



and...Bookbinding



Diamond X and Double X are cousins. They both begin with the same series of stitches in the 1st and 2nd stations. Beyond the 2nd station they vary a bit. After step 10 follow directions for each particular stitch. A super simple alternative stitch for beginners is included after the directions for DX and DD. Your travel journal will be fine and dandy whichever stitch you choose! You can always return to CONQUER the Double X in a few years when you have a few more books under your belt. Remember, the Ticket to Venice class blog has no expiration date.

I strongly suggest that you make a stitch card from watercolor paper and practice along with me. Also note the highlighted videos below that have specific stitch instructions that go along with the diagrams in this PDF. You may find it helpful to review these before you begin.

Refer back to the videos for instructions related to constructing the book itself, as this PDF only covers the stitches.

As a reference, here is an index of the videos:

- VIDEO 1 Intro
- VIDEO 2 Journal Covers 5:46
- VIDEO 3 Decorating Your Journal Cover 3:13
- VIDEO 4 Machine Stitching Your Cover Panel 3:05
- VIDEO 5 Selecting Paper For Your Signatures 3:25
- VIDEO 6 Preparing Your Signatures 4:52
- VIDEO 7 Signature Prep Part 2 2:07
- VIDEO 8 Machine Stitching Pockets & Flaps 4:47
- VIDEO 9 Finalizing Signatures 3:53
- VIDEO 10 Sewing Station or Hole Template 4:24
- VIDEO 11 Punching the Holes! 1:46
- VIDEO 12 Creating the Spine and Punching Holes In It 8:04
- VIDEO 13 Diamond X Bookbinding Stitch Part 1 11:46
- VIDEO 14 Diamond X Bookbinding Stitch Part 2 5:36
- VIDEO 15 Double X Book Binding Stitch 6:45
- VIDEO 16 Running Stitch For Beginners 3:33
- VIDEO 17 Preparing the Journal 7:36
- VIDEO 18 More Journal Preparations 6:20
- VIDEO 19 Storing Supplies Inside the Journal 3:32
- VIDEO 20 Supplies I'm Taking to Venice 6:36

I can't stress enough the importance of practice. Diamond X is such a gorgeous stitch and well worth the beginning frustration of trying to hold all 3 signatures together as you sew. As you progress through the stations it WILL become easier. By the way, I used a 2mm punch to make the holes.

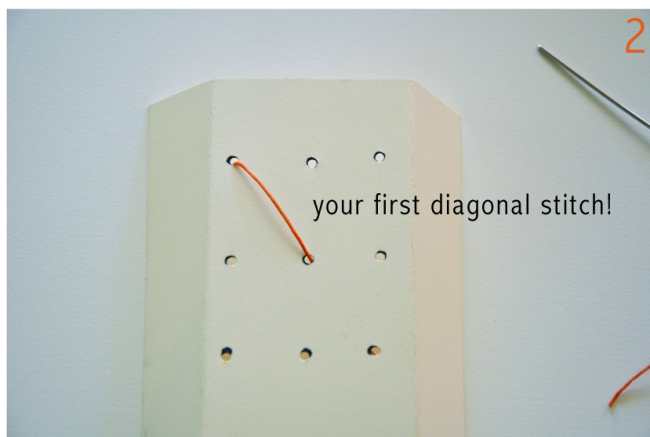
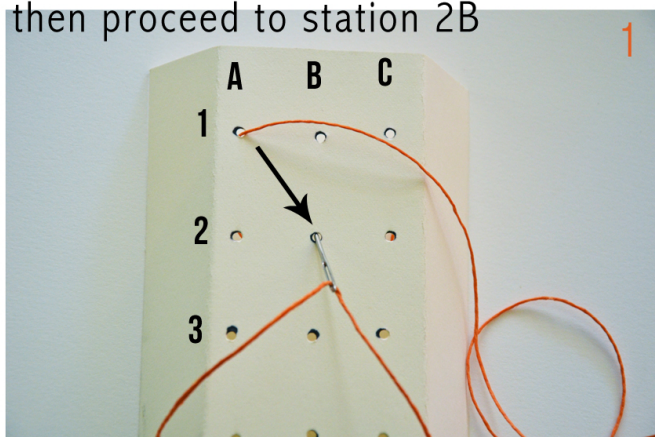
Use an awl at your own peril. If you want a smoother more pleasant experience use the Japanese screw punch. Improperly punched holes accounts for much of the frustration with sewing the signatures to the spine. Not being able to smoothly enter and exit the stations is maddening. I'm not particular about many aspects of bookbinding, but when it comes to the holes on the spine I find jagged, rough holes unattractive and unnecessary. Also, use waxed linen. It provides a much stronger, longer lasting binding thread and makes sewing easier. Finally, a blunt tipped bookbinding needle is a superior tool. I don't buy a lot of art supplies, but I do believe in having excellent quality tools on hand to ease bookbinding frustration.

