

ARCHIVAL BOOK MOUNTING

With Mylar-D

© James Miller, CPF February 1999

PURPOSE: To provide a secure, archival mount by which books of nearly any size, shape, and condition may be prepared for framing.

METHOD: The book is to be wrapped both horizontally and vertically, in two strips of DuPont Mylar-D archival, high-clarity polyester film. This method includes provisions for securing the book to a backing board.

PROCEDURE:

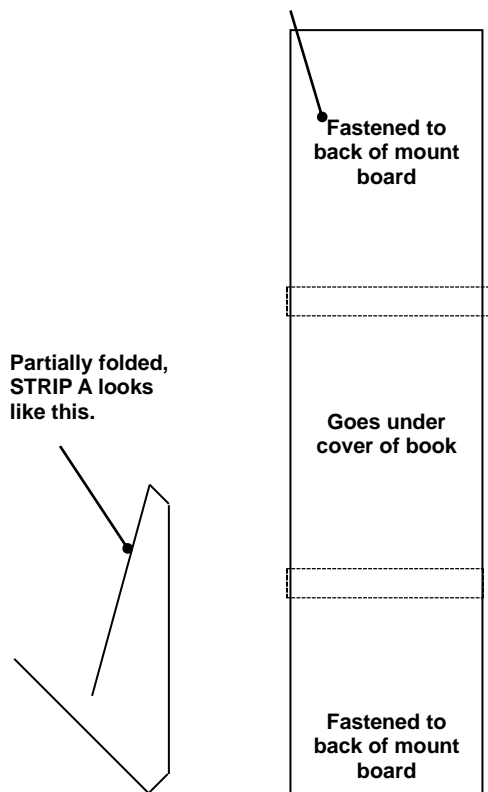
1. Open the book's cover and carefully measure from the inside of the binding to the opposite edge of the page. Cut a strip of Mylar to this width, and length at least 2-1/2 times the book's height (Strip A)
2. Carefully measure and cut a strip of Mylar as wide as the book's total height, and length at least 2-1/2 times the book's width (Strip B).
3. Make sharp creases in Strip A so that the Mylar, when placed under the book's cover, neatly and snugly covers the top and bottom edges of the pages. Leave the ends of Strip A loose; do not secure them.
4. Make creases in Strip B so that the Mylar, when wrapped over the book's closed cover, conforms to the binding and snugly covers the sides of the book.
5. With Strip A in place under the book's cover, wrap Strip B around to the back of the book. Secure the overlapped ends of Strip B behind the book, using several lengths of 3M #415 archival polyester, double-sided tape. Be careful that tape does not contact the book itself. The book is now ready to fasten to the backing board.
6. Cut horizontal slots through the backing board, equal to the width of Strip A, and as far apart as the book's height.
7. Insert the loose flaps of Strip A through the backing board slots. Pull the ends of Strip A tight, and secure them to the verso of the backing board, using several lengths of 3M #415 tape.

NOTES: The most difficult part of this procedure is creasing the Mylar-D accurately and neatly. I suggest using removable tape to mark the crease-points. To ensure straight creases, be sure to keep the Mylar's edges aligned. Burnish creases crisply (bone folder suggested); Mylar will not crack or tear easily. Mylar-D of at least 4-mil thickness should be used; greater thickness resists accidental creasing and distortion, making a more attractive mount. Many sheet films are available, made of polyester and other materials. Mylar-D is recommended because it is (A) archival-grade polyester, and (B) the highest-clarity film available for the purpose.

Book Mount

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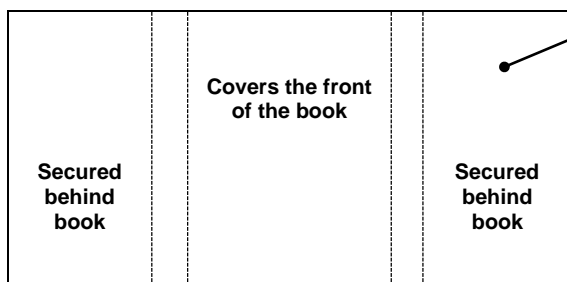
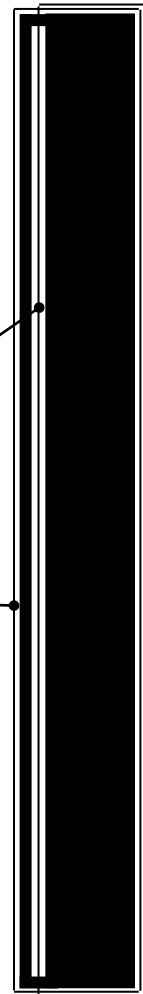
STRIP A This piece of film will be placed under the book's cover; the upper & lower "flaps" will be threaded through horizontal slots cut in the mount board. The "flaps" will be secured on the back of the mount board, giving strong support. For heavy books, reinforce the board with additional thicknesses of 4-ply board, polyflute, or foam-center board. Sharp creases at the dotted lines make it fold neatly over the book's edges, and onto the back of the board.



SIDE VIEW
(Open side of the book, opposite the Binding.)

The book is supported by the vertical **STRIP A**, placed under the cover with its "flaps" secured to the back of the mount board.

STRIP B goes over the book's cover; its "flaps" are wrapped horizontally around the book, and secured to the mount board. This strip supports little weight, but keeps the book from moving side-to-side.



STRIP B This piece of clear film will be placed horizontally over the entire book, including cover, after STRIP A is placed under the book's cover. The "flaps" of STRIP B will be secured together and to the mount board behind the book (but not to the book itself). STRIP B will support little weight of the book; its main purpose is to prevent side-to-side movement of the book after mounting.