Japanese Side Sewn Sketchbook with Jody Alexander

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Introduction

- The Japanese side-sewn binding is such a wonderful binding because it has a really nice, clean, elegant look to it. Fairly simple to do, too, relatively, in comparison to other kinds of bindings. And what's really nice about it and so many people, so many of my students really like it as well as book arts, is you're just stacking sheets of paper and clamping them and binding them together. There's no folded sheets in there. So it's very simple to do layout, as opposed to a signature book which are folded sheets of paper, and layout can be really complicated with that. So this is a really nice, simple way to get photographs, writing, scanning your kids' drawings, and just printing them on a printer, cutting them in half, and they're ready for this format. It's also nice for a little travel journal or something to write things in, to tuck things into. These are some of the samples that I have, that I'm gonna show you how to do. The first one here is the Four Hole Binding, and it's the foundation for the other three more decorative bindings. This one is the Noble Binding, and I'll show you how to do that, too. This one is called the Tortoise Shell Binding, and this last one is called the Hemp Leaf Binding. And I'll take you through how to bind each one of those.

Tools and Materials

- The materials and tools that you'll be needing today is the text paper, all four for these bindings. You want it to be fairly thin for this binding. Thick paper will be hard for the pages to turn, so you don't wanna use a paper that's too thick. You can see that that will be a problem as you get into the books. So you wanna use a paper that's fairly thin. Can use a Japanese paper or you can use a resume kind of paper that you normally just get at the office supply store. You'll also need some kind of paper for the cover. This is just a card stock paper also from the copy store. You might wanna use that to practice with, but you can use really any kind of nice handmade paper or machine made paper for the cover. Anything that interests you really give it a try. The tools that you'll be needing today are your awl definitely gonna need the awl to make the holes. Just sew it through. You're gonna want your bone folder mainly for scoring the cover at the end. You're gonna want a straight-edge ruler for measuring and for the scoring. And you're definitely gonna want some kind of clips to hold the paper and cover in place while you get your binding going. So these are just clothes pins, those work perfectly fine and they're kind of really nice and gentle on the paper, so that's what I usually use or you can use these kind of bull clips if you want. They're a little harsher. Or even a big paper clip can work. Also thread of course to bind and a good, strong needle. And always good to have a cutting surface, a cutting mat to protect your area. So those are the materials and the tools that we'll need for the binding.

Chapter 2 - Four-Hole

Cutting Paper

- Okay, we're ready to start preparing our materials for the Japanese side sewn binding. So you want your text paper to be down to size. What we're gonna be making today is a size that's a half sheet of eight and half by 11 paper. So that's really easy to cut down. We're just halving them. So this is an eight and a half by 11 piece of text paper and I'm just gonna tear it like I like to do. Fold it in half, use my bone folder to crease down that fold and to break down those fibers. (paper tearing)

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And tear it in half. And you're gonna do that as many times as you want to create how many pieces of text paper that you'd like in there. Another way that you can cut your paper or halve your paper is by cutting it. And I'll show you that with my piece of cover paper. I'll just demo for you how I cut a piece of paper. So what I wanna do, I'm gonna cut this in half, so I need to measure what that half point is. So I'm gonna take my straight edge ruler and a pencil. It's 11 inches, so half is five and a half. I'm gonna make three marks down this piece of paper at five and a half. The reason I'm gonna do three is if I only do two, they always line up with my ruler. So if I measure three times and they're not lining up with my ruler, I know that maybe one of those is off. So the general rule of thumb is measure twice, cut once, in this case measure three times, cut once. That's the rule. Alright, so I've got my ruler lined up, it looks good, but you know I like to do a last minute check with my triangle to make sure that everything is nice and square. So while my ruler is lined up along all those marks, I'm gonna take my triangle and I'm gonna put it right along my ruler, and what I'm looking at is the top of the sheet of paper, and making sure this triangle is right along that top sheet. And that way I know that I'm nice and square and I'm ready to cut. So I'm gonna take my knife, (knife clicks) hold down my ruler, keep your fingers out of the way, hold it real firm, and do a nice, slow cut. And you never wanna cut too hard. If you have a thick piece of paper, do more than one light cut rather than one heavy cut because that way you're putting yourself at more risk for injury if you're doing a real hard cut, you can skip the ruler and hurt yourself. So be very careful when using those knives. So now I've got my two covers out of this sheet, and then I've got my text paper. And that's a good general way to cut paper.

