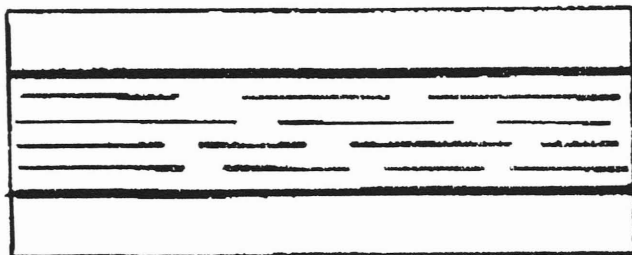
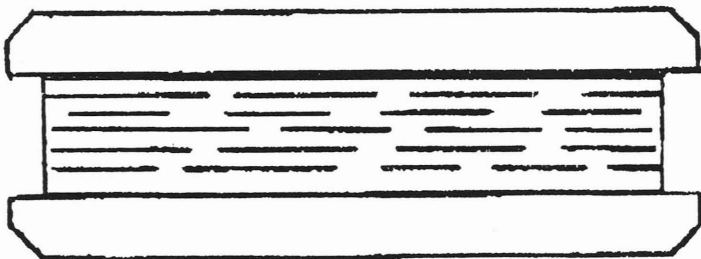


The oldest codex bindings had boards made from oak. It is very hard, and durable and not susceptible to insect damage. After the 11<sup>th</sup> century beech wood was used as well as oak for book boards. After the 15<sup>th</sup> century in northern Germany beech wood became the predominant wood for book boards. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the first half covered, wooden board bindings appeared, and this style disappeared by the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century the wooden board binding was replaced in different areas at different times by pasteboards (laminated paperboards).

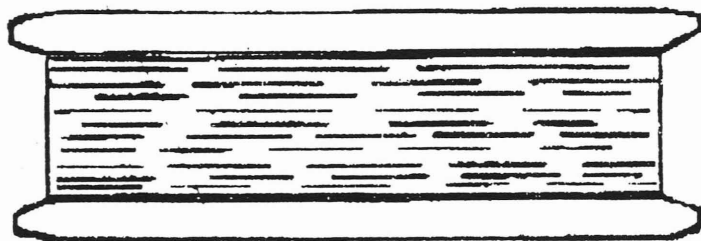
## The development of the wooden board binding and its profiles



Early medieval manuscripts



Late medieval manuscripts



Incunabula period



16<sup>th</sup> century boards with bevels and shaping

Preparation of a new wooden board for a binding of the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

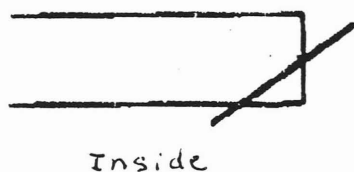
- 1) Choose board with grain parallel to the height of the book.
- 2) Saw the board to size.
- 3) Pencil on the board, top, back, gutter edge, front, back.
- 4) Squares of the board are worked with a file so that they are no longer absolute at right angles.



- 5) On the top, bottom, and foredge mark with a pencil a middle line equal to half the thickness of the board.
- 6) Shape the gutter edge: on the inside to fit the swell of the book, on the outside to continue the rounding of the spine.



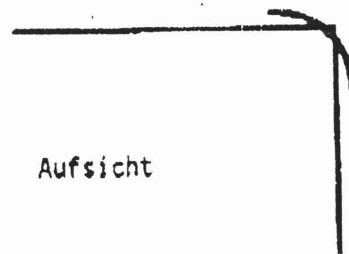
- 7) On the inside of the board mark with a pencil the dimensions of the textblock at the top, bottom and foredge, and with a file bevel the board to the previously marked middle line i.e. Half the thickness of the board.



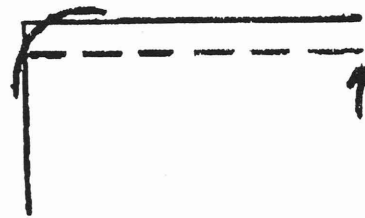
- 8) Bevel slightly the upper edge.