TIP: For the Diamond X binding you can have either an even or odd number of sewing stations. The number you have will be determined by the size of your book. The more stations you have the greater the patience you will need to master this stitch. Make as many signatures as you like, but keep in mind the more columns of stitching you have the more wrangling there is to be done.

DIAMOND X DOUBLE X STEPS 1-10

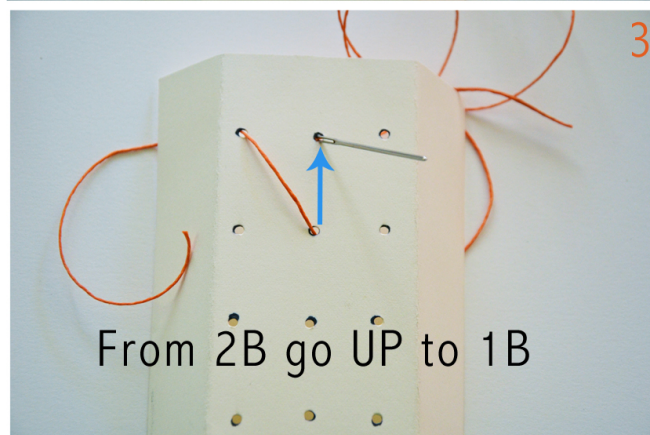
For both stitches do the following 10 steps:

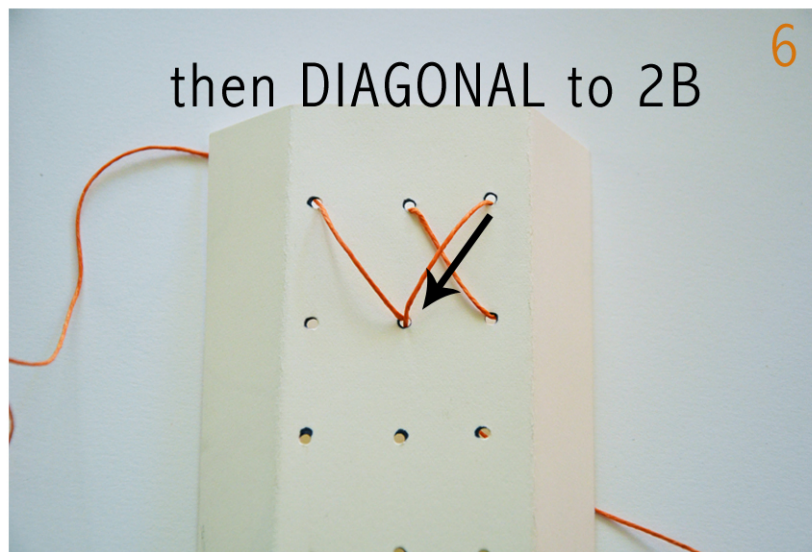
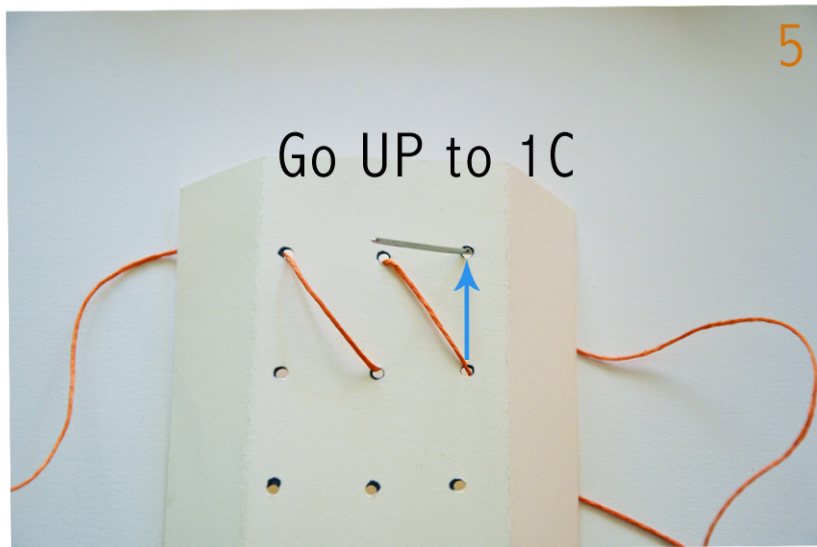
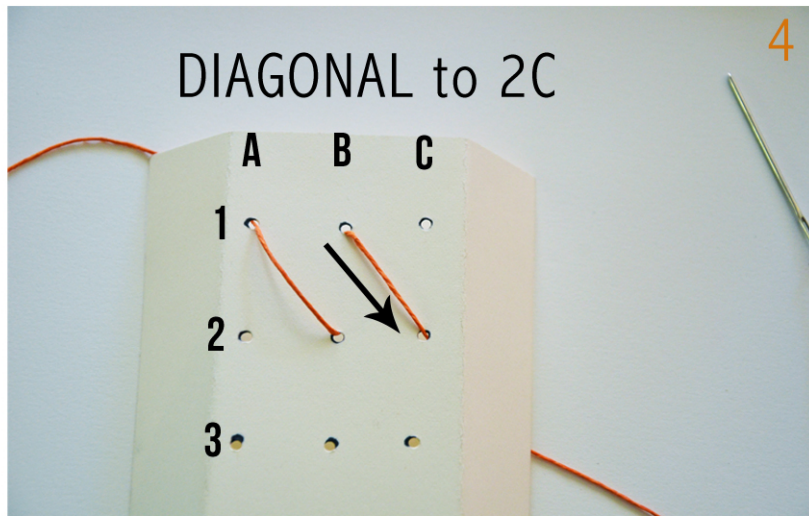
Begin on the inside of station 1A
then proceed to station 2B

