

Preservation System for Housing Bare Plate Daguerreotypes

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This preservation system is composed of a primary housing to enclose bare plate daguerreotypes and a secondary housing to contain and protect the primary housing. It takes into account the requirements for preservation, research, and exhibition and offers a simple, elegant, and economical solution to protect bare plate daguerreotypes.

The primary housing focuses on protecting the bare plate from mechanical damage, while also allowing a complete view of the entire plate (both recto and verso) for research and monitoring purposes. It is designed to be disassembled easily and safely if the need arises.

The secondary housing is versatile and serves three fundamental functions: storage, exhibition, and travel. The materials and design of the secondary housing limit chemical interactions between the daguerreotype plate and the outside environment. A key component is a sacrificial corrosion inhibitor that can be easily accessed, monitored and replaced. This construction is intended to accompany the primary housing described here. However, it can also be applied to daguerreotypes in *passé partout* or daguerreotypes with missing cases or frames.

The construction of the overall system is design specific. However, the materials used here can be changed as long as they meet an equivalent standard for permanence.

I. Primary Housing

The plate is suspended between two pieces of borosilicate glass with the plate edges supported by Mylar “M” folds (see Figures 1 and 2). The “M” folds can be compressed to reduce the air space in the package as much as possible without putting stress on the plate once the binding is complete. The binding tape covers only the edges of the glass, allowing a complete view of the plate recto and verso.

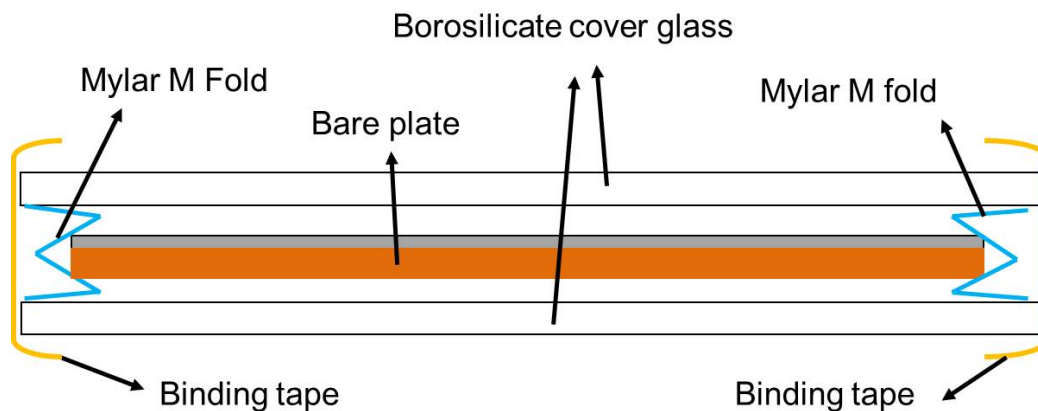


Figure 1: Plate package, cross section view

The Mylar “M folds” can be premade in longer strips and cut to sizes.

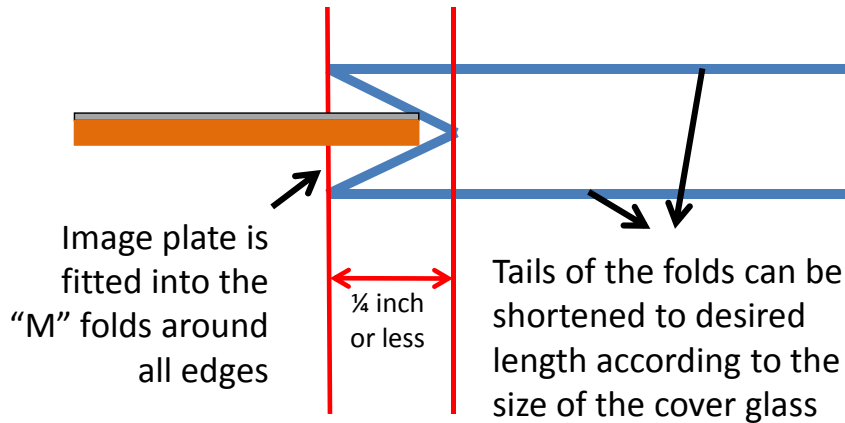


Figure 2: Mylar “M” fold, cross section view

The “M folds” join at the corners and are secured with corner pockets made of Mylar.

