

A short history of the Archival Products' Spine Wrap Pamphlet and Music Binder

Before 1986, archival product suppliers didn't think much about pamphlet binders. Older product catalogs by various vendors placed the pamphlet binder in a small, insignificant space amidst pages of other products. 1986 was the year Archival Products began as a division of Library Binding Service, and this division would specialize in durable, well-crafted preservation enclosures for use in college, university and research libraries.

Old methods of pamphlet binding were damaging valuable materials found in these institutions. The primary drawback with pre-gummed cloth flange binders was the direct contact between adhesives and the pamphlet. The adhesive strip tended to create fracture points on the title page, cause partial discoloration and restrict the pamphlet's open-ability. Other binding procedures required side-stapling material that was originally joined through the fold which also caused open-ability and fracture point problem.

The Archival Products' Spine Wrap Pamphlet Binder changed all of that with three main ideas: adhesives would not touch the pamphlet; flexible, scored cloth spines would make through-the-fold stapling feasible; and a pressure-sensitive strip on the outside of the pamphlet spine would hold any stapling or seeing in place.

The pressure-sensitive strip also gave a finished look to the bound pamphlet, but designers had to address the question of "cold flow." Librarians would be concerned about adhesives migrating or flowing onto the pamphlet so several tests were conducted on adhesive. In one test, technicians used two glass panels, putting a twenty pound weight on each. One panel was exposed to temperatures of 120 degrees Fahrenheit; the other was left at room temperature for 30 days. Neither panel showed any oozing or migration from the applied area.

With those satisfactory results, designers moved on to materials. Pre-1986 pamphlet binders were constructed from poorer quality boards and cloth that were susceptible to moisture, soiling, dents and scratches. The Archival Products' High Density Acrylic Coated Pamphlet Board resulted from months of collaboration with our board manufacturer to construct a moisture resistant, durable and very dense archival board. No other archival board was this dense and strong, and the added acrylic coating provided yet another barrier from stains, dust, handling and most importantly, water. Everything about this board would serve a purpose and though the charcoal gray hue was pleasing to designers, more than aesthetics were involved when choosing the board's color. It was simple. Light shades show soiling, dark ones do not.

Providing the benefits needed for preservation and utilization by musicians, Archival Products added standard music sizes to offer the Spine Wrap Music Binder, a treatment that is easy to use and meets archival quality performance standards. Designed for maximum flexibility, it lies flat on a stand or piano deck for convenient use during performance. Besides protecting the music, the binder also protects bibliographic information on the first and last pages of the score. Separate music sheets or other parts can be housed in the optional pockets. We offer vertically placed die-cut straight or diagonal pockets made of acrylic-coated poly-cotton C-1 grade cloth, Tyvek® straight pockets or full width Tyvek® pockets with diagonal cut access. All pockets are designed to prevent damage that often occurs when papers are pushed into conventional pockets. All pamphlet binders and music binders are now available in custom-sizes upon request.

Archival Products still holds this fine quality for all our preservation enclosures. We invite you to review all our products for consideration for your collection at www.archival.com, contact us custserv@archival.com or 800-526-5640 for a free sample and to discuss your collection needs.

Archival Products | <http://www.archival.com> | 800-526-5640

