

Coptic Junk Journal Instructions

Terminology

Head:	Top edge of the book
Tail:	Bottom edge of the book
Spine:	Side of the book where the book is sewn together
Fore edge:	Side of the book opposite the spine
Folio:	A sheet of paper, several of which together form a signature
Signature:	A bundle of folios folded together
Cover board (board):	Stiff, thick material used to cover the book

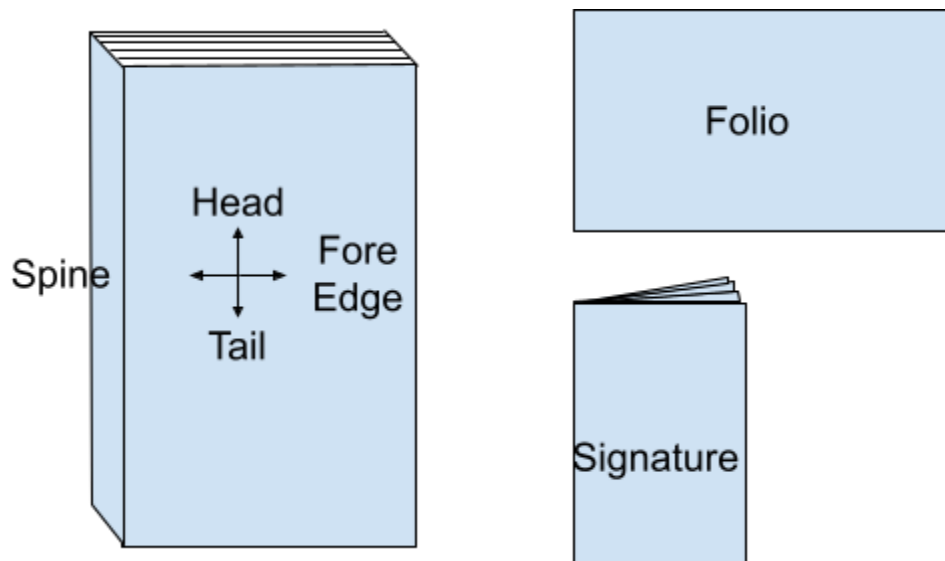


Figure 1: Common bookbinding terms

1. Preparing your cover boards

This book may be made in three separate steps. In the first step, we prepare the cover boards by punching sewing holes and covering them with book cloth.

Marking boards

Labeling the cover boards helps to prevent confusion in later steps. We also here mark a line $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the spine-side of the board on which all the sewing holes will lie. Follow these steps, referencing Figure 2.

1. Label each board to indicate “front” vs “back,” “inner” side vs “outer” side. Indicate also the “top” (head) of the board.
2. Mark a line $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the spine edge of each board, on the outer side.

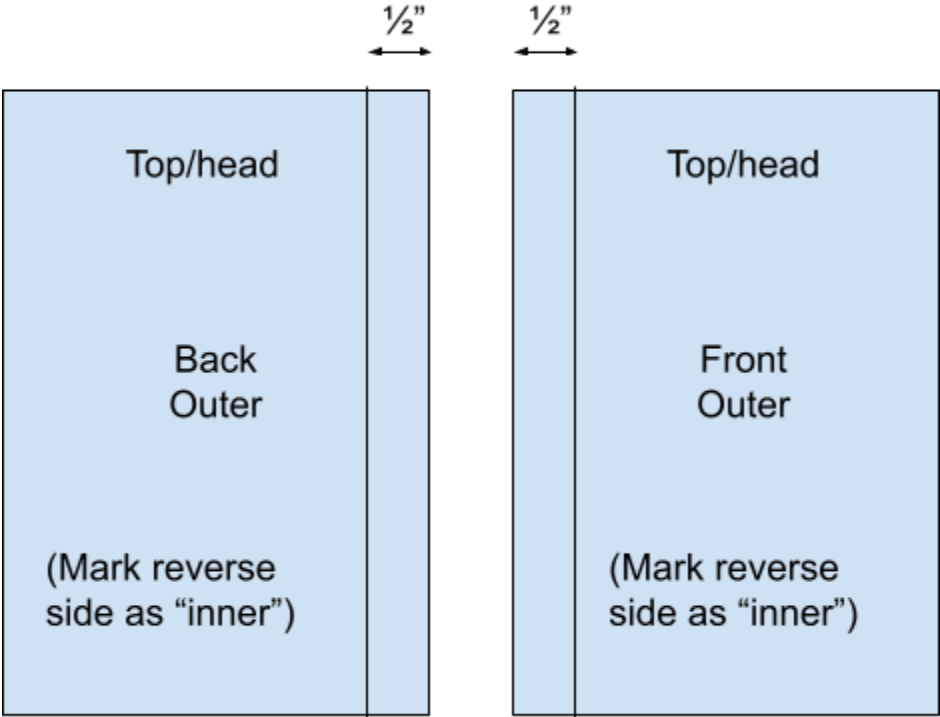


Figure 2: Marking and labeling of cover boards

Punching the sewing holes

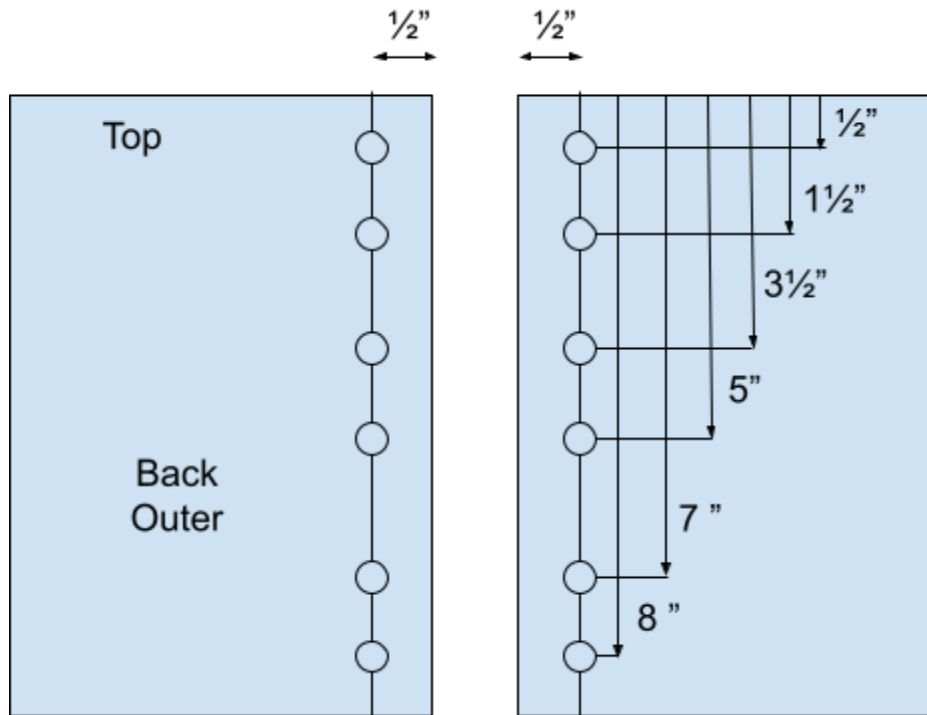


Figure 3: Measurements for sewing hole placement. Be precise with a ruler or use/make a hole placement template out of scrap paper or board. Hole size not to scale

To get a consistent fit, base all measurements from the top of the board. The same will go for signatures, measuring from the top to get precise agreement of hole positioning.

1. Form a hole-punching template by marking a piece of scrap paper or board at $\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 7, 8 inches from the top edge. (Some templates will be available in the Sel room)
2. Use hole punching template to mark hole locations along $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch line on each board. Line up the template with the half-inch line marked previously.
 - a. Alternately: mark measurements on each board with a ruler.
3. Poke holes with an awl, pushing from the outer side of the board through to the inner side of the board.
 - a. Optional: clean up edges of hole with blade and/or sand paper

