



CGC RESTORATION GRADING SCALE



Restoration is one of the most complicated, misunderstood aspects of grading comic books.

CGC's new Restoration Grading Scale is a transparent system that is much more descriptive and accurate than before. Every type of restoration found on each book will be individually graded for quantity and quality, with a cumulative score determining the final restoration grade assigned.

Conservation Repairs

- Tear seals
- Spine split seals
- Reinforcement
- Piece reattachment
- Some cover or interior cleaning (water or solvent)
- Staples cleaned or replaced
- Some leaf casting

Materials Used for Conservation Repairs:

- Rice paper
- Wheat glue
- Vintage staples
- Archival tape

Restoration Repairs

- Color touch
- Piece replacement
- Re-glossing
- Paper bleaching
- Married pages or cover

Materials Used for Restoration Repairs:

- White glue
- Re-glossing agent
- Acrylic or watercolor paint
- Pencil, crayon, chalk
- Pen, marker, correction fluid
- Leaf casting
- Cadaver piece fill
- White bleaching

The New CGC Restoration Grading Scale

Quality Scale (Aesthetic) (Determined by materials used and visual quality of work)

A (Excellent)

- Materials used: rice paper, wheat paste, acrylic or watercolor paint, leaf casting
- Color match near perfect, no bleed through
- Piece fill seamless and correct thickness
- No fading, excessive whiteness, ripples, cockling, or ink smudges from cover or interior cleaning
- Book feels natural
- Near-perfect staple alignment, or replaced exactly as they were
- Filled edges cut to look natural and even
- Cleaned staples or staples replaced with vintage staples
- Married cover / pages match in size and page quality; professionally attached

B (Fine)

- Materials used: pencil, crayon, chalk, re-glossing agent, piece fill from cadavers
- Piece fill obvious upon close inspection, obvious to the touch
- Color touch obvious upon close inspection, or done with materials listed above
- Cover cleaning resulting in slight color fading or excessively white
- Interior cleaning resulting in slight puffiness, cockling or excessively white
- Enlarged staple holes, obviously crooked staples or backwards staple insertion
- Replaced staples are not vintage
- Married cover/pages do not match in size and/or page quality; professionally attached

C (Poor)

- Materials used: glue, pen, marker, correction fluid, white paper to fill missing pieces
- Piece fill obvious at arm's length
- Bad color matching, use of pen or marker; bleed through evident
- Cover cleaning resulting in washed-out/speckled colors, moderate cockling and/or ripples
- New staple holes created upon reinsertion, or non-comic book staples used
- Trimming of any kind
- Married cover/pages poorly attached with non-professional materials

Quantity Scale (Determined primarily by extent of piece fill and color touch)

1 (Slight)

All conservation work, re-glossing, interior lightening, piece fill no more than size of two bindery chips, light color touch in small areas like spine stress, corner crease or bindery chip fill. Married cover or interior pages / wraps (if other work is present).

2 (Slight/Moderate)

Piece fill up to the size of $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " and/or color touch covering up to 1" x 1". Interior piece fill up to 1" x 1".

3 (Moderate)

Piece fill up to the size of 1" x 1" and/or color touch covering up to 2" x 2". Interior piece fill up to 2" x 2".

4 (Moderate/Extensive)

Piece fill up to the size of 2" x 2" and/or color touch covering up to 4" x 4". Interior piece fill up to 4" x 4".

5 (Extensive)

Any piece fill over 2" x 2" and/or color touch over 4" x 4". Recreated interior pages or cover.

Conservation Label

Specific repairs done to improve the structural integrity and long-term preservation of a comic book will now be classified as "conserved" and designated with a blue/purple label.

Because all conservation repairs must be professionally done and slight in nature (A-1), the label will simply say "Conserved," with no designation of quality or quantity on the label.

