



NATIONAL LIVING
TREASURE 1997



FINE ART
PRINTER 1998

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 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 mentoring those with aspirations to become bookbinders and have the time to concentrate on aspects of the book arts that interest me.

I can be contacted at home via email richard.norman@aliceadsl.fr

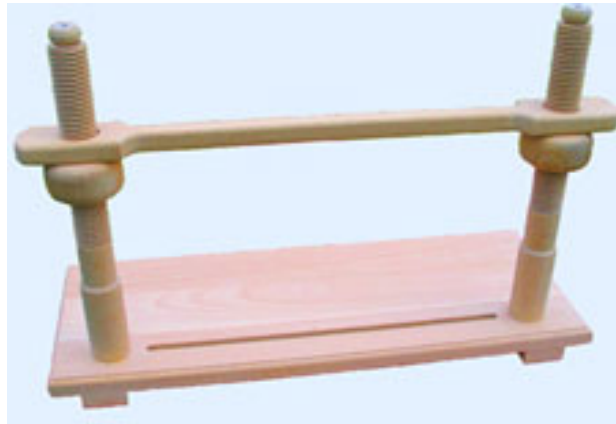
and phone 0033 (0) 555 60 09 63

Make your own sewing frame

The sewing frame is used to support the pages of a book as it is being sewn; it is also used to provide support while other operations are carried out to the book during sewing.

There is no doubt that real pleasure is to be obtained by using traditionally made wooden bookbinding equipment, such as the sewing frame.

One may also feel connected with binders through many centuries who also used equipment like this.



I have heard people say that they no longer use the sewing frame, preferring to sew the book without support, this is an erroneous view, the sewing frame is used in particular to provide support while “knocking down” the book, this is a bookbinders expression, and refers to the process of compressing the sections as the book is sewn, this is done to prevent loose sewing.

The problem with this traditionally made equipment is the price, even though there is one maker of such equipment I know who supplies excellent traditional equipment considerably below the market price, it would still cost £100.00 for a small sewing frame like the one illustrated.

Not everyone has £100.00 to spend, I propose to show you how to make your own sewing frame for maybe £15.00, I am assuming you will have to buy all the materials, it may be you will have some of the items you need lying around the garage or workshop.

You will need the following:

Some 1.5 inch screws.

A screwdriver.

A pair of Mole Grips (illustrated below).



Some white carpenters glue.

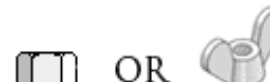
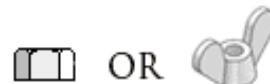
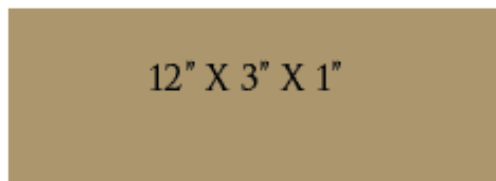
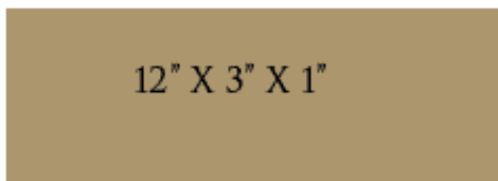
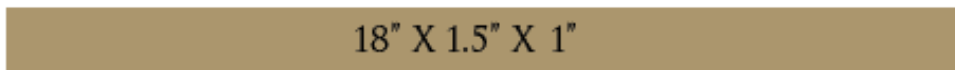
Sandpaper.

Electric drill and 0.5 inch drill bit.

An electric jig saw or pad saw.

We are going to make this frame from 1 inch plywood, your local timber supplier will carry it, they will probably have off cuts which you could use, or they may cut the pieces to size for you for a small fee. We will also need two lengths of half inch diameter threaded rod, this will be available in hardware stores, and lastly you will need two nuts to fit the threaded rod.

Here are the components.



