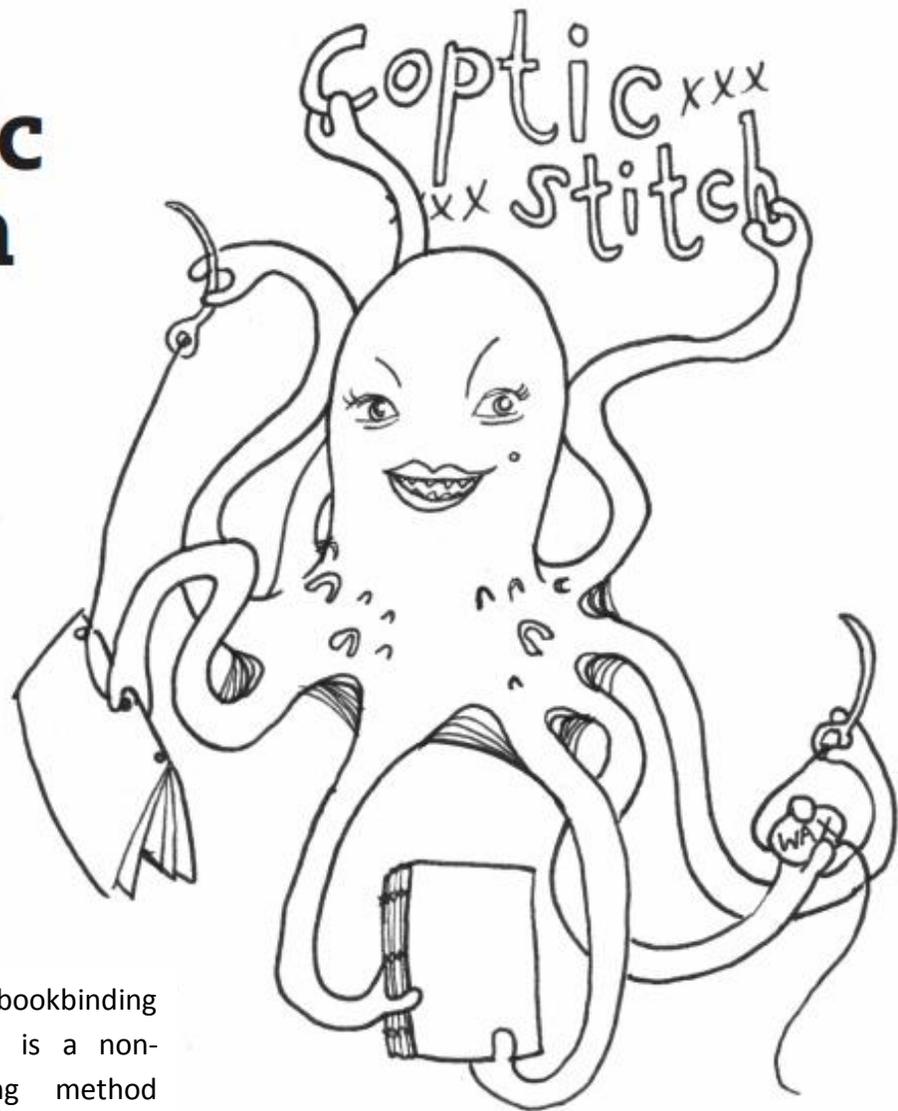


# Coptic Stitch



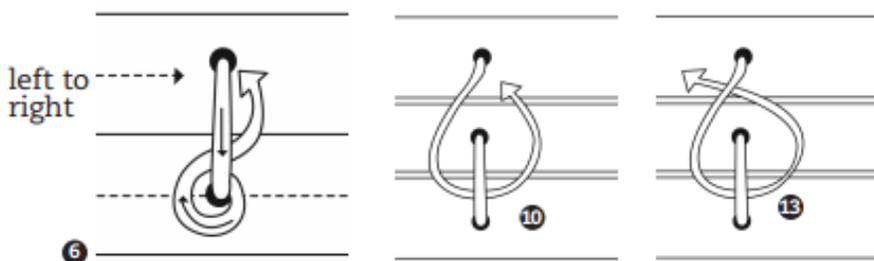
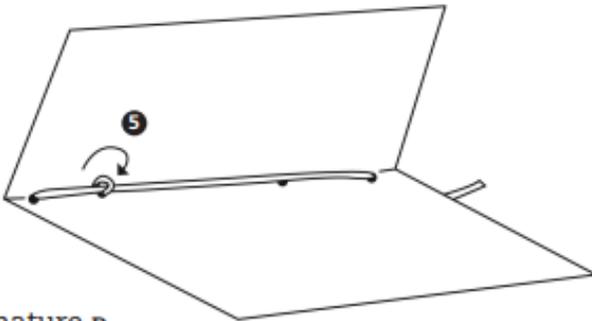
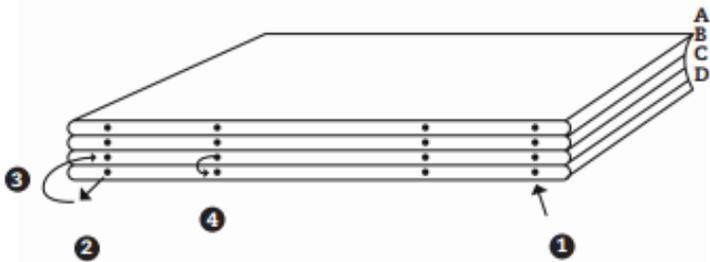
The *Coptic stitch* is a beautiful bookbinding technique used by artists. It is a non-adhesive, hand-sewn binding method introduced during the fourth century A.D. in ancient Egypt by the Copts and followers of the Christian Coptic church. Various forms of this stitching technique have remained popular for over 1,500 years and are still in use today.



