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**HOME EDITION**

**COLAB**

**FRENCH LINK BINDING**

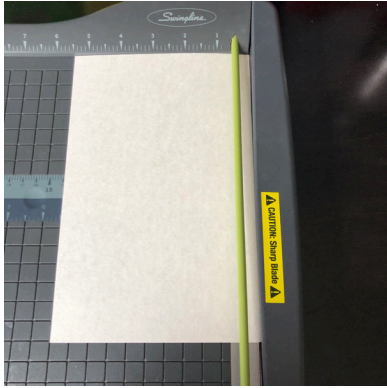
# COLAB FRENCH LINK BINDING

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## Materials

- Paper (inner pages)
- Cardboard
- Scrapbook paper (outer cover)
- Thread
- Ribbon
- Glue
- Beeswax (optional)
- Needle
- Awl
- Exacto knife
- Scissors

## Step 1: Bind inner pages



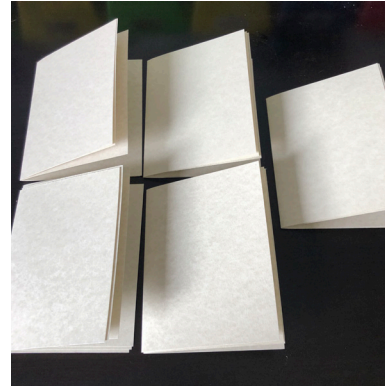
**1.**  
Cut pages to the desired size.



**2.**  
Fold pages in half.



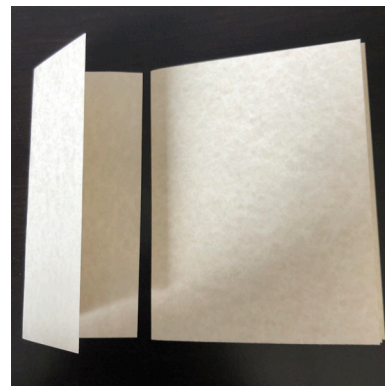
**3.**  
Stack pages 3-4 deep to create signatures, which is a grouping of pages.



**4.**  
Create the number of signatures so that you have as many pages as desired.

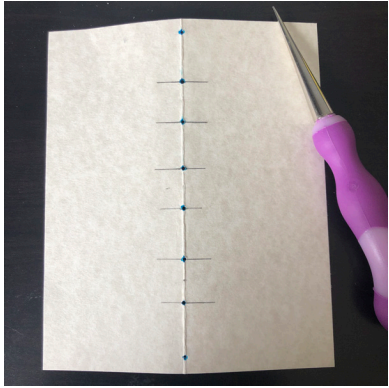


**5.**  
Cut the ribbons you wish to use in the binding. They should be about 4-5 inches longer than the width of your signatures stacked together.

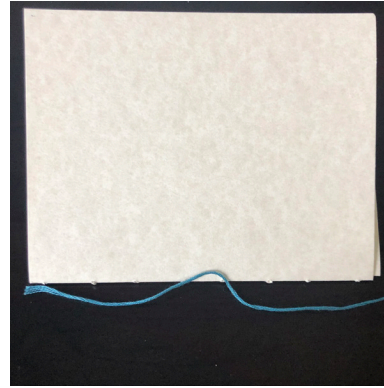


**6.**  
Cut a scrap piece of paper the same height as your signatures and 4-5 inches wide. Fold in half. This will be your hole punching template.

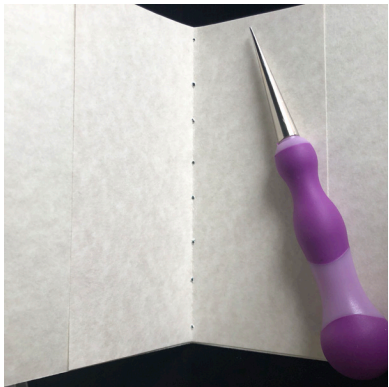
## Step 1: Bind inner pages (continued)



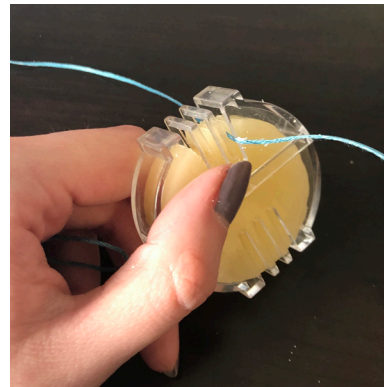
**7.**  
**Mark your holes.**  
You need one hole on each side of each ribbon. You also need one hole a quarter inch from the top and one hole a quarter inch from the bottom.



