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Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien  
University of Applied Arts Vienna

**supporting and mounting of textiles for  
display and storage  
3-dimensional textiles**

**MA Britta Schwenck**

**TEXTILE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP**

**Bogd Khaan Palace Museum, Ulaanbaatar**

**February 24 – 28, 2014**

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supporting and mounting (3-dimensional textiles)

- materials
- display of 3-dimensional textiles
- storage of 3-dimensional textiles

- short introduction in materials for display and storage (you have already heard last days)
- some examples for displaying 3-dimensional objects
- some examples for storing 3-dimensional objects

- acid free tissue paper
- acid free cardboard
- acid free corrugated paper board
- acid free honeycomb paper panel
  
- cotton and linen (unbleached, prewashed)
- polyester: and nylon woven and spunbonded
- hook and loop fasteners → Velcro
  
- polyethylene (PE) → Ethafoam, Plastazote
- polypropylene (PP)
- polyester (PES) → fishing line
- polystyrene (PS)
- acrylic → Plexiglas
- polycarbonate
- polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) → Teflon

For exhibition and storage there are a lot of materials that can be used. Always try to use special materials for conservation purposes. That means they are tested for long time purposes, they are acid-free and not harmful to your textiles. If you cant get these materials do your best to protect textiles from harmful materials!

## **mounting of costumes**

- good support for the textiles/costumes

**→ don't show fragile objects in an exhibition (without conservation treatment) !!!**

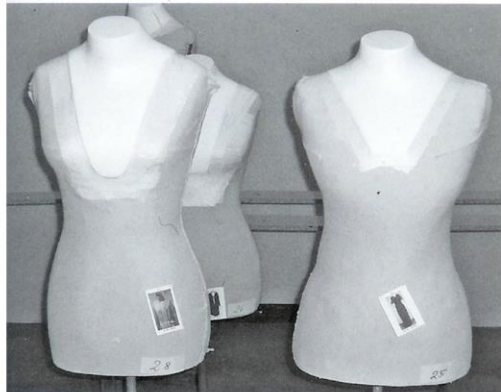
A good support and mount for the textile objects helps to prevent further damage. Always try to find the best way of supporting and mounting.

Avoid the exhibition of fragile objects - never do it without conservation treatment und never display a textile without a good support!

## mannequins



© Angelika Reschke 1994

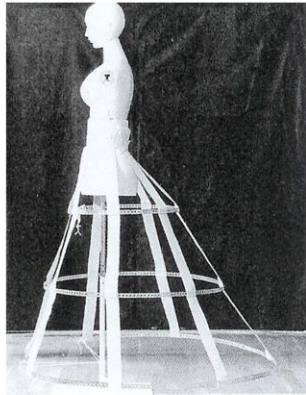


© Landesmuseum Joanneum Graz

Different types of mannequins (with/without legs and arms, with padding...)

If you don't find a mannequin that fits perfectly to the object (most of the time you will not find that!), choose the smaller one and help yourself with padding it to the shape you need!

## mannequins



© Angelika Reschke 1994



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Different types of mannequins, with padding, special mounts etc.

For example: if the dress has a wide skirt, make a support for the skirt (left picture).

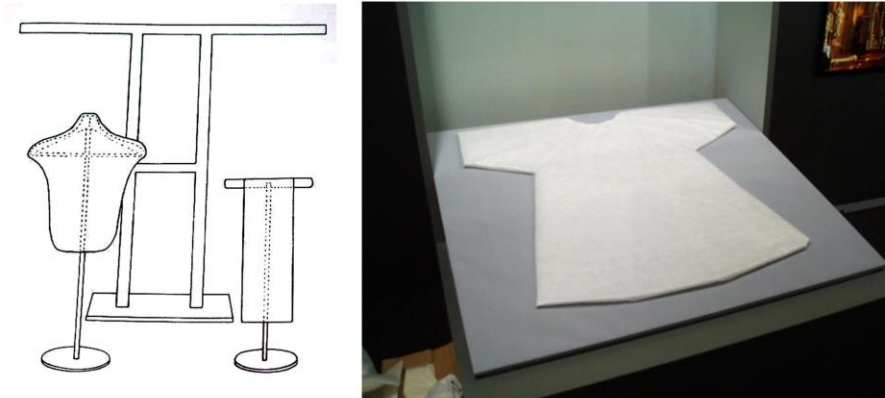
## mannequins – padding



© University of Applied Arts Vienna

Padded mannequins for better support of fragile objects and for better fitting.

## other supports



© University of Applied Arts Vienna

Other possibilities for exhibition of 3-dimensional objects – some supports for hanging (e.g. liturgical garments) or „flat“ (lying) exhibition in a showcase.



