board that are $\frac{1}{4}$ " taller and wider than the text block
- 2 sheets of artist paper that are at least 2" taller and wider than the binder board
- 2 pieces of paper for end pages (colored or plain) that are the same dimensions as the text block

PREPPING THE COVER

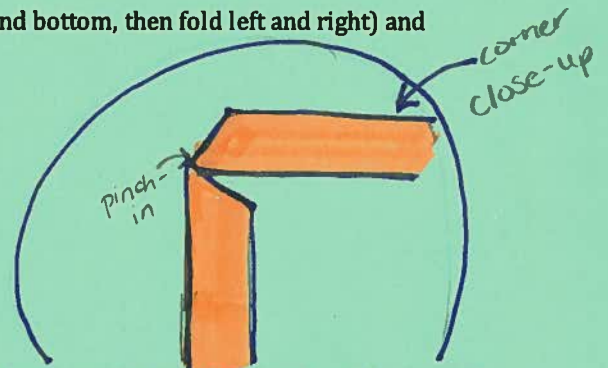
Step 1: Apply glue to one of your cover boards, then glue it onto the center of one of the sheets of artist's paper, leaving a generous margin of artist's paper (at least 1") on all sides to be used for turn-ins. Repeat this step with the other board and sheet of artist paper



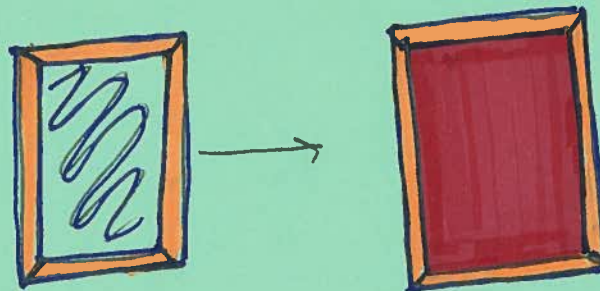
Step 2: Trim up all the edges of overhanging cloth, then cut the corners of the artist's paper at about a 45 degree angle, leaving 1.5-2 boards width (or about $\frac{1}{8}$ ") of space between the corner of the board and the edge of the paper where you make the cut. Do this for both covers.



Step 3: Make your turn-ins, working on opposite sides (fold top and bottom, then fold left and right) and pinching/mitering your corners as you go.



Step 4: Apply a thin layer of glue to the exposed bookboard on the interior of your cover. Apply a thin layer of glue to the edges of your endpage paper. Center the endpage on the interior of the cover and press it into place.



BINDING THE BOOK

For sewing instructions, see the steps included here from *Making Handmade Books* by Alisa Golden

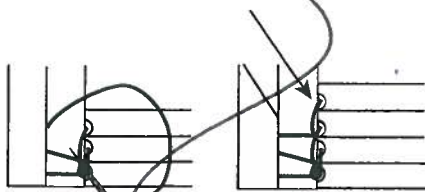
27. In two steps, pulling snugly after each, take the needle under the knot (between the first and second stitch), then under the second stitch (between the second and third stitches).

28. Sew into the second hole of the fourth signature.

29. Sew out the head hole and head slit of the fourth signature.

30. In two steps, pulling snugly after each, take the needle under the linked stitch, then under the third stitch. Pull parallel to the spine, then over perpendicular to it. With your thumbnail or the end of the needle, adjust the stitches so that they are all parallel and aligned, if they aren't already.

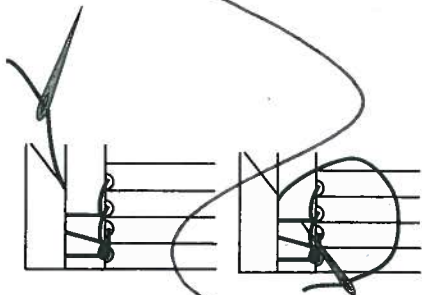
31. Sew into the second hole of the fifth signature.



step 27



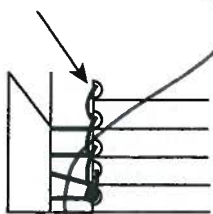
step 28



step 29



step 30



step 31

Note: The fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth signatures will all pierce the triangle when they come out of the head slit. You may choose to go around it, if you like.