Sewing stations for thread using Awl
- I'm ready to bind the four-hole Japanese side-sewn binding right now. So, I've got my materials ready. I've got my my text paper. I only have about six pages or so of text paper here just for this demo. I've got a cover stock for my covers, and I'm ready to make the holes that we're gonna sew through. So, what I've done is made a template to show me where the holes are gonna go through the the side of this cover. I'll explain the template to you, but I also want you to know it's available for download on a PDF so that you can just cut it out and use it exactly as is. But, what I've done here is the holes are gonna be approximately a half an inch from the the edge of the the book. You can vary that a little bit. You don't want it to be too close to the edge, probably no closer than a quarter of an inch, and probably not any farther than an inch in. I think half an inch is is kind of a nice distance, so that that's how far that holes are from the edge of the book. I've also got have 7/8 of an inch from the head and from the tail. That's where the first and last hole is. And then, the in-between holes are one and a quarter inch apart. You don't have to make note of that now because there is there there is this template available for for download. So, I'm going to line up all my my material here. You want it to be real flush at the head, the tail, and the spine edge. You want everything to be as close to the same height as as you can get it. I'm gonna clip my materials now that I've got everything nice and flush so they stay in place. I'm just gonna use the clothes pins to clip it. Clip it, I'm gonna clip it a little farther away so that I have a little more room to make my holes. And then, I'm gonna put my template, I've designed it so I can just line it up right on the spine edge here, and it's ready to go to make my holes. I'm just gonna hold it firmly here. Some of my students like to to clip it down or maybe a little piece of tape, but I feel confident enough just holding it down. I'm gonna take my awl, and I'm just gonna go right through where I have that mark that's a half inch in and 7/8 of an inch down, all the way through those those papers and to the last one. That's 7/8 of an inch from the the tail. You really wanna make these good, healthy, big holes because you're

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gonna be taking your needle and thread through these holes at least three times, depending on on which of these bindings you're gonna do. In this case, we're doing the four-hole. You're gonna be going through each hole three times with your needle and thread. So, the third time you go through, there's gonna be two lengths of thread in there, so you want a real good, healthy hole. So, you see how I'm holding it up, holding the whole book up, and I'm I'm making those holes a little bigger. If you have used more paper here and you're having trouble getting through all of the the the whole stack, turning it over is a good idea and working it from both sides. That hole's nice nice and big. And you can also use other tools too. You can use a a hand drill, or even if you're comfortable with it, an an electric drill, but that's more of a of of big job, but just so you know that that is available to do. Okay, we've got our our four holes, and we're ready to bind.