## examples for costumes on display



© Landesmuseum Baden-Württemberg



© Kyoto Costume Institute

## examples for costumes on display



© Stift Klosterneuburg

## examples for costumes on display



© MAK Wien

## mounting of accessories (shoes)



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3-dimensional objects/accessories like shoes, hats/headaddresses, fans etc. need special supports and mounts. Most of the time you have to prepare a special mount for each object.

On the left image there is a pair of shoes without padding, the picture in the middle shows the same shoes with padding.

On the left picture you can see different ways of mounting a shoe: with paper (in front) or polyester padding (behind).

## mounting of accessories (headdresses)



Different types of mounts for headdresses /hats/bonnets. On the left side an example for an easily made support (cardboard) - we will do afterwards, on the right side another support that can be done easily (you can use this mount for storage also). The type of the mount depends on the exhibition and the requirements of the designer (curator) of the exhibition (the picture in the middle shows a mount for an exhibition when you put on the hat, only the metal will be visible).

## examples for accessories on display



© Landesmuseum Baden-Württemberg



© Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien

Two examples of the presentation of shoes and hats.

The exhibition of the hats is made with some tubes, which have a mount on their top (invisible).

examples for accessories on display



© Kyoto Costume Institute



© Evi Scheller 2009

And some other examples for the exhibition of hats.

## **storage of textiles**

choose materials for conservation purposes!

→ acid-free, long-lasting etc.

if not available try the best to protect the textile from harmful materials (e.g. isolation with aluminumfoil, PE-foil, layer of prewashed cotton fabric etc.)

For the storage of 3-dimensional textiles you have choose the best way of supporting. The materials you use should be made for conservation/storage purposes, they should be acid-free, long-lasting, stable and they should give a good support.

If you don't have these materials, protect your textile from the harmful materials! For example cover a wooden hanger with some aluminumfoil ("marvelseal"), or a layer of polyester padding and a prewashed cotton fabric.



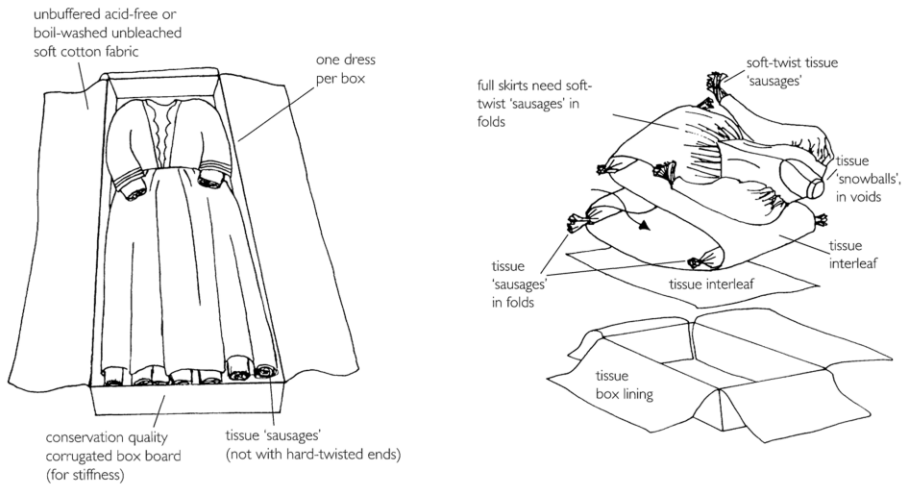
## **storage of costumes**

- in a box
- hanging in a cupboard

**→ depends on the condition of the object!**

3-dimensional textiles like costumes (garments) can be stored in different ways: if they are in good (or say better) condition you can put them on hangers and store them in a cupboard. Fragile costumes should be layed flatly and with padding in a box. Don't forget to cover the objects to protect them from dust.

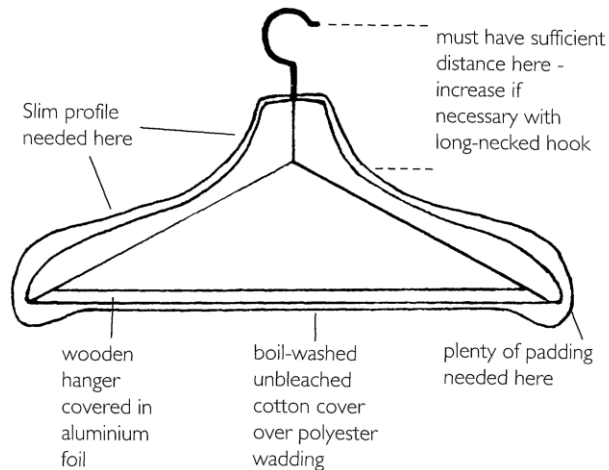
## in a box



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Folds, sleeves etc. in costumes should be padded with acid-free tissue paper or with polyester padding (see the left picture). If the costume is too big for the box and not in too bad condition, you can fold it like it is shown in the right picture. But again: don't forget the padding of folds!

