



# How to Reattach a Cover to a Hardcover Book

Do you have a hardcover book with a cover that has detached from the spine? This guide will show you the proper technique to reattach it.

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# INTRODUCTION

There is nothing as fascinating as transforming damaged material into something useful, just like recycling. Many of us feel reluctant to go through the processes of making the transformation happen, but in the end, the satisfaction is definitely worth it. This guide provides easy step-by-step instructions on how to reattach a damaged cover to a hardcover book.



## TOOLS:

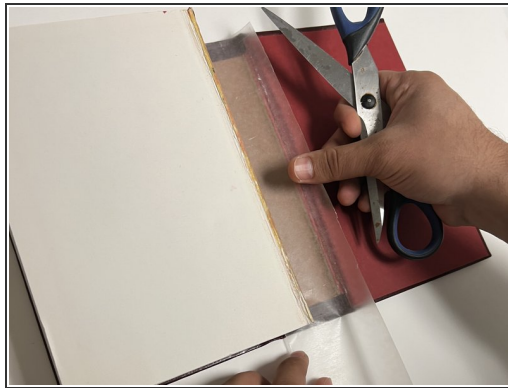
- [Wax paper](#) (1)
- [Utility Scissors](#) (1)
- [A cup of water](#) (1)
- [Small Paintbrush](#) (1)
- [Bone folder](#) (1)
- [Gummed book repair tape](#) (1)
- [2"](#)
- [Rubber Bands](#) (3)
- [Document repair tape](#) (1)

## Step 1 — How to Reattach a Cover to a Hardcover Book



- Open the book to expose the detached cover.

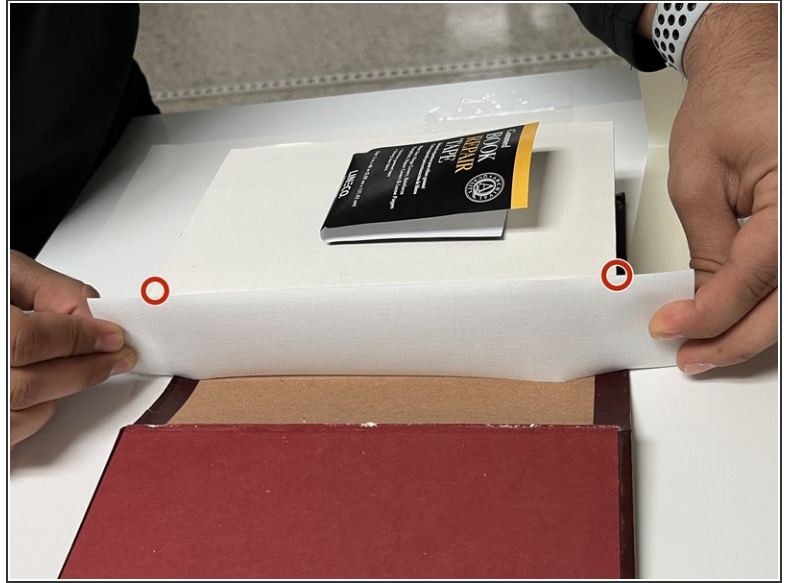
## Step 2



- Cut a strip of wax paper a little longer than the length of the spine ( *about half an inch* ) with your scissors.
- Set the wax paper into the hollow of the spine.
- ⓘ The wax paper should lay flat in the hollow to protect the inner cover of your book.



### Step 3



- Cut a length of book repair tape a little longer than the length of the spine ( *about half an inch*) with your scissors.
- ⓘ The book repair tape needs to be about **twice the width** of the spine of the book. If your book repair tape meets this requirement, skip to **Step 9**. If your book repair tape is not wide enough, continue with **Steps 4 - 8**.

## Step 4



- Cut two more lengths of book repair tape the same length as the first ( *about half an inch longer than the spine of your book* ).
- Fold one piece of book repair tape **lengthwise** (*hot dog style*). The gummed side of the tape should be on the outside of the fold.
- ❗ Book repair tape has **two sides**. One is **gummed** (covered in glue), and one is not. The gummed side will be *slightly yellow* and *darker* than the non-gummed side.

