The invention relates broadly to improvements in a loose leaf binder and more particularly to means to selectively adapt it to any of a plurality of different capacities. An object of the invention is to provide a loose leaf binder having reinforced backing means with associated means to reduce the width of said backing means to adapt the binder to sheaves of papers of various thicknesses.

Another object is to provide binder covers with attached backing means and means easily operable to adjust the binder to suit a sheet of predetermined thickness before securing said backing means to the other binder cover.

Another object is to provide efficient inexpensive means to stiffen the back of a loose leaf binder.

The foregoing and such other objects of the invention as will appear hereinafter as the description proceeds will be more readily understood from a perusal of the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the binder embodying the invention, showing a sheaf of papers, partly broken away, bound therein.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary end elevational view of the bound sheaf.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the novel backing means.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view similar to Fig. 3 of a modified construction.

When records are kept on loose papers as for example, letter copies or the like, preservation of the papers is frequently desirable. For this purpose a sheaf of such loose papers as shown at 11 may be securely bound together between the binder covers 12 and 13. Inasmuch as the bound sheaf of papers usually is stored for occasional reference only, it is desirable that the binder covers 12 and 13 and such means as are employed for securing the papers between said covers, such as a prong fastener 14, should be of the most inexpensive construction.

The structure shown in FIG. 4 is substantially like that illustrated in FIG. 3 except that the severable portions 25a, defined by scores 25c, are arranged adjacent each longitudinal edge of stiff section 16a thus permitting removal of portions from one or both longitudinal edges of said section.

The structure described also has the advantage of being easily adapted for re-use on sheaves of the same or smaller thicknesses. To apply a previously used binder to a sheaf which is smaller than the sheaf originally contained therein, the margin 21b of the flexible strip is separated from the cover 13 and one or more severable portions 26 of the stiff section are removed. The margin

The backing means 15, as best shown in Fig. 3, preferably includes a substantially rectangular flexible strip 21 having an adhesive coating 22 on one face. The reinforcing or stiffening section 16 preferably consists of a substantially rectangular stiff section, such as a heavy cardboard, having a plurality of spaced apart parallel scores 23 extending longitudinally on one face preferably adjacent one edge only. The unsecured portion 24 of said stiff section is secured by the adhesive to flexible strip 21 as shown.

In assembling, the sheaf of papers is first bound between the covers and then one margin 21a of the flexible strip 21 is glued to the margin of one of the covers and the strip is then carried across the back edge of the sheaf. The required number of severable portions 25 of the stiff section 16, defined by scores 23, is then removed to reduce the stiff section to the desired width. The other marginal edge 21b of the flexible strip is then glued over the margin of the other cover 13 with the scored face of section 16 disposed toward the back edge of the sheaf. Any severable portions remaining are glued to the flexible strip to increase the rigidity of the back.

The structure shown in FIG. 4 is substantially like that illustrated in FIG. 3 except that the severable portions 25a, defined by scores 25c, are arranged adjacent each longitudinal edge of stiff section 16a thus permitting removal of portions from one or both longitudinal edges of said section.

The structure described also has the advantage of being easily adapted for re-use on sheaves of the same or smaller thicknesses. To apply a previously used binder to a sheaf which is smaller than the sheaf originally contained therein, the margin 21b of the flexible strip is separated from the cover 13 and one or more severable portions 26 of the stiff section are removed. The margin 24 of said stiff section is secured by the adhesive to flexible strip 21 as shown.
2.2b then is trimmed to the desired width and re-glued to the cover.

The structures described obviously provide inexpensive rigid backing means for a bound sheaf of papers and it is not desired to limit the invention to the precise details disclosed but to embrace such structures as fall within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

10 I claim:

1. In a loose leaf binder, covers adapted to be disposed on opposite faces of a sheaf of papers, a flexible strip adapted to extend over an edge of said sheaf, said strip having its longitudinal margins secured to complementary edges of the covers, a stiff section secured to said strip between said margins, said section including a plurality of severable portions.

2. In a loose leaf binder, covers adapted to be disposed on opposite faces of a sheaf of papers, a flexible strip adapted to extend over an edge of said sheaf, said strip having its longitudinal margins secured to complementary edges of the covers, a stiff section disposed between said covers and secured to said strip, and a plurality of parallel scores formed in said section defining severable portions.

3. In a loose leaf binder, covers adapted to be disposed on opposite faces of a sheaf of papers, a flexible strip adapted to extend over an edge of said sheaf, said strip having its longitudinal margins secured to complementary edges of said covers, a stiff section having one face secured to the inside face of said strip, and a plurality of parallel scores formed in the exposed face of said section defining severable portions.