32. Repeat steps 29 and 30 as you add signatures.

33. At the 12th signature, after linking the stitch (step 30), go back into the second hole of the 12th signature.

34. Tie off the thread by looping under the stitch inside the 12th signature and taking the needle through the loop in a half-hitch knot. Trim the end to about 1/4 inch (0.6 cm).

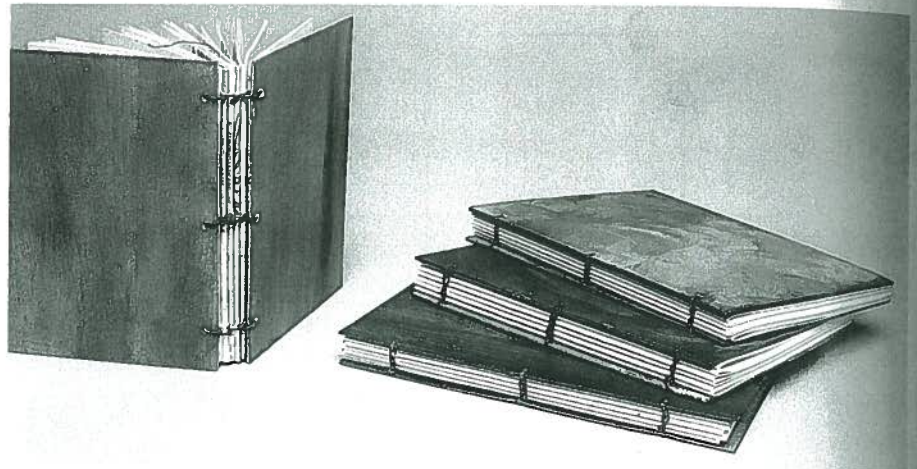
35. Repeat steps 16–34 with a second thread and the holes and slit at the tail.

Variation: Make with origami wallet pages (see page 195).

Uses: journal; guest book; sketchbook; baby book, book about all the extra buttons that come with new clothes

From *Making Handmade Books* by *Alisa Holden*

COPTIC STITCH/CURVED NEEDLE



Coptic Curved Needle Models, 1996; each approximately 4 x 5 inches (10.2 x 12.7 cm) (photo: Jim Hair)

I was inspired to learn this binding after seeing Elsi Vassdal Ellis's miniature, *Dear El Lissitzky*. Her book is actually the Coptic with paired needles (see next project). This traditional book has a flexible spine, unsupported by paper or boards, just connected by threads. If you only use two holes, make it small; or add more holes to support a larger book. An advantage is that you can use any number of holes, odd or even. Note that linked stitches will be at the ends, a chain stitch

will appear across the middle. Curved needles may be found in quilting sections of fabric or craft stores.

Tools: ruler; pencil; awl; curved needle; scissors

Materials: 14 to 28 medium-weight to heavyweight papers, each 5½ x 8½ inches (14 x 21.6 cm), grained short; 2 museum or Davey boards, each 5¾ x 4½ inches (14.6 x 11.4 cm), grained long; waxed macramé or other waxed linen thread

Example: 5¼ x 4½-inch (14.6 x 11.4 cm) book with three holes

1. Fold the 5½ x 8½-inch (14 x 21.6 cm) pieces in half, widthwise. Nest into sets (signatures) of two to four pages per signature, depending on the thickness you chose. Make five to seven signatures.

2. Stack the signatures, one atop the other, with the spines facing you. Measure for three holes along the spines, leaving at least ¼ inch (0.6 cm) but no more than ½ inch (1.3 cm) from (what will be) the top and bottom edges. You can just mark one of your signatures, then put it back atop the others.

3. With the stack even, draw straight lines down the folds where you marked the first signatures, so that when you sew, the signatures will align.

4. Poke holes with your needle at these lines on each signature, taking care to keep the orientation the same so the signatures will still align when you put them back together.