Covering your boards

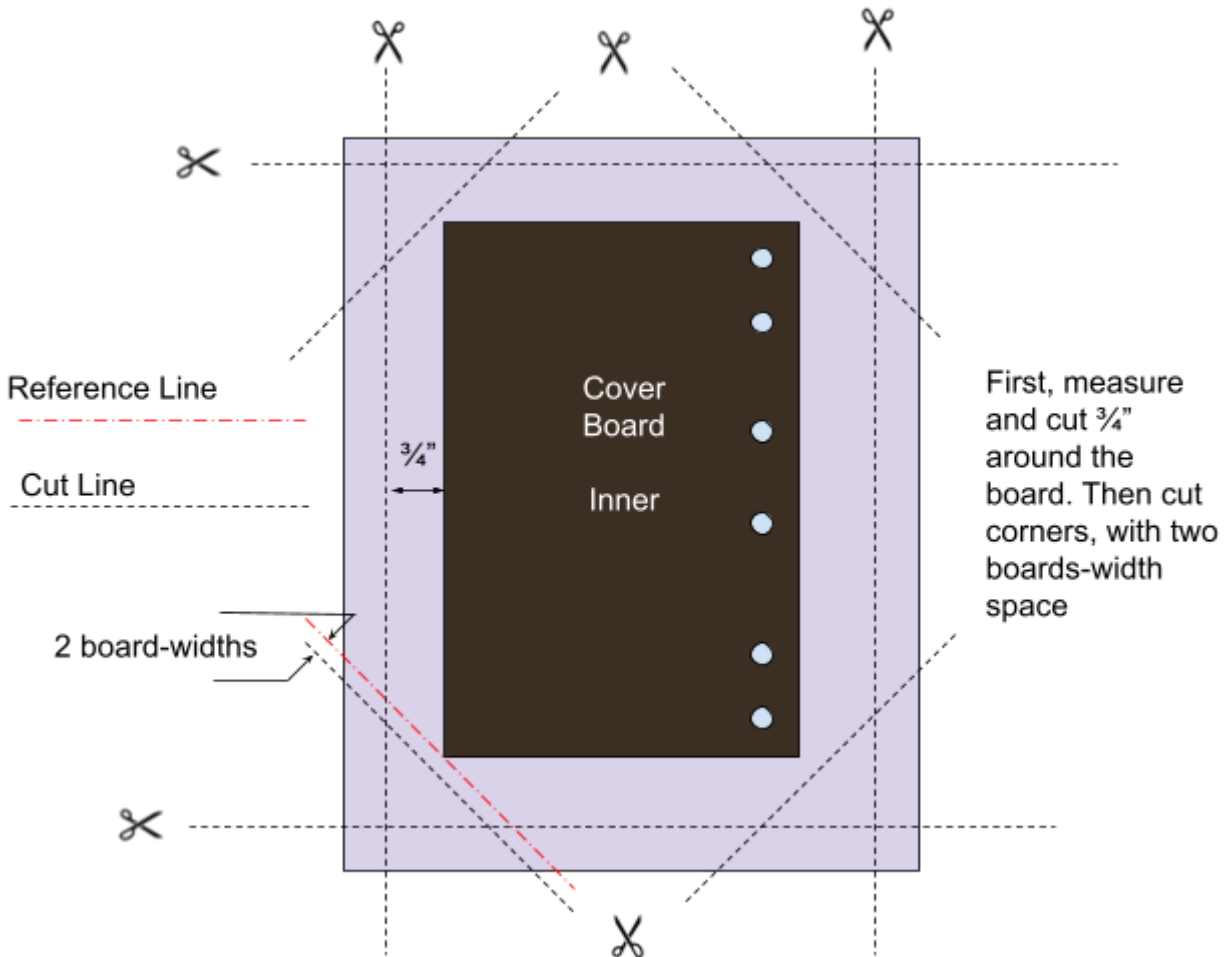


Figure 3: Trimming book cloth relative to the cover board. Note that the outer side of the cover board should be glued down onto the cloth prior to these markings and cuts.

1. Arrange your boards on the book cloth ensuring about 1 inch of clearance on the outer sides and two inches between boards. For convenience, cut the book cloth into two pieces (one for each board, with the necessary perimeter of one inch)
2. Brush glue onto the outer side of the board
3. Press glued side of the board down onto the papered side of the book cloth
4. Mark the book cloth with 3/4" around the board
 - a. 3/4-inch templates will be available in the Sel room. Alternately, mark a few dots 3/4" away from the board and draw a line through them.
5. Cut the book cloth along your 3/4" line
6. Mark diagonal lines offset from the corners of your board by about two boards-width
 - a. Two-board-width templates will be available in the Sel room
7. Glue top and bottom edges of the fabric and fold onto the board
8. Use bone folder to pinch-in near the corners of the board using bone folder
9. Glue left and right edges of fabric and fold onto the board using bone folder

10. Poke through the fabric from outside to inside, adhering fabric into the holes
 - a. It may be helpful to hold your board up to a light, perhaps using a flashlight to identify hole locations through the cloth
11. Cut a piece of cardstock or decorative paper about 8" x 5"
12. Glue out piece of paper and paste down onto in-side of the board
13. Poke through the paper from inside to outside, pushing excess paper into the hole and adhering

2. Preparing your signatures

1. Count four sheets of paper (folios) and jog them together, aligning the edges.
2. Fold the stack of folios in half and crease with bone folder: slide bone folder from center of the spine to the head, then center to the tail
 - a. Optionally, you may use a straight edge and rotary cutter or sharp blade to trim signatures slightly.
3. Optional: cut some colored paper to 2" x 8 1/2" and mark a half-way line down each strip of paper. For best effect, select two contrasting colors and alternate on each signature
 - a. You may adhere to each signature by gluing out the paper strip and pressing the spine side of the signature to the half-way line, then fold/wrap the strip around the outermost sheet in the signature (use bone folder). In the below example, signatures are wrapped in alternating gray/brown cardstock



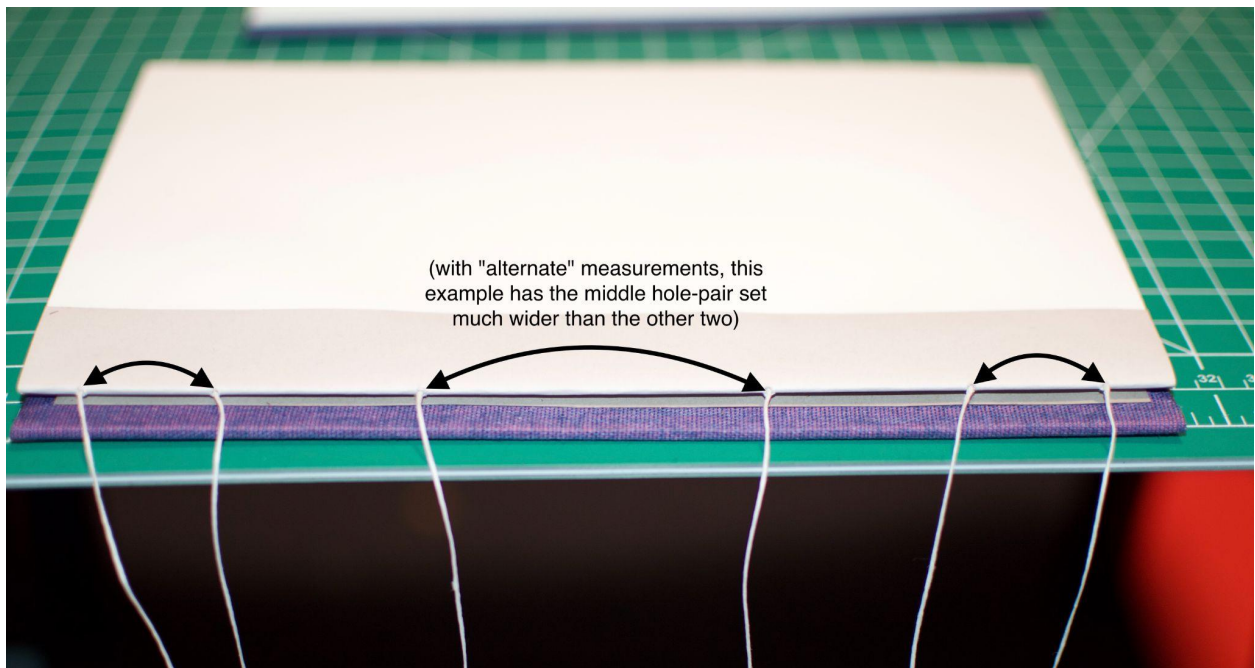
- b. Alternatively, you may wrap your signatures using washi tape
4. Prepare a piece of cardstock that is exactly the height of your signatures, about 2 to 4 inches wide. Fold this piece in half and align it along the sewing holes
5. Mark the cardstock at each hole, along the fold
6. Snip the cardstock at each marking with scissors or sharp blade
7. Poke through the cardstock at each slit with a teasing needle. This forms the hole-punching template you will use for all of your signatures.
8. Use hole-punching template placed at the center of the signature; align to the top of the signatures and poke holes with the teasing needle. Repeat for each signature
 - a. A hole-punching cradle makes it easy to align the top edge of a signature. Insert the template and poke holes with a teasing needle.

- b. Alternately, punch holes by laying the signature out on a cutting sheet and poking through, holding the needle at a 45-degree angle

3. Sewing your book

With boards covered, glued, and reasonably dry, and seven signatures folded and prepared with spine holes, you are ready to sew!

Search keywords: coptic, multiple needles, link stitch



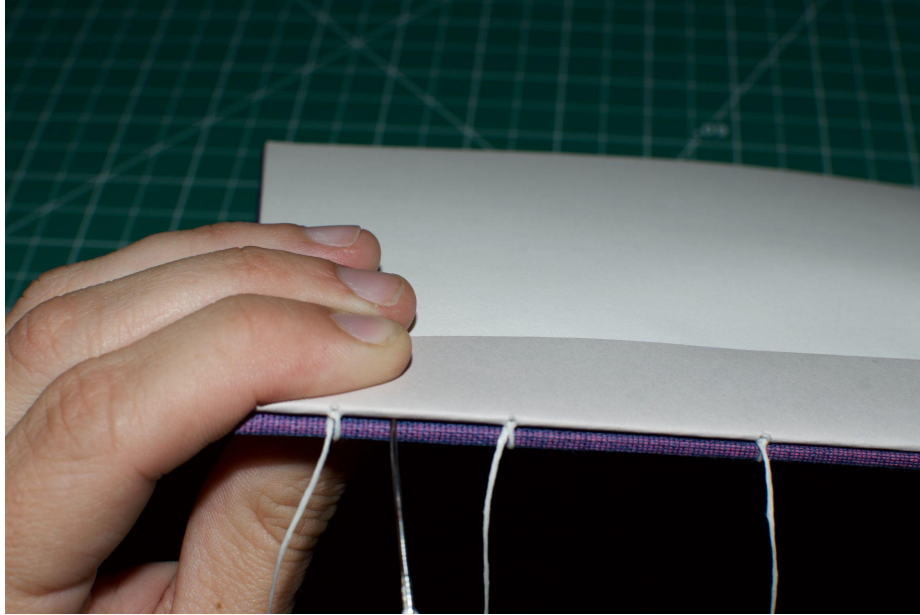
1) Cut thread into three lengths, each about 3 yards in size. Attach a needle to each end of the thread and bring through the first signature as shown. The center of the 3-yard length of the thread will be in the middle of the first signature, and the ends (each with a needle attached) will dangle as shown.