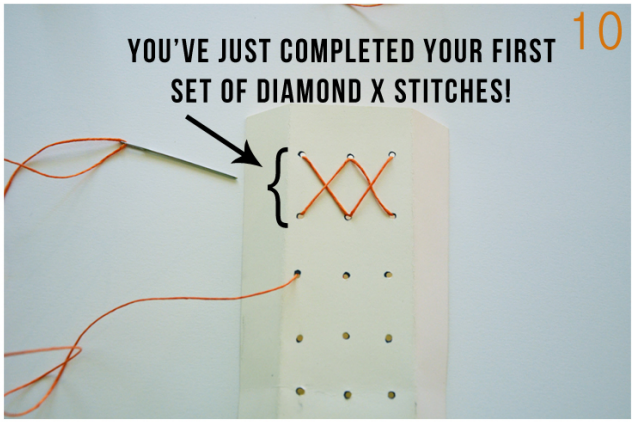
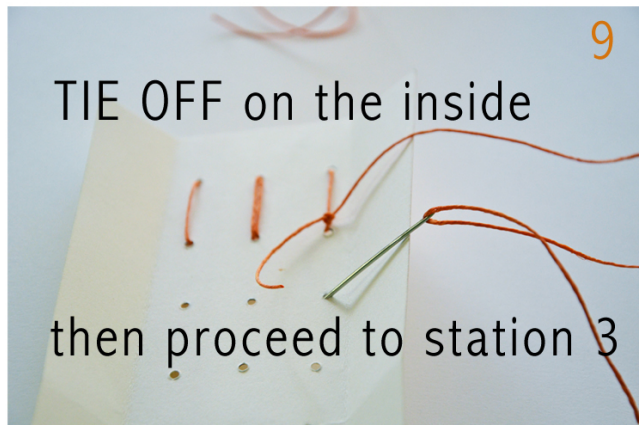
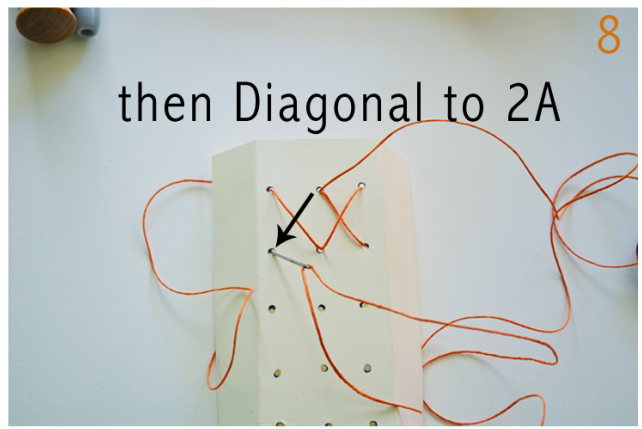
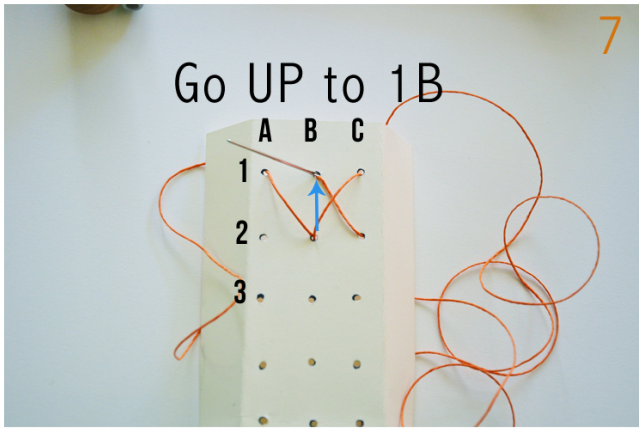