**Notes:**

Length of string = length of book spine x number of signatures + one book spine.

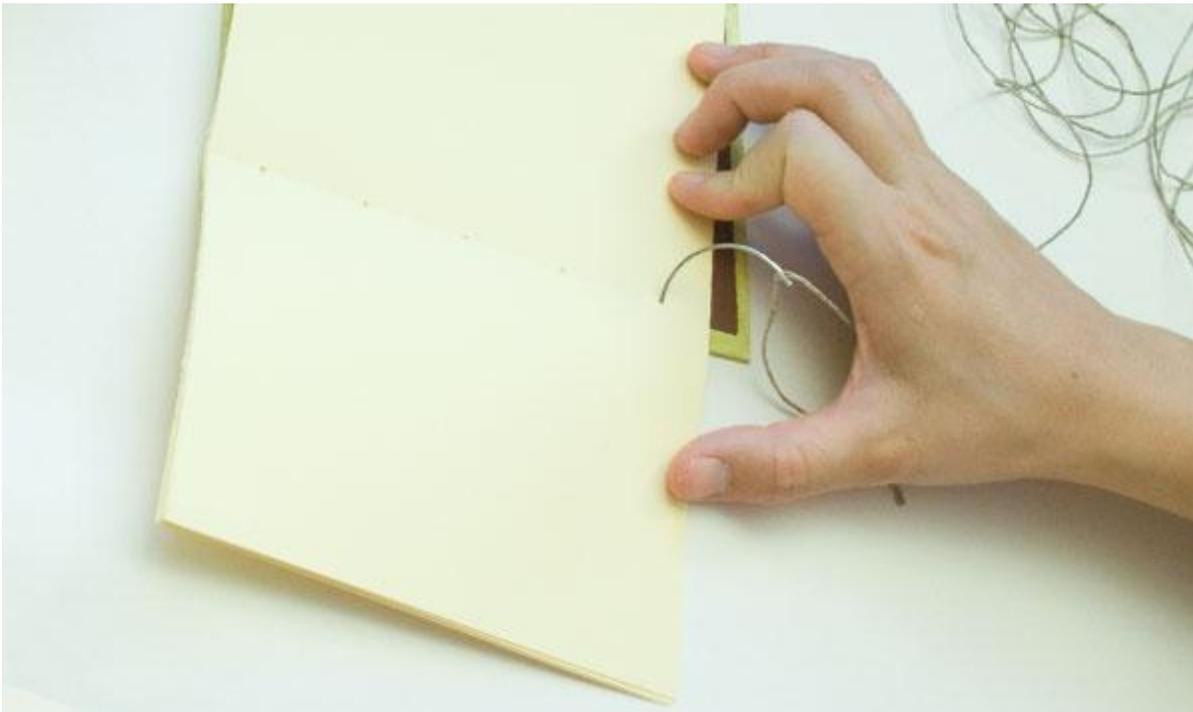
Make sure to keep track of the tops and bottoms of the signatures so that you do not stitch them in upside down.