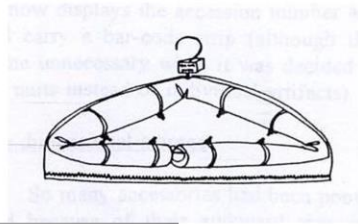
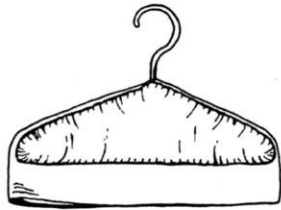
## padded hangers



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Costumes in better condition can be put on padded hangers. Therefore you can use wooden hangers, put a layer of aluminium foil, one or two layers of polyester-padding on it and then cover it with a prewashed cotton fabric. We will do this afterwards. The more/the bigger padding, the better support for the textile! But think about your space in the storage/cupboard.

## padded hangers



© University of Applied Arts Vienna

Some examples of making padded hangers: with polyester padding (left) or with PE-foam (right).

On the bottom you can see the wooden hanger, covered with PES-padding and cotton (knitted/jersey).

example for storage with padded hangers



© B. Schwenck, Costume Collection, University of Applied Arts Vienna

Here an example of a cupboard with costumes, hanging on padded hangers.

## **storage of accessories**

→ make mounts/supports for the objects

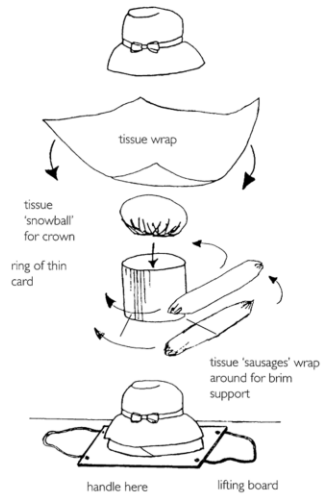
→ materials: acid-free tissue paper, PE-foam, PES-padding etc.

storage:

- in a box
- In a shelve, cupboard...

For the storage of accessories you mostly need special supports and mounts. You can use acid-free paper and cardboard or you can use Polyethylene-foam which can be sawn, cut and glued in every shape you need.

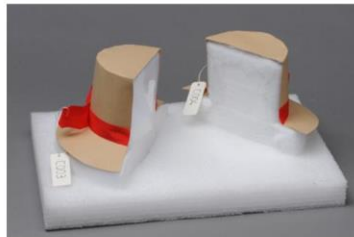
## mounts for headdresses



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The easiest way for supporting a headdress. They use acid-free tissue paper and make snowballs and sausages for the support on a board. If you don't fix the materials, they could move and might get lost.

## mounts for headdresses

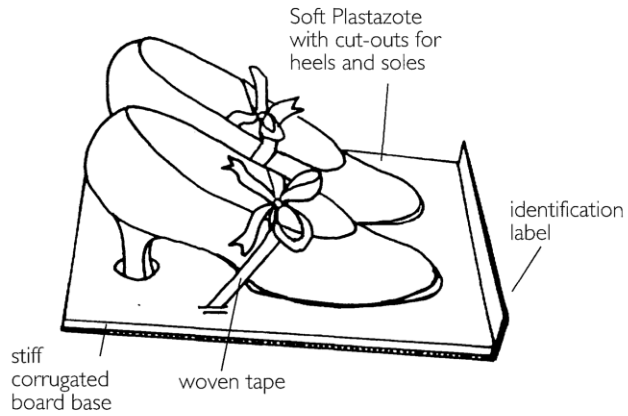


© University of Applied Arts Vienna

Another way of mounting headdresses, using acid-free cardboard, PE-foam (on top) and some cotton fabric to cover the mount. If there are ribbons on the hat, you can roll them on small tubes and fix them with a white cotton-ribbon.



## mounts for shoes



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For shoes you can make a board with cut-outs to place the shoes on the board, for fixing them use cotton-ribbons. The board can be stored in a box or in a shelf.

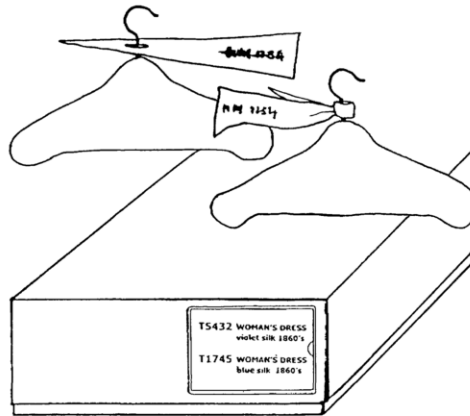
## mounts for shoes



© University of Applied Arts Vienna

Some examples for padding the shoe inside: tissue-snowballs or polyester-padding. The silk shoe (bottom) is standing on a board (with cut-outs) that fits in a cardboardbox.

don't forget to put the inventory-number on the box / hanger / board etc.!



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Don't forget to put the inventory number on your mount, box, shelf, cupboard! It will help to find the objects easily!

# Thank you for listening!

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