

## FINDING THE GRAIN

As a general rule, when making a book, all materials must have their grain parallel to the spine. This includes: bookcloth, paper and board.

### BOOKCLOTH

We cut our bookcloth in strips that follow the grain. The best test to determine grain direction is to decide which way the cloth rolls with the least resistance. Try rolling the piece you want to cut from both directions-lengthwise and widthwise. The direction you find easier to curl is parallel with the grain. After you have cut your strip to width, the length should curl naturally.

### BOARD

You can find the grain of the board by bending it slightly. It will be more flexible in the direction that is parallel with the grain.

### PAPER

The best test for paper is similar to the test for bookcloth. It will roll and crease more easily in the direction parallel with the grain.

Handmade papers and papers with multi-directional fibers do not have a grain. If the grain of the paper is not considered when making the signatures, the pages will curl in from top to bottom.



