

Moccasin Trays

2018

Ford Conservation Center

Acknowledgements



Storage conditions have long been recognized by museum professionals as important factors in the long-term survival of artifacts. Although all materials deteriorate over time, stable environment, controlled lighting, careful handling, and the use of appropriate housing materials are strategies developed to slow the rate of degradation.

The housings found within this packet were developed by Jessica Waite and Tina Koeppel with assistance from the staff of the Ford Conservation Center, a division of

History Nebraska as part of a larger project, funded in part with a Save America's Treasures grant, to improve the storage conditions for the History Nebraska Native American collection.

Inside this issue:

Acknowledgements	1
Moccasin Trays	2
Consulting a Conservator	5
Additional Resources	5
Conservation Suppliers	5

The collection of more than 3000 Native American objects was at risk due to inadequate storage space that caused ongoing damage to objects; space constraints that made safe access to artifacts nearly impossible; and toxic pesticide contamination. Staff members developed a project to remove or reduce these threats by increasing storage space and accessibility through the addition of safe, high-density compactor storage units; testing for harmful residues; cleaning and conserving each artifact; and rehousing each artifact in a protective archival housing. At the same time, each artifact was cataloged, photographed, and entered in to the collections management database. This greatly improved access to information and artifact images for staff, researchers, and the public.

Moccasin Trays

These trays were designed to provide adequate support and handling for moccasins were stored in inert storage drawers in a mobile shelving unit. These objects were piled atop each other in a drawer without internal supports. This storage system led to bead loss,

torn leather and distorted shapes. Three standard size trays (large, medium, small) were created to accommodate the different sizes.

The trays are made using pH neutral, corrugated blueboard and covered with soft-structure Tyvek.

Directions



- 1) Determine the dimensions of the moccasins (length, width, height).
- 2) Draw the tray according to the diagram on the sheet of blueboard. Add 1in to the height of the tray for easier handling. When drawing the tray, use solid and dashed lines as illustrated in Fig. 1.
- 3) Cut out the tray with a sharp utility knife. Change the blade often. Cut along the solid lines

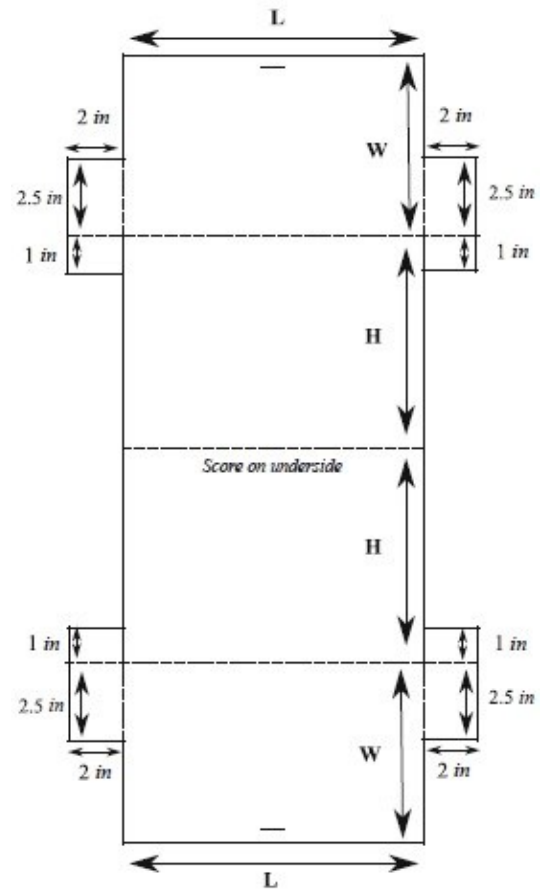


Fig. 2 ——— cut
 - - - - - score

L length dimension
 W width dimension
 H height dimension

Fig. 1

only.

4) Score the dashed lines using the utility knife and straight edge or a bone folder and straight edge. Be careful not to cut through the underside of the blueboard.

5) Score the center on the underside of the blueboard to fold it in half.

6) The 1in x 2in tab will be used to create a flap that will wrap around the corner. Cut and score the 1in x 2in side flap according to Fig. 1.

7) Using the utility knife, cut the corrugation and inner layers of paper away from the 1in x 2in side flap (see Fig. 2).

8) Fold the blueboard along the scored lines. Be careful and work the blueboard gently to avoid splitting the board.

9) Using the hot glue gun on high setting, adhere the 1in x 2in tabs to the underside of the blueboard. (Fig. 2).

10) Fold the tray in half along the center line, scored on the underside (see Fig. 3).

11) Adhere the two sides together using hot glue.

12) To cut out the soft-structure Tyvek cover, draw the diagram in Fig. 4. Use the tray dimensions for length, width, and height. Using a utility knife and straight edge, cut only solid lines.

13) Using the hot glue gun on low

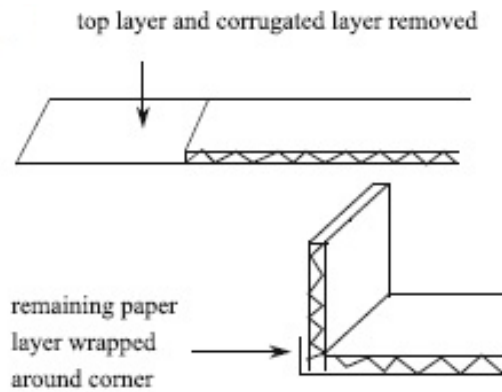
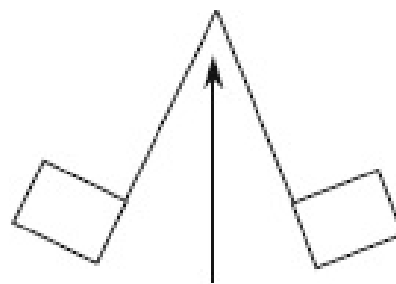


Fig. 2



Fold along score line on underside

Fig. 3

Materials Needed:

- 100% cotton twill tape, 3/4in
- Variable heat hot glue gun
- Glue Sticks
- Metal straight edge
- pH neutral blueboard, 1/4 inch thick
- Soft-structure Tyvek, cut to size
- Utility Knife
- Bone Folder



"The tray may be cut along the center line to create single moccasin trays for better space allocation."

setting, adhere the Tyvek to the underside of the tray.

