

Molly McGee
INF393C
Rebecca Elder
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Rebacking a Cloth Case Binding

Step 1: Gather Supplies

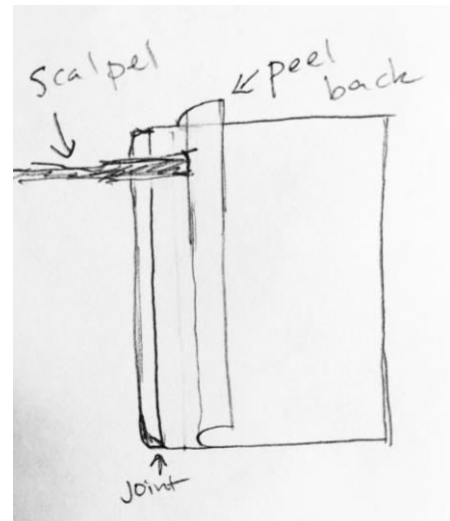
To reback your book, you will need:

- A razor or very sharp knife
- A small object to serve as a mini-spatula
- A bone folder or object with a hard pointed edge which you can use to set your joint
- Book cloth for back cover
- 10 lb. paper for back cover
- Ruler
- Pencil
- PVA (Polyvinyl acetate) glue
- Sheets of Mylar
- Waste paper
- Sandpaper (optional)
- Cutting surface

Step 2: Remove Back

The first step is removing the original back cover of the book.

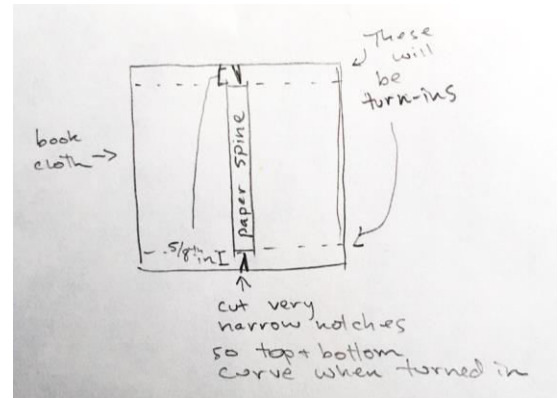
1. Using the razor, cut through the book cloth on the front board about 1/8th of an inch away from the joint. Your goal is to cut through the book cloth but not through the boards. Do the same for the cloth on the back board.
2. Using the mini-spatula, peel the book cloth of the back cover away from the boards and spine of the book. Remove the entire spine.
3. Using the mini-spatula, loosen the book cloth on the covers, about an inch and a half toward the fore-edge of the boards to create flaps where the cloth pulls away from the board.



Step 3: Create New Back

Next, you'll create the new back using the book cloth and 10 lb. paper.

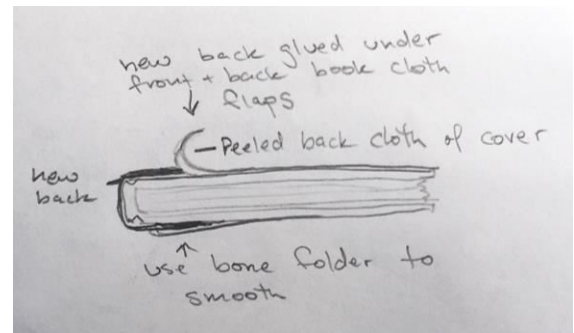
1. Cut the 10 lb. paper to the width of the spine and the height of the boards (**not** the spine). Lay the new spine piece on the book cloth, paying attention to the grain of the book cloth.
2. Using your PVA, glue the paper spine to the book cloth.
3. Draw a horizontal line on the book cloth 5/8ths of an inch above and below the paper spine to serve as a margin for folding in. Trim the book cloth along the horizontal lines.
4. To find the correct width of the book cloth, fold the book cloth around the spine and tuck the new book cloth into the folds created by the cloth connected to the boards. Fold to form a crease, and trim just inside the crease so the new cloth fits inside the folds.
5. Using your razor, cut very narrow notches in the center of the turn-ins, from the edge of the cloth to about 1/8th of an inch away from the edge of the paper spine.
6. Apply PVA to the turn-ins and turn them in, bringing the edges of the notch together to create a slightly curved top of the cloth.



Step 4: Attach New Back

Now that the back has been created, your next step is gluing it in place to protect the spine.

1. Glue out the new book cloth and attach it to the boards.
2. The best way to glue the folds of the original cover to the book cloth for the new back is to use mylar sheets. Apply PVA to the mylar sheet and insert it into the front cover fold with the glue facing up. Insert one side of the new book cloth and ensure your paper spine piece is lined up with the spine. Press down, and use the bone folder to smooth the surface.
3. Repeat for the back, ensuring you pull the book cloth tight around the spine.
4. Use the bone folder to set the joints.



Step 5: Re-attach Title and Finishing Touches

Finish by reattaching the title and using PVA to ensure all pieces are glued down.

1. Trim the original back cover to preserve the original title. Ideally, you should cut the strip to be about 1/8th of an inch shorter and narrower than the spine.
2. Trim the sharp points of each of the corners to prevent future peeling.
3. Apply PVA and glue the strip to the new back cover.
4. Use your mini-spatula or another small object to apply PVA to other places where the cloth is not completely glued down. Pay special attention to the top and bottom edges where you cut the covers back to create flaps.