

A Simple Book Repair Manual:

Spine repair



Suggested Equipment & Supplies

- Scissors
- Bone folder
- Scalpel
- Straight edge ruler
- Microspatula
- Adhesive (PVA & methyl cellulose mix)
- Brush
- Weights
- 10 pt. map folder stock
- Book cloth
- Press boards
- Book press
- Paper cutter (optional)

Procedure:

1. Using the scalpel and straight edge remove the original spine by carefully cutting through the book cover cloth just 1/8" past the hinge. Do this to both the front and back covers.



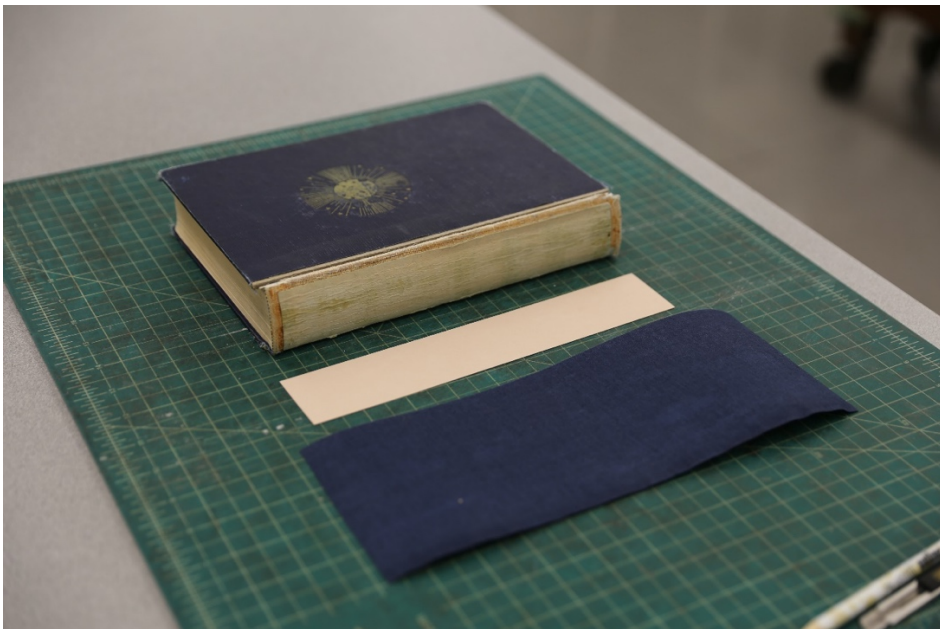
2. Cut into the cloth at the head and tail board edge closest to the spine to allow cloth to be lifted.



3. Using the microspatula, gently lift the book cloth on the cover approximately 1 inch away from the book hinge.



4. To create the new spine piece cut a piece of the 10 pt. map folder stock the height of the book's boards and the width of the spine. The grain (see *Parts of a Book*) must run parallel to the spine.
5. Cut a strip of matching book cloth 2 inches wider and 1 inch longer than the new spine piece.



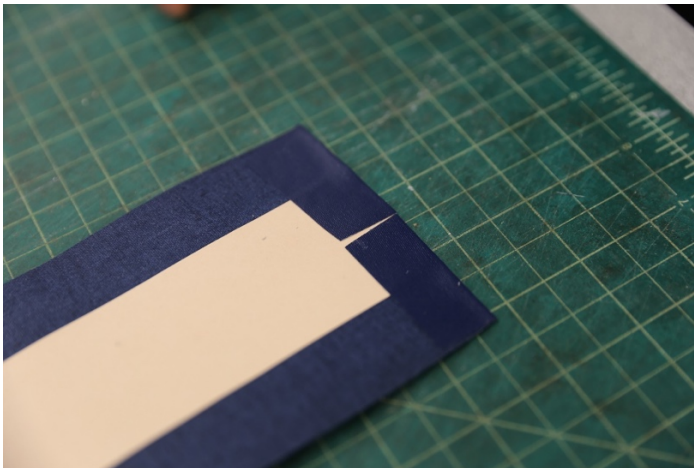
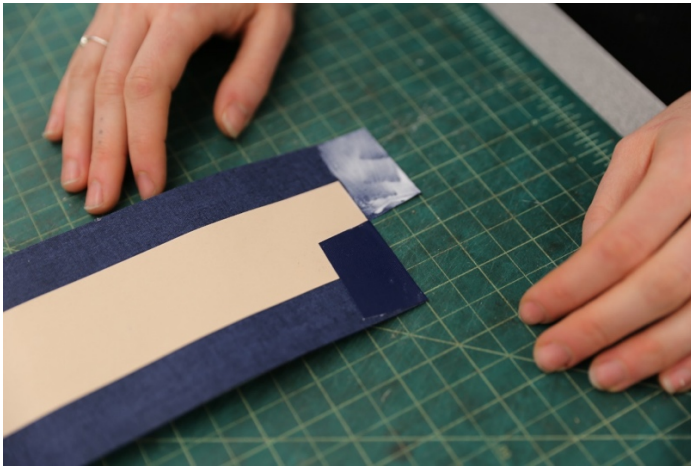
6. Glue the spine piece with PVA, center it on the book cloth, and rub down in place.



7. Make a 'V' cut at the center of the bookcloth at each end (head and tail) just up to the spine piece.



8. Glue down head and tail ends with PVA bringing the sides of the “V” cut together. This will create a slight arc to the fold.



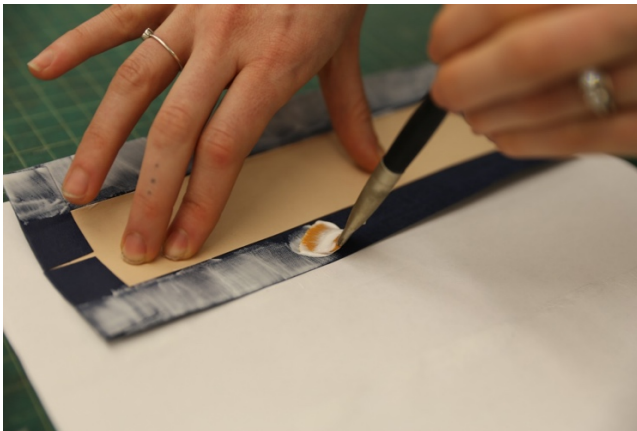
9. Shape the new spine piece with your bone folder until it curves slightly.



10. Dry fit new spine piece into the joint area before gluing. This helps guide the new spine into place while gluing.



11. Glue the exposed cloth on the sides of the new spine piece and attach to the book. Center and rub the new spine in place under the lifted cover book cloth.



12. Using your folder carefully mold the cloth down into the joints and onto the boards underneath the lifted cloth.



13. Nip the book for a few minutes between press boards if available.



14. Put PVA on the lifted cover cloth and press down.



15. Take the original spine and remove any loose backing material.



16. Trim any frayed edges on the four sides avoiding any text.



17. Mount the original spine onto the new spine. Note: If the original title on the spine is extremely faded, print out a label with the title on acid-free, alkaline buffered paper. Use the label instead of the original spine.



18. Put book under weights to dry.



Finished:

