

Repairing Old Board Games

A recent customer, David Kapral, contacted us via email to share his recent project. He had used our [FilmoPlast T Black tape](#) to repair his almost 40 year old Monopoly game that had taken its toll over the years. The outside box was definitely showing its age.

Problems with game:

1. The box holding the tokens and cards had 3 torn/split corner joints.
2. The masking tape that had been applied to the box and was cracking away.
3. The box had numerous frayed edges, where the white “under board” showed through.
4. The board had frayed edges and the spline in the center was just beginning to split.

He decided to take on the project with no experience or idea of what it would entail. As most people do, David took to the internet. A simple search led him to YouTube and to a video, [Restoring Board Games: How to Fix Broken or Torn Box Corners](#) posted by deltakittenebay. After watching the video he gained an appreciation for repairing corner joints of boxes. Another tip he stumbled upon was to use a magic marker to cover up any frayed edges.

A slightly different approach was discovered when David came across Greg Aleknevicus’ step by step photo demonstration of [How to Repair Split Boxes](#). He decided to fix the corners more permanently with a corner brace which was the original focus of the project. He glued the torn corners as others had recommended. This was stage one of the restoration. Pure, simple, corner braces did not seem to exist, per se, but then David found Archival Methods and the FilmoPlast T Black tape.

He selected this tape because it is reasonably flexible, has adhesive backing and fortunately its width matched the box height closely. Although, he could have simply made a corner brace with tape, he decided to take it a step further and completely line the perimeter of the box with tape giving it a uniform appearance.

The FilmoPlast T Black was flexible enough to be bent over the edge of the game board and adhere well with only ¼” contact on the upper surface of the board. Applying the tape this way completely covered the nicks and fraying around the perimeter of the board. The spline of the board was reinforced with the tape as well. When doing this, it is best to press the tape into the depression between the two board halves so that the board opens properly and lays flat. There are specialized tools to do this, but the back end of a craft size paint brush worked for this one time effort.

One has to plan carefully, particularly when doing the periphery of the board itself, to avoid overlap at the corners. Fortunately the backing of the tape has measurement guides. His final effort to repair the game and box was to apply magic marker that matched the tape to the frayed edges and any other small pieces of exposed old masking tape.

So after nearly 3 hours and a few hours researching how to repair a board game box, David was satisfied not only with the tape he had purchased but the end product.



“We will be happy to hand it down to our daughter – in very good condition. This will be the 3rd generation to own this Monopoly set! - Residents of Park Place approved. Thank you!” - David Kapral, Idaho