

*** A TRIAL TERMINOLOGY FOR SEWING THROUGH THE FOLD ***

This guide is an aid to recording a sewing thread's path through the folds of a book. While historical bindings have come down to us; a specific, accompanying terminology of construction, if it ever existed, has not been recorded. We have attempted to fill this gap by supplying a "trial" vocabulary for descriptive recording. The sewing process/product is broken into three categories - the motions of a thread to form a stitch; the patterns formed by a sequence of stitches, either in the fold/or across the spine; the broad structure of text-block construction.

A stitch, the first viewpoint, is defined as the motion of a thread from a sewing station exit to a sewing station entry. Thirteen words make up the stitch vocabulary.

I. Sewing Stitch



Link - pass under another thread



Slip - pass under itself



Loop - circle around a support



Lap - pass over a support

To-the outside - in the direction of head or tail in relation to sewing direction

To-the-inside - away from head or tail in relation to sewing direction



Forward - continue in direction of progression



Reverse - continue opposite to direction of progression



Drop - move downward



Climb - move upward



Angle - move diagonally

Continue-on - enter a station in the same section

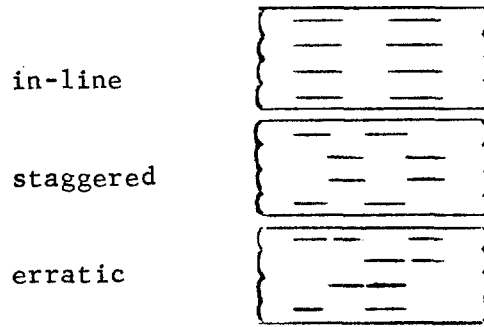
Change-over - enter a station in a section different from that exited

Patterns, the second viewpoint, are sequences of stitches. The thread at the innermost folio of a section can be located and observed throughout the book. The sequence noted can be described by the fold pattern terminology. Fold patterns are divided into two types - periodic and continuous. Periodic have intervals between some of the stations and continuous do not.

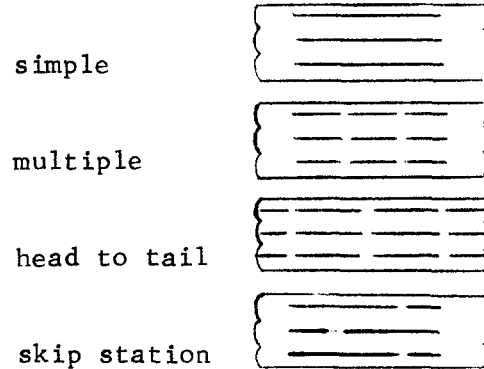
II. Sewing Pattern

Fold pattern

Periodic - intervals between some stations

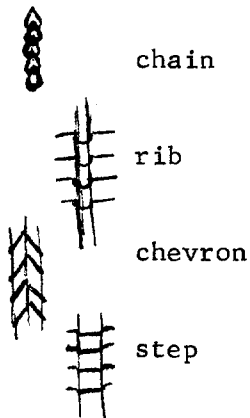


Continuous - without intervals between stations



The other type of sewing pattern is the backbone pattern. These patterns are the sequences of stitches seen on the backbone of the book.

Backbone pattern



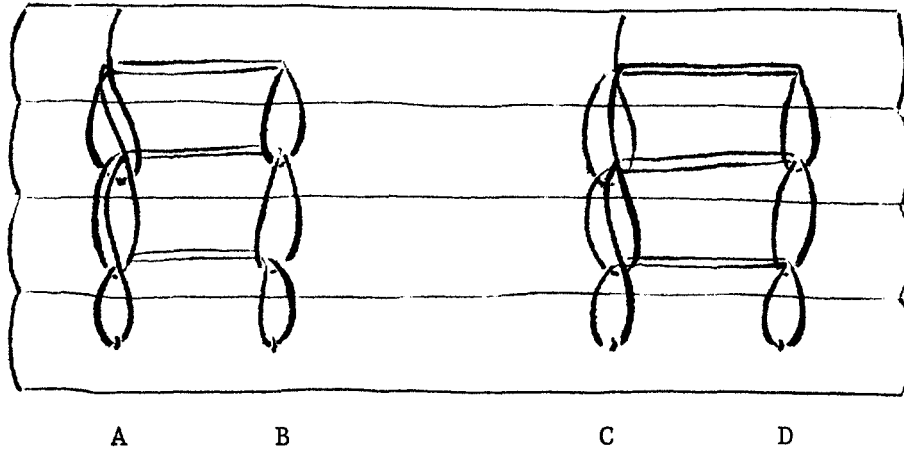
The third viewpoint is structure. Supported sewing utilizes a shared part to which the sections are secured via the thread. Unsupported sewing uses only the thread to secure the sections to each other.

III. Sewing Structure

Supported sewing

Unsupported sewing

* SAMPLE *



Unsupported structure. Chain pattern across spine; in-line, periodic fold pattern. There are four sewing stations - A is at the head and D is at the tail. Two needles are used, each sewing between two stations - A & B or C & D. They sew independantly but identically. Enter at A, continue-on to B, exit, drop to-the-outside, link, climb, enter at B, reverse, exit at A, drop to-the-outside, link, climb, change-over and enter at A in the next section.

Pamela Spitzmueller & Gary Frost * 1982 *