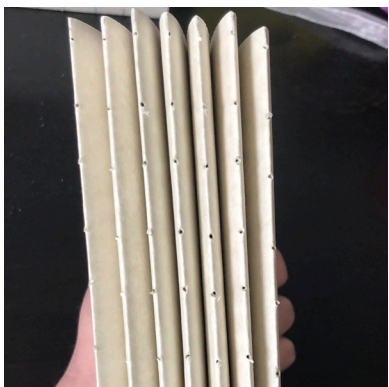
**10.**  
**Measure your thread for binding.** You need one spine length for each signature and an extra length or two for tying knots.



**8.**  
**Set your template in the center of your first signature.** Use your awl to punch your holes.



**11.**  
**If desired, use beeswax to wax thread.** This helps keep your thread from catching on anything.



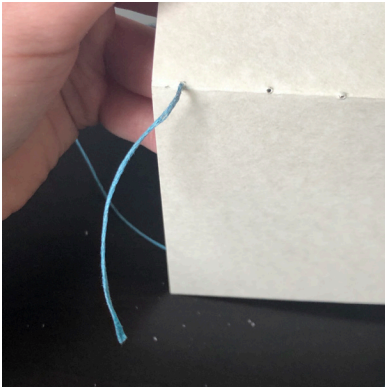
**9.**  
**Punch holes in all of your signatures.**



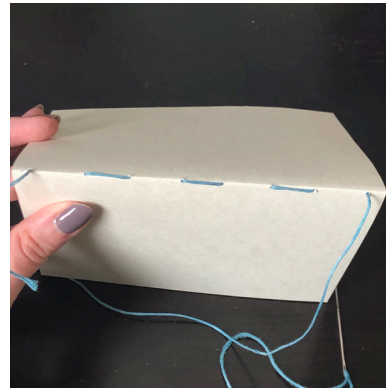
**12.**  
**Start by sewing into the first hole at the top of your book spine.**



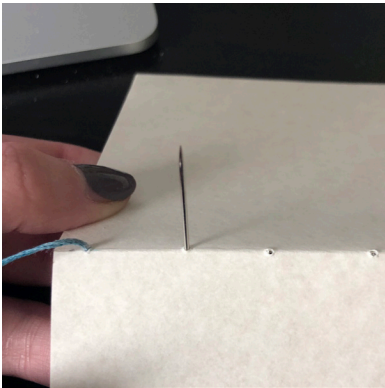
## Step 1: Bind inner pages (continued)



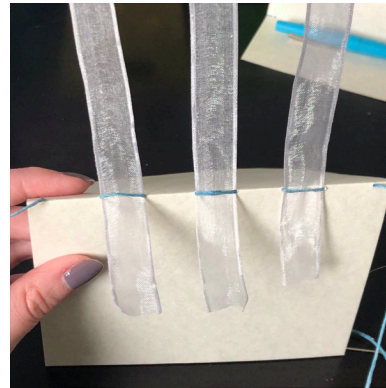
**13.**  
Leave a tail that is several inches long.



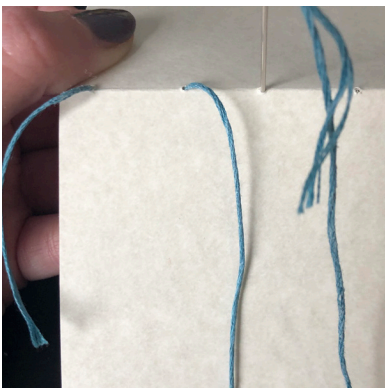
**16.**  
Continue in and out until you have sewed through all the holes in the first signature.