➡ = inside stitches

➡ = outside stitches







and DOUBLE X!

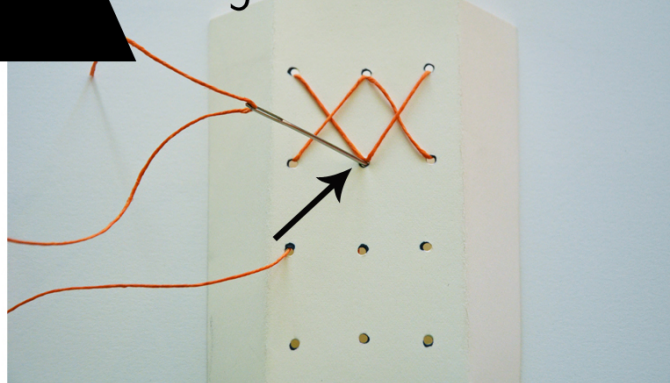
Follow the directions below for continuing this DIAMOND X binding.



**DIAMOND X
ONLY**

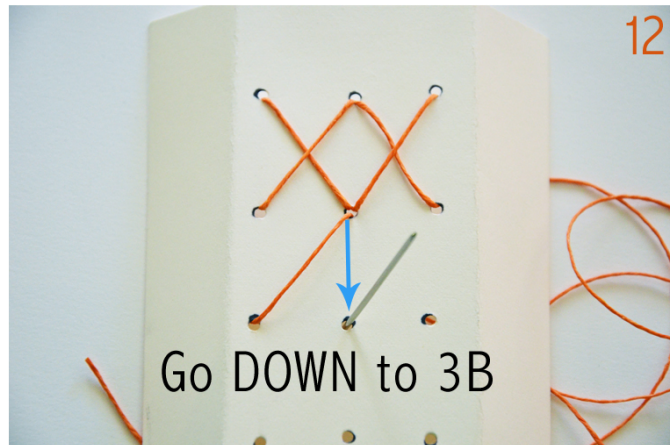
Diagonal to 2B