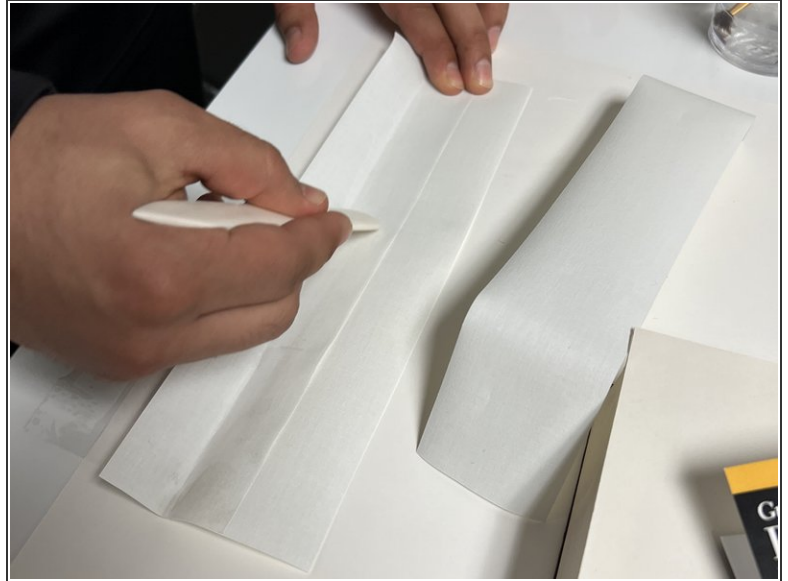
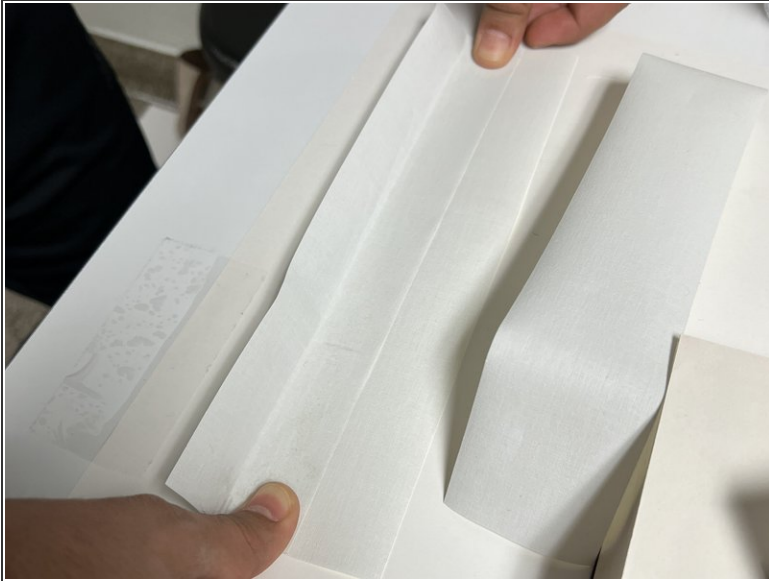
## Step 5



- Set the folded piece of book repair tape flat onto the table.
- Wet your paint brush with water.
- Gently moisten one **gummed** side of the folded book repair tape with your paintbrush. This activates the glue.

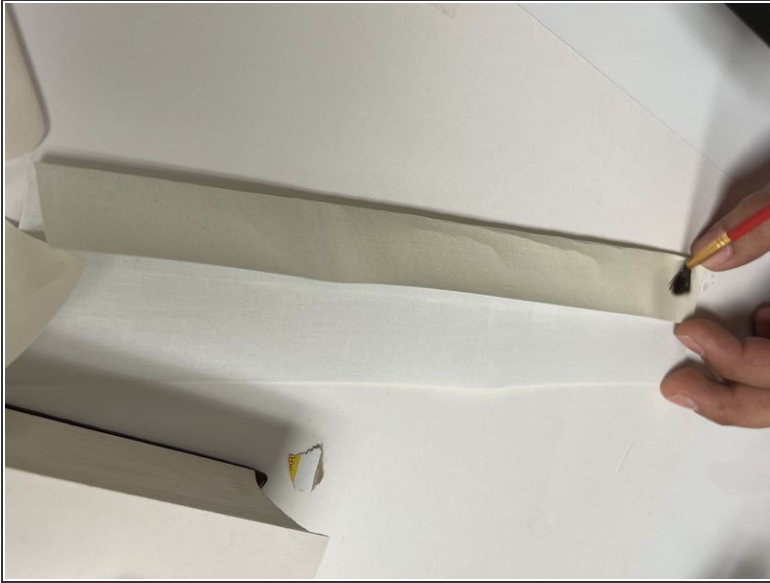
⚠ Be careful not to oversaturate the tape. There should be **no excess water**, but all areas of the tape should be moist.

