

## Leather Longstitch with spice decoration

Canberra Craft Bookbinders Guild- 2025

The Longstitch structure makes a very sturdy book, which is good for journals, sketchbooks and similar types of books. It can be made without adhesives, which makes it very handy and suitable to a large range of materials.

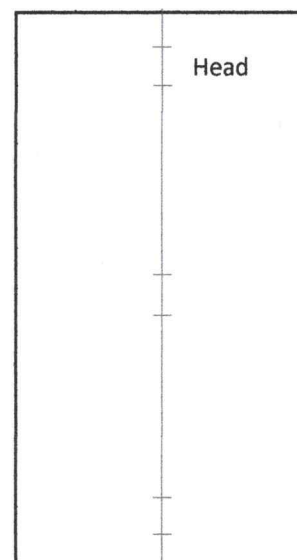
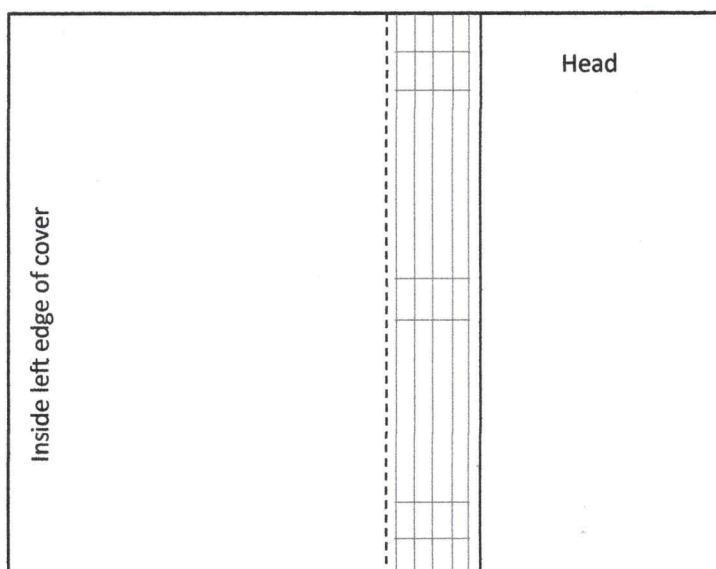
The variations for the spine are endless. It can have wooden or leather spines or it can have a partially exposed spine. It lends itself to soft wraparound covers of strong paper, artists' canvas, light card, and suede or leather, or any combination of these materials.

The long stitch provides a great opportunity to decorate with different coloured threads, beads; and weaving or braiding, including decorating with Australian botanicals in honour of the CBBG 2025 annual theme.

### Method for tonight's Longstitch model

(This first part I have done for you to make the workshop easier/quicker)

- Design
  - Decide the format of the book - height 75mm, width 50mm
  - Decide the number of sections in your design – five sections of six folios. I have used 125gsm paper which gives a spine thickness of a snug 12 mm.
- Create wrap around cover
  - Cut leather oversize size =  $(3 \times \text{text block width} + 2 \times \text{spine width}) \times (1 \times \text{height of text block})$
  - Cut paper lining oversize
  - Glue leather to paper
  - Dry under weight
  - Trim to size
  - Trim cover on front flap of cover to desired shape.
- Cut a length of thread 10 times the height of the sections (I have provided 800 mm).
- Create sections
  - Cut sheets to size – 75mm x 100mm x 30 sheets
- Creating templates – one for cover, one for sections
  - Simple cover pattern
    - A sewing station 5mm from head and tail for chain stitch
    - And a pair of sewing stations for each long stitch
    - Sewing stations are spaced 2mm apart for a 2mm thick section
  - The section template