5. Poke three holes in your cover boards as well, ¼ inch (0.6 cm) from the left (front board) and ¼ inch (0.6 cm) from the right (backboard).

6. Place the boards, top and bottom aligned, to surround your signatures.

7. Treating the top board and the first signature as one unit, pick these up.

Begin to sew

8. Thread a needle with a length of waxed thread that is the height of the book (from head to tail) multiplied by the number of signatures.

9. Sew into the end hole from inside the first signature to outside. Leave a tail of about 3 inches (7.6 cm).

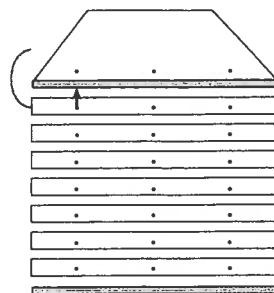
10. Sew through the first hole in the board from underneath, then come around the edge of the board and back through the same first hole in the signature.

11. Sew to the second hole in the signature, come out, go through the second hole in the cover, and go back through the second hole in the signature.

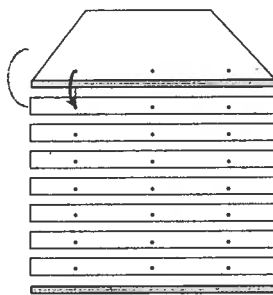
12. Sew out the third hole in the signature.

13. Go through the third hole in the cover and back into the third hole in the signature. Tie off inside by making a half-hitch knot around the stitch inside the signature. Do not cut the thread.

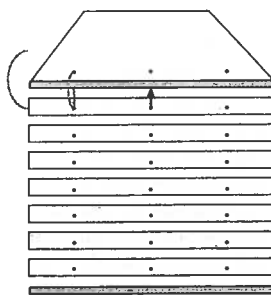
14. Come out the third hole of the first signature, loop under the stitch above it (between the signature and the board), and sew into the last hole in the second signature.



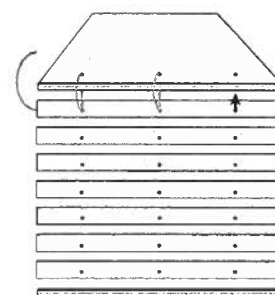
step 9



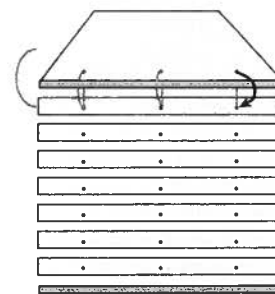
step 10



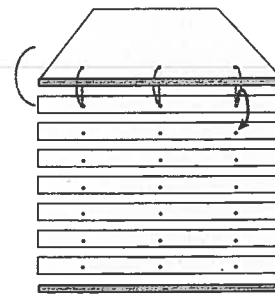
step 11



step 12



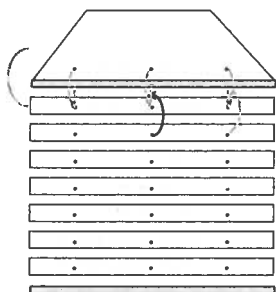
step 13



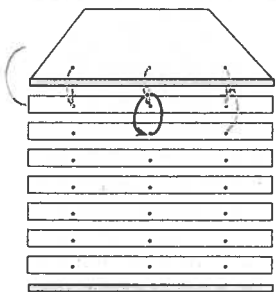
step 14

15. Go out the middle hole of the second signature. Here's the chain part: take your needle under the stitch between the board and the first signature. (Don't try to go through the loop; go under both ends of the loop.) Then go back into the middle hole of the second signature.

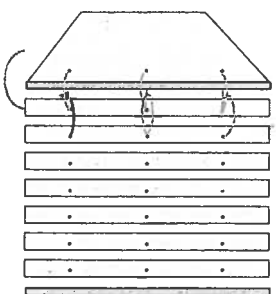
16. Proceed to the third hole, going under the last stitch between the first signature and the board. Instead of going back into the third hole, add the third signature and go in the last hole there.



