

INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK FOLDER:

You may well have already seen information about The Black Folder on the WWW site: <http://www.musicfolder.com/>. I have been using The Black Folder for myself for several years now including many concerts and it really is a major improvement over the 'standard' covers and plastic retaining strips that I've used before. The key reasons for this are the hand/finger strap on the outside spine and the cross strap at the inside base which, together with the wide strong hinge, give one a complete and easy confidence that nothing is going to drop out no matter how enthusiastic or tired one might be.

Although there are a number of models on The Black Folder WWW page (standard or European sizes with basic or conductor variants) I have decided to import only the 'European Conductor' model (on the web site this is the ECBF model)- European because its slightly larger size means that it handles full A4 (e.g. Mapa Mundi, Joed Music and many others) both in the hinge/retaining elastic and also several in each pocket if needed. (Although I must say it still isn't large enough to handle a Kalmus edition Guerrero mass (255 by 335mm)) but I don't know a choral folder that does. The Conductor model has the base cross strap detachable from one side to enable the folder to lie flat on a music stand or a choir stall. I feel this latter capability is essential in the UK particularly since it adds about a £1 to the price.

A small see through pocket can optionally be added to the left or right hand inside pocket - enabling programme notes and 'choreography', for example, to be seen irrespective of the music content of the folder - making the ECBF-P. In addition it is possible to add an extra 10 cords - the ECBF-C - and detachable four ring adaptors for single sheet or other hole punched music - the ECBF-A. These options can be combined.

THE BLACK FOLDER - UK PRICES (from Jan 2011)

The UK prices for The Black Folder depend on currency and duty variations as well as the Canadian supplier price and freight. I have decided to keep the prices to the lowest reasonably possible and therefore re-price for each new batch that I import. My current unit prices, from January 2011, for the ECBF model are: £19.45 for one, with slight reductions to £19.25 for 5 or more and £19.10 for 20 or more; prices for larger folder quantities will be individually agreed. I'm sorry these discounts aren't larger but, because I want to see as many singers as possible using the Black Folder, I've reduced the single price to the minimum I feel possible already.

The optional transparent 'programme note' pockets are priced at £0.80 each irrespective of quantity. An additional set of cords are £0.90 and two/three/four ring adaptors £0.90 each.

Postage and packing must be added to the above prices - typically this will be about £2.80 for one, £13 for 10 or £17.50 for 20 (these price indications are for second class or standard parcel). These postage and packing prices will be higher if ring adaptors are added or ParcelForce 24/48 is requested.

My modest sales volumes are such that I am not registered for VAT.

I hope that this provides the information you require and that you will decide to go ahead with the purchase of The Black Folder which, I feel sure, you will find to be both excellent in use and durable. If there are additional points that you wish to discuss then please don't hesitate to e-mail me or telephone on 01962 714030.

THE BLACK FOLDER - UK METHODS OF PAYMENT

Either by transfer - the full sterling amount to one of the following UK bank accounts:

- Smile: Sort code: 08-92-86 A/C No: 13332532 Name: C Brook
- Abbey Business: Sort code: 09-06-66 A/C No: 42157925 Name: Colin Brook & Associates

Or by cheque - payable to 'Colin Brook' or 'Colin Brook & Associates' as you prefer

In all cases please quote the Invoice Number as a reference.

GOLD FOIL EMBOSSING:

The Black Folder looks great when embossed with a choir's logo. Unfortunately I no longer have a printer who can do this for me and I have been suggesting that choirs who wish to have their folders embossed might do well to find a printer local to them who can do this work; or alternatively it's possible that a bookbinder might be available locally and they would probably have experience of gold foil blocking. Of course I'm still happy to help with arrangements for embossing if I can.

CONTACTING COLIN BROOK:

e-mail: blackfolder@brookfamily.org

Tel: 01962714030 or 07976258703

Address:

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