The “M” folds are held together by inserting a Mylar triangle pocket. This pocket can be secured with small strips of pressure sensitive tape or appropriate adhesive to the “M” folds if necessary

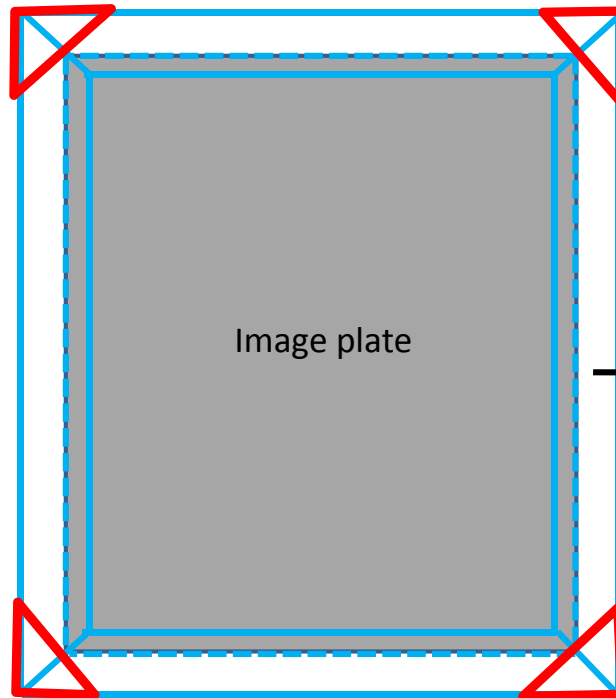


Figure 3: Image plate fitted with Mylar “M” folds, top view or bottom view before adding cover glass and binding tape

II. Secondary Housing

The secondary housing includes a corrosion inhibiting retainer and a custom-made container.

The corrosion inhibiting retainer is designed to make a snug fit around the edges of the primary housing. It incorporates a channel to accommodate a material such as Corrosion Intercept®. The function of Corrosion Intercept® is to chemically deplete corrosive gasses. A sacrificial material, Corrosion Intercept® will turn black when it is no longer effective and must be replaced.

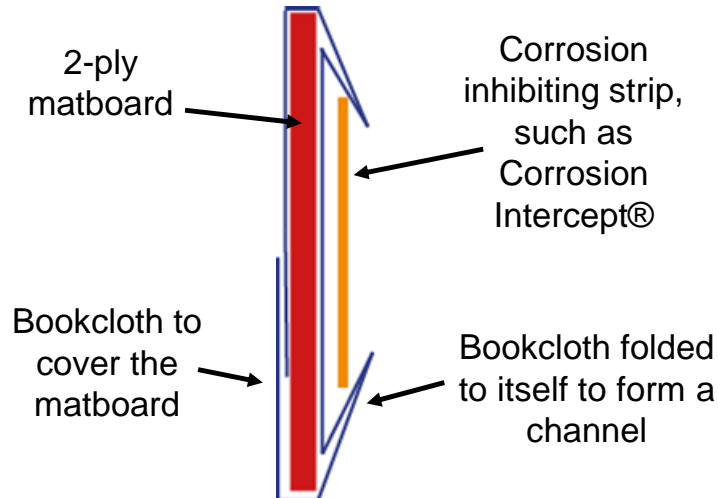
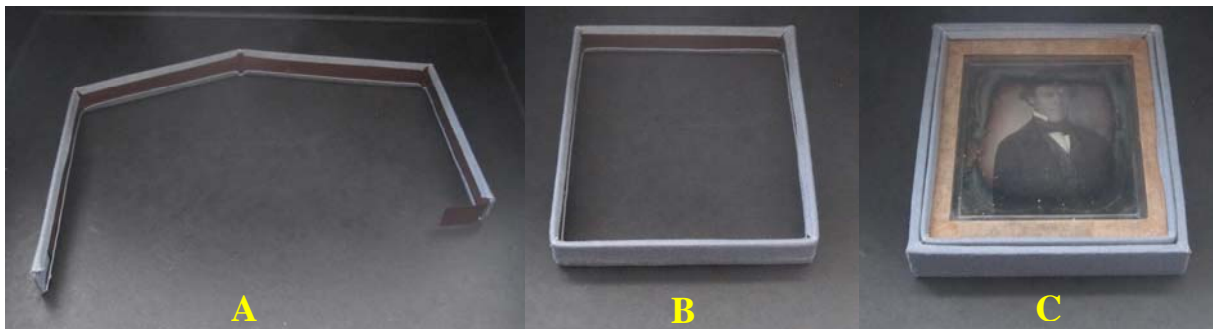


