



Notes on Paper Grain - to alert you as to this 'hidden' issue

NOTE: these tips are general in nature and no responsibility is accepted by 'The Bookbindery' for any loss or damage, of any kind, should you choose to follow these guidelines.

Created 11/08/2017

Like timber, almost all paper has a grain. That is, it bends more easily one direction than it does the other. If you bind a book with the paper grain opposing the binding, the book will not open as well, it will tend to warp/wrinkle at the binding edge and it will not be as strong.

The grain of the paper should be running PARALLEL to the binding edge.

Yet sometimes it is difficult to ascertain which direction the grain runs in and therefore whether a particular paper is suitable. The paper grain does not normally show visually. If you are careful you may be able to tell the grain by bending the paper and seeing which way bends more easily. However, for an untrained person, it is often difficult to be sure.

Fortunately there are a couple of ways we can guide you:

A4 Paper: Almost all A4 photocopy paper is cut so that it is suitable for binding on the long edge (portrait). This suits many people as portrait A4 books are much more common than landscape ones. This also means that even if your page size is to be smaller than A4, if you print on standard photocopy paper and keep the binding edge of your pages parallel to the long edge of the A4, you should be correct.

Our FREE Test: At 'The Bookbindery' we can do a test on paper for you so you will know whether or not to use it, for your project. Do contact us first.