## Step 6



- Lift the folded book repair tape up by the edges using your fingers.
- Press the moistened side of the tape down on the **bottom half** of the **non-gummed side** of your second piece of book repair tape.
- Press and smooth the two pieces together using the bone folder.
- Allow two to three minutes to dry.

## Step 7

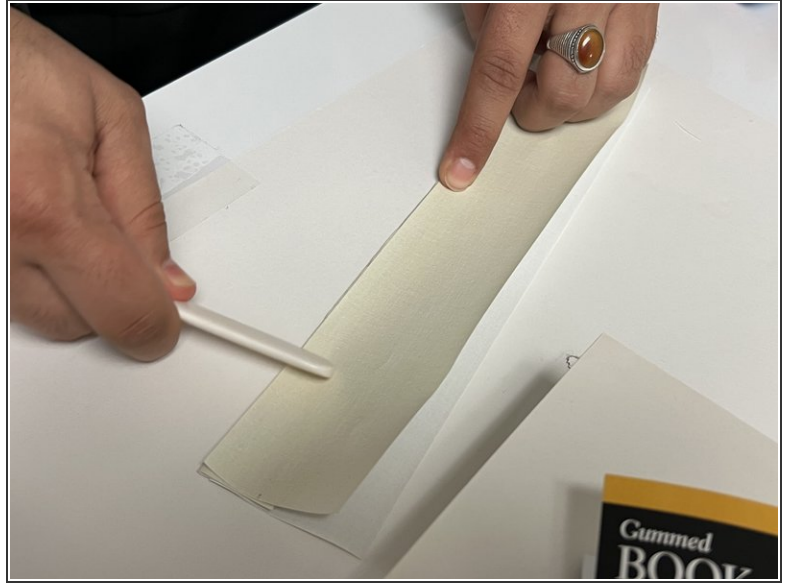
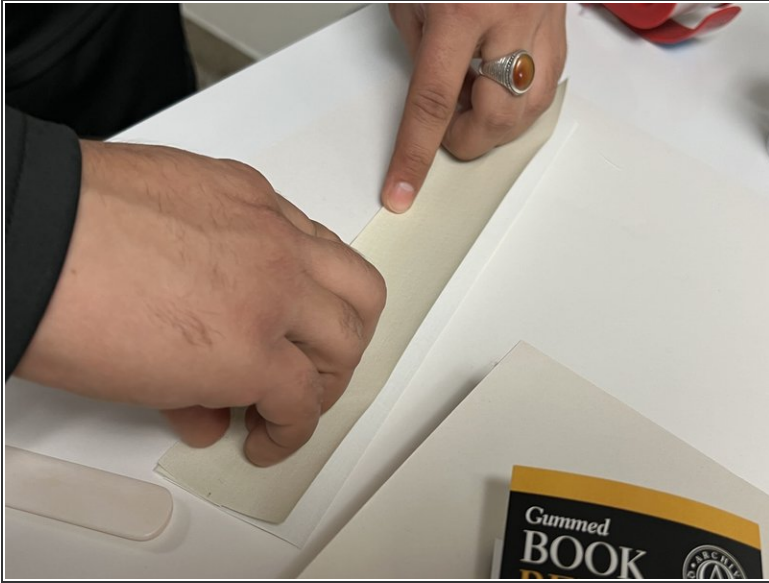


- Wet your paintbrush with water.
- Gently moisten the remaining **gummed side** of the folded book repair tape with your paintbrush.

⚠ Again, be careful not to oversaturate the tape.