Figure 4: Corrosion inhibiting retainer, cross section view



**Figure 5: Corrosion inhibiting retainer.
A: opened; B: closed; C: fitted around the plate package**

The custom-made container is designed to fit and secure the plate package once it is wrapped inside the corrosion inhibiting retainer. The container can be a storage box, an exhibition tray or a transportation container. Regardless of the secondary container, the corrosion inhibiting retainer must be present (see Figures 6-10). A window mat can be added to mask the binding tape and the Mylar “M” folds for exhibition purposes (see Figures 9 and 10).



Figure 6: Plate package with corrosion inhibiting retainer in clamshell box as storage and traveling container

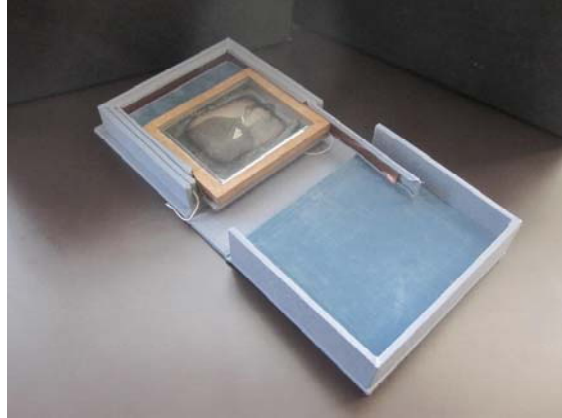


Figure 7: The corrosion inhibiting retainer can be accessed easily



Figure 8: Plate package with corrosion inhibiting retainer in a storage container with multiple trays



Figure 9: Plate package with corrosion inhibiting retainer in exhibition container

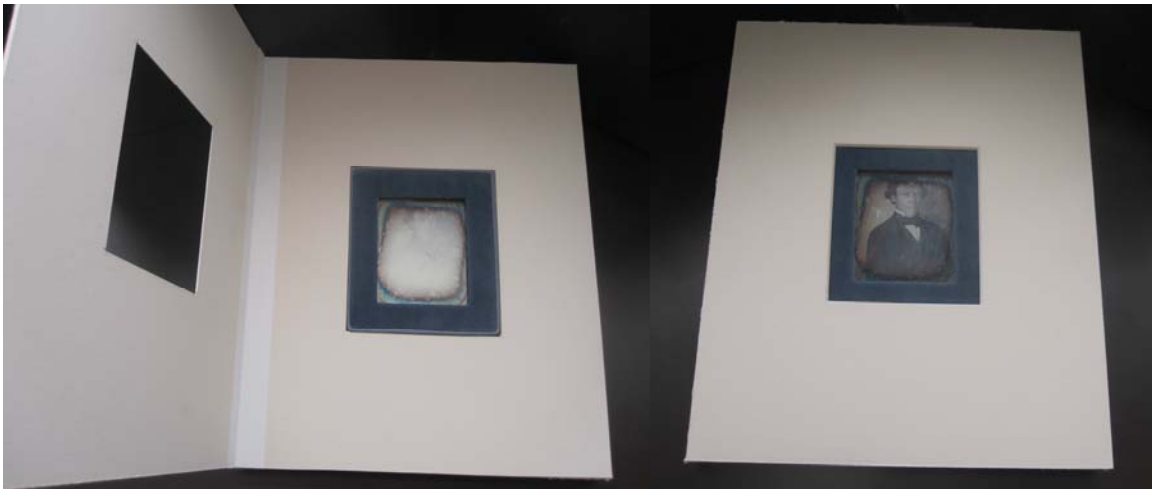


Figure 10: Plate package with corrosion inhibiting retainer in sink mat for exhibition