

PAPERBACK BINDING FACTFILE

Whether to bind paperbacks, strengthen them, wallet or leave them as they are, have long been the dilemmas facing librarians purchasing such stock.

What is agreed today is that the paperback book is no longer the low cost option it used to be. Increasingly this makes the **BINDING OF PAPERBACK BOOKS** option ever more important as part of a general stock maintenance programme.

There is no long-term alternative to the economies offered by **LIBRARY STANDARD REBINDING** of all stock and especially paperback stock. Blisett Bookbinders are considered by many librarians to be the best library binders of paperback books in the UK

The following information will go some way to clarifying what services we can offer in respect of paperback binding styles and will hopefully assist you in your binding decisions.

INCLUDED IN THIS BRIEF IS:

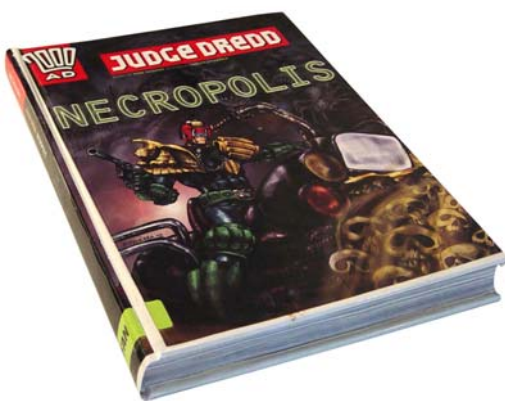
- Full Case Binding
- Paperback strengthening
- Quick Two Week Service
- Pre-binding

FULL PAPERBACK REBINDING

This is the rebinding or conversion of the paperback volume to **FULL** hardback standard. The whole structure of the volume is taken apart and the spine re-glued.

Library binders use cold Poly Vinyl Acetate glue (P.V.A.) that is a water-based adhesive.

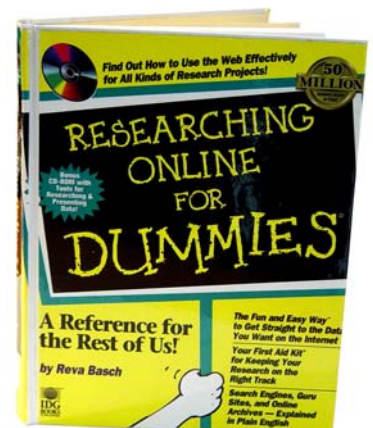
This is applied by brush after notching the spine of the book block and fanning the spine in two directions so that a small amount of adhesive actually penetrates onto both sides of each page and is absorbed by the paper. The glue takes several hours to dry and cure but remains flexible for many years.



Graphic novel converted to laminated hardback



Double fan adhesive binding



Pre-bound style paperback

Rounding and backing the spine adds extra strength with the end result that the book has a far stronger and more flexible binding than the publishers' original. This usually consists of a 'hot melt' layer of glue, applied hot by machine to the flat back and which often breaks down or cracks quickly with even moderate use as it does not adhere to the paper well.

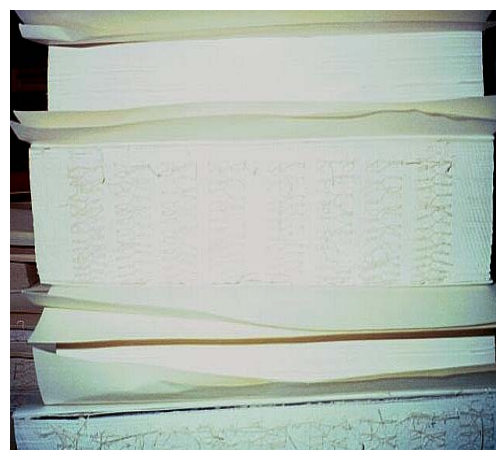
Some paperbacks are section sewn rather than 'perfect bound' (unsewn) as detailed above. In these cases, we would normally retain the sewing, having removed most of the publishers' glue first. The two reasons for this are:

- The publishers glue is acid based and our water based (alkaline) glues would not adhere
- Hot melt adhesives have a 'memory', that is the plastic content always makes it revert to a flat back shape. Removal of this glue allows the library binder to obtain a nice rounded spine. The book looks better, gives strength and enables easier opening without stressing the binding.

Unfortunately, some very heavy paperbacks are produced in 'unsewn' format and added to this problem some are burdened with glossy art paper as well. Such books often cost a lot of money and left in this format will seldom last very long.



