

Wire-edge binding

Instructions for a binding designed by Danile Kelm. It can be used for a variety of projects. Experiment while you master this structure. Check the Kohler Art Library for samples.



Supplies

Vendors are listed on the course website.

Paper - select the weight of the paper for the design and function of the book.

Metal wire - K&S Engineering #497 music wire, .039" diameter. Thinner or thicker wire can be used. Cut the wire just shy of the length (foot to head) of your book.

Thread - Choose a color that works with your design. Size 18 waxed linen thread was used for this project. Thinner thread can be used.

Cover material - The book needs a front and back cover. Use binders board for cover or fold cover stock to make the covers and attach them by placing wire rods inside the fold and tying the thread to the wire.

Tools:

Paper drill - the 1.5 mm size punch was used for this project. You only need a hole wide enough for the thread.

Needles - blunt needles work best. Use two needles per sewing station. Thread one needle to each thread. This example has 4 sewing stations and used 8 needles.

Wire cutters - Use a small pair to trim down your wire rods.

Steps:

1. Fold one sheet of paper per signature. Keep the paper grain parallel with the spine. Since each signature is only one sheet, use cover stock or thicker sheets for the pages.
2. Determine the location for your holes. Punch one hole per station in each signature.
3. Collate the book's pages and cover in the correct order. Turn the book face down with the spine towards you. Move all of the page off of the stack, except for the cover.
4. Thread all needles with thread. Begin sewing from the front cover. Make sure each thread is long enough to tie each of the signatures to the wire.
5. Start by threading one needle into a sewing station and wrap the thread around the wire rod and bring the needle back out the same hole. See photo in step #5. Once the thread is all the way out, tie a square knot. Repeat the same step in the same sewing station using the second thread and needle. Each sewing station will have two sets of knots from two separate pieces of thread.
6. Move to the next sewing station on the same signature. Make sure that all of the sewing stations of the the signature are secured before moving to a new signature.
7. Once all of the knots have been tied for the first signature, place the next signature face down on top of the cover. Repeat tying two knots at each sewing station of the second signature. Double check to make sure the pages are in the correct order.
8. Repeat step seven on all of the signatures. On the last signature, simply tie knots to finish the sewing. Cut off any left over thread.

Consider: Use at least three sewing stations. For larger books use five or more.

It is possible to use one thread per station instead of two, if you have 5 stations.

Samples: Daniel Kelm's bindings can be seen at the Special Collections office of the Kohler Art Library. Ask at the front desk for help in locating examples.

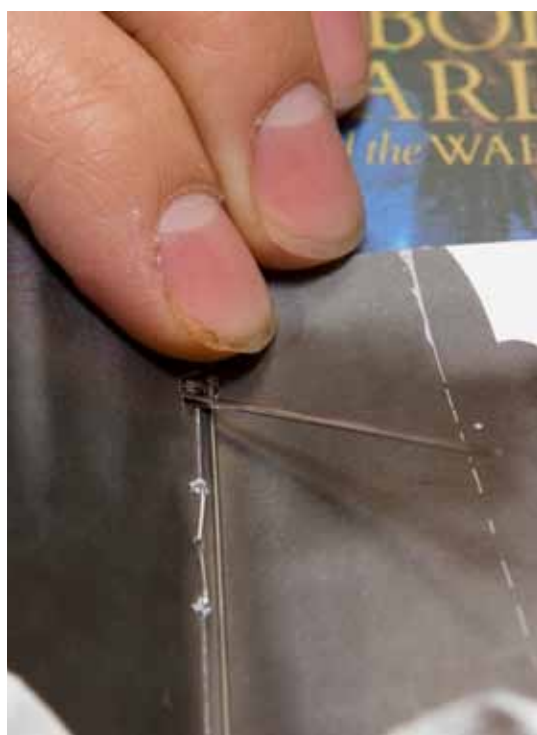
Featured book: The book in this handout is made from CD jewel case inserts. The height of the book is equal to the height of two stacked inserts by one wide. Since the book is made out of two separate inserts, four holes or sewing stations were used, two per CD insert. The photograph below shows the seam in the middle of the book where the two inserts align.

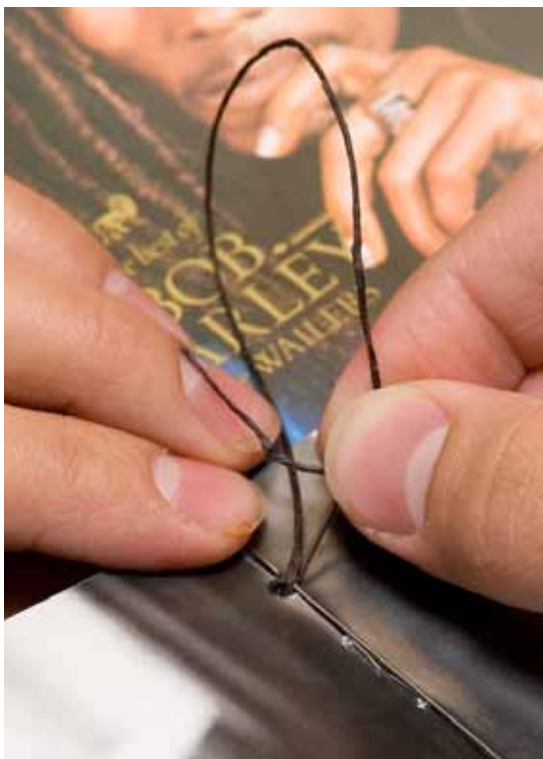
1. A screw punch drill is used to drill holes at the center of the signatures for the sewing stations.

2. The holes need to be large enough for to accomodate a needle and two threads.

3. Start sewing from outside the signature. Pass the needle over the metal rod.

4. Once the needle enters the signature, pull the needle and thread over the top side of the metal rod.





5. Make sure to catch the wire so the thread will not pull out. The next step is to tie a square knot.

6. Once the needle and thread are outside by the spine, tie a square knot.

7. Take the second needle and thread and repeat and tie on the outside by the spine.

8. Keep tying threads onto the wire strips until all of the pages and both covers are tied down.





Get Free or Die Trying, 2005, James Paul Escalante, 9.50" x 4.75"

The front and back cover boards for the book are black museum board cut to the size of the book. The collages on the front and back were created by scanning artwork from the original CDs and designing an image using Adobe Photoshop. The image is a print from

an inkjet printer. The ink jet prints on the front and back were attached to the black board with Xyron laminate / permanent combination adhesive. The lamination provides a layer of protection for the inkjet print.