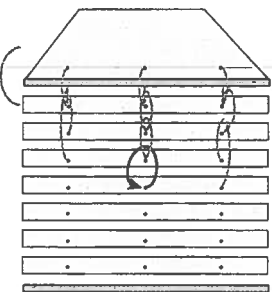
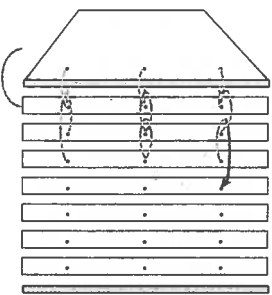
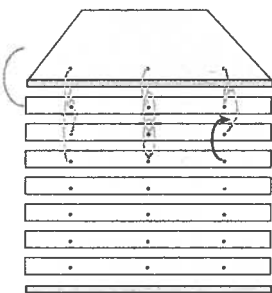
step 15



step 16



step 17



17. Repeat this pattern (out of a hole, loop, back into same hole or adding a signature) with the rest of the signatures.

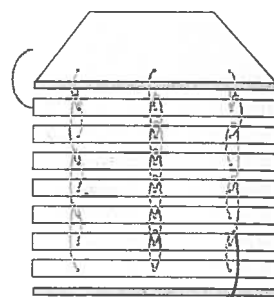
Attach the last board

18. Come out the last hole of the last signature, and loop under the previous stitch.

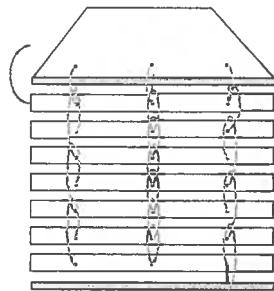
19. Go through the matching hole in the back cover.

20. Sew back into the hole in last folded page of the book.

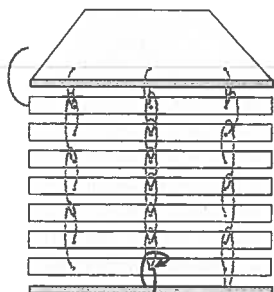
21. Sew out the center hole, go through the matching hole in the cover, loop under the stitches, and sew back into the center hole.



step 19



step 20



step 21

22. Sew out the last hole, go through the matching hole in the cover, loop under the stitches, and go back into that last hole in the signature.

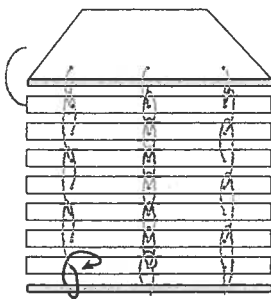
23. Make a half-hitch knot connecting the end of the thread to the stitch inside.

Note: You will notice that the last section has one knot and doubled stitches inside. The first section has two knots and single stitches.

Variation 1: First, quickly paint both sides of your two boards, using acrylic paints sparingly, straight from the tube or squeezed out onto a paper towel with no water added. Paint the edges as well. The boards should dry within a few minutes.

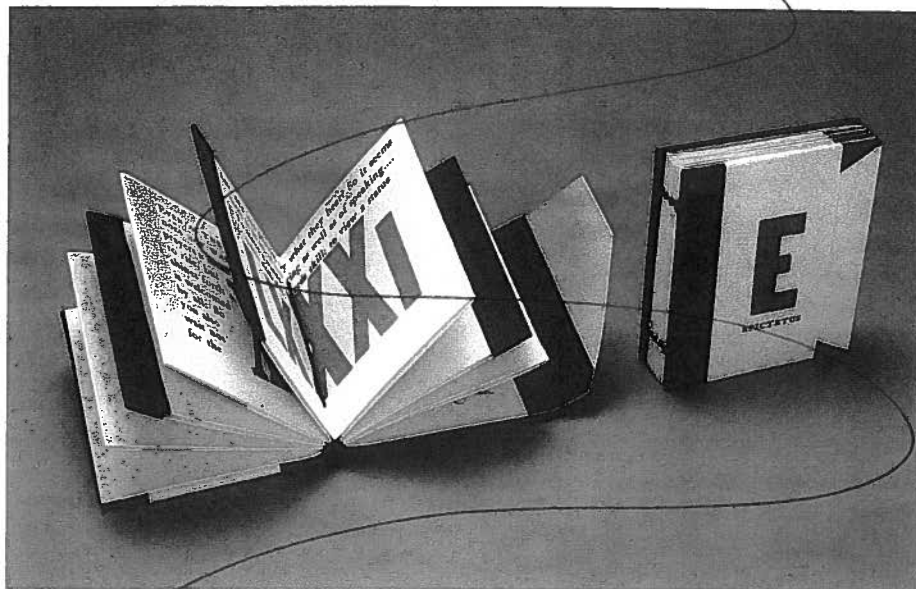
Variation 2: Glue decorative paper to the front and back of the boards, wrap in waxed paper, and press under a heavy weight overnight before sewing.