**(for 2025 workshop follow along from here)**

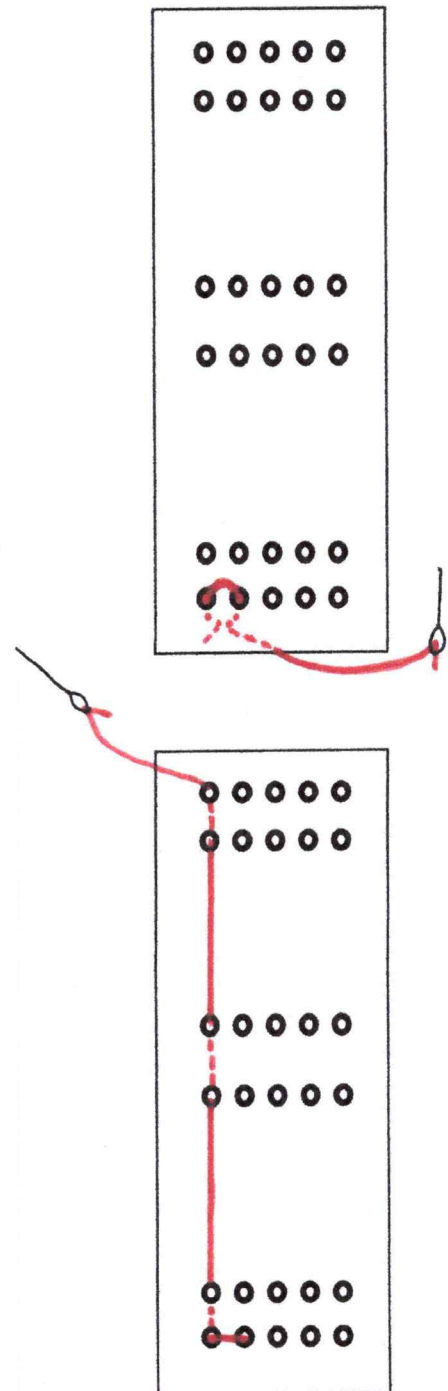
1. Make up five sections of six folios each. Trim, stack and press.
2. Cut out the templates.
3. Pierce holes in both cover and sections.
  - a. Using the template place it on the left of the inside of your cover. Clip or tape as necessary.
  - b. Protect your working surface with scrap card, poke the sewing holes in the template through the leather (there will be six lines of five holes).
  - c. Using the second template, poke the holes in each section keeping the "head" mark consistently to the top. Mark head of each section if you think necessary.

### Starting the sewing

- Start inside the cover ie the paper side of the cover.
- Sew out the first hole at the tail.
- Move to the second hole and sew back inside.
- Tie off – Not too tightly as you will be sewing under this stitch later!

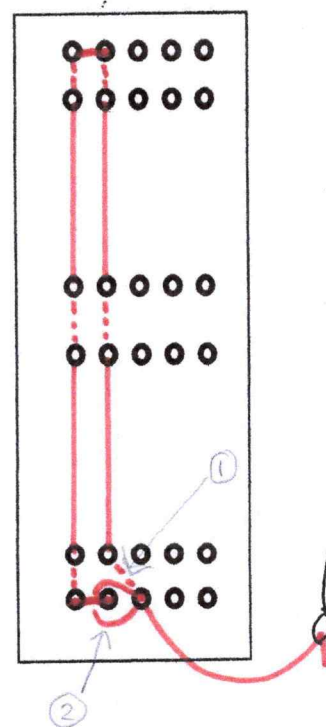
### Section One

- Take the first section
- Sew into the first hole of the section at the tail.
- Sew out the second hole of the section and the leather cover.
- Continue to sew through the remaining holes – in and out through the section and the cover until you reach the end. You will be on the outside of the cover.



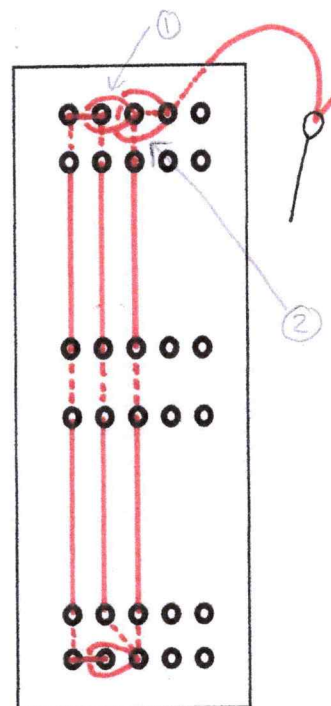
## Section Two

- Take the second section.
- Place it into the cover matching the holes of section and cover.
- Sew into the second hole through the cover and the section.
- Continue to sew through the remaining holes – in and out through the section and the cover until you reach the second last hole.
- You will be on the inside of the section.
- Sew out the last hole of the section BUT NOT THROUGH THE COVER.
- Sew out the cover at the third hole ①
- Sew under the stitch between the 1st and 2nd holes and back inside the cover at the third hole, forming a chain stitch. ②