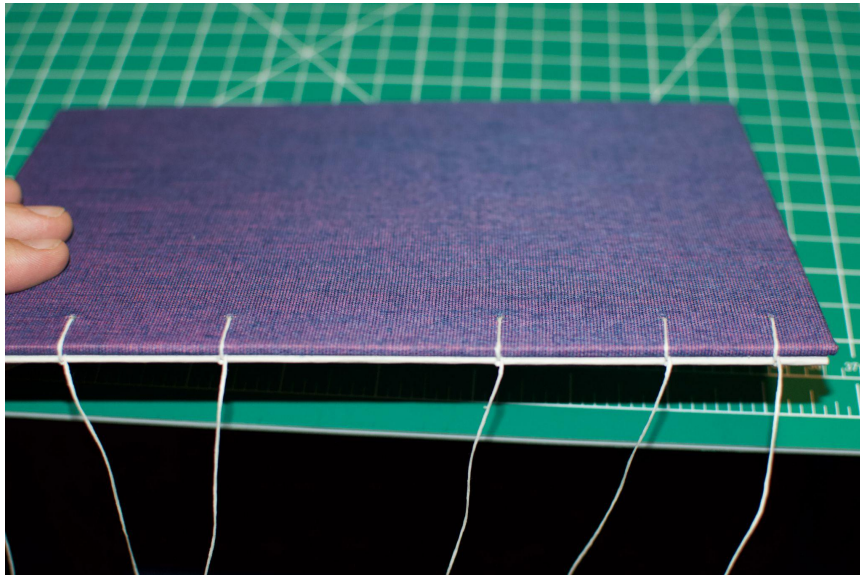
2) Holding a cover board next to the first section thread each needle through its corresponding hole in the cover board. The needles are threaded into the outside face of the board to the inside and back toward the spine.



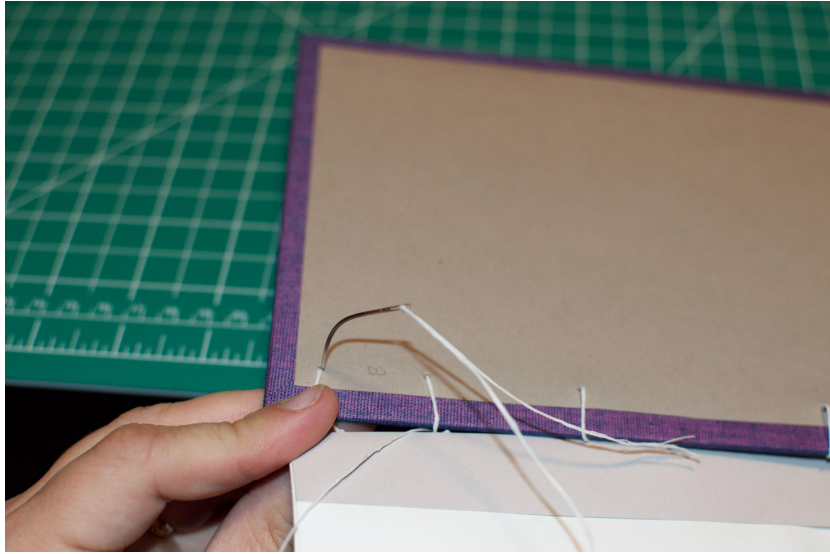
3) Pulling the thread taut at this point will result in the above appearance.



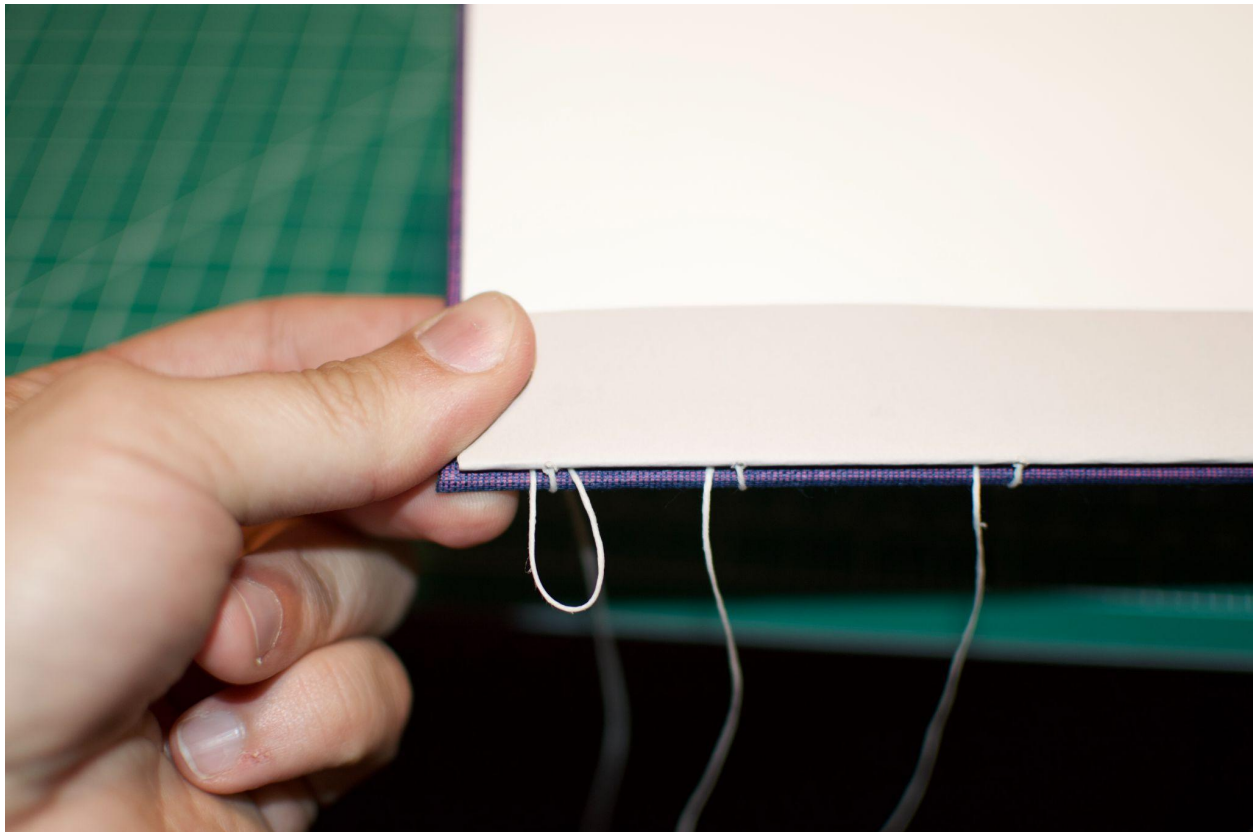
4) Repeat for each thread, moving sequentially (left to right, in this case). Ensure that the loose end of the thread is on the same side of the out-the-signature end of the thread. As pictured above, the loose end is on the left side; keep this consistent as you treat each needle.



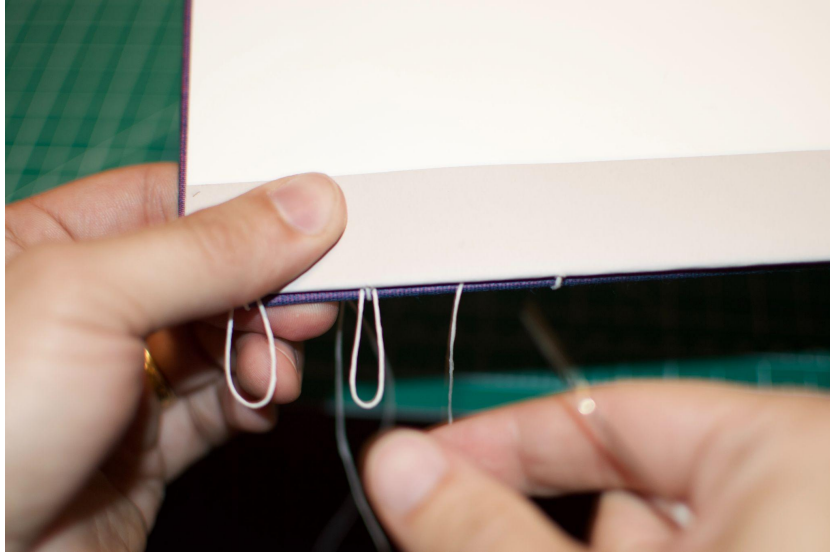
5) Continue until each sewing station looks the same, as above.



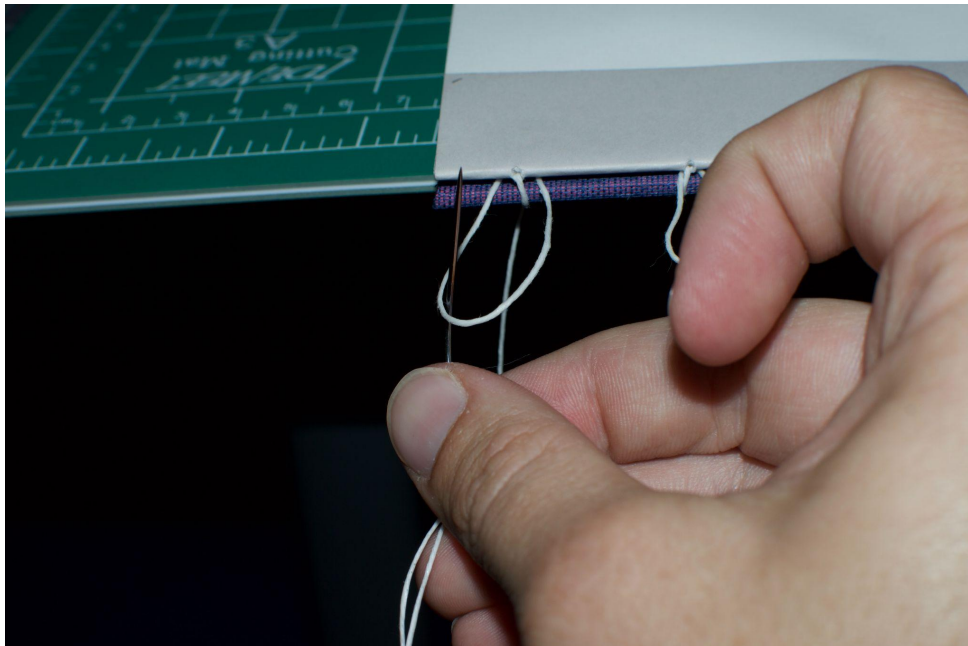
6) Cross the sewing thread over the board-to-section attachment and thread the needle back through the hole in the cover board. Open the signature to gain access to the sewing hole in the board, and pass the needle from the inner side of the board to the outer side of the board.



