

# QUICK 'N' DIRTY BOOKBINDING



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## MATERIALS YOU'LL NEED:

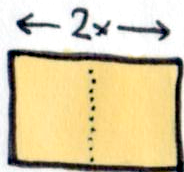


- Paper for pages, end papers, and the cover. Heavy card for the insides of the cover.
- PVA glue.
- A push-pin, a needle, and some heavy thread.
- A craft knife.

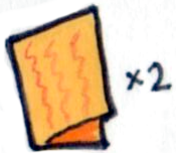
## THE METHOD:

- **Cut, fold, stitch, and glue the inside pages.**
- **Make the cover.**
- **Attach the pages to the cover.**

### 1. CUT YOUR PAPER.



Cut the paper for the sheets of your book to the size you want, remembering to double the width, since it will be folded in half.



Cut two sheets of fancier, heavier stock paper to the same dimensions. These will be the 'end papers' that start and finish your book (and hold it to the cover).

## 2. FOLD.



Fold your sheets in half.

## 3. STACK.

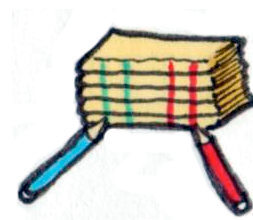
Stack your paper in groups of five pages. The number is arbitrary, but if you stack more than five sheets together, the pages in the middle of the stack will “creep” out on the right-hand side of your book, making it visibly uneven.



## 4. MARK THE SIGNATURES.

Each stack of five pages makes what’s called a “signature”.

Mark four lines down the spines of your stacked pages. Use two different coloured pencils, so you can tell the top and bottom of your signatures apart later.



## 5. PUNCH HOLES.

Flatten your signatures and punch holes on your coloured pencil marks.



## 6. SEW THE SIGNATURES TOGETHER.

This is the trickiest step. If you can get the stitching right, you've got the game licked.

To start, let's make a book with five signatures.

You'll be stitching in two directions, in and out.

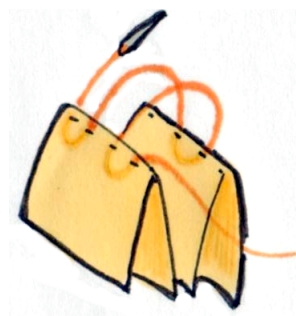
"In" means poking your needle down through the 'roof' of your signature.



"Out" means pushing your needle up through the 'ceiling' inside the signature.



The purpose of this stitching is to link the signatures so your book holds together. The pattern looks something like this:

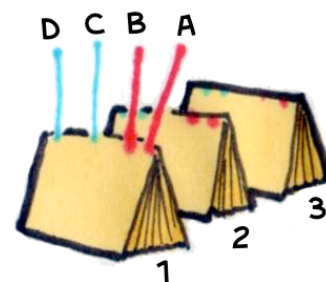


Stitching is something you really have to learn by doing. For now, just try to follow these steps. For the sake of this exercise, we're going to start with a short book of only five signatures.

Cut a piece of thread:

- as long as the spine of one signature
- times the number of signatures
- minus two (because the holes aren't as wide as the spines).

We'll give each signature a number for a name. So the first signature is 1, the second 2, and so on. For the holes, we'll use letters. So the holes on the first signature are 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D.

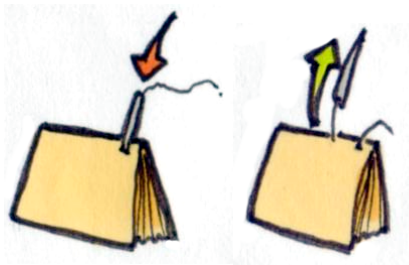


Thread your needle, and put it...

**...in at 1A,  
and pull out at 1B.**

(Add the next signature.)

**In at 2B.  
Out at 2C.  
In at 1C.  
Out at 1D.**



You've attached the first and second signatures. Keep going!

**In at 2D, out at 2C.** (Add the next signature.)  
**In at 3C, out at 3B.**  
**In at 2B, out at 2A.**

To take care of the loose end of the thread at 1A, you can tie it together with the thread that's just come out of 3A. This will hold the signatures together more tightly, too.

