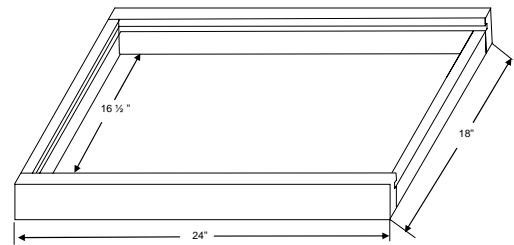


INSECT DISPLAY BOX

Pinned insects cannot be kept in good condition unless stored in boxes to protect them from dust and damage. The standard 4-H display box is 18 x 24 inches² (outside measurements). The box must be deep enough to allow insect pins to stand upright. It should be protected on top with a piece of glass or Plexiglas. Reference text, *How to Study, Collect, Preserve, and Identify Insects*, (4-H 764, page 18).

Construction

1. Cut your 1 x 4 board into two 24 inch pieces and two 16 ½ inch pieces.
2. Cut a groove for the glass on all pieces (about 1/8 inch width and 1/4 inch deep), about 1/2 inch below the top of the box.
3. Cut one of your 16 ½ inch boards all the way through at the groove to slide the glass can slide in and have a piece to secure the glass.
4. Screw all the pieces together to form the box sides.
5. Attach the masonite to the bottom of your box and trim if necessary. (Use nails, tacks, or screws dependent on materials chosen.)
6. Place the polyfoam or celotex in the bottom of the box.
7. Slide the glass top in the grooved edge and reattach the piece you cut off (#3) to hold the glass in place.



Materials

Materials

- 1 – 8 foot board, 1 x 4 inches²
- 1 – 24 x 18 inches² piece of masonite (or similar thin board) for the bottom of the box. (May be cut larger and trimmed when done, for easier construction.)
- 1 – 24 x 18 inches² piece of celotex (black fiber board used in housing) or polyethylene foam for pinning.
- Glass (or Plexiglas) top to fit inside the grooves. Measure box for glass after construction.

Notes

The reference booklet, (4-H 764, pg. 19) recommends naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene (PDB) flakes or balls ("moth balls") be used in the box to protect your specimens from small dermestid beetles and other insects. Handle these materials carefully. Moth ball use is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since some ingredients in moth balls may be carcinogenic. The active ingredients are very volatile and evaporate in a short time when exposed. Keep the lid tightly closed to increase the longevity and effectiveness of the material. Keep the protectants away from children and pets. Do not dispose surplus where there is any chance of these materials entering our surface or groundwater supplies.

Celotex is suggested for lining the box but other materials will also work. Any material you use must allow pins to be pushed easily in so you don't damage your specimens. The material must also be able to hold the pins in an upright position. The reference booklet, 4-H 764, discourages

the use of Styrofoam for the bottom of the box because the protectants mentioned above damage the Styrofoam. Some 4-H members choose Styrofoam for short-term use.

