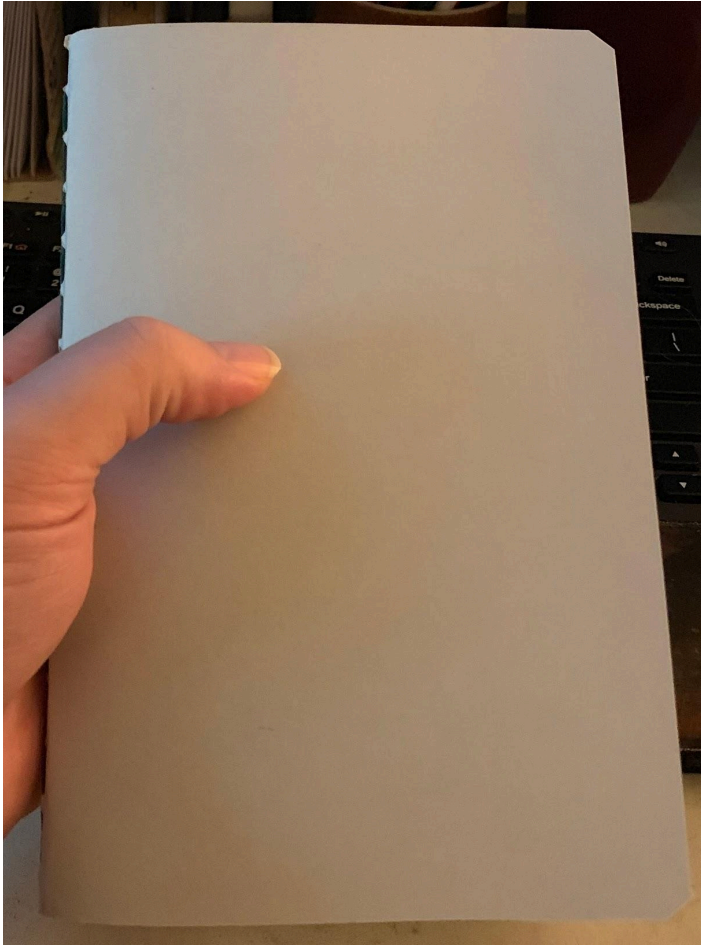


Field Book

-Brother Thomas

Quick Link: <http://tinyurl.com/y67cj4af>

6/12/19



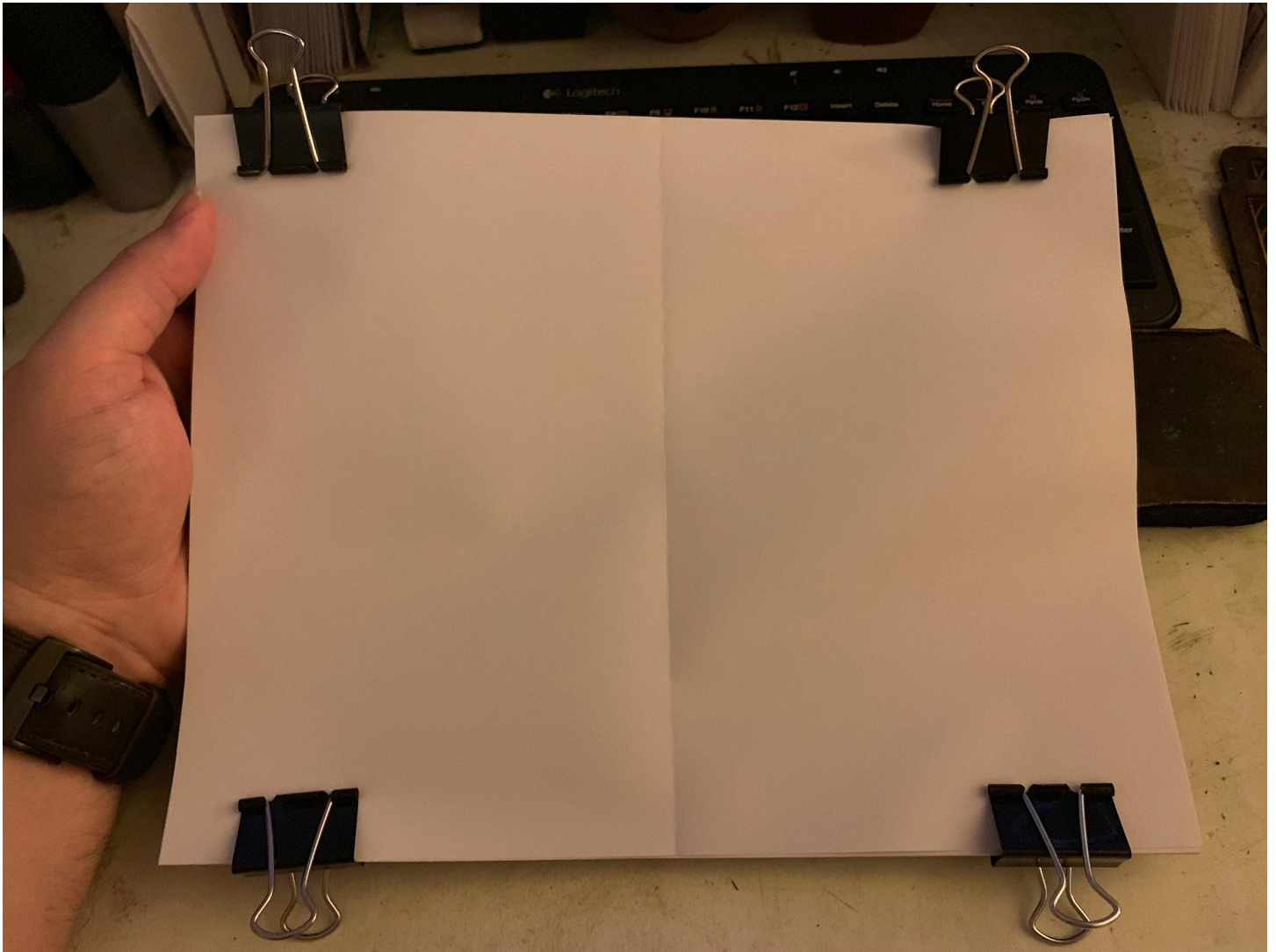
Since I go through journals rather quickly, I needed to learn how to make replacements rather than forking over between five and ten dollars each time. I don't need hard covered books as these are a combination of sketch and scrap book and the covers would never hold up to that much material pasted to the pages. And since I don't want to face the problem of 'I don't want to ruin such a nice (and sometimes expensive journal) with ramblings - it's easier to make them for less than a dollar each.

