Single Score Sewing

Eligible Works:

- Single signature works
- Stapled works
- Bound works 1 cm or less in thickness

Basic Instructions

1. Locate a binder that is a suitable size for the work with no pockets. A clear front and a spinal flap are preferable (see step 7). If needed, cut a larger binder to size. Ideal size is about 1/2 inch on all sides. Top and bottom margins can be slightly less than the side edge.

2. Round the corners of the binder with the ¼ inch corner-rounder.

3. Prep music to be sewn:
   a. Stapled Works: (common)
      i. Remove and discard staples with staple remover, being careful not to rip the paper. First lift the two lips of the staple closure until they are standing perpendicular to the paper. Then flip to the flat side of the staple, and gently lift the metal out.
      ii. Use a bone folder to smooth out the bumps left by the staple holes.
      iii. Apply filmoplast tape along the innermost fold of the work and the outer spine, pressing down with a bone folder. If the work is badly damaged, employ more filmoplast as needed.
   b. Thin, Sewn Works: (sometimes) Apply filmoplast to the outside spine of the work and press down with bone folder. Use the page numbers to approximate the middle of the book, and make that your middle for when you start sewing. No filmoplast is applied to the inside margin.
   c. Single Signature Sewn Works: (rare)
i. Cut the threads holding the work together and gently pull out of the work.

ii. Use a bone folder to smooth out the bumps left by the thread holes.

iii. Apply filmoplast tape along the innermost fold of the work and the outer spine, pressing it down with a bone folder. If the work is badly damaged, employ more filmoplast as needed.

4. Position work in the middle of the binder, evenly spaced on all sides as much as possible. Take an awl and punch through the middle of the book all the way to the outer spine, and leave the awl in place. Repeat action for the bottom and then the top of the work with different awls, about 1” away from the top and bottom of the work. If unsure, follow the lines of the bottom and topmost lines of the music as your guide. You should now have your piece of music pinned to your binder with three awls, with the points poking from the inside to the outside spine of the binder.

   a. SPECIAL NOTE: If you are sewing a work that was already sewn into a signature, or repairing a work, try to make the holes with the awls in the preexisting holes. This will prevent weakening the paper from too many unnecessary holes.

5. Measure out thread to be 4 times the length of the work and thread the book needle. Knot the two ends of the string together in a figure eight knot.

6. **Sewing Method:**

   a. Pull out middle awl and put safely away. Run needle through the hole from the inside of the work to the outside spine.
b. Pull out bottom awl and put away safely. Run needle through the hole from the outside spine back through to the inside of the work. Fix any twisting of the thread so the stitches and tension remain consistent.

c. Run needle back through the middle hole towards the outside spine. Make sure not to run the needle through the thread from the first step. Fix any twisting, and then tug each string up along the spine separately to make sure the threads are snug, and to prevent tearing the binder.

d. Make a loop and knot the thread at this middle stage. You should have secured the bottom half of your work to the binder.
e. Pull out the top awl and put safely away. Run needle through the top hole from the outside in to the middle of the work. Fix any twisting.

f. Turn the work upside down and open so the middle is exposed. Going from the left to right side, pull the needle under the thread already secured above the middle hole. Fix any twisting.

g. Loop thread into a circle and pull thread through it left to right again (like a script ‘r’) to make a simple knot, making sure the stitch stays tense while doing so. Pull knot tight, and cut off any excess thread, leaving about 1-1½ inch tail.
7. Security Strips and Gluing Types:

a. *Binder with Spine Flap:* If the binder chosen has a flap on the spine, place a security strip (tattle tape) running parallel to your stitches and press down with bone folder. Take off the backing of the flap and pull to cover your stitches. Use the bone folder to press down the flap and make sure the adhesive holds. If glue looks old and yellow, some extra glue might be necessary on the under edge of the flap to make it more secure. If glue is used, weigh down the spine while it dries with a brick weight. If not, the piece of music is done.

b. *Binder Without Flap:*
   
i. If there is no flap on the binder, the security strip (tattle tape) goes on the inside back cover of the work. Lay the security strip parallel to the inside spine edge of the book, leaving a little space. Cut a piece of filmoplast P90 (the opaque one) the height of the work and cover the security strip. Press down well with the bone folder. The point is to hide the security strip so it cannot be seen easily, so the neater the better.

ii. After the security strip is in place, apply PVA glue to the thread on the outside spine of the binder. Cover the thread but be as neat as possible. Make sure the middle knot is covered very well. Once done, leave the binder somewhere safe to dry for a few hours, and it will be ready for use.