- 9) Corners at the top and bottom round slightly.



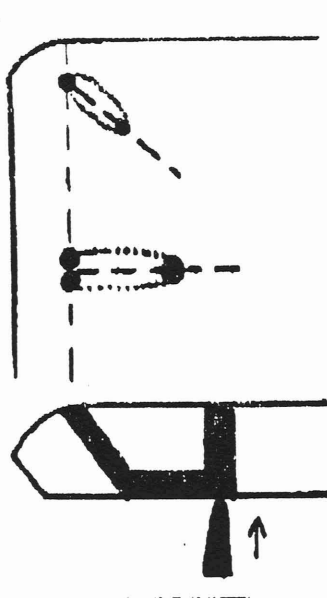
- 10) Corners along the gutter edge round the width of the inner bevel.



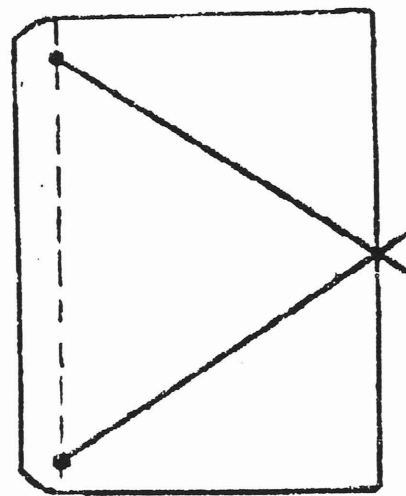
height of squares

text block height

- 11) Drill the holes for the cords, chisel or grind out the channels on the inside of the board.

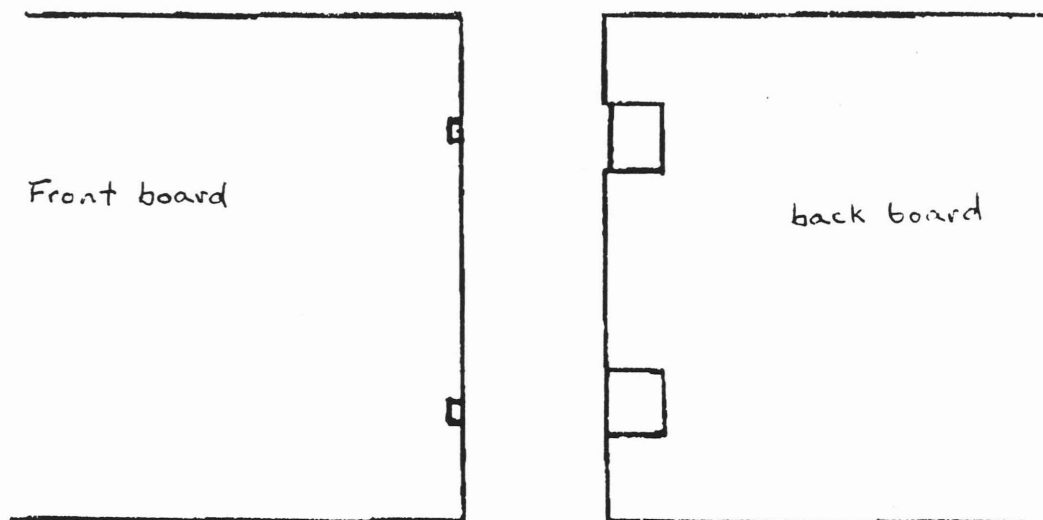


Wooden plug



middle

- 12) Mark the area for the depression for the clasp parts and chisel out the wood.



- 13) With fine sandpaper smooth all edges and surfaces.

Drawings by Dag-Ernst Petersen  
Translation by Frank Mowery

Guild of Book Workers  
Seminar on the Standards  
of Excellence, 1997

- 1) Board completely broken through.
- 2) Board with a crack that is away from the edge or weakened from insect damage.
- 3) Board that has a crack, or has been damaged by insects that is close to an edge.
- 4) Corner very badly damaged.
- 5) Corner only slightly damaged.
- 6) Cracks starting to appear along an edge.

Damaged wooden board before repair