11



12

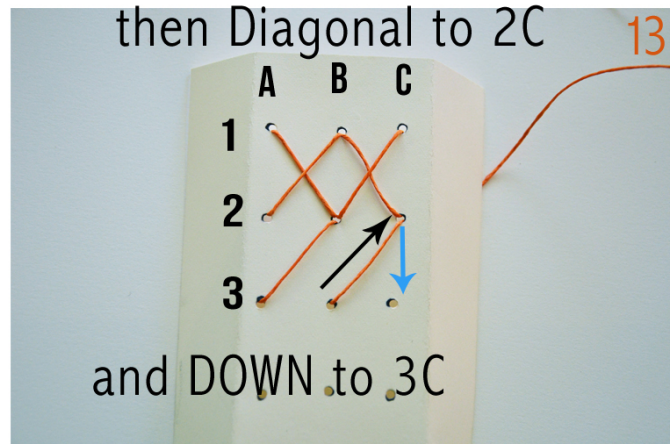
Go DOWN to 3B



then Diagonal to 2C

13

A B C
1
2
3
and DOWN to 3C



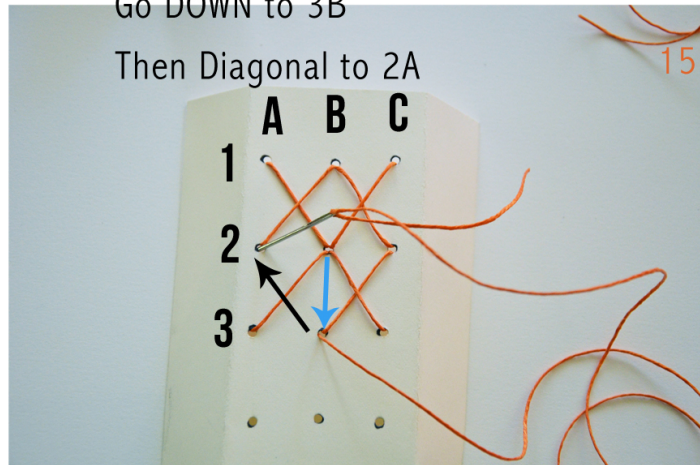
14

DIAGONAL to 2B



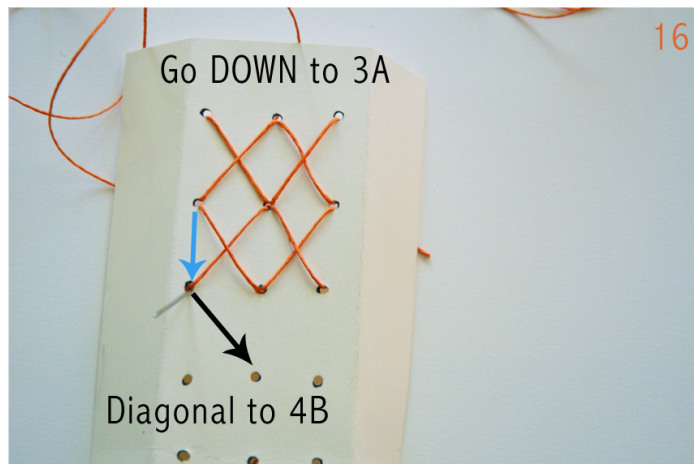
Go DOWN to 3B

Then Diagonal to 2A

