

# Spine-Creaser



## What Does the Spine-Creaser Do?

The Spine Creaser turns your Muller cover feeder into a cylinder creasing machine. By removing the manufacturers scoring device and substituting a specially formulated, patented creasing matrix setup, you can produce perfect creases on all types of stock that you would use as a book cover.

This simple installation pays for itself in remarkably few jobs by adding power to your finishing operation:

- **Totally eliminate fibre cracking on cover stocks**
- **Totally eliminate all offline scoring operations**
- **Totally eliminate all outsourcing of creasing you can't handle in-house.**
- **Gets your product to market faster**

Using the same technology as the Tri-Creaser, the Spine creaser will give you a crease that is equal to one produced on a cylinder or platen die press. So not only do you eliminate a major source of customer dissatisfaction, you do so without tying up your cylinder or platen die cutter or printing press!

By eliminating this off line operation, you free up your die cutter or printing press for more complex and profitable work and you get the job in your customer's hands that much faster.

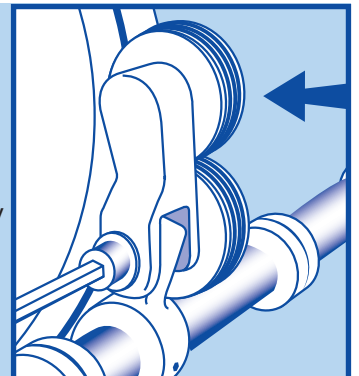
No more tedious make ready time for simple straight line scores. Go straight to your Muller with the cut covers and you are in business.

The unique double-wheel system is designed to achieve results un-matched by any other system... **Guaranteed.**

- **The first wheel produces a cylinder quality crease.**
- **The second wheel reinforces that crease, guaranteeing zero defects.**
- **Two wheels provide equal, constant pressure against the specially formulated matrix, helping to guide the book squarely around the drum.**
- **Three Channel Width settings accommodate any weight of cover stock.**
- **Special Matrix is designed to stretch and snap into feeder drums existing scoring groove.**

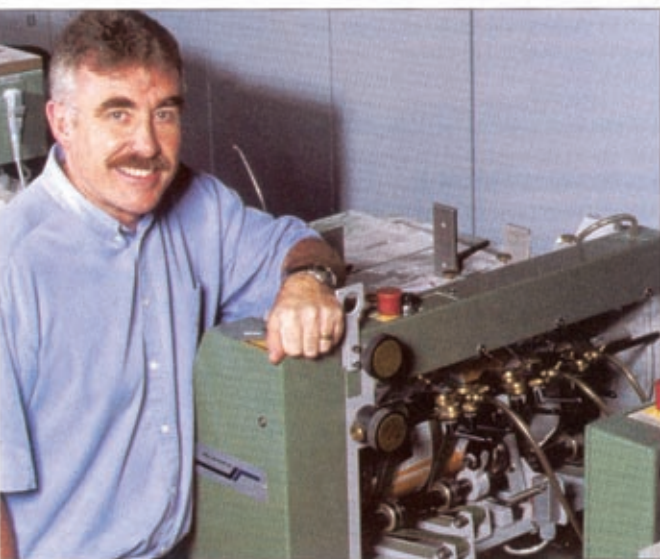
## Installation is Simple

With a set of allen wrenches, you only need to remove the existing scoring arm, apply the creasing matrix to the drum and install the new double-wheel arm. Once they are aligned, you are ready to begin producing a perfect crease on your saddle stitcher! And the best part is that it only takes a few hours of press or die cutting time saved to pay for the Spine Creaser. A small investment is guaranteed to begin saving you money from your very first job. And what price do you put on customer satisfaction? Imagine, no more cracking on your covers, no more scoring on your printing press, no more tying up a die cutter with straight line work and no more outsourcing of creasing jobs you can't handle in house.





# Tech-ni-Fold Spine-Creaser



Ray Randall found the solution to his creasing problems in the Tech-ni-Fold Spine-Creaser, writes **Gordon Carson**

The Tech-ni-Fold Spine-Creaser is "simplicity itself", says Ray Randall, a director at Southampton's Portwood Colour Press. He needed a way of solving the problem of creasing on book spines that occurred when using its Muller Martini cover-feeder and he believes the firm has found the ideal, cost-effective solution.

Portwood Colour Press is a general printer that started business in 1985. It now employs 45 staff and generates a turnover of around £5m, mainly from its two five-colour Heidelberg CD 102s with coaters. It also has in-house CTP and an extensive finishing department, which houses a Fleximailer, two Stahl folders, two Polar guillotines, three Heidelberg cylinders for cutting and creasing and the Muller Martini cover-feeder. A two-colour GTO completes its press line-up.

The firm first contacted Tech-ni-Fold when inventor Graham Harris was testing his first device, the Tri-Creaser. Indeed, Portwood was so impressed with the Tri-Creaser, which fits onto folding machines and is designed to eliminate fibre cracking, that it now has seven. When it was

looking to get rid of cracking on covers, Tech-ni-Fold was its first port of call, helped by the fact that Randall has never come across similar devices in the market.

"We were talking with Graham and he came up with the design," says Randall. "We had used our own design that used a creasing channel from our cylinders – it worked, but with the Spine-Creaser having two wheels you get a double score."

Tech-ni-Fold national sales technician Paul Barrett says the firm has sold more than 150 Spine-Creasers since it developed the device last year. The two-wheel system it uses is key to the good results. It creases a cover once and then immediately redoes it, so any imperfections from the first cycle are tackled by the second.

The Spine-Creaser, with the same technology as the Tri-Creaser, is easy to install. It takes a set of allen wrenches to remove the existing manufacturer's scoring device from the Muller cover feeder and the Spine-Creaser slots in. Tech-ni-Fold claims its three channel width settings can accommodate "any weight of cover stock", and says the Spine-Creaser's matrix is designed to "stretch and snap" into the grooves on feeder drums.

The Spine-Creaser has passed Randall's "ultimate test" – silver and gloss UV covers that are "even hard to score on a cylinder". Portwood Colour Press doesn't need to put covers for Yamaha brochures through its cylinders, saving time and man-hours, he explains. "A cylinder runs at 2,500 copies an hour but the Muller does 4,000 an hour. A 100,000 cylinder-run takes a long time and needs another operator, while you can put it through the cover-feeder and that man can do other things. It's saving time and another person and pays for itself within a couple of jobs." Using the Spine-Creaser also frees up the cylinders to produce other work.

At £1,247 the Spine-Creaser is one of the least expensive investments a modern printer could make, but that doesn't mean it suffers from any reliability or durability problems, says Randall. "Even the rubber lasts for 500,000 copies, which is more than we anticipated," he says.

Randall also praises Tech-ni-Fold for its service and back-up. "They came and fitted it and showed us the best way to put it on," says Randall. This was necessary

## Factfile

### Strengths

- Simplicity
- Reliability
- Durability
- Easy installation
- Frees up other finishing equipment

### Weaknesses

- None identified

### Supplier's Response

Tech-ni-Fold offers a 60-day free trial then a three-month money-back guarantee if a customer isn't happy with the Spine-Creaser's performance. The product can also be shipped worldwide with ease as it fits snugly into small boxes.

### Price

£1,247 plus VAT

### Contact

Tech-ni-Fold, 0116 275 1440

because there are times when Portwood doesn't need to use the Spine-Creaser on the cover-feeder, although it can simply pull the device to one side without actually disconnecting it from the Muller.

The Spine-Creaser also tackles another big issue that affects most creasing kit, where the leading edge of a cover typically receives "a bit of a nick" when entering a machine. This isn't so with the Spine-Creaser, says Randall. "As it's on bearings it slides – there's no initial impact," he says. "It loads at a correct speed so you don't get bumping and nicking."

Randall is full of praise for Harris' invention and his dedication in bringing it to market. "I think he's done very well, firstly with the Tri-Creaser and now with the Spine-Creaser," he says. "He has put a lot of time, thought and money into it and deserves all the success he gets. It's something that most finishing houses and printers with finishing should have. I've never seen any others like it." ■