**In at 3A, out at 3B.** (Add the next signature.)  
**In at 4B, out at 4C.**  
**In at 3C, out at 3D.**

You'll notice there's a gap between 2D and 3D. To tighten it up, tuck your needle under the thread between 1D and 2D to form a loop. Put your needle through this loop and pull to make a knot. Now into the home stretch:

**In at 4D, out at 4C.** (Add the last signature.)  
**In at 5C, out at 5B.**  
**In at 4B, out at 4A.**

Do another wee lock-stitch, looping the needle under the thread between 2A and 3A. And we'll just finish up by securing the last signature:

**In at 5A, out at 5B.**

**Now go in at 5C and out at 5D.** (If you look inside signature 5, you'll see this gives it the same three loops inside that the other signatures have.)

Make one last knot by looping your needle under the thread between 3D and 4D. Now tie the loose end to the thread sticking up from 1A. Or, if you want a book with more signatures, just keep following the pattern you've used for the first five: attaching signatures together with the B and C holes, and adding lock-stitches at the A and D holes.

## 7. GLUE THE SPINE OF YOUR SIGNATURES.



Hold your sewn-together signatures and glue them along the spine. To reinforce the spine, you could also add a piece of “mull” to it. Mull is a wide-woven cloth with sizing in it, but you could also use cheesecloth or gauze.

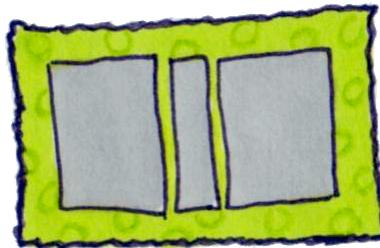
To keep this all tightly-bound, you could:

- place it between bulldog clips.
- put it between sheets of hard plastic and put it in a vice grip.
- put it between pieces of waxed/greaseproof paper and put it under a heavy object.

Put this aside to dry.

Your sewn and glued signatures have now become what’s called a “book block”.

## 8. CUT YOUR COVER BITS.

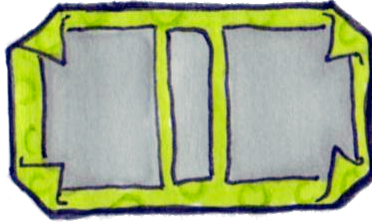


Cut two pieces of hard board just a bit taller and wider than your book block, and another piece the size of the book’s spine.

Cut a piece of paper large enough to wrap around these three pieces of board, then lightly glue the boards to it.

Leave enough room between the left and right boards and the spine — about twice the width of the board when you look at it from the side (so just a few millimetres). This will give the book will have proper hinges so it can open and close easily.

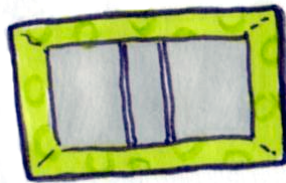
## 9. GLUE YOUR COVER TOGETHER.



Glue the boards to your cover paper, being careful not to use too much glue (which creates bubbly creases and watery wrinkles – not nice).

Then put a dab of glue on the four outside corners of your boards and tuck the edges of your cover sheet in.

## 10. FINISH THE COVER.



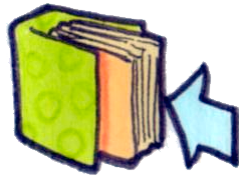
Put glue along the top, bottom, and sides of the cover boards, then fold the edges of your cover sheet in and stick them to the glue.

## 11. ADD YOUR ENDPAPERS.



When your book block has dried, glue your end-papers – the two sheets of fancier, heavier paper – to the ends of your book-block. Again, don't use too much glue, or your inside pages will get warped by the moisture.

## 12. ATTACH THE BOOK-BLOCK TO THE COVERS.



Spread glue around the inside of your cover, then stick the end-papers to the cover.

Put some greaseproof paper in-between the end-papers, and another between the end-papers and the inside pages. You might also want to add a tissue between the greaseproof paper and the inside pages, just to make sure the moisture of the glue doesn't soak into them and warp them. Check to make sure there's no extra glue squeezing out; you don't want the tissue to stick to your pages!

Put all this under something heavy or into a vice (making sure to protect the cover paper), and set it aside to dry.

After it's dry, take out all the protective greaseproof paper and tissues, and...

**YOU'RE FINISHED!**

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
YOU'VE JUST MADE A BOOK!**