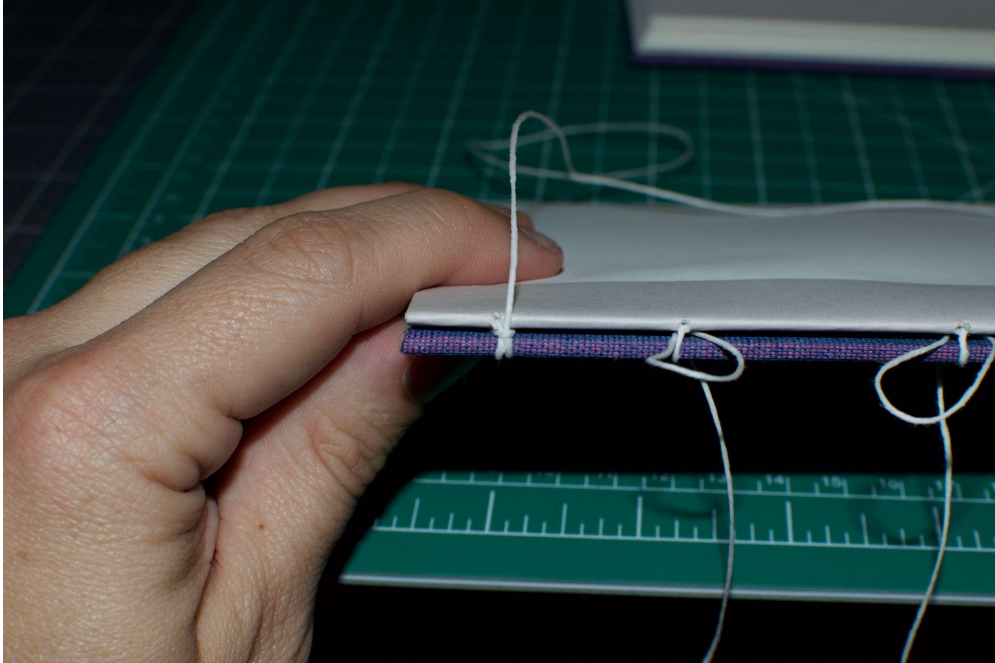
7) A loop will form on the spine-side of the book. *Do not tighten*. Leave the loop intact and tighten by pulling on the loop (one side will tighten the sewn joint, the other side is the free end of the thread, where the needle is).



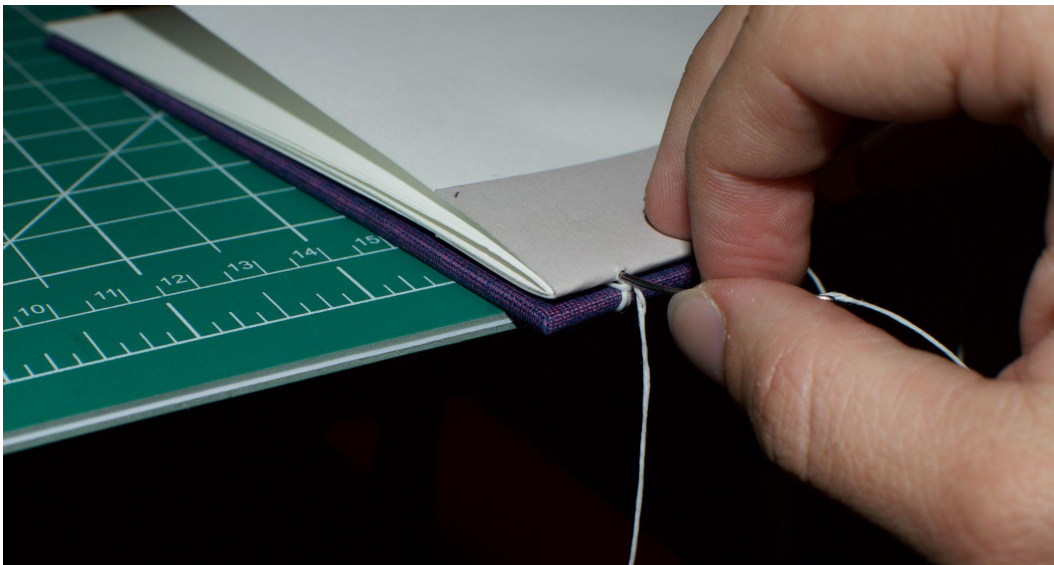
8) Continue sequentially, leaving loops open while tightening as you go.



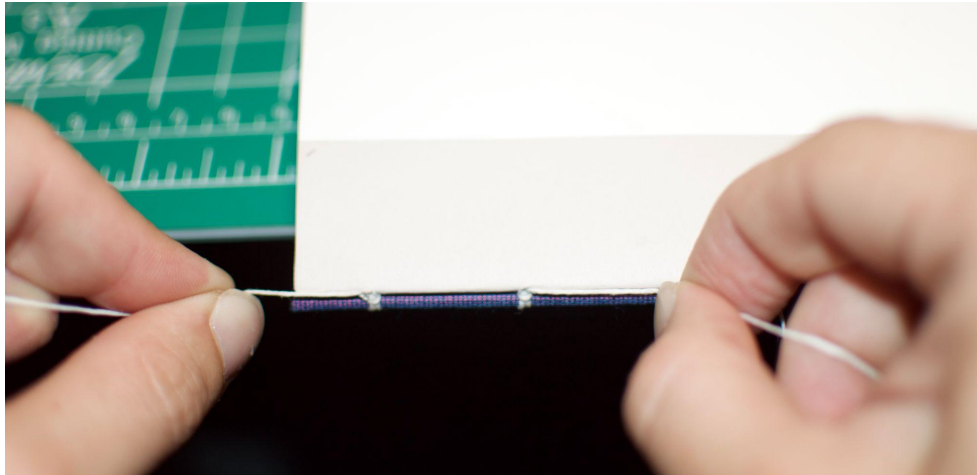
9) Pass the needle through the loop. The point of the needle should point up, orienting the outside of the cover downward as shown. The thread may then be tightened. Repeat for each thread. The loops will decrease in size as tightened.



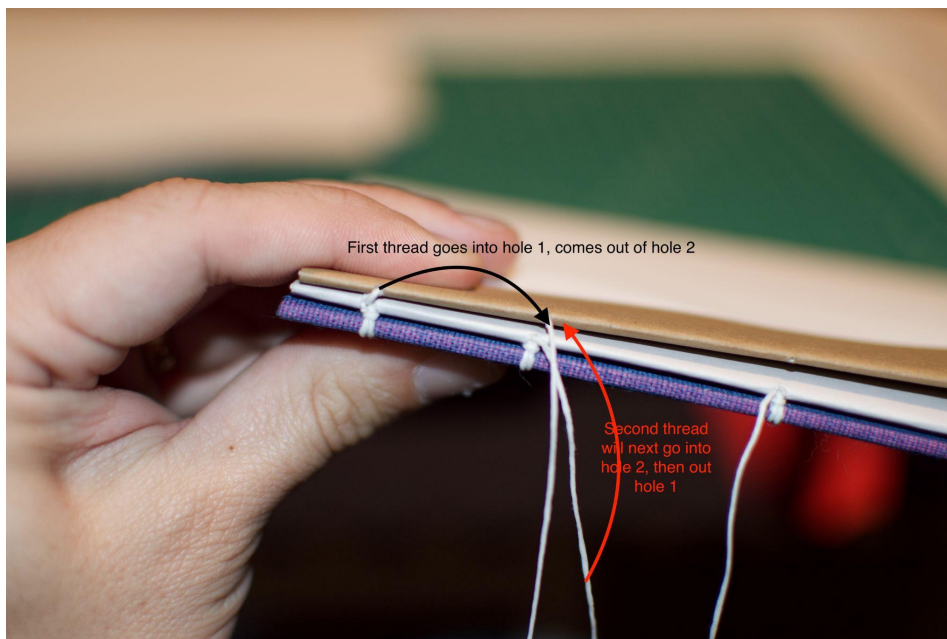
10) When the needle-side of the thread is pulled, the loop will tighten, forming a strong joint between the cover and the first signature in the stack



