

Semi-Concealed Wire-O Binding



Wire-O is a great option when mechanically binding a book. It is strong, is available in multiple colors, and it allows the finished book to lay flat. However, as you may or may not know, it also lends itself to various cover styles. A semi-concealed cover is one of those options. It combines the advantages of Wire-O, while concealing the binding element from the front and spine of the book. Plus, the semi-concealed Wire-O cover also allows for a printed spine.

The Process

The process of producing a semi-concealed Wire-O book, is fairly simple. The text is prepped the same as it would be with a standard Wire-O book with traditional 2-piece covers. However, the semi-concealed cover is one piece and will wrap around the text and binding element, once the book is bound. This is achieved by scoring the cover in three locations.

One score is for the front of the spine, another score is for the back of the spine, and the third score is on the back cover and acts as a hinge. This back hinge-score is important because it is where the cover gets folded back on itself for punching and binding. Once punched, the semi-concealed cover is bound to the text while still folded on the back hinge-score. After the book is bound, the hinge-score is unfolded and the cover is folded on the two spine scores, thus wrapping the cover around the book and concealing the wire from the front and spine of the book. The only part of the Wire-O that is exposed is a small portion on the back cover.

Bulk (thickness)



Knowing the correct bulk (thickness) of the text is the most important aspect to designing and planning a semi-concealed cover. The bulk will determine the diameter of Wire-O used, which ultimately determines the placement of the scores on the cover.

Use a bulking dummy - Semi-concealed covers require carefully placed scores that form the spine around the wire. For that reason, you'll want to use a bulking dummy to determine the exact bulk of your text and cover sheets. That measurement will then be used to determine the proper wire diameter and, therefore, the location of the scores and punched holes on the cover. In addition, a bulking dummy ensures that any copy on the spine is centered properly between the scores.

Punching

COMMON PUNCHING PATTERNS

2 : 1 Square Hole



3 : 1 Square Hole



Avoid punching into type - This is a common yet easily avoidable mistake. As with all other Wire-O styles, semi-concealed books using 3:1 wire (three holes per linear inch) should have at least a 3/8" margin between the spine edge and the punched holes. For 2:1 Wire-O books, leave at least a 1/2" margin.

The Eckhart Advantage

At Eckhart and Company, we offer you a complete range of production and decoration options for your semi-concealed Wire-O applications. Our fully automatic Bielomatik binding machines can perform cover feeding, punching, and binding inline for the most efficient production available. Looking to create truly distinctive semi-concealed covers? Our screen printing, die cutting, foil stamping, embossing, UV coating and laminating capabilities give you plenty of in-house design freedom.

