

Scratching Up Scratched Up Mounts

A strategy for extending the life of PETG book cradles



Advantages:

- PETG (Polyethylene terephthalate glycol-- proprietary, Vivak) book and artifact exhibition mounts are relatively easy to design and fabricate without specialized equipment.
- PETG is Oddy tested and is considered safe for direct contact with artifacts in the temporary exhibit case environment.
- Brand new, shiny, PETG exhibition mounts are attractive and nearly invisible behind the artifact while providing a precisely designed balance between safest support and optimal viewing.



Disadvantages:

- PETG mounts are susceptible to fingerprints and abrasion with the most careful installation and de-installation protocols, subject to mountmakers' flaws during the formation/bending process, and not easily cleaned of tape residues.
- Storage for reuse requires careful packing and adequate space between mounts to prevent abrasion.

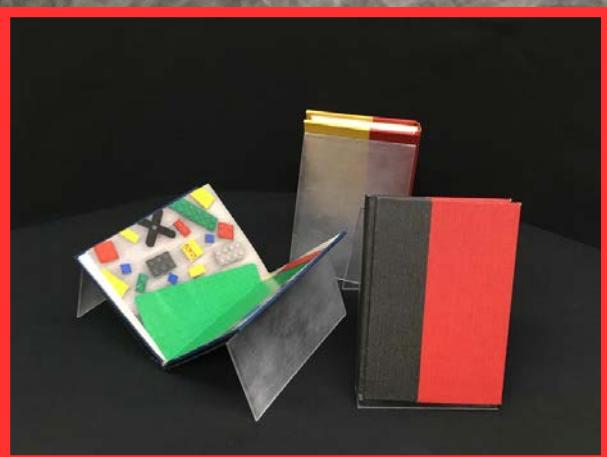
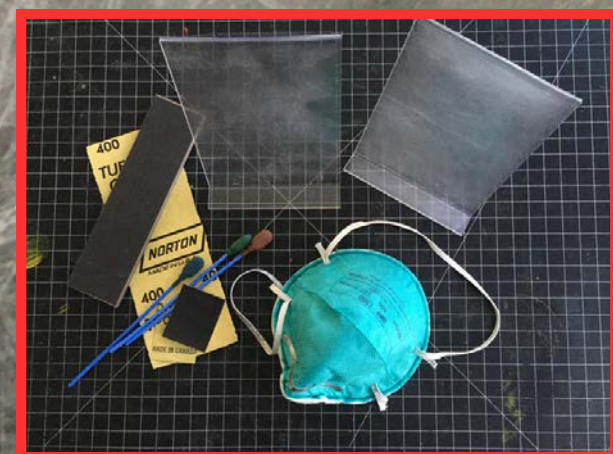
This pushes PETG cradles toward the problematic category of single-use plastics.

Solution:

- Intentional sanding of worn or damaged mounts can extend the use of PETG cradles, minimizing waste, easing storage requirements, and contributing to sustainable exhibition practices.

Possibilities:

- "Scratched-up" or scored mounts are ready to paint to match the color of exhibit furniture and graphics. Surfaces in direct contact with artifacts can be masked off so that there is no artifact to paint contact.



Unanswered question:

- Does the plastic particulate matter generated in the sanding process create environmental hazards which outweigh the original issues of plastic waste and responsible disposal?

Questions and conversation welcome:
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