

ABSTRACT

Buttons and Magnets: A Mountmaker's Journey

Presenter:

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At the National Museum of American History, we exhibit many buttons. The kind of buttons with a pin back that have slogans like, "I like Ike," "No Nukes!" or "Gay Power!" We also have several galleries which rotate every year, so I'm looking for ways to streamline mounts for object types that we use frequently. For many years, I looked for a mount solution that would accomplish the following:

1. Allow designers and curators the freedom to move buttons around to whatever configuration they desire, easily.
2. Can be used for most pins without damaging the artifact
3. Assembly line process
4. Button sits slightly proud from substrate

After conferring with the NMAH Conservators, and a few emails to Gwen Spicer, Magnet Queen, we came up with a nice solution!

Materials needed:

Poly-webbing sheets, hot glue gun, Ceramic (Ferrite) Disc Magnets, steel sign blank, belt sander

Steps:

1. Use a template to cut out poly-webbing
2. Mark magnets to show "top" of magnet, you want their magnettedness facing the right way. Work on steel sign blank so the magnets stay in place.
3. Use hot glue to attach magnet to poly-webbing. * * Make sure to squish the magnet down evenly on the sign blank.
4. Add small barrier piece of poly-webbing to exposed side of magnet.

BIO



Laura began her career in the Project Management Office at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in 2001. She moved to the Office of Exhibition Production in 2010 and became the museum's primary mountmaker. She designs, fabricates, and installs mounts for exhibitions and provides technical expertise in artifact display. Laura has a B.S. in International Affairs from Florida State University and a A.A.S. Communication Design from Northern Virginia Community College.