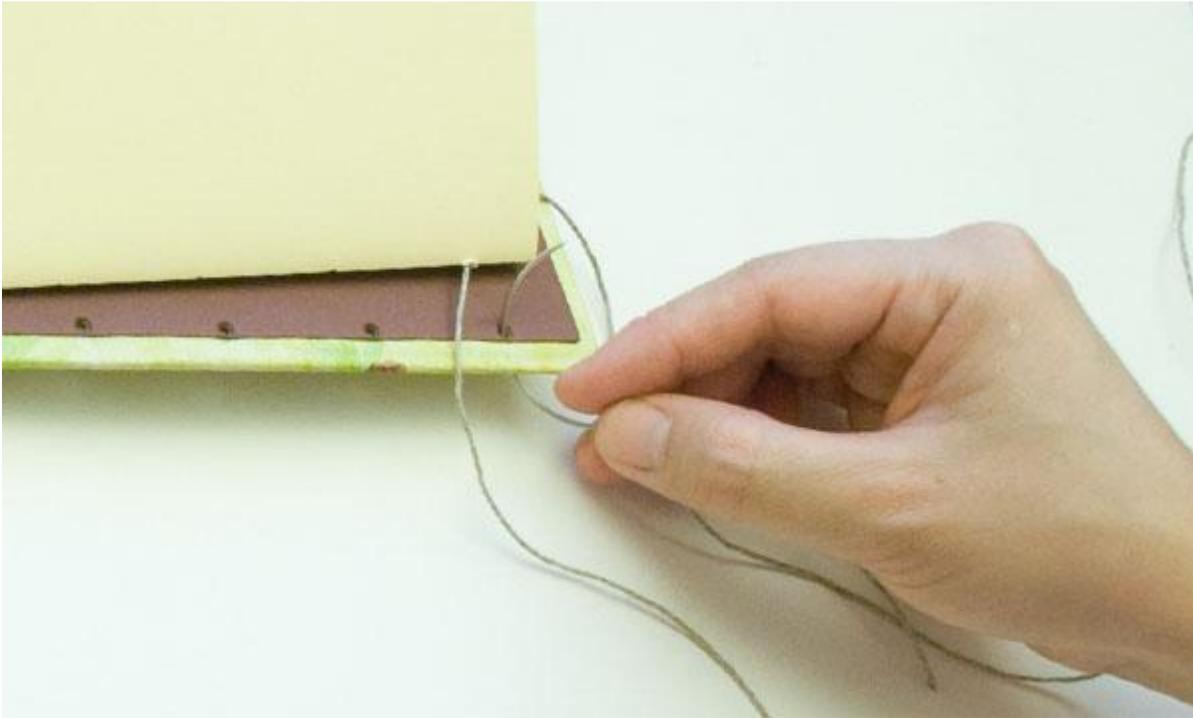
1. start at the end sewing station of last signature D
2. exit top sewing station D
3. enter top sewing station of next signature C
4. exit second sewing station of signature C, and...
5. enter second sewing station of previous signature d. loop over existing thread and exit same sewing station.
6. loop thread (of spine) by sewing under existing thread between signatures (C+D) and re-enter second sewing station of signature C.
7. proceed to next sewing station and repeat steps 5 and 6.
8. exit bottom sewing station of signature C and tie a knot with the end string.
9. enter bottom sewing station of the next signature B
10. exit the next sewing station of signature B and...
11. loop thread by sewing under existing thread between signatures (C+D) and re-enter sewing station of signature B.
12. repeat steps 10 and 11.
13. exit top sewing station of signature b and...
14. loop thread by sewing under existing thread between signatures (C+D), and before pulling the stitch tight, pass the thread underneath itself.
15. enter top sewing station of the next signature a
16. repeat steps 10 through 14
17. continue to add signatures and when you are finished tie off



