

Coptic Stitch Bookbinding

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Chapter 1

Why Coptic Stich?

Chapter 2

Assembling and Punching Pages

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Stitching the Book

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Why Use Coptic Stitch?

When there are so many ways to create books, you might wonder why you'd choose this notoriously difficult method. Here are a few reasons:

- This is a glue-free method.
- The binding looks beautiful and you can leave it exposed.
- Coptic bindings tend to be looser, which allows your pages to lie totally flat when you open the book. This is great for sketchbooks!
- Sometimes it's fun to do things the hard way.

There are many visual tutorials on coptic stitch available online. This is a very simple instructional manual, but feel free to reference the wealth of other resources available for further guidance. If you enjoy this method and would like *more* techniques for bookbinding, please check out the Resources chapter. In particular, if you enjoy sewing bindings, check out Keith Smith's series [Non-Adhesive Binding] (<https://keithsmithbooks.com/Vol-I-NAB>).

Chapter 6

Assemble and Punch Your Pages

For this step, you can use pre-cut pages or cut your own to a size of your choosing.

6.1 Folios and Signatures

A *folio* is one sheet of paper folded precisely in half.

A *signature* is a stack of several signatures nestled together.

For this book, we will use five signatures of three pages each, so you need 15 folios (or 15 sheets of paper). 1. Stack 3 pages together and carefully fold the whole thing in half, creasing the fold with a bone folder or other flat object. Congratulations, you have a signature! 2. Take a paper awl and punch 5 holes in the crease through all 3 sheets. You should probably measure before you do this so that they are equidistant and replicable ;) 3. Repeat with four more stacks of three sheets each.

When you stack all five signatures together, the holes should more or less align at the folded edges.