

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING A FABRIC-COVERED BOARD

Prepared by Judith Eisenberg for FIT Graduate Studies

MATERIALS:

- Archival board
- Muslin or other plain weave cotton fabric (washed, dried, no selvages)
- T-square (metal), utility knife, scissors, straight pins, needle, thread
- Optional: resin-free batting (polyfelt)

PROCEDURE:

1. Cut the board to size, using a T-square.
2. Cut the muslin fabric allowing an extra 1 1/2 inches on two sides for turning-in, and an extra 3 inches for the middle seam on the reverse.

3. Pin the muslin fabric to the board: pulling the fabric tight and in the direction of the arrows, insert pins through the fabric into the sides of the board on all four sides, keeping the weave of the fabric straight.

4. On the reverse side, pull the fabric tight under the overlap and insert stay pins. Bring the overlap fabric forward, turn the edge of the fabric under to create the center seam and, working from the center out to the edges, pin the fabric of this seam all the way across.

The pins for the center seam are placed in the fabric in the following manner:



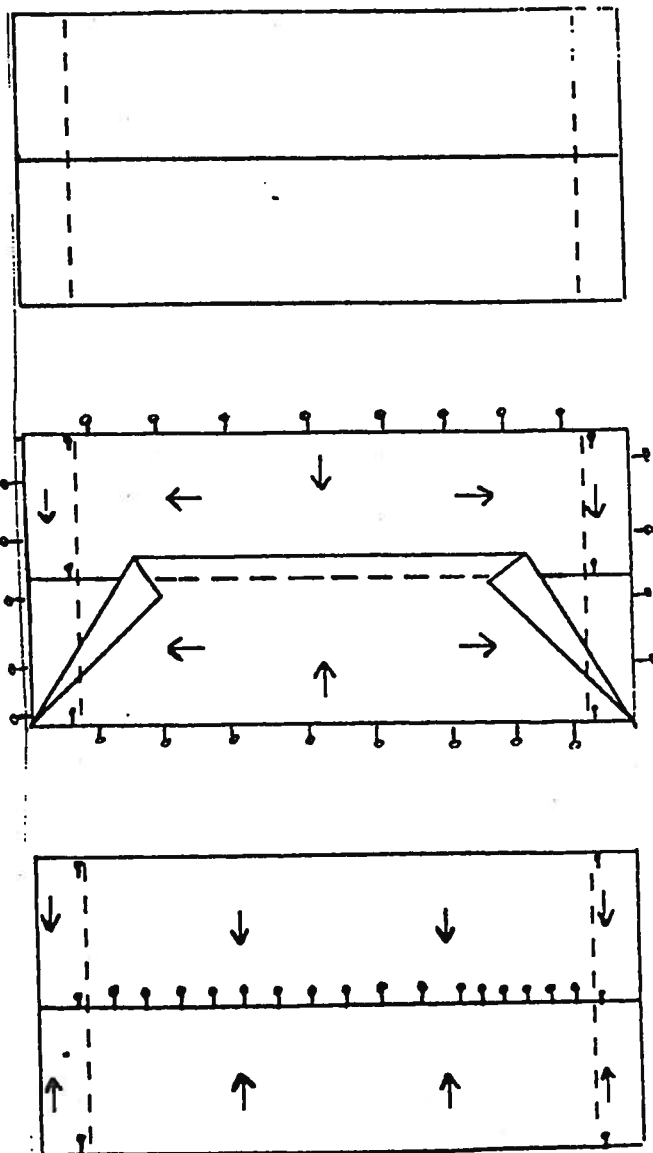
Push pin in on an angle



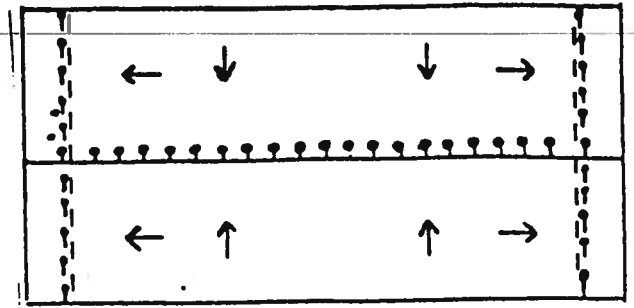
Turn pin, so as to be facing in the opposite direction



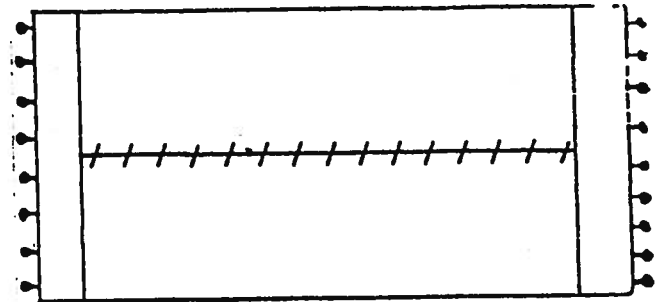
Push pin in place



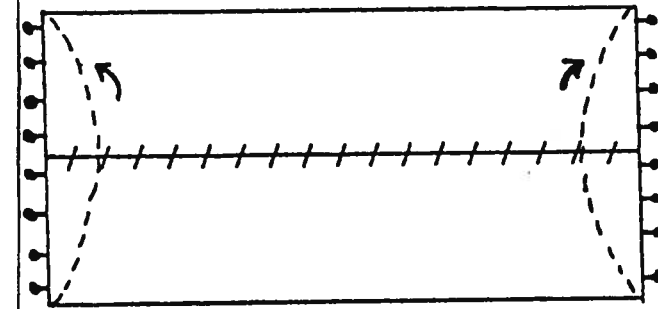
5. Insert a row of stay pins along each of the side edges, keeping the fabric taut by working one edge and pinning then pulling the fabric at the opposite edge with the same tension and pinning.



6. Stitch the center seam with a whip stitch or a herringbone stitch through all three layers of fabric and remove the pins holding the seam.

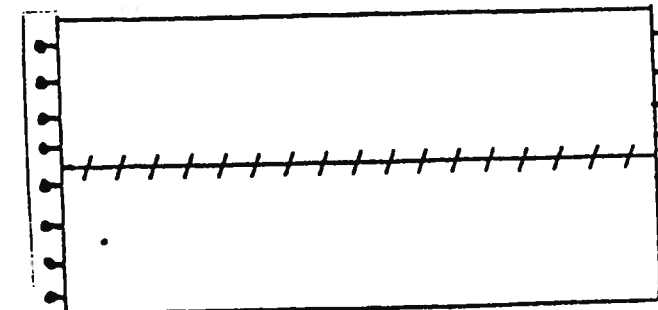


7. Remove the stay pins along one side edge of the fabric. Turn both layers of the excess fabric in at this edge, keeping tension on the fabric, to create a tight seam along this edge of the board. Insert pins to hold the fabric in place.



8. Stitch this seam closed with a whip stitch and remove the pins.

9. Keeping the fabric taut, prepare the seam on the opposite edge by repeating step 7, then stitch this seam closed and remove the pins.



Optional: If a padded board is desired, a sheet of flat resin-free batting (polyfelt) is applied to the front of the board before applying the muslin fabric.

Notes: 1) When preparing this for a pre-existing frame, measure the frame, subtracting 1/8 inch, or appropriate amount, for the bulk of the mounting material.

2) If the textile to be mounted is larger than 12 x 14 inches, cut two boards. This will make a sturdier mount.