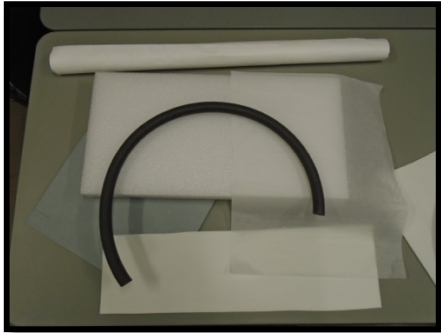


## Archival Supplies to Have on Hand



Storage mount building supplies.

- ✓ Corrugated Board
- ✓ Coroplast Sheets
- ✓ Polyethylene foam
- ✓ Unbuffered Tissue
- ✓ Buffered Tissue
- ✓ Backer Rod
- ✓ Tyvek
- ✓ Polyester Batting
- ✓ Stockinette
- ✓ Twill Tape
- ✓ Mylar
- ✓ Muslin/Cotton Fabrics
- ✓ Hot Glue (high and low melt)

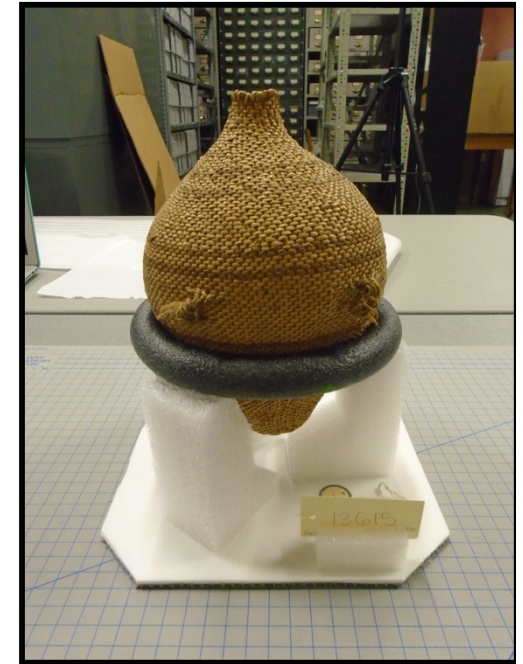
## Tools to Have on Hand

- ✓ Utility Knife, Box Cutter
- ✓ Glue Guns (high and low melt)
- ✓ Rulers
- ✓ T-Squares
- ✓ Cloth Measuring Tape
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Bone Folder
- ✓ Cutting Board
- ✓ Awl
- ✓ Sewing Kit
- ✓ Pencils
- ✓ Sharpies
- ✓ Extension Cords
- ✓ Ethafoam Knife (optional)



Storage mount building tools.

A new storage mount for UCM 13615,  
a Paiute water bottle.



# Introduction to Storage Mount Building

*By Jesse Dutton-Kenny, University  
of Colorado Museum of Natural  
History*

## Why We Make Mounts



A new storage mount for UCM 20801, a Pomo basket.

Storage mounts are an important way that we care for objects in museum collections. Storage mounts support collections preservation because:

- ✓ Mounts **support the structure** of the basket and preserve the physical integrity over time.
- ✓ Mounts **reduce the handling** of objects, and every time we do not have to directly handle an object that prolongs its life.
- ✓ Improved handling through mounts also **increases our ability to provide access to collections** through research and exhibition.
- ✓ Mounts with lids and those that fully enclose the object can also help **protect from light and dust**.

## Using Archival Supplies

In order to make storage mounts that follow best professional practices we use archival supplies. Below are five principles to help you choose supplies.

1. **Chemically Stable:** If your supplies contain harmful substances, those migrate to the objects. Choose supplies that have been tested to be chemically stable.
2. **Acid and Lignin-Free:** Paper-based materials contain acidic impurities that can also harm objects. Choose supplies that have been chemically purified to remove acid and lignin.
3. **Buffered vs. Unbuffered:** Some supplies will contain a buffering agent (“alkaline reserve”) that helps keep them acid-free long term. Buffered supplies should be used for cellulosic (plant-based) objects like baskets. Unbuffered supplies are best for protein-based.
4. **Know the Safe Plastics:** Three types of plastics meet preservation standards. Those are polyester, polypropylene, and polyethylene.
5. **Know the Safe Fabrics:** Cotton and linen are naturally chemically stable and are used in collections. Make sure to get “unsized” fabrics and wash them prior to use.

## Tips and Tricks for Mount Building

- ✓ Mounts will almost always grow the space your collection takes up. Your storage situation may dictate your ability to make mounts.
- ✓ Mount building can take a long time and archival supplies can be expensive. Assess your staffing, available work space, and budget.
- ✓ Determining the type of mount to make will depend on the size, shape, condition, and materials of the object. Examine the object.
- ✓ Everyone will make mounts a slightly different way. There is no single template. As long as the object’s safety and preservation is the top priority, your own is fine.
- ✓ Label your supplies! It is seldom possible to tell archival vs. non-archival or buffered vs unbuffered supplies apart visually.



A new storage mount for a basketry hat.