

MILIMETER BINDING

By

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NOTES FROM WORKSHOP

GIVEN BY

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1984

MILLIMETER BINDING

Notes from workshop held May 23-24 at Creative Arts Workshop, taught by Ole Olsen
1984

1) CONSTRUCT ENDPAPERS

Make 2 endsheet sections as follows: (make about $\frac{1}{2}$ " wider and longer than signatures)

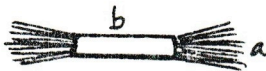


- a - waste sheet
- b - cloth hinge (good quality mull)
- c - colored endsheets
- d - white flyleaf

With straightedge and bone folder make a $\frac{3}{16}$ " fold at folded edge of each endpaper section. These folded edges will go around the first and last signatures and be sewn with them.

2) SEW

Sewing is done around frayed, flattened cords which are supported while sewing as follows:



- a - frayed linen cord
- b - paper tube (loose around cord)

Mark sewing holes using sewing gauge

After marking, run a knife (x-acto, pointe, scalpel) from top to bottom signature at each mark, deep enough to make a small sewing hole at inside of each section. DO NOT CUT THROUGH ENDPAPER SECTIONS: THESE ARE WRAPPED AROUND WHEN SEWING.

Sew without a frame, working at edge of table. Begin with the first or last signature. Wrap an endpaper section around this signature. Poke needle from inside out to mark entry points from outside. Sewing should be slightly to the inside of center for these sections so that sewing will not show when book is bound. Sew the first section loosely, insert the wrapped cords, and pull thread tight. The loose wrappers are moved up as each section is added and removed at the end. Complete sewing.

Cut the frayed cords to $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each side. Work paste into them with fingers and paste them down onto waste sheet, spreading them out and flat with bone folder. Let one side dry a few minutes before doing other side.

3) PASTE DOWN ENDPAPER SECTIONS

Put paste on back of small folded edge of endpaper sections, close book, and rub firmly at spine with bone folder. Repeat with other endpaper section. This will adhere the front endpaper section to the second signature and the back section to the next to last signature. Make sure back is perfectly aligned. Let dry.

4) GLUE UP SPINE

Knock up spine absolutely flat between 2 sections of board. Lay book on edge of table (still between boards) and apply hot glue. Rub in with brush, then thumb. Check spine for alignment. Remove boards. Let dry half hour.

5) HAMMER SPINE FLAT

Make spine evenly flat by securing book in press and hammering along spine.

6) ROUND

Use only a few quick strokes on each side. A thin book needs only gentle rounding.

7) BACK

Begin by lowering the spine between jaws of press and giving it a quick press.

Adjust book between jaws for backing. The joint should be about the thickness of thin binder's board for these small books.

Begin backing just to side of center signature. Use short, soft strokes with center of hammer head. Proceed to edge using a bit longer strokes. Finish with short, hard strokes along edge with edge of hammer. The joints should be hammered really flat along metal jaw. Repeat on other side of center.

8) TRIM EXCESS ENDSHEET SECTION AT FOREEDGE AND TAIL

9) TRIM HEAD, if necessary

10) GILD OR COLOR HEAD, if desired

11) APPLY HEADBANDS

Embroider headbands or use industrial woven headbands. With industrial headbands, cut wider than spine and glue to head and tail, leaving about 1/8" excess on either side.

12) APPLY SPINE LININGS

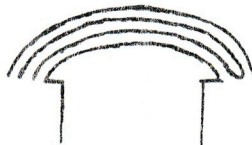
Cut sheet of strong, good paper the length of spine between the headband and about three times the width.

Brush glue on spine between bands. Apply paper, lining up one edge along one spine edge and rubbing down well. Crease the excess paper on the other edge with thumb and fold back on spine. Glue paper and rub down. Crease the excess on the other edge, fold back, and trim off with knife.

Reglue whole spine and apply one more layer of paper. The paper should be cut about a half inch longer than spine and about twice the width.

Trim excess width at one edge by creasing and trimming as above.

Let spine linings dry 2 hours.



13) CLEAN SPINE

Sand edges of spine linings.

Trim extra paper at top of bands with scissors

Trim excess bands on edges.

14) RIP WASTE SHEETS BACK $3/4$ " AT HEAD AND TAIL

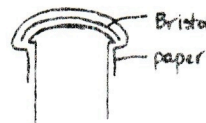
15) MAKE BRISTOL SPINE HOLLOW

Cut a piece of bristol the exact width of spine and round it with thumb and fingers

Cut a piece of strong, good paper 3 times the width of spine and longer than spine

Glue one side of the paper, put bristol down on center of paper, quickly wrap around spine of book, and work glued paper down onto sides and into joint of book

Nip in backer to make it neat and tight



16) CUT BOARDS TO SIZE

Thickness of boards should be a hair above spine edge to prevent rubbing of spine on shelf



Board length should be a hair over headband height

Board width should have excess to be trimmed off foredge later.

17) ATTACH BOARDS

Glue $3/4$ " along length of one side of each board

Position on book, leaving just over a board width for joints

Nip in backer for a few seconds

When completely dry, rip away excess waste sheets

18) TRIM FOREEDGES OF BOARDS

19) TRIM EXCESS HOLLOW AT HEAD AND TAIL

Use scissors

20) SAND BOARD EDGES AND CORNERS

21) PREPARE LEATHER

Pare a piece of leather about four inches longer than spine (this will allow for turn-ins and small corner pieces) and about 3 times the spine width to the thickness of sample* on Scarf-fix.

Cut leather to exact size for spine, leaving about $3/4$ " for head and tail turn-ins and enough at sides to cover joints and come over onto boards about $3/8$ ".

Feather all edges with paring knife.

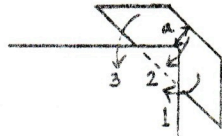
Paste leather, let soak in 10 minutes. Repaste, if necessary.
Place leather on spine, press down, work on joints with bone folder
(press, don't rub), and press down onto boards.
Let dry one day. Don't touch leather or open book.

23) CUT AND APPLY LEATHER CORNERS, if desired

Cut previously pared leather to following size and feather edges:



Paste corner, let paste soak in, and work onto board corners. Turn one edge of corner, work around tip of corner by pleating with thumbnail, and turn down remaining edge.



a = distance equals about $\frac{3}{16}$ "

24) MAKE HEADCAPS

Wet outside of tail and head leather turn-ins. Repaste insides.

Turn in using small bone folder

With 2 small folders sharpen outside joint and inside edge areas of leather

Pull leather up a bit at turn-in, making a slightly rounded shape

Push over top of headbands with bone folder

Put headcap on flat surface and tip book back just a bit to make headcap a bit lower than board edges. Rub back of spine with folder to keep it flat.

Reshape headcaps with 2 bone folders, inside and out.

25) SCORE LEATHER AND PARE

Score leather on front and back one millimeter from joint

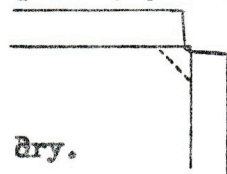
Pare from this line to where the leather meets board, paring down to nothing

Also pare corners at front, back, and edges (except at the tips where they are exposed)

26) APPLY PAPER COVERS TO BOARDS

Use hot glue, work fast

Put glued paper on board, trim corners as follows:



Let dry.

Variation: When not using leather corners, form library corners with paper.