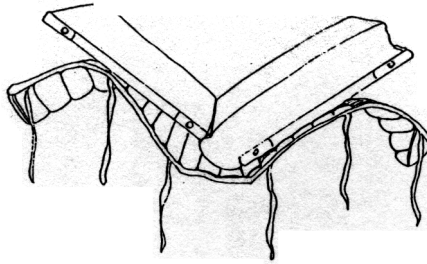


Book Cozy



Description:

A book cozy is a padded and quilted cover for a very large book. This alternative to a clam shell box allows the book to be used in the "box". A book in a cozy should be shelved horizontally. The cloth cover reduces the friction between the book and the shelf unit, facilitating retrieval of the book. If necessary, a cozy can be washed in a washing machine. The cozy does not offer support for large fragile books though it might be possible to modify a cozy by adding rigid internal supports for one or both boards.

Materials:

sturdy cloth preferably unbleached	\$ 42.10 per yard, the cloth is 84" wide	100% linen (Ulster Linens # 3151) canvas or denim might work
quilt batting	\$ 2.37 per yard, 45" wide	100 % polyester (2 layers per cozy) "6 oz. " weight = approx. 1" thick
quilt binding	\$ 2.35 per package (3 yds.) approx. 2 packages per cozy	Wrights double fold (4" wide) 50% polyester, 50% cotton
linen sewing tape 3/8" wide	\$ 10.95 per roll (36 yds.) 20 ties per cozy each 12" long	normally used as sewing supports for bookbinding
thread	\$1.75 per spool (300 yds. 2 spools per cozy	sewing weight poly/cotton, same color as the linen
sewing machine	Singer "Stylist" model # 538	A heavy duty is better, the machine used for this project was not optimal, but did the job
sewing needle		long and slim with a large eye
straight pins		longish, with heads
tailor's chalk		white chalk in a holder
single fold bias tape	\$1.40 per package (4 yds.)	for the edges of the label
cotton embroidery thread		for the label
medium weight cloth in a contrasting color	8F1 = \$34.95 per yd., 54" wide 3151 = \$42.10 per yd., 84" wide	handkerchief linen, Ulster Weaving #8 F1 or 3151 for the label

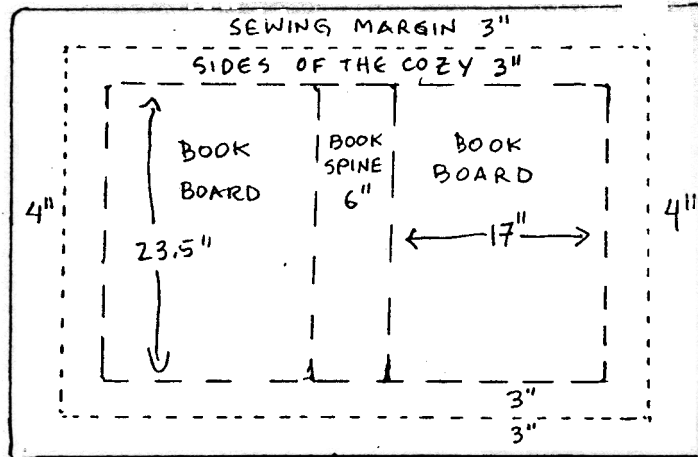
Most of these supplies can be found at a fabric store, the sewing tape is available from bookbinding suppliers. The linen was purchased from Ulster Linens in New York City, (212) 684-5534. Prices listed are current. The cost of the supplies for 5 cozies was about \$400, so the average cost for one cozy is about \$80. It takes one person about 100 hours to make a cozy. Basting and quilting take the largest part of the time. Pre-quilted cloth is available in fabric stores, but the samples I have seen do not look durable enough for use with large books. The cozy on display was made for a book with these dimensions: 23.5 " long, 17" wide, 6" thick. The largest cozy was made for a book 33.5" X 23" X 5.5". Five cozies have been made at the HRHRC, all for folio size books with wooden boards and metal bosses.

Procedure:

1. Measure the book: length, width, and thickness. The size of the finished cozy will allow for an overlap on the head, tail, and fore edge. Linen shrinks along the selvage when it is washed, for example, a 42 1/2" long piece shrank to 38". This linen was dried on a clothes line, not in a dryer. The size of the cloth will also slightly diminish parallel to the quilted seams. Consider this when planning the amount of cloth for each cozy and do not cut the cloth to size before washing.

2. Wash the cloth in warm water without detergent and line dry it. Press with a steam iron.

3. The diagram shows the dimensions of the book, the cloth including seams, and an allowance for the diminution in size due to shrinkage from the quilting.



We made cozies along the grain and against the grain of the cloth, it worked either way.

Using pinking shears, cut one piece of cloth for the inside and one for the outside of the cozy. Cut two pieces of batting to the same dimensions as the cloth.

4. Place one piece of batting on top of the other. Align the corners and edges carefully. Pin the two pieces of batting together with long pins. Pins with brightly colored heads are easier to find and remove when the sewing is finished.

