A Simple Book Repair Manual: Torn Pages

Two Approaches to Repair

Suggested Equipment & Supplies

- Wax paper
- Awl
- Japanese tissue
- Adhesive (wheat paste)
- Small brush
- Bone folder
- Tweezers
- Weights
- Archival document repair tape
- Press board
Procedure:

**Using Archival Repair Tape:**
There are ‘archival’ repair tapes on the market, however these should be used sparingly as over time they cannot be reversed and can cause further damage. These tapes may be applicable to high use items needing a quick turnaround or that have a finite life span such as magazines or textbooks that will not be permanently retained in the library collection.

1. When mending a tear, first determine the correct position for the two sides of the tear to meet. If the tear is long and changes direction, mend only one direction at a time.

   ![Incorrect Example](image1)

   ![Correct Example](image2)

2. When using the repair tape use only as much as is necessary to cover the tear. You can use scissors to fine tune the amount needed.
3. Once the tape is placed accurately on the tear rub it with a bone folder.

Finished:

next door. He had to throw good workhouse food into swill-tubs while in the spike the ration was bread and marg. He discussed this with another young tramp:

I saw that I had awakened the pew-renter who sleeps in every English workman. . . . He admonished me quite severely.

“‘They have to do it,” he said. ‘If they made these places too comfortable, you’d have all the scum of the country flocking into them. It’s only the bad food as keeps all that scum away. These here tramps are too lazy to work, that’s all that’s wrong with them. You don’t want to go encouraging them. They’re scum.”

He notes that most tramps think of the others as tramps,
Using Japanese tissue and wheat starch paste:

1. Support the book in such a way that the page in need of repair lays flat.

2. Put a piece of wax paper underneath the page to be repaired.
3. Using Japanese tissue that is slightly lighter in weight than the page being repaired, tear a thin strip along the grain with an awl, slightly longer than the mend needed.

4. Lay the strip of tissue on a sheet of waste paper and paste out, running your brush in one direction.
5. Using tweezers gently lift the strip and center it over the tear. Place a piece of wax paper over the mend.
6. Leaving the wax paper in place, put a piece of press board and a small weight on top of the repair and let dry for at least one hour. If the tear extends to the edge of the page, the mending strip should be trimmed to 1/8 inch over the page edge. Add paste to the extended mend strip edge and fold it over the other side of the page.