Uses: travel journal; guest book; scrap-book; photo album; text about things that are linked



step 22

COPTIC WITH ACCORDION



Once Said a Stoic: Epictetus, 2003; letterpress from wood and metal type; edition of 41; Coptic with accordion; 2½ x 3 inches (6.4 x 7.6 cm) (photo: Sibila Savage)

The lovely thing about making a Coptic binding with an accordion is that the pages are doubled so they are thicker, which means you need fewer of them, which means that you can complete the book sooner, which means not exactly instant gratification, but very close. On the other hand, an accordion makes the pages spring open, so you need to have a closure for this book. *Once Said A Stoic: Epictetus* utilizes a flap tucked into a strip of paper. You can also use ribbons.

Tools: piece of board or brush for gluing; paper plate to decant PVA; heavy book or weight; pencil; metal ruler; knife and cutting mat; awl; corrugated cardboard; needle; scissors

Materials: two 4-ply museum boards, each 2½ x 3 inches (6.4 x 7.6 cm), grained long; 2 pieces book cloth or lightweight paper, each 3½ x 4 inches (8.9 x 10.2 cm), grained long; magazines for scrap paper;

PVA; medium-weight to heavyweight cover strip, 1½ x 4 inches (3.8 x 10.2 cm), short is preferable but long will work; waxed paper; 3 pieces of heavyweight paper, each 3 x 10 inches (7.6 x 24.5 cm), grained short; 1 piece of heavyweight paper (same kind of paper as previous piece), 3 x 12¼ inches (7.6 x 31.1 cm), grained short; 3 strips lightweight or medium-weight paper, each 1 x 4 inches (2.5 x 10.2 cm), grained long; waxed linen thread

Example: 2½ x 3 x ½ inch (6.4 x 7.6 x 1.3 cm) book

1. Cover the boards with the book cloth or lightweight paper. (See page 209 for Covering Separate Boards.)

2. Center the cover strip on the covered side of one of your wrapped boards both top and bottom and side to side. Fold over the excess at the top and bottom.

Drum Leaf with quarter-cloth binding

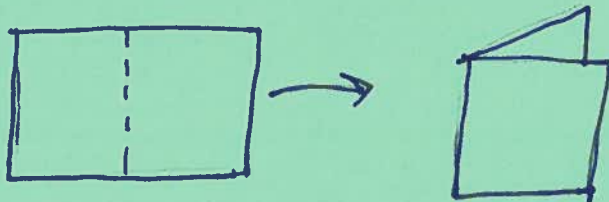
Materials:

- Paper to create drum leaf text block
- 2 pieces of binder board that are as wide as the text block and $\frac{1}{4}$ " taller than the text block
- 1 piece of binder board that is $\frac{1}{4}$ " taller than text block and the width of the text block spine + 2 board widths
- 2 sheets of artist paper that are the width of the binders board and at least 2" taller than the binder board
- 1 piece of book cloth that is at least 2" taller than the binder board and at desired width (*formula for determining width is: width of spine board + $\frac{1}{2}$ " + width of desired overhang on cover*)
- 2 folded, tipped-in endpages at same width as original sheets used when folding and constructing text block.