Binding
- Okay, we've go our materials ready our holes in our cover and through our text block and we're ready to bind the four-hole Japanese side sewn binding. So, I have my needle and thread ready. This is a three-ply thread. It's colored a dark colored wax linen thread real strong thread, which is important. The needle is a number 18 sharp needle it is a book binding needle, which means its a reinforced steel, which is real, real nice and strong, which is important for this binding because you are going to be taking it through a hole that's going to be kind of tight at the end of binding. So I get these from a book making supply store. You can start out with a needle from the sewing store. All you need is a generous enough eye for your thread to go through, but you might find it might not be strong enough. So I do recommend the binding needles. So I'm going to start off with binding. I'm going to line up the spine of the book with the edge of my work table, and what I'm going to show you is starting off in the middle of the book. We're going to start off in the middle of the textbook and that's so that we can hide the knot. So that at the end the knot will be on the inside and no one can see where it is. To do that I'm going to lift up about half of the textbook. It can be exact if you want. I usually like it to be exact. If I have six pages I count in three, but it just needs to be approximate. We're going to start at the second hole from the bottom, and we're going to come in through the middle of the textbook there out to the front cover. Through the front cover, and then I'm going to leave about... I like to leave a good three inches of thread on the end, and what I'm going to do is I'm going to push that in to find it later. I'm going to push it in there come down, and we're ready to start sewing. Very exciting moment. So I'm gonna just to go in and out of these holes, and head to the top of the book towards the head of the book. So I'm gonna go all the way through the cover. Take my thread all the way through. Be sure not to pull it too tight because we want that three inches to stay in there. Now, I'm gonna take my needle back through to the top from the back to the top. We're just gonna go in and out of those holes until we get to the top. Okay, now we're gonna go around the top. You can see, let's refer to the samples. See how the thread goes over the top, and then we're also going to go around the edges on our way down? So I like to get myself to the head of the book, and then I go over the top of the head. Line it up, you want everything to be nice and... ...nice and straight. I'm gonna tighten it. I'm not gonna pull it as hard as I can because then you might crumple the top of the book a little bit there, but you want it to be taut, definitely taut. Okay, now on my way down, I'm gonna start going around the edge of the book. And so we're gonna be kind of filling in the blanks here. The idea behind these side sewn bindings is you want one length of thread in every one of these spaces. One length of thread. You don't want to have to double over it, and you don't want any blank spaces. So, I'll take you through that, but there's sometimes more than one path to get there. So, at this point, we got this

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completed over the top. We've got it completed over the side. So, we're ready to move down to the next hole. So, I'm just gonna start heading down to the tail of the book. While I'm doing that though, I'm gonna wrap around the edge, and get those blanks filled in. And you want to come through that hole. So, this is where it's starting to get tight. The whole head already has two lengths of thread in there. So, I'm gonna inch my needle in there. I'm gonna be careful not to split the threads. Splitting the thread means your needle goes through an existing piece of thread in there. If you do that, you kind of seize things up and it's going to be hard to pull through. So you really want to make sure your not splitting the thread so again, pull it taut. You want it to be taut so it's not flopping around, and you want it to be nice and straight. You want all of these to be nice and straight. Okay, where are we now? We're ready to move down to the next hole on the back. I'm just gonna position myself this way. It'll be easier for me to see, but I came from the back to the front. Now, I'm gonna go around the edge again. Okay, tighten that up, straighten it up. Okay, now I'm gonna continue on down to the bottom of the book. I'm heading down to the tail. I'm gonna keep wrapping around the edges, though as I'm going down. And you can see we're starting to fill in the blanks, and at this point, probably a little while ago, I can remove these. These are kind of in my way now, and they're not really helping me much. Once the thread has the book, pages, and cover in place you can get rid of those. I sometimes just leave them there because I forget to get rid of them, and I realize when they're in my way. Now, we're almost done. You can see we have almost all the blanks filled in. We've got all these blanks here filled in. On the back we have all of them filled in. This ones not yet, but we're going to come back up to that one, so don't worry, and think that you've missed anything there. So at this point, we're going to go around the edge, which is the bottom or the tail. Through that hole. We're kind of completing that. And now this looks totally complete from the front cover. The back cover we still have that one space, and that's okay. This is where we're finishing off. This is where we're gonna open up our book, find out where our thread is. I opened right to it and there it is waiting for us. Our little three inches of tail waiting to be tied off. So, I'm gonna kind of just tighten things up a little bit. I'm gonna have that nice and open and ready to find that spot with my needle so I'm just gonna get my needle part way in that hole, and then I'm gonna peek inside, and I'm gonna kind of wiggle it around, and there it is. Bring that through. Okay, this is our chance to make sure things are nice and even and taut. I'm gonna pull this tail a little bit too. Make sure that's nice and taut, and we're ready to tie off with a square knot. So, I'm gonna go right over left. And then left over right. And then I usually cut the pieces down to just about a half of an inch. And then I like to really hide them down in the crease here. And there we've got a finished... You can still move these around a little bit. To kind of even them up. And now we've got a four-holed Japanese side sewn binding. One last step that you may want to do, particularly if your cover is a thicker material, is you want to score a little line that's just maybe an eighth of an inch away from your sewing and that allows it to open nicely without crinkling the paper every time you open it a little differently. So I'm just gonna position my book this way. Position my ruler approximately an eighth of an inch from my sewing, then I'm going to take my bone folder, and I'm gonna do a score. So, I'm just running it with a little bit of pressure, you know, two or three times along there. And then, you can reposition your ruler if you want to help you kind of get that fold to be nice and crisp. Okay, and this is the four-hole Japanese side sewn binding.

