

## COVERING A BOOK IN FULL LEATHER A Demonstration by Don Glaister

### ORDER OF STEPS

1. Use fresh paste.
2. Collect all tools and supplies needed.
  - Bone folders, one large and flat, one small and pointed.
  - Paste brush.
  - Cushion.
  - String.
  - Mylar, 4 or 5 mil. 3"x5" approx.
  - Sponge and clean water.
  - Scalpel or Xacto knife, curved blade preferred.
  - Waste paper. 2 or 3 sheets somewhat larger than leather.
- == Remove jewelry and watch.
3. Apply paste to leather liberally, rub in with fingers and loosely fold leather over to soak.
4. Reapply paste as many times as necessary to saturate leather.
5. Place spine of book vertically on marked spine of leather, still lying flat on waste paper. Lift leather, one side at a time, up to boards of book.
6. Replace waste paper.
7. Lay book on side on clean waste paper. Open one side, then the other and adjust foredge lines on leather to correspond to foreedges of book.
8. Turn in foreedges.
9. Place book on foreedges and push leather firmly onto spine and joint areas with palms of hands. Repeat this procedure 2 or 3 times during covering.
10. Adjust top and bottom edges of leather to correspond to board edges.
11. Using cushion, bend back corners of boards next to spine and turn leather over boards and into hollow, leaving about 1 1/2 boards width of turned leather showing above headbands. Repeat on other end of spine.
12. Once leather is generally in place at all edges, sponge leather with clean water. Repeat as necessary to keep leather damp and malleable until covering is finished.
13. Open one board at a time and set joints to be directly above and parallel to the shoulders of the text. This will be the last time the book will be opened until leather is completely dry!
14. With bone folder, mark back corners.
15. Set book up vertically so you are looking into a headband.
16. Stretch string between left thumb and forefinger (for right handed people, opposite for lefties) and onto notches of back corners. Pull down.
17. Push large flat bone folder between text and board and all the way to the string. Push out against thumb or finger and slide bone folder down, tightening leather around board while leaving headcap leather in place. This is done with some force. Repeat on other side.
18. Form headcap with small bone folder.
19. Turn book up-side-down on table and tap headcap firmly with large bone folder at the corner to make headcap conform to shape of spine.
20. Repeat the above from 14 on other end.
21. Make any needed adjustments to leather placement at corners.
22. With scalpel and bone folder, cut and form corners. Save waste leather on inside of board.

23. With the book only slightly opened, hold waste paper from inside board and around edge. Rub down board edge and turn-in forcefully with paper in place, using bone folder. Rub down all edges.
24. With the book held vertically on table on foreedges, wrap mylar tightly around headcap. Square up and sharpen corner of headcap with bone folder. Repeat on other headcap.
25. Place book between blotters or blankets and boards to dry overnight with weight (about the weight of a brick or two.)
26. Breathe, and **DIG IT!**