

Coptic Binding Instructions

Materials

- As much $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ " paper as you want (try for at least 25 sheets)
- 2 pieces book board for the covers, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ "
- 2 pieces book cloth or decorative paper, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ "
- 2 endpapers (decorative paper, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ ")
- Thread (have fun with colors!)
- PVC glue

**Don't have book board?
sketch pad!

**Almost any glue
adhesive

**Consider

of a notebook or
PVC



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Tools

Materials

- Paper for your text block (loose leaf, whatever size suits your fancy)
- 4 pieces book board
- 2 pieces book cloth (cut 1" larger than your text block all around) or decorative paper
- 2 endpapers (decorative paper, same size as your text block)
- PVC adhesive
- Thread (ribbon, cord, etc)

**Don't have book board? Use the back of a notebook or sketch pad!

**Any glue will work if you don't have a PVC adhesive.

Tools

Awl (or hole punch), needle, ruler, pencil, brush (for the glue). A binder clip to hold the pages together would be useful, but not necessary.

Historical Background

While this style of binding is often called a Japanese stab binding, this style was first developed in China. Traditionally sewn with an odd number of holes, thin paper, and paper covers, this binding is very strong and durable. One downside of this sewing style, with the stitches stabbed through the entire text block, is that it can be much less flexible than Western binding traditions in terms of opening and closing, particularly when the covers are made with a stiffer material. This version of a stab binding divides the front and back covers into the construction of a hinge along the spine to make it easier to open.

Steps

Before you get started, decide what you want to do. If you are making a book for a collection of papers, you will need to decide on the size of your text block.

Stab Binding Instructions

