

Repairing Damaged Corners

Disclaimer:

These instructions are for general circulating books only, and are not intended for any materials with historic or intrinsic value. Consult a Conservator for any valuable or special items.

Supplies needed:

White glue

Any kind will do. If glue is too thick, use a little water to thin.

Small paintbrush

An old makeup brush will work too. Stiffer bristles are better.

Large binder or bulldog clips

One for each corner.

Small jar of water

For keeping brush from becoming stiff with dried glue while you're working.

Wax paper or a sandwich bag

To keep the glue off your fingers.

Paper towels

For the mess you will make anyway. 😊

Corner squares

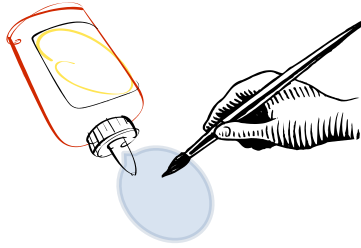
To make corner squares, cut any type of dense cardboard and wax paper into 2 inch squares. Glue two cardboard squares together to form one stiffer square. Adhere wax paper to both sides of stiffer square. Eight squares are needed to repair four corners of a book at one time.

Directions:

Fan damaged corners.

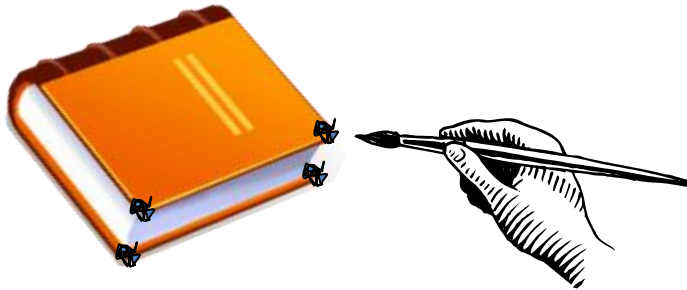


Hint: Use your thumbs to spread damaged corners open.



White glue and brush to the rescue!

Apply white glue to each corner with brush, making sure to get glue down into the damaged layers of the book board.



Use wax paper scraps or put your hand in a sandwich bag to press corner tightly together, shape and smooth. Once you're satisfied with your corner, lightly tap the very tip of the corner with the handle of your brush. This will prevent the corner from drying "sharp" which may cause scratches on tender skin. Place two corner squares over each corner and clamp with binder or bulldog clip. (If using bulldog clips, make sure the round barrel of the clip clears the textblock.) Lay book flat and allow to dry overnight.

