



# Basic Book Repair

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## Before You Repair:

1. **Is the item archival/rare/special in some way?** Stop! This workshop taught methods appropriate for circulating collections only. Get other advice for the special things.
2. **Is the item worth repairing?** Consider the cost of your time vs. the cost of replacement. If it is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle, it may be too broken to fix.

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## Basic Repair Supplies:



### *From Library Supply Retailers:*

**Acid-Free, Flexible Book Glue** – Regular craft glue will make the paper brittle and dry hard.

**Single-Stitch Binder Tape** – 1 & 2 in. lengths will cover most. Comes in a few varieties, I find cloth with adhesive backing easiest to work with. Gray is DEEPLY discounted at Brodart right now.

**Hinge Tape** – For when you catch a wearing-out hinge before it's a worn out or busted hinge. Comes in both cloth with adhesive back (like binder tape) and clear tape, it's your preference.

**Clear Book Tape** – looks like packing tape but acid-free. Good for repairing frayed/peeling covers.

**Brodart Book Repair Website** – This used to be in print but now lives on their website with video. <http://www.shopbrodart.com/book-care/>

### *From The Grocery/Dollar Store/Etc.*

**Wax Paper** – any grocery/dollar store brand will do. Do not buy this from library supply.

**Scissors** – good sharp ones without sticker gum on them.

**Rubber Bands** – lots and different sizes.

**Popsicle Sticks & Paint Brushes** – Brushes are necessary for fine work like page tear repairs.

**Book Repair Knife or Box Cutter** – makes cleaner cuts.

## Repairing Broken Hinges on Hardcover Books

1. If the cover is only partially separated, use a box cutter/book knife to split it completely.
2. Clean up loose glue, threads, and paper. We want a clean contact with the book and the cover.
3. Cut a piece of single stitch binder tape the length of the book (not the length of the cover). The width should cover half or more of the width of the spine.
4. Generously apply book glue to the inside of the spine and the cover approximately the width of the binder tape from stitching to edge.
5. Apply book glue to the binder tape on the adhesive side and press onto the glued cover, using your finger as a guide to push the stitching of the binder tape into the hinge of the cover.
6. Smooth the binder tape with a bone or popsicle stick.
7. If needed, place a clean piece of folded wax paper between the glued flap of binder tape on the cover and the loose flap to protect the book while applying glue to the remaining flaps.
8. Generously apply book glue to the back of the book spine and the cover paper of the book (or whatever solid piece of paper is at the beginning of the book)
9. Apply book glue to the binder tape on the adhesive side and press onto the glued back of the spine and cover papers using your fingers as a guide to line up the stitching with the edge.
10. Smooth the binder tape with a bone or popsicle stick.
11. Place a clean piece of folded wax paper between the cover and the book to ensure that they do not dry together. Tug the wax paper down into the hinge so it is as close as possible.
12. Place rubber bands around the book, being sure to roll those on the ends right up to the edge for full adhesion. Clean up any glue that squirts out of the ends.
13. Place book on its spine upright, letting gravity do some of the work for you. Press it between two sturdy objects so that it doesn't fall over.
14. Depending on humidity, leave for 24-48 hours to dry.

## Repairing Broken Paperbacks

1. Regardless of whether the whole book has separated from its cover, the spine is cracked, or you have pages or chunks of pages falling out, the answer is the same: glue it.
2. Clean up loose glue, threads, and ragged edges of paper. We want a clean contact with the book and the cover.
3. Apply book glue at or on the spine, using a paintbrush if working in a tight space, as with individual pages.
4. Place the piece of the book that has come out down in the glue and wiggle around until it's lined up with the rest of the parts as cleanly as possible.
5. Place a clean piece of folded wax paper between the pieces you've repaired and the pieces that were in one piece to ensure that they do not dry together. Tug the wax paper down into the hinge so it is as close as possible. Don't forget to do both sides.
6. Place rubber bands around the book, being sure to roll those on the ends right up to the edge for full adhesion. Clean up any glue that squirts out of the ends.
7. Place book on its spine upright, letting gravity do some of the work for you. Press it between two sturdy objects so that it doesn't fall over or roll up.
8. Depending on humidity, leave for 24-48 hours to dry.
9. If you open the book and new parts are falling apart because the new repair is so sturdy, it may be that the book is too far gone. But, hey, practice!

## Repairing Torn Pages

1. Place a piece of wax paper under the tear wherever applying glue.
2. Using a paintbrush, apply a thin layer of glue between the edges of the tear where they connect. Press together and apply a thin layer on both sides of the page over the tear.
3. Place clean pieces of wax paper on both sides leave on its back cover, using something heavy to press the pages together on top.
4. Depending on humidity, leave for 24-48 hours to dry.
5. This method is great for picture books and glossy pages. Regular paper may wrinkle a little, but it's still better than tape!