



COUNTRY
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EDEN WORKSHOPS

A BOOKBINDERS RESOURCE



Thank you for taking an interest in this Book Arts E-book.

Other e-books and manuals on the subject of the Book Arts and Gilding in particular are available for free download from the Eden Workshops website.

<http://www.edenworkshops.com>

If you are interested in gilding in particular please do check out our website at:

<http://www.gold-vault.com>

For nearly 20 years my wife Margaret & I ran a system of craft workshops devoted to the exploration of the Book Arts.

During that time we worked in almost total isolation and seclusion in the grounds of a very private monastery in rural England. We developed four book related skills; hand book binding, paper marbling and book edge marbling, printing & box making and took those skills to high levels of excellence.

In 1997 after nearly 20 years running the Eden Workshops we were voted a National Living Treasure by Country Life magazine for our contribution to the Book Arts.



In 2004 we decided to close our workshops and move out here to Southern France, I now concern myself with teaching and have the time to concentrate on aspects of the book arts that interest me.

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A Simple Method of Sewing a Booklet of Single Sheets

You don't need much to sew a booklet of single pages. But you will need some white craft glue and a small glue brush plus a needle and thread, also you may need an awl for making the holes for the needle to go through, the thicker the booklet the heavier the thread.

You might also like to have coloured card covers, you can choose these yourself, or omit them it's up to you, just cut them to the same size as the pages you are working with and include them as a front and back cover.

If the booklet is less than 0.25 inch thick then simply gather the pages and tap them on the back & bottom edge, you do this in an attempt to get all the pages level.

Now we have to glue the back edge of the booklet, this is done to hold the pages together while we sew the booklet.

If working with a slim booklet place the pile of pages on the edge of a table overlapping the edge of the table by about 0.25 inch, and put a weight, such as a book or two, on the top.

Then apply some glue to the back edge, not too much, and allow to dry.

Now your booklet is ready for sewing, if you have a slim booklet you may be able to pierce the side just with a heavy needle, but it may be if the booklet is thicker you would need to use an awl, which is simply a metal spike mounted in a wooden or plastic handle.

If your booklet is too thick for either the needle or the awl, then you would need to drill the holes, in a bindery you would use a paper drill, but you can also use an ordinary electric drill and a drill stand.

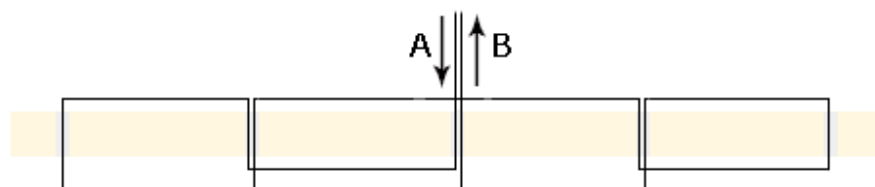
THIS STYLE OF SEWING HAS BEEN USED FOR MANY CENTURIES, IT IS KNOWN AS STAB SEWING, AND THOUGH SIMPLE IS A VERY EFFECTIVE METHOD OF SEWING A BOOK.

IT DOES HAVE LIMITATIONS THOUGH, THE PAGES OF A BOOK SEWN LIKE THIS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO OPEN PERFECTLY FLAT, ALSO BECAUSE THE SPINE OF THE BOOK IS FLAT, YOU ARE LIMITED TO SIMPLE BINDINGS.

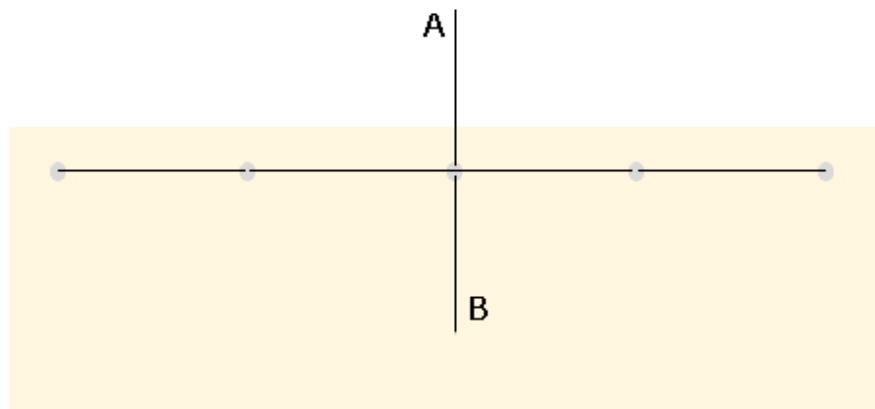
BUT THIS MAKES IT PERFECT FOR THESIS BINDING.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE AN ODD NUMBER OF HOLES WHEN USING THIS TECHNIQUE, AN A4 THESIS WILL NEED 5 HOLES, A SMALL BOOK MIGHT NEED THREE ETC.

START FROM THE BACK OF THE BOOK SO THAT THE KNOT WILL END UP AT THE BACK AND NOT SHOW.



TIE A & B TIGHTLY OVER THE CENTRAL THREAD AND PUSH THE KNOT DOWN INTO THE HOLE TO LOSE IT



WHEN SEWING ANY BOOK ONE NEEDS TO WATCH THE TENSION OF THE THREAD.

IT IS POSSIBLE USING THIS METHOD TO CAUSE THE TEXT BLOCK TO WARP BY OVER TENSIONING THE SEWING THREAD. SO LET IT BE TIGHT, BUT NOT OVERTIGHT.



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