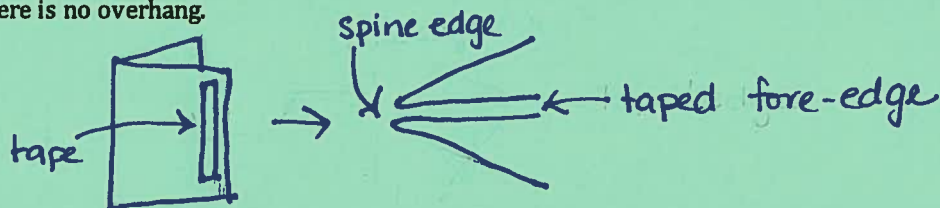
PREPPING THE TEXT BLOCK

NOTE: Essentially, drum leaf binding involves adhering the fore-edge of each sheet to the next.

Step 1: Fold each sheet of paper in half individually



Step 2: Working one sheet at a time, apply a piece of double-sided tape (or very thin line of glue or spray adhesive) to the fore-edge of one side of the single-sheet signature. Be carefully to line up the pages as carefully as possible so there is no overhang.

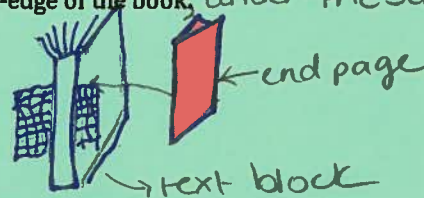


Step 3: Adhere the next, folded single-sheet signature onto the previous, taped signature. Continue working this way until you have worked through the entire stack.

Step 4: Once you have adhered all the pages, you should glue up the spine. This is easiest if you place binder clips near the spine at the head and tail (as this smashes all the pages together). Then, apply a thin layer of glue just as you would to a sewn text block. Press this for several hours or overnight.

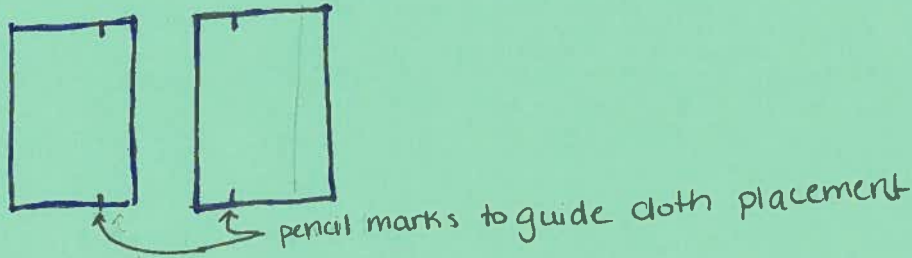
Step 5: Apply super and a piece of kraft paper to the spine just as you have done for the sewn signature text blocks.

Step 6: Tip-in your end pages to the text block by gluing up about $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the folded edge on one side of each end page. Then affix it to the spine-edge of the book, under the Super.

