

Workshop Example 2

Workshop Title:

Storage Jacketing and Cradles

Workshop Description:

Storage jackets are a great way to preserve specimens too large to fit in drawer-scale housings. The solution for fossils bound for cabinets, open shelves or even floors, these jackets are designed so that fragile specimens need never be without support during storage, study or even CT scanning. Made from archival grade materials they ensure maximum support over the long haul.

In this workshop we'll focus on Smithsonian style "clamshell" jackets made of plaster, fiberglass and polyethylene foam. Participants will learn:

- how to set-up the specimen and workspace for jacketing
- how to analyze the specimen to optimize jacket design
- adding temporary fills to create voids and avoid undercuts
- tailoring the liner
- proper mixing and handling of FGR 95 plaster
- buildup of plaster and fiberglass layers
- creating support structures in the jacket using polyethylene foam
- trimming, finishing, sealing and labeling the jacket

We'll also touch on alternative techniques and materials, such as liners made from polyester felt.

Participants will get hands-on experience helping to make a jacket. This will involve long periods standing, potentially getting plaster on clothing, handling (with gloves!) coarse fiberglass mat. You are welcome to bring your own particulate filter respirators and aprons, but appropriate PPE will be provided.

Leader name(s), contact information, and brief CV(s):

Alan Zdinak, The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
azdinak@nhm.org

Brief CV of experience with this topic:

Alan Zdinak received his initial training in fossil preparation and specimen housing at the American Museum of Natural History. He expanded his repertoire of housing techniques working at the Yale Peabody Museum and the Smithsonian, and continues to explore this craft at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. He has given

presentations on housing techniques at AMMP meetings and led workshops at AMMP, SVP, NAPC, La Brea Tar Pits and the Cooper Center. Videos on housing techniques he produced under an SVP grant appear on the AMMP YouTube channel.

Full Day

Number of Times Willing to Run Workshop:

1

Maximum Number of Participants:

20

Workshop Space Requirements:

Room for 25 people with tables, chairs and water source. Electrical outlets. Large trash bin. Sandboxes to accommodate four 24"x24" specimens.

Equipment/Supplies List

Specimens

5 medium sized, simple bones -- limb bones, scapula, turtle shell -- 12"x18" max range.

1 Complicated bone -- skull, pelvis -- for discussion.

Materials

Workshop leader will provide: fiberglass surfacing veil, polyester felt, Ethafoam sheeting, scrap ethafoam plank.

We will need to acquire locally:

4 pairs safety goggles, medium grit sandpaper, Vaseline, ballpoint pens, box cutter, wire brush, 20 sand bags (or substitute), 2 measuring tape, yardstick, electric drill with ¼" bit, jigsaw, hot glue gun, extension cords, shop vac, 200lbs plaster, scrap corrugated

cardboard boxes, 1'x2' wood board – can be scrap, but needs to be flat and straight, plastic wrap, plastic tarps, paper towels, 25 (Disposable?) aprons/lab coats, 25 dust masks, 100 large nitrile gloves, 100 medium nitrile gloves, six 2-1/2" long 1/4" bolts; 6 wing nuts, 12 washers, polyester or nylon thread, duct tape, 5 12 qt. plastic basins, four 1 quart/liter plastic cups, 1 plastic putty knife, 4 pair sharp scissors, 4 stout sewing needles, self healing cutting mat or thick sheet of cardboard (not corrugated)

Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Respirators

Lab coat/Apron

Nitrile gloves

Will this be a fee-based workshop (equipment/supplies/PPE be paid with workshop fees)?

Yes

If so, how much do you estimate the cost of the workshop to be?

\$40

Health and Safety Risks (for participants and specimens)

Inhalation of plaster, fiberglass

Cutting hazard