

# Japanese Stab Binding

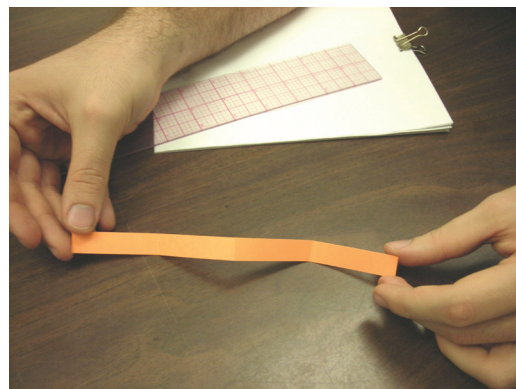
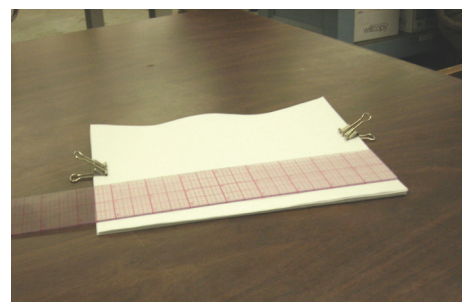
## Step 1

Before you begin Japanese Stab Binding, make sure that your document (cover and guts) is all printed out and collated. Keeping your collated document together is key.

## Step 2

Marking the holes. The holes are traditionally measured with a paper ruler which we will create specifically for this purpose.

- Use a paper cutter to cut a strip of paper 1/2" wide.
- Measure the length of the book and subtract 1/2" from your measurement. This will be the length of your paper ruler.
- Take the 1/2" wide strip of paper and cut it to the appropriate length.
- Fold the paper ruler in half and then in half again. Now unfold. The paper ruler has now been divided into four areas equally by three "lines".
- Take one copy of your collated document and hold it together with two metal binder clips.
- Hold your paper ruler centered on the left-most side of the front of your document. The ruler should be flush with the left-most edge.
- Use a pencil to mark points at the very corners of the paper ruler, and at the three lines (shown to right).



## Step 3

Puncturing the holes.

- Using an awl (a punching tool, see right) punch the five holes at the five points you just marked. It is important that the metal clips are still on. Make sure that there is sufficient cardboard under where you are punching, so that you are not punching into the table, a venture that is harmful to the awl.
- Keep the metal clips on.



## Step 4

Sewing and finishing.

- Thread about 3' worth of string (to be safe) on a binder's needle.
- Follow the diagram below to thread your document, tying it when indicated.
- When finished, cut off any extra thread and remove the binder clips.
- Repeat steps 2e-3d for the rest of your documents, using the same paper ruler every time.

