

Fabric Covered Board with Window Mat Variation

Used for flat and/or fragile textiles, fabric covered boards are an economical display mount that can also be adapted to create a storage solution. These boards eliminate the need to handle historic textiles, and when adapted, can be stacked to aid in a more efficient use of storage space. Depending on the support fabric chosen and the condition of the textile, fabric covered boards can also be utilized without conservation stitching.

Supplies:

Fabric Covered Board

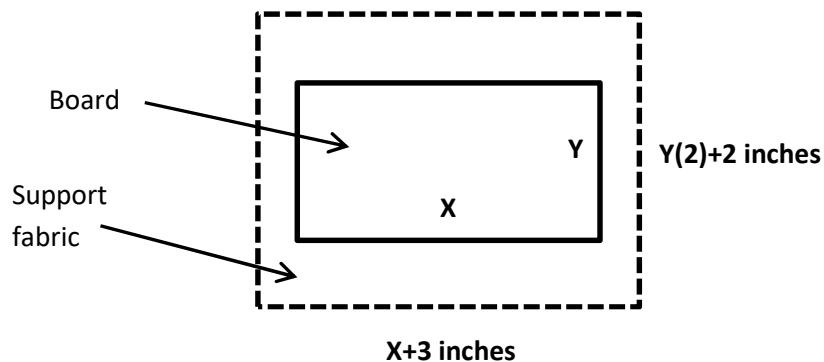
- Archival board (coroplast or blueboard)
- 100% Polyester batting or Polyfelt (needle-punched and resin-free)
- 100% Cotton thread
- Support fabric, preferably non-stretch (muslin, flannel, or other plain weaver fabrics)

Window Mat

- Archival board (coroplast, blueboard, or ragboard)
- 100% Polyester batting or Polyfelt (needle-punched and resin-free)
- Support fabric (muslin, flannel, jersey, or other plain weaver fabrics)
- Hot glue and gun
- Interleaving (acid-free tissue, muslin, or Reemay)
- Tyvek or Linen tape (optional)

Fabric Covered Board Instructions:

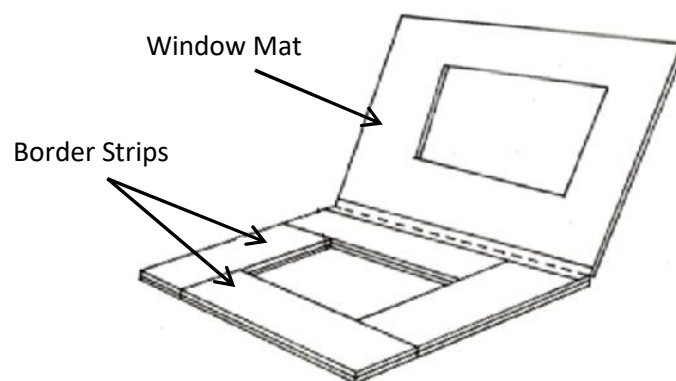
1. Calculate the dimensions of your board by measuring your object's overall size. Add at least 1/2 inch to your measurements to allow for an adequate margin to handle the mount.
2. Cut the archival board to the determined measurements in Step 1.
3. Cut a piece of batting/polyfelt to the determined measurements in Step 1, *minus* 1/8 to 1/4 inch. The batting should be just slightly smaller than the board.
4. Cut a piece of support fabric allowing extra length along all four sides to accommodate closure at reverse (see illustration).