My field books are hand-sewn notebooks that I use as a sort of a catchall for sketches, notes, ideas, etc. The journal cover that I have been using for over twenty years is slightly smaller than a standard 8.5 x 5.5 journal so I cut mine down to 8.x 5.5.

Making these journals would be a great way to practice your single-folio bookbinding skills, a way to create something to give to new scribes or new members of the SCA.

Materials:

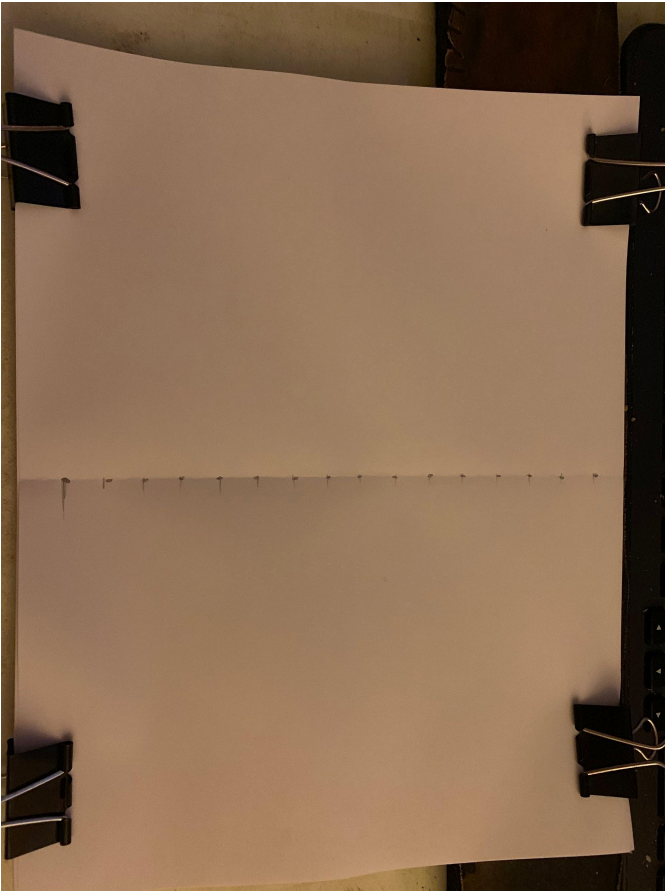
- 2 pieces of standard card stock
- 20-30 pieces of copy paper
- 4 clips
- Needle & thread (crochet string)
- Awl
- Small bit of beeswax
- Glue Stick
- Utility Knife