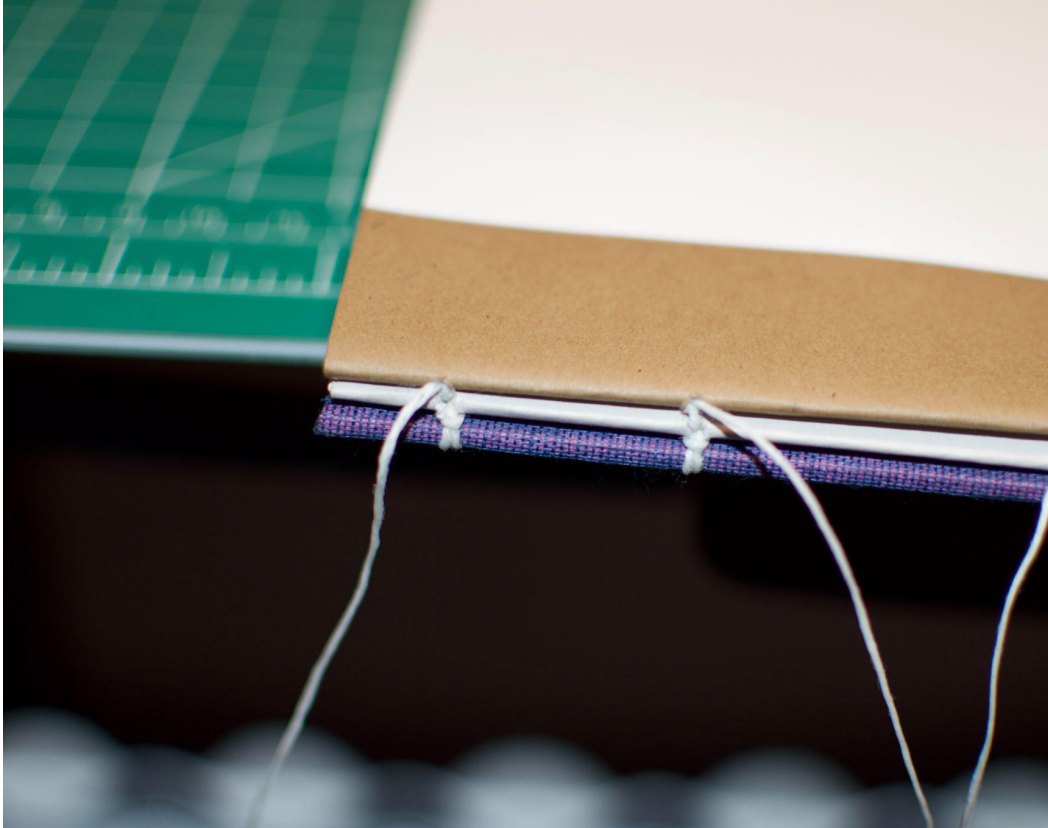
11) Feed the needle back into the corresponding hole (do not cross over to the other hole in the pair). The needle will now be in the middle of the signature, and should then be passed through the other hole in the pair, back out. Tip: pull on the other thread in the pair to clear space for the needle. Avoid stabbing through the thread at all times (remove the needle and pull the thread back through if this happens).



12) At this stage, it is safest to tighten threads by pulling in this way, parallel to the spine. This prevents the thread from tearing out through the signatures. Repeat for each sewing station and ensure a tight joint before continuing



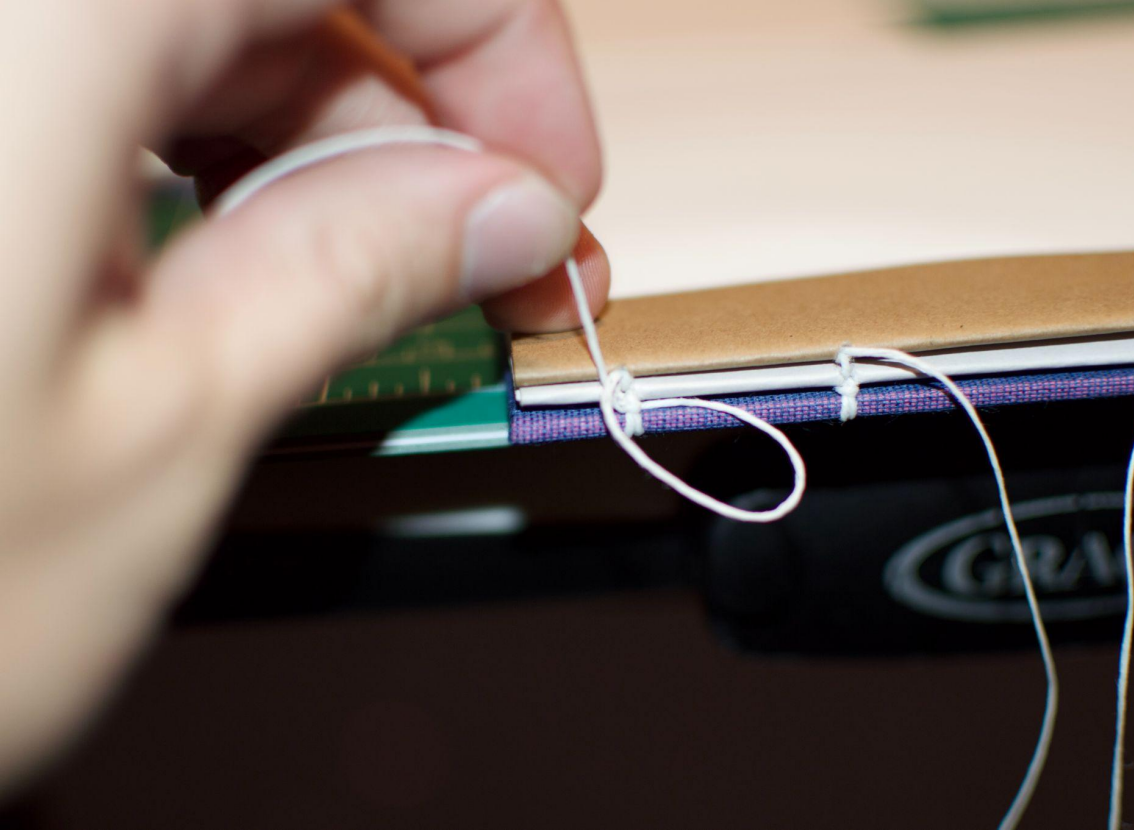
13) The next signature can now be placed on top of the previous. The needle should pass through the holes in the new signature, in through the corresponding hole and out through the other in the pair. Repeat for all needles before proceeding



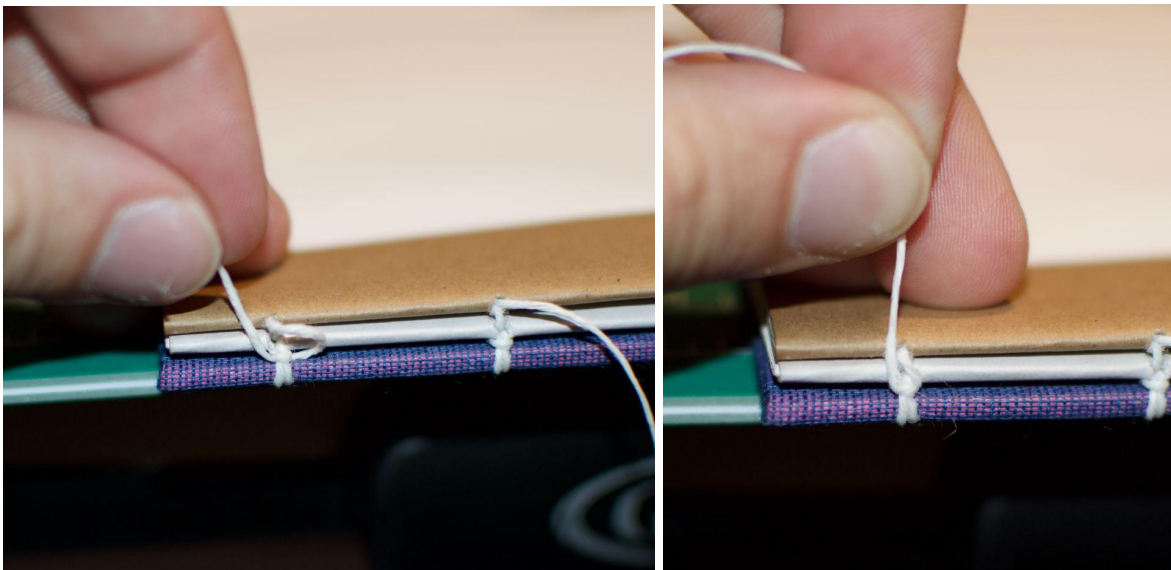
14) Each sewing station should now look like the above pair. Tighten using the technique from Step 12



15) Now pass the needle between the board and the first signature. In the above, the needle goes from the right side of the stitch to the left. Keep this direction consistent across all sewing stations.



