



Developed with Karen Crosby, retired art educator, Lake Mills, WI

Soft cover Japanese stab binding

Volume 108 | Gr. 6–12

Time: 1–2 class periods

Standards

VA:Cr1.1.8a

Document early stages of the creative process visually and/or verbally in traditional or new media.

VA:Cr2.1.8a

Demonstrate willingness to experiment, innovate, and take risks to pursue ideas, forms, and meanings that emerge in the process of art-making or designing.

VA:Re7.1.8a

Explain how a person's aesthetic choices are influenced by culture and environment and impact the visual image that one conveys to another.

VA:Re8.1.8a

Interpret art by analyzing how the interaction of subject matter, characteristics of form and structure, use of media, art-making approaches, and relevant contextual information contributes to understanding the messages or ideas and mood conveyed.

Objectives

Students will...

- Explore the versatility of Japanese stab binding
- Experiment with a variety of materials, including handmade papers, binding materials, and book content

Introduction

A wide variety of artists' books have evolved through the years, from wax and clay tablets, to papyrus and vellum, to the invention of paper. While China actually developed the stab binding, it was Japan that perfected the method, thus earning the recognition for it. Contemporary artists' books utilize a wide variety of methods and materials.

Instructions

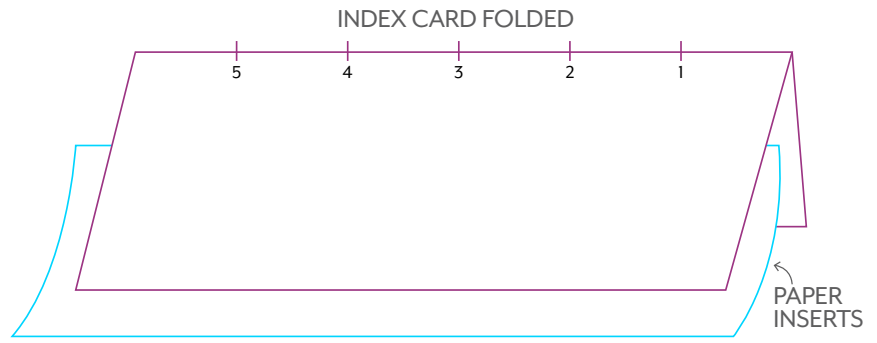
Before beginning, make sure each student has one sheet of 5½" x 36" decorative paper for the covers, a 5½" x 18" decorative end leaf, and sheets of 8½" x 11" drawing paper for the text. Students can use either six full sheets of drawing paper, or the paper can be cut in half to make 12 sheets.

1. Cut the decorative cover paper into a strip 5½" tall by the longest length of the paper. Fold the long length of the cover paper in half.
2. Open folded decorative cover paper. Fold edges into the center to meet the spine fold.
3. Add one sheet of 5½" x 18" decorative end leaf paper on top of the open covers (optional).
4. Place text block on right side and close cover. Make a paper jig out of an index card.
5. Mark ½" from either end of the short side of your paper. Mark five holes in total between the ½" edges of jig. Use binder clips to secure covers and pages together. Secure jig at folded end to be bound.
6. Use the awl to make five holes all the way through the text block and covers or punch holes with a paper punch. Refer to jig guide at right for instructions.
7. Use binding material that is 4–5 times the length of the spine and thread the needle.
8. Tie a square knot and clip. Embellishments such as beads, buttons, or trinkets can be added for decorative purposes.

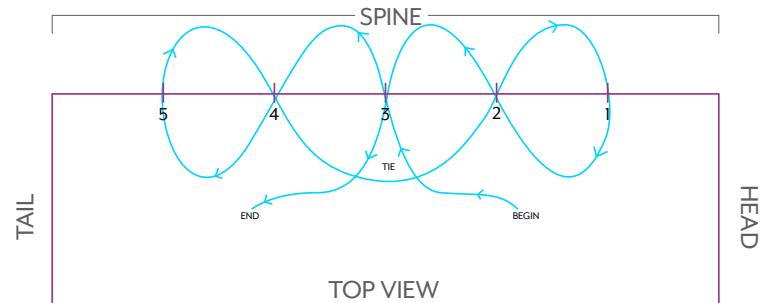




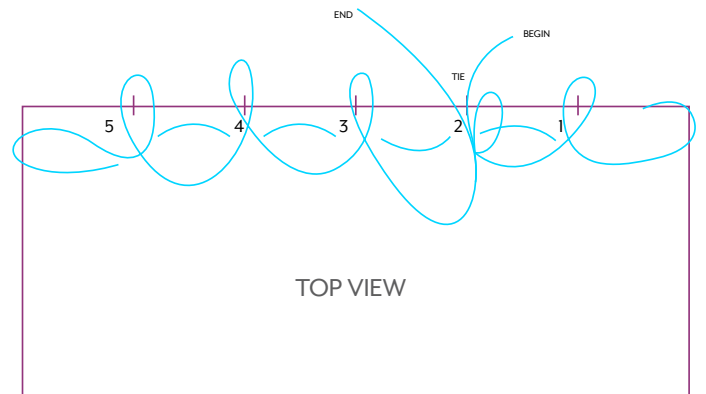
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Jig Guide

- Begin at the back, inserting needle through the top hole. Leave a 3" tail.
- Wrap around the head of the spine (along the top edge), returning through hole to front.
- Wrap around the spine.
- Insert needle top down through second hole.
- Wrap around spine.
- Insert needle up from bottom through third hole.
- Wrap around spine and back down through fourth hole.
- Insert needle up from bottom through the fifth hole.
- Wrap around the spine.
- Wrap around the tail of the book (along the bottom edge).
- Fill remaining spaces by stitching in and out to the back of the second hole and tie.



Materials list

- Shizen™ Handmade Decorative Papers, 1 lb. Value Pack, 11" x 15" ([9730057](#))
- Nasco White Budget Drawing Paper, 500 sheets, 18" x 24", 50 lb. ([4100480](#))
- Bone Folder, 6" ([9721562](#))
- Heavy-Duty Awl ([9723871](#))
- Large Eye Safety Yarn Steel Needles, pkg. of 2, 2¾" ([4500235](#))
- Economy Embroidery Floss, 24 skeins ([9716105](#))
- Fiskars® Performance Scissors, 8" bent ([9728985](#))
- Rex Medium Binder Clips, pkg. of 12, 1¼" ([9729954](#))
- Nasco E-Z Hold Knife with Cap, pack of 12 ([9708350](#))
- Fiskars® Self-Healing Cutting Mat, 24" x 36" ([WA25767](#))
- Blank Index Cards, pkg. of 100, 5" x 8" ([BE01115](#))