

Tools

Some tools we will use, in addition to scissors, mat knife, ruler, etc., are:

Bone folder:



A **folder** is a tool approximately 6 - 8" long and about 1 - 1 1/2" wide. A typical folder is approximately 1/8" thick, smooth with one pointed end and one rounded end made from animal bone or plastic. Folders are used for many things such as creasing paper, smoothing down repair tissues and working cloth into a joint area. Some plastic folders are available with two round ends. When purchasing a folder, try to buy one made of bone with one rounded end and one pointed end. That tool will be much more versatile. Bone folders can also be filed to a desired shape and size while plastic folders cannot.

Microspatula:



A **microspatula** is a metal tool, approximately 6 - 8" long with one rounded end and one pointed end. Use a microspatula to pick up pasted strips of Japanese repair tissue, lift book cloth or endpapers away from the book board, or apply glue or paste in a very tight area. Microspatulas are manufactured very thin and many book binders file or sand them even thinner.

Brushes:



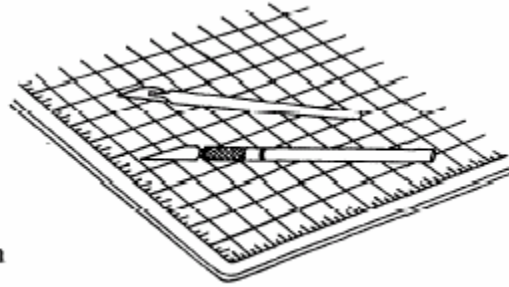
A good assortment of **brushes** makes repairing books much easier.

The size of the surface to be pasted or glued determines the size of the brush used, so keep a variety (thin, medium, thick) on hand. Round or flat bristle brushes be used.

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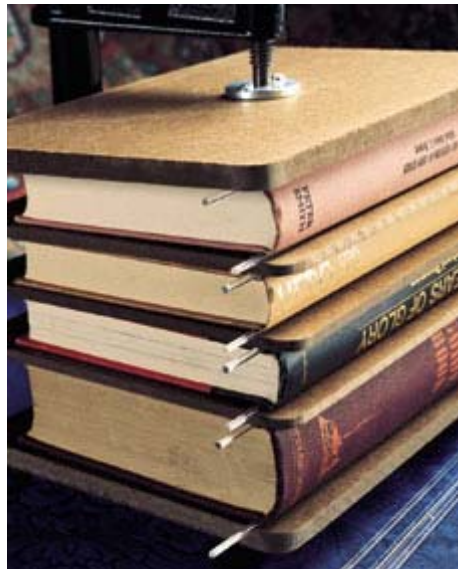
Cutting mat and scalpels

A self-healing cutting mat and sharp X-acto knife, scalpel or breakaway utility knife such as Olfa Silver makes precise cutting easy and fast. It is important to always work with a sharp blade when cutting or trimming repair materials. Attempting to cut with a dull blade will usually result in a torn edge that needs even more repair.



Instead of scalpels we can also use mat knives (utility knives)

Plexiglas pressing rods



Knitting needles can be substituted for the Plexiglas rods.