

Anne Goy's Secret Belgian Binding

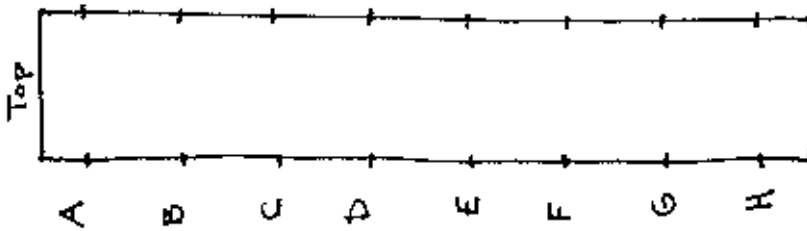
Anne Goy a Belgian artist invented this binding, in 1986. She was interested in creating a binding that had a similar appearance to Japanese stab bindings but opened flat. She taught it to a few people who passed it on to other people and so on. Hedi Kyle learned of the binding while teaching in Ascona. By that point Anne Goy's name was no longer attached to the method, only that the binding had come from Belgium. Hedi brought the binding over to the USA and taught it to a number of people, me included, at the 2000 Paper and Book Intensive held at Oxbow in Michigan. She always hoped to find out the origins of the binding. At one time many thought the binding to be a long lost historical binding. In 200? Anne Goy made contact with Hedi Kyle and her name was once again reconnected to her binding. Written instructions © Emily Martin, 2001.

Hole Punching Template:

The number of holes used for sewing the covers to the text block is a design element you can control. Generally the top and bottom holes are within 1/2" of the top and bottom of the covers. The middle holes are evenly spaced between. The holes are positioned 1/2 inch or more from the right edge of the back cover and the left edge of the front cover. If you have an even number of holes you will begin your cover sewing at the inside of the back cover and end on the back cover. If you have an uneven number of holes you will begin inside the back cover and end inside the front cover. You may punch more holes in the covers than are needed for sewing the text block. The text block requires 6 holes and is sewn to two tapes, which will be removed after the cover sewing is complete. A smooth, sturdy material, such as tyvek, is recommended for use as the sewing tapes.

For these instructions I am making a book with 8 stitching holes on the outside.

Using card stock make a template card the height and width of your text block. Use the division guide and mark the positions for 8 evenly spaced holes.

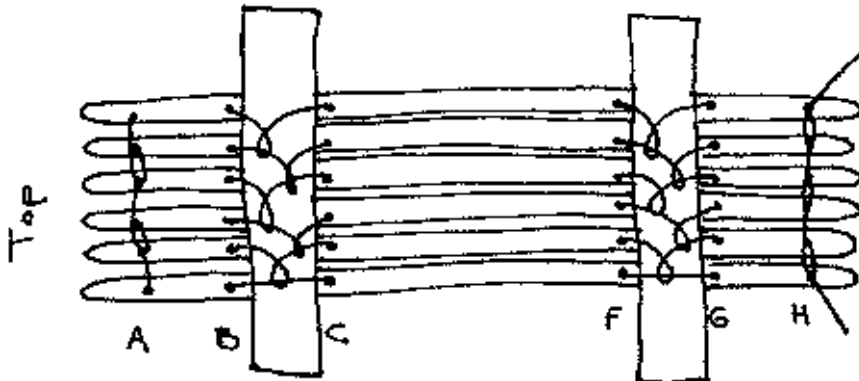


Preparing to Sew the Text Block:

My template is marked for the 8 stitching holes for the cover. I need only 6 holes for the sewing of the text block. Using the punching template, punch holes A, B, C, F, G and H in each of the signatures, skipping holes D and E.

Pattern for Sewing the Text Block:

Starting in hole-H on the outside of the back signature, sew in and out through the punched holes, going around the tapes on the outside of the signature. Add the next signature and sew around the tapes, looping down through the sewing of the first signature. At hole-H tie a square knot with the tail of the thread and trim tail to 1/2 inch. Proceed to the next signature, again looping down through the sewing of the previous signature at the tapes. Make a kettle stitch at the end of each signature. Repeat for all the signatures, finishing with two kettle stitches. Trim tail to 1/2 inch.



