

# Repairing Missing/Chipped Pieces on Book Spines

First in a series on library-style repair techniques

from

Asterisk Books & Labels

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A book with a missing corner. These “library-style” repair instructions apply to cloth or leather bindings in which the spine material is not pasted down (hollow-backed). Leather binding must have flexible, not stiff leather. Use PVA white glue.



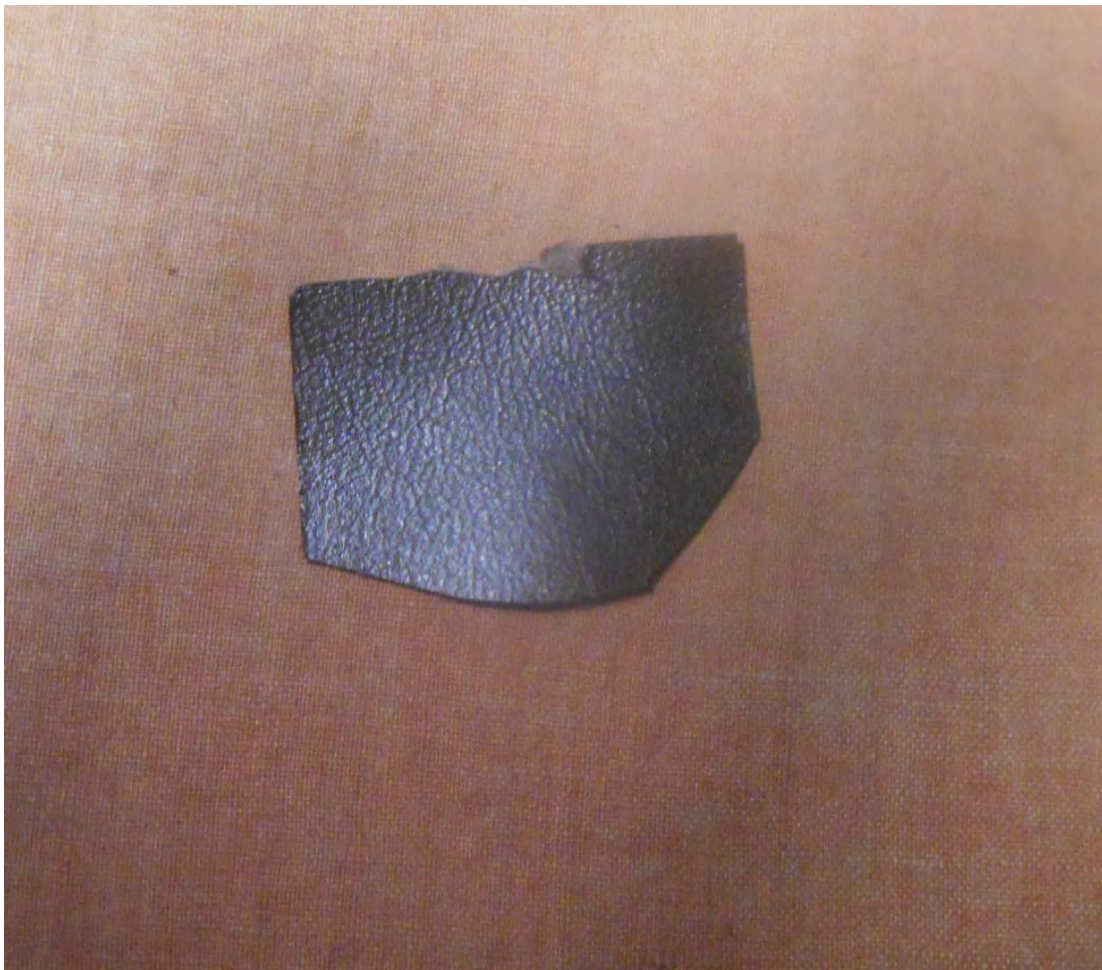
1. With an X-Acto or hobby knife, cut the material along the top of the board so it can be opened up.



