

Russia Bands.



LARGE account books obtain the greatest possible degree of strength by affixing Russia bands to them. These bands are termed "single" when they extend about half-way down the sides, and "double" when those at the head and tail reach to the corners of the boards and are turned over the edges in the same manner as the cover. For "single" bands, according to the old-fashioned method, the workman used to measure the length of the book at the back, and then, by the aid of compasses, divide the whole into seven equal parts or spaces. He then cut three pieces of russia leather perfectly even at the edges, and of the exact size of the spaces they were intended to occupy, and pasted them on the second, fourth, and sixth divisions of the back, thereby leaving in sight the first, third, fifth, and seventh spaces of the vellum cover. He then drew the bands squarely on the sides and placed the volume in the press, fixing rods down the length of the book in order to force the russia into the joints. It was then left to dry under pressure.

When "double" bands were ordered, the back was divided into five spaces, or seven if four bands were needed. The middle band or bands were cut shorter than those at top or bottom, and pasted down in the same way as before described. The long band at head and tail were pared at the edges so as to enable them the more easily to be turned in at the head-bands and over the sides of the boards at the same time as the corners. The edges were cut the same way as the covering, and the adjustment of the rods and the pressing followed as a matter of course.

A binder of reputation recommends dividing the book into nineteen equal spaces, two of these (at top and bottom) be allotted to the long bands and three each to the short ones and the open spaces. The width of the book should be divided into seventeen equal spaces, giving six of these divisions as the size of the short bands. If the book has russia ends only, he recommends dividing the length of the book into six equal parts, and giving one-sixth at top and bottom for the end bands, leaving four-sixths for the centre. This gives greater uniformity and can be adapted to any size account book.—*American Bookmaker.*