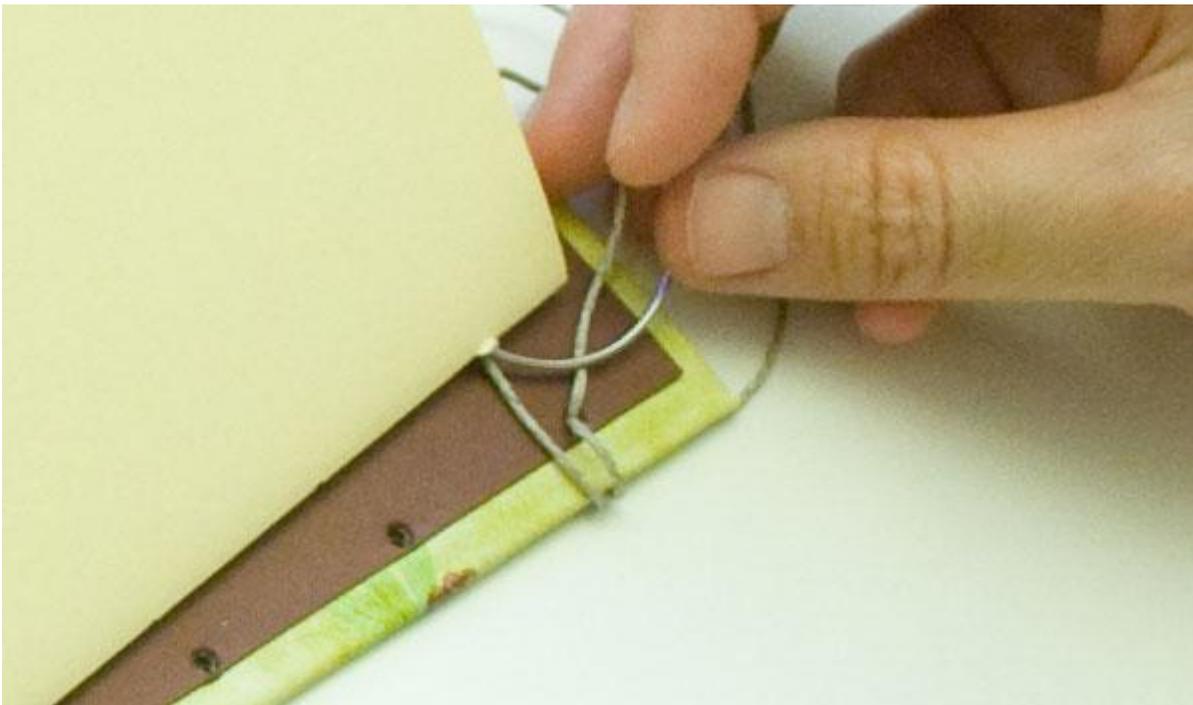
- To start, thread and knot your needle, with waxed thread
- Have one cover board, with one signature inside
- Start at the bottom hole inside the first *signature*



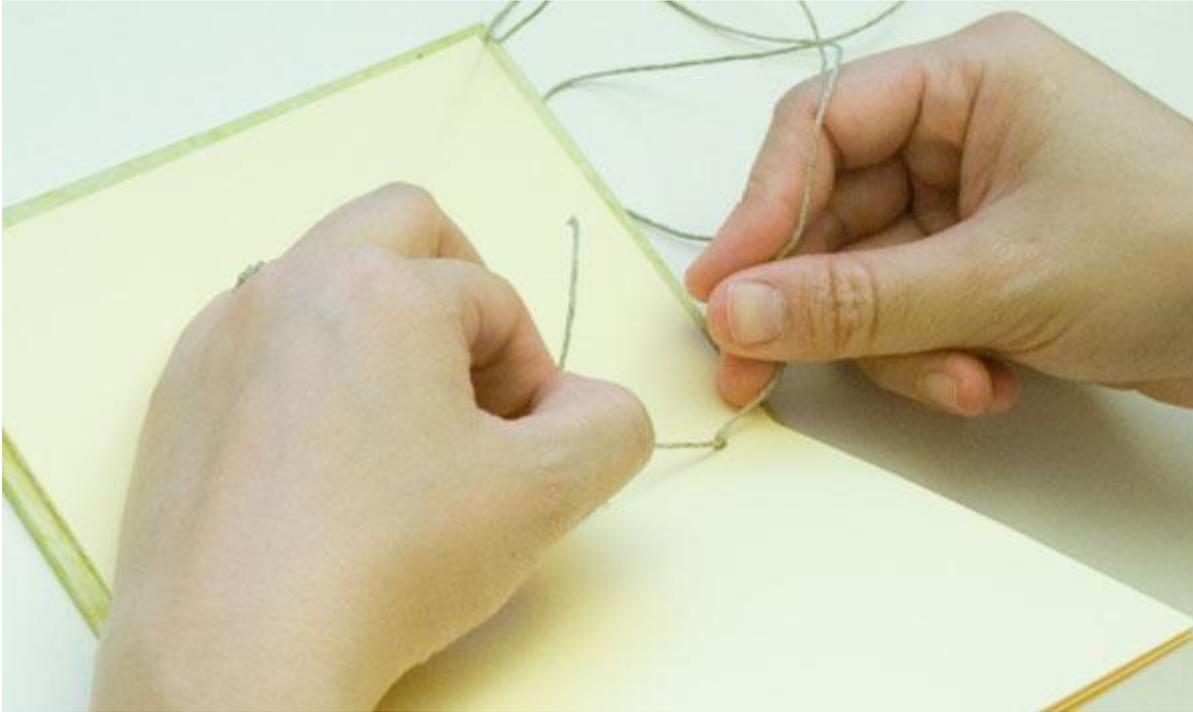
- Bring the thread out and under the cover board to attach it to the signature