## Step 8



- Pick up the third (and final) piece of book repair tape.
  - Press the **bottom half** of the **non-gummed side** to the moistened piece of folded book repair tape.
  - Press and smooth the two pieces together using the bone folder.
  - Allow two to three minutes to dry.
- i** We have used the folded piece of book repair tape to create a hinge, effectively doubling the width of the book repair tape for our repair.



## Step 9



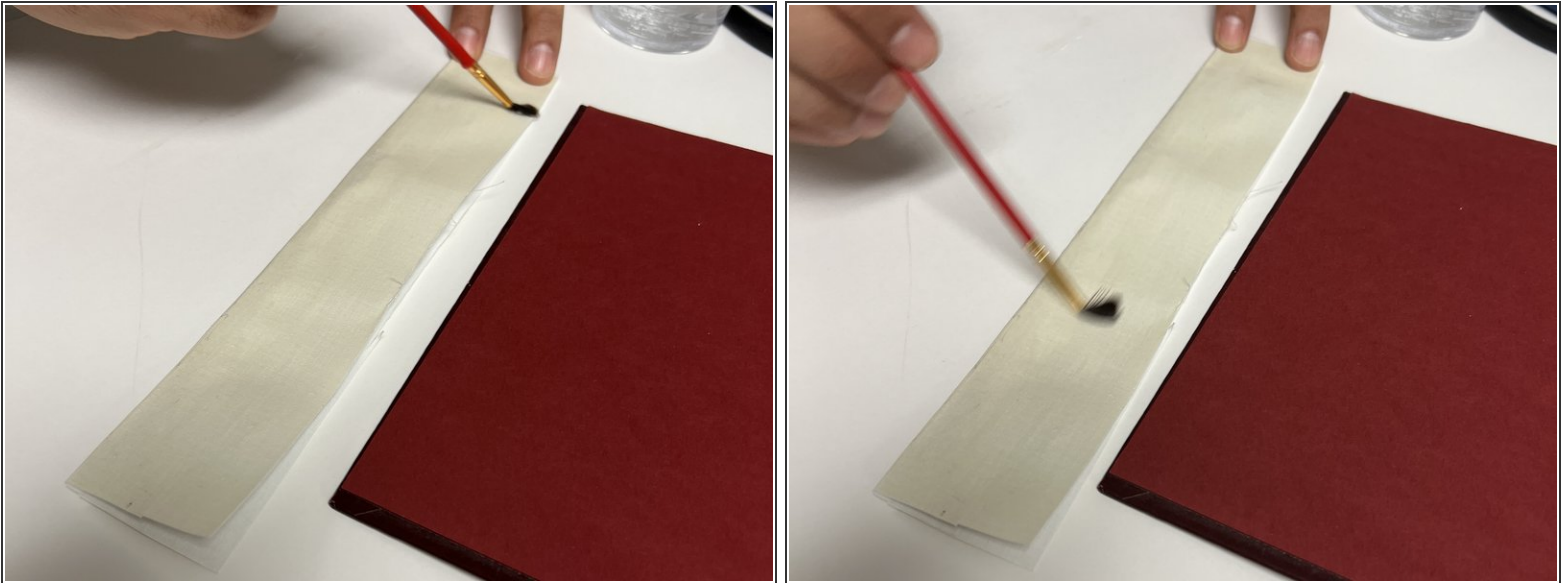
- Fold your piece of book repair tape lengthwise (hot dog style). The **gummed side** of the tape should be on the outside of the fold.
- Press down firmly on the fold to create a tight crease.
- ⓘ Book repair tape has **two sides**. One is **gummed** (covered in glue), and one is not. The gummed side will be *slightly yellow* and *darker* than the non-gummed side.

## Step 10



- If needed, trim the folded book repair tape to size.
- ⓘ When folded, the piece of book repair tape should be the same width as the spine of your book.

## Step 11



- Place the folded book repair tape flat onto the table.
- Wet your paintbrush with water.
- Gently moisten one **gummed side** of the folded book repair tape with your paintbrush to activate the glue.

