

GWEN SPICER

305 Clipp Road  
Delmar, NY  
12054  
(518) 765-2142

## ROLLED STORAGE

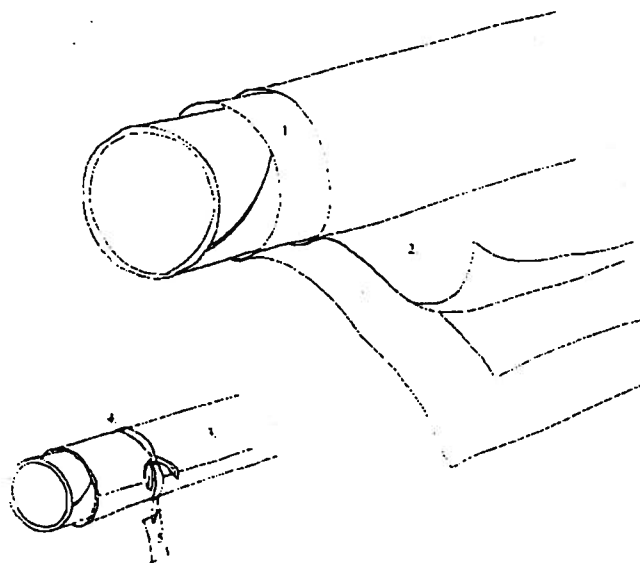
### *Introduction:*

The ideal method of storing rugs, quilts, shawls, towels, linens and large flat textiles is to roll the textiles onto tubes. These textiles are too large to be stored flat within a box, requiring folds. Rolling is a good solution for this type of artifact. Other types of artifacts that can be rolled on short tubes include long and narrow textiles, like laces and trims. Short length tubes can be placed in boxes, or drawers supported with Ethafoam cradles to suspend the tube from the bottom surface.

### *Choosing the Tube size:*

A consideration in choosing the tube's diameter is the larger the tube, the better. However, there is always a balance among space and budget constraints and the size of a collection. Unfortunately archival tubes are very expensive, as that they are a specialty item. Small lightweight textiles can easily be stored on 2" diameter tubes. Medium size textiles are best on 3" diameter tubes and heavy rugs require even larger tubes. Rolled textiles should be treated as a group in order to maximize space and budget.

Tubes used for rolling textiles should be made of acid-free cardboard. The cut edges often need to be sanded lightly. A paper or muslin apron (1.) is used to assist in the initial rolling of the textile. (See drawing) The textile can be interleaved (2.) with acid-free tissue, muslin or cotton sheets for larger textiles like rugs. An outer-covered (3.) of pre-washed cotton muslin or Tyvek is used to protect the textile. It is secured with twill tape ties (4.), 1" wide for small textiles and 1 1/2" wide for large textiles. Ties need to be placed beyond the edge of the textile. Archival tags (5.) with the textile's accession number and description can be attached to a tie. If acid-free tubes are not used due to budget restraints then a layer of Mylar or Marvalseal over the cardboard is required. Mylar is secured to the tube with double-side d tapes, 3M #415. Marvalseal can be heat sealed to any surface. (See Supply List)



### *Interleaving:*

Interleaving is needed when the textile being rolled is fragments or in poor condition. The additional layer sandwiches the textile and preventing the rolled layers from being entangled.

Some printed textiles in some environments will transfer. The insertion of the interleaf will diminish the effect.

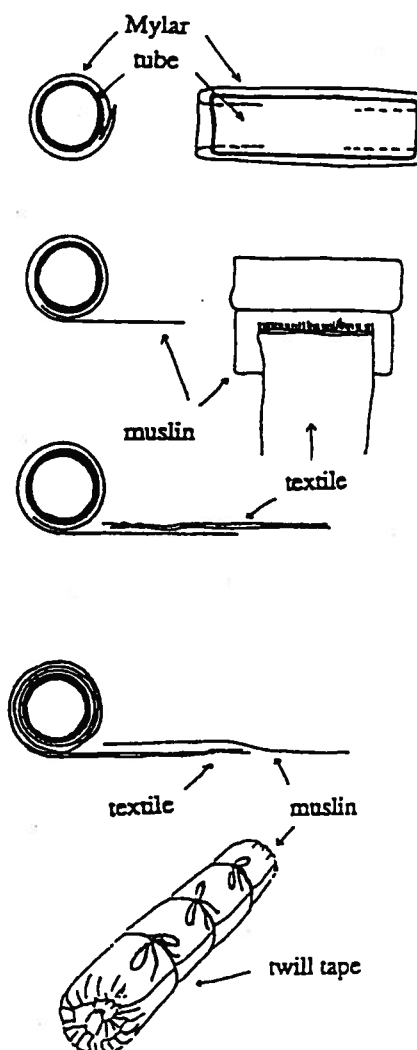
### *Outer-Covers:*

There are several collections that use Mylar with the prospects that the artifact can be seen. This is an advantage of possibly lowering handling. However, there are two main disadvantages, one is the static-charge inherent of the Mylar and the other is the potential of fading in the exposed area. If plastic is deemed necessary due to pest concerns, then Polyethylene tubing as the covering is a better choice.

### ***Rolling Procedure:***

Before beginning, it is important to prepare a proper area. This area can be on a large table. However, it needs to be clean and clutter free

1. The Tube – Choose the appropriate diameter of tube for the size and weight of the textiles. Use an acid-free tube or cover one with a good barrier material.
2. The Starter – A piece of muslin is rolled around the tube. The muslin is cut larger than the textile is wide.
3. Beginning – The textile is placed on to the muslin starter. The sides of the textile should be positioned roughly perpendicular to the ends of the tube. This is not always possible, as that historic textiles are not always square. However, by centering the textile overall with the tube, then there will be less chance of rolling crooked. Smooth out any creases, wrinkles etc. Fringes can also be straightened out at this time.
4. Rolling – Stand behind the tube, as center as possible, with the textile stretched out in front. Gently roll the tube forward at arm length. Then grasp the tube at each end and pull closer. Repeat this until the entire textile is rolled except for a few inches. Place another piece of muslin or a clean old cotton sheet on top of the textile and continue to roll. This second piece of muslin acts as an outer cover to protect your textile from dust and debris.
5. Finish – Cut an adequate length of twill tape or strip of fabric to tie around each end of the tube beyond the textile. The ties should be tied firmly but not tightly. If the textile is quite wide then ties can be used at the center. However, ensure that the twill tape is not twisted but flat.
6. Storage – When finished rolling, ideally each tube should be suspended. Laying the tube on a flat surface for a long period of time causes pressure on one section and create creases.



### ***Tubes in Boxes or Drawers:***

Care will be needed to insure that the tubes are cut to accommodate the inside dimension of the drawer or box. This is especially true with long and bulky textiles that can become large in diameter as their length is rolled.

