PAMPHLET SEWING

Intermediate Preservation Techniques

Farmingdale Public Library
May 2, 2017

Sponsored by: LILRC Conservation & Preservation Committee
Overview

Pamphlet sewing is the process by which soft bound pamphlets, journals, magazines or music scores are sewn into a binder for protection from environmental pollutants; the resulting cover additionally protects the work and makes its accessible for reference and research.
1. Find a binder that fits the work best
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 2 & 3

2. Cut binder to size if it is too big
3. Round the corners
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step Steps 4 & 5

4. Fit work in binder, cutting down the binder to fit if necessary

5. Lift up the prongs of the staples in the middle of the work. Then flip over and remove staples from the outside.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 6 & 7

6. Use an eraser on any rust marks. Then press down any bumps with a bone folder.

7. Measure out and apply a piece of Filmoplast P equal to the length of the inside spine.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 8 & 9

8. Press down the Filmoplast P with a bone folder to bond it to the paper

9. Repeat steps 7-8 for the outer spine of the work.
10. If very damaged, leave extra filmoplast on the top and bottom of the outside cover. Fold the extra film over to the other side of the cover to strengthen the ends, and press into place.

11. Refold and center the work in the binder.
**Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step**

**Steps 12 & 13**

12. Open the work in the binder with the top cover facing you. Make sure the work is centered in the binder.

13. Center an awl in the middle of the work. Pierce the work and binder firmly with the awl while keeping the work centered.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 14 & 15

14. Pierce the top of the work and binder with the second awl, about 1-1½ inches from the top.

15. Pierce the bottom of the work with the last awl, leaving the same amount of space from the edge as the top awl.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 16 & 17

16. Awls should protrude about an inch from the back of the binder’s spine

17. Measure out thread 4 times the length of the work, with a little extra. Thread the needle.
18. Make a simple knot at the end of the thread by drawing the needle through its own loop and pulling tight. Leave at least a 2 inch tail.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 19 & 20

19. Remove the center awl and insert the needle from the inside spine, out

20. Remove the bottom awl and push the needle through from the back to the front
21. Unspin the thread if it is twisted.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 22 & 23

22. Push the needle through the center again, being careful not to bisect the existing thread in the hole. Straighten any twisted thread.

23. Individually pull the threads tight by pulling up, parallel to the spine. Pulling perpendicular or down will cause the binder to tear.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 24 & 25

24. Make a knot by looping through the sewn thread on the spine and pulling the needle through the existing loop. Tug each thread tight, against pulling up, parallel to the spine.

25. Remove the top awl and push the needle through from the outside, in. Straighten any twisted thread.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 26 & 27

26. Turn the book so the top is facing you. Pull the needle under the thread right behind the knot in the middle. Fix any twisting and pull tight.

27. Double back of the thread that was just tightened (closest to you) and push the needle under it from the opposite side. Push the needle through the resulting loop while keeping the tension of the last stitch.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps 28 & 29

28. Tighten the knot under the first knot while keeping the thread taut.

29. Cut the excess thread at least 1 ½ inches away from the knot.
Pamphlet Sewing: No Spine Flap
Steps A & B

a. Place a piece of tattletape close to the edge of the spine on the back inside cover.
b. Press the tape down with a bone folder.
c. Place Filmoplast P90 (white, opaque) over the strip if the cover is white to conceal the tattle tape. If the cover is colored, just use Filmoplast P (clear), to help the tape adhere. Press down with a bone folder.
Pamphlet Sewing: Step-By-Step
Steps D & E

d. Use PVA glue to seal the exterior thread on the spine. Pay extra attention to the center knot.
e. Leave the work to dry.