

Bookbinding - Loose Leaf Bindings

Perfect Binding - Tight-back Binding

Perfect binding involves the milling and gluing along the spine of a stack of single sheets or French Folded pages (folded so that the folded edge becomes the fore-edge). **Tight-back binding** is the most common form of perfect binding, where a soft cover is glued directly onto the spine as the pages are bound. This binding is suitable for books intended for moderate use such as research files, magazines and periodicals and reference journals. At WSA we use a Fastbind Manual Perfect Binder, this is capable of making tight-back bindings in a few minutes.

Use sheets of text-weight paper (50 - 150gsm) for bookblock. The cover paper should be between 250-400gsm, the same height as the untrimmed pages and twice the width + the spine thickness.

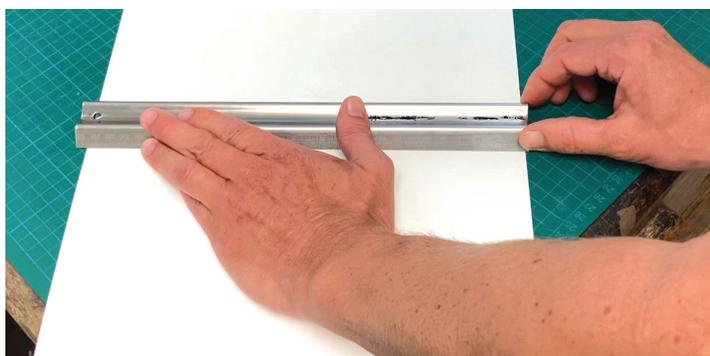
All the paper should be cut so the grain runs parallel to the spine.



01. Stack and align the printed pages and trim the spine-edge to the crop marks to produce a flush edge.



02. On the cover, transfer the fold marks between the spine and front to the back of the sheet using a scalpel.



03. Flip the cover over and line up a cutting ruler to the scalpel marks.



04. Use a bone folder to score along the fold line then fold the sheet.



05. Crease the fold with a bone folder to create a sharp fold.



06. Raise the clamp and slide the cover in up against the stop with the front facing the back of the machine and the folded edge located snugly against the bottom.



07. Carefully drop the printed pages down into the cover. First page facing the back and spine to the bottom.



08. Push the clamp against the bookblock and lock in place by lifting the handle while holding the frame.



09. Pivot the clamp into position using the right-hand lever holding the cover back to expose the spine-edge.



10. Run the milling wheel back and forth once over the spine to roughen it and aid gluing.



11. Run the glue applicator back and forth twice over the spine.



12. Pivot the clamp back down to the starting position, press down firmly on the lever and hold for 20 seconds.



13. Release the clamp, lift and slide the book out from the bottom.



14. Leave the book to dry for 10-15 minutes before the final trim on the fore-edge, head and tail.