Basketry Storage Mount Building Guide #1: Basket Hats

This guide will take you through the steps necessary to create a storage mount using archival supplies for a common type of basket hat found in museum collections. Basket hats are very commonly stored upside-down as bowls. However, with a proper storage mount a hat can be stored like a hat, which is best for the structural integrity of the object. There are many ways to store different types of basketry hats, use this guide to get you going in the right direction.

Construction Time Estimate: 40 minutes

Archival Supplies and Tools You Will Need:

- Corrugated Board	- Tyvek	- Ethafoam Knife	- Glue Gun(s)	- Ruler
- 2” Ethafoam Planks	- Volara	- Awl	- Box Cutter	- Pencil
- 1” Backer Rod	- Twill Tape	- Hot Glue	- T-Square	

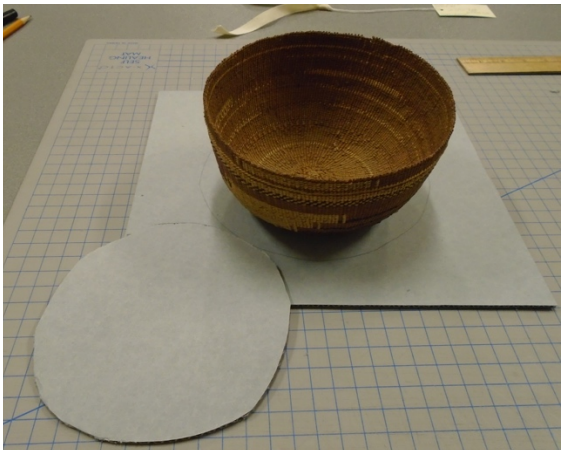
Video for Part I (https://youtu.be/ETBP8nJDt2o) **| Part II** (https://youtu.be/yo4q-X-X0wc)

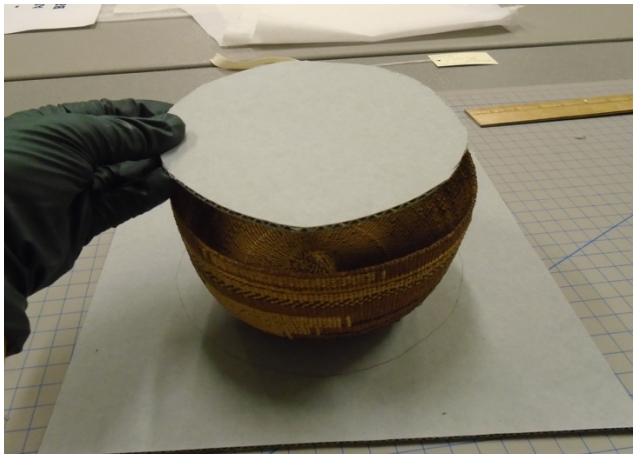
What You Are Making:

Step 1: Clear a large, flat workspace that will allow you to see the basket hat as you work but will also allow plenty of space for construction without affecting the safety of the basket.

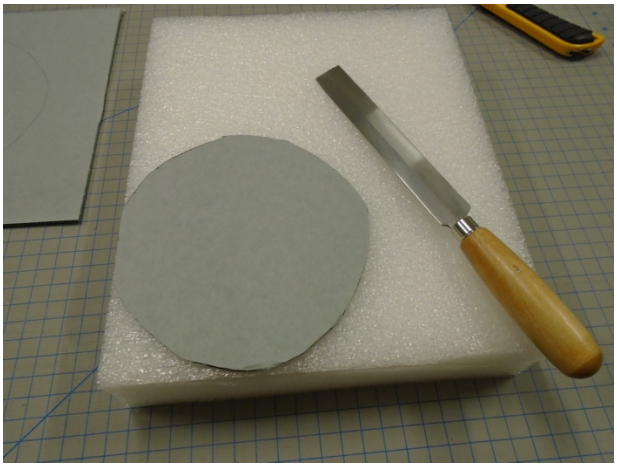
Step 2: Assess the basket hat. Check for any weak points that may need additional support or extra careful handling. Check for any evidence of pest activity that may need mitigation. This is also the best time to get the measurements and jot them down on scrap paper. Measure the diameter of the rim, the internal diameter of the top of the hat (assuming a relatively flat top), and the depth of the hat.

