Basketry Storage Mount Building Guide #3: Side Supports

This guide will take you through the steps necessary to create a storage mount using archival supplies for baskets needing support on their sides. This could be due to the shape of the basket, flaring rims, or a fragile area. This guide will get you started with key techniques that could be applied to a huge variety of types of side supports.

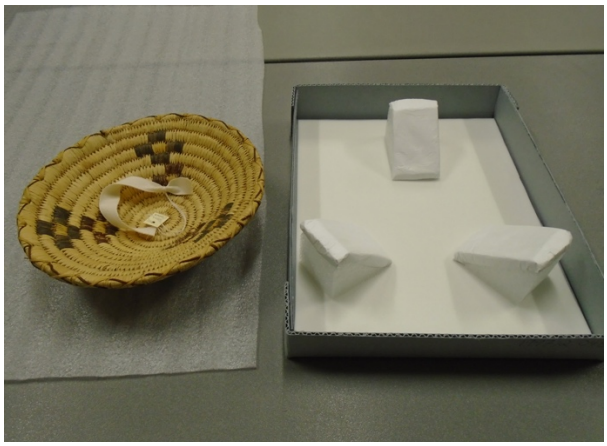
Construction Time Estimate: 45 minutes – 1 hour

Archival Supplies and Tools You Will Need:

- Corrugated Board
- 2" Ethafoam Planks
- Tyvek
- Volara
- Ethafoam Knife
- Box Cutter
- Hot Glue
- Glue Gun(s)
- Bone Folder
- T-Square
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Twill Tape
- Awl

Link to the Video (https://youtu.be/M2Z4hlWmPEk)

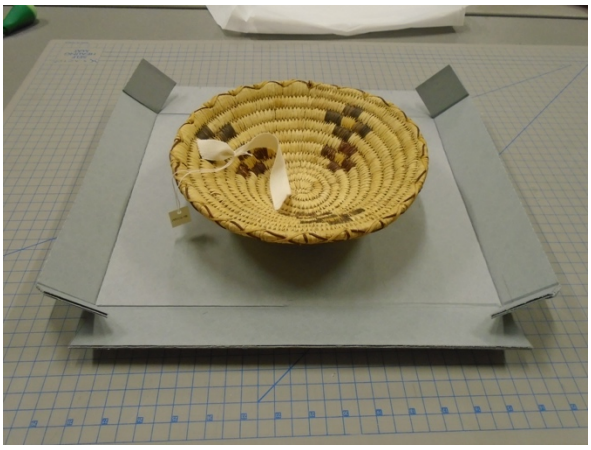
What You Are Making:

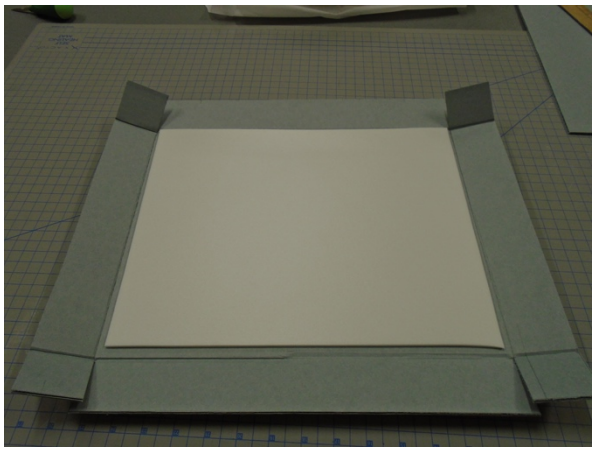


Step 1: Clear a large, flat workspace that will allow you to see the basket as you work but will also allow plenty of space for construction without affecting the safety of the basket.

Step 2: Assess the basket. 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 both the largest and smallest diameter of basket (rim and base perhaps) as well as the height. This is the time to decide and make note of where you will place your side supports.