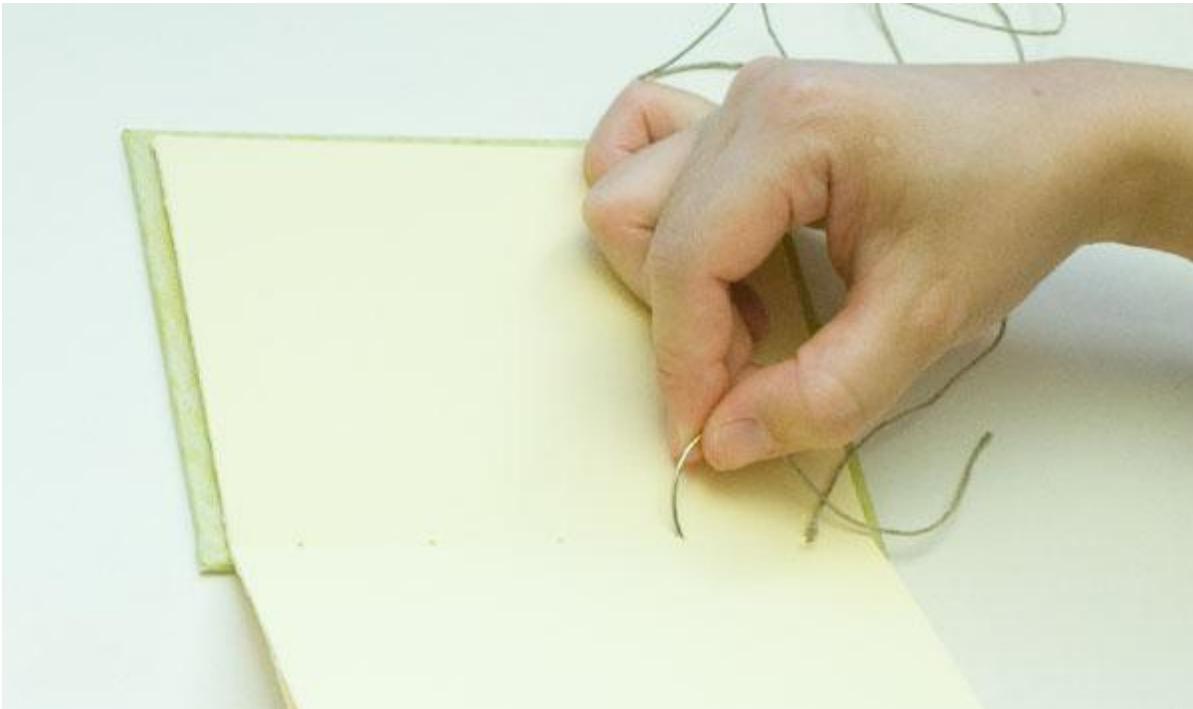
- You can wrap the thread around the cover board one more time, so it's a double loop, before putting my needle back through the signature bottom hole where it came from.



- Make sure everything is tight and aligned, then tie a knot
- Keeping the cover and signatures on top all aligned, because that's exactly how it's going to end up in the end
- You want a perfectly aligned stack of signatures on the covers, nice and tight



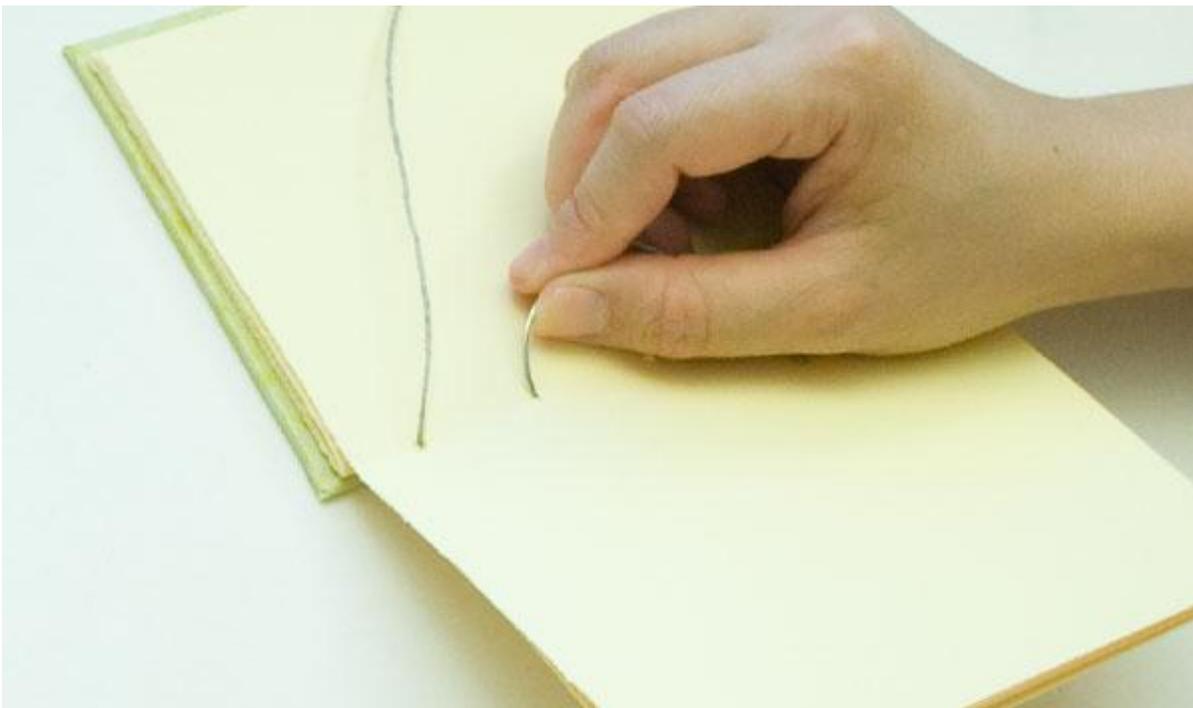
- Move up one hole and repeat the process of looping around the cover and coming back up
- The only difference is that there is no knot to tie; just keep looping through to attach the signature to the cover.