Step 1: Gather and clip the materials.

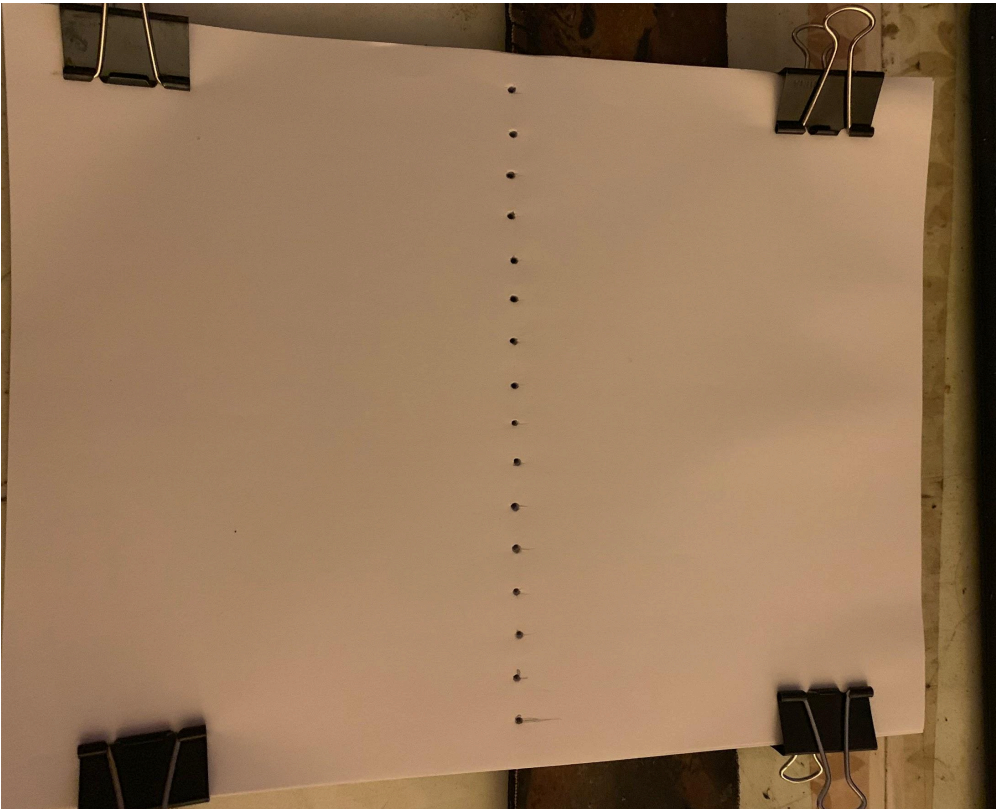
I use two pieces of card stock as the cover so I put them in the back along with between 20-30 pieces of copy paper. Before I add the binder clips, I'll fold one of the sheets of copy paper so I know where the center of the page is for the next step.

Once you have everything stacked up, add the clips to the four corners so that nothing moves around.



Step 2: Mark the Spine

Using a ruler, I mark the center fold at half-inch increments. As I mentioned before, I usually cut my field books down to 8 inches (from 8.5) so the last mark is where I'll cut the book off once it's sewn.

