

# Preservation Mounting Various Objects

by Diane Day, CPF

*Editor's note: Mounting objects can be tricky, especially if they are delicate or valuable. There are a few clever ways to mount objects while still keeping preservation in mind, however. Here are a few tips and suggestions for some of the objects framers see most often.*

## Phonographic Records

Mounting a 78 record is relatively easy. One method is to use a plate holder or multi-purpose Mighty Mounts.

When using a plate holder, buy one with plastic-coated tips or slip small pieces of plastic tubing over the wire ends of the holder.

Another method is to use an acrylic or wooden dowel, a screw with a “decorative” cap nut, or something similar. Choose a dowel or screw that is the right diameter for the hole in the record. Cut it to the length you need and secure it through a hole cut in the mounting board. Then slip the record on the dowel or screw. If you do not like the look of a dowel sticking out of the record you can always glue some material to the front edge as camouflage.

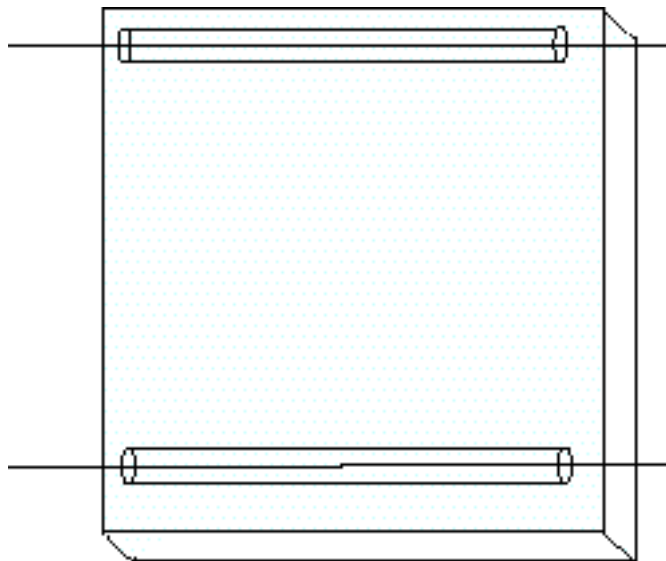
For 45 records, place the plastic insert in the large hole and proceed as explained above. If you do not have the insert, then cut a circle out of foamboard that will fit snugly into the large hole in the record. Glue the foamboard circle to the mounting board, and then push the record onto the foamboard. To cover up the foamboard circle, glue on a piece of matboard, decorative paper, etc.

## Ceramic Tiles

Tiles that are not too thick can be mounted using a

plate hanger or multipurpose Mighty Mounts. The use of a sink mat is another preservation mounting method. A sink mat is made by placing the tile on the mounting board and layering strips of matboard or foamboard around it to the height of the tile. A window mat with an opening slightly smaller than the size of the tile is then placed on top of the tile. The strips will keep the tile from moving sideways, and the smaller window opening keeps the tile from falling forward.

If the tile is large or very heavy the mounting board should be sturdy enough to support the weight. If the tile is to be floated and a plate hanger or Mighty Mounts will not do, then a compromise between preservation and non-preservation methods is necessary. Hugh Phibbs, *PFM's* Preservation Editor, makes the following suggestion. Get good quality, small plastic tubing and cut it into two or more pieces slightly shorter than



*Attach silicone tubing to the back of the tile using silicone glue. Run fishing line through the tubing and the mounting board, then tie it off on the back.*

the width of the tile. Attach the tubing with silicone glue across the back of the tile. The number of pieces you will need will depend on the size and weight of the tile. Once the glue has dried, run fishing line through each piece of tubing, and then through the mounting board, using something like buttons to tie off the fishing line on the back side of the mounting board. If the tile ever needs to be removed from the backing all you have to do is cut the fishing line.

## Small, Two-Dimensional, Delicate Items

When hinging or sewing are not options, encapsulation may be the way to go when you have to frame an item

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such as Oriental paper cutouts or a small piece of fragile fabric. There are three types of plastic sheeting currently acceptable for use in encapsulation: polyester, polypropylene, and polyethylene. These plastics become unacceptable if they have any additives or coatings. Polyester, often called by the trade name Mylar D, in its pure state best meets long-term storage requirements. It is very clear, smooth and rigid. Polypropylene is less rigid but clear, and a lower cost alternative. Polyethylene is the softest and least clear of the three types. A low-cost alternative to polyester, it can be used when clarity and rigidity are not concerns.

## **Tintype Photographs**

This process was patented as a melaninotype in 1856 and was originally referred to as a ferrotype. These photographs are really on iron, not tin. "Tintype" was a folk designation that lasts to this day. The George Eastman House places them in sink mats (to give them a 3-D effect) or float mounts them using polyester corner pockets when hanging them in an exhibition. If a tintype is in a sleeve or case, do not remove it! Mount it as it is. Sometimes the corners of tintypes are rolled up. It is not advisable to cut them off so try to accommodate them by mounting the photographs with edge strips and then using a lift mat.

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