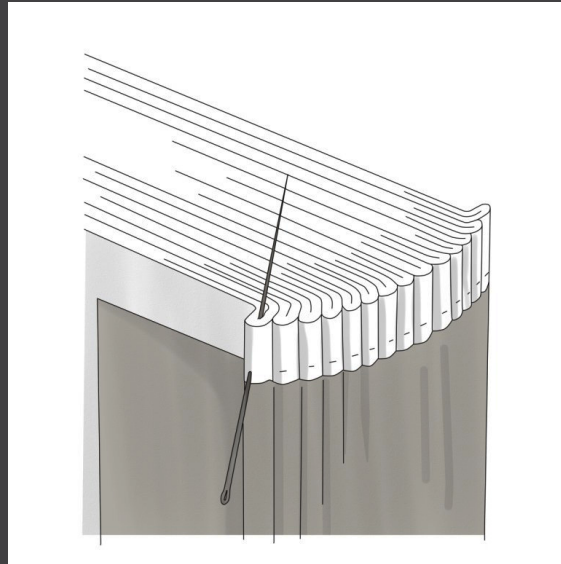


# CRAFTSMANSHIP+



FOSTERING A NEW AND COMPETITIVE  
APPROACH TO CRAFTS AND SEMI-INDUSTRIAL  
HIGH ADDED-VALUE SECTORS

## The Art of Bookbinding

ITALIA



Cofinanziato dal  
programma Erasmus+  
dell'Unione europea

This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

# CRAFTSMANSHIP

THE ART OF BOOKBINDING

## CONTENTS

TECHNIQUE .....	4
GLOSSARIO .....	8



## BOOKBINDERS IN PERUGIA SINCE 1966

The Company was founded in 1966 in Perugia as Biccini Legatoria from the merger of the old Chiaraluce Legatoria with the Scatolificio Fioriti.

Franco Biccini, my father, became the owner of the Company, after 6 years of apprenticeship at the Novelli Bookshop and after a specialization obtained in the restoration of the ancient book, in Genoa. The detailed knowledge of the craft was transmitted to him by his friend, the Count Ludovico Silvestri, bibliophile and titular of the 'Antiquarian Library Bianchino del Leone', since the '80s, that was located in Baldeschi street, then transferred in Piazza Ansidei, Perugia.

Together with the Count and under his guidance, Franco Biccini dealt with wash and restoration of prints and ancient books of particular antiquarian interest, in addition to ligatures in parchment and leather with bands.

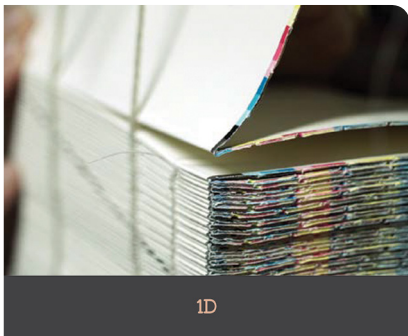
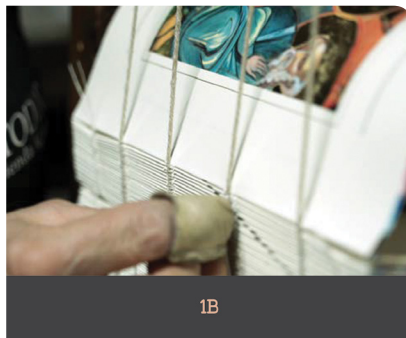
Since he was a child, he frequented the parent's Company observing the accuracy of skilled hands. His love for books and fascination for such a particular job grew up with over time until January the 2nd, 1997, when he replaced his father, as owner. From that moment, he was motivated to examine in depth everything relating to the enhancement as well as the respect for the ancient knowledge of which the binding is a cradle.

## TECHNIQUE

Binding is the procedure used to assemble a certain number of separate sheets of paper or other material, so as to obtain a book, an album, a notebook. - The handmade artisan binding, from ancient origins is done by folding the sheets in half, collecting them in files and sewing them through the fold.

1

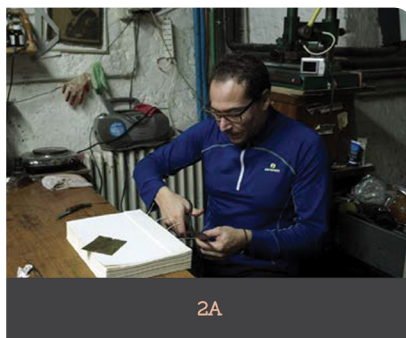
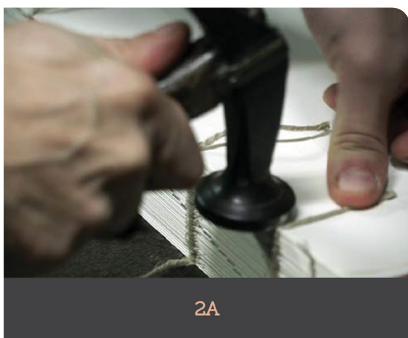
Take a bundle(overlapping sheets) to be bind and arrange on the frame, after which the seam is done by hand.



## The Art of Bookbinding

2

Then, tap the seams with a hammer.

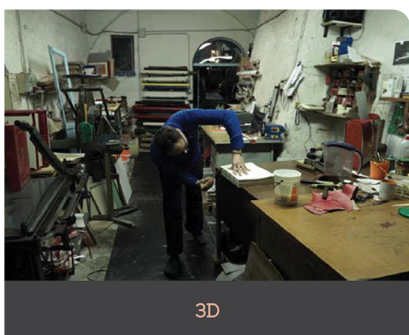
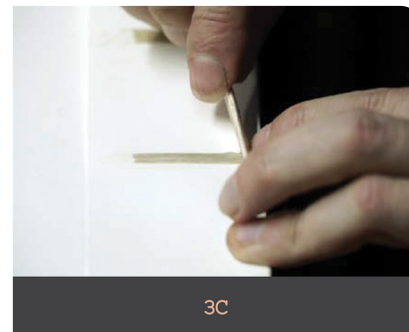
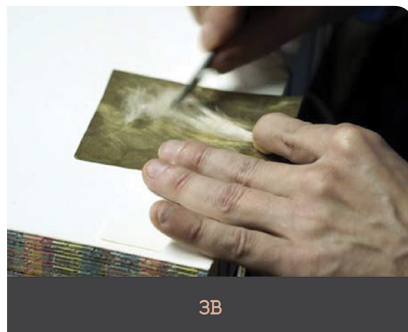
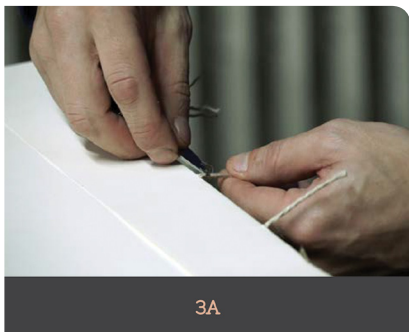


## The Art of Bookbinding



3

After the binding, the unthreading of hemp thread is made. Thus, the gluing phase will be made.



The Art of  
Bookbinding

4

Then, cut the book to trim the pages.



The Art of  
Bookbinding

5

After cutting the book, there is the “flatten” phase: it consists in polish the pages.



The Art of  
Bookbinding

6

Place the endings (unprinted cards that are before or after the body of the book to protect the text) on the first and on the last folio of the book. Take care when fixing the flyleaves, which must be perfectly aligned with the backs of the signatures.



The Art of  
Bookbinding

7

On the back of the book, with a brush, put a lot of glue, making it penetrate in every crack, among the booklets. The book is then placed between two tablets, then a weight is lean on it, while the glue is drying.



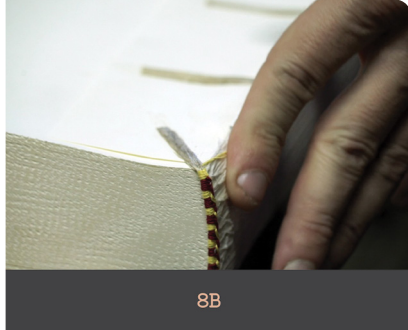
The Art of  
Bookbinding

8

Phase of binding to reinforce the book spine: binding by gluing gauze, hemp, paper or parchment strips to reinforce the book spine.



8A



8B

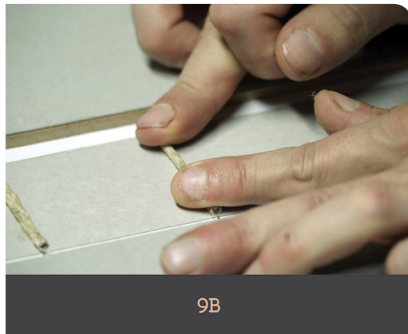
The Art of  
Bookbinding

9

Build the book cover. Align the book with the edge and continue in applying the glue. Make sure to cover the entire page with the glue, not only the edges. Then, the headbands (wide strips of edging ribbon) are fixed to the head and to the back of the back spine, using the undiluted vinyl glue. Their function is to protect the book from dust.



9A



9B

The Art of  
Bookbinding

10

Place abundant glue on the back spine of the book making it penetrate into each fissure among the signatures.



10A



10B

The Art of  
Bookbinding

11

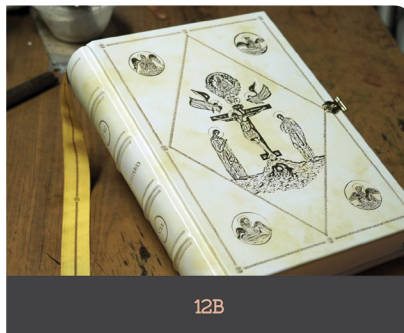
Rest the cover book and press it so that it sticks on. The glue will also be placed on the top and on the bottom of the left side, creating two strips of about one and a half centimeters. Make the cover also stick to these spots, so as to cover the thread.



The Art of  
Bookbinding

12

Before fixing the cover, it is necessary to carry out some tests without using the glue, to make sure that the procedure is well learnt because, in case of mistakes, it will no longer be possible to repeat the gluing phase. The book is positioned between two tablets and a weight is placed on it, while the glue dries.



The Art of  
Bookbinding