

Ethiopian-Style Sewn Board Binding (continued)

Covering Boards

1. Clean up the holes that you punched in your boards by shaving off any extra material with your exacto knife
2. Cut two pieces of cloth to the following dimensions
 - (a) Board height + 1 1/2 "
 - (b) Board width + 1 1/2 "
 - (c) This will provide you with 3/4 " turn-ins on all sides of each board
3. Cut two pastedowns to the following dimensions (use a paper that complements your cloth)
 - (a) Board height - 4 mm
 - (b) Board width - 4 mm
 - (c) This will provide you with 2 mm squares on all sides of each pastedown
4. Cover your boards as follows
 - (a) Paste out the OUTSIDE of your board with PVA + methylcellulose (70:30 mix)
 - (b) Center the glued board onto the paper-backed side of your cloth and press firmly with your hands
 - (c) Flip over your board and smooth your bone folder along the front of your board, checking for air bubbles
 - (c) Mitre the cloth corners at a 45 degree angle, 1 1/2 board thicknesses from the corners of your board
 - (d) Glue out the head and tail of your cloth and turn in (watch for glue squeeze-out and remove)
 - (e) Smooth your bone folder along the edge of the glued board and check for air bubbles
 - (f) Pinch the edge of your mitres with your bone folder
 - (g) Glue out the sides of your cloth and turn in (watch for glue squeeze-out and remove)
 - (h) Smooth your bone folder along the edge of the glued boards and check for air bubbles
 - (i) Tap the edges of your covered board
 - (j) Wrap your covered board with wax paper, place under weight and press
 - (k) Leave under weight to dry overnight
5. Trim out your turn-ins and leave a 1/4" margin of cloth on all sides
6. Locate holes with your template and open them up with your awl
7. Attach your pastedowns as follows
 - (a) Use your ruler and exacto blade to remove a slight strip of paper from the width of your pastedown (1 mm)
 - (b) This will allow for a slight stretch during gluing and ensure that your pastedowns remain square
 - (c) Glue out the back of your pastedown on a sheet of waste paper and wait for the stretching to settle
 - (d) Place one corner of your glued pastedown onto the cloth margin, leaving a 2 mm square on both sides
 - (e) Lightly smooth down the pastedown
 - (f) Make any needed adjustments to your placement of the pastedown (gently shift the paper before glue dries)
 - (g) Firmly smooth down the pastedown with your hands (watch for glue squeeze-out and remove)
 - (h) Reinforce the pastedown by placing wax paper over your pastedown and smoothing it with your bone folder
 - (i) Wrap your board with wax paper, place under weight and press
 - (j) Leave under weight to dry overnight
8. Locate holes on the cloth side of your boards and open them up with your awl
9. You are now ready to begin sewing!