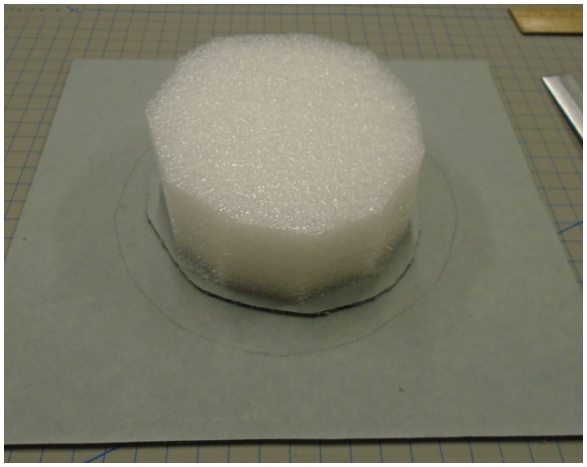
Step 3: Using a ruler and T-square, cut two squares of archival corrugated board large enough to fit the largest diameter of the basket hat, plus a couple inches on all sides. If the basket is stable enough to be handled, trace the shape of the rim with a pencil onto one of the squares of corrugated board. Cut out the circle with your box cutter. Check to make sure your circle will fit inside the hat, trim down if necessary.





Step 4: Using your circle of corrugated board as a template and your Ethafoam knife, cut and carve your Ethafoam plank into a cylinder with a diameter slightly smaller than that of your circle. This will be the first pillar on which your mount stands. You can leave this cylinder at 2" in height, or cut it down to 1" in height depending on height concerns in your storage.



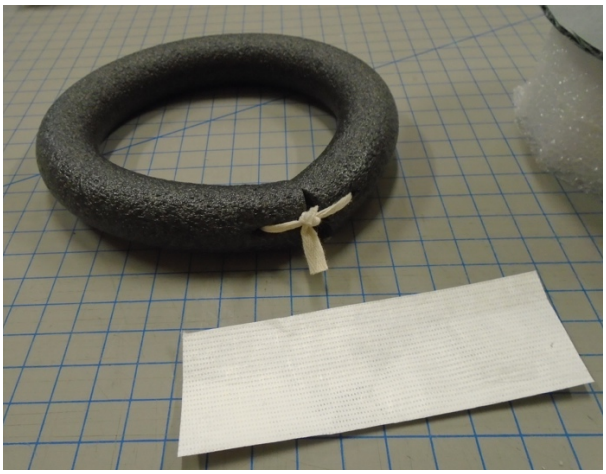


Step 5: Cut a length of backer rod that, when joined at the ends to form a ring, will match the diameter of your circle of corrugated board. This ring will attach to the top of that circle.

Step 6: Using the interior measurement of the diameter of the top of your hat, cut another length of backer rod that, when joined at the ends to form a ring, will match this diameter.

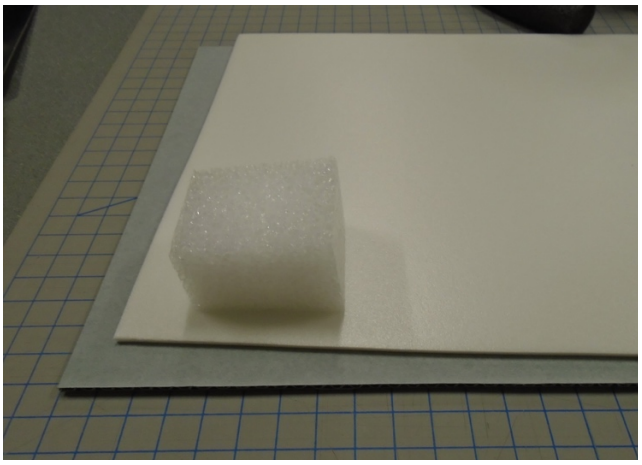
Step 7: Cut another piece of your Ethafoam plank into a cylinder that will match the diameter of the smaller backer rod ring. This is your second pillar and you will attach your smaller ring to the top of this cylinder. You can then trim down the height of this Ethafoam plank cylinder to match the depth of the hat, but don't forget to account for the extra inch of height when the backer rod ring is attached to the top. You can also shave down the sides of the cylinder so that it resembles more of an upside down cone (see image above).