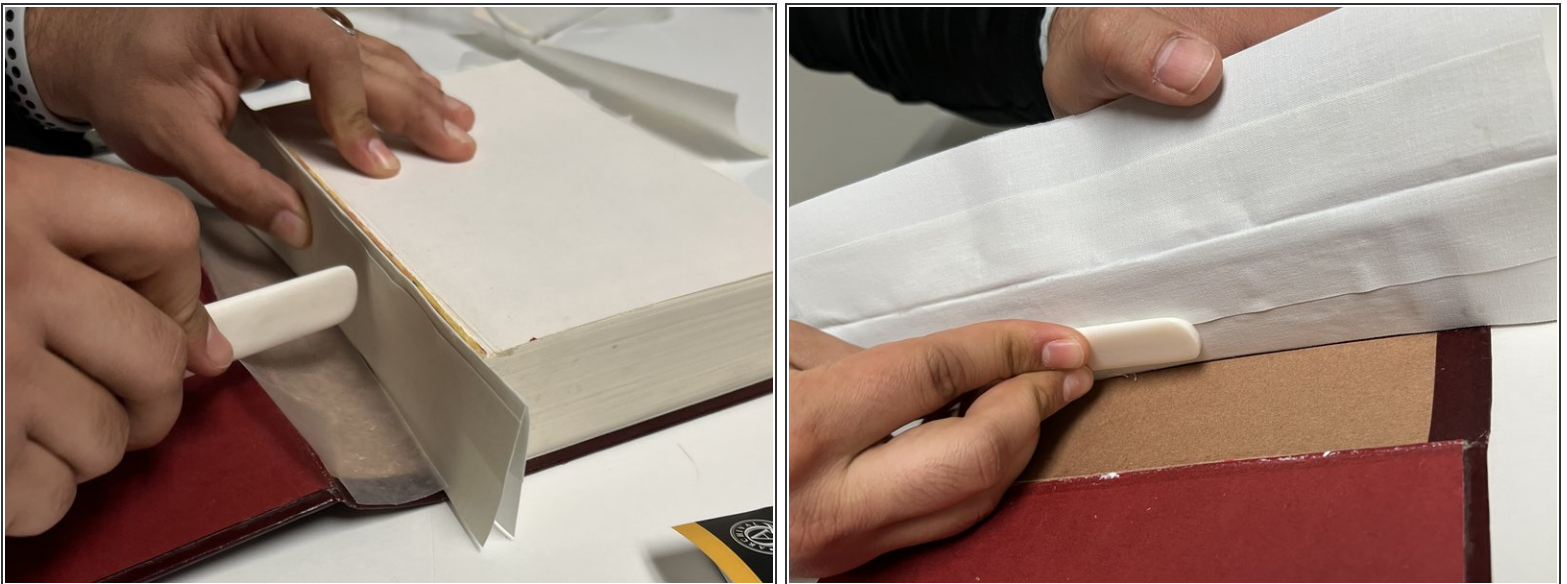
⚠ Be careful not to oversaturate the tape. There should be **no excess water**, but all areas of the tape should be moist.

## Step 12



- Lift up the book repair tape with the **folded edge up**.
- Press the moistened side to the spine of the book ( *the pages* ).
- Press the tape down firmly against the spine with your fingers.