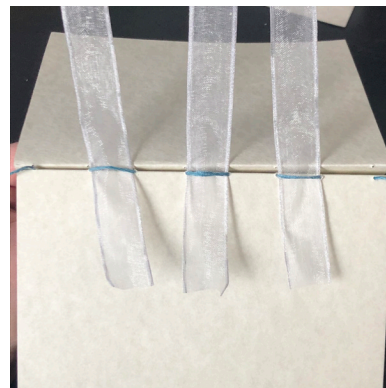
**14.**  
Come back out through the next hole from the inside of the signature fold.



**17.**  
Slide ribbons under the outside ribbon loops



**15.**  
Go down through the next hole on your signature.



**18.**  
Stack a second signature on top of the first so that the holes align.

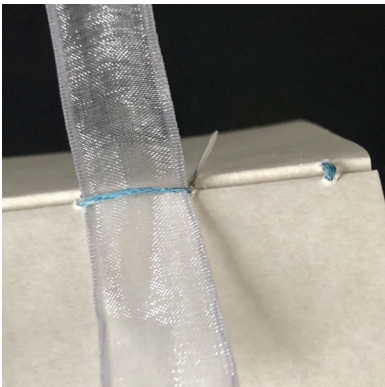
## Step 1: Bind inner pages (continued)



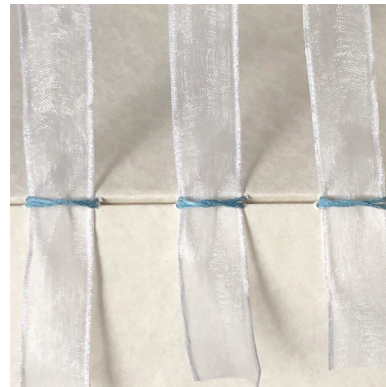
**19.**  
Sew into the hole on the second signature above the one you ended with on the first signature.



**22.**  
Sew down into the hole on the second signature to the left of ribbon. When pulled tight, you should see a x pattern.



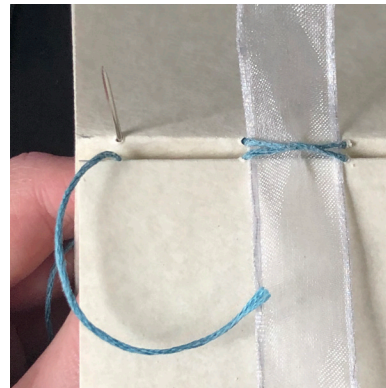
**20.**  
Come backup through the next hole. Your needle should be directly beside a ribbon.



**23.**  
Repeat this process with all of your ribbons.



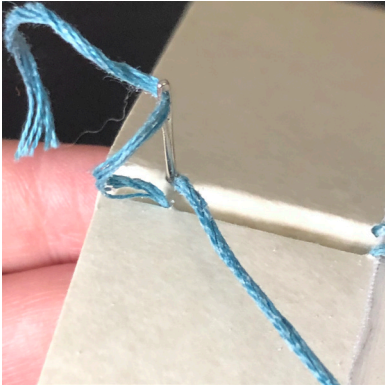
**21.**  
Slide your needle under the thread loop. Be careful not to sew through the thread or the ribbon.



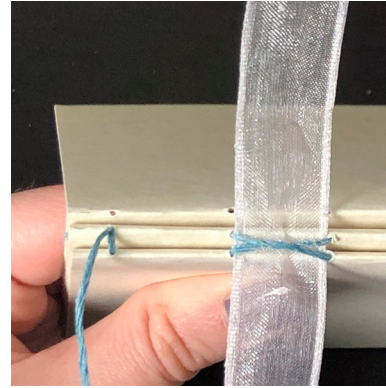
**24.**  
Sew out the last hole on the second signature. You should be directly above your tail.



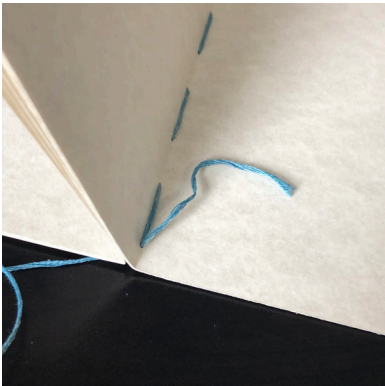
## Step 1: Bind inner pages (continued)



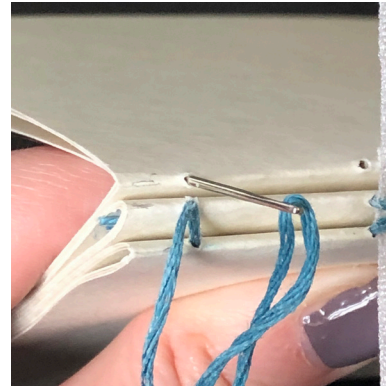
**25.**  
Put your needle on the tail. Sew into the hole on the second signature that you just came out.



