

## Exercise #8 Repairing Paper Losses Using Japanese Paper and Wheat Starch

Starch paste and Japanese paper provide the strongest archival mend. However the mend should not be so strong as to cause a breaking edge, which is why Japanese paper is suitable for mending large losses. Japanese paper is see-through and should be a lighter weight than the original paper so it can be placed on top of print or manuscript inks, if necessary. Starch paste is reversible in water.

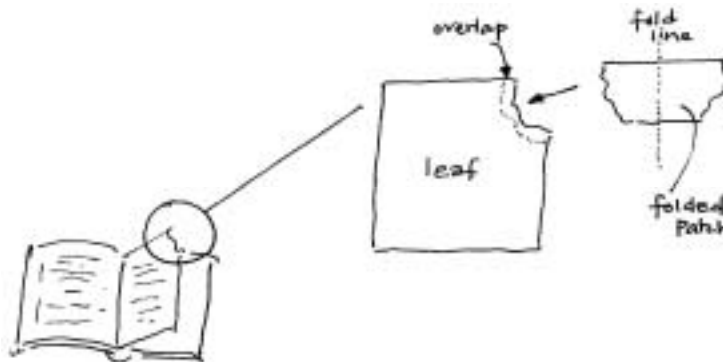
**This repair is most often used for:** large losses of paper on the edge, corner, or in the middle of the page.

### Tools and Materials:

Japanese paper	starch paste – wheat or rice
tweezers	ruling pen/water brush
ruler	microspatula
bone folder	paste brush
scrap paper	waxed paper
Mylar	blotting paper
boards and weights	

### Procedure:

1. Cut a piece of Japanese paper twice the size of the missing area and fold in half.
2. Place a piece of Mylar on top of the leaf, underneath the Japanese paper.
3. Place the folded Japanese paper so as to overlap the area of the mend. Trace the shape of the tear using a water brush, ruling pen or awl.



4. Dilute the starch paste with water to a thin consistency similar to milk.
5. Cut the Japanese paper at the fold into two pieces.
6. Paste one piece on top of the page overlapping the loss edge by 1/8". Let dry.
7. Paste the other piece, and overlap the top side of the loss edge on the other side.
8. Put in a blotter pack to dry. It should take an hour to dry. The use of a tacking iron can speed up the process.