Chapter 3 - Noble

Sewing stations

- This is the noble Japanese side sewn binding and you can see that it has the same placement of

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holes as the four-hole binding. Here's the four-hole binding. You can see the variation is just in the end, right at the tail and right at the head. So it's just a little variation, a little fancier looking. So I recommend that you try the four-hole first, just to get your bearings on this binding, and then we can do the noble binding. So I'm all ready to go here. Got my text paper and my cover paper cut and torn. I also have my template ready to go. Again, you can download this as a PDF. I'll explain a little bit, it's the same placement as the four-hole binding, and then I just have an extra hole at the head and an extra hole at the tail that's kind of a real detailed measurement, and it's 7/16ths in from the head and up from the tail, and about 1/4 of an inch in from the spine. So if you don't wanna do the measuring just download the PDF, cut it out, and you'll have exactly this to go by. So I'm going to start out with making sure that my head and my spine and my tail and everything's nice and flush before I clip it with my clothespins. Clip it in a little bit, so that you have room to make your holes. I'm gonna place my template down. Get my awl. I'm gonna hold it down really, really firmly, don't want this moving around. And we've got six holes to make this time. Make sure that the holes are nice and big and healthy because we're gonna be going through each hole three times and that last time you go through it there's already two lengths of thread in there, so things get kind of tight. So I like to make my holes nice and tight and that will make the binding a little easier. Okay, so I have the holes started. I'm gonna go through them again, holding the book up a little bit, and just working my awl in there to make these holes a little bigger, so that sewing will be a little easier for me. You can also work the holes from the back if you'd like, if you're worried you're not getting through all your material. I have pretty thin stack of paper, so this isn't too challenging, but you might wanna work it from both sides to get those holes nice and healthy. Okay, we're ready to bind, ready to start sewing.

Binding
- For the noble binding you need 30 inches of thread. I'm also using the number 18 sharp needle that I get from a bookbinding supply store. And this thread is three ply and it's a colored waxed linen. Okay, as with the four hole, I'm gonna start with that second hole from the bottom. I guess actually it's the third now, but the second one that's in that line. I'm gonna pick up about half of my text block, approximately half of my text block. And I'm gonna start from the middle. I do that so that the tail is on the inside and that's where I tie off and so there will be no visible knot or tail, which is nice. So I leave about a good three inches that I can find later. I'm gonna push that in, inside so I can find it later. I'm gonna start binding, I'm just gonna start heading up the book towards the head going in and out of the holes. Again, it's just that so far is exactly what I was doing in the four hole binding. Okay, so we're at the top now, we're gonna go over the top edge of the book. Go around the edge. Okay, so straighten that out. And now this is where the variation comes in for the noble. We want, while we're up here we want to take care of this stitching so we don't have to double back, you don't want to have to do that. So I'm gonna go into that new hole that we've created here. And again I'm gonna go over the top first. My hole's getting a little crowded already. Oops, straighten that out on the top. And now I'm gonna go around the edge and in that hole and that's what forms that really nice detail that you have at the head and the tail of the noble binding that makes it a little different from the four hole. So that's almost complete, you see I need to still go in this one and then start my way back down to complete the, the noble stitch, it's finished on that side. Alright so the noble variation's complete at the head. Now I'm gonna start heading down. I'm gonna leave the clips in for a little while longer, I'm just gonna reposition them a little bit. I'm gonna go around the edge as I head down, 'cause if I don't I can't get back up without doubling up my

