




CRAFTSMAN CRATE



THE BOOK VAULT PROJECT

CRAFTSMANCRATE.COM



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Who doesn't love secret hiding places? We once stayed in a home that had a secret room and several secret passageways. It was tremendously fun and we believe you'll have fun making a book safe or book vault to hide your valuables in plain sight.

You'll Need:

A Hardback Book – Working with a hardback is easier than a paperback. Of course, you can choose one of your own or pick one up at a thrift store. You can do a second book, as well, if you wish. You want to look for one thick enough to hold what you want to hide and boring enough that people are unlikely to pull it off the shelf out of curiosity.

White Glue – Use this to adhere the pages of the book together to form the walls of your vault. Read on, though to see how to best do this.

Metal or Wooden Ruler with Edge and Pencil – Use this to plan your vault, mark it, and guide your knives.

Utility Knife – A sturdy box cutter type knife will help you cut through the page block.

Craft Knife – A more precise knife, such as an Exacto Knife™ will help you trim up edges and make a neat vault.

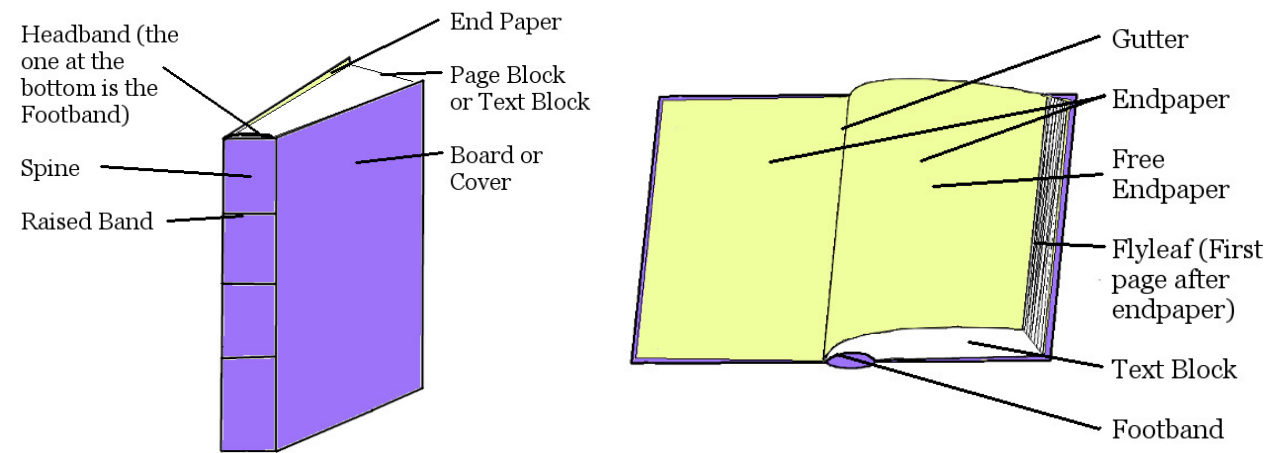
Plastic Bag, Wax Paper, Card Stock, Rubber Band, Spring Clamp, and Tape – These are helpful to protect the boards and end papers of your book. Pick them up cheaply at the dollar store.

Brush – A small brush to apply glue to the pages is helpful. You can find these at the dollar store.

Balsa Wood, Velvet, and Magnet Closures – These are optional finishing touches you can use to make your vault even better.

NOTE: Craftman Crate boxes contain ALL the supplies needed!

