BINDING WORKSHOP
MULTIPLE SIGNATURES WITH SEWN BOARDS

Materials:

· gathered signatures, either single sheet or multiple sheet
· two (folded) sheets of heavy weight paper or card stock to use as cover "sleeves"
· stuffing board, may be 2 ply, 4 ply or heavier
· binding cloth or thin Japanese paper to cover spine (optional)
· two (folded) sheets of material of your choice to wrap front and back covers
· blunt sewing needle
· strong thread (button or carpet thread works well)
· beeswax used to coat thread

A. Making a punching template
1. Take a strip of newsprint and cut to length of text block, then fold in half lengthwise.
2. Take that folded strip and fold it in half to determine center point.
3. Fold both halves of the open end down 1/2 inch.
4. Open strip and bring folded end in toward center fold and crease to determine center point between folds. Follow same procedure for other end.
5. Open up strip and make a single dot at the intersection of folds at the 1/2 inch mark.
6. Ignore the center fold and make a pair of dots on either side (1/2 inch apart) of the folds which are one quarter of the way down from the top and a quarter of the way up from the bottom.
7. You should end up with 6 holes total. An individual hole 1/2 inch from the top and bottom and two sets of two holes each. Each of these groups is called a sewing "station"
8. Mark "TOP" on one end of your template.

B. Making cover "sleeves"
1. Take heavy weight paper or card stock, fold in half with grain and trim to same size as text block. Make two.

C. Punching signatures and covers
1. Lay template in middle of signature with "TOP" always facing the top of your sheet
2. Use an awl to poke holes straight through signature fold.
3. Use same procedure and template to punch the front and back cover sleeves.
D. Sewing

1. Draw out enough thread equal to the **length and number** of signatures you have to sew including the front and back covers **plus** an additional 5 to 6 inches. If you drag this thread through beeswax a few times it will help keep it from twisting in knots.
2. Lay front cover sleeve in front of you so that holes are facing toward you and the "head" or top of the book is to your right.
3. Begin by threading needle into the first single hold "station". Pull thread through to inside until you have five or six inches left.
4. Continue to thread needle in and out of holes all the way down the cover sleeve.
5. Lay the first signature of your text down on top of the sleeve you have just sewn.
6. Continue sewing by threading the needle into the single-hole station (directly above where you have exited the cover sleeve) of the first text signature. Pull thread all the way through the hole to the inside of the signature.
7. Carefully thread the needle out through the **first hole** of the second "**station**". Pull thread all the way out through this hole to the outside.
8. Take the needle and thread it **under** the exposed stitch on the cover sleeve directly below where you are working.
9. Pull the thread all the way out as it passes under this stitch before threading the needle back into the **second hole** of the second station.
10. Follow same procedure for the rest of the stations on the signature.
11. Tie the tail of thread from the cover sleeve to the thread that has exited from your first text signature. Make a double knot and trim off only the end of thread you started with. Do not trim off the thread with the needle.
12. Lay the second text signature on top of what you have sewn and thread the needle into the first single-hole station of the next signature. Pull the thread all the way into the inside then carefully push needle out through the first hole of the second station.
13. Pull thread all the way out and then, as before, slide the needle and thread **under** the exposed stitch in the signature directly below where you are sewing. Pull thread all the way out and under this stitch before going back into the second hole of the second sewing station.
14. Continue down the length of the signature with same procedure.
15. Connect this signature to the one below it by using the "kettle stitch". Thread the needle between the last two signatures pull thread until a 1 inch loop remains and bring the needle up through this loop and cinch tight.
16. Lay the next signature on top of this stack and proceed as before.
17. Connect this signature to the one below by using the "kettle stitch" again.
18. Add all the signatures in this manner including your back cover sleeve.
19. Tie off with strong double knot.