

Repairing Thick Paper Losses Using Japanese Paper and Wheat Starch

This repair is most often used for: journal covers.

Procedure:

The top and bottom piece of the sandwich should overlap the torn edge of the loss – these two repair pieces are torn. The middle piece should butt up against the loss edge – this piece is cut. The thickness of the middle piece can vary depending on the thickness of the paper being mended.

1. Cut three pieces of Japanese paper, each large enough to cover the shape of the loss but larger than the size of the page.
2. Using a piece of Mylar as a barrier sheet, trace the shape of the tear using a water brush or ruling pen.
3. Paste out the bottom piece on scrap paper and overlap the edge of the Japanese paper mend onto the edge of the torn page. Put between wax paper and boards and weight – leave for five minutes.
4. Turn over the page with the mend carefully onto a new piece of waxed paper. Paste out the middle piece on a piece of scrap paper.
5. Using tweezers and microspatula, lay the pasted side of the middle piece to butt up to the edge of the torn page.
6. Paste out the top piece on a piece of scrap paper and overlap the edge onto the torn page similar to the bottom piece.
7. Rub down the mend with the bone folder being careful to smooth out air bubbles and wrinkles.
8. Place polyester web on top and sandwich with blotter, boards, and weight. It should take an hour to dry. Using a tacking iron can speed up the process.
9. When dry, trim the excess Japanese paper to size of page.

Quality control:

When dry, curl test the repair. Is the patch thicker or stiffer than the leaf? Is the adhesion working?