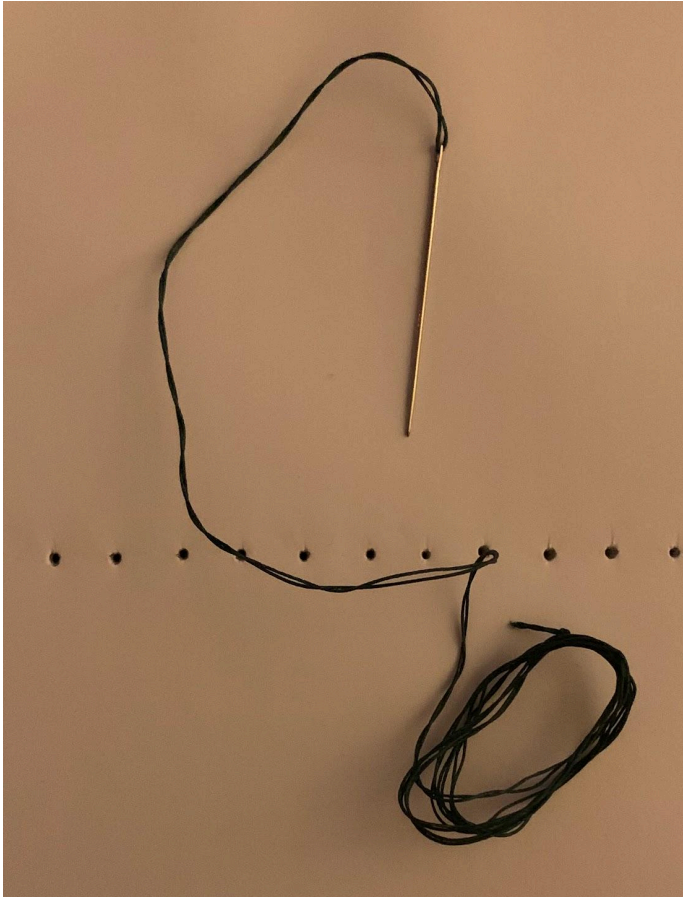


Step 3: Punch Time

Using the Awl and some kind of soft base (I use the wrist rest for my computer as it's a dense foam material), punch a hole through the mark. Be sure to go deep enough to push the tip out of the double layers of cardstock at the bottom. Just don't go too far because you only need a small hole for your needle.

If you don't want to use a wrist rest, see if there's some blue, closed-cell foam around. If you know a fighter

in the SCA they'll probably have some. It's essentially camping matt material.

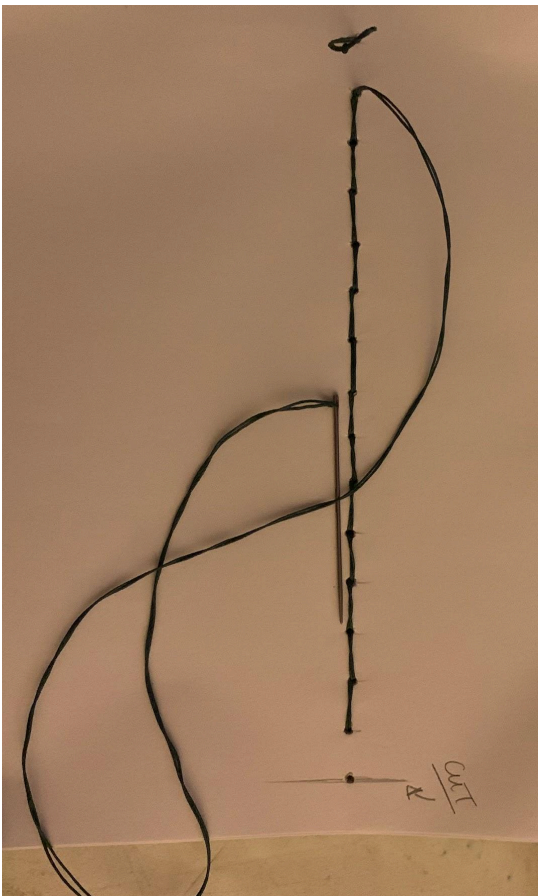


Step 4: Needle and Thread

Ok, so it's not "thread" in the traditional sense. For bookbinding I use thin, cotton crochet string. It's thicker than sewing thread and about the right size for binding.

