

The saga of Tandem Books

Tandem books was one of Spike's earliest publishers of editions of his books. For some reason the early paperback editions were shared between Tandem and Penguin. Tandem published five books in total, *A Dustbin of Milligan*, *The Little Pot Boiler*, *A Book of Bits*, *The Bedside Milligan* and *The Bedsitting Room*.

The observant may have noticed there are up to five paperback editions listed of these titles. To understand this we have to look at the history of the Company.

Tandem Books was originally the imprint of Tandem Books Limited of London established in the early 1960s. Around 1967 the company was bought by the American group Universal Publishing and Distribution Corporation Inc. [UPD]. Tandem then became known as the Universal-Tandem Publishing Company Limited. This allowed titles to be distributed in the US. Around 1974 Universal-Tandem was sold back into the UK to the Howard and Wyndham conglomerate and was renamed Tandem Publishing Ltd. They became part of Howard and Wyndham's publishing house W.H. Allen. . Soon after the W.H. Allen takeover they commissioned new Cover designs which resulted in yet another ISBN change. In 1979 W.H. Allen changed their Tandem Books imprint to the Star Books imprint with another ISBN change. So at each of these changes each title was given a new ISBN

These ISBN changes are show in this table listing the publication dates and ISBNs of each title. The colours highlight the information contained in the ISBN, yellow = publisher code, turquoise = publishers book number. In this case these numbers were useful in sorting out the precise order of publication as the usual sources of information were inconsistent with one another.

Company history → Titles ↓	The Original Tandem Books Ltd.	Sold to US Company, becomes Universal-Tandem Co. Ltd	Sold back to Wyndham in UK becomes Tandem Publishing Co.	New cover designs by W.H. Allen A Tandem Book	Wyndham change imprint to Star Books
<i>A Dustbin of Milligan</i>	1965 04 2604 271 9	1973 04 2606 912 9	1974 04 2613 952 6	1975 04 2615 827 X	1979 03 5230 629 7
<i>The Little Pot Boiler</i>	1965 04 2604 036 8	1972 04 2606 920 X	1974 04 2613 979 8	1978 04 2615 819 9	1979 03 5230 630 0
<i>A Book of Bits</i>		1967 04 2604 044 9 1973 04 2606 939 0	1974 04 2613 987 9	1975 04 2615 798 2	1979 03 5230 626 2
<i>The Bedside Milligan</i>		1971 04 2605 477 6 1973 04 2606 947 1	1974 04 2613 960 7	1977 04 2615 771 0	1979 03 5230 627 0
<i>The Bedsitting Room</i>		1972 04 2606 859 9	1974 04 2613 506 7	1977 04 2615 800 8	1979 03 5230 628 9

Eventually Tandem became an imprint of Virgin Books, the first Spike book to be published by them was *Bad Jelly the Witch* in 1987.

Special Note: *A Dustbin of Milligan* - most ISBN lists and book retailers give 1977 as the date of publishing but this copy shows it was actually 1975, around the year of changeover of ownership.