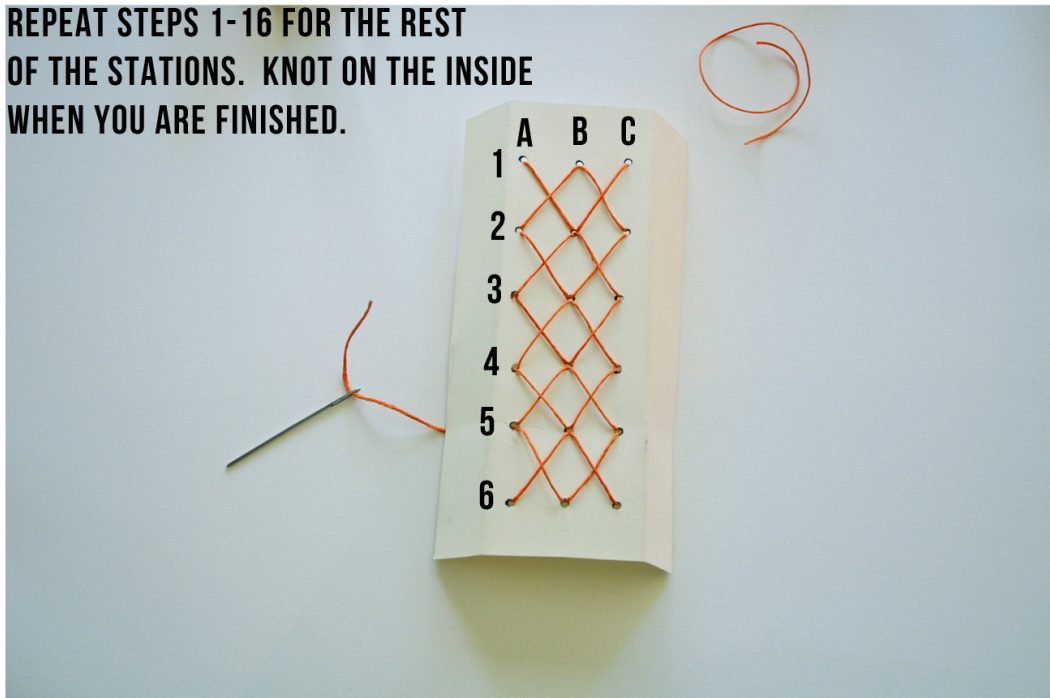


Go DOWN to 3A

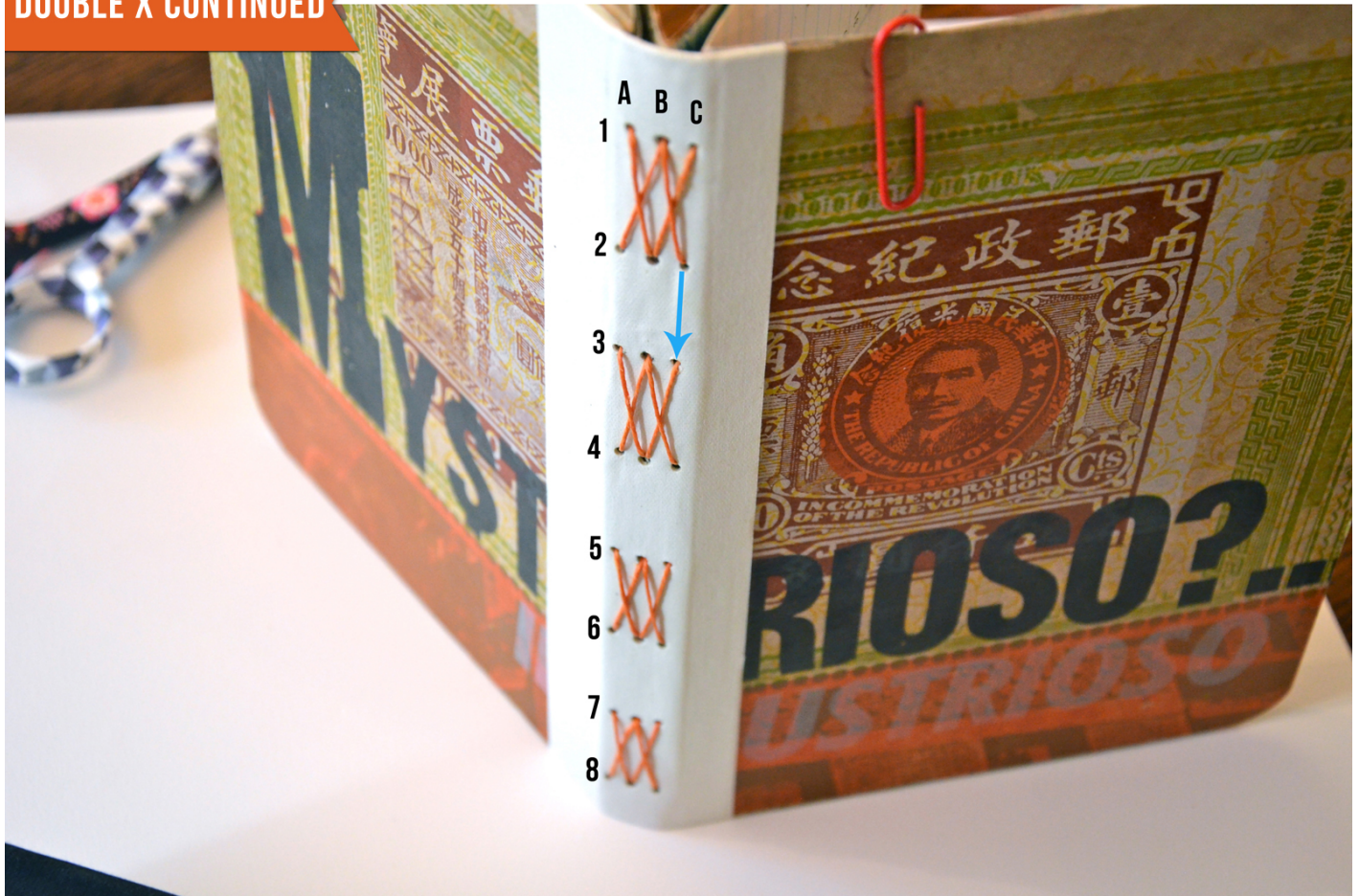
Diagonal to 4B



REPEAT STEPS 1-16 FOR THE REST OF THE STATIONS. KNOT ON THE INSIDE WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED.

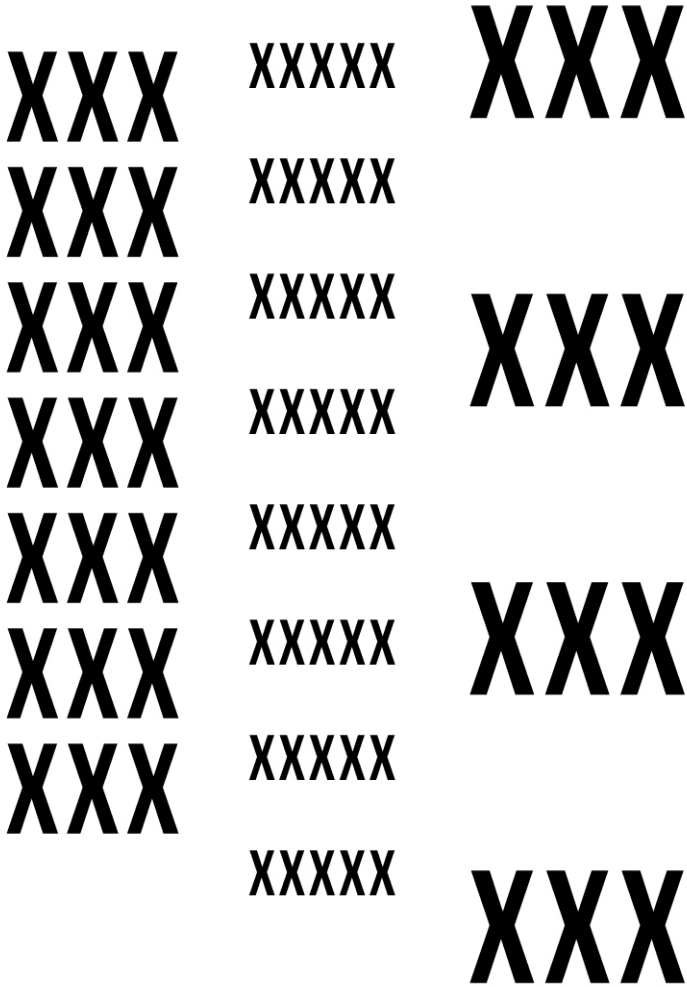


DOUBLE X CONTINUED

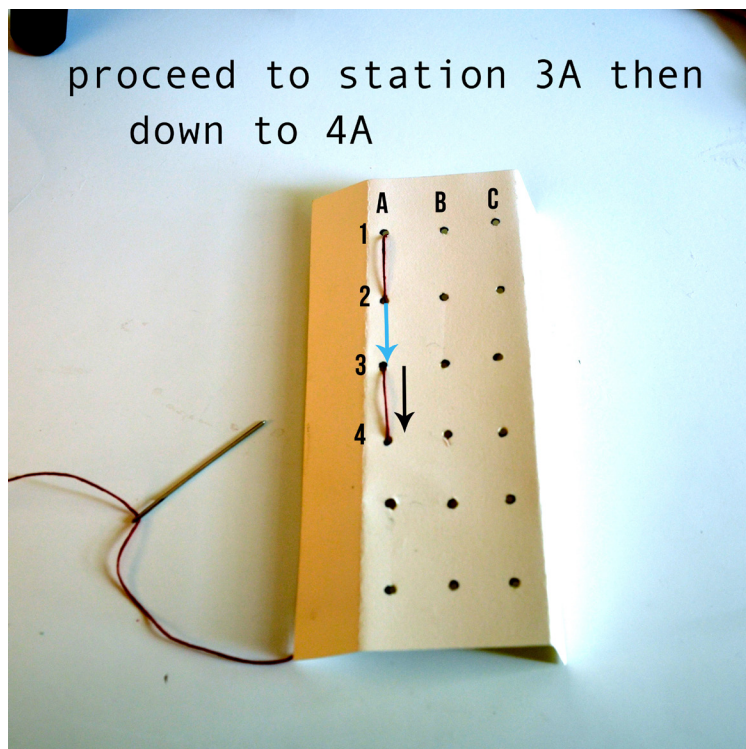
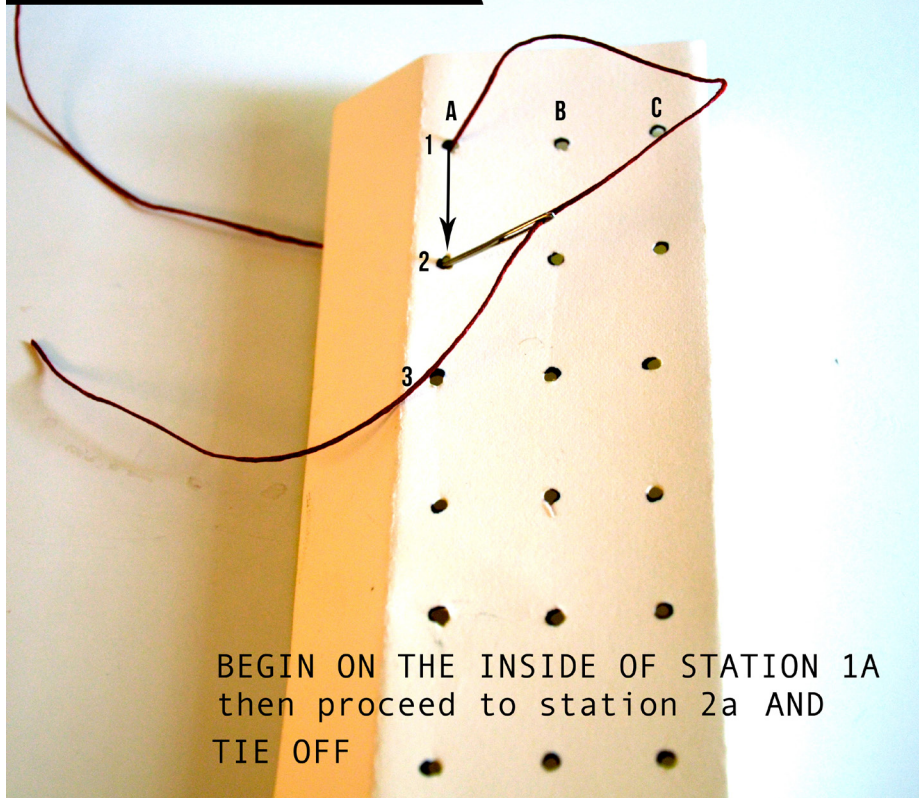


