

How To...Store Full Books

by Stan Tombs

How I've stored full book match books over 40 years. Keeping in mind, my modus operandi, quite subjective and personal, is that they must be interesting/fun to look at, with a touch of class.

Most of my main collection of full books is arranged in clear plastic pages approx. 9" x 11 1/2", 3-hole drilled & kept in 3-ring loose-leaf binders. I fortify the drilled holes in the pages with punched metal grommets to improve support of the heavier weight of full books.

Features, which are usually better-viewed open to reveal the printed & die-cut match combs can fit well in the standard 20-strike or 30-strike matchcover pages by Hobbymaster or Ultra-Pro Platinum Series (no PVC, acid free & UV protection). 15 strike Features fit in 20 strike pages & 21 strike Features fit in 30 strike pages. As the fit may be a bit snug, it can be safer to insert them with a thin, stiff strip of card front & back, then remove strips after match book is fully inserted. 22 strike Features (approx. 40 strike cover size) fit quite well open in 4" x 5" pockets, 4 pockets to a page. Closed Giants fit well in these pages also. Opened Giant Features fit in 8" x 3 1/2" pockets, 3 pockets to a page (used for paper money).

I've found that PULLQUICKs & Pullmatches fit well in pages with 4 rows of 3 pockets or 3 rows of 3 pockets (used for gift cards, etc.). Pullmatch Business Cards & closed 40 strike full books fit well in 10 pocket pages (5 rows of 2 pockets used for business cards). I use 20 pocket pages for closed 20 strike & 30 strike full books (5 rows of 4, often used for coins). I have found most of these pages available at stamp/coin collectible hobby shops & antique/collectible shows.

3" oval ring heavy-duty binders hold about 20 pages quite nicely & also look quite decent on a book shelf, especially if they're all the same colour ie: black with white copy on black labels, as opposed to a myriad of mismatched colours which can tend to look a bit junky. This of course can be quite expensive, as good binders are not cheap.

I store trading material in Florsheim shoe boxes that comfortably hold 3 rows x 3 layers of 20s & 2 layers of 30s, caddies fit equally well in this size box. Why did I choose Florsheim? Because they had a consistent mute background colour, with no advertising printing on one end, so they don't look outrageous when stacked on a table.