Resource sheet : Bookbinding

Definition :

Bookbinding is a process that consists in assembling and holding together book pages in a protective book cover.

For economic reasons most book bindings today are mass-produced by high-speed machines. However, some bookbinders still use traditional methods to create luxurious, bespoke items.
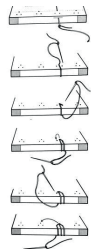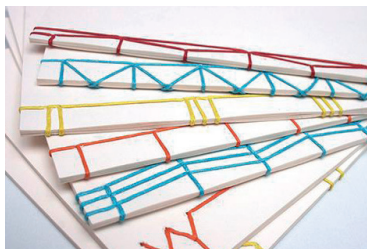
Different types of binding

There are different binding techniques, each with its own characteristics in terms of durability, aesthetics and cost.

Instead of attaching the pages to a rigid board thanks to a layer of flexible adhesive material, they can be **sewn together with pieces of thread** (by hand or with a sewing machine).

Rubber band binding
One or more rubber bands are held in place by a notch on each side of the page block. You can use a bone folder to pre-fold each page on the inside of the spine, 5mm from the rubber band(s) for easy opening.

Saddle stitching refers to a binding process where pages are stapled together through the spine of the book. You can also choose to punch holes and clip the pages together with book binding rings, binding coils, paper clips or other fasteners.

PUR binding is a form of binding that uses glued inner pages and a wrap-around seamless cover like a paperback book. Perfect binding creates a long lasting, high quality spine for a book.

Japanese bookbinding is a traditional four-hole stab technique where four holes are punched through the stacks of paper / signatures using an awl. The holes must be wide enough for the needle and thread to sew through, and using a punch guide to leave the same space between the edge of the sheets and the holes is a must.
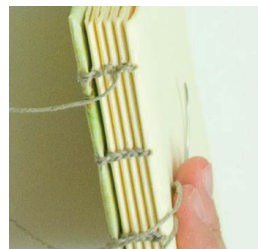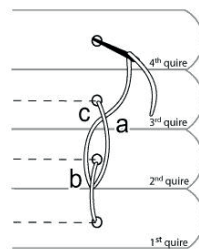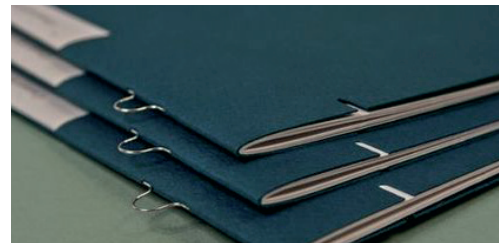
The French Link stitch is a classic and popular open spine bookbinding technique. This stitch can be used as a decorative stitch on a book with an exposed spine while providing an additional attachment point for the leaves.

Accordion-type binding consists of a continuous piece of paper (either a single sheet or joined sheets) that is folded back and forth into equal increments to form a horizontal strip folded repeatedly on itself like an accordion; covers are then applied at both ends. You can write or print on both sides

A dos-à-dos binding (from the French for «back-to-back») is a binding structure in which two separate books are bound together so that the fore edge of one is adjacent to the spine of the other, with a shared lower board between them serving as the back cover of both.