

Comic Book Binding

HF Group can transform your comic book collection into durable and attractive hard cover books.

Cloth Bound Covers



Graphic Covers



Dust Jackets



Binding Methods

Double-Fan Adhesive Binding (DFAB)

DFAB is a library binding style method that utilizes polyvinyl acetate glue (PVA) instead of thread for the binding. This method provides binding durability and flexibility, is our most requested method for all types of library binding, and allows books to lay flat. It can accommodate comic books, individual pages, and trade paperbacks, or all of them combined.

This is a great method to include your own table of contents within the book, to cut apart books and remove pages, or combine comics and trade paperbacks.



Smyth Sewn Binding (Sew Through Fold)

With Smyth Sewn binding, the thread is driven “through the fold” of a folded signature. In comic book binding, each individual issue is treated as a signature. This method has no impact on the inner margin of the original comic books, and lays flat when opened.

Note: To use this binding method for a volume of comics, each individual issue must have a centerfold to sew through. If any of the issues are “flat back” (such as a Trade Paperback), DFAB binding method will need to be chosen. All paper types can be used as well. Also note, the thicker each volume is, the more of a “wedge” effect you will get. A wedge shape is when the spine of the book is significantly thicker than the outside edge. This is caused by the thread build-up used to sew the books.

Note: a small amount of gutter loss will be seen between each comic on the covers from the binding process.

Note: We will bind up to 25 issues (firm maximum) using Smyth Sewn binding, but suggest 18 issues at the most for the best results.



Rounding

Rounding the spine gives the book a curved spine; a thin, flexible backing is added under the cover. Books not rounded will have a flat/hard spine, and a hard cover board will be added under the spine.

Note: We suggest SMYTH books to be rounded.

Note: Rounding the book allows it to open and lay flat easier and preserve the binding longer.

Rounded vs. Non-Rounded:



Trimming

Books are trimmed on the three exposed edges after being bound, and prior to rounding. This gives the books a clean, smooth edge.

Note: How much is trimmed will depend on the size of the books. Not all comics are the same size, even within the same title. To estimate how much will be trimmed, put the books in order and find the smallest book. That is about the size all of the books will be at the end.

Note: All three edges of the book must be trimmed, or none.

Note: Comic Books are “jogged” to the top, meaning all the comics are lined up flush on the top edge. So the majority of trimming is taken off the bottom edge where comics traditionally have more margin.

Trimmed vs non-trimmed:



Ribbon Bookmarks

A ribbon bookmark is a ribbon adhered to the inside spine of the book block that can be used to mark your page in a book.

Head & Tail Bands

Head and tail bands are a decorative cloth piece at the top and bottom of the book block.



End Sheets

All books will receive an off-white end sheet. This is a heavy paper that joins the book block (the bound comics) to the cover.

Black end sheets are available for an additional charge.

Cloth Cover or Graphic Cover?

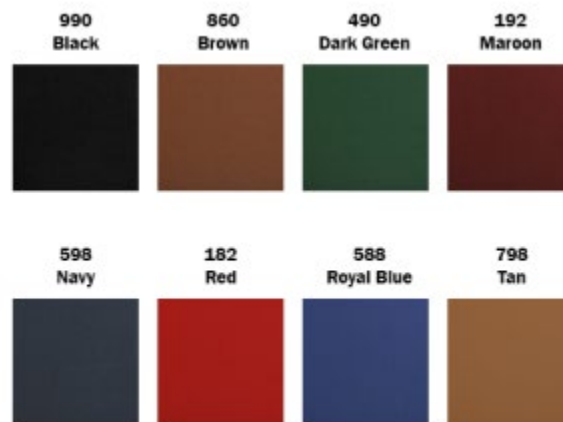
Cloth books options include different colors and types of material, foil stamping, die stamping, and other decorative elements. They have an attractive “Library” appearance and are extremely durable.

Graphic Cover books allow complete customization of design, present an attractive image throughout the cover, and you can design your own if desired.

The choice is yours! Below you’ll find information about both options.

Cloth Color Options

Below is a listing of material available for Comic Book Binding.



Foil Lettering

Lettering is added to the spine and/or cover of a cloth book using foil stamping in our standard type in either black, white, or gold. Up to 7 lines of lettering is included on the spine.

Size 18 point type is used by default, but an increase/decrease in size may be needed depending on the book and will be done at the bindery’s discretion.

Note: Please enter your lettering on the order form in the direction you would like it stamped. If the book’s size requires it to be turned vertical we will do so.

Note: Additional lines of lettering and lettering on the front cover are available for an additional charge.

