



Preservation Tips

Sink Mat Storage for Broken Glass Plates

Broken glass plates pose an interesting storage problem to archives. Custom sink mats provide a solution that is secure and safe for the collection while allowing for limited handling of the plate.

Benefits of sink mats:

- Limits abrasive wear on broken edges of plates.
- Prevents potential for further chipping and breakage.
- Allows for safe handling and storage of broken glass.
- Protects handler from sharp edges.

Tools needed:

- pH neutral board
- Padding (ethafoam, volara)
- Double-sided tape
- Polyvinyl acetate (PVA) emulsion adhesive
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- 1" drop front box (3" boxes not recommended)

Steps:

* Steps 1-3 can be pre-prepped when creating large numbers of sink mats.

1. Cut a piece of pH neutral board at least 6 inches larger than the glass plate (for storage purposes it is useful to make boards the same as a standard box size).
2. Cut four 2" strips of pH neutral board to create the "walls" of the sink mat.
3. Adhere strips to two adjacent sides of the board using double-sided tape or PVA.



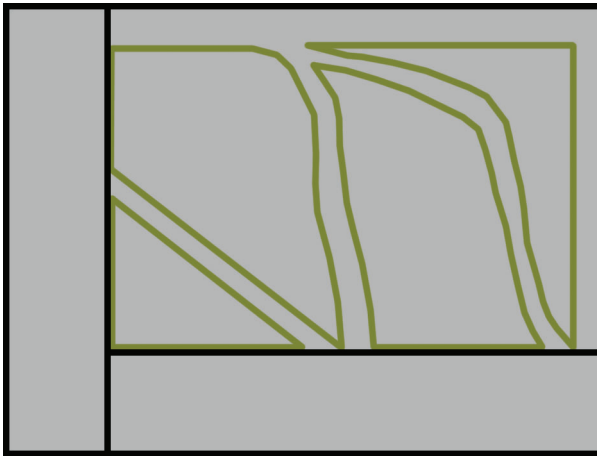
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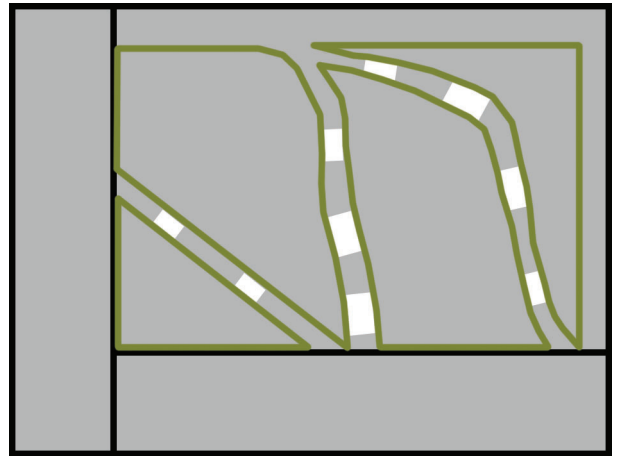
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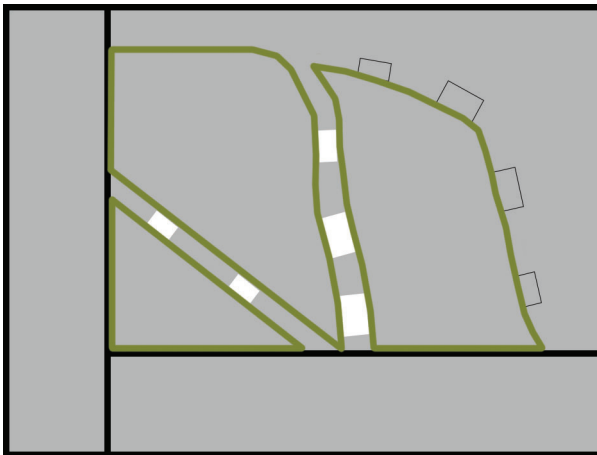
4. Arrange broken plate on the mat. To prevent damage, leave ½” to ¾” space between each piece of glass.



5. Place small pieces of padding between each piece of glass.



6. Remove the outermost piece of glass and mark the location of the padding using a pencil.



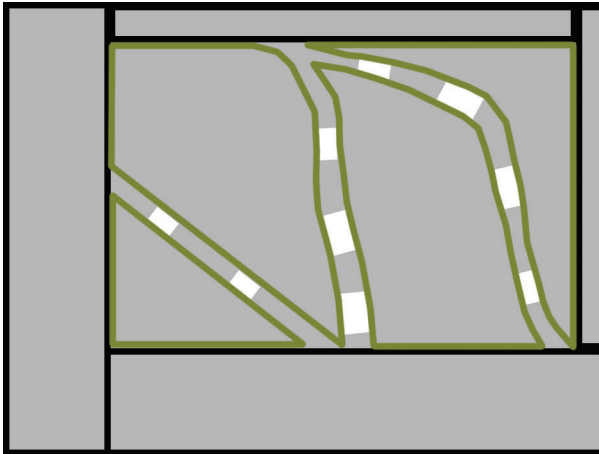
7. Proceed in a similar fashion removing the glass pieces and marking the location of padding until all the pieces have been removed.

8. Place a small amount of PVA on the back of each piece of padding and adhere it to its marked location on the board. Once the PVA has dried completely, the glass pieces can be placed back in place on the board.

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9. Once all the padding is secure and the glass pieces are in place secure the remaining two strips to the sink mat using double-sided tape.



10. The completed sink mat can be stored flat in an appropriately sized box. Multiple plates can be stored in the same box. The uppermost mat should be covered with a blank piece of acid free board.