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thread. So I'm gonna go around the edge now. Back in that hole we've got, oh we've got three lengths of thread in there already, so I'm gonna be really careful not to split my thread. And let me just show you little trick now, if there's, there's three lengths of thread already in there and I feel like I might be splitting one of the threads a little bit. That's when my needle is going through the thread. So sometimes when that's happening I'll just kind of work a little bit of a hole from maybe the direction I'm not necessarily going but just to kind of clear that hole. 'Cause splitting the thread really can seize the book up and make a mess of things, so I think I'm good now. Reposition my thread, there that's looking a little better. And I'm gonna start heading down the binding. And around the edge. I think I'm at a point now where I have enough stitching that I can remove my clips because they just start getting in the way of stitching after a while. So I'm at a point now where I'm heading down towards the tail. I want to keep going around the edge as I'm heading down. Down to the next hole. And again around. And just like we did at the head, we're gonna go around the tail first. And then we're gonna complete the noble stitch variation before we head up and tie off. So we're gonna go through that hole there, around the edge, the tail edge. And then around the spine edge. And then back in to one of those four holes. And now we're at a point where we're ready to tie off. It looks complete on this side. We just have that one blank on this side. We're gonna open up, see if we can find that tail, there it is. Alright. Okay, so we're gonna go in this hole just part way in, open up your book and there we go. Find that tail. Everything looks nice and taut, maybe give the tail a little bit of a pull to tighten that up, and we're ready for our square knot to finish off. So we're gonna do right over left. And left over right. Okay, I'm gonna cut off about, leaving about a half of an inch. And then I'm gonna tuck those pieces in, try my best to hide that knot. And there we've got the noble Japanese side-sewn binding. We can do the score to make the cover open and close a little easier without making a horrible crinkle. So straight edge ruler, bone folder. I position the ruler about an eighth of an inch from my stitching and I do about two or three scores. And then I like to move my ruler over right along the score and just have it aid me in creasing that score. And there we have the completed Japanese side-sewn binding, the noble variation.

Chapter 4 - Hemp Leaf

Sewing stations

- This is the Hemp Leaf variation of the Japanese Side-Sewn binding and I wanna show you how it relates to the Noble binding and the Four-Hole. It's quite a bit more intricate looking than the Noble and the Four-Hole, but I wanna show you how they're related and how each one is a foundation for the other. You can see the Four-Hole is just the four holes and around the top around the spine, the Noble is the same four holes, same placement around the top around the spine with this extra little detail at the head and the tail. And now you can see that the Hemp Leaf binding has all of those elements, the original four holes, exact same placement, it even has the Noble holes, stitching, and we're just adding one, two, three more holes in the middle three sections there to create this Hemp Leaf variation of the binding. I have my materials here all ready to go. I've got my text paper torn, I've got my cover paper cut, they're cut down from an 8.5 by 11 piece of paper and I've got a new template for the Hemp Leaf binding. It's similar, it's exactly the same as the Noble binding except for there's three new holes. So we've got our original four holes, we've got at the tail and the head that extra Noble hole, and now we have three additional holes in the center of the spine and they are again approximately, same with the Nobles, approximately a quarter of an inch in from the spine and then they're five eighths of an inch from these four holes. Meaning centered in between the four holes five eighths of an inch. A little bit hard to explain, but this is available in the PDF download

