



# Conserve O Gram

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## An Easy-To-Build Museum Saddle Mount

This *Conserve O Gram* provides guidance on how to build a mount to support and store a large saddle with component parts (straps, stirrups) in the way it was intended to be used. This mount is strong, light-weight, and easy to move or transport, and uses cabinet space efficiently.

### Materials

- **Museum board.** Use a single-wall and double-wall “B-Flute”, “E-Flute” or corrugated museum blue board to create the mount.
  - 40” x 60” sheet of single-wall blue board to construct the upper half of the mount
  - 30” x 40” sheet of double-wall board for the base

This board is versatile and can be used to make a custom-made containers and handling boards for housing and storing objects.

- **Archival adhesive** from Bostik called “Thermogrip 6363 Hot Melt Adhesive.” The main component of this adhesive is an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer suited to constructing object storage containers. It comes in 4 or 15 inch long glue sticks and works well with media such as paper, foam-core, Tyvek™ and museum board. It is applied with a hot glue gun.
- **Ethafoam™** for housing the saddle on the mount.
- **Acid-free tissue** for wrapping and buffering.

### Making the Mount

#### Step 1

- Cut a rectangular piece 24” wide x 49” long from the single-wall sheet of museum board.
- Find the center-point on the long sides of the rectangle (24 ½”) and draw a light pencil line across the width joining the two points together.
- From the centerline mark out ½” wide increments for the length of 6” to the left and right of the center point (12” overall).

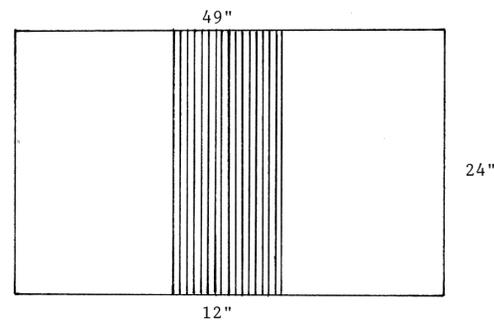


Figure 1. Layout for the upper portion or “shell” of the mount.

- With a utility knife and a straight steel ruler score through the top layer of the museum board at the centerline. **Do not cut entirely through the museum board to allow the board to flex.**
- Repeat scoring through the board parallel to the centerline every ½” for the entire length of the 12 inches. **Be sure that the cuts are exactly parallel to the centerline.**

**Step 2**

- From the double-wall sheet of museum board, cut a rectangular piece 24" wide x 22" long. This piece will become the flat base of the mount.
- Measure 2" in from both of the 24" edges at the top and bottom. Draw a light pencil line parallel to the edge joining the two points together.

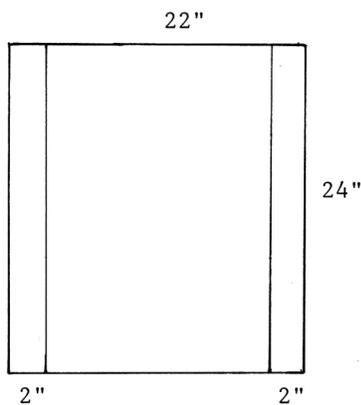


Figure 2. Layout for the base of the mount.

- With a knife, score halfway through the double-wall base along that 2" wide line. Bend up these 2" wide tabs.

**Step 3**

- Take the scored top piece and bend in gently into an arch at the top.
- Test fit the top and bottom pieces by inserting the top inside the two 2" wide base tabs. When you are satisfied with the fit, apply hot glue to the inside surface of the 2" wide tabs.
- Re-insert the top piece inside the base tabs and hold in place until the glue sets.

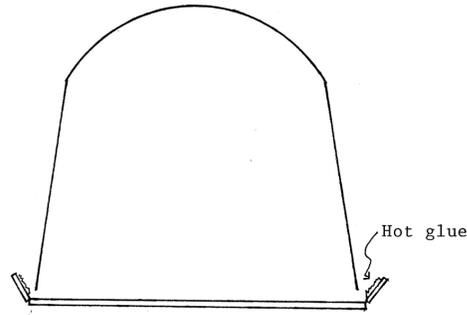


Figure 3. Assembling the shell and base.