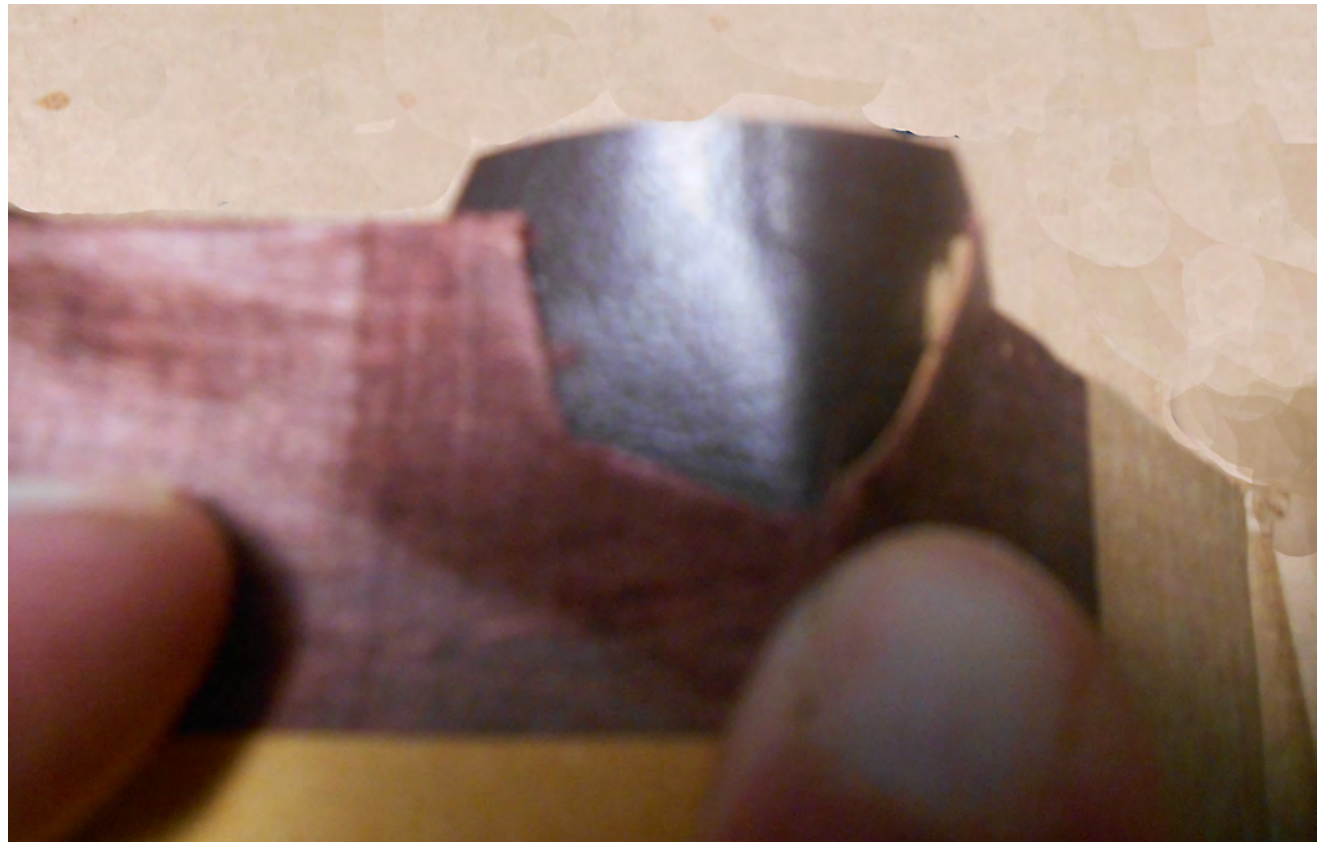
2. With a bone folder, butter knife or something similar, lift the material away from the board to create a pocket