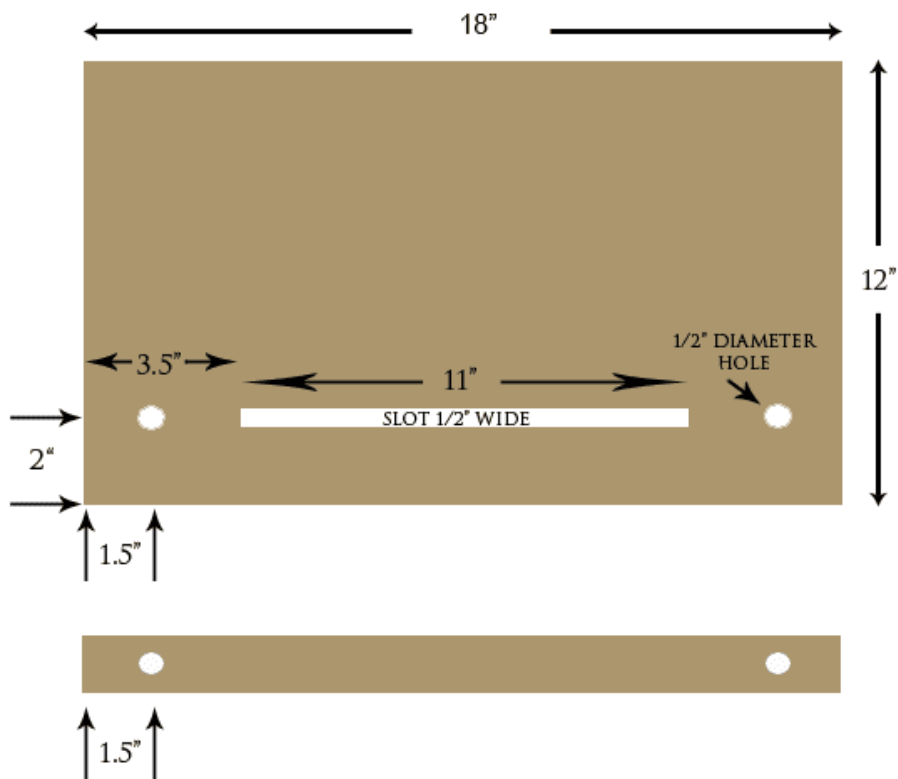
1/2" THREADED ROD X 14" LONG

NUT OR WING NUT

After cutting out the components sand the edges smooth.

If you wanted to make your frame a little more attractive you could if you had the tools, use a router to put a decorative edge around the four edges of the large 18" x 12" component.

The illustrations below give all the details and measurements you need.



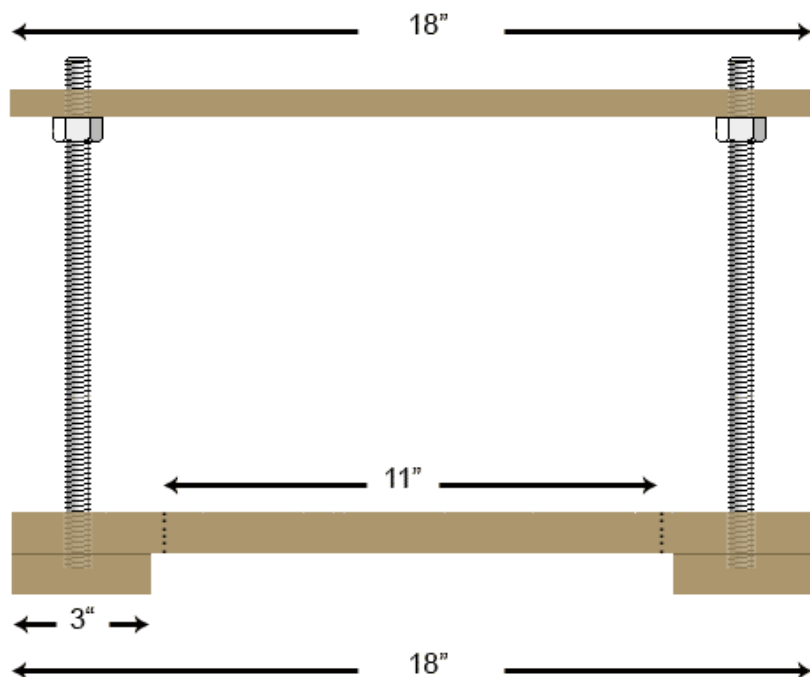
After drilling holes in these two components you will need to cut out the half inch slot.

The illustration below should serve to give a good idea of how the components fit together.

An important point to note, after screwing the two 3" x 12" pieces to the base of the 18" x 12" component as shown below, you should drill half way through the 3" x 12" pieces to accommodate the threaded rod, as shown in the illustration below.

When inserting the threaded rod you should coat the bottom 1.5" of the rod with white glue and twist the rod into it's hole, you may find as you do this that the rod becomes too tight to turn by hand, in which case, using the mole grips and some suitable padding to prevent the grips from damaging the thread, twist the rod until it is in place.

A good idea might be to place some masking tape 1.5" from the end of the rod so that you can tell when the rod is fully home.



Well, I think that is all I have for you, this is not a difficult project and the finished product will give good service.

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