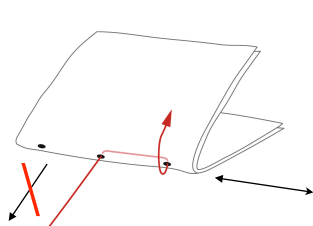


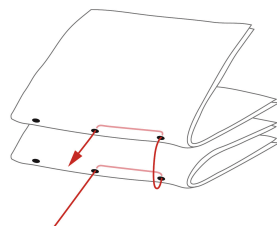
Basic stitching pattern for smythe-sewn books

Fold paper sheets into a smaller format. For example, one 11x17 sheet folded twice yields 8 pages of format 5.5x8.5. Each folded sheet is called a signature. You need an even number of signatures for this technique. Mark and cut your holes on the spine of the book using a small dovetail saw.

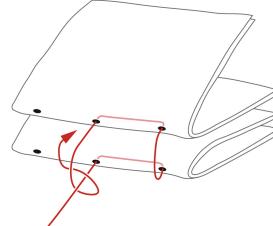
You need an odd number of holes: 3, 5, etc. One hole is in the middle. Measure enough thread equal to the distance between the outside holes times the number of signatures, plus a couple of lengths more. Use bee's wax to smooth the thread. Follow the diagram below, left to right.



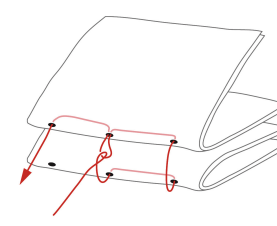
1. Start at the middle hole. Put thread all in but leave about 6 inches out, you will need this end to make knots. Inside, go to the hole on the right and come out again. Pull the thread gently to avoid ripping the paper. When tightening the thread, never pull it towards you. Instead, pull sideways in the direction of the spine, parallel to the fold, as shown by the double-pointed arrow.



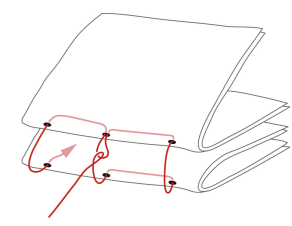
2. Position the second signature on top and go in with the thread into the corresponding hole, immediately above the first. Signatures will be stitched in groups of two. Once inside, move left to the middle hole and come out.



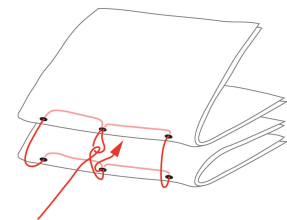
3. Tighten the threads pulling gently sideways. Make a knot in the middle on the outside, using the loose end you left out earlier. Make a knot every time you come out in the middle. Go back inside using the same middle hole.



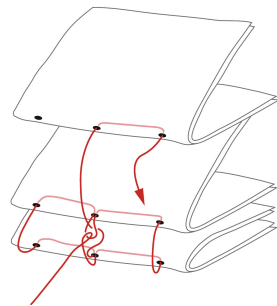
4. Inside, move to the left hole of the top signature and come out. Tighten gently.



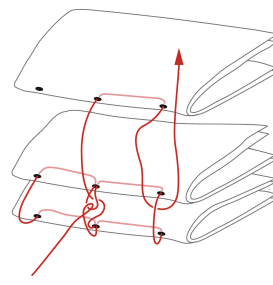
5. Go back inside into the left hole belonging to the bottom signature.



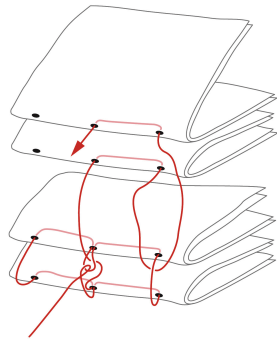
6. Once inside (left) move to middle hole of bottom signature and come out again. Tighten and make another knot. Note: make a simple knot, the drawing shows only that you have to make a knot, not necessarily what type of knot.



7. Place the third signature on top of the first two. With the needle, go into the middle hole of the top signature. Inside, move to the right hole and come out. Note the next critical step.



8. At this point, you would normally go into the right hole of the fourth signature but... STOP. Instead, go down and loop the thread between the two bottom signatures. You are not going into the signatures, only catching the connecting thread between the two. By doing this, all the signature pairs will be connected together at the end. IMPORTANT: make sure to repeat this step on the other side as well.



9. At every step, hold the signatures down before tightening the thread. Now that you have looped the lower signatures, move into the hole of the fourth signature above. Inside, move to left and into the middle hole and come out again. Tighten and make a knot. Repeat as needed. Remember, when finished, no thread will be visible going across the signatures on the outside, the thread is only visible inside the folds.