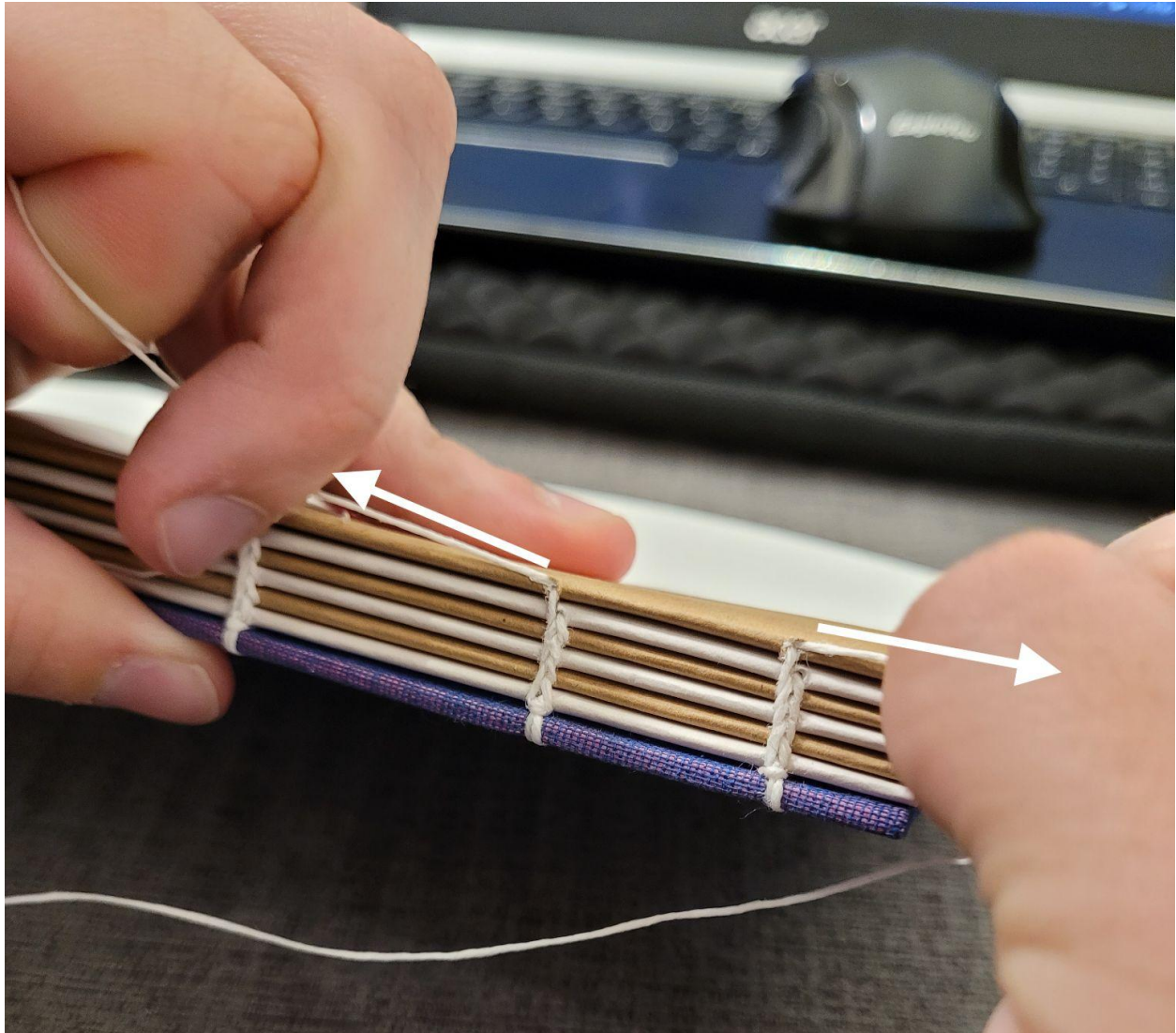
16) Pull the free end of the thread upward. Do not pass the needle through the loop that forms. A herringbone pattern will emerge as you continue linking each signature to the previous in this manner.



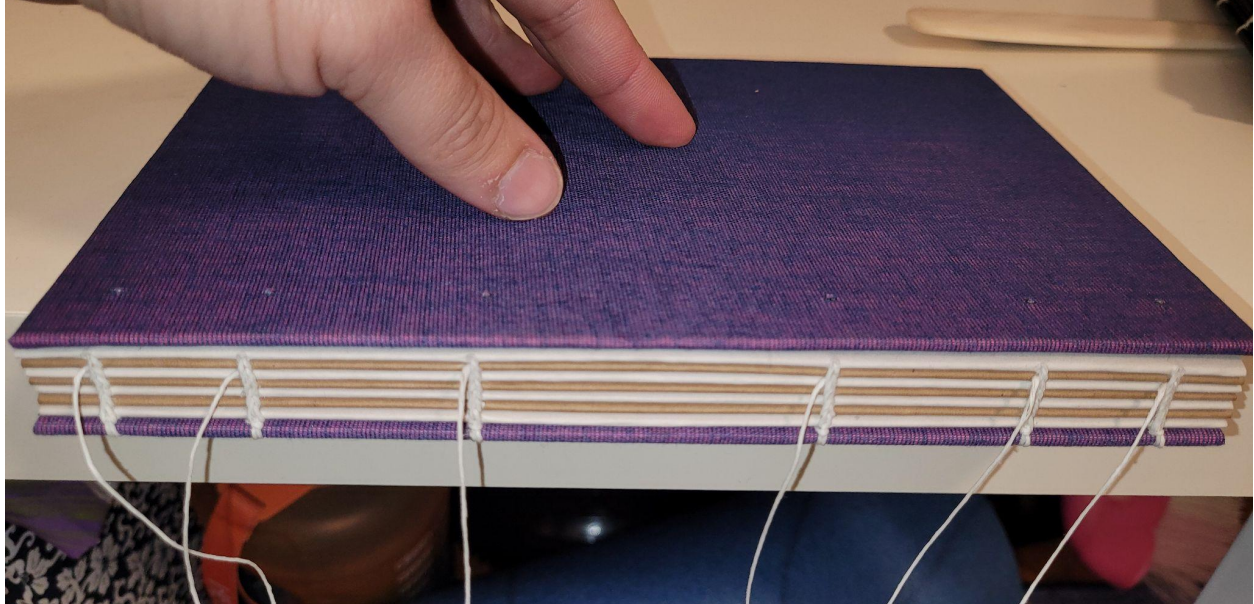
17) Note again that the thread does not pass through the loop. Pulling upward tightens this stitch, and will form a herringbone pattern.



18) Repeat steps 13 through 17 with all the following signatures. The needle in step 15 will always pass beneath the previous signature. Keep the direction consistent. Do each step for each sewing station, keeping the tension firm and consistent throughout.



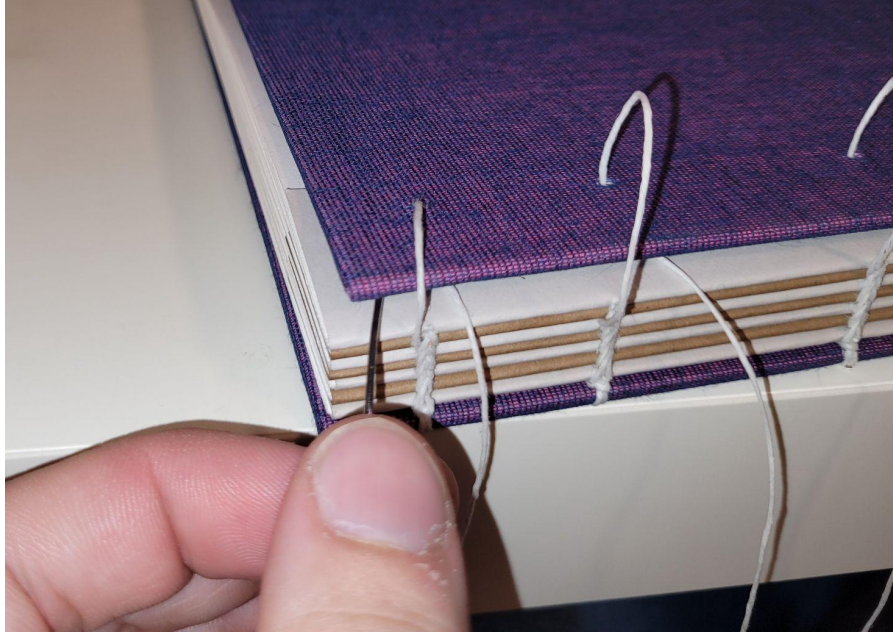
18b) Tip: continue to use this technique from Step 12 to tighten the threads before doing the linking stitch from Step 15



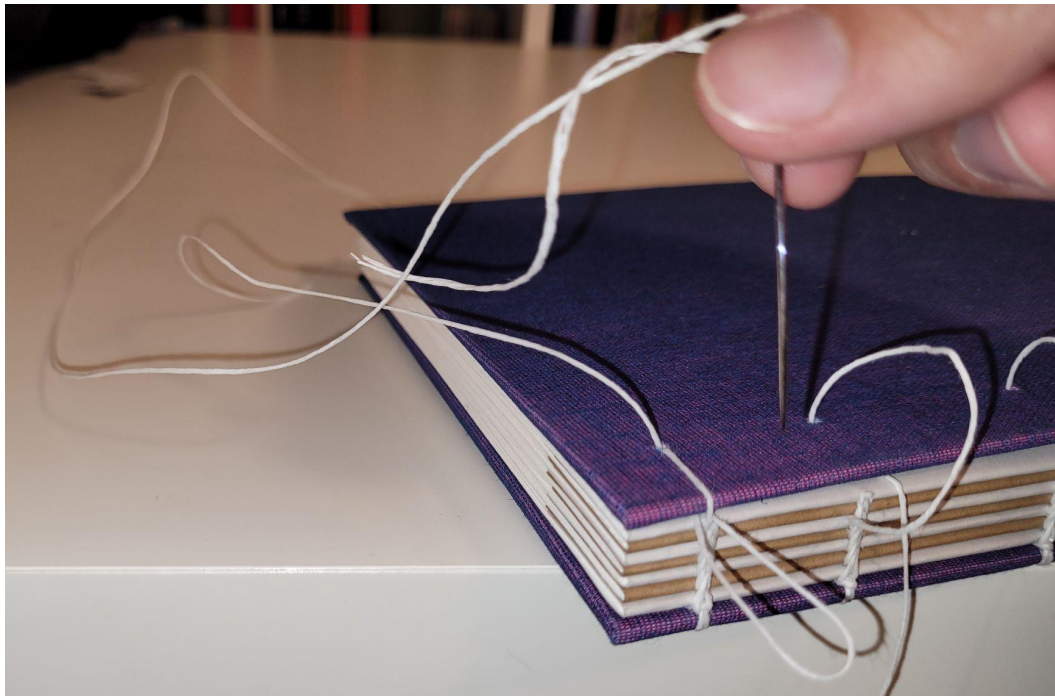
19) After the last signature has been sewn and linked to the penultimate signature, place the cover board on top.



