# Book Binding Options

## Hardcover Binding

### Smyth Sewn Binding
- Strong, flexible, durable, good lay-flat properties

### Side Sewn (Oversewn)
- Very strong, cannot lie flat easily, leaves a narrow inside margin

### Saw-Sewn (Thesis Binding)
- Not as durable, for handbinding loose pages in a hard cover

### Case Binding (or Edition Binding)
- Durable, high quality, most expensive

### Sew on Tapes
- Durable, beautiful

### Non-Adhesive
- Uses ribbon or cord, decorative, strong

## Softcover Binding

### Perfect Binding
- Cost-effective (especially for large quantities), widely available, cannot lie flat easily, spine can crack

### Notched Double-Fan Adhesive
- Strong, flexible

### Lay-Flat
- Hollow spine for flexibility, good for cookbooks or other books to be displayed open, good access to inner margin

### Tape Binding
- Very economical for small quantities, functional, short life

### Sewn Softcover
- Best for very heavy coated papers, suitable for softcover coffee table books

### Saddle Stitch (Pamphlet Binding)
- Only for thin books or pamphlets, no spine for a title, short life
Mechanical Bindings

Wire-O
Opens 360°, lies flat, no spine for a title

Spiral
Opens 360°, lies flat, no spine for a title

Plastic Comb
(Plain Binding)
Opens 360°, lies flat, pages can be added or removed, spine comes in many colors, title can be screen-printed or stamped on spine, can handle very thick books

VeloBind
Will not lie flat, no spine for a title, leaves a narrow inside margin

Three-Ring
Pages can be added or removed, comes in many colors, title can be screen-printed or stamped on spine, cover sheet can be inserted, lies flat, inexpensive

Screw Post
Pages can be added or removed, longer screws can be used as book grows, will not lie flat, leaves a narrow inside margin, best for scrapbooks or albums where expandability is needed

Multimedia
Special book cases with plastic housing in the back cover to hold various media forms

Binding Variables
- Type of binding
- Number of books
- Number of pages/signatures per book
- Trim size (dimensions of finished book)
- Weight of paper stock
- Collating/folding charges
- Cover material (leather, cloth, paper, etc.)
- Dust jackets
- Decoration (title stamping, headbands, etc.)
- Packaging/shipping charges

Layout Considerations
- Will the book be bound as signatures or single sheets?
- What margin size is needed at the binding edge?
- What is the trim size (final page size) around the non-binding edges?
- How thick will the book be? (due to either number of pages or weight of paper stock)

This information sheet was adapted from two articles by Mandy Syers of Heirloom Books, Providence, Rhode Island, which appeared in the September 2006 and January 2007 newsletters of the Association of Personal Historians. Mandy’s illustrations are used here with her permission.

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