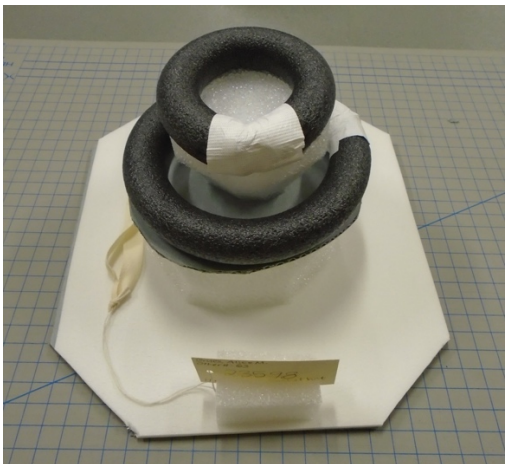
Step 8: Using low-melt hot glue or an awl and twill tape, connect the ends of your two lengths of backer rod into rings. Cover this meeting point by gluing a small strip of Tyvek around the ring's ends. This will create a smoother surface that will not harm the interior of the basket.



Step 9: Attach your "tower" together by using low-melt glue to glue the corrugated board circle to the first pillar of Ethafoam. Then glue your larger backer rod ring to the top of the circle so it just matches up with the edge. Next glue your second pillar to the center of your circle, so it is surrounded by the larger ring. If you made a cone shape, the smaller top of the cone should be attached to the circle so that your larger cone base is now the top of the tower. Finally, glue your smaller backer rod ring to the top of your second pillar so that it just matches up with the edge. Your tower is complete (see image above).

Step 10: Attach your tower to the corrugated board base. This is the first piece of corrugated board you cut back at the beginning. You can attach the tower directly to the board, or cover the board in a piece of Volara (closed-cell polyethylene foam sheet) before attaching the tower to the center of the base. The Volara will provide a smoother surface should the basket ever come in contact with the tray, but is not required.

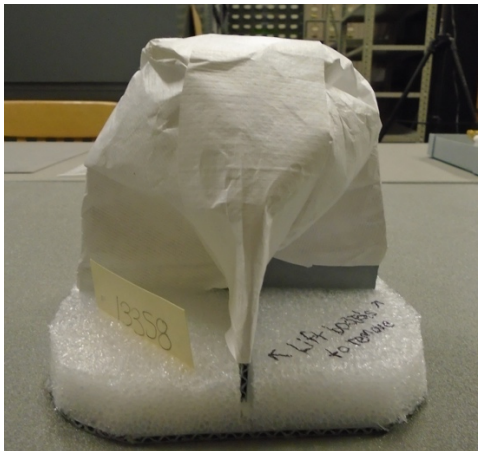


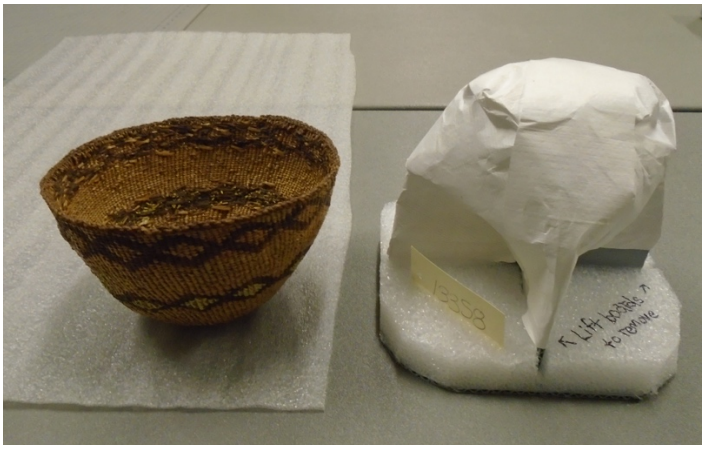


Step 11: Trim or round the corners of your tray (pointy corners around baskets are generally not a good idea). This is also a good time to attach a tiny block of Ethafoam to the edge of the tray. You can cut a slit into this block to slide in a tag for your object (see above image).

Step 12: Place your object on the mount you have just completed!

A Final Tip: Here is another type of basket hat mount you could attempt. See Part II of the video links for the construction of this mount. I found that both types of hat mounts took approximately the same amount of time.





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