The library binder can cut away the old glue and provided there is sufficient margin, our preference is to 'oversew' the volume (*opposite*) in the same way that journals are sewn. This allows great strength and although the opening ability of the volume is not as good as unsewn or conventionally sewn volumes, it is normally quite acceptable.



New or old paperbacks can be rebound, but when in new condition the best results are obtained both on this first occasion and with any subsequent rebinding.

AVAILABLE STYLES OF FULL PAPERBACK BINDING

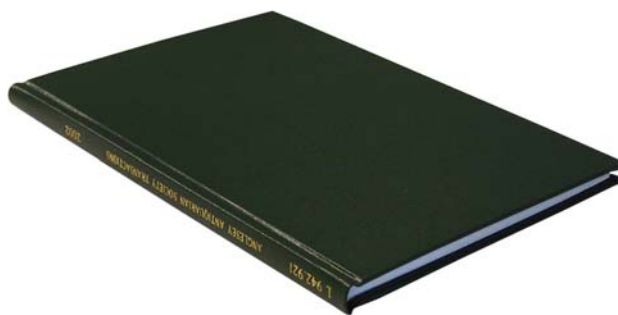
When you choose a full case rebinding for a paperback there are three styles available to you:

- **Laminated Style**
The illustrated jacket is heat and pressure sealed under a laminate film. We apply this to the new boards of the book and it becomes an integral part of the book. This is the conventional method of converting paperbacks to hardbacks. If the original paperback jacket has been previously 'strengthened' by means of a hard plastic covering, then we can colour photocopy this and laminate the cover as if it was new. Blank end sheets are added to carry library stationery
- **Sterling Style**
This is a full conversion to traditional hardback standard where the illustrated jacket has 'blurb' sheets attached and these are inserted into a plastic hardback sleeve. The paperback is case bound and the sleeve wrapped around. The finished product is just like a sleeved hardback but at a fraction of the hardback price and with blank endpapers added for stationery

**The blurbs may be designed by you and used for promoting your own information or used for sponsorship or advertising purposes. Subsequent rebinding is easy
STERLING STYLE HAS BEEN PATENTED BY BLISSETT BOOKBINDERS**

- **Cloth Style**

Not usually the public libraries' preference as the cover artwork is very important. However, this style is used by academic libraries and may still be preferred or may be the only course available if the jacket has been lost or damaged beyond repair. The book is rebound in hard wearing cloth and lettered appropriately. Perhaps this style is most appropriate to Local Studies and Reference paperbacks or academic books.



cloth style bound paperback

PAPERBACK STRENGTHENING

When a full rebind of a NEW PAPERBACK is not justified e.g. for really ephemeral material, there is a range of services offered which will protect the volume for some time. However, it is important to understand that the library binder does not rebind the spine and there is the possibility that the 'strengthening' may actually weaken the paperback. These styles are quite appropriate for ring bound materials

- **Plastic Wallets** normally supplied by the bookseller, but also available through us when your local bookseller may lack the facilities
- **Royal Guard** a hard, plastic cover is stuck to the jacket. The whole volume is lightly trimmed, after we have added fly leaves for carrying library stationary. As mentioned above this would normally require photocopying the illustrated jacket if, in the future, the volume was to require rebinding
- **Flexi-guard** a soft plastic film protects the illustrated jacket. The paperback feel is retained and fly leaves are added for library stationary before a minimum trim is made all round. Subsequent rebinding is possible using this original jacket

Your choice whether to rebind or strengthen may depend on your budget. These days, budgets are slim, but long-term economies are substantial when you choose the binding option and our binding consultants are on hand to help you.

SERVICE

You may send in paperbacks as part of your normal binding requirements and we will bind them in the most suitable way. It is also possible to agree a special **two-week service** so long as you discuss this with the bindery in advance on each occasion. Our normal turnaround time is just four weeks.

PREBINDING PAPERBACKS

If you opt to convert the paperback to hardback before putting it on the shelf you could ask your supplier to send the books directly to us for **Pre-binding**. This would save you time and get the books onto the shelf even sooner! Ultimately you will save time and money. This service is also available to the Library Supply Trade and bookshops on any University Campus.

Reference and further reading:

Paperbacks in public libraries by Joan Reuben and David Spiller, LISU Occasional Paper no. 22, ISBN 1 901786 16 1, May 1999, Dept. of Information Science, Loughborough University, Loughborough, LE11 3TU 01509 223071 Fax 01509 223072 E-mail: lisu@lboro.ac.uk

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Don't hesitate to ask us for our help and advice. Either contact your Binding Consultant or Gary Blissett:

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