- When you get to the last hole, after looping onto the cover, instead of going back into the same signature you stack on another signature and go into that hole.



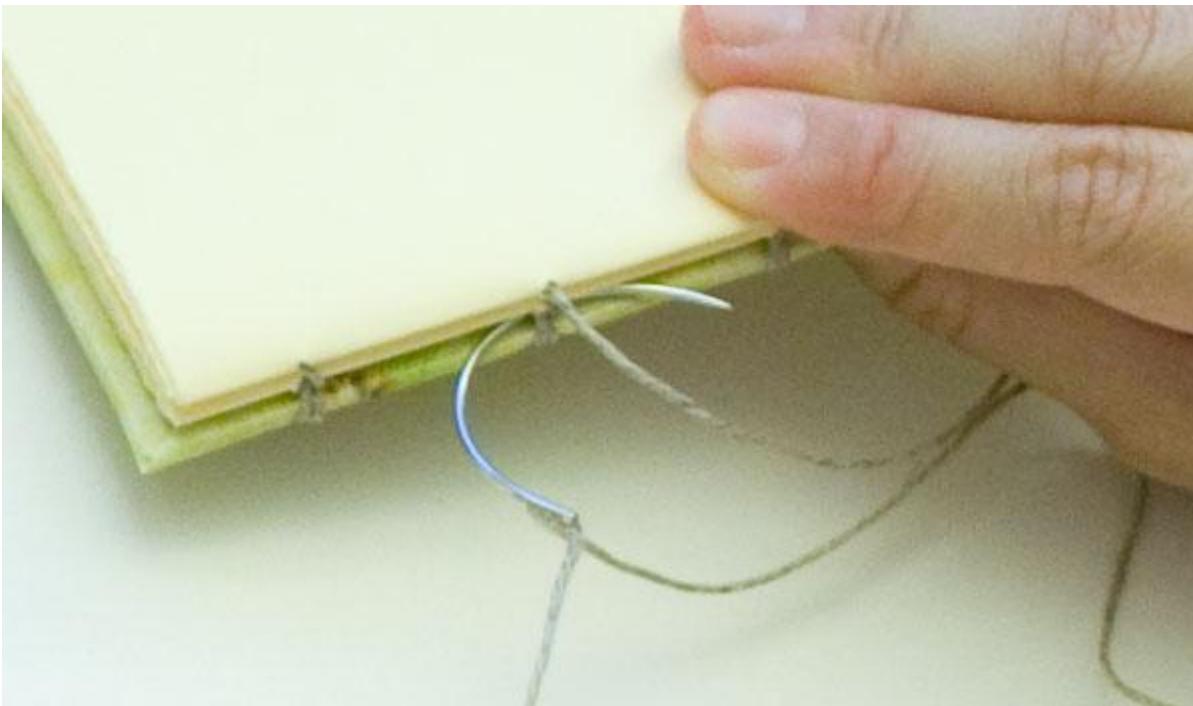
- You will stitch up from the top hole in the second signature here, then immediately go to the next hole



