

PERFECT BINDING BASICS

Perfect binding is an economical and functional binding style that gives books an attractive appearance. Unlike most mechanical binding styles, the spines of perfect bound books can be printed for easy identification. The versatility of perfect binding is ideal for a variety of products, including cookbooks, annual reports, shop manuals, and textbooks.

To make sure your book meets your needs, there are plenty of planning details that must be communicated between Eckhart and Company and the printer. To get you started, here are a few planning tips to keep in mind when designing books for perfect binding:

Traditional (EVA) or PUR glue- Do you know which type of glue is best for your project? Traditionally, perfect bound books are bound with EVA, or hot melt glue. Though EVA glue is strong, it's ideal for lighter, uncoated stocks. For heavier, coated stocks, we recommend PUR (polyurethane) glue. PUR glue is 50% stronger than traditional EVA glue and can adhere to just about anything.

Functionality- Knowing how the book will be used by the end-user can make it easier to determine the best style of binding. For books that need to be referred back to such as cookbooks, music books or manuals, lay-flat binding may be your

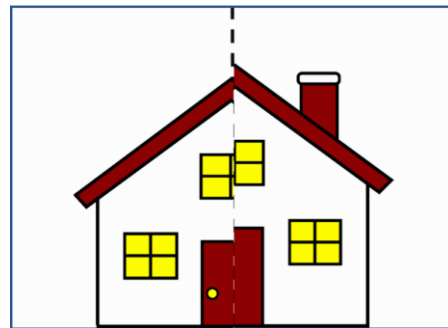
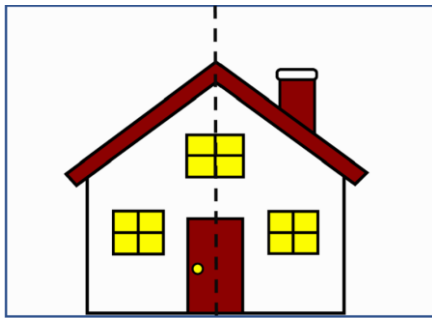
answer. Lay flat is a binding technique that allows the book to stay open during use. Lay-flat binding is ideal for thick books, cookbooks, music books and more.

Trim Margins- Proper cover and text layouts are the key to the success of any adhesive binding project. Text signatures should have trim margins of at least 1/8" at the head, foot and face. Keep in mind that these trim margins are approximates. We can work with slightly smaller margins depending on the specifics of your book layout.

Glue Trap- Cover layouts require an additional 1/8" glue trap margin at the head and foot. This extra margin helps prevent excess glue from seeping onto subsequent books during binding.

Ink Knockout- Heavy ink and coating can compromise the adhesion strength of a perfect bound book. For that reason, be sure to knock out all inks and coatings from the spine area.

Crossovers- Crossover images may appear to overlap (top) or underlap (middle) depending on how forceful an end-user opens the book. To achieve the best results be sure to overlap your crossover images by 1/8" to result in a proper-looking crossover.



While these tips give you a starting point for designing a project, there are many more details that must be considered prior to printing. With Eckhart and Company as your perfect binding partner, you can rest easy knowing your books will be handled properly.