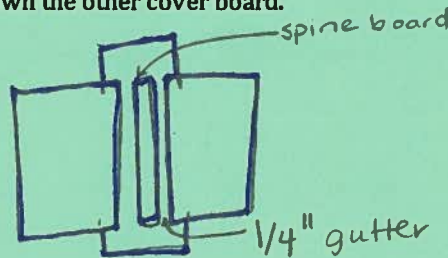


PREPPING THE QUARTER-CLOTH COVER

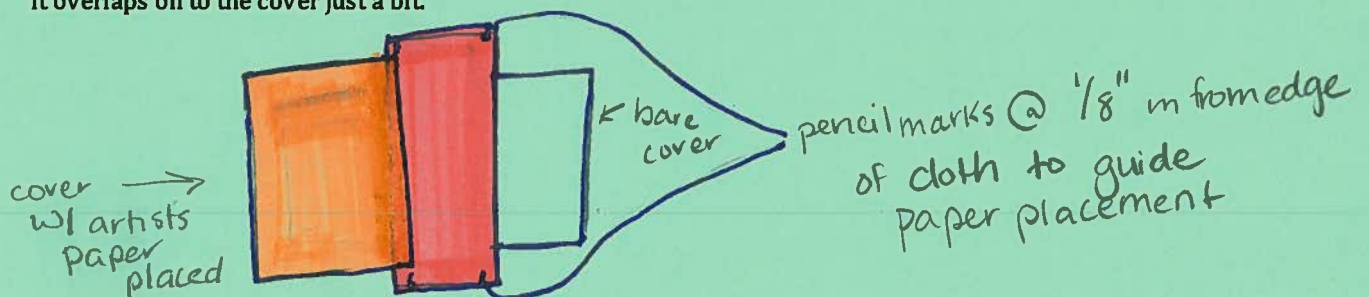
Step 1: Measure and mark the desired amount of cloth overhang on the cover boards.



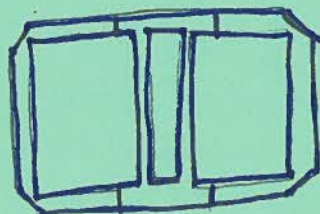
Step 2: Glue the first cover board onto the cloth using your marks as guides. Measure over $\frac{1}{4}$ " for hinge gap and glue down the spine board, making sure that the boards stay evenly aligned along the bottom/top. Measure over another $\frac{1}{4}$ " and glue down the other cover board.



Step 3: Measure in $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge of the cloth and make a mark on the cloth at the top and bottom (do this on both edges/covers). This will be your guide to place the artist's paper for the covers. Glue up the bookboard of one cover, then glue up on edge of a piece of artist's paper. Using your marks, glue down the artists paper so that it overlaps on to the cover just a bit.



Step 4: Trim around the edges of the covers to ensure even overhang on all sides, then cut the corners of the artist's paper at about a 45 degree angle, leaving 1.5-2 boards width (or about $\frac{1}{8}$ ") of space between the corner of the board and the edge of the paper where you make the cut. Do this for both covers.



Step 5: Make your turn-ins, working on opposite sides (fold top and bottom, then fold left and right) and pinching/mitering your corners as you go.

See instructions for coptic

Step 6: Case in your book as instructed in class. → same as french groove.

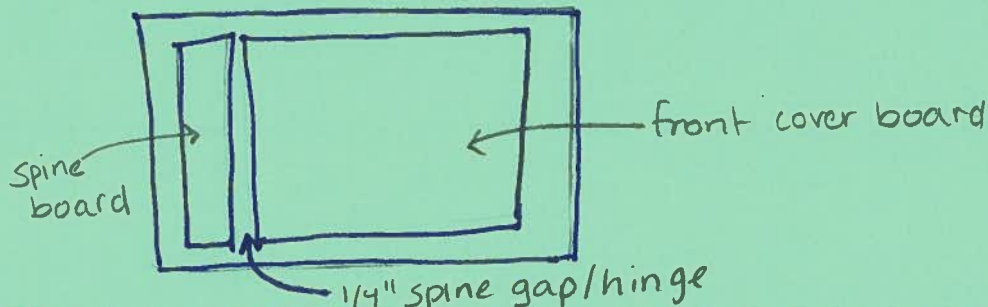
Stab Bound

Materials:

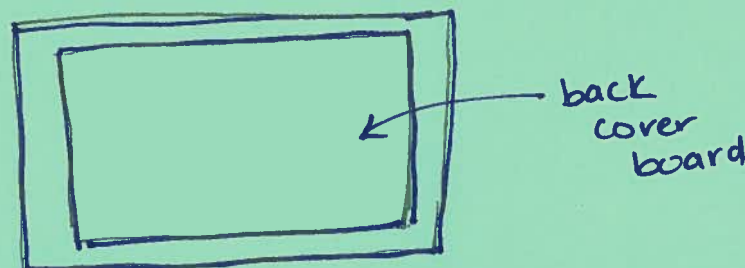
- 1 UNSEWN text block (essentially, a stack of paper at the desired dimension)
- Front Cover (with hinge gap)
 - 1 piece of binder board for the spine that are $\frac{1}{4}$ " taller than the text block and at least .5"-1" wide
 - 1 piece of binder board that is
- Back Cover (no hinge gap)
 - 1 piece of binder board that is $\frac{1}{4}$ " taller and wider than the text block
- 2 sheets of book cloth (or artists paper) that are at least 2" taller and wider than your final book dimensions
- 2 single-sheet endpages (colored or plain) that are the same size as your text block