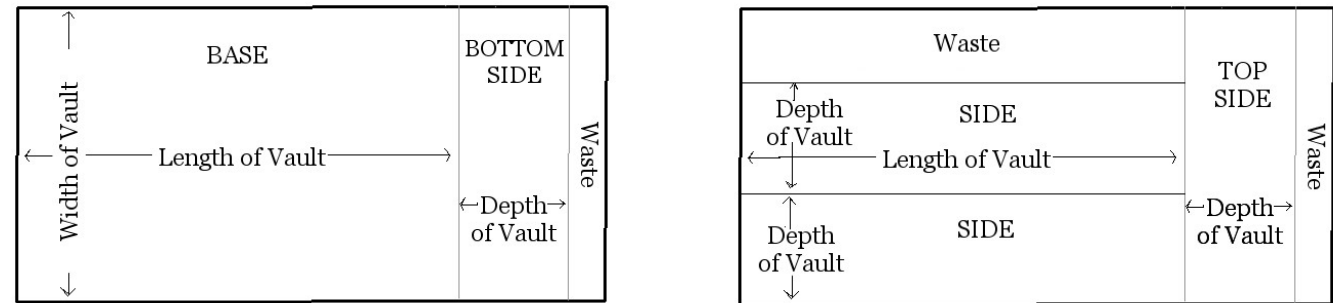
The Anatomy of a Book



Plan Your Project

This is one of those projects that sounds easy, but is trickier than you might think, so read through all the directions before you start. We'll offer you a couple of different methods to choose from, but there are many different ways to make book safes or vaults and you can make yours however you like!

First, decide how big you want your vault to be. If you plan to line it with the balsa wood, you will want to make sure your vault is no wider than the balsa board. Decide how large you want it to be. If you are going to line your vault with balsa wood, use your ruler and pencil to mark out the bottom and sides on the balsa board like the diagram below. You'll need to mark the boards with one piece for the base, two for the top and bottom and two for the sides.



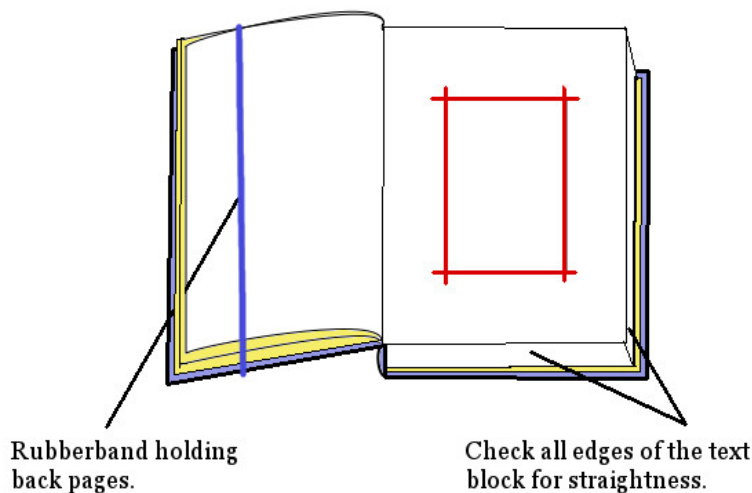
If you are going to line your vault with velvet, either instead of or after the balsa wood, draw your plan out on the back of the velvet.

Finally, you need to decide whether or not to leave any pages loose on top of your vault and whether the top of the vault should be a certain page or the thicker end paper. We prefer the end paper, but you are welcome to do whichever you prefer.

Intact Method

If there is a dust jacket on your book, remove it and set it aside. Open the book to the page you would like to be on top when you open your vault, whether that is the loose endpaper, the flyleaf, or another page. Turn that page over to the left and use the rubberband to hold that page (and any pages between it and the cover) to the front cover.

Use your ruler and pencil to gently mark the edges of your vault onto the top page of the text block you can now see on the right side of the book. This is really important: Get the text block completely straight on all sides. You may need to clamp it or hold the front cover upright to get it straight.



Next, place card stock, at least one piece folded double, between the loose end paper and the text block in the back. That will protect the end paper from being cut into.

Then, you'll begin cutting. First, though, let's talk about how! You'll do the major cutting with your utility knife, that's the larger, bulkier one. It's easier to keep pressing down hard with that one.

- Use your metal ruler as a guide for your knife, holding it along the edge you will be cutting so that you can cut straight and deep. **KEEP YOUR FINGERS OUT OF THE WAY OF YOUR KNIFE.**
- Cut slowly and deeply, straight down, pressing hard.
- Go over your cut again and again several times.
- Cut just past the corners. Yes, that sounds weird and looks a little messy, but it's really the only way to get the corners neat. Don't worry, it won't show at all when we're done. It'll be held tight by the glue and later be covered by the pages we moved over to the left. The red lines in the diagram above show how the cuts will look.

