

## Binding unravelled

What are the different methods of binding available at McPherson's Printing and why would you pick one over the other?

Each binding method has its own unique benefit, whether that's a lower cost, greater durability, or the ability to lay a product flat when it's open. Your account manager can help you decide on the most appropriate binding method for your product. In the meantime, here are some tips to get you started.

**Saddle stitched:** This is the cheapest method of binding, and ideal for newsletters and booklets. Sections are gathered together on a saddle-stitching line, the cover is placed on the book block, and all is stapled and trimmed inline. This method is most suitable for products of 96 pages or less.

**Perfect binding:** This is the most common form of binding, as used for paperbacks and textbooks. Sections of text are collated by machine, the spine of the book block is 'buzzed' off to create a flat surface, and the loose pages of the book are glued with a hot-melt adhesive. The cover is drawn on and the book is trimmed inline.

**Wiro/coil binding:** This method is commonly used for catalogues, training texts, workbooks, cookbooks, music books and any other texts that need to be opened out flat. Sections are perfect bound (as above), trimmed on three sides and stacked down. The book has its back trimmed off on the guillotine, holes are punched, and wire or coil is used to bind it all together.

**Burst binding:** This style of binding is stronger than perfect binding and is recommended for coated or gloss stock. Sections are printed on flat sheets and folded with a 'burst' or slit in the spine of the section. The book is then bound and trimmed using a similar method to perfect binding, except that it doesn't have its spine buzzed off. Burst-bound books must be printed using the sheetfed method.

**Section-sewn binding:** This is the strongest style of binding, most commonly used for products that need to endure lots of wear and tear, such as reference and textbooks, or children's picture books. The sewn book block is placed in the binder to be bound and trimmed using a similar method to perfect binding.

**Section-sewn with fully pasted ends:** This method of binding is commonly used for high-quality, high-usage products, such as map books, street directories and bibles. First, four-page end papers are glued to the first and last sections of the text. Sections are collated and sewn together by machine to make the book block, which is then bound as for section-sewn binding. Once the book is bound the end papers are pasted down and the book is trimmed.

**Cased-perfect binding:** This method of hardcover binding is ideal for fiction and non-fiction books. First, four-page end papers are glued onto the first and last sections of the text. Sections are then collated by machine and the spine of the book block is buzzed off. Loose pages of the book are glued with a hot-melt adhesive and lined with a crepe paper/mull, and the book block is trimmed inline and stacked down for casing. Cases are made, head and tail bands can be applied to the book block, and the cases are applied. The end papers are then pasted down and the book is pressed and stacked down for dust jacketing.

**Cased-sewn binding:** This is the preferred method of binding for hardcover texts that need to be durable and long lasting, such as coffee table books or reference titles. Again, four-page end papers are glued onto the first and last sections. Sections are collated and sewn together by machine to make the book block. The book block is glued with a hot-melt adhesive, lined with a crepe paper/mull, trimmed inline and stacked down. Cases are made, head and tail bands can be applied to the book block, and the cases are applied. The end papers are then pasted down, and the book is pressed and stacked down for dust jacketing.

**Loose leaf:** This is a process by which individual sheets can be inserted and removed at will from a section of a larger text usually held in ring binders. Examples include training manuals, catalogues, government manuals, and texts that require regular updating, such as legislation documents. As loose-leaf products are difficult to transport, they must be secured in some way. We recommend either shrink-wrapping or plastic bagging.

Please talk to your account manager for more information.