



Tom Nelson

DIGITAL CORNER

Make your own high quality books

Scrapbookers and photographers, here's a good one. You can make books suitable for the coffee table with a relatively inexpensive device called the PhotoBook Creator. The device itself is simple. In effect, it's just a heater with a timer. The books that are placed on the heater are what's special.

The hardcover books are made with a steel spine containing glue. The process couldn't be simpler. Collect your 8x10 pages, arrange them in the order you wish them to be seen, slip them into the spine, close the book and place it in the heater, spine down. A red light comes on and about 90 seconds later a green light comes on. Leave the book in the Creator for about a minute to let it cool, and voila! you have a book.

Slick stuff

My wife and I recently visited my daughter in Maine. We took a side trip on Amtrak south to Washington, D.C. We took lots of pictures. I selected 20 photos that I thought would tell the story. I had them printed in 8x10 format. I could have used the software that comes with the Creator kit to create templates that would allow more pictures on each page, but I wanted single, big photos. Photographic paper is thick, so I really had to squeeze to get the 20 photos to fit into the spine. I ended up with a quality book that I am proud to display. The book has a window cutout in the front cover to show a portion of the first page of the book. You can buy the books with a window or without a window. If I want to change the order of the pages, or take out some pages, I can reheat the spine, do some page shifting and then redo the book from the beginning. Pretty slick stuff. I couldn't be happier with my book.

New on the market

The book spines come in various widths to accommodate different numbers of pages. You can buy books that will hold up to 220 pages. That's the maximum number of pages the Creator will bind, according to Rusty Redecker, marketing director for Unibind, the producer of the machine and books. Redecker said that because the product is relatively new on the market, retailers do not as yet stock a great variety of the books in small quantities. Unibind also makes other binders that will bind a greater number of pages than 220, but at a much higher cost for the machines. And besides, who would want to look at one book with more than 220 of my photos.

The single book that comes with the PhotoBook Creator starter kit will bind up to 20 pages, depending on the thickness of the paper. The books come in a

Please see Nelson, 2B

