

Making your own EZ to Turn Books

Summer 1998

This idea comes from JoAnn Bayer of Springfield, Illinois. She's an avid reader and needed to find a way to continue reading independently. Here's her story.

Following decompression surgery on my spinal cord, I could no longer easily turn pages in my beloved books. A good friend gave me this idea that I use on either soft or hard bound books.

For \$.50 a printer will cut the binding off any book and tie it up with string. After getting the books back I went to an office supply store and bought comb binders. I selected binders that were thicker than the books to ensure that I can easily and safely turn the pages.

Next, along with a friend, we went to the IATP office to use their comb binding and rebound each book. To use a comb binder first, cut rectangular holes along the pages to receive the binder. This is done with a special machine. The machine also has a mechanism that opens the binder so you can fit the holes in the pages onto the combs.

Many social service agencies have these machines and may let you use them to rebind your books. If you do not have access to such a machine, Kinko's will rebind a 150 page book for about \$2.00

It's a simple and easy process. About the only mistake you can make is punching the holes in the wrong side of the page, so think about what you're doing before you make those first few holes.

I have been telling OTs and PTs about this method so more people with hand or manual dexterity problems, incomplete quads, those with CP or who have had a stroke can enjoy with more freedom, the joy of reading.

Taken from **Ten Dollar Tech Ideas**, part of the Illinois Assistive Technology Project's website, http://www.iltech.org/ten_dollar_tech_ideas.htm#

Ten Dollar Tech is a regular column in TECHTALK, Tech Connect/IATP's Newsletter. It features low or no-cost solutions for removing barriers to the environment.