5. Lay the fabric flat onto your work surface.
6. Place the batting at the fabric's center.
7. Place the board on top of the batting.
8. Beginning at the center of one side and working to the corners, place pins along the edge to hold the fabric in place. Repeat this process along the opposite side, creating a taut surface.
9. Study the face of the mount to ensure the support fabric is being placed on the grain, meaning the weave of the fabric is perfectly straight. Make adjustments as needed.
10. Repeat Steps 8 and 9 on the remaining two sides. When complete, the fabric should be smooth and taut. There should be no puckering or wrinkling when a hand is slid over it, nor should the fabric be so tight that the board warps or buckles.
11. To stitch the support fabric closed, begin by bringing both flaps to the center reverse of the mount's longest length ("X" in the above illustration). Smooth and fold under one edge to create a clean, finished seam. If needed, tightly pin the seam into place to maintain the fabric's tension.
12. Using a whip or overcast stitch, sew the flaps together to create a closed seam.
13. Remove all pins placed along the long edges and seam.
14. Working with one short edge, remove pins while tucking excess fabric at reverse. Smooth the fabric. Close the seam with a whip or overcast stitch. If needed, replace the pins in the board after tucking, but prior to stitching, to maintain fabric tautness.
15. Repeat Step 14 along the opposite short edge.
16. Once all seams are sewn closed and all pins removed, object may be placed at center face.
17. The object may be attached to the board using conservation stitching (optional).

Window Mat Instructions:

1. Calculate the dimension of your board by:
 - a. Measuring the object's overall size, *plus*
 - b. At least a 1/2 inch margin around the object, *plus*
 - c. The desired width for the border strips (at least 1½ inches, see illustration below).



2. Cut two pieces of archival board to the determined measurements in Step 1. Set one aside.
3. Cut four strips of board to the determined measurements in Step 1 (see illustration). Depending on the textile's thickness, these strips can be raised by hot glueing additional strips together.
4. Cut a piece of support fabric to the determined measurements in Step 1, *minus* 1/4 inch.

5. Cut a piece of batting/polyfelt to the determined measurements in Step 1, *minus* the amount dictated by the size of the border strips. Once completed, the batting should just fit within the space created by the border strips.
6. Center the batting onto one piece of board.
7. Place the support fabric over the batting. Using the hot glue, secure the fabric into place at corners and center edges.
8. Use hot glue to adhere the border strips into place. Binding clips or weights may be used to hold the strips in place until the hot glue has dried.

Finishing Options:

9. Once completed, determine your end goal (e.g. access to the object's reverse, availability for research or display, or simply for storage).
 - a. It is not necessary to cut a window out of the center of the remaining board.
 - i. If you wish to access the reverse of your object, then you will want to leave this component whole. Simply choose an appropriate interleaving cut to the dimensions of your board. Place your object at the center of the mount, cover with the interleaving, and complete the mount with the uncut board.
 - b. If a window is desired, simply determine the size of the void by that of the void in the base. Cut out the section.
 - c. It is not necessary to bind the remaining cut piece of board to your mount. If being stored within a box or appropriately sized drawer, the board can simply be placed on top of the mount. If you would like to bind the two components together:
 - i. Place a stack of additional board next to your mount, with your cut board being placed on top of the stack. This will provide an even surface to attach the adhesive tape to both surfaces.
 - ii. After cutting a piece of adhesive to size, center the length along the seam of both of the cut boards.
 - iii. Quickly flatten and press the tape into place, using a bone folder to ensure adhesion.

Tips:

- The archival board must be strong enough to support the flat textile. Consider using two pieces of blueboard to create strength. Generally speaking, this should be completed for boards over 12x14 inches in size. When doing so, hot glue two pieces of board together. Positioning the corrugations/fluting perpendicular to each other will ensure an even sturdier built board.
- Double wash the support fabric prior to assembling mounts. For the first wash, use a neutral detergent, such as Orvus. For the second wash, use only water. Tumble dry without the use of fabric sheets. Iron, if needed.
- The support fabric's grain may become misaligned during laundering. After washing, drying and ironing, grab the fabric along opposite edges and pull. Repeat the process on all corners and edges.
- Not all hot glue is created equally. I recommend 3M™ hot melt adhesive 3792.

- Avoid double stick tape, as it can creep over time.
- When using conservation stitching, remember to work from the center of the textile out.
- There are several variations of the window mat/sink mount. Compared to many, these instructions limit the amount of adhesives and overall materials needed for the project. Before constructing, this author recommends also reading: *Storage Containerization: Archaeological Textile Collections*, by Dennis Piechota.