Die Stamps

Die stamps are metal stamps that can apply foil in a pattern or logo onto a cloth book. Houchen Bindery Ltd has a collection available for general use – [click here to view die stamps](#).

Panel Lines

Panel Lines are horizontal lines of foil placed on the spine of a book. They are decorative and a great way to divide content on the spine.

On the order form, simply draw or type a line across the Spine Layout portion to indicate where you want the lines placed. They will be the same color as the type.



Graphic Covers

This is an option where a printed image is laminated and applied directly to the boards of the book in place of the cloth. We offer options for design, or you can provide your own.



Customer Provided Cover

If you are going to provide your own graphic covers, simply indicate this on your order form. Once the books are bound and ready for the covers we will send you the exact dimensions of each volume. At that time, send us ready-to-print PDFs and we will print, laminate, and apply the cover.

Note: Covers received that are not sized correctly will be sent back to the customer for edits and there will be a \$5 charge to reprint the covers.

Note: We will provide the SPINE, the COVER WIDTH, and the COVER HEIGHT. You will need to add these together and add 0.75" BLEED to all four sides.

For example: Spine is 1.5", Cover is 6" Wide and 10" Height

$$0.75 + 6 + 1.5 + 6 + 0.75 = 15" \text{ Total Width}$$

$$0.75 + 10.25 + 0.75 = 11.75" \text{ Total Height}$$

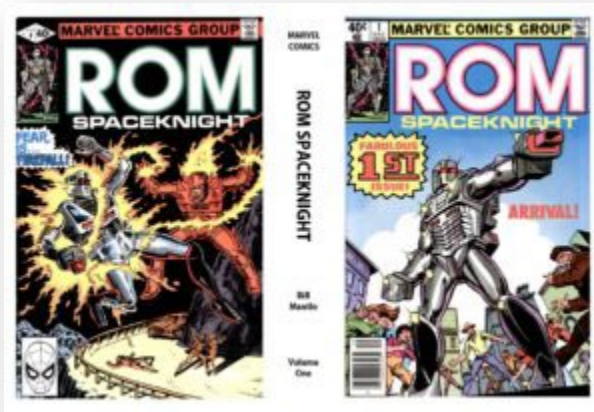
Tip: Let the images on the cover extend into the bleed, but not text or logos.

HBL Simple Cover Design

For an additional charge we can design a cover for you. We will put one COVER image on the front and one COVER image on the back (with no edits to the images) and TEXT on the spine in the layout shown below. Indicate on your order form the COVER images and text you would like included.

Note: No Substitutions. No edits to the COVER images, no logos, titles images, or characters on the spine.

Simple Cover Design Example/Template:

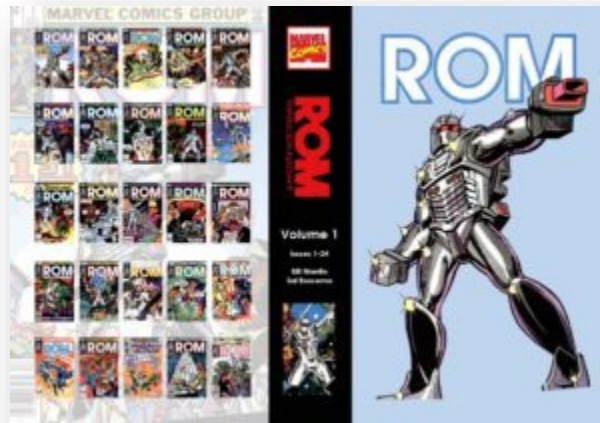


HBL Premium Cover Design

For an additional charge we can design a cover for you. We will put one character on the front of the cover with text and background removed AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, publisher and title logos on the spine, character image on the spine, TEXT on the spine in the layout shown below, and a COVER GALLERY with background image on the back cover.

Note: No Substitutions or adjustments to the layout.

Premium Cover Design Example/Template



Note: Not all covers are suited for this request. If the character is blocked by type or barcodes, etc, we cannot recreate them.

Good Choice: Character is not covered by logo, title, or barcode. Bad Choice: Character is covered by logo, title, and barcode.



Custom Dust Jackets

Are you looking for new dust jackets to replace or freshen up the hardcovers in your current collection? We print, gloss laminate, cut to size and ship custom dust jackets to you. You can upload your files [here](#)! Please include your shipping address in the "Optional Message" field.

We require pre-payment before processing dustjacket-only orders. Jackets will ship via UPS. Once your order has been received we will send an invoice via email within 1-2 business days. Once payment is processed please allow 5 business days for production and shipping.

Dustjackets will ship rolled in a durable shipping tube.