

Attaching Custom Gilt Leather Labels to Book/Album Spines

Glues

Most household glues will work for attaching the labels. Elmers works for most surfaces. Some customers have used double-stick tape (which, I suspect, may only last for a few years).

For the longest lasting attachment, bookbinders generally use white PVA glue. Brands include Sobo, Gorilla PVA Wood Glue or Elmer's Wood Glue. For an even stronger bond, mix in 1 part wheat paste (made with water & flour) to 2 parts glue.

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. For leather books, the label area should be roughed-up a bit with sand paper or scraped gently with a knife to improve bond.
2. Position the book nearby. **IMPORTANT** -- Double check the book contents to make sure the book is right-side up.
3. Place the label face down on waste paper. Have paper towels or cloth nearby.
4. Holding the bottom of the label down with a finger, put a small amount of glue in the center of the label.
5. 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.
6. Slide the label down to a clean area of the waste paper, and put your holding finger down in the glued area.
7. Put more glue in the unglued area and spread glue over the edges of the bottom half of the label with outward strokes only.
8. 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 onto the spine.
9. Wipe your hands clean and position the label into its final position, pressing the label down. Wipe away any excess glue around edges.
10. With another towel, lightly rub the label down to make sure it fully adheres. You may have to keep pressing down for a minute or so to fully flatten the label against the spine. The glue will fully set in 12 hours.

Note: Most labels are coated with a polymer vanish. They can be handled but the coating may take a few weeks to fully cure.