

## Tudor Style

### A New Style of Bookbinding

By Paul C Delrue

My new artistic style of binding acquired its name from the first book I bound in this way, which was Shakespeare's Sonnets. Put simply, it is made by covering the boards with a series of overlapping strips of goatskin, which create built-up areas on the boards similar to those achieved by the traditional built-up board technique, but without the need to build up the board underneath, and without the need for scarf joints where two pieces of leather meet.



This technique can be applied directly onto the boards, or off the boards to be used as a decorative panel. When applying directly to the boards, the book is covered as for a standard quarter binding, that is, the spine and the spine edge of the boards are covered with goatskin in the usual way. The leather to be applied



to the boards in the Tudor style is thinned, but leaving enough for it to retain some of its strength (not as thin as a label, for instance, but thinner than would be used for covering in full leather). The edge of the leather on the book is then cut with a clean edge, without a bevel, either straight down the book or at an angle if that is

what you need for your design. The next strip of leather is then pared and then the edge that is to overlap is edge pared at a sharp bevel (45°). This is then pasted out and laid over the first strip, and where the two strips overlap a new raised strip will be formed. The other edge is cut, again without a bevel, to create the next edge to be overlapped, and so on.

The overlapping pieces can be as large or as small as you want. The feel of the leather, particularly where it overlaps, is very attractive. The lines where the strips overlap can be tooled or emphasised with the use of a sharp bone folder.

The finished binding has the look of having been wrapped in leather, bandage style. But rather than calling it 'overlapping bandage style', I thought it would be a good idea to give it a proper name, and 'Tudor style' seemed to fit.



**Paul C Delrue**

Tel: 01824 707044

[www.paulcdelrue.com](http://www.paulcdelrue.com)