



Drum Leaf Binding:

A contemporary binding developed by Timothy Ely. A number of factors lead to the development of it. Tim studied vellum binding in England in the 70's and learned how vellum was drummed to boards to minimize cockling and pull. ("Drumming" means simply to stretch a membrane tightly over a surface, adhering it to the substrate only at the sides, like the surface of a banjo or the head of a drum.) While working, he found a need to carry his intricate compositions outward from and across the gutter and to have a flat surface for his paintings. He also preferred to work on only one side of a folio, adding pinholes and small precise knife cuts to his compositions. The drum leaf evolved as a structure to meet his needs. He designed it to display artwork in a book format. It is an adhesive-based structure (no sewing) that opens flat for full page spreads.



Tools & Supplies:

Bone folder (teflon preferred), three small Irwin clamps, metal ruler, exacto knife with blades, awl, cutting board, pencil, masking tape, sharpie pen, small glue brush (small foam brush will work), scissors, wax paper, PVA, two masonite boards slightly larger than book or two scrap boards of equal size that are larger than the text block, waste paper for gluing, dividers, weights or a heavy book, key stock metal square bar, sand paper or emory board.



Materials: book board for cover, thin board for spine, 7 - 9 sheets of paper with grain parallel to spine length, decorative papers for end sheets, covers and inner corner treatment (optional), book cloth for spine or full cover.



STEPS:

PREPARE TEXT BLOCK

1. Determine grain of paper. Fold text and end sheets in half with the grain of the paper. Press with a bone folder.
2. Optional: Tip end sheets to first and last text folio.
3. Knock up (or square up) the folded edges against your work surface to get them straight. Stack the text block with the scrap boards on the top and bottom, boards aligned with the open edges.
4. Clamp the board 'sandwich' checking for alignment with Irwin clamps or drop the text block into a finishing press. Allow the text block spine edge to peek out about a mm beyond the boards. Once aligned, tighten press.
5. Flatten folds on spine of text block with bone folder to create flat surface for PVA.
6. Apply glue lightly to the folded edges. Pinch the book board in the center if it looks like you can see space between the pages. Hold as long as you can. Let dry. (This is not an issue when using a finishing press.)
7. Apply glue again to the spine of the text block. Apply a strip of medium-weight Japanese tissue to it. Let dry.



PREPARE SPINE AND COVER:



8. Unclamp. Remove the boards.

9. Open book in front of you to last page. Place a piece of scrap paper to cover this page and turn to the back second-to-the-last page. Apply about a one-inch stripe of PVA to spine edge between the folio. Apply PVA to remaining spine edges between folios. Use a thin coat. Nip and dry.

10. Apply about a one-inch strip of PVA between folios at fore edge. Nip and dry.

11. Trim book and place under weight while you prepare the cover.

PREPARE SPINE AND COVER:

12. Cut cover boards to same size as trimmed text block plus extra height and width as preferred. It is important that the grain of the board runs lengthwise to the spine. Mark with arrow to show grain. Also mark head and tail of boards.

13. Cut spine strip. Length: the same length as cover boards. Width: the width of text block plus width of two board thicknesses.

14. With dividers, make a score line on both cover boards the same width as the spine piece.

15. Make another score line past the first score line.

Width of line is determined by the width of the spine collar piece.

16. Apply inner edge corner treatment/decoration to boards - a little beyond second score line and down same length along spine edge.

17. Cut spine collar piece. Measure of collar piece is width of text block + two board thicknesses + two second score line widths.

18. Attach spine strip to spine collar piece.

19. Turn in head and tail of spine collar piece and glue down. "Tuck" in edges along spine piece.

CONSTRUCT BOOK:

20. Using waste paper, mask off spine edge of boards at first score line.

21. Apply glue between the two score lines.

22. Attach collar piece to spine strip and cover boards, with no space between the spine strip and cover boards attending to head and tail alignment.

23. Check fit on text block. Nip in press with text block inserted. Let dry.

24. With dividers make tick marks on front of covers to determine placement for cover material.

25. Tip cover material onto covers, using tick marks to align properly. Nip and let dry.

26. Carefully cut and turn in head, tail and fore-edge cover material. Let dry.

27. Drum PVA onto end sheets of text block and attach to cover.



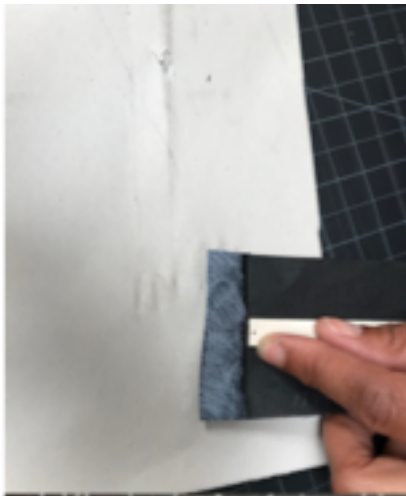
28. Insert wax paper sheet between end sheets and covers.
Nip in press.



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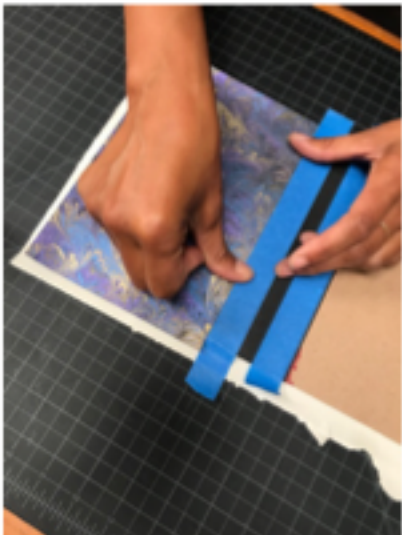


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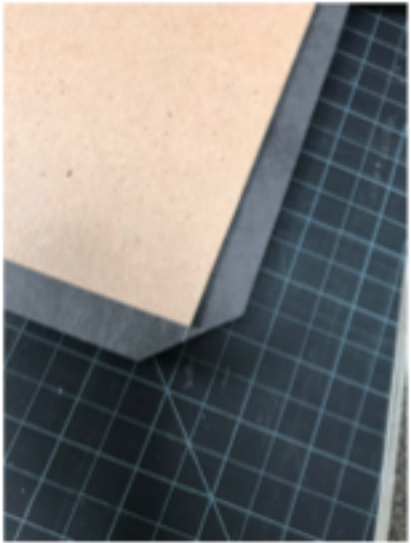


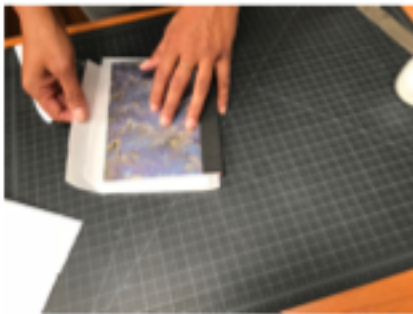
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