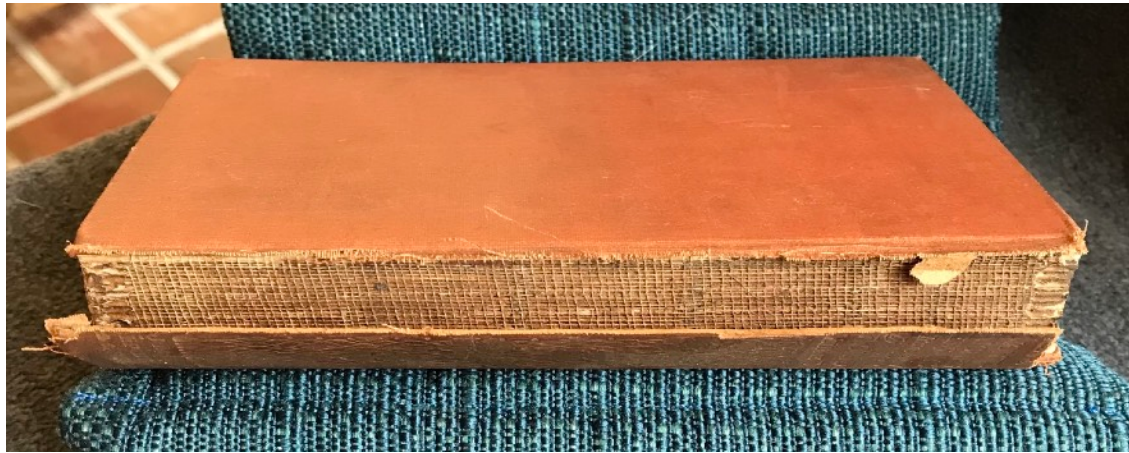


## Spine Lap

The boards on this book are securely attached but the thin cloth on the covers has split along the joint. The structure of the book is basically sound, and the needed fix is mostly cosmetic. Instead of a re-back mend, the spine lap offers a low impact alternative.



### Supplies needed:

- micro spatula,
- medium weight Japanese tissue
- PVA & brush
- bone folder
- waste paper
- Mylar or polyethylene strips
- an ACE bandage or Holytex

### Method:

1. Take a strip of Japanese tissue, approximately 1 inch in width and just shy the height of the spine. Fold down the center to make a hinge.
2. Paint a 1/2 inch stripe of PVA onto the spine of the book, directly on top of the old spine linings. Place the hinge of tissue onto the PVA/spine, aligning the fold with the shoulder of the book. Place a strip of Mylar or polyethylene inside the hinge to prevent the hinge from gluing to itself. Smooth with bone folder. At this point you can allow the spine side to dry, or you can move on to gluing down the spine.
3. Place a piece of waste paper under the free hinge of tissue. Apply PVA and remove the waste paper. Keeping the Mylar in place, drop the spine on top of the hinge, making sure it is aligned with the fabric on the cover and any visible grain or printing. Wrap with an ACE bandage or Holytex until dry.



Adapted from a method learned while working at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.  
Eliza Gilligan