After you've cut the first side several times, cut the other three.

Once some page pieces are cut through and entirely loose, remove them. Then, fold the pages with a window cut out to the left and secure them with the rubberband. Leave the pages that are partially cut through where they are. They will help guide your next cuts.

Check again to make sure the edges of the text block are still straight. This is the most important thing you can do to produce a neat, professional-looking vault. Continue using your ruler as a guide and cutting, removing loose page pieces, and moving the cut pages over to the left and securing them with the rubberband.

At it becomes hard to keep the text block straight, use your knife to carefully cut the binding without cutting through the spine to make it fold open more easily.

Repeat straightening the text block, cutting, removing loose page pieces, folding back the cut pages, and slicing the binding until you reach the card stock at the bottom or as deep as you want your vault to be.

Clean up your edges using your craft knife.

Remove the rubberband and the card stock and flip the pages back into position. If you want to keep the dustjacket, replace it and glue the dustjacket flap under the back of the textblock to the back cover.

Pick a time to complete the gluing when you have enough time to complete it all at once. You can't stop part way, or the pages will warp. **MAKE SURE THE TEXT BLOCK IS STRAIGHT.**

Glue the inside of the vault. Squirt a small amount of glue around the inside of the hole or cavity in the text block. Use the brush to spread a thin layer evenly over the inside of the cavity. Keep brushing glue (adding a tiny bit more if necessary) until it is smoothly covering the edges and, very thinly, the bottom of the vault. Take your time, being careful not to leave drips or puddles, but instead brushing over them with the brush and spreading them over the edges.

Now, you'll cover those extra cuts you made! Once again, use the rubberband to hold back the page you want to be on top of the vault by securing it to the top cover. Brush a thin layer of glue on the top of the cut text block, then remove the rubberband and press down the page you want on top securely on the cut text block. This will hide the vault (as well as the pencil and cut marks), but that will be fixed later!

Wrap plastic around the top cover of the book, taping it to itself to keep it in place.

Carefully brush glue on the outside of the text block, cleaning up drips as you go. Aim for a thin, even layer.

Put a layer of wax paper on top of the top page you glued down, to keep it from gluing the cover closed!

Close the book, carefully keeping the wax paper in place. **MAKE SURE THE TEXT BLOCK IS STRAIGHT!** Place on plastic or scrap paper and pile books, cans, or other weights on top of your book. This will keep the pages straight as they dry.

Leave it alone with weight on top for at least 24 hours. Longer is better to make sure it is thoroughly dry!

Remove the weights, plastic, and wax paper. Open the front cover and turn, if you left pages loose, to the top page that was glued down. Insert your craft knife into the center of the glued down page and move the knife until you reach the edge of your vault. Follow the edges with the knife until the paper is cut back to the edges of the vault.

Use your knife to trim any glue drips or bumps and clean up your vault edges.

If you would like to line your vault with balsa wood or velvet or both, double check your measurements and plan by the actual vault. Place the wood or

velvet on your box or other cardboard surface, then cut the base and sides using your utility knife (for balsa) or craft knife (for velvet).

Use a small amount of glue to secure the balsa wood. Remove the backing from the velvet and apply to either the edges of the vault or the wood, as you wish.

If you are retaining the dust cover, this is a great time to glue down the inner flap on the front cover. This needs to be dry before you add the magnets!

Separate the magnets by cutting the backing into squares (on cardboard!) with your craft knife. Place a magnet, backing side up, on the upper right and lower right section of the text block. Trace around each magnet, very lightly, with your pencil.

You can apply a magnet to the circle or you can recess the magnet for a tighter fit. To do that, use your craft knife to carefully cut a circle out several pages deep to recess one of the magnet sides. Brush glue inside each circle, place wax paper on top, weight and let dry.