PREPPING THE COVER:

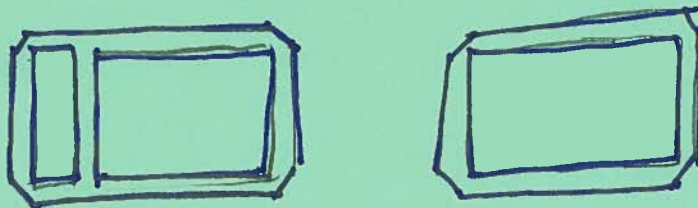
Step 1: Prepare the FRONT cover with spine gap. First, glue the spine board strip to the edge of your book cloth leaving at least a 1" margin at the top, left, and bottom sides. Measure and mark a gap of $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the right side of the spine board. This will create a gutter that allows the book to open. Using the mark you just made as a guide, glue smaller front cover board down, ensuring that it is in line with the top and bottom of the spine board.



Step 2: Make the back cover by gluing up the larger piece of book board and gluing it to the other piece of book cloth. Leave a margin of at least 1" on all sides of the board.

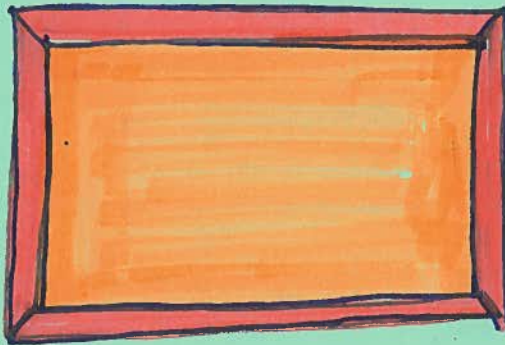


Step 4: Trim the bookcloth around the cover so you have even overhang on all sides. Then cut the corners of the cloth at about a 45 degree angle, leaving about a pinky's width of space between the corner of the board and the edge of the paper where you make the cut. Do this for both covers.



Step 5: Make your turn-ins, working on opposite sides (fold top and bottom, then fold left and right) and pinching/mitering your corners as you go. Do this for both covers.

Step 6: Apply a thin layer of glue to the exposed bookboard on the interior. Then apply a thin layer of glue to the edges of the endpage paper. Finally, center the endpage paper on the interior of the cover and press it in place. Do this for both covers.



BINDING THE BOOK:

Note: *This is essentially the same process we used for soft cover.*

Step 1: Center the text block between the covers and binder clip them together.

Step 2: Using your awl and a hammer, poke four holes at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the "spine" of the book, at even intervals. Leave at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the head and tail to reduce the risk that your thread will tear through your spine.

Step 3: Thread the needle, then sew through station 2 from the back.

Step 4: Wrap the thread around the spine and re-enter station 2 from the back.

Step 5: Sew into station 3 from the front.

Step 6: Wrap the thread around the spine and re-enter station 3 from the front.

Step 7: Sew into station 4 from the back.

Step 8: Wrap the thread around the spine and re-enter station 4 from the back.

Step 9: Wrap the thread around the head and re-enter station 4 from the back.

Step 10: Sew into station 3 from the front.

Step 11: Sew into station 2 from the back.

Step 12: Sew into station 1 from the front.

Step 13: Wrap the thread around the spine and re-enter station 1 from the front.

Step 14: Wrap the thread around the tail and re-enter station 1 from the front.

Step 15: Sew into station 2 from the back.

Step 18: Tie off the thread ends in a knot. Optional: Add beads or some other element to the thread for decoration.

over board, cont.

Steps 4-16:

