

Saddle-Stitching and Perfect Binding In The Digital Age

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Everyone knows that print is facing serious challenges from the plethora of electronic devices employed by our 21st-century selves. But print still scores very high in impact with both consumers and businesses. The key is to make print more relevant and immediate to the recipient. Digital print, combined with data, can do this very effectively. **IBIS Integrated Bindery Systems, Ltd.** of High Wycombe UK was ahead of the game when they designed the Digi-stitcher in 1999. The Digi-Stitcher, and the Smart-binder series of saddle-stitchers which replaced the Digi-stitcher in 2004, are built specifically for the digital print workspace.

The **IBIS Smart-binder system** series offers a variety of high-quality booklet and book finishing options for producing personalised "books-of-one" either in-line with a continuous web digital press, or from a roll, or sheet pile feeder. Individually scoring and folding each sheet, the Smart-binder was designed from the start to assemble books with varying page counts, containing personalised information. The integrated machine software continually checks the incoming sheet for sequencing, and tracks it through the complete system, generating a detailed log file in the process. This is critical for regulated documents, which require verification. The stitcher and 3-knife trimmer are self adjusting for constantly varying book thicknesses.

The Smart-binder SB-2 and SB-3 series provide true saddle-stitching booklet quality to the digital segment, along with IBIS's unique ISG (individual sheet gluing) cold-gluing and also in-line perfect binding (SB-4 and SB-5 systems). IBIS also offers a large range of other integrated capabilities such as cover-to-booklet matching, dynamic sheet perforation, centre-knife cutting, selective trimming, booklet hole drilling, and others. Now, at DRUPA, IBIS will introduce the "next" generational evolution of the Smart-binder series.

Smart-binder Plus: The new "Plus" model being launched at Drupa adds several enhancements to the base Smart-binder system:

- A higher cycling rate than the current SB model.
- Improved book transport through the trimming operation
- Much increased cover feeder capacity and reliability
- Automatic stop-stitch.
- Higher input web speed
- Updated machine guarding
- Optional selective folding.

The Smart-binder 'PLUS' model



The Smart-binder range continues to be the choice for the digital environment, both for its productivity and customisable options. One U.K. customer, who has been using multiple Smart-binder SB-2s for some years, reports processing **26 million A4 pages** into saddle-stitched booklets during **February 2012**. This was accomplished on three Smart-binders, each running in-line with continuous web digital printers, and represents an output of around a million pages per day per machine.

F-200 Selective Folding: The new F-200 selective folder can switch between an eight-page and twelve-page sheet fold "on the fly". This enables the Smart-binder to run at speeds of up to 600 feet-per-minute, while producing booklets in four-page increments.

Perfect Binding : The Smart-binder models SB-4 and SB-5 have always been unique in the digital environment in that they can produce both saddle-bound (stitched or cold-glued) booklets and perfect-bound books as part of a single, in-line continuous web system. Until now, only a single clamp perfect binder has been available, but at Drupa **a new in-line 4-clamp binder** will be launched to provide an alternative higher-speed binding option.

The new four-clamp perfect binder **Sprintbinder 2000J**, can produce up to **1,500** books per hour with automated book format and thickness changes. Both EVA hot-melt and PUR glue options are available.

The Sprint-binder model '2000J'



Visit IBIS at Drupa on the JMD stand B10 in Hall 13.

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