Step 3: Using a ruler and T-square, cut a square of archival corrugated board large enough to fit the largest diameter of the basket, plus a three inches on all sides (for a tray with sides). This will be your tray, to use as a base of the mount. You have the option of simply cutting a smaller flat board or creating a custom tray with sides. In this case I will show the process of creating a tray with sides. The sides allow for easier handling in that the handler has something more substantial to grip onto when lifting. It can be a challenge to get your fingers under a flat board to lift it safely.

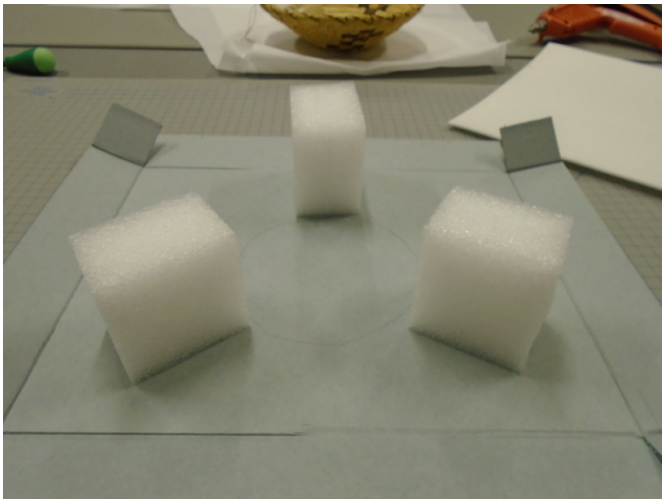




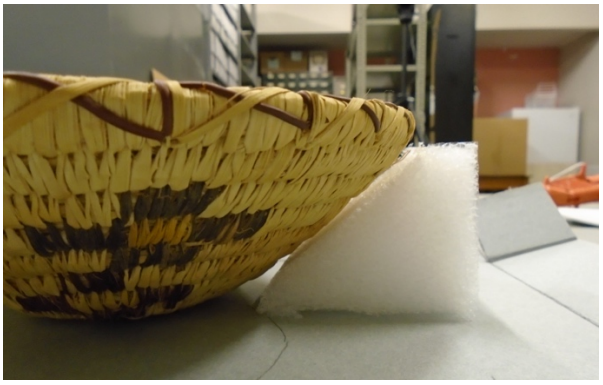
Step 4: To make your tray use your ruler and T-square to mark out and draw a line 2 inches in from the edge on every side. Using the bone folder and a straight edge, score these lines. Using your box cutter cut a line to form tabs on only 2 opposite sides of your four sides (see above image). Fold up your scored sides and using high-melt hot glue, glue the tabs down to the outside to create your tray (binder clips are great for holding tabs in place while the glue dries).

Step 5: Measure the interior length and width of your tray and cut a piece of Volara (closed-cell polyethylene foam sheet) to line the inside base of your tray. Using low-melt hot glue, glue down the Volara to the tray (see above images).

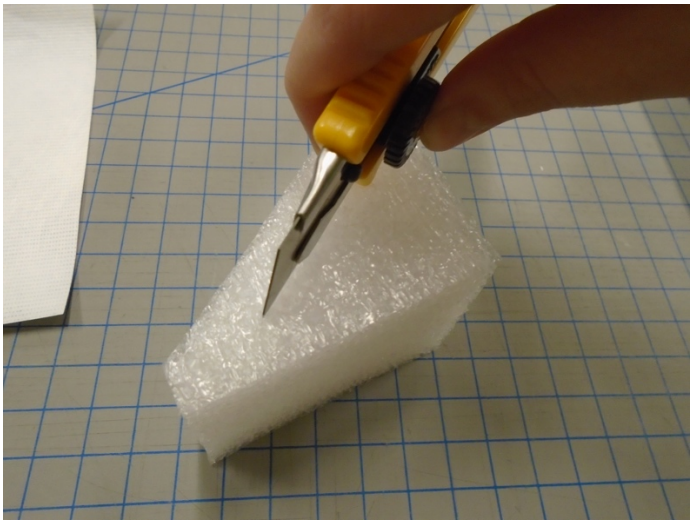
Step 6: Using your Ethafoam plank, cut out three rectangular plank pieces, where the length and width of your cuts are equivalent to the height of the basket. In this case about 3” x 3”. It is often easiest to cut one using a ruler and T-square and then use that first plank piece as a template to cut the other two pieces. You will trim these pieces down to fit the shape of the basket.



