

Fact Sheet **Number 4**

BINDING

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Binding is the process of physically assembling a publication. There are many different binding methods so it is important to choose the correct method for the correct application.

Saddle stitch

Securing pages by wire staples through the centre of the book. In saddle stitched publications, the printed sections are inserted one inside the other. This is the least expensive and most common binding method.

Perfect binding

An adhesive-binding method. Signatures (sections) are collated and the spine of the book block is sawn off to create loose-leaf pages. This edge is then roughened before adhesive is applied and the cover is added. Note that three millimetres are ground off the inside margin of the pages during this binding process.

Burst binding

A method of binding similar, but more durable than perfect binding, where the spine of each folded section is slotted or perforated during the folding operation. Glue is pushed up between the perforations during binding and the cover is then drawn on.

Wiro binding

Continuous double series of wire loops run through punched slots along the inside margin of a publication. This binding method is useful for books that need to be laid flat or folded back on themselves.

Spiral binding

Binding with wire in a spiral form through pre-punched holes along the inside margin.

Wiro binding has virtually replaced this method of binding.

Case binding

A publication bound with a stiff, hard cover which is covered by fabric or other material. This binding gives a prestigious result and is ideal for coffee table books.

Sewn books

A bookbinding method using threads to hold signatures (sections) together. This method can be used in either hard cover or soft cover and is the strongest method of binding. It is used for books that will have repeated use. As an example, the Melways street directory is section sewn. Covers can be either glued on or casebound.

Thread seal

A method of sewing where each section is sewn together but the sections themselves are not sewn to each other. This method can be used in either hard cover or soft cover. It is not as strong as a sewn book, but still stronger than a burst-bound book.