Guide to Double Tying Books

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This method, introduced by Anne Hillam, is particularly useful for tying sprung vellum books with warped boards, as well as other large and oversized books with detached boards and/or loose spine pieces.

Begin with the book lying on the workspace with the spine to the right side. Run a length of book tying tape under the book, across the bottom third of the front board, so that you have a piece of tape in each hand, with the left hand holding the piece still attached to the spool (A), and the right hand holding the loose end of the tape (B).

The length of side (B) should be roughly equal to the width of the book plus the height of the book, with enough left over to comfortably create a slipknot at the end. Unspool a generous amount of tape for Side (A), in order to leave yourself enough tape to wrap around the entire book.

Make your first tie along the length of the book by crossing the tape once, bringing piece (A) towards the bottom of the book, and piece (B) towards the top of the book.
Carefully lift the book enough so that you can bring the tape (A) around the bottom of the book and up the length of the front board, taking care to draw tightly on the other end of the tape (B) with your right hand to keep the knot in place. Be sure to keep the tape flat against the front board as you go along.

After bringing the tape back around the top of the book, make your second tie by crossing side (A) so that it wraps toward the spine, leaving piece (B) in your left hand at the top of the fore edge. Continue to pull tightly on piece (B).

**Tip:** Make sure that you have unspooled enough extra tape for side (A) so that you can now wrap around the width of the book once.

At this point it is helpful to stand the book up so that you can better control the position of the tape.

Keeping the tape flat against the board, wrap (A) around the width of the front board, across the top.

**Tip:** If you have a loose spine piece, wrap the tape according to the position of the loose piece, so that it is held in place.
Lay the book back down on the table, and while keeping a tight hold on both ends of tape, tie a slipknot.

Make sure that the knot rests over the text block, so that it is not placing pressure on the edge of the book and will not rest up against other books on the shelf.

If one or both of the boards is entirely detached, be mindful of where the board is resting against the joint as you tightly tie your knot. For vellum books, tie tightly enough that the book will maintain its shape as it sits on the shelf.

*Video guide can be found at [https://youtu.be/KMkPHBcFogY](https://youtu.be/KMkPHBcFogY)