3. Lift the material away from the gutter/hinge area to extend the pocket to the front of the spine.



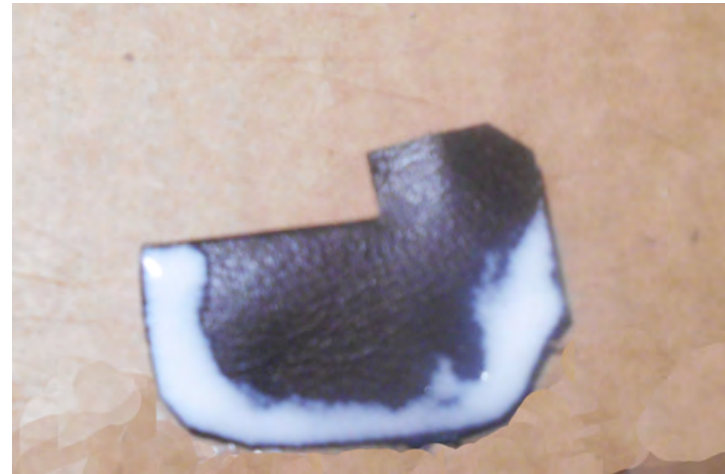
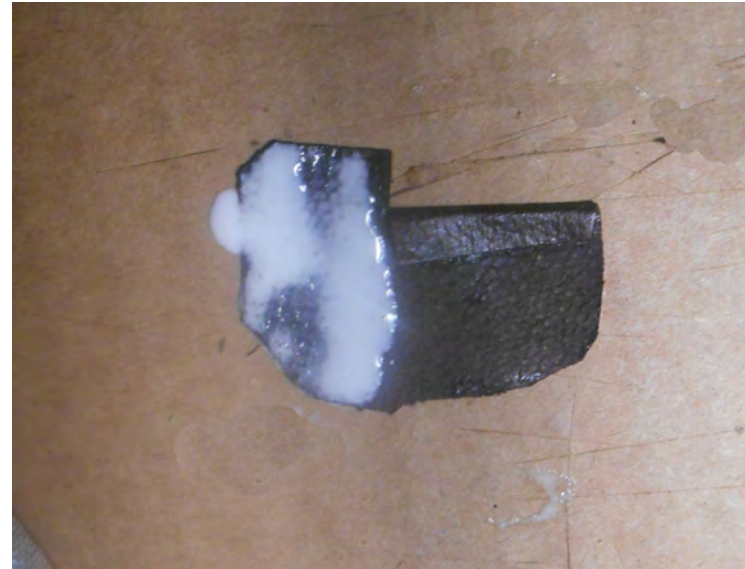
4. Cut a piece of material generally the shape of the pocket – that is, a bit larger than the missing piece.



5. Insert the material in the pocket. You likely will have to reshape the piece to fit better and/or lift more of the cover material to further expand the pocket. Once it fits, mark the location of the hinge on the top of the fitted piece with a fingernail impression or pen



6. Make a small cut (1/8" or so) at the marked hinge location. On the back of the piece, glue down a "fold over" on the portion that will fit along the front of the spine.



7. Put PVA glue as shown on the reverse (top photo) and front of the piece (bottom)



8. Fit the glued piece into the pocket. The x-acto knife can be useful for maneuvering the piece from the back into place. Note: PVA takes a few minutes to get “tacky” and adhere. After a few hours, it gets hard and bonds strongly.



9. Fold the glued tab over the top corner of the board (see optional step below). Press down the edges of the original cover material so glue adheres and wipe away any glue that oozes from edges



9a. Optionally, to clean up the appearance of the fold over tab, you can cut and lift a strip of material on the inside of the board to paste down over the tab (or cut the strip away to allow the tab to lay flatter).



10. Put a bit of glue on the corner of a scrap piece of thin cardboard or cardstock. Wipe the glue under the original cover material lifted from the board and glue down, wiping a way any excess



The finished book.