

GUILD OF BOOK WORKERS
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CHEMISE AND SLIP CASE
By Monique Lallier

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Chemises and Slip Cases have been made in France and Europe for more than a Century as an elegant binding protection.

On the bookshelves, they are more attractive than the traditional clamshell box, (unless you do a rounded leather spine box) and the design that appears on the spine of the book can be reproduced on the chemise's spine.

The choice of material should reflect the binding and, when possible, the same leather should be used, and the endpapers can be the covering of the chemise and case.

CHEMISE:

1. Wrap the book in plastic wrap of good quality, to protect from moisture.
2. Choose the material for the lining of the chemise. It can be paper, felt, suede or cloth.
3. Cut the lining at the height of the book by its length from one for edge to the other, wrapping around the book, plus 2mm. (1/16")
4. Use a .4 or .5mm card. The one I use is the .016 (16 pts) gray lining acid free card that you can find at Gane Brothers (1800-523-7312).
The card goes around the book plus 4 mm (1/8") on each side.
5. Cut a piece of leather for the spine of the chemise, one inch (1") higher than the card and 3" larger than the thickness of the book's spine.
6. Pare the leather at .5 or .6 mm on the micrometer. Bevel each side and pare to a smooth transition. Pare head and tail turn-ins thinner than for a book.
7. Wet the outside of the leather and use mix or PVA, if you are comfortable with leather. Do the turn-ins at head and tail. The leather follows the line of the card. (No head caps)
8. Wrap the lining of the chemise around the book, and the chemise over it.

9. Mark the fore edge on the card plus 1/8", front and back and score with a creaser.
10. Fold the card at 90o angle.
11. Pare the leather rather thin (.3-.4mm) and cover the fore edge keeping the crease very sharp. The cut for the corners is on the inside of the chemise. The leather goes 1/4" over the crease.
12. Wrap the book & chemise with good plastic wrap and let dry under weight. If you use PVA 10-15 minutes will suffice. I little longer for mix.
13. Cover the outside of the chemise with the paper or cloth chosen, do the turn-ins, rubbing the edges, wrap with plastic wrap and let dry under weight a couple of minutes.
14. When dry, open the chemise and measure the lining. The lining is 1/8" shorter on head and tail and 1/8-3/16" from the fold or crease at the foreedge, on each side.
15. Now you want to glue the lining to the chemise. Hold the chemise flat (relatively) with weight. Glue the lining with PVA or Mix and put it in place inside the chemise. Rub with a resin bone folder, making sure that you chase all air bubbles. Let dry a couple of minutes. Close the chemise carefully, checking that it adhere everywhere, rubbing again if necessary, especially in the curve of the spine.
16. Wrap the chemise around the book and rewrap the plastic around de chemise to let dry completely. If you have used paste (for leather chemise), wrap the chemise over the book with craft paper to let the moisture out.

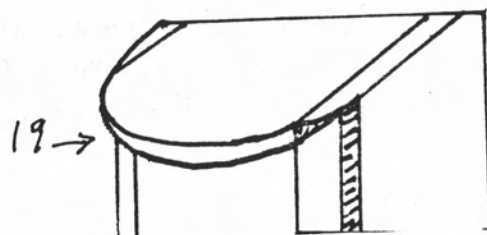
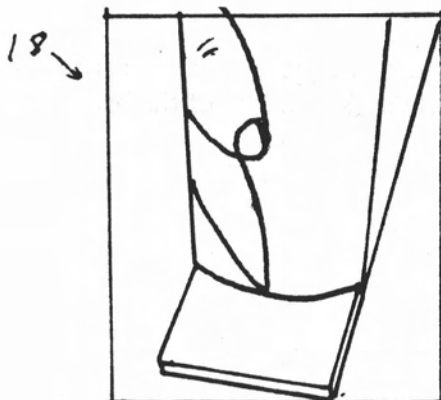
SLIP CASE

1. Use the same Davie boards that you use for the clamshell boxes. Find the long grain, *the more flexible side*; it will be paralleled to the spine.
2. Put the book, *wrapped with the chemise*, on the board, the edge of the board at 1/8" shorter than the joint of the spine on the book. Mark the foreedge.
3. Add 1mm to the height and mark it.
4. With another piece of the same thickness of board, *wrapped with paper or cloth*, add one thickness of board on the foreedge and 2 thicknesses of board on head and tail from your marks.
5. Cut your boards on these new marks. The two boards being identical and square.
6. Put the book and the chemise between the two boards and measure the distance between the two boards (inside), applying a little pressure on the top board.
7. Cut boards, *long grain always*, at that measurement, at the same height then the boards and 3/4" longer on head and tail.
8. Line these boards with paper, in harmony with the chemise and covering of the slipcase. Use PVA and give it a nip in the press to chase all air bubbles.
9. Let dry.
10. Open your divider at 1/16" and trace a mark on one long side of the slipcase, on the lining. Cut off the lining on that mark. This side is now the open side of the slipcase.

11. On the reverse, send the board of 1/3 of its thickness on a long, smooth bevel.
12. Glue with PVA the edges of the board's strips. (*Thickness of the slip case*)
13. Put the back strip in place, (*the doublure is facing the inside of the case*) very straight and square. If you have the 90o-angled weight for boxes, it is very helpful now.
14. Put the head and tail strips in place, straight and square.
15. Let dry a few minutes under weight.
16. Glue the other edges of the strips with PVA and put the other board on top, straight and square. Let dry under weight. With a manila card (10pts) line the case all around on the thickness side to hide and smoothen the edges of the boards.