- 14) Secure the moccasins to the tray by tying them down with cotton twill tape. The slits allow the tape to pass under the tray and to be tied at the top.

Additional Information

The moccasin trays shown here were modeled after those developed by the Minnesota Historical Society. The trays were designed to fit into standardized boxes of 19in x 24in and 25in x 25in. The tray may be cut along the center line to create single moccasin trays for better space allocation.

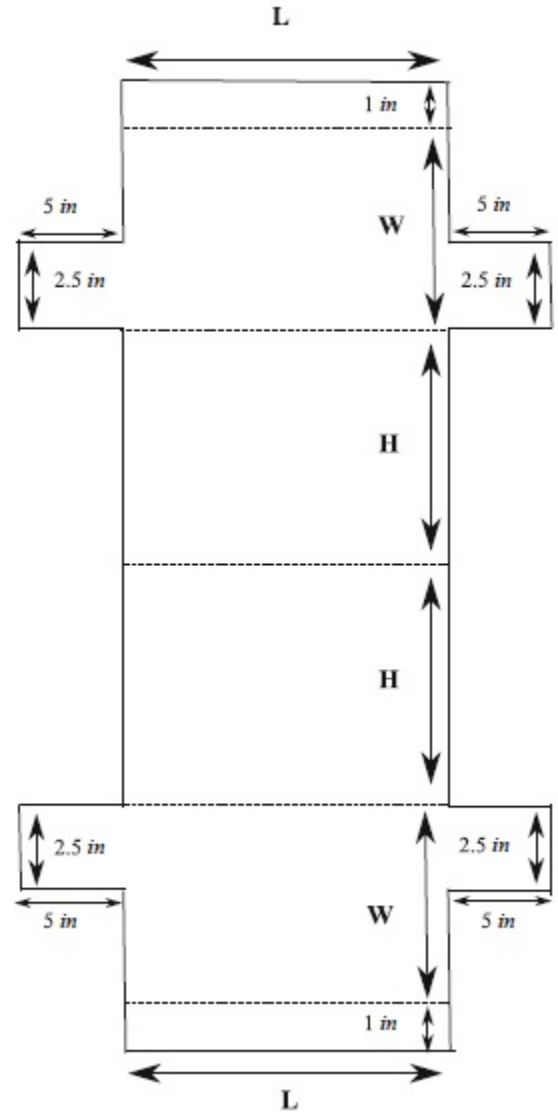


Fig. 4

Consulting a Conservator

If you have any concerns about the care of your object, consult a conservator in your area for further guidance. A conservator will be able to assess all the issues relating to its condition and long-term care. Conservators can also provide structural repairs, aesthetic compensation, and protective coatings for a range of materials.

Additional Resources and References

Minnesota State Historical Society, <http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/conservation/index/html>

National Park Service, Conserv-O-Grams, http://www.nps.org/museum/publications/conservation/cons_toc.html

Odegaard, Nancy and Alyce Sodongei, eds. *Old Poisons New Problems⁸Information and Resource Guide for Contaminated Cultural Materials in Museum Collections*– Altamira Press[₉₇₇₂–

Odegaard, N., S. Carroll, and W. Zimmet. *Material Characterization Tests for Objects of Art and Archaeology*. London}Archetype Publications[₉₇₇₇

Ogden, Sherelyn, ed. *Caring for American Indian Objects⁷A Practical and Cultural Guide*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004.

Rose, C.L. and de Torres, A.R., editors. *Storage of Natural History Collections⁷Ideas and Practical Solutions³* Society for the Preservation of Natural History, 1992 (reprint 2002)

Conservation Suppliers

Conservation Resources International

5532 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22151

Toll free: (800) 634-6932

www.conservationresources.com

Archival housing/storage supplies, photographic supplies, general

Gaylord Archival

P. O. Box 4901
Syracuse, NY 13221-4901
Toll Free: (800) 448-6160

www.gaylord.com

General conservation supplies, housing supplies

Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc.

6340 Bandini Blvd
Commerce, CA 90040
Toll Free: (800)-862-2228

www.hollingermetaledge.com

Archival housing/storage supplies

Light Impressions

100 Carlson Road
Rochester, NY 14610

Toll Free: (800) 975-6429

www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

Photographic supplies, housing, matting and framing supplies

University Products

517 Main Street
P. O. Box 101
Holyoke, MA 01041
Toll Free: (800) 628-1912

www.universityproducts.com

General conservation supplies, housing and matting supplies

Talas

330 Morgan Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11211
Telephone: (212) 219-0770

www.talasonline.com

Conservation supplies, photographic supplies, general



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant LG-43-12-0463-12. www.imls.gov

Ford Conservation Center
1326 S 32 Street Omaha, NE 68105 402-595-1180
nshs.grfcc@nebraska.gov history.nebraska.gov/conservation-center