

The Stamper's Mall July 2005 Newsletter
<http://www.StampersMall.com>

An Ancient Book of Magic by C Lion

(Or how I recovered the project of a friend)



This book was created for a friend of mine who loves arcane items. He is in the computer field and had printed out entire technical manuals using strange character fonts. You know the ones I mean, they look like something from an alien race on Star Trek. He used different fonts for different sections and played with the margins and stuff, it ended up looking amazing on the inside. The cover was a different situation.

The cover was not much more than a very thick manila folder with designs on the outside. It did not look aged nor did it look as fabulous on the outside as it did on the inside. He had more or less bound it but it had no character to the cover. I convinced him to let me transform the cover of his journal into something that looked as if it had been lost for centuries. I also wanted to age the pages themselves.



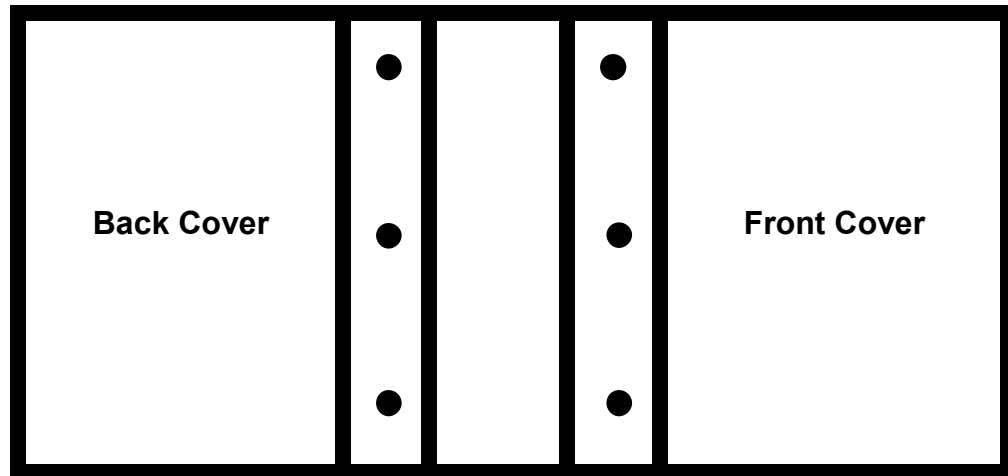
Materials:

- Blank journal or book or a collection of papers you want to create into an ancient manuscript. You could use a book of verse or anything that suits you. Plain deckle edged natural papers suitable for watercolors are great for this. If you are using a book that already has a cover all the easier
- A book with a heavy cover, the size you want your finished book to be. If you are not just recovering an existing book.
- Piece of Chamois large enough to cover the entire surface of the constructed covers with at least 3/8ths of an inch along the outside edges for folding over.
- A piece of very thick paper (the thick handmade stuff that looks like mulberry paper, a heavy washi, hand marbled paper even cloth) 1/4" shorter and 1/4" narrower than the cover of the opened book, this will be the inside cover paper.
- Hot Glue Gun and Glue Sticks
- Very strong tea, coffee and the used tea bags and some coffee grounds in cheesecloth.
- (Optional) Distress inks, walnut ink sprays – pages only NOT on chamois
- Stamp(s) without a lot of detail and with bold design elements.
- A Brush for the glue that you do not want to see again when you finish the project
- Bookbinders Cloth 1 1/2" to 2" wide
- Transfer Paper or Carbon Paper
- Heavy Binder Clips
- Drill with bit large enough to accommodate the ribbons/cords you will use to bind it.
- Contact Cement
- PVA glue
- Rub-on color and/or paste shoe polish – I like a really dark one and a metallic to put over it. You could also gold leaf this part
- Ribbons and cords – wrap them around the length of the book 2 1/2 to 3 times
- Beads, Charms etc.
- Awl
- Rotary Cutter
- Brayer with rubber roller

Directions:

1. To start with I got a book from the thrift store that had a cover the right size. I removed the covers from the book including the spine. Cut about 3/8" or so off of the inside of both the front and back covers (depending on the size of the book). This will be used to hold the book together and tying the cords through after drilling. Hinge all the pieces together with pieces of bookbinders cloth, the stuff made for use as hinges. Be sure to leave about 1 1/2 times the thickness of the cover between each side of the

spines and the cover flaps. Set this aside to dry. Remember your papers must have enough margins on the inside to have the stab binding work.



A rough idea - Chamois would be wider by about 3/8" on all sides.

