

## Matted Textile Portfolio with Magnetic Closures and Slight Compression

Ashleigh Ferguson Schieszer

2024

**Overview:** This is a versatile solution for fragile, loose textiles. The matting system allows the object to be both stored and exhibited in the same container, without needing to be touched. The extra added benefit of this solution enables both sides of the textile to be viewed without needing to take the textile out of the portfolio. The portfolio only needs to be closed, flipped, then reopened as needed for viewing.

### Materials needed:

- Polyester batting
- 4 ply rag matboard
- Cotton muslin fabric
- Jade 403 PVA
- Thin rare earth magnets – two thickness
- Smooth Tyvek sheeting
- 1-inch and 2 ¼ thick Tyvek tape

### How to make a portfolio for storing fragile textiles with magnetic closures:

1. Optional step (especially helpful for batching). Cut two templates out of wastepaper: one the size of the batting and one the size of the back mat.
  - a. Cut polyester batting approx. 1.5 inches larger margin around the outside of textile. This gives extra space needed around the perimeter when opening the mat upside down to see the verso of the textile.
  - b. Cut backing board approx. 1.5 inches larger than polyester batting. I leave ¼ inch extra space at the bottom edge to “bottom weight” the mat.
2. Cut three mat boards the size of the back mat, and one mat board the size of the batting using the wastepaper templates as a guide. You’ll have a total of four mats.
3. Cut one sheet of polyester batting the size of the template. I used the mat board to aid in this step to get a rough cut, then straightened the batting edges on the board shear.
4. Tack polyester batting down with two small 3M 415 double stick tape on a backing board.
5. Adhere muslin fabric over polyester batting with Jade 403 PVA around the perimeter only.



## Matted Textile Portfolio with Magnetic Closures and Slight Compression

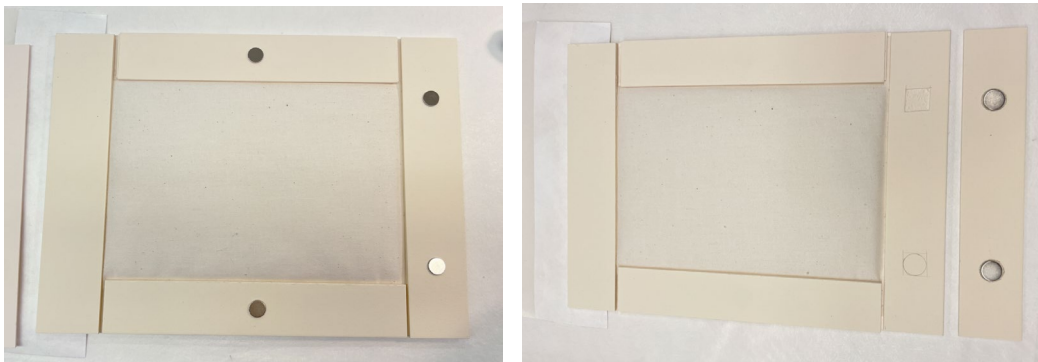
Ashleigh Ferguson Schieszer

2024

6. Add a 2 ¼ inch thick Tyvek tape along the gutter, extending off. This will be used to hinge on the cover later. Reattach backing of extension. Make sure you have oriented the bottom weighted side down.



7. Add two thickness of sink mat margins, slightly overlapping the batting to make any rough cuts square. Add inlaid magnets at this time, sandwiched between the two strips of mat board. These magnets should be the thickest/strongest of all the magnets to keep the window mat in place while the cover mat opens preferentially (2mm thick magnets used). Ties are not recommended.

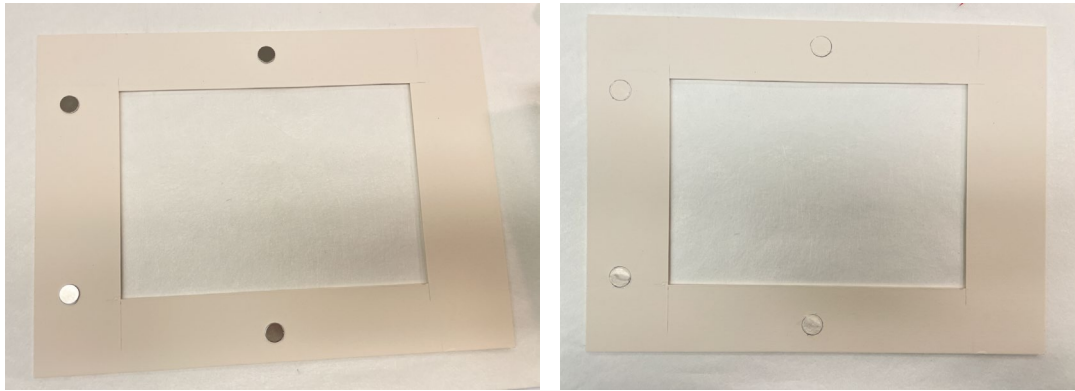


8. Cut window mat, overlapping onto the batting by a few millimeters.
9. Trim the inner window scrap to remove bevel and reduce dimensions by a few millimeters. This will be used for the inset compression piece and needs to fit easily inside the window once covered in Tyvek.
10. Cut a sheet of Tyvek that will be used to line the inside of the cover mat. Cut it larger than the dimension of the cover so the excess can be trimmed after it's adhered.
11. Inlay thin 1mm magnets and adhere with PVA. Cover magnets with Tyvek tape, also adhered with PVA.

## Matted Textile Portfolio with Magnetic Closures and Slight Compression

Ashleigh Ferguson Schieszer

2024



12. Hinge on window to sink mat with a Tyvek v-hinge.



13. Inlay magnets into coverboard. Use 1mm thick magnets.

14. Add a strip of polyester to aid in opening the portfolio.



## **Matted Textile Portfolio with Magnetic Closures and Slight Compression**

Ashleigh Ferguson Schieszer

2024

15. If you didn't save the window mat scrap, cut a piece of mat board that will fit in the window using slightly smaller dimensions. (I used 4 ply and trimmed down the inner window mat scrap.)
16. Use double stick tape and PVA to place the compression board.
17. Adhere the other half of the 2 ¼ inch Tyvek hinge to the inside of the cover board with Jade 403 PVA. Add Hollytex barrier so it doesn't stick on window.
18. Cut Tyvek to line the inside of upper cover and adhere with PVA along margins.
19. Dry flat overnight.
20. Add a Tyvek hinge adhered with PVA on outside of portfolio.

### **Resources and Inspiration:**

- [Dennis Piechota. Storage Containerization: Archaeological Textile Collections, JAIC 1978, Volume 18, Number 1, Article 3 \(pp. 10 to 18\)](#)
- [Lisa Anderson, Dominique Cocuzza, Susan Heald, and Melinda McPeck. Storage system for archaeological textile fragments, Objects Specialty Group Postprints, Volume Eight, 2001](#)

### **Lessons Learned:**

- Ties are not recommended as they can abrade over the surface of the object when the portfolio is opened. Magnets are much more seamless for exhibition as well.
- The type of Tyvek used to line the cover mat is important to note. In one of the references above, they suggest a "soft Tyvek" however, I found different types of Tyvek have different static cling properties, and the soft Tyvek that we had in the lab (which also had a slight texture) caused the textile to stick to the cover mat when opened due to the high amount of static cling. Smooth "hard" Tyvek worked best for our fragile and thin linen fragments.