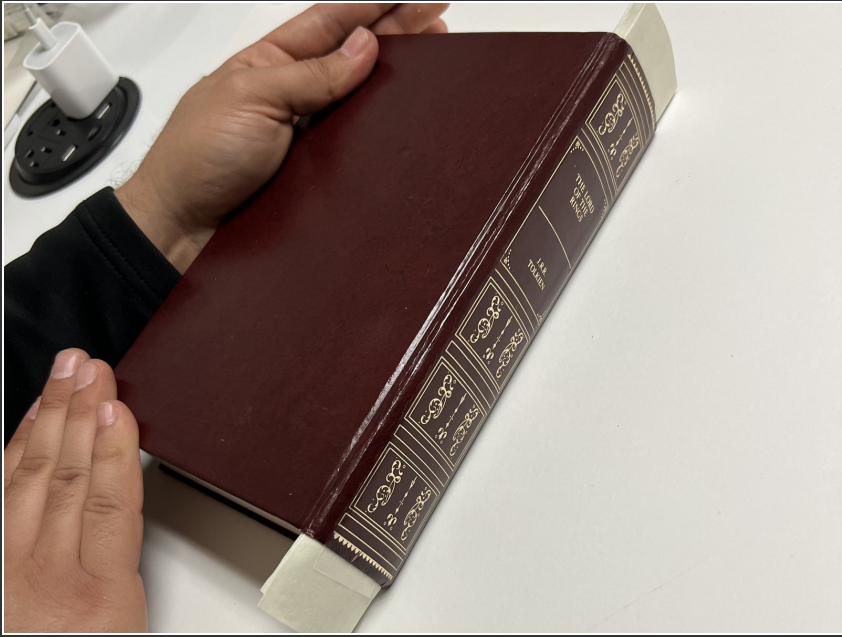
## Step 13



- Use the bone folder to press and smooth the book repair tape to the spine so the glue adheres evenly.



## Step 14



- Close the book.
- Allow two to three minutes to dry.

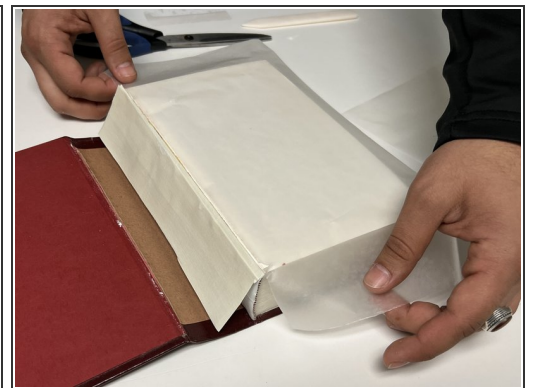


## Step 15



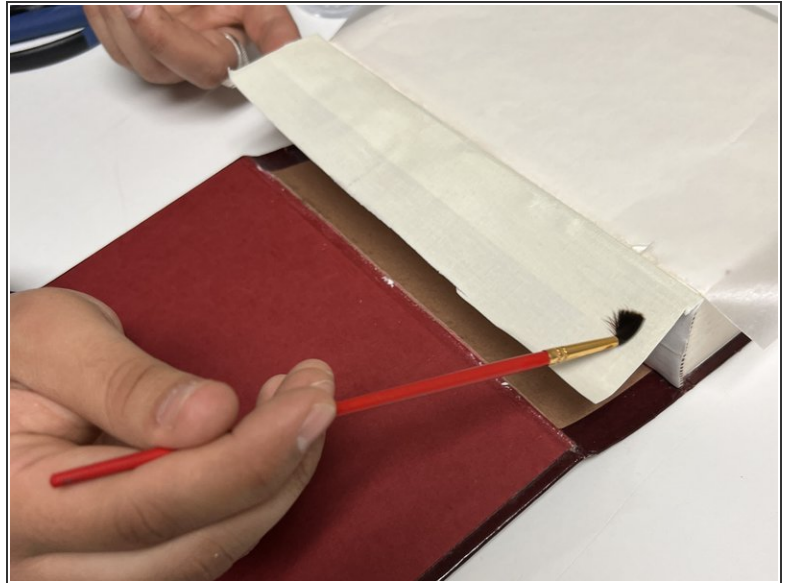
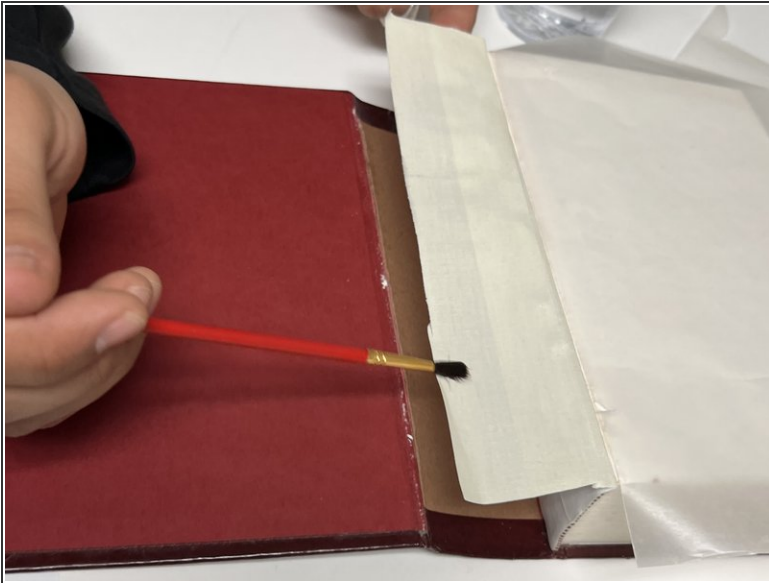
- Reopen the book.
- Remove the wax strip from the hollow of the spine.
- Trim the excess book repair tape with your scissors.
- ⓘ Trim as close to the spine of your book as you can.

