
Kids Japanese Side Sewn Book with Jody Alexander

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview and Materials

- This is a version of the Japanese side-sewn binding, a four hole that's really great for kids. It's the same stitch and the same look, but we're using different materials and that are a little more kid-friendly. And we're doing preparation that will make it a little easier for them so they don't have to use sharp tools. They won't have to use an awl or a needle with this. So these are a couple of examples of some side-sewn bindings that I made with some kids. And they have covers that are orizomegami which is a Japanese paper dyeing technique that's also great for kids. So we made the papers and then we bound the books with this material and the pre-punched holes. I think I did this with kindergartners. What we're gonna do is make the holes with a hole punch so that they don't have to use an awl. And then instead of using a needle and thread since these holes are so large, we're gonna use this material that I originally discovered it when my son, he was probably about five, came home and he had made a bracelet with beads on it with this kind of material. I got to thinking that this would be great for kids for binding a book. What we need for this is, you can cut down an eight 1/2 by 11 piece of paper to this size. This is a quarter of it. But I'm gonna demo with the half sheet. This is what we're gonna prepare. I'm gonna show you how to make the holes and then we'll start binding.

Chapter 2 - Side Sewn Binding

Binding the book

- The materials I'm gonna use for this kids' version of the four whole binding is, half to eight and a half by eleven paper. I just have some paper from the stationary store for my text paper and just a card stock of photo copy paper for my cover. So, you can make the four holes with a single hole punch. You'll need to do some measuring, approximately half an inch from the head and the tail and about a half an inch in from the the spine and equal distance but you'll have to do some measuring but if you have a four hole punch, this is great trick and then the kids can do this themselves if you have a two hole punch. All you have to do, is put in the paper one way. (presses down on hole puncher) And then turn it over. No measuring. Everything's lined up perfect. And then you have equal distance, four holes with a two hole punch. Okay, so now we're ready to bind. We want to, we want to clip these with clothes pins and that way everything's held together while we're binding. The holes are big enough that want they do slip around a little bit, you're still gonna be okay. I'm gonna use 36 inches of this material. It's kind of a rubbery material that I got at a arts and crafts store. It's intended for kids to make bracelets and other kinds of crafts. But you can use any other material that's fairly stiff so that you don't have to use a needle. You could use string or hemp cord or maybe a stiffer ribbon. We're gonna start binding here in the bottom hole. And we're just gonna go in and out. I'm gonna pull enough through. But I've got a little bit of a tail. You wanna leave a little bit of a tail so that you can knot it here and maybe attach something at the end if you want. And we're just gonna go all the way to the top, in and out of these holes. All the way to the top. And you can see how easy this is without needle or thread, with these holes nice and big and this material being nice and stiff. Okay, so now we're gonna go around the top here. And back in that same hole. Okay, tighten up a little bit. And then we're gonna go around the spinage of the hole. And we're gonna do that every time on our way down. We're gonna head down to a hole, and

around the spinage of the hole. Okay. Down to the next one. Around the spinage. Almost there. Around the last spinage. Alright, and here we are at the bottom. We'll take these up a little bit. There's just some, so tight you can get with this material, but that's fine. And here we are with both of our ends at the bottom. We can tighten that up a little bit more. Okay, and now you can do a knot at the bottom. I do a kind of knot where I just take the two pieces and make a loop and knot it. Push that knot close up there. Alright. And that's done. We can remove our clips. And you can cut this as long or short as you want depending on if you want to attach things or not. I'm gonna cut this a little longer than that one so that there's just a little variation and then you can attach beads or make more knots or shells or feathers or whatever you want. Here are some nice examples of some completed ones that have beads tied to the end and remember that the Orizomegami is a great project for kids, too. It's a paper dyeing technique.