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where you can just download, print it, cut it out, and it's ready to go for the half sheet of 8.5 by 11 paper. Alright, so we're ready to make sure all our materials are nice and flush at the tail, at the spine, at the head. We're gonna clip them with our clothespins. Okay I'm gonna clip them a little farther in so I have a little more working room. And here's our template. I'm gonna hold it down really firmly cuz I have some more holes to make this time. I'm just gonna go right down the template and do them so I don't forget. This is one of the new holes. Remember to make these holes nice and big in size because we're gonna be taking the thread through these holes a number of times. Gosh for this one four times I think, each hole. One more to go. Okay, we're ready to remove the template. We've got all of our holes there. I'm gonna want to go through them a little bit more, make them a little bigger. I'm just gonna go through them on this side, and again if you have a lot of material you might want to go through them from the back as well and really make those holes nice and big and that'll make sewing just a little bit easier. Alright, so now we've got our holes ready to go, we're ready to bind.

Binding
- To bind the hemp leaf binding, we need a little bit more thread, 40 inches should do. I'm using a waxed, colored, linen thread. Nice and strong, which is important. And my number 18, sharp needle. So I'm going to begin in a similar way that I began the four-hole as well as the noble, so if you've done those it'll be familiar. But I'll explain as I'm going along. I'm gonna pick up about half of my text block and start in the middle and I'm gonna hide my tail that way. So I'm gonna start with the second to last hole of the four holes that I'm referring to. And I'm gonna pull through all the thread but about three inches. I'm gonna push that inside so that I can find it later. So I'm gonna just start heading up towards the tail. So if you've done the four-hole and you've done the noble, this should be really familiar to you by now. And it's really good practice. So I'm just gonna head up my needle and thread, go through the holes. I'm gonna ignore those new holes I made so far. I'm gonna go over the top, over the head. Okay. And while I'm up here, I'm gonna go through this hole, which was the hole that was made for the noble variation, over the top, around the edge or the spine. Okay, and then I'm gonna go back to that hole, making sure not to split the thread. Okay, we wanna go around the edge here, don't forget to do that. We've got a lot of holes to fill in here. Careful not to split that thread. And then I'm gonna ignore these three new holes for a while. I'm actually gonna complete that noble binding before I tackle those holes. So I'm just gonna head down, keep heading down the binding, around the edge, gonna ignore that hole, around the edge. Alright, I'm gonna go wrap around the tail. Okay, at this point I can take the clips off. Could've taken them off a while ago. 'Cause everything's being held into place by the thread. Alright, so now I'm gonna go in the noble hole, complete that. From the top, and around the edge. Okay, so as you can see at this point, we have the noble binding. We have the four-hole binding, and we have the noble binding, and then we have these extra holes. And when we complete the stitching for that we'll have the hemp leaf variation. So we're gonna continue on with our stitching. So this is where we are, we're at the back. We do have the empty space there and this looks like a complete noble binding on the front. Now we're gonna utilize these three new holes to complete the hemp leaf variation. So I'm gonna come in that one hole from the back, this bottom one. It's important that you do this stitching in the correct order or you will end up with blanks or double stitching in places. So I'm going up to hole number two, back into this new hole. I'm gonna go around the edge, and then complete that V here, and then I'll show you what it's looking like on the back. So now we have a blank here that'll help us get up to this next sewing station. Now for these two portions, you don't wanna fully complete them

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before you go on, because then you won't be able to get back down to tie off, you'll have double threads. So what I do, is I just go up the Vs and complete the Vs first. Start heading back up, or continuing back up. Okay. And now I can start heading back down and filling in those blanks, including going around the edge of the spine. Okay, we're almost there. This is where we are. Go around the edge of the spine. Just give myself a little more thread here. So it's looking completed on this side, and we're almost complete on this side. We're ready to do that final stitch where we meet our tail end on the inside. So I'm gonna open up the book and find my tail. There it is. And I'm gonna go through this last hole and meet up with the tail. Okay, and I'm ready to do my square knot. So right over left. And left over right. And tighten up the knot and we're ready to cut it off. I like to leave about 1/2 an inch of thread. Okay. Let's tuck it in to try and hide it as best we can. And there we have the hemp leaf variation of the Japanese side sewn binding.

