



DIY

Book Binding Supplies

These recipes were written by Kathy Abott:

3x Glue Recipes to use for Bookbinding

You should use wheat-flour paste for bookbinding and wheat-starch paste for paper repair.

Wheat-starch paste does not contain enough gluten to create a strong adhesion and so should not be used for bookbinding jobs. Wheat-flour paste must never be used when repairing paper, as it will eventually stain the paper a brownish yellow, whereas wheat-starch paste dries completely clear.

Do not be tempted to use ready-made pastes as they contain preservatives and fungicides.

Wheat-flour Paste Ingredients:

- 1 heaped tablespoon of organic plain flour (organic flour is preferred, due to its higher gluten content)
- ¼ ltr of cold water (filtered or distilled if possible)

Wheat-flour paste Method:

Bring some water to the boil in the lower part of a double boiler or in a medium-sized saucepan.

Put the ¼ ltr of water into the top part of a double boiler or into a small saucepan.

Whisk in the flour until all lumps have been eradicated.

Place the top part of the double boiler/small saucepan into the second pan of boiling water and continue whisking the flour/ water mix until it begins to thicken.

Turn the pan of boiling water down to a vigorous simmer and continue stirring.

Leave the mixture to cook for about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

When cooked, pass the paste through a nylon sieve and then leave it to cool before using.

Refrigerate the paste when not using and it will last up to one week. You should not continue using the paste if it starts to smell fruity (somewhat like bananas) or if a milky film forms on the surface.

Wheat-starch Paste Ingredients:

- 1 part pure, pH neutral wheat-starch
- 8 parts distilled water

Wheat-starch paste Method:

Bring some water to the boil in the lower part of a double boiler or in a medium-sized saucepan.

Put the distilled water into the top part of a double boiler or into a small saucepan. Mix in the wheat-starch until smooth.

Place the top part of the double boiler/small saucepan into the second pan of boiling water and stir using a wooden spoon until the mixture begins to thicken.

Turn the pan of boiling water down to a vigorous simmer and continue stirring the paste.

The paste will go through four distinct stages whilst cooking:

- The mixture will change from a milky consistency to a translucent paste.
- The paste will thicken and will be very glossy.
- Bubbles will form and the paste will become more translucent. –
- More bubbles will form and the paste will be slightly stringy in consistency.

When this final stage has been reached, the paste is ready; this could be anything from 10 to 20 minutes.

Place the cooked paste in a pot – for which you have a lid and allow to cool.

The paste will now be a solid mass and will keep for up to two weeks if kept in the fridge with the lid on.

To use the paste:

- Pass the required amount through a nylon sieve.
- Add a drop or two of water, and using a stiff, stencil-type brush, beat until smooth and glossy.

Methylcellulose can also be used as an adhesive, but it has a fairly low tack (similar to wheat-starch paste).

I use it mainly for soaking glue residue from the spines of old books.

Methylcellulose is perfect for soaking, as it suspends water in its mass, releasing moisture very slowly. This stops moisture soaking into the spine folds of your book, which can cause tidemarks on the inner margins of the pages.

Ingredients (for a 10% solution):

10g methylcellulose powder

100ml warm water

Methylcellulose Method:

Gradually add the methylcellulose powder to the warm water, stirring continuously.

When the powder is completely mixed with the water, leave to stand overnight.

It will appear cloudy and lumpy at this moment, but this is normal.

After twenty-four hours the mixture will have turned into a clear, thick gel.

Keep the methylcellulose refrigerated when not using, and it will last for at least three months.

Do not continue to use if the mixture breaks down and turns liquid