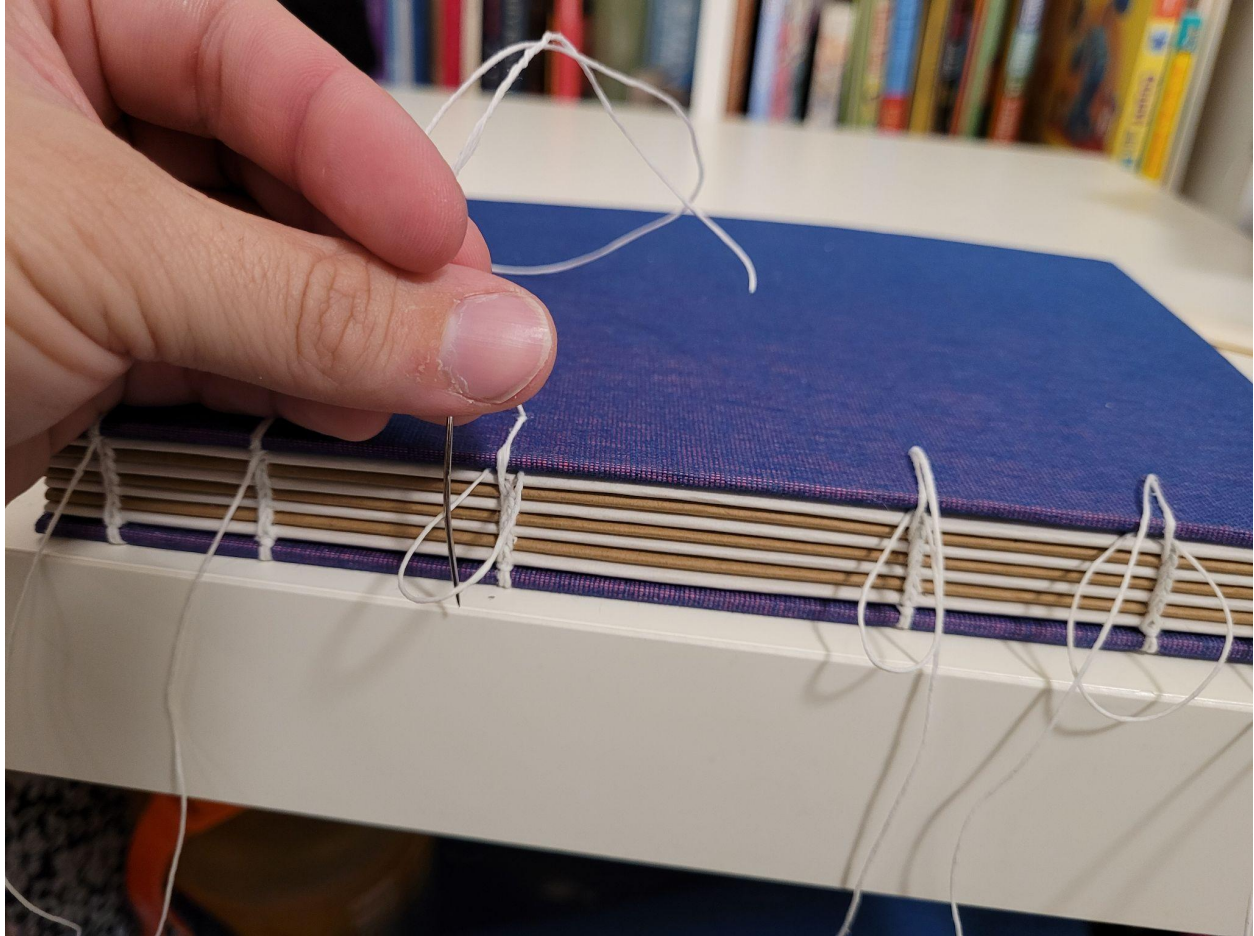
20) Thread each needle into its corresponding hole on the cover board, passing from the outer side of the board to the inner side. Bring the needle back towards the spine of the book between the cover board and the last signature, keeping the direction consistent



21) Wrap the signature around the sewing station as in step 6. Pass the needle back through the hole in the cover board; it should pass from the inner side to the outer side. Once again, a loop will form—keep it intact!



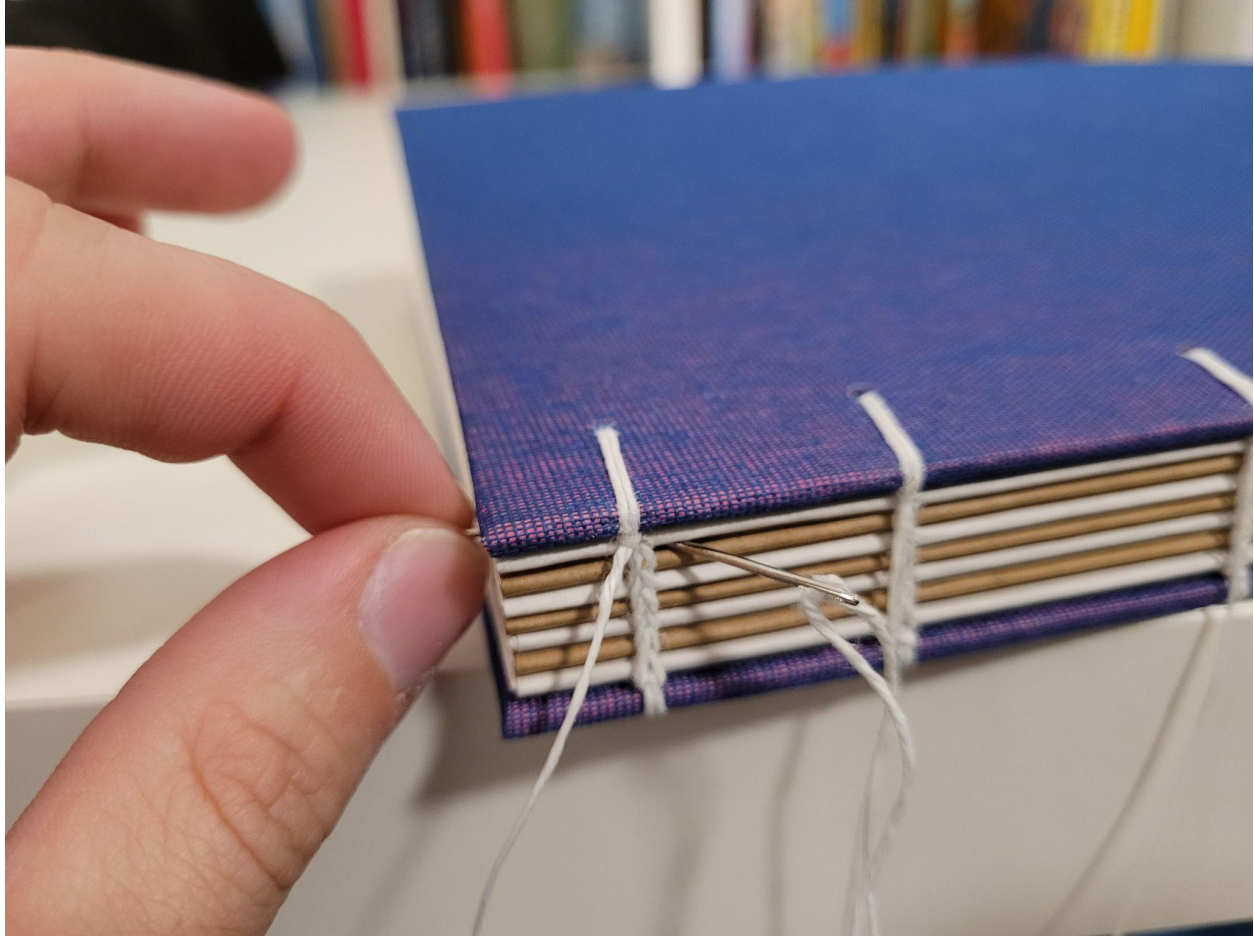
21b) View of the loop formed after passing the needle back through the cover



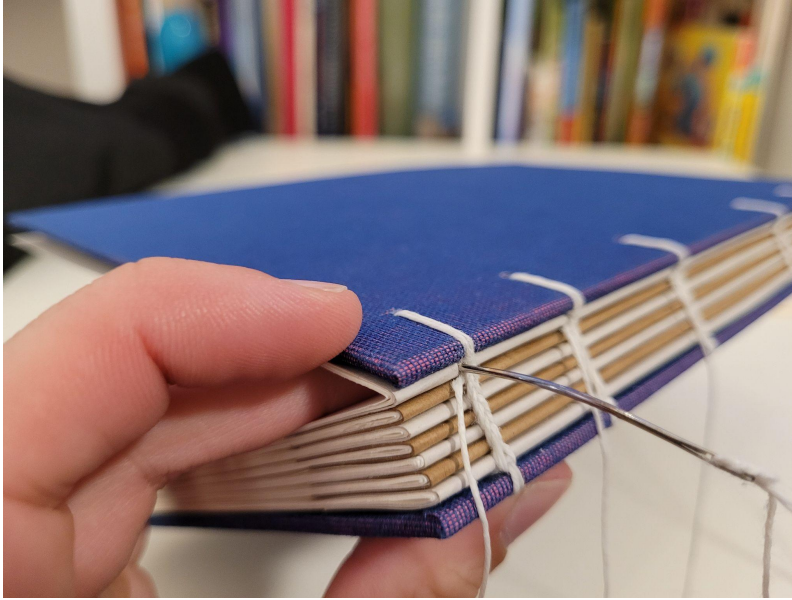
22) Pass the needle through the loop. As in step 9, pass it so the tip of the needle points toward your signatures



23) Tighten the loop by pulling straight down on the thread, doing the same for each needle

