

Attaching Custom Gilt Leather Labels to Books Spines

Supplies

- Glue – Any white PVA glue will work. Sobo Glue sold at craft stores works best. Elmers will work but it creates a weaker bond. Mixing in a small amount of wheat paste will increase the strength of the bond.
- Small brush – you can also use your finger but it can get messy.
- A few sheets of clean paper towel or clean cloth for wiping
- A piece of clean waste paper.

Steps:

I recommend you read these steps completely before starting so you can work relatively fast.

1. Test where you want the label to fit on the spine and position the book nearby. IMPORTANT -- Double check the contents of the book to make sure the book is right-side up.
2. Place the label face down on waste paper. Have paper towels or cloth nearby.
3. Holding the bottom of the label down with a finger, put a small amount of glue in the center of the label.
4. With the brush or your finger, spread the glue outward from the center over edges of the top half of the label. Use ONLY one-way outward strokes. The object is to avoid getting glue on the front of the label. Backward strokes invariably catch the edge of the label, getting glue underneath.
5. Slide the label down to a clean area of the waste paper, and put your holding finger down in the glued area.
6. Put more glue in the unglued area and spread glue over the edges of the bottom half of the label with outward strokes only.
7. Pick up the label and drop it generally where it should go on the spine. Your sticky holding finger often can be used pick up and move the label in one motion, flopping it gently onto the spine.
8. Wipe your hands clean and position the label into its final position, pressing the label down. Wipe away any excess glue around edges.
9. With another towel, lightly rub the label down to make sure it fully adheres.
10. The glue will fully set in 12 hours.