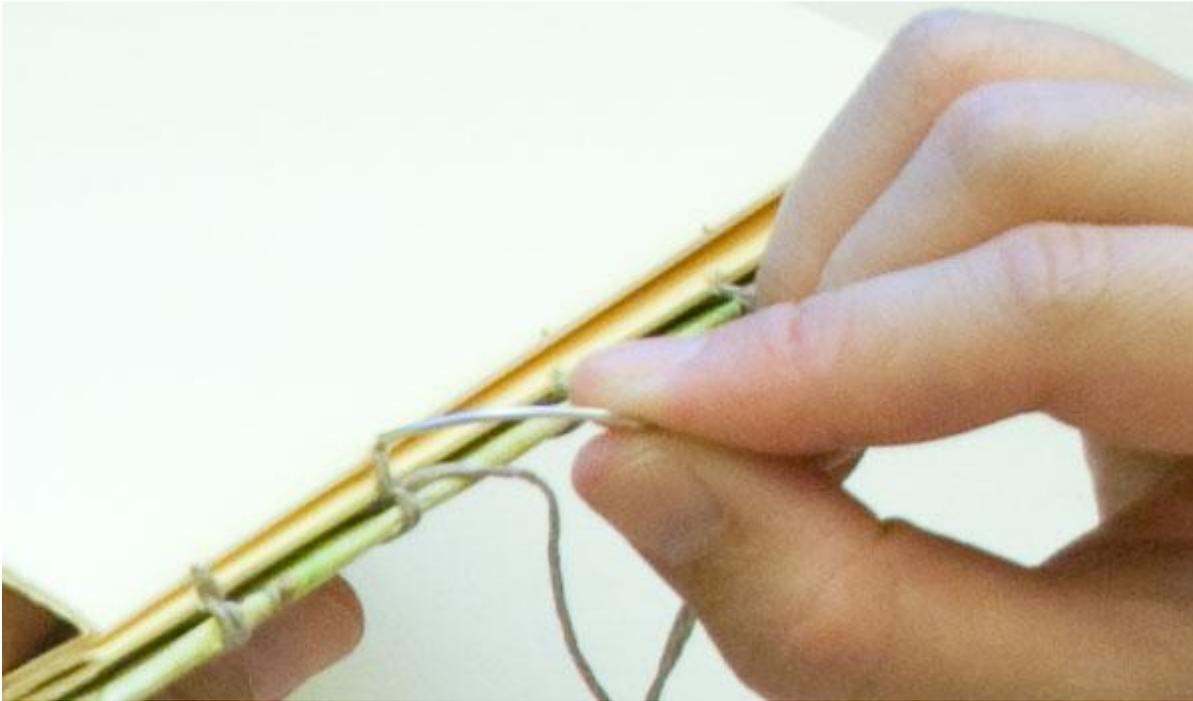
- On the outside, loop the thread in-between the signature below it (in this case the first signature and cover)
- Stick your needle into the left side of the stitch already there and exit to the right of it



- Here's a close-up of the needle pulling the thread behind the existing stitch of previous signatures, from the left side to the right side
- Make a little loop to connect the new signature to the rest of the book.



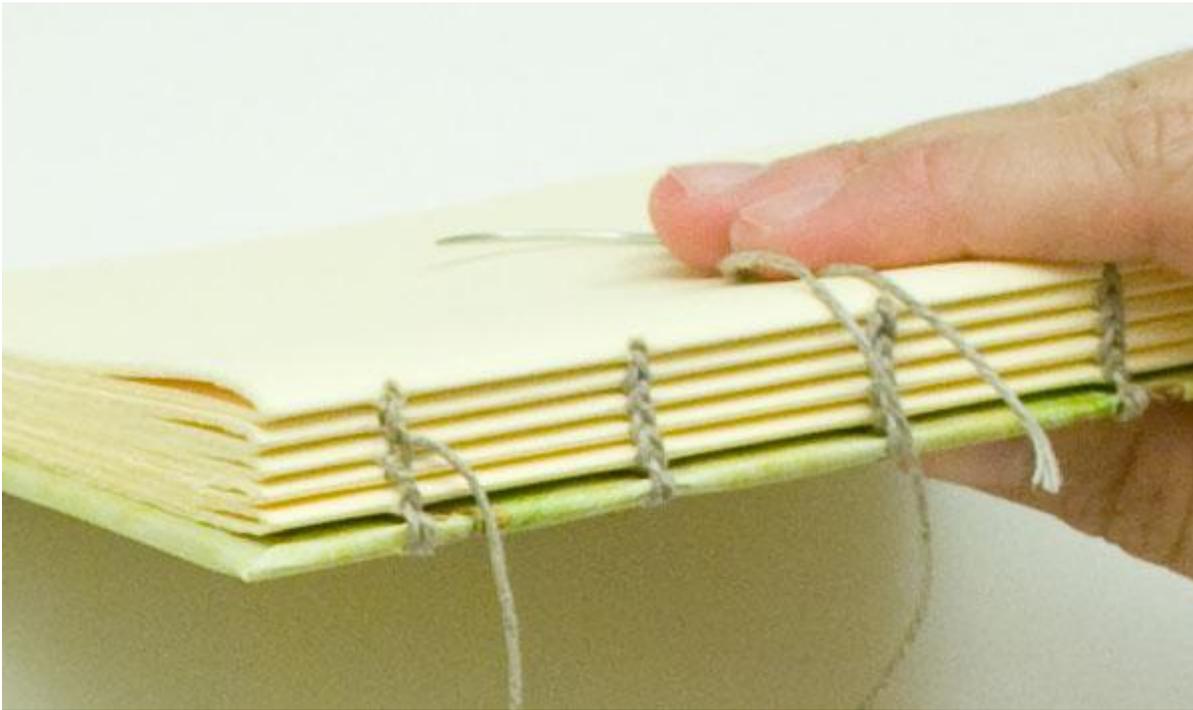
- Once you've made this loop, tighten it all
- Stick the needle back into the hole you came from and repeat going down the line of holes