**Step 4**

- Cut four 7" wide strips an inch or two longer than the width of the base from the left-over scrap of the 30" x 40" sheet of double-wall museum board. Both ends of the mount require two strips each. These strips will serve as braces inside the shell of the mount.
- Lay the mount over onto one of its open ends. Slide a 7" wide strip under the top and bottom of the mount. **Make sure the bottom edge of the lower strip rests in line with the top edge of the base. Do the same for the top strip. Make sure the top edge touches the underside of the arch.**
- Once in place, trace the inner angles on the bottom strip. Trace the inner curve of the arch and sides onto the top strip.
- Remove both strips and carefully cut the angles and curve to size with a utility knife.
- Test fit these braces inside the shell about 3" from the front edges and mark the place with a pencil. Make sure they fit snugly inside, especially the upper brace. Trim brace to fit if necessary.
- Once the fit is satisfactory, re-insert the bottom brace at the 3" mark. Hot glue the bottom brace in place by applying a bead glue to the left, right and bottom joints (hold the brace in place while gluing). It is

easier and less messy to hot glue the brace once it is in place rather than gluing the edges and then trying to insert it inside the shell. Repeat this step for the upper brace.

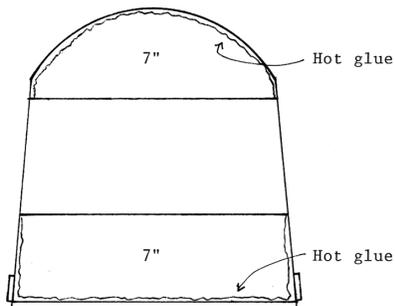


Figure 4. Installing braces inside the mount.

- Once the glue has hardened on both braces turn the mount over to repeat the process for the braces on the opposite end.
- Once all the braces are attached in place let the mount dry thoroughly (about 10 minutes).
- The finished mount is light-weight, durable and easy to transport. The compartment inside the shell provides a convenient space for storing component parts of the saddle.



Figure 5. Finished saddle mount.

### Step 5

- Pad the mount with 1-2 sheets of Etha-foam™ drawer liner cut to size. A sheet of acid-free tissue atop the foam will help

keep the padding clean.

- Center the saddle atop the mount. Secure it to the mount with cotton twill tape, if needed. This will be necessary if the saddle is moved or examined frequently.



Figure 6. Finished mount with saddle attached.

- If the saddle still has its stirrups attached, tie the stirrups to the pommel using twill tape. Cover the stirrups with acid-free tissue so that they do not rest directly on the saddle. Make sure that the stirrup straps are not creased when tying up the stirrups. Place a wad or ball of crumpled tissue on the inside of the strap to create a gentle curve. Secure tissue to strap with twill tape.
- If the pommel cannot support the weight of the stirrups, create a stirrup rest by cutting a 6" wide x 25" long piece of double-wall museum board and gluing it to the underside of the base in line with where the stirrups fall. Place the stirrup atop the protruding end on each side and tie in place. Hot glue an additional piece of double-wall board 2" wide x 18" long to the underside of the base at the front and back to steady the mount.
- Both ends of the saddle mount will have about a 7" opening between the top and bottom braces. Use this inside compart-

ment to store loose saddle parts such as stirrups, straps, or buckles.



Figure 7. Mounted saddles in storage.

The mount is designed to make maximum use of the space available inside a standard double-wide museum storage cabinet.

By changing dimensions and extending the length and height, this mount can be adapted to fit and fully support a specific saddle or saddle cover.

## Sources

University Products  
517 Main Street  
PO Box 101  
Holyoke, MA 01041  
1-800-626-1912  
[www.universityproducts.com](http://www.universityproducts.com)

Gaylord Brothers  
PO Box 4901  
Syracuse, NY 13221  
1-800-448-6160  
[www.gaylordmart.com](http://www.gaylordmart.com)

Light Impressions  
PO Box 2100  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
1-800-828-6216  
[www.lightimpressionsdirect.com](http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com)

Hollinger Metal Edge Inc  
6340 Bandini Blvd.  
Commerce, CA 90040  
1-800-862-2228  
[www.hollingercorp.com](http://www.hollingercorp.com)

Paul M. Shevchuk  
Museum Specialist  
Gettysburg National Military Park  
1195 Baltimore St., Suite 100  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

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