Chapter 5 - Tortoise Shell

Sewing stations

- This is the tortoise shell variation of the Japanese side-sewn binding, and you can see how it has the foundation of the four-hole binding. So it's nice if you have that done, you have that knowledge on how to do that. But then it has these additional holes to create this, what's supposed to look like a tortoise shell. I think it looks like little houses. But it's called the tortoise shell binding. We're going to make the holes in the paper first. I've got my material all ready. I've got my text paper torn, my cover paper cut, and I've got my template ready to go. This is available as a PDF download. I've got my original four holes, and then I've got two holes just flanking each of those four holes, approximately a quarter of an inch in, and a quarter of an inch from that center line from that hole. So you can download that, cut it out, and it will work perfectly with this halved piece of eight and a half by eleven paper. So we're gonna flush our materials. And we're gonna clip them with clothespins to hold everything together while I make the holes. I'm gonna take my template, put it down securely, hold it really securely, and I'm gonna go through those holes. Again, making really good size holes so that your needle and thread can go through them with ease. Make sure you're staying lined up there. Don't want your template to move around. All right, I can remove my template. I've got my holes made. I may want to take my awl through them again while I'm holding it up, and that will help me enlarge the holes a little bit. So my needle and thread can go through them a little more easily. And you may want to work your awl from both sides if you have a little thicker stack of paper than I have here. Mine's fairly thin, so I think I'm getting a big enough hole just by doing this. Okay, we've got our holes made, and we're ready to start sewing.

Binding

- For the tortoise shell binding. we need 36 inches of thread. I'm using a linen thread, it's colored and it's waxed. And I'm using a number 18 bookbinder's needle. So we're ready to start sewing. I'm gonna pick up about half of my text block so I can bury the tail in there to find later to tie off, and that way your knot is hidden. So I'm gonna to start with the second hole up of these four holes. I'm gonna start the second up from the tail on the inside coming to the outside. And I'm gonna leave about three inches or so inside, that I'm gonna tuck inside the book, and we're gonna find that later to tie off. So, for this binding, we're gonna start out with going around the edge and what we're going to do is complete these little house patterns before we move on. Okay. Just remember to straighten out as you're stitching. And you can see we're completing that little pattern right here. Okay, that's one down. Now we're gonna start heading up towards the head of the book, and as we

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do that, we're gonna be completing those patterns. Starting out with going around the spine. Okay, we've got two fully completed there and we're ready to head up to this top hole. Again, complete this full pattern before you move on. Okay, so you can see that third one is completed. You can see we do have blanks here every once in awhile and that's so we can get back down, so that's okay. And now we're gonna head over, wrap around the top or the head. Okay, so now we're just going to start heading down to these three holes where we haven't completed and we should have properly placed blanks to fill in without doubling up or leaving any blanks. All right, so down to this one. And we'll complete this last pattern. At this point, I'm gonna remove the clips. We don't really need those in the way anymore. Okay. All right, last stitch to complete that pattern. You can see where we are, we've got our four little houses complete, a few blanks left, but that's because we still need to wrap around the tail here. All right, so that side looks nice and complete, and you can see on this side we just have one more space here to fill in and then we're gonna tie off. At this point, we can open up and look for our tail. I'm gonna take my needle in this last hole here and locate my tail. Okay, you want to tighten things up and ready to do our square knot. We're gonna do right over left and left over right. All right, and we're ready to cut off. I like to cut off to about a half of an inch. And tuck those tails in there. I want to straighten everything up. My houses are a little crooked, but okay. And there we have the tortoiseshell version of the Japanese side sewn binding.

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