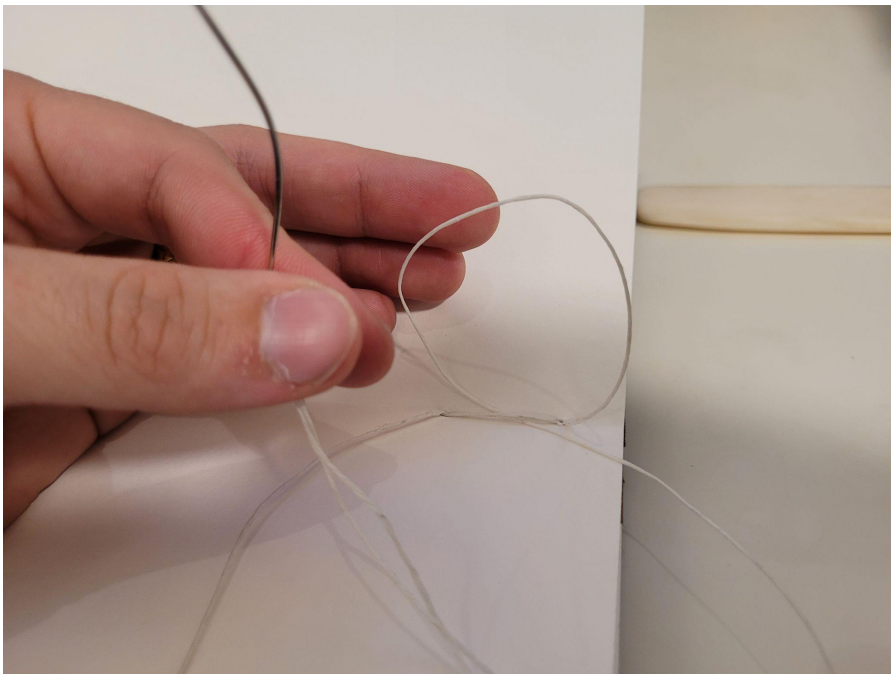


24) Wrap the needle around the sewing station beneath the last signature, forming a final link similar to those formed between each of the signatures. Tighten the link by pulling, and repeat for all other sewing stations.

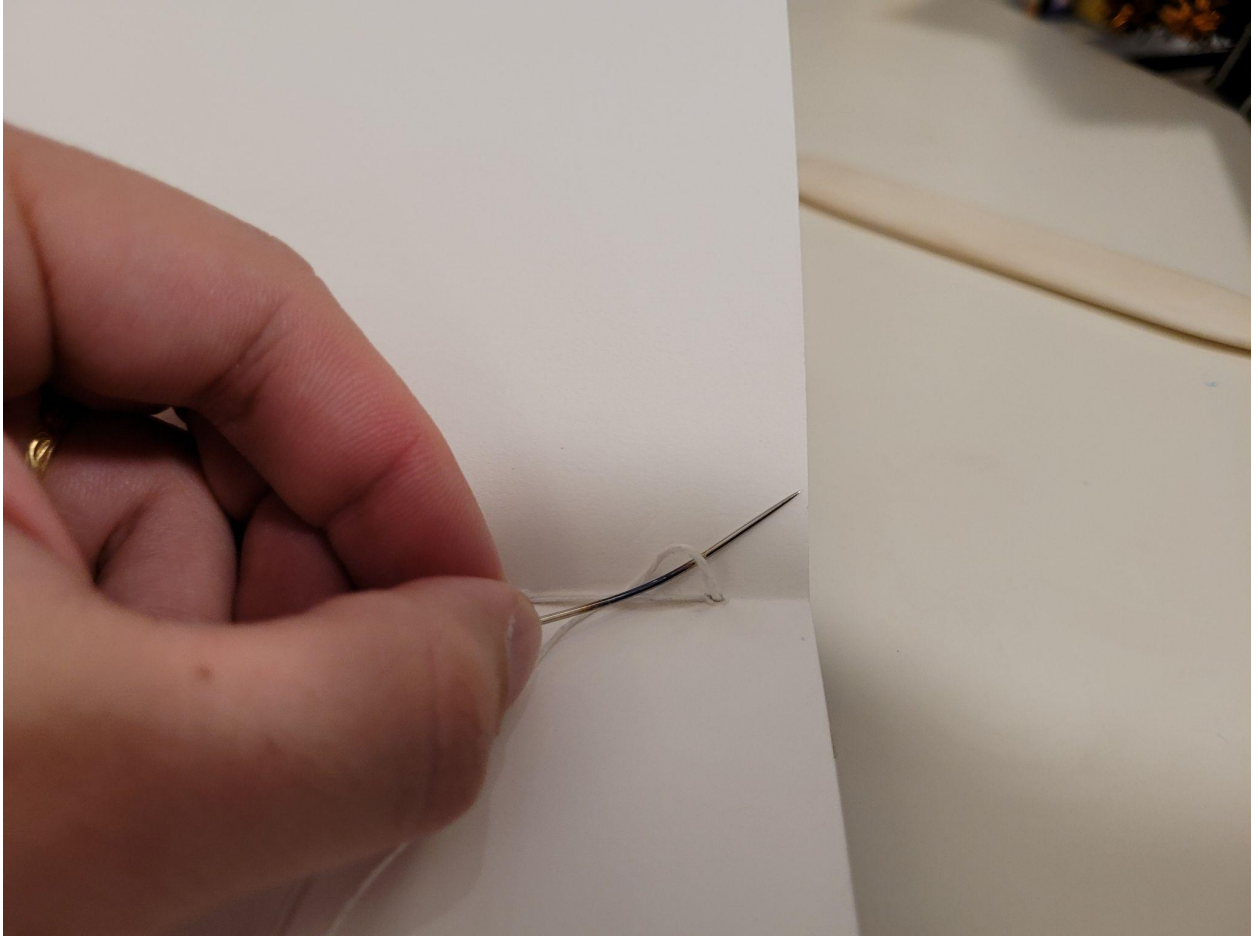


25) Place the needle tip into the hole of the last signature.

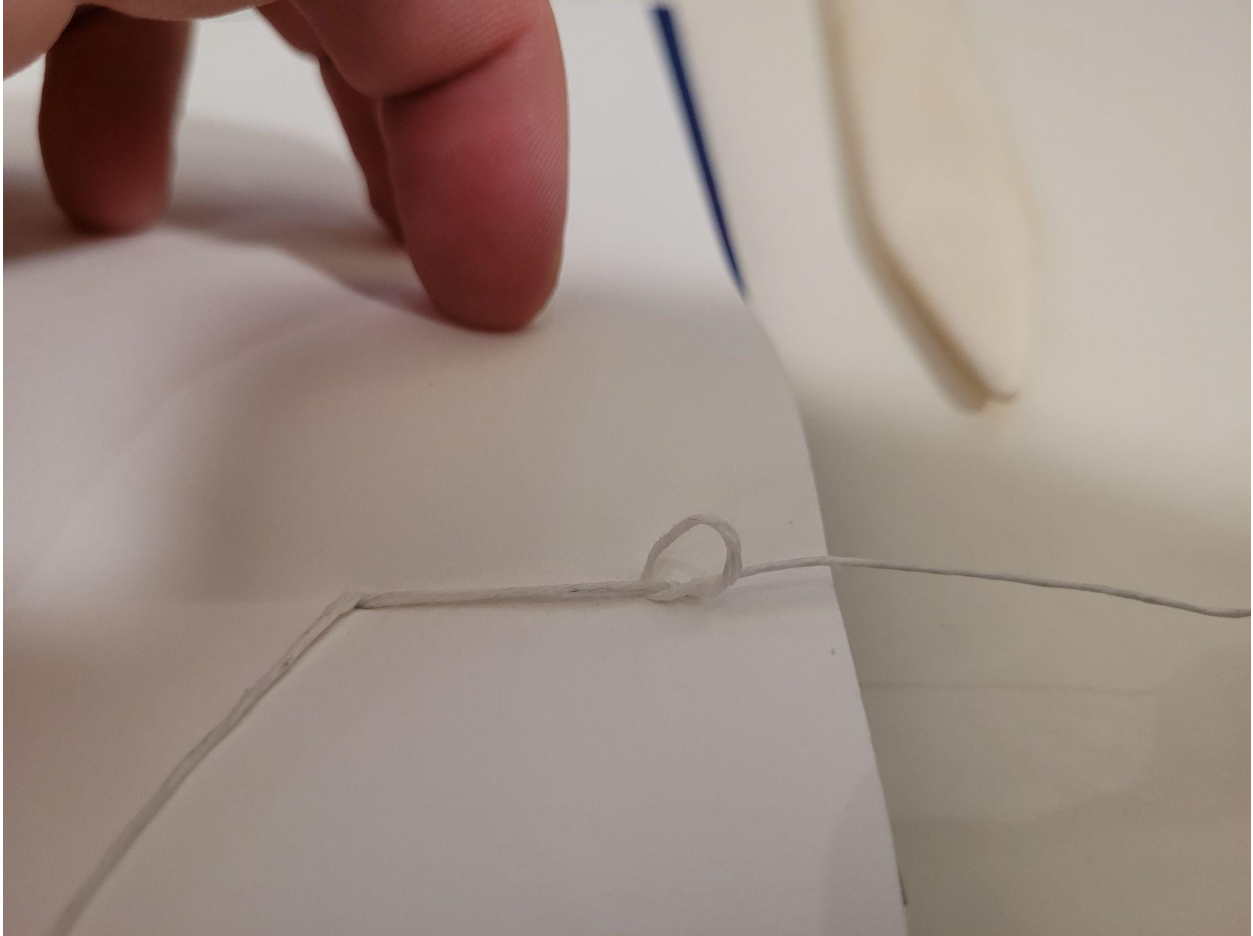
25b) Open to the center of the last signature. All free ends will be here, as well as the thread between sewing holes.



27) Pass the needle beneath the existing sewing thread in the spine fold and form a single overhand knot.



28) Pass the needle through the overhand knot



29) Pull the knot until it tightens. The knot should form at the hold. Cut off excess thread, leaving about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Tie off all remaining threads similarly.