

More Liner Replacements

by Hugh Phibbs

Fabric-covered liners may contribute to the aesthetic impact of a frame, but they pose a preservation problem. As was noted in last month's column, the wood on which the fabric is mounted cannot be sealed on the side which faces the viewer.

This allows the wood to off-gas into the frame and endanger its contents.

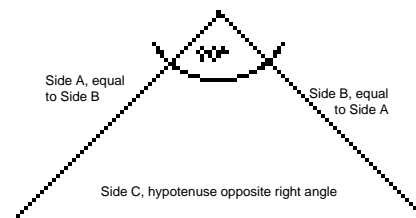
One method for creating a modest liner-like element out of conservation quality board was detailed previously (in last month's issue). That method limited the size of the

liner replacement, since it required that a stack of four-ply board be cut on the diagonal down the length of the stack with a razor blade. The creation of this cut in a stack of board large enough to yield a bigger spacer would be too difficult and hazardous to contemplate.

When a shadow box is designed, the framer may want inside walls beveled in toward the back mat to focus the viewer's gaze on the material being framed. The techniques used to create the bevels for deep beveled mats have been described in the 1995 and 1997 Preservation Supplements. They can be employed to create larger bevels

which can be backed with vertical walls of backing board to make an inexpensive and preservationally sound liner substitute.

Here, the only parts which require special attention are the bevel sections, since there is no window mat needed. They are created in the same manner as those used in deep mats, but their size may exceed that of bevels used in window mats and an expanded set of figures is provided here (see chart on following page). The geometry involved in creating the bevel sections is greatly simplified with a cutter which cuts at a 45° angle. If a wall or bar type cutter which has this capacity is not available, a hand-held one can do the job. If the bevels are cut at 45°, the height to which they rise will equal the distance they cover across the back mat, since the bevels will form the hypotenuse of an isosceles right triangle (see below). When the height to which the bevel will rise has been determined, the same interval can be added to each side of



An isosceles triangle has two equal sides.

the back mat to account for the distance the bevels will run across it.

Height bevel rises = Width of Bevel
Distance bevel runs

1/4"	3/8"
3/8"	1/2" +
1/2"	5/8"
5/8"	7/8"
3/4"	1 1/16"
7/8"	1 1/4"
1"	1 3/8" +
1 1/8"	1 5/8" -
1 1/4"	1 3/4"
1 3/8"	1 15/16"
1 1/2"	2 1/8"

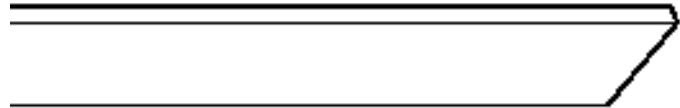
(+ or - = plus or minus 1/32")

Figure 1



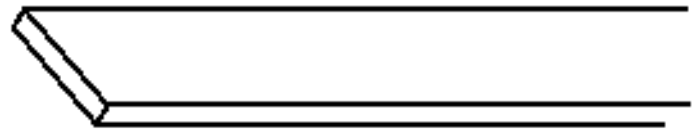
A strip of board can be marked so that parallel lines can be cut in it to form the bevel sections, according to the figures given on the chart. Great care must be taken to ensure that the cuts are parallel and the strips are of equal width. When they are finished, a line should be struck across one end of the cuts which crosses them at 55° (Figure 1). A beveled cut should be made along that line and the finished bevels can be removed from the strip. They will look like Figure 2 in front and like Figure 3 in back. Strips of backing board should now be cut

Figure 2



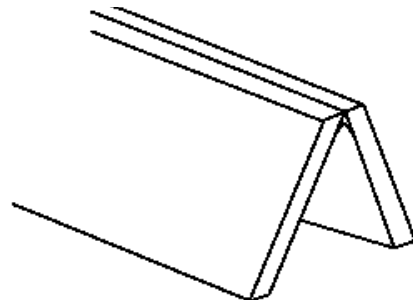
in widths equal to the height of the bevel sections when they are standing. A bead of PVA glue can now be applied to one edge of the backing board and the edge of the bevel section can be pressed onto it and the two can stand together as the glue dries (Figure 4). When the glue is dried, the bond will be weak, but it can be reinforced with hot melt glue which should be applied to the inside of the structure where the two strips meet.

Figure 3



When the parts are solid, the end of the section of backing board which is next to the part of the bevel section which has been cut across at 55° will have to be trimmed with a blade so that it can be fitted against the front of another of the pieces. When this has been done, they can be laid out in a pinwheel pattern with their beveled ends butting against the sides of their neighbors. The arrangement can be adjusted so that the outside of

Figure 4

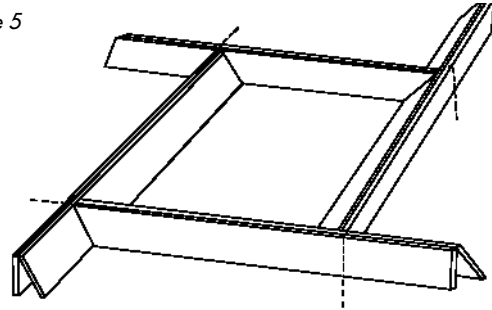


preservation practices

the rectangle created by the top of the strips will fit within the rabbet dimensions of the frame (Figure 5). The material which exceeds the dimensions of that rectangle can be trimmed off and the strips can be glued to their neighbors where they meet. The structure can be strengthened with a backing made of a window cut to fit its underside and attached there with glue.

The board used to make this liner can be faced with conservation quality decorative paper before the bevel sections are cut. If the board is coated with acrylic gloss medium, which has been allowed to dry, fabrics, such as cottons and synthetics, can be ironed on to its surface before the cutting begins to yield a richer look. If the right techniques

Figure 5



are employed, framers can maintain preservation standards, conserve their resources, and create truly elegant settings for works of art, without undue effort. ■