- Again, once you've reached the last hole of that signature, go into the same signature again, add a new signature and go into that hole



- Repeat...repeat...repeat!
- Continue for as many signatures as you have



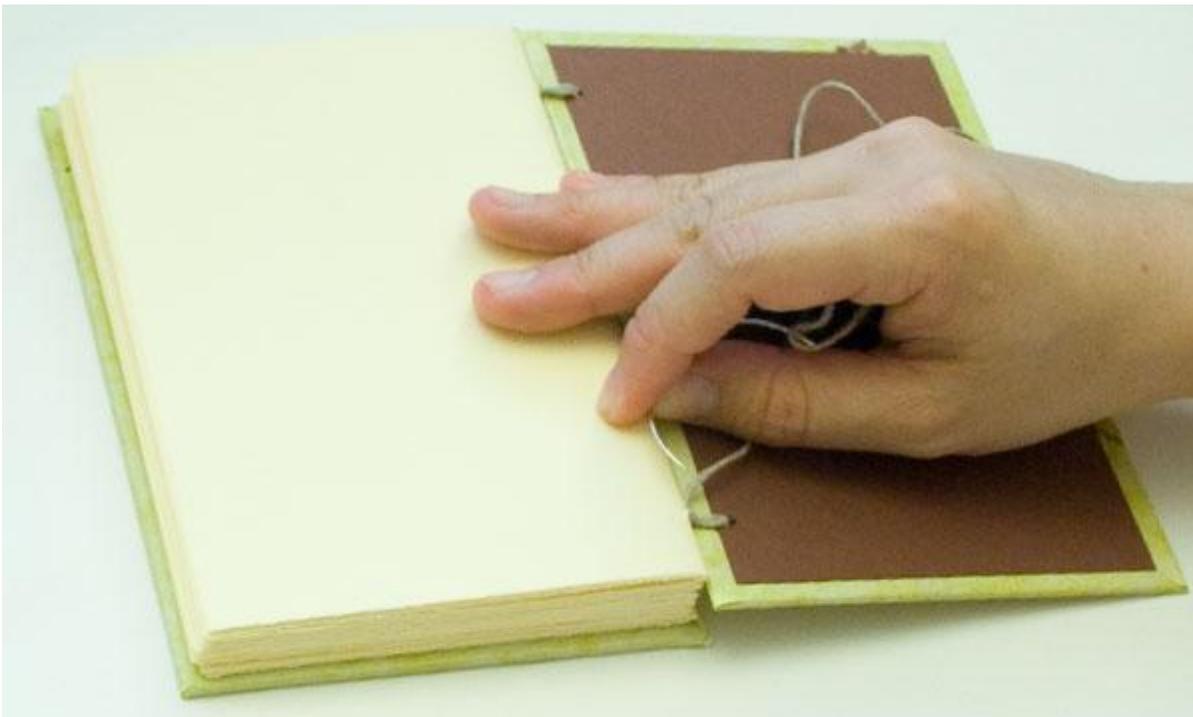
- When you have only the cover left to bind, continue your stitch as before but weave through the last signature again
- This means the signature will have a double thread inside



- Double loop around the cover as with your first cover
- Stitch to attach it securely to the book and then go back into the signature of paper
- Move up one hole and repeat the steps...



- When you've reached the last hole, instead of going back into the paper signature, go in between the cover and paper signature
- Loop it around that stitch and tie a knot here to finish binding the book





- See how the book lies completely open when flat on a table

