

University of Calcutta

Swapna Banerjee

Welcome to my project
on
SEVERAL TYPES of BINDING.

Bookbinding

Bookbinding is the process of physically assembling a [book](#) from an ordered stack of [paper](#) sheets that are folded together into sections or sometimes left as a stack of individual sheets. The stack is then bound together along one edge by either sewing with thread through the folds or by a layer of flexible adhesive. For protection, the bound stack is either wrapped in a flexible cover or attached to stiff boards. Finally, an attractive cover is adhered to the boards and a label with identifying information is attached to the covers along with additional decoration. Book artists or specialists in book decoration can greatly expand the previous explanation to include book like objects of visual art with high value and artistic merit of exceptional quality in addition to the book's content of text and illustrations.

Bookbinding is a specialized trade that relies on basic operations of measuring, cutting, and gluing. A finished book depends on a minimum of about two dozen operations to complete but sometimes more than double that according to the specific style and materials. All operations have a specific order and each one relies on accurate completion of the previous step with little room for back tracking. An extremely durable binding can be achieved by using the best hand techniques and finest materials when compared to a common publisher's binding that falls apart after normal use.

There are many different types of binding methods out there that designers and students use for dissertations, portfolios, pitch documents and books.

We'll run through the most common types of binding :

1. **Saddle-stitching**
2. **Perfect Binding**
3. **Section Sewn**
4. **Wire Binding/ Spiral Binding**
5. **Cased-in Wiro Binding**
6. **Pamphlet Binding**
7. **Coptic Binding**
8. **Japanese Binding**
9. **Screw post Binding**

Saddle-stitching - It's probably the easiest and the most economical binding method. Pages are folded, creased and stapled together (not by an ordinary stapler - a stapler with long jaws, designed specifically for saddle stitching). We often see this type of binding used for look books, booklets, and magazines that have a smaller page count.



Saddle Stitched Booklet Printing

Perfect Binding - a form of binding most often used in the types of books you find yourself reading on the train or at home, otherwise known as paperback or softcover books. Perfect bound books can also be useful for manuals, catalogues, and annuals. Pages are folded into sections (termed signatures in the industry) and glued with a heavier printed wrap-around cover into the spine using a strong adhesive. It's not the strongest form of binding and your book won't open flat; you'll know a book has been poorly perfect bound when your pages start falling out.

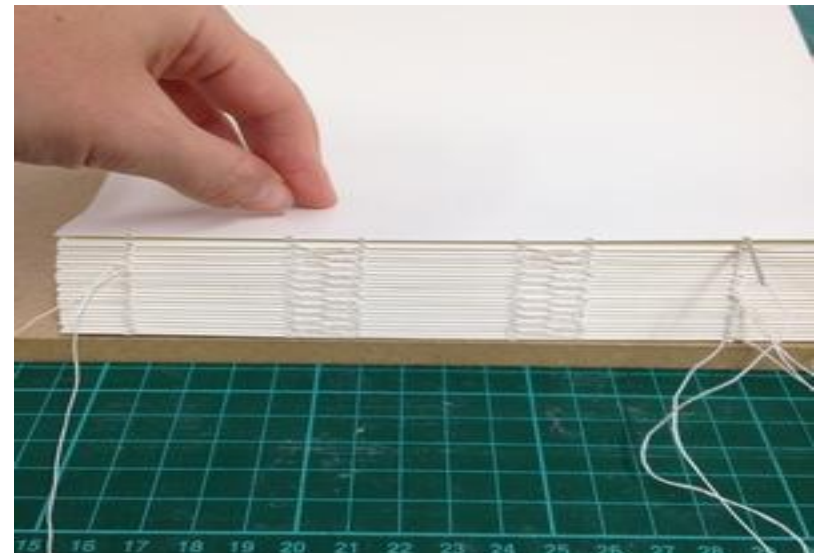
Perhaps we've heard the term PUR perfect bound? Here the binding is much the same, but a stronger adhesive is used, and is what we would recommend if perfect binding is the style you're going for. Generally, a hardback covered book would only be PUR perfect bound, as the glue used to form your paperback or softcover books won't adhere to the hard case spine very well.



Section Sewn - our most secure binding method. Here pages are folded together into sections (signatures). Each section is then sewn into the following section along the spine. The spine is then glued together for extra support and the cover attached. A Section Sewn book, regardless of page count will be able to lay flat.