Step 7: Using the basket itself as a guide and your Ethafoam knife to carve the planks, begin trimming down your planks into a shape that will hug the outer edge of the basket. In this case that is a triangular shape. Often this will be a process of trimming, then checking the fit, then trimming some more until you have got the fit just right. Again, get one just right and then use it as a template to trim down the other two pieces. You now have three side supports.

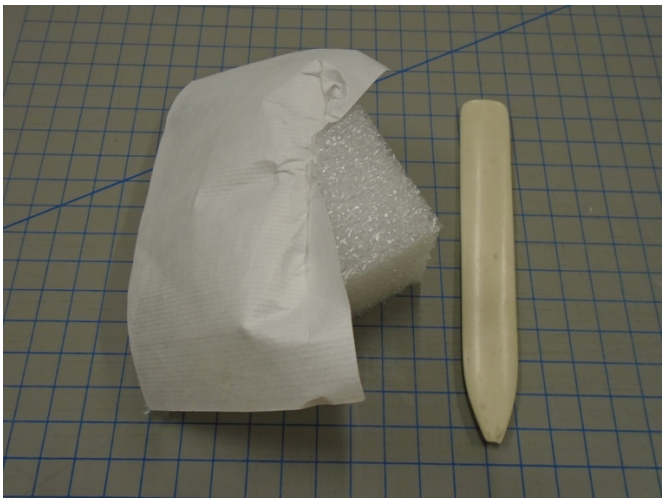


Step 8: You will now cover all three side supports with a piece of Tyvek. This is because your cut Ethafoam planks now have a very abrasive edge that will harm the basket. Adding a Tyvek cover will create a smooth surface that comes in contact with the basket. To do this, begin by using your box cutter or Ethafoam knife to cut a slit into the Ethafoam around the entire portion of your side support that will come in contact with the basket. Your slit should be about 0.5” deep and 0.5” away from the edge of where it touches the basket. Repeat for all three.

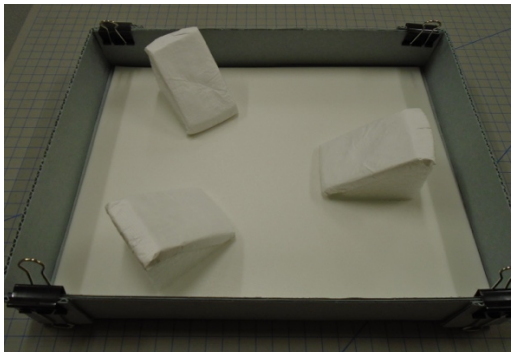


Step 9: Cut a piece of Tyvek that will be large enough to cover the entire portion of side support that comes in contact with the basket, plus an extra inch that will be tucked into the slit you just created (see above image). Repeat for all three supports. Using the bone folder, begin tucking/pushing the Tyvek into the slit all the way around the side support. Repeat for all three.

As a Note: Tyvek has two sides to it, one that is a little rougher and one that is noticeably smoother. Make sure the smooth side is up and will be touching the basket.



Step 10: Place the basket in the center of your tray/base. Using the basket itself as a guide, position your three Tyvek-covered side supports around the basket so that the are evenly spaced and are supporting any portions of the basket that may need extra support. You want to strike a balance between getting a snug fit and ensuring that you are not pressing the side supports too close to be impacting the basket. Once you have your fit, remove the basket.



Step 11: Trace the placement of the side supports with a pencil so that you do not alter their positions while gluing them down. Using the low-melt hot glue, glue all three to the tray/base.

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

Link to the Video (https://youtu.be/M2Z4hlWmPEk)