Baste the two pieces of batting together, sewing by hand. The stitches can be very long and irregular. Use a single thread rather than a doubled thread. This thread will not be visible in the finished cozy, but in subsequent construction, basting threads will be removed after the machine quilting. The sewing machine will sew through some of the basting thread. It is easier to remove a single rather than doubled basting thread after it has been sewn through.

5. Use the same method; pinning, and then basting with a single thread and long stitches, to baste the linen to one side of the basted batting. Be careful to align the edges and corners. The linen we used looked the same on both sides. If other cloth is used it is important to be sure that the front of the cloth is showing on the outside.

6. Baste the second linen cover to the uncovered side of the batting. Try to place the basting stitches so that they do not fall where the final sewing will be. The basting thread is visible on the outside and it is hard to remove if there is a lot of sewing through it.

7. Mark the quilting lines on one side of the cozy with tailor's chalk. Starting in the middle of the cloth, draw parallel lines to indicate the placement of the quilting which will be done with the sewing machine. The lines should be 4" apart.

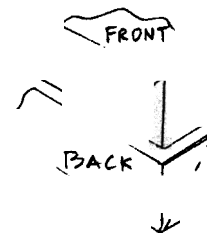
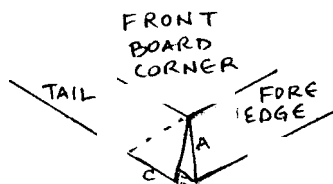
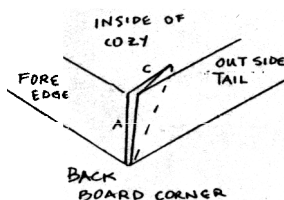
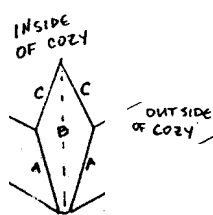
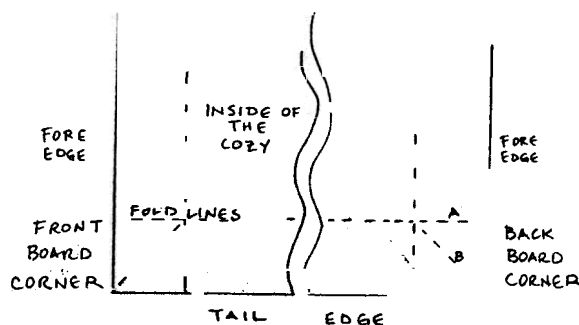
8. Sew the quilting lines with the machine, beginning in the middle of the cozy, and working to the outer edges. To do this it will be necessary to roll the cozy up tightly so that it will fit in between the body of the sewing machine and the needle. The rolled quilt will stick out like a big log. The sewing machine operator may need to be somewhat of a contortionist to complete the quilting of the cozy. I found it easier to sew while standing.

9. After quilting, remove the basting thread which is visible on each side of the cozy. Roll the cozy up again, and beginning in the middle, and sew another set of lines between the last set of lines, making quilted parallel lines 2" apart.

The quilting looked most even and least wrinkled when the seams were all sewn in the same direction. I did not use a quilting foot on the machine and there was some wrinkling of the cloth on the under side of the cozy. Quilting worked best when I disengaged the feed dog and presser foot controls of the sewing machine and guided the cloth under the needle with both hands. The cozy on display was sewn with a better quality machine and a quilting foot. It went much more smoothly than the four other cozies which were completed with less than optimal equipment.

10. When all of the quilted lines are sewn, test the fit of the cozy on the book. If the cozy is too large, trim equal amounts of cloth from opposite sides so that the quilting will match up nicely. If the cozy is too small you must add extra cloth to the short sides. The two covers of the cozy should overlap two inches around the edges of the book.

11. Pin the corners as shown in the illustration. Take the cozy off of the book. Baste the corners by hand. Sew the corners with the machine. The corners are made in this way so that there will not be too much thickness on one side.



12. Baste the quilt binding around the edges of the cozy. Be careful to align the edges of the quilt binding on the inside and outside of the cozy so that the machine sewing will neatly attach the binding on the inside and outside. Use the machine to sew the quilt binding to the cozy. Finish the raw edges of the quilt binding with a blind stitch, sewn by hand.

13. Put the book in the cozy. Cut 20 ties, each 12" long. Position the pairs of ties evenly, 3 along the head edge, 3 along the tail edge, 4 along the fore edge of each cover of the cozy. Using a regular office stapler, staple each tie to the cozy. Temporarily attaching the ties in this way avoids using pins which tend to fall out or poke as you sew. Sew the ties to the cozy by hand or with the machine.

14. The cozy labels were embroidered by hand. The numbers were generated on a Macintosh computer and enlarged using a photo-copier. The number was then traced onto the cloth in pencil and embroidered with a satin stitch. The edges of the label were finished with bias tape sewn by machine to the back and by hand to the front. The label was sewn to the cozy by hand. A calligrapher with a laundry marker could also do a nice job.

The book cozy was designed by Mary Baughman, the construction method was developed by Mary Baughman and Alexandra Greathead. Alexandra came up with the clever corners and embroidered the labels; the illustrations and this text are by Mary Baughman.