Find a set of magnets that will cling together with the backing on the outside. Remove the backing from both magnets, while leaving them stuck together. Insert in the recess. Repeat with a second set of magnets. Then close the lid, so that the magnets will stick in the proper place on the cover. Place a weight on top of the book and leave for a few hours.

Your book vault is complete! Find something to stash in it and put it on your shelves.

Separated Method

In this method, you will separate the cover before working on the vault. Remove the dust jacket and set aside. Open the book and turn back the loose end paper and cut away any flyleaf pages glued to it. Insert wax paper between the loose end paper page and the text block in the front and pack.

Close the book. Carefully brush a thin layer of glue on the outside of the text block, being very careful not to get any on the cover or end pages, staying within the wax paper.

Straighten the text block carefully. It should not be tilted or curved in anyway. Brush away any glue drips as you straighten.

Pile weights such as tin cans, hand weights, or other books (protect with plastic) on top and leave for 24 hours at a minimum. It should be completely dry before you remove the weights.

Remove any plastic and the wax paper.

Flip the book over, open the back cover and cut through the end paper between the page block (text block) and the back cover with your craft knife. Be careful not to cut the cover.

Use your knife as necessary to separate the text block from the spine. You may need to cut through some material here, but do not cut through the spine. This can look messy, but don't worry, it will be covered in the end!

This next bit is tricky and is different from the way you did the back. **DO NOT CUT THROUGH THE LOOSE END PAPER.** Fold the back cover back over the front cover. Carefully insert your craft knife between the loose end paper and the text block. Slowly cut down the text block until the block is separate from the cover (and front end paper).

Mark your vault on the text block as described in the first method.

Set the text block on several pieces of card stock or cardboard.

Then, you'll begin cutting. First, though, let's talk about how! You'll do the major cutting with your utility knife, that's the larger, bulkier one. It's easier to keep pressing down hard with that one.

- Use your metal ruler as a guide for your knife, holding it along the edge you will be cutting so that you can cut straight and deep. **KEEP YOUR FINGERS OUT OF THE WAY OF YOUR KNIFE.**
- Cut slowly and deeply, straight down, pressing hard.
- Go over your cut again and again several times.
- Cut just past the corners. Yes, that sounds weird and looks a little messy, but it's really the only way to get the corners neat. Don't worry, it won't show at all when we're done. It'll be held tight by the glue and later be covered by the pages we moved over to the left. The red lines in the diagram above show how the cuts will look.

After you've cut the first side several times, cut the other three. Once some page pieces are cut through and entirely loose, remove them. Leave the pages that are partially cut through where they are. They will guide your next cuts.

Continue using your ruler as a guide and cutting and removing loose page pieces until you reach the card stock at the bottom or as deep as you want your vault to be.

Clean up your edges using your craft knife.

If you want to use the dust jacket, carefully glue the inner flaps to the front and back covers, using your spring clamps to hold them in place while they dry. Do not proceed until they are dry.

Lay the cover down open on your work surface. Brush some glue on the inside back cover. Adjust the text block so that it is exactly where it was, wrapping the cover around and adjusting so that it is in the right place.

Open the front cover and end paper. Brush glue on the inside of your vault just as described in the first method. Go read over it again now.

Place a piece of wax paper on top of the vault and close the top cover. Place weights (cans, books, anything quite heavy) on top and leave it for a minimum of 24 hours. Longer is better, because if the glue is completely dry, the pages won't warp. When done, remove the weights and the wax paper.

Use your craft knife to trim any glue drips or bits on the inside or outside of the text blocks.

Glue the top loose end paper to the top of the text block, carefully lining it up with the text block. Smooth it down carefully. This will reattach the front cover.

Place wax paper between the end pages and the front cover. Weight down the book and leave to dry for at least 24 hours again.

Follow the directions in the first method to cut through the end paper to reveal the vault and to add the magnet closures and balsa wood or velvet, as you wish.

Your book vault is complete! Find a treasure to hide and put the vault on your bookshelves.

Enjoy! And then check these out:

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