

Repairing Head/Tail

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.

Small jar of water

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

Paper patches

To make paper patches, take a piece of copy paper and fold over 1 ½- 2" along one edge. Using your brush, coat the 1 ½- 2" flap with a thin layer of glue, press down onto the copy paper, smoothing with a bone folder or other flat item. Sandwich your proto paper patch between two sheets of wax paper. Place your wax paper sandwich on a paper towel, add another paper towel and a weight such as another book, a brick, a board, etc. Let dry overnight. Once dry, cut paper ¼" from glued edge. This is your paper patch material.

Wax paper

For making paper patches and to keep glue off your fingers.

Paper towels

For making paper patches and to clean up any mess you make.

Bone folder

Or microspatula, butter knife, popsicle stick, tattle tape inserter, edge of a ruler etc. Anything small and flat will work, as long as you can get it to fit down the spine of the book being repaired.

Elastic bandage

For wrapping book to dry overnight. Or use rubber bands!

Knitting needles

One for each hinge of the book. Or you can use wooden or metal dowel rods, pencils, paintbrushes, kabob skewers, or whatever you have on hand. It just needs to be long and thin enough to fit along the hinge.

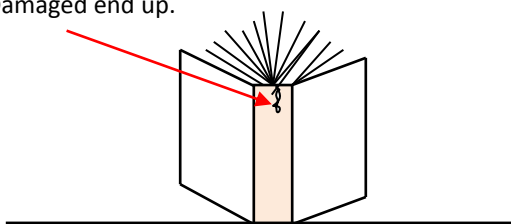
Tweezers

Helpful for positioning your patch and pulling it back out when dry-fitting.

Directions:

Stand book upright with boards at roughly a 90 degree angle and spine of book facing you.

Damaged end up.

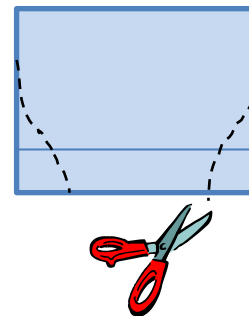
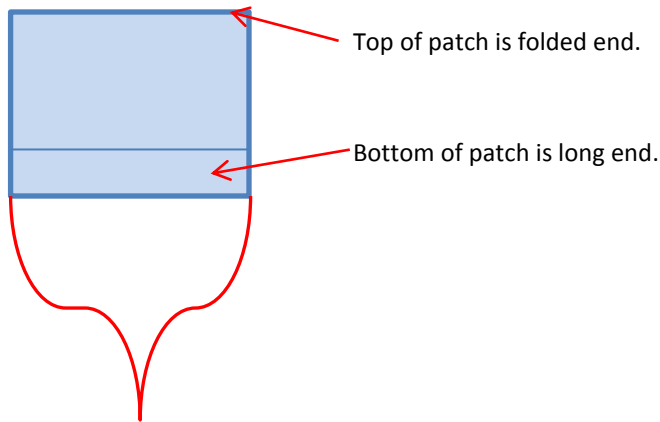


Measure from shoulder to shoulder.



Hint: measure with patch to save a step.

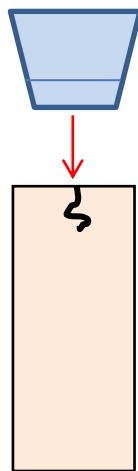
Cut patch to width of shoulders, then shape bottom of patch into a "V" taper.



Cut into roughly "V" shape

Patch cut to width of shoulders.

Dry-fit patch onto damaged area to make sure it is the correct size. Once satisfied with patch, apply white glue to the long side of the patch and insert down the spine. Glue patch to the bookcloth side of the spine only. Use flat item to help adhere patch to spine, making sure edges of damage are glued down.



Line up the top of the patch with the top of the bookcloth.



Wrap book in elastic bandage and secure. Insert rods under elastic bandage and wiggle into place until you feel them "snap" into the hinges. This protects the hinges from becoming misshapen. Square up your textblock and leave to dry overnight.