4. In a loose leaf binder, covers adapted to be disposed on opposite faces of a sheaf of papers, a flexible strip adapted to extend over an edge of said sheaf, the longitudinal margins of said strip being glued to complementary edges of the covers, a stiff section glued to said strip, and a plurality of parallel longitudinal scores formed in one face of said section defining a plurality of severable portions.

5. In a loose leaf binder, covers adapted to be disposed on opposite faces of a sheaf of papers, a flexible strip adapted to extend over an edge of said sheaf, said strip having its longitudinal margins secured to complementary edges of the covers, a stiff section having one face secured between said margins and to said strip, and a plurality of parallel longitudinal scores formed in the exposed face of said section defining a plurality of severable portions.

6. In a loose leaf binder, covers adapted to be disposed on opposite faces of a sheaf of papers, a flexible strip, adapted to extend over an edge of said sheaf, having its longitudinal margins secured to complementary edges of the covers, a stiff section having one face secured between said margins and to said strip, and a plurality of parallel longitudinal scores formed in said section, said scores being adjacent one edge only.

7. Means adapted to secure the covers of a loose leaf binder together, said covers being adapted to overlie opposite sides of a sheaf of papers, comprising in combination, a flexible strip adapted to extend across an edge of said sheaf and have its longitudinal margins secured one to each cover, a stiff section having one face secured between said margins to the inside face of said strip, and a plurality of parallel scores formed in the exposed face of said stiff section defining severable portions.

9. Means adapted to secure the covers of a loose leaf binder together, said covers being adapted to overlie opposite sides of a sheaf of papers, comprising in combination, a flexible strip adapted to extend across an edge of said sheaf and have its longitudinal margins secured one to each cover, a stiff section secured between said margins to the inside face of said strip, and a plurality of parallel scores formed in said stiff section defining severable portions.

10. Means adapted to secure the covers of a loose leaf binder together, said covers being adapted to overlie opposite sides of a sheaf of papers, comprising in combination, a flexible strip adapted to extend across one edge of said sheaf and have its longitudinal margins secured one to each cover, a stiff section secured between said margins to the inside face of said strip, and a plurality of parallel portions adjacent only one longitudinal edge of said stiff section.

11. Means, comprising in combination, a substantially rectangular flexible strip having an adhesive on one face, a substantially rectangular stiff section secured by said adhesive to said strip, said stiff section being spaced substantially midway between the longitudinal edges of said flexible strip, and parallel longitudinal scores formed in said stiff section defining severable portions.

12. Means, comprising in combination, a substantially rectangular flexible strip having an adhesive on one face, a substantially rectangular stiff section secured by said adhesive to said strip, said stiff section lying substantially midway between the longitudinal edges of said flexible strip, and parallel scores formed in said stiff section defining severable portions.

13. Means, comprising in combination, a flexible strip, a stiff section substantially narrower than said flexible strip, severable portions forming a part of said stiff section, said flexible strip being secured to the non-severable portion of the stiff section.

14. Means, comprising in combination, a substantially rectangular flexible strip, a substantially rectangular stiff section partially secured to said flexible strip, said stiff section being substantially narrower than said flexible strip, and a plurality of spaced longitudinal scores formed in said stiff section defining severable portions, said portions normally being detached from said flexible strip.

15. Means, comprising in combination, a substantially rectangular flexible strip having an adhesive on one face, a substantially rectangular stiff section having one face partially secured by said adhesive to said strip, said stiff section being substantially narrower than said flexible strip, and a plurality of spaced apart longitudinal scores formed in said stiff section defining severable portions, said portions being adapted to be secured to said strip by said adhesive if not severed.

16. Means, comprising in combination, covers adapted to be disposed on opposite faces of a sheaf of papers, a flexible strip adapted to extend
across an edge of said sheaf, said strip being gummed on one face and having its longitudinal margins secured to the complemental edges of the covers, a stiff section having one face secured between said covers to the inside face of said strip, and a plurality of parallel longitudinal scores adjacent only one edge of said section, said scores being formed on the face disposed toward the edge of said sheaf.

17. Means adapted to secure the covers of a loose leaf binder together, said covers being adapted to overlie opposite sides of a sheaf of papers, comprising in combination, a flexible strip adapted to extend across an edge of the sheaf and have its longitudinal margins secured to the complemental edges of the covers, a stiff section secured between said margins to the inside face of said strip, and a plurality of severable portions arranged adjacent each longitudinal edge of said section.

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