One Pocket Sewing

*This tutorial is best used in conjunction with the “Single Score Sewing” tutorial*

Eligible Works:

- Single signature works with 1-2 parts

Basic Instructions

1. Select a piece of Bristol (cream colored folder stock) and cut it to make folders for each part of the work. Cut them larger than the part is when it is open, and then fold in half and press down on the crease with a Teflon folder. Trim the Bristol folder down to size. There should be ¼ - ½ inch margin on all sides of the parts.

2. Round the corners of the Bristol folders, making sure the music is not inside. Do not cut or alter the parts.

3. Locate a binder with one pocket that is a suitable size for the work, making sure the Bristol folders will fit. A clear front and spinal flap is preferable. Ideal size is about 1/2 inch on all sides, but slightly bigger is better than too small.
4. Prep the work and all parts of music to be sewn:
   a. *Stapled Works: (common)* Remove and discard staples with staple remover, being careful not to rip the paper. 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 Bound Works: (sometimes)* Apply filmoplast to the outside spine of the work and press it 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.

   c. *Single Signature Works: (rare)* Cut the threads holding the work together and gently pull out of the work. 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.

5. Position the main work \( \frac{1}{4} \) inch from the bottom of the binder. 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 through the outside spine of the binder.

6. 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.

7. **Sewing Method:**
   a. Pull out the middle awl and put it safely away. Run the needle through the hole from the inside of the work to the outside spine.

b. Pull out the bottom awl and put it safely away. Run the needle through the hole from the outside spine back to the inside of the work. Fix any twisting of the thread so the stitches and tension remain constant.
c. Run the 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 separately to make sure the threads are snug. Make a loop and knot the thread at this middle stage. You should have secured the bottom half of your work to the binder.

d. Pull out the top awl and put it safely away. Run the needle through the top hole from the outside spine back to the inside of the work. Fix any twisting.

e. 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.
f. Loop the thread into a circle and pull it through the loop, left to right again (like a script ‘s’) to make a knot, making sure the thread stays tense while doing so. Pull the knot tight, and cut off any excess thread, leaving about an 1-1½ inch tail.

8. Center each of the parts in their respective Bristol folders, and repeat the awl punching and sewing process with each part (steps 4-6).

9. Security Strips and Gluing Types for main works and parts:
   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 with bone folder. Take off the backing of the flap and pull it over to cover your stitches. Use the bone folder to press the flap down and make sure the adhesive holds. If the glue looks old and yellow, some extra glue might be necessary on the under edge of the flap to make it more secure. If extra glue is used, weigh down the spine with a brick weight.
while it dries. Then apply glue to the threads exposed on the outside spine of the parts and lay out to dry. The work is finished.

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 the filmoplast P90 down with a bone or Teflon folder to fully adhere it to the paper. 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. Try to cover the thread but be as neat as possible. Make sure the middle knot is covered very well. Then repeat on each of the parts. Once done, leave the binder somewhere safe to dry for a few hours, and the work is finished.