Section Sewn Book



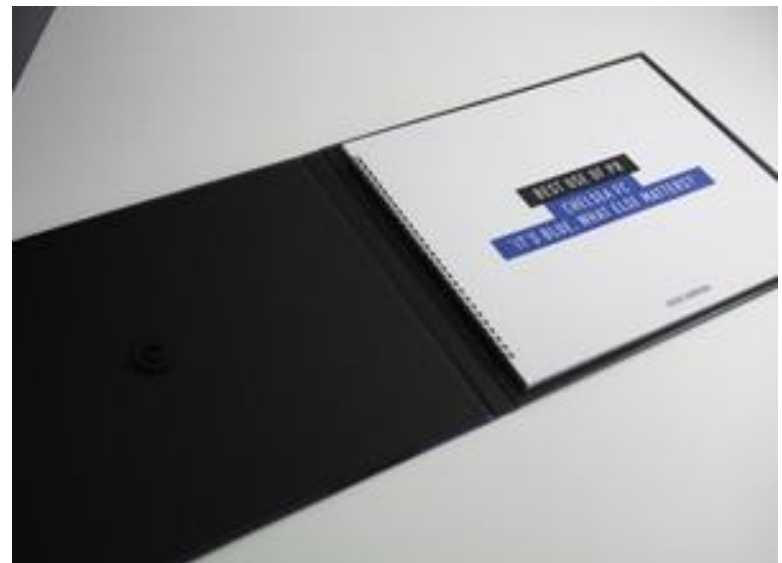
Section Sewing

Wire Binding/ Spiral Binding - Most of us would have bound a document throughout school or university using one of these methods. In a nutshell, holes are punched through the pages of our document near the bound edge, and held together using either wire or plastic coils. If we're after a something a little fancier, we can wiro bind our document inside a hard cover, cloth or printed case and add some foiling or embossing.



Wiro Bound Document

Cased-in Wire Binding -If we would like to hide the wire from the outside we can also produce a Cased-in Wiro. This technique, however, is more involved than our traditional wiro bound document, but the final result looks lovely as we can see.



The inside of a Cased-in Wiro

Pamphlet Binding uses a single section (signature) and is sewn with a running stitch down the spine; often an alternative to stapling (saddle stitch) but leaves us with a much more elegant finish.



Pamphlet Stitched Book

Coptic Binding – A non-adhesive form of binding that stems from bookbinding methods employed by ancient Egyptians! Signatures are sewn through their folds, and attached to one another, and two loose covered boards with a chain like stitch across the spine.

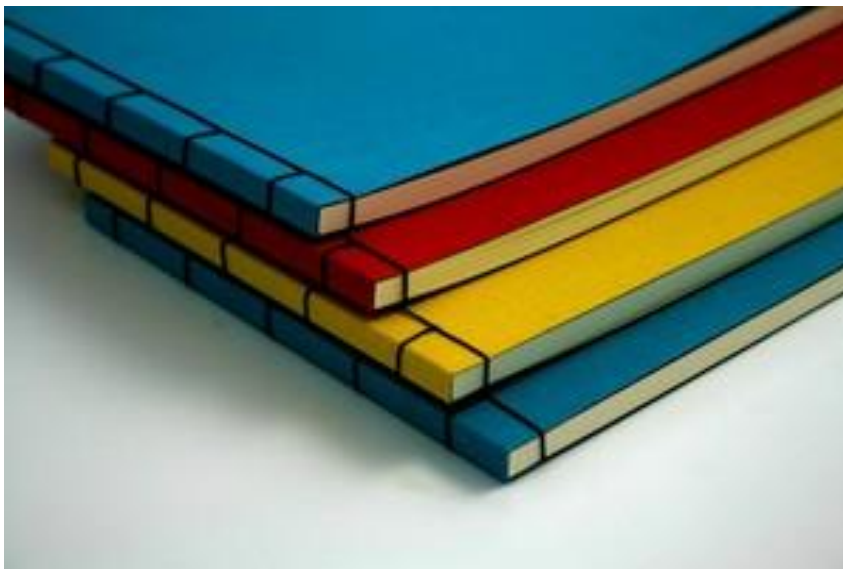


Coptic Bound book where the cover has been sewn on.



Coptic Bound book where the cover is mounted onto the end papers

Japanese Binding – This is useful for binding single sheets of paper. You can have either a soft back or hard back cover which attaches to the text block with decorative stitching along the spine. Another option using this decorative sewing technique is to only expose the stitching on the inside of the book, achieved by turning in the edge of the cover boards to create a hinge; the book is then sewn from the inside. We would only recommend binding Japanese style for large or landscape format books as the binding requires a large margin.



Screwpost Binding - There are a few ways we can use screws to bind our work and it's a popular choice for portfolios as it leaves us with the ability to add or remove pages.

- Option 1 – Screws are used to hold the pages together between two covering boards.
- *Option 2* - Pages are screwed into a hard case with a square spine which unfolds to reveal the screw posts inside. The pages are screwed onto the back board of the case.
- *Option 3* - The binding screws are not visible on the front, or back cover. Achieved, by turning in the edge of the cover boards to create a hinge allowing the covering boards to sit over the screws. A spine piece of material is added and the screws are only visible when the book is opened.



Option 1



Option 2



Option 3

Choosing the Right Binding Type

The type of binding is usually selected based on the function of the document, the number of pages it contains and the printing budget. Strangely, aesthetics are usually considered last in the decision-making, unless quality is a priority and budget is not a factor, or the binding itself is part of the conceptual design.

Exhausted yet? And, we haven't even finished; our Book Binders are capable of so much more. They are experimenting every day with books and coming up with new ideas, new stitching patterns and exciting unique ways to construct our books. This was just a few brief information.

THANK YOU.