

These cases can be custom-made to fit any oddly sized book or document you need to protect.

Be forewarned: This project is best suited to experienced crafters. If you're not handy with an X-Acto knife, you're better off buying a premade book box.

All measurements are in inches and are approximate. As you work on your box, it is entirely appropriate to adapt the chart to your needs.

Before you get started, make sure to wash your hands (and don't put on any lotion), and have all your materials ready to go.

Instructions

1. Measure your book. Enter the dimensions into the chart below and calculate the sizes of the pieces of bookbinder's board you'll need to cut. Plot them out on your board before you start cutting to minimize the number of cuts you have to make.
2. Cut the 10 pieces of bookbinding board with a utility knife and a sturdy metal ruler. A tip: Pulling the knife across the board many times is better than pressing down too hard and breaking your blade or getting an uneven cut. Remember to mark your pieces so you know which belong to the base and which belong to the lid.
3. Apply glue to the edge of the base, attaching one of the sides. Glue one piece at a time, using the triangle to make sure the sides are at right angles and aren't leaning. Repeat for the other three sides of the base and the four sides of the lid.
4. Set the base and the lid aside to dry. The base should be slightly smaller than the lid so it fits inside. If you have rough edges or an extra-long piece sticking out, trim the excess board carefully with an X-Acto knife.
5. Set the base on the acid-free paper and cut out a square large enough to wrap around the sides of it. Do the same for your lid. Cover the bottom of each with a thin layer of glue and put it in the center of its square of paper. Smooth out any wrinkles with a bone folder or baren.
6. Cut the corners so paper flaps can be folded around the edges and glued. Apply a thin layer of glue to the paper and carefully fold it over the edge, smoothing it out with your fingers as you go.
7. Cut pieces of paper to fit inside the base and lid to hide the board. Measure the insides first to get the right size. Apply a thin layer of glue to the inside of the base and the lid, and smooth it down with your fingers or a bone folder.
8. Let the box lid and base totally dry before putting your book in it. For extra protection, wrap your book in a few sheets of acid-free tissue paper.
9. Cut a length of linen tape to put in the base of the box before your book goes in it; this will help you more easily extract the book from the box. Cut another length of linen tape to tie the box shut.

Calculate Your Dimensions (fill in the gray boxes)

	Height	Width	Length	No. of Pieces
Your book				
Base piece	H+1/8=		L+1/8=	one
Base L side		W+1/8=	L+1/4=	two
Base H side	H+1/8=	W+1/8=		two
Lid base	H+5/16=		L+5/16=	one
Lid L side		W+1/4=	L+1/2=	two
Lid H side	H+5/16=	W+1/4=		two

Materials You'll Need

- two-ply bookbinder's board
- sturdy utility knife
- X-Acto knife
- PVA (polyvinyl acetate) glue
- glue brush
- metal ruler
- triangle (or other object with a right angle)
- pencil
- acid-free cover-weight paper
- unbleached linen or cotton tape
- acid-free tissue paper
- scrap paper to keep glue from getting everywhere

Watch a demonstration

Click this box to view a step-by-step slideshow of this project online.

Where to Find Supplies

- **Hollander's**
(734) 741-7531, <www.hollanders.com>
- **Talas**
(212) 219-0770, <www.talas-nyc.com>
- **Blick Art Materials**
(800) 933-2542, <www.dickblick.com/categories/bookmaking>