Draw out four times the length of the book (about a yard will do). Now wax the length of the string. This does a few things: it protects the string from rot, wear and tear and keeps it from fraying. Slide it through the eye of the needle, double it at the bottom and tie a knot.

Note: you don't need to pick some weird color of string. This is a cheap field book so if you have some string, can get some from someone, just use what you have. I use green because it's what I had.



Step 5: Stitching

So down one side and then back up until you can tie the two ends together inside the book.

Real simple.

In fact you might use this to help young fingers learn how to sew since the holes are pre-punched. Any moms out there looking for a summer craft project for the minions?

Learning how to make a book out of scrap material helps you save LOTS of money.

You could make your own coloring books, sketchbooks, scrap books, etc.

And should anyone question your purchase of a bunch of craft supplies just look at them with big eyes and smile while saying, "it's for the children".



Step 6: Folding

Once you have the pages sewn and the threads tied, unclip the binders and fold the whole thing in half. If you don't have a bone folder (a handy tool) then use the back of a butter knife.

NOTE: Depending upon how many pages you chose to sew up, you may need to put this thing under weight for a few days to set the fold. Otherwise it'll spring open on you. I typically make a few of these at a time so I just stack them up alternately (spine on one side, then spine on the other, and back and forth until I have a stack) and put them under weight over night or for a while until I need them.

Step 7: Glueing

Open the book's two covers and grab your glue stick.

Liberally apply the glue to one side of the cardstock so that when you sandwich the two pieces together they make one, thicker piece. I will typically leave a quarter-inch gap around the edge so that when I use my folder (or butter knife) to spread the glue out it has somewhere to go other than onto my desk.

Repeat this on the other side for the remaining two pieces of cardstock.

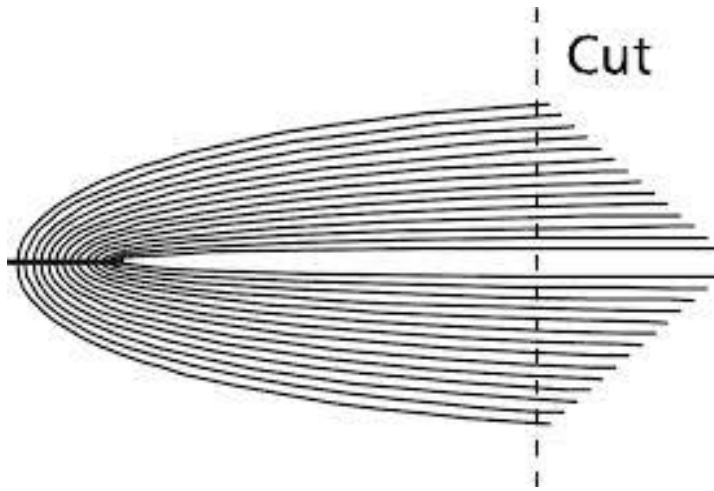
NOTE: You don't -technically- need to use cardstock. I've made field books out of cereal boxes and watercolor paper before. It's just whatever cover material you have on hand.

Step 8: Trimming

Now you need to use your utility knife and ruler to trim the edge

Just set your ruler at the edge of the cover and press down firmly. You -really- don't want it wiggling around on you when you're trying to cut through the pages.

Extend the razor blade of your utility knife a bit longer than you would normally and start slicing. You won't cut through it in one go. Don't even try.



Just think of it like the death of a thousand cuts. Each slice should remove a page or two and just keep at it until you're all the way through.

Voila - you've made yourself, your guild, your shire, scribal group, pack of minions, etc. - field books.

NOTE: if you -DO- use cardstock, then you could always print out some nifty cover design for the front. Feel free to download something from my tracing exemplars folder on google drive. The link should be on the facebook page.



INKLINGS



SUBJECT:

DATE: