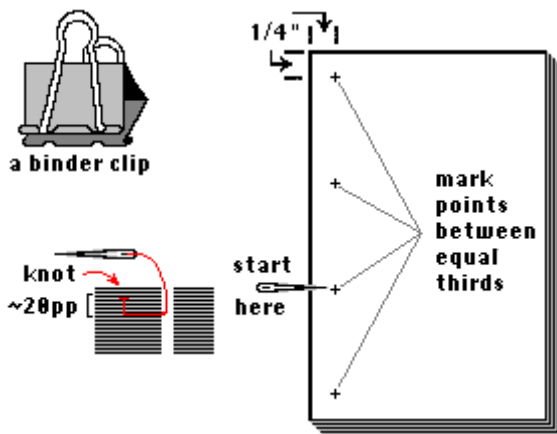


# Japanese Style Bookbinding

## What you need:

- Several pieces of paper all the same size for the pages
- Two pieces of heavier paper for the covers (same size as above)
- (optional) Little bits of decorative papers to add to the front.
- Thread to stitch it up. Button & Carpet weight thread is perfect, or embroidery floss, or dental floss.
- Heavy needle (darning or embroidery needle)
- pushpin
- Two spring-type clothespins, bulldog clips, or large paper clips
- Scissors or paper cutter
- A ruler
- Something to protect your work surface with when you punch the holes



1. Make four dots on the front cover where the holes will go.

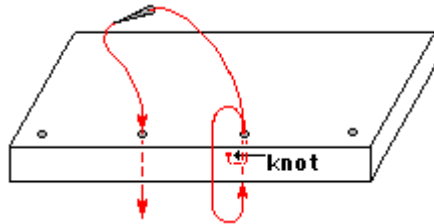
Using a ruler, draw a line from top to bottom of the front cover, about 1/4" from the spine. Make two marks on this line, one 1/4" down from the top of the book, the other 1/4" up from the bottom. Now divide the distance between these marks into thirds and mark the two middle points.

2. Even up the pages and clamp them together with the clips, to keep the pages from moving.

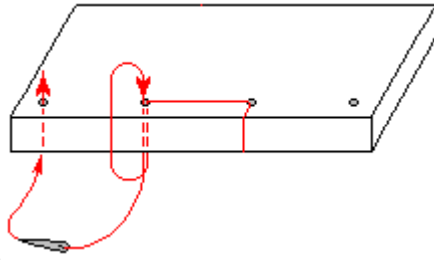
3. Protect your work surface, then punch a hole at each of the marked points using the pushpin.

4. This step anchors the thread. Thread the needle and knot the ends together. Open the book a few pages and, next to the lower middle hole, push the needle through a few pages. Pull the thread through until the knot is snug against the pages. Go back out to the front cover by pushing the needle up through the hole. This step anchors the thread.

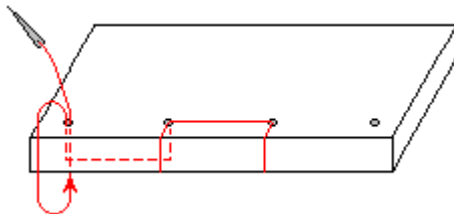
5. Now sew the rest of the book as shown in the accompanying illustrations. Pull the thread tight each time you go through a hole.



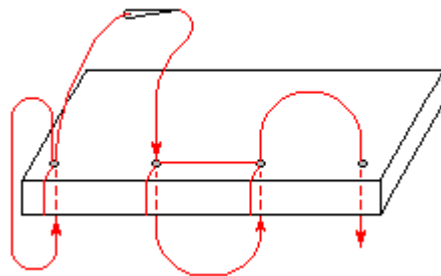
Go around the back and back up through the starting hole, then down through the other middle hole. Pull the thread tight after going through each hole.



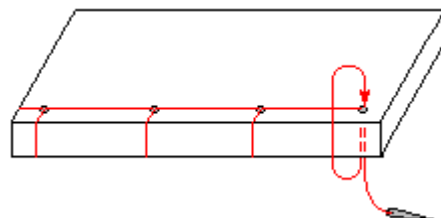
Around the back again, then up through the top hole.



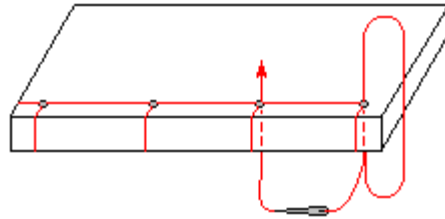
Around the back, then...



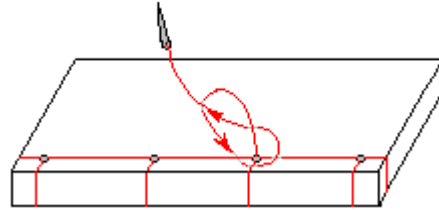
...around the top of the spine and up through the top hole again. Keep going, down through one middle hole, back up through the next, and down through the bottom hole. Keep the thread tight.



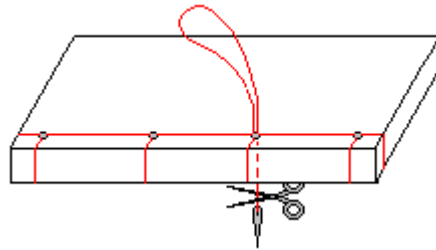
Around the back again and...



...around the bottom of the spine and back through the bottom hole. Go up through the starting hole again.



To finish, tie off the thread so the binding won't come loose. Do this by slipping the needle under two of the top threads coming out of starting hole and back through the loop to form a tight knot.



Run the needle back down through the starting hole and cut the leftover thread flush with the back of the book.



For more information on Japanese bookbinding, including decorative bindings, how to make cloth covered hard covers, making cloth covered boxes, and other useful techniques, check your library for **Japanese Bookbinding: Instructions from a Master Craftsman**, by Kojiro Ikegami (published by John Weatherhill).

These directions have been modified from <http://www.sff.net/people/Brook.West/bind/bindit.html>

