Intermediate Book Repair: Recasing

This procedure is for books that have come detached from their cases, but the case is still in stable condition or when the endsheets and mull is torn.

Necessary materials: PVA mix, knitting needles, boards, weights, waste paper, bone folder, brush, book cloth, Bristol or other card stock, straight edge, scalpel, cutting mat with grid, scissors, Japanese tissue, paper knife, and cambric, muslin, or other cloth for lining spine.

1. Remove the textblock from the case by cutting with a knife. Take care not to cut the case while doing this.
2. If there is no information on the old flyleaves, remove them. Fully restrict the movement of the textblock as you pull off the flyleaf.

3. If there is information that needs to be retained on the flyleaf, check to see if it is attached solidly and leave in place.

4. Clean the spine of the textblock mechanically, removing all paper not adhered tightly to the spine.

5. Fold new endsheets of acid-free paper with the grain. Square one edge to the fold.
6. Score and fold the shoulder on the new endsheet so it matches the depth of the shoulder on the textblock.

7. Place the creased endsheet with the fold up on a waste sheet and cover with another waste strip to the edge of the shoulder fold. Glue up the shoulder and attach to the textblock. Make sure the fold of the endsheet does not go above the shoulder of the book and that the top edge is square. Bone down shoulder and repeat for other side.
8. When dry, trim at the fore edge and bottom so the endsheet is flush with the textblock. Use a scissors to snip off the trim at the shoulder.
9. Cut a piece of cloth spine lining slightly shorter than the height of the textblock and 2" wider than the spine. Adhere to the spine with PVA. Stretch over spine and bone down well.

10. Cut a piece of paper the exact width of the spine from shoulder to shoulder. Adhere to spine with PVA. Bone down well.
11. Clean the spine area of the case and remove any book plates, pockets, barcodes or other materials glued to the boards. Remove any loose areas of pastedowns as well as the old mull.

12. If necessary, reinforce or repair the spine lift the turn-ins at head and tail. Using a heavier weight Japanese tissue or book cloth, glue up a piece making sure it extends onto the cover boards approximately ½". If the endcaps need reinforcement, extend the tissue to the height of the turn-ins edge to edge.
Lifting the turn-ins

Bone one edge of the tissue onto the case first. Bone across the spine keeping everything flat. Finish by boning the tissue on the other edge and onto the board. This prevents the spine from contracting and being too small to put the textblock back into.

13. Measure the width of the spine from shoulder to shoulder and cut a piece of card stock for a spine stiffener the exact width and the height of the boards.
14. Glue up the spine stiffener and attach carefully in the center of the case. If no repairs were made to the case, lift the turn-ins at the spine and slip the stiffener under and glue down the turn-ins. Bone down well.

15. Glue down the turn-ins if lifted to complete repairs to the case.
16. Check the fit of the case on the textblock and position the book.

17. Lay the book on the workbench without shifting the positioned textblock, open the cover and place a waste sheet under the pastedown.

18. Glue up the endsheet, making sure to get glue under the cloth on the spine. Always brush from the center of the paper toward the edge to prevent getting glue under the paper. Replace the waste sheet with a piece of wax paper.

19. Holding the textblock in place, close the cover making sure the spine of the case is flush to the spine of the book.
20. Turn the book over and repeat steps 18 and 19.

21. Place the book between boards with knitting needles or bamboo skewers in the joints and press or weight heavily until dry.