## Section Three

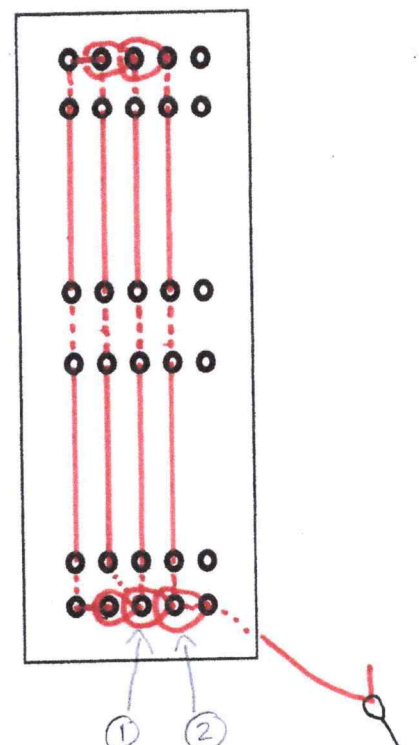
- Take the third section.
- Place it into the cover matching the holes of section and cover.
- Sew into the first hole in the section.
- Continue to sew through the remaining holes – in and out through the section and the cover until you reach the last hole.
- You will be on the outside of the cover.
- Sew under the stitch between the 1st and 2nd holes at the head of the book and back inside the cover at the third hole. ①
- Exit the cover at the 4th hole.
- Sew under the chain stitch between the 2nd and 3rd hole and back inside the cover at the fourth hole. ②





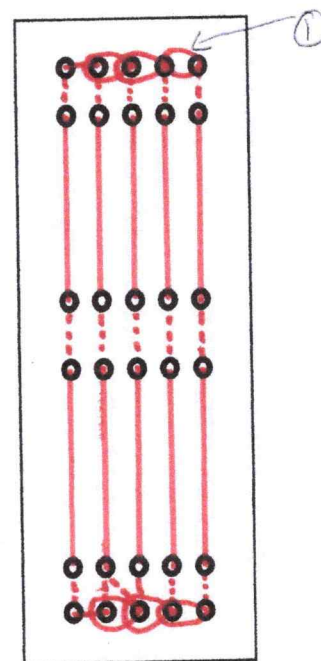
#### Section Four

- Take the fourth section.
- Place it into the cover matching the holes of section and cover.
- Sew into the first hole in the section.
- Continue to sew through the remaining holes – in and out through the section and the cover until you reach the last hole.
- You will be on the outside of the cover.
- Sew under the chain stitch between the 2nd and 3rd holes at the tail of the book and back inside the cover at the fourth hole. ①
- Exit the cover at the 5th hole.
- Sew under the chain stitch between the 3rd and 4th hole and back inside the cover at the fifth ② hole.



#### Section Five

- Take the fifth section.
- Place it into the cover matching the holes of section and cover.
- Sew into the first hole in the section.
- Continue to sew through the remaining holes – in and out through the section and the cover until you reach the last hole.
- You will be on the outside of the cover.
- Sew under the chain stitch between the 3rd and 4th holes at the head of the book and back inside the cover and the section, at the fifth hole. ①
- Tie off (I use a two half hitches, but whatever works for you).



#### Finishing the cover

- Score along the inside of the cover at the hinges (next to the sections) to make the cover easier to close.
- Score along the cover at the foreedge to make the cover easier to fold over the front of the book.
- Sew corded ties to the front flap of the book to use as closures around the button.
- Sew button on the cover.