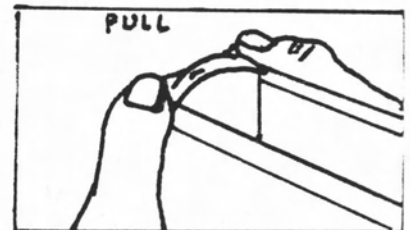
SPAPING THE CASE

17. Unwrap the plastic around the chemise and the book.
18. Put the book back in the chemise and in the slipcase and mark on the inside of the case, the roundness of the spine and cut on the mark with good scissors.
19. Send the edges to a smooth and round finish.
20. Cut off the lining inside the rounded head and tail at the same wight then the sides of the case.



COVERING THE CASE

21. You need to use leather for the round part of the case, but you can use cloth, or paper to cover the rest of the case. If you choose paper or cloth, you can cover it with a full piece from one edge to the other, trimming the last turn-in to cover the cut off of the lining
22. If you use leather, you pare it thin (.4mm) and cut it (3/4 ") longer than the height of the case.
23. Wet the leather on the outside and use paste or mix (if experienced) to glue the leather.
24. Apply the strip of leather on the outside of the case, bringing up enough leather to cover the cut off lining on the inside. Make sure that the leather adheres on the edge of the case. Push the leather in the corner and cut off on a straight line, at the joint of the boards, head and tail. Repeat on the other side.
25. Cut two strips of thin leather 1" longer than the round part.
26. Wet the outside of the leather and paste the inside.
27. Pull the leather over the round part and flatten the creases on the inside and push the leather in the corners to touch the other leather. Cut off with a scalpel. Rub the rounded top with a resin bone folder and cut the surplus with a scalpel on the outside (head and tail).



28. Trim the leather on the sides and top part in a straight line.
29. To cover the rest of the case, you can use one piece from one side to the other or two pieces that go from the open side to the middle of the back.

USING ONE PIECE:

30. With a piece of paper, take the measurement from the inside cut off, all around the case, to the other side of the lining cut off, by the height plus one side (thickness of the case). Cut the paper or cloth that you choose for the covering at these dimensions.
31. Using mix, glue a strip of about 2.5-3" and position it that you cover half of the thickness in head and tail and the cut off of the lining inside. When well in place, make a cut right at the inside corner of the case to release the paper or cloth.
32. Continue to apply the mix on the case, little by little, giving you the time to place the covering material. Keep on going until you reach the other side and don't worry about the head and tail for now. The material you use may have stretched a little, so you may have to trim it to fit in the cut off of the lining.

HEAD AND TAIL:

33. Fold the excess on the board on head and tail; they should meet in the middle. Cut off the corners on the spine side. Glue the material and put it down neatly, cutting the overlapping in the middle and making a straight cut at the leather.
34. Put the case on the inside side of the covering material and trace the round, length and sides of the box.
35. Cut a piece at the dimensions less 1/8" on the Width and length.
36. Glue it and put it in place, at 1/8" from the rounded edge and short of the straight back.

TWO PIECES COVERING:

37. With a piece of paper, take the measurement from the cut off inside to the half back of the case, by the height plus one side.
38. Cut a piece at these measurements and if the case is not big you can glue the full piece and put it on the case, adjusting the height and the turn-in inside the case.
39. You repeat on the other side and you make the cut on the back of the case, not on the top head and tail.
40. You cover the joint all around the thickness of the case, bringing the head and tail strip over to the back (1/8"). The back lining goes over that fold.

CHEMISE OVER RAISED BANDS

1. You can easily make a chemise over a book with raised bands. Measure the thickness of the spine plus 1 1/2" on each side and 1/2" more on head and tail.
2. Pare the leather rather thin (.4mm). On the inside of the leather mark the width and the height of the spine. The outside piece is longer than the inside one. The inside piece is the height of the book plus 1mm and the outside piece is 1mm longer.
3. Wet the two pieces of leather, on the outside and using mix, glue the spine within the lines on the outer piece.
4. Adjust the inner piece and put it over the spine of the book, pulling on each side, for the leather to shape around the raised bands.
5. With the band nippers, mark each side of the raised bands.

6. Wrap the chemise with plastic wrap or an elastic band (for knees and elbows) and let dry.
7. Take the measurement for the card: from the hinge to the fore edge plus $\frac{3}{16}$ ".
8. Bevel one side, it will go between the leather at the hinge.
9. Paste the outside part of the leather.
10. Put in place the chemise over the book and slip the card between the two pieces of leather (cover and lining). Adjust at the right place before to rub the leather on the card.
11. Repeat on the other side.
12. Do the turn-ins.
13. Paste the lining leather and fix it on the card.
14. Finish the chemise like the other one. See CHEMISE 9 and forward.

Your chemise and slipcase are now finished and looking good, I hope. Make two or three in a row and you will remember it for life. If you need help, do not hesitate to e-mail me or call me if urgent.

Enjoy!

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Useful addresses:

For the card: Gane Brothers, 1-800-523-7312

Splitting leather: Hohenforst Splitting Co., 152-4 W. Fulton ST, Gloversville, NY 12078. Tel: 518-725-0012 Fax: 518-762-5589

There is a \$50. Set up charge but that includes many skins. So, you can try to group many skins with a group of people. It is much cheaper.

Paring leather in France: Est. Villeroy, 6 rue Chapon, 75003 Paris, FRANCE
Tel: 42.78.59.81

You send to them a pattern (template) of your book and they will pare the spine (specify if raised bands) and the turn-ins. Also 2 strips for the hinges and the strips for the chemise and case.

Acknowledgement:

The drawings are from Annie Persuy and Sun Evrard "LA RELIURE"