**28.**  
Put your needle back on the original working end of your thread. Stack a third signature on top of the second and align the holes.



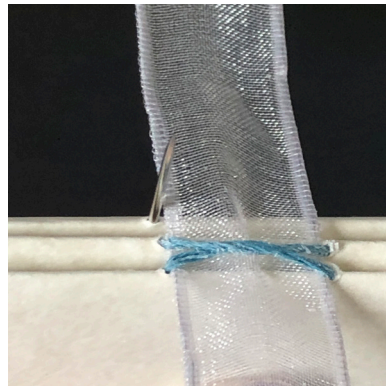
**26.**  
Your short tail should now be on the inside of the second signature and the end you were sewing with should still be to the outside.



**29.**  
Sew into the first hole of the third signature.

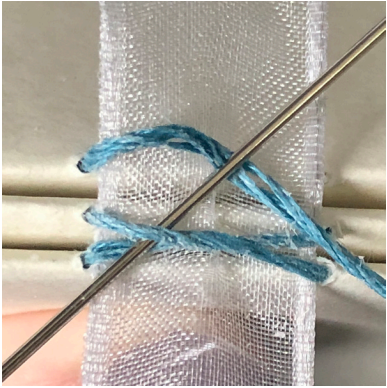


**27.**  
Tie a tight knot to hold your binding in place. Cut the extra thread.



**30.**  
Come out the next hole of the signature. You should be beside a ribbon.

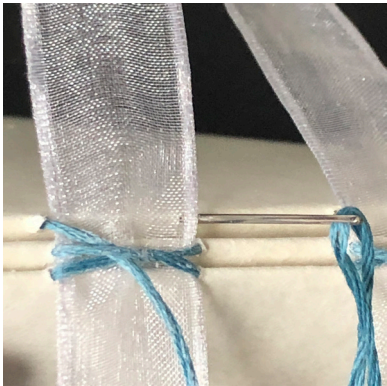
## Step 1: Bind inner pages (continued)



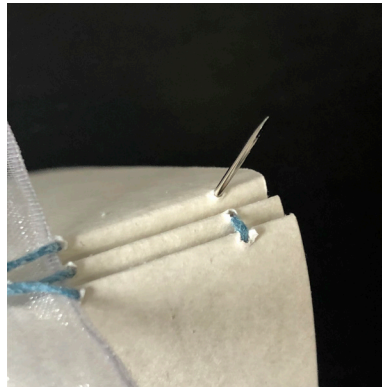
**31.**  
Loop under the thread on the previous signature to the left of the X.



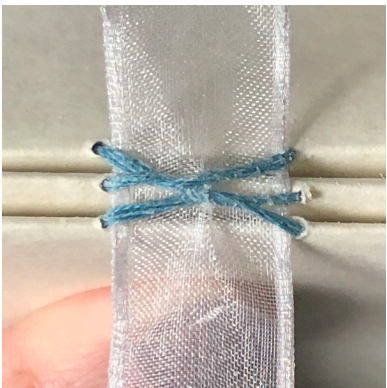
**34.**  
Repeat across the ribbons on your third signature.



**32.**  
Sew down through the next hole.



**35.**  
Sew out of the last hole on the third signature.



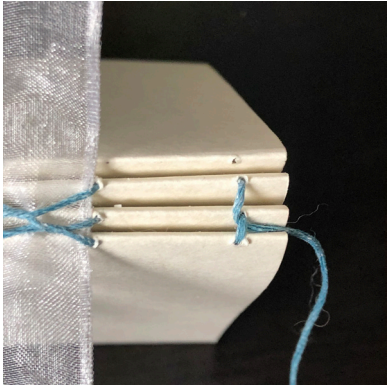
**33.**  
Gently pull tight. Your stitches should now look like this.



