

Full cover, or case binding

Case Binding

This is the simplest way of making a hardbacked book. It is how most commercially made hardbacks are constructed.

Text block (or pages)

Fold your paper. Put 2 to 4 sheets inside each other to make sections. Use 4 sheets (giving you 8 pages) for thin paper, or 2 sheets for a very thick paper.

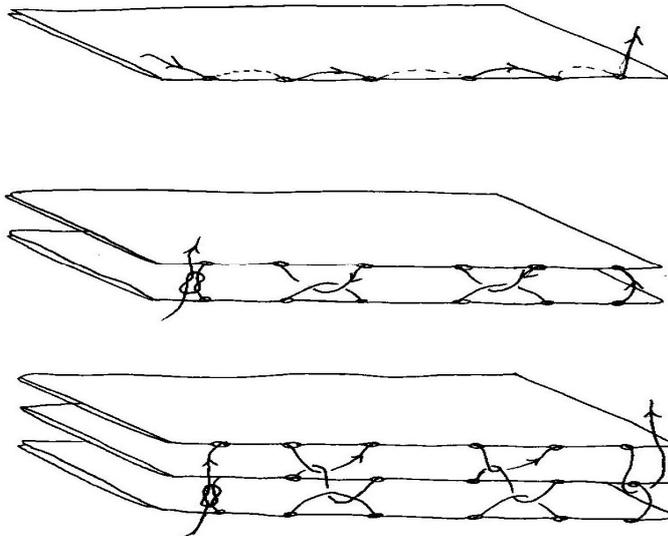
Cut tapes to be at least 10cm wider than spine. Two tapes will be enough for an A4 or A5 book. Make a template for marking the holes from a piece of scrap paper, the same height as the pages. Space tapes evenly along template. Mark holes on template, one either side of tapes, and one 1cm in from each end.

Sewing

Using the template pierce each section from the inside. Keep the paper as folded as possible while doing this, to ensure that the hole comes out on the fold line on the outside and not to one side of the fold.

The length of thread needed will be 'height of book x no of sections + a bit of spare'. If this is an unmanageable length then you will have to join it (see weavers knot).

Go in through the end hole of the first section, then out and in to the other end. Thread the tapes into the exposed loops. Place the next section on top and go into the end hole of that section, then out. Each time you go over a tape, catch the thread below to form a 'link' stitch. Keep the thread as tight as possible. Tie a reef knot with the two loose ends. Sew up and down each section until all are stitched, do a link stitch at each end. At the end of the last section do a double knot and cut off with 4 to 5 cm spare



(dotted lines are inside the paper, tapes not shown)

Endpapers

Cut endpapers. Two for each book, the same size as a sheet, or opened out page. Fold pattern side in.

They are attached to your block of pages by gluing a strip, about 1cm wide all along one edge near the fold and attaching one to each end of the book block.

If you don't want to have a decorative endpaper, you can simply use the first and last pages of the book block.

Spine

Make sure the tapes are fairly central and the pages have been knocked level in all planes as far as possible. Clamp the spine (a couple of pieces of wood and two G clamps work well) and apply glue along the length of the spine, rub down.

Attach headbands and a page marker if wanted. Glue mull, linen or cotton onto the spine, slightly shorter than the spine and 8cm wider. Rub down and allow to dry.

Cover boards

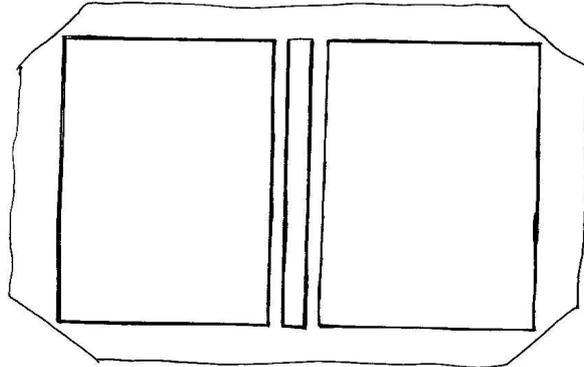
The two boards should be the same width as the text block and 7mm taller overall. This allows a 3mm gap all round. A spine piece should be cut from thin card, the same height as the cover boards and the width of the spine of the sewn pages.

Covering material

Height of boards plus 5cm

Width of both boards + width of spine piece + 15mm for hinge + 5cm

Lay out the boards as per diagram, with each hinge gap 6 to 9 cm depending on the thickness of your cover material and boards, err on the generous side if unsure.



Glue the boards, press down, then cut the corners with depth of board spare for turn-ins, and glue the turn-ins.

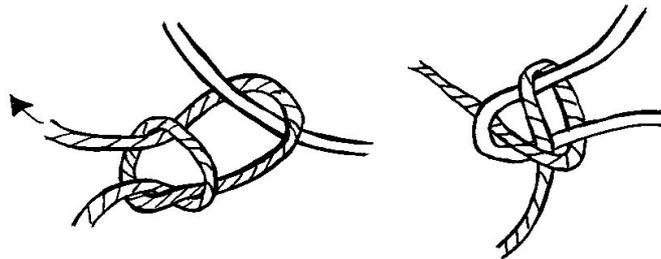
Casing in

You can use thick wallpaper paste at this stage to make re-positioning easier

Place the book block in the case, spine away from you on the table, and open the cover away from you. Now glue the endpaper (with scrap paper underneath), remove scrap paper and (THIS IS THE TRICKY BIT) lower cover into place, and check alignment, preferably without opening book!

Turn book over and repeat on the other side. Put sheets of wax paper inside the endpapers, put a board and weights on the book and leave to dry overnight..

Weavers knot



Paper and grain

All machine made paper and card has a grain. This is created by the way the paper comes of the rollers. The paper is easier to fold in one direction than the other. The significance of grain for bookbinders is that when water, (or glue) is applied the paper the paper will stretch and shrink at right angles to the grain.

Ideally the grain of the paper and card should be parallel to the spine of the book. Hand made papers have no grain and can therefore be used in any direction.