## Step 16



- Cut a large piece of wax paper to sufficiently cover the pages of your book.
- Place the wax paper over the pages of your book to protect it.

## Step 17



- Wet your paint brush with water.
- Lift the book repair tape away from the spine of the book.
- Gently moisten the exposed **gummed side** of the tape evenly.

⚠ Again, be careful not to oversaturate the tape with water.

## Step 18



- Hold the book repair tape down with one hand.
- Press the other edge of the book repair tape down towards the spine with the bone folder.
- Push the detached cover towards the spine to attach it to the book repair tape.

## Step 19



- Close the book.
- Keep a firm hand pressing down on the spine.



## Step 20



- Run the bone folder firmly along the spine and crease of the book so that the glue adheres evenly.

## Step 21



- Hold the book firmly shut.
- Wrap a rubber band around the top, middle, and bottom of your book to secure it.
- Let the book settle with the rubber bands for 24 hours.
- Remove the wax paper after the book has settled for at least 24 hours.



## Step 22



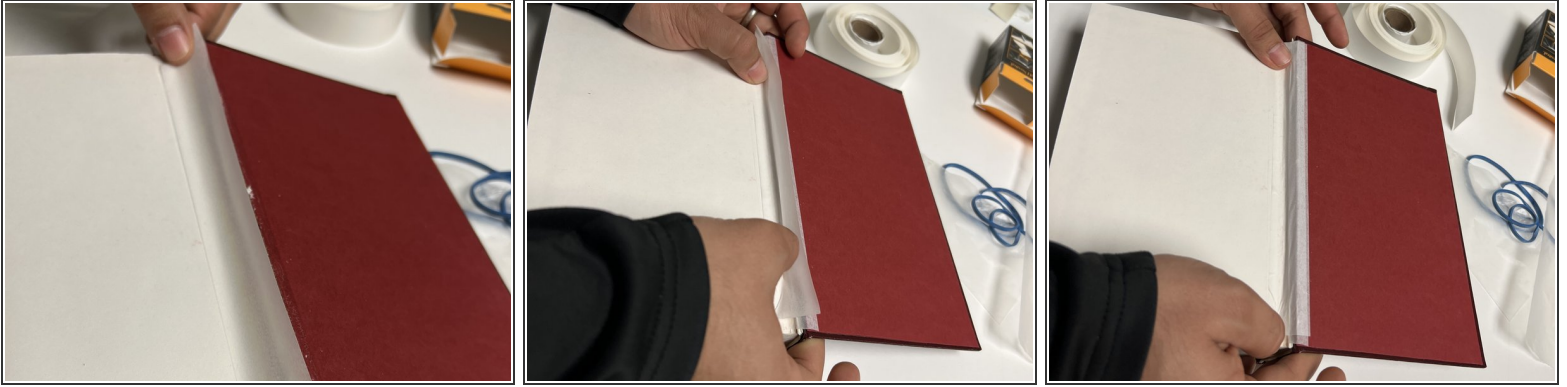
- i** If you are unhappy with the look of your repair, we can use document repair tape to mask it. **Steps 23 - 25** outline this process, but are completely optional.

## Step 23



- Cut a length of document repair tape to adequately cover the repair (*about the same length as the spine of your book*).

## Step 24



- Remove the adhesive back of the document repair tape.
  - Align the tape along the crease of the spine with the exposed repair.
  - Smooth the tape down **carefully** with your fingers.
  - If desired, repeat this process with another piece of document repair tape.
- i** When aligning the document repair tape, about half of the tape should adhere to the cover and the other to the page beside it.

## Step 25



- The repair is now masked with the document repair tape.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.