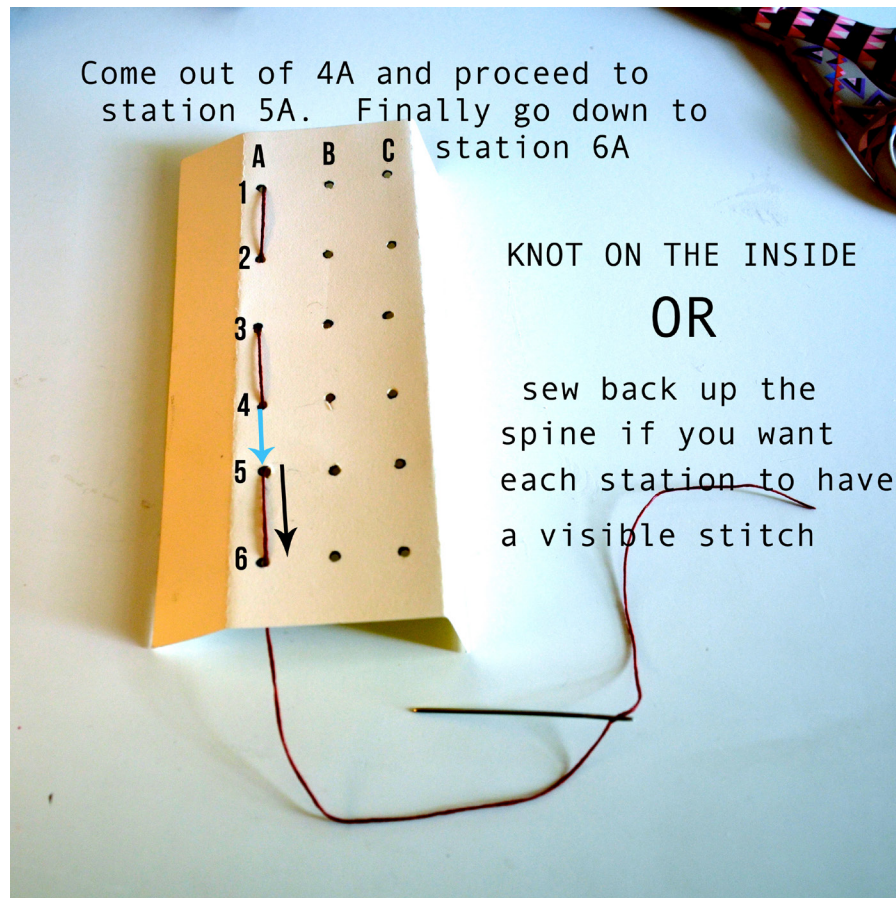
Steps 1-10 above are the complete DOUBLE X stitch. To continue this stitch down the spine from 2C, simply go DOWN to station 3A and repeat steps 1-10 until you've reached the last station. Knot on the inside.

TIP: The DOUBLE X stitch requires an **EVEN number of stations. Vary the distance apart of each station for interesting results. You may have as few or many signatures as you want with this binding stitch.**



RUNNING STITCH BINDING





Make sure you have an **EVEN** number of sewing stations/rows for this running stitch. If you accidentally make an odd number it's easily remedied by doing another running stitch straight back up the spine in the same row. You'll end up with a solid stitch pattern on the spine without space between each sewing station.

You can also alternate back and forth between a dashed pattern of stitches and a solid pattern.

If you run into trouble I AM HERE TO HELP. Add your question to the comments on the Q&A post of the class blog.