**36.**  
Carefully loop your needle through the stitch that holds the first and second signatures together.



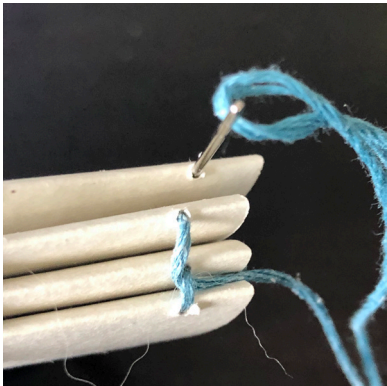
## Step 1: Bind inner pages (continued)



**37.**  
Pull the thread through the loop. Stack a fourth signature on top.



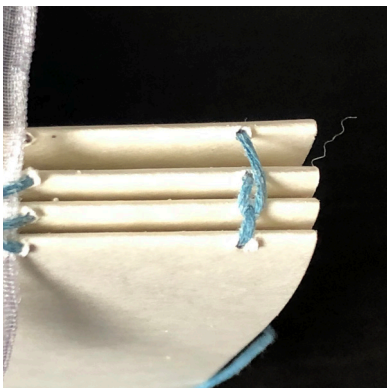
**40.**  
Sew out the next hole beside your ribbon.



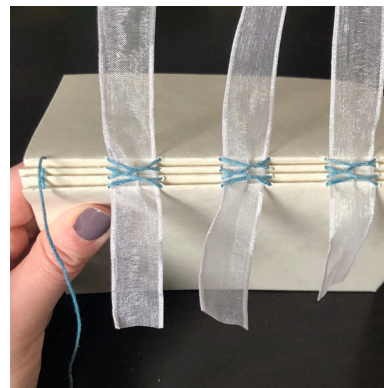
**38.**  
Sew down through the hole on the fourth signature



**41.**  
Carefully slide your needle under the thread on the third signature to the right of the previous X.

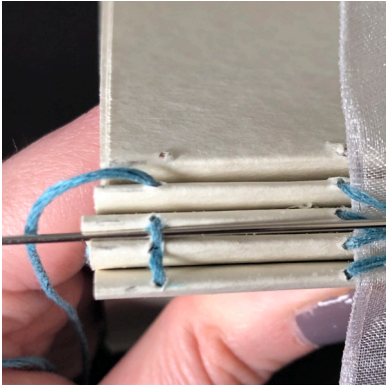


**39.**  
Gently pull tight. Your stitches should now look like this.

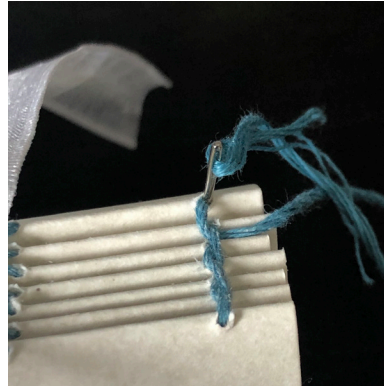


**42.**  
Repeat this process across all ribbons and sew out the last hole.

## Step 1: Bind inner pages (continued)



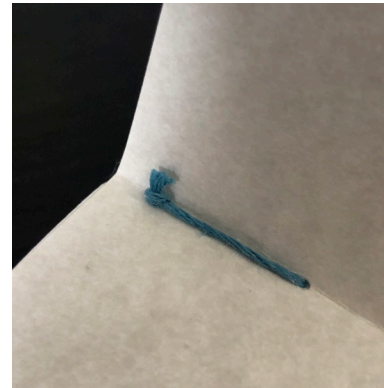
**43.**  
Carefully loop your needle through the stitch connecting the previous two signatures. Stack the next signature on top.



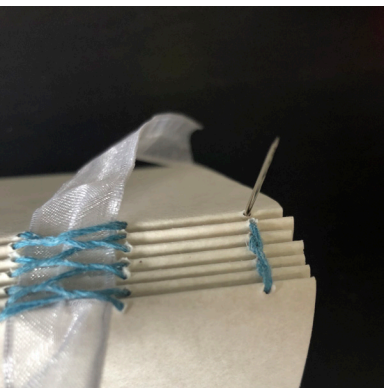
**46.**  
Loop under the previous stitch and sew back into the same hole.



