

# MERRY BOOKBINDER

crochet = 75

ch tra la La

I'm a Merry bookbinder I stitches & se\_e\_ews binding-up Ledgers &.

portfo li os. Tra la la a\_\_

v1 I prodswith me bodkin & gives it me a\_w\_\_ I & toolswith me  
 v2 I creases French grooves in the best of me jo\_bs 'cos I like a deep  
 v3 I uses band nippers on spines ex qui si\_i\_\_ t {} nip ping-up  
 v4 I mitres the corners & paresback the sk\_i\_\_ n this fits on the  
 v5 I knocks-up the pages & rounds-off the sp\_line then at-tendsto the  
 v6 I fashions big cases with thick Bris tol bo\_ar\_d & keeps'em to



<http://cresby.com>

tra la la la la la

v1 fillet on\_\_ fronts big & small. Tra la la\_\_ tra la la la la la\_\_  
 v2 joint {} for the rich -est of nob. *finish with chorus & 2 3/4 extra tra la's*  
 v3 ridges to\_\_ make a good fit.  
 v4 cover l'\_m put -ting it in.  
 v5 fly {} wot is out of a- lign.  
 v6 -gether wi\_\_th dec 'ra tive cord.

Walsall became the centre of the saddlery industry by virtue of its proximity to the lorinry trades of the Black Country. Indeed their football team is still called "the Saddlers". As a result associated leather trades came to Walsall like book binding.

Lorinry covers the ironmongery used on horses, eg various rings and of course the "bit". Vital seam sewing was always done with two needles and threads, the hole would be made with a bodkin and the needle passed alongside its spike, then the bodkin would be inserted in the same hole from the other side and the second needle passed using the bodkin spike as a guide. In decorative work this seam was preferred for its precision and strength. An awl is really a needle with a handle, or a bodkin with an eye, which can produce a seam like a sewing machine. The threads stay on the same side and when broken the seam bursts quickly.

Grooves lie between the cover and spine forming the hinge for the cover. French grooves are characterised by being quite pronounced hence an increased cost of production. Ridges are those horizontal bumps on the spine and are made with band nippers-- pliers with jaws that extend side-ways at the end, their width was used to nip-up more of the spine leather. It also tightened the leather between ridges. Leather is stretched over Bristol board used to stiffen the cover and in order to reduce the inside thickness and to prevent a step under the cover paper, the leather edges were pared (thinned). Leather was not normally overlaid at the corners, rather it was butt jointed by cutting at 45 degrees first (mitred). Knocking-up is the term used for lining up the paper, rounding the spine was performed on the stitched pages, both done by basically hitting with a flat stick. Decorative cord is most commonly seen, top & bottom, fixed on the paper edges nestling against the spine.