Calculating Spine Thickness:

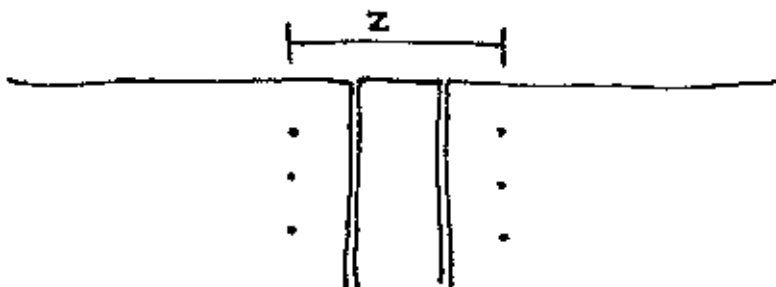
Stack the sewn text block with the two cover boards, pinch tightly and measure the total height, this is your spine width measurement. The spine should be the same height as the cover boards. The boards and spine piece can be covered in matching or contrasting paper or cloth.



Calculating Thread Length:

Z (* see below) x 3 x number of holes on one side + (height of cover x 2) + 4 = total length of thread needed. Thread can be spliced but it is not recommended.

*Z = distance from one hole, across spine, to the opposite hole



Pattern for Sewing the Covers onto the Text Block:

The sewing/weaving is always moving from top to bottom. The thread will travel back and forth 3 times between each pair of holes before moving down to the next pair. For the purposes of this description, there are 8 holes punched in each of the covers. See diagram on page 4. Position the boards and spine pieces so that the outsides of each piece are facing away from you. Start inside the back cover at hole-BA. Pull the length of thread through leaving a short tail.

1. Weave the thread over the spine piece and then go under the front cover, pushing the needle through hole-FA from the outside of the front cover.
2. Weave under the spine piece, over the inside of the back cover, do not tie a knot and then go through the same hole-BA. This knot will be tied after the sewing is finished. Tension can be equalized at that point.
3. Weave over the spine piece then go under the front cover, pushing the needle through the same hole-FA from the outside of the front cover. Travel down to the second hole-FB inside the front cover.

4. Weave the thread over the spine piece and then go under the back cover, pushing the needle through hole-BB from the outside of the front cover.
5. Weave under the spine piece, over the inside of the front cover, and then go through the same hole-FB.
6. Weave over the spine piece, threading through the sewn text block, using the tyvek tape to aid you, then go under the back cover, pushing the needle through the same hole-BB from the outside of the back cover. Travel down to the third hole-BC inside the back cover.

7. Weave the thread over the spine piece, threading through the sewn text block, using the tyvek tape to aid you, then go under the front cover, pushing the needle through hole-FC from the outside of the front cover.
8. Weave under the spine piece, over the inside of the back cover, tie a knot with the tail and the length of thread, and then go through the same hole-BC.
9. Weave over the spine piece then go under the front cover, pushing the needle through the same hole-FC from the outside of the front cover. Travel down to the second hole-FD inside the front cover.

10. Weave the thread over the spine piece and then go under the back cover, pushing the needle through hole-BD from the outside of the front cover.
11. Weave under the spine piece, over the inside of the front cover, and then go through the same hole-FD.
12. Weave over the spine piece then go under the back cover, pushing the needle through the same hole-BD from the outside of the back cover. Travel down to the third hole-BE inside the back cover.

13. Weave the thread over the spine piece and then go under the front cover, pushing the needle through hole-FE from the outside of the front cover.
14. Weave under the spine piece, over the inside of the back cover, tie a knot with the tail and the length of thread, and then go through the same hole-BE.

15. Weave over the spine piece then go under the front cover, pushing the needle through the same hole-FE from the outside of the front cover. Travel down to the second hole-FF inside the front cover.

16. Weave the thread over the spine piece and then go under the back cover, pushing the needle through hole-BF from the outside of the front cover.

17. Weave under the spine piece, over the inside of the front cover, and then go through the same hole-FF.

18. Weave over the spine piece, threading through the sewn text block, using the tyvek tape to aid you, then go under the back cover, pushing the needle through the same hole-BF from the outside of the back cover. Travel down to the third hole-BG inside the back cover.

19. Weave the thread over the spine piece, threading through the sewn text block, using the tyvek tape to aid you, then go under the front cover, pushing the needle through hole-FG from the outside of the front cover.

20. Weave under the spine piece, over the inside of the back cover, tie a knot with the tail and the length of thread, and then go through the same hole-BG.

21. Weave over the spine piece then go under the front cover, pushing the needle through the same hole-FG from the outside of the front cover. Travel down to the second hole-FH inside the front cover.

22. Weave the thread over the spine piece and then go under the back cover, pushing the needle through hole-BH from the outside of the front cover.

23. Weave under the spine piece, over the inside of the front cover, and then go through the same hole-FH.

24. Weave over the spine piece then go under the back cover, pushing the needle through the same hole-BH from the outside of the back cover. Tie off the thread with two loop knots.

25. Tighten the tension at the top of the book and tie off with two loop knots.

