

## Japanese Binding.

An historic but simple binding method, originally used for single sided printed documents, but very useful for computer printouts, and a lovely way to keep drawings. The actual binding uses no adhesive, and can be sewn with thread or ribbon.

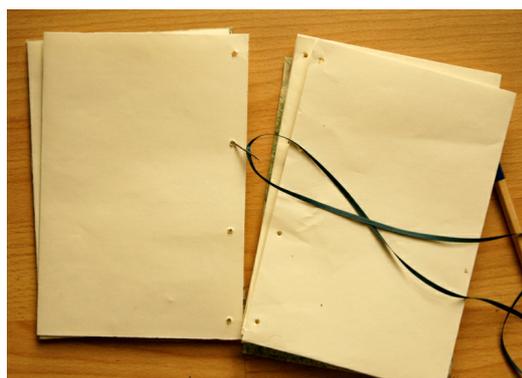


Create single sections of folds and cut 2 covers of thin card the same size, on one of the trim a narrow strip not less than .2cm off the long edge, and a second narrow strip off the remaining large piece.

Cover the card with decorative paper, keeping a gap on the front cover, but ensuring the actual board size remains the same, carefully fold over edge and carefully fold over and rub down, then paste decorative paper on the inside to ensure both sides are perfectly covered



Rub down the gap on the front cover with a bone folder to create the fold, and assemble the pages between boards. Work out piercing points, usually 4, but more if needed. Carefully pierce with an awl through all layers without moving them, the holes do not need to be too big, but large enough to be able to accommodate three passes of the thread



### Sewing method

Good linen thread or fine ribbon can be used, the ribbon needs a little more care in sewing to make sure it lies flat. The stitching should be firm without being unduly tight

Number the holes vertically from the top 1 - 4

Thread the needle, open the book roughly in the middle and enter hole 2 and come out at the front, leave a tail of about 3", close the book and square the pages again.

Take the thread around the spine and enter hole 2 from the back, going through all layers, and come out at the front, pull to tighten and make sure the thread is flat.

Enter hole 3 from the front and come out at back and then go round the spine and go in hole 3 again at the front and out at the back.

Enter hole 4 at back, out at front and go around spine and go in the same hole and out at the front.

With the thread tight, go around the bottom edge and then in at the back and out at the front, go up and into hole 3 from the front and out at the back, then in at hole 2 from the back and out the front.

Go through hole 1 from the front, around the spine, into hole 1 from the front again over the top edge and back through the same hole, as you did on the bottom on the book.

Then go into hole 2 from the back and out in the centre of the book where the tail was left when you started, tie the ends together tightly with a double knot and cut off close to the knot.



Simpler books can be made with the decorative paper, and more complicated stitching patterns can be easily devised.

Originally the folded edge was at the fore edge, but for journals the folded edge can be put at the spine edge creating many more usable pages. Almost any size can be made, but somewhere between A5 - A4 works well, but the structure is not as well suited to very thick books.