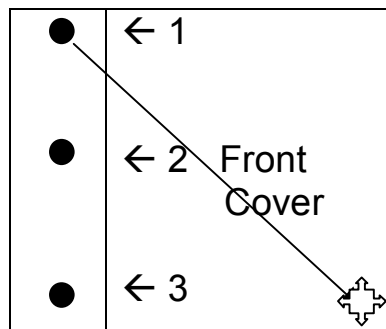
2. I bought a chamois from Wal-Mart in the auto department. I steeped tea and soaked parts of the chamois as well as squishing the tea bags here and there to get more color change. I did the same with strong coffee and put some moist grounds into cheesecloth to dab. This part is kind of smelly, if you can do it outside with a light breeze so much the better. Get the color you want and let the chamois dry then work it a bit until it is completely pliable and soft.
3. I took the bound pages and dabbed all the edges of the pages and inside here and there. Do not look for a perfectly even pattern to your aging; books that have been used a lot do not wear as if they had just resided in a bookcase for centuries. Let these dry completely before sticking them together, ***NOTE: If the pages have been printed on an inkjet printer use a spray fixative so the ink does not run. The best thing would be to take them to a copy center or use a laser printer. These days I might use Distress Inks, Walnut Ink spray to do the pages. I would still use the coffee and tea on the chamois, I love the way it comes out.
4. While those are drying take the 2 pieces that will have the holes in them and sandwich the pages between them and use heavy binder clips to hold them together. Make sure it is tight and that it all says stacked evenly. Drill 3 holes through all pieces. Binder clip just the papers on the top bottom and outside edge before removing the clips holding the book board. Leave the binder clips on until you begin binding.
5. With everything dry and ready prepare the front cover. Use rubber stamp(s) as the template for the cover design elements; do not use stamps that are very detailed. In the case of this book I drew some font characters like those used inside the book. I copied these characters onto

the book cover with transfer paper. Now for the hot glue! Go over your pattern with the glue. You may want to go over it a number of times to get some real build up and dimensionality to make the design on the cover pop. Remember you are going to be laying a cover over it that is thicker than paper, you want to be able to tell it is there. Once you get what you want let it cool completely.

6. Lay your chamois down, lay the book cover down on it and put light marks along the perimeter of the cover. Also mark the edges of the spine and binding covers (the parts with the holes). You only need tick marks at the top and bottom edges. Once you have it marked bring the chamois around one edge of the book and lay it down to find out how much extra you need to give you about $\frac{1}{4}$ " ~ $\frac{3}{8}$ " overlap. Measure and mark several places around the edges, remove the cover and cut the chamois. I find the easiest way to cut the chamois is with a rotary cutter and a metal straight edge.
7. Once cut, brush contact cement on the chamois inside the perimeter marks and set aside. Do the same with the outside cover and set aside for a bit to get tacky. ***You MUST have proper ventilation when using contact cement***
8. When dry and tacky lay the cover down lining it up with the marks you made earlier. Be careful here; get an extra set of hands if you think you will need them. When contact cement grabs on, it does not come apart easily if at all. Turn the cover over and brayer it down, Roll from the middle outwards and make sure you get rid of any bubbles, Do not worry overmuch about your design area just make sure there are no obvious wrinkles. If you do everything you can and still end up with a bubble prick it with a pin and press it down.
9. Now put contact cement on the edges of the chamois as well as the inside margin of the cover. Set aside to dry until tacky. Cut a curved notch at each corner and pull chamois first around the edge than brayer. Continue laying it down on the inside and brayer again. Take a pencil or another appropriate sized tool (I use an old butter knife) and press down where chamois meets chamois at all the inside corners of the cover. Press down each way, inside and out.
10. Take an awl and punch through the holes from outside to in and burnish a bit.
11. Now use the same steps with the paper you are using for the inside cover; contact cement, dry, carefully place and brayer it smooth. In addition burnish the chamois and inside cover together at the joints. You want to do this primarily from the front but you need a bit of give in the inside too.

Finish that up by putting the awl through the inside cover paper. Go from the inside out and burnish the hole.

12. This is a good time to burnish the design on the front cover. The chamois will stretch nicely just take your time and use a tool with a smooth edge. I like dry embossing tools, fingernails, and pens without ink. I am sure you have your favorites too.
13. Whew!!! Now we can construct the book. Lay the over down inside up, and with the top cover to your left making sure the design is oriented correctly top to bottom. Double-check it. Lay the papers/book onto the back cover (on your right) with the 1st or title page up and the inside edges of the papers just past the inside edge of the 1st set of holes.
14. Fold the cover over and put something through the holes, front to back. Once you have all 3 lines up correctly take the clamps if one at a time and clamp the cover to the papers. You can use double thickness of paper towels on first to keep the binder clips from leaving marks. The diagram below will help you with the stab binding.



15. Take all cords/ribbons and lay them out together putting them into a tapestry needle (I have lots of other ideas, ask me).
16. Lay a length of cords across the cover diagonally and clip to hold.
17. With the needle go down into hole 1, pull to the left edge and around and down into hole 2 again.
18. Come up through hole 2, go around the outside edge and up through 2 again.
19. Go down into 2 up through 3 a round the bottom and up through 3
20. Go around the side and up through 3 again.
21. Now go down through 2, up through 1, around the top edge and up through 1 again.

22. Take the cords clipped to the side and tie those and the ones on the needle into a square knot. If your holes are large it is a good idea to pass at least some of the cords up through something like a button and tie it off so the cords will just fall back through the hole.

23. Finish off the cords as you like with beads, embellishments or just a knot here and there at odd spacing. The heavier pieces like ribbon look good just knotted. Cords may need a bit of weight to hold them down.

24. Last step is to rub some Rub-n-Buff, shoe polish or what have you on the top of your design to make it more visible.

I know this is a ton of information. Email me if you need additional information. Delete_Purringfox@att.net Remove the delete_ part, it is just there to keep spyders from collecting my email address,

Have fun!!

~~C Lion