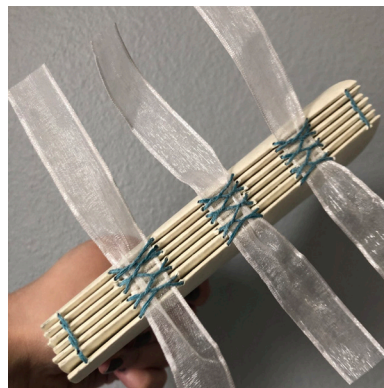
**44.**  
Sew into the next signature. Continue this sewing process until you have attached all signatures.



**47.**  
Tie a knot to secure your binding.



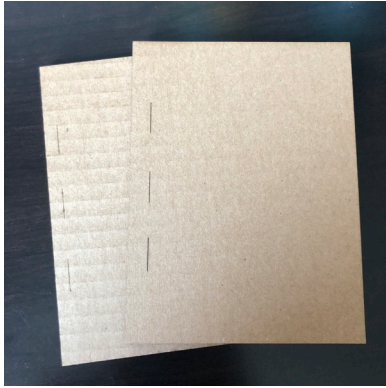
**45.**  
Sew out of the last hole on your final signature.



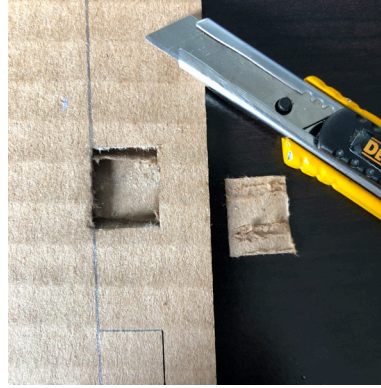
**48.**  
Your binding is finished. Your book should look something like this.



## Step 2: Add the covers



1. Cut your front and back covers from cardboard. They should be 1/4" wider than the pages on the top, bottom, and right side.



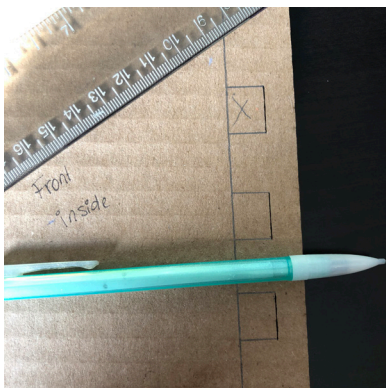
4. With an Exacto, carefully cut the rectangle out and remove the corrugated bits from the divot. Save the cardboard piece you cut off.



2. Measure and mark your ribbon slots to match ribbon the spacing on your bound pages.



5. Glue the paper to the outside face of your cover. Cut the corners at 45 degree angles. Fold the edges over and glue in place.



3. Plan out your divots for the ribbon. They should be the height of the ribbons and a half-inch wide.



6. Using an Exacto, carefully cut slits through the cardboard and outer paper of the cover.



## Step 2: Add the covers



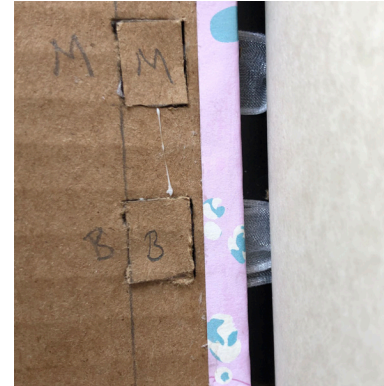
7. Gently feed the ribbons around the outer edge of the book and through the slit.



10. Glue the ribbons into the divots using a generous amount of glue.



8. Repeat with all ribbons on that side.



11. Glue the squares you removed back overtop of the ribbons to fill in the empty space.



9. Trim the ribbons to the length of the divot. Be sure that you have left enough slack in the ribbons that the cover can fully close.



12. Cut a piece of paper to fit over the exposed area of cardboard.

## Step 2: Add the covers



13.  
Glue the paper in place on the inner cover.



16.  
Congratulations! You finished your first French Link book!



14.  
Repeat process of gluing ribbons in place with the back cover.



15.  
If desired, paint a thin layer of Mod Podge or similar sealant on your covers for added durability.