

## MAT BOARD BOOK CRADLE

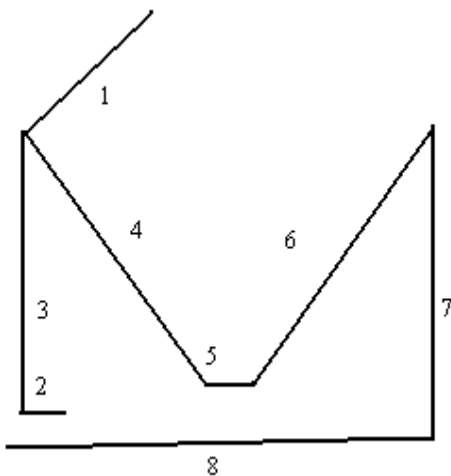
Following are simple instructions for constructing a mat board book cradle. These instructions are intended to give you the basics in materials and structure, and the principles may be applied to mounts for other artifacts.

### MATERIALS

- Board – 4-ply mat board (museum quality, rag)
- Ruler
- Scalpel or utility knife
- Pencil
- Triangle
- T-square
- Bone or Teflon folder
- Double-stick tape (3M 415)

### Step 1: MEASURE THE BOOK

First, cover your work surface with a large piece of paper. Using your ruler, measure the height of the book. Then, using bricks or weights or other supports, open the book to a comfortable opening with the spine flat on your paper-covered work surface. For recording your measurements, it helps to draw a simple diagram, like this –



Record the following measurements:

1 = the height of the book

2 = 1 inch

3 = the height from the work surface to the edge of the front board (make a mark)

4 = the width of the front board from the work surface to the outer edge (make a mark)

5 = the width between the marks made by measurement #4 and #6

6 = the width of the back board from the work surface to the outer edge (make a mark)

7 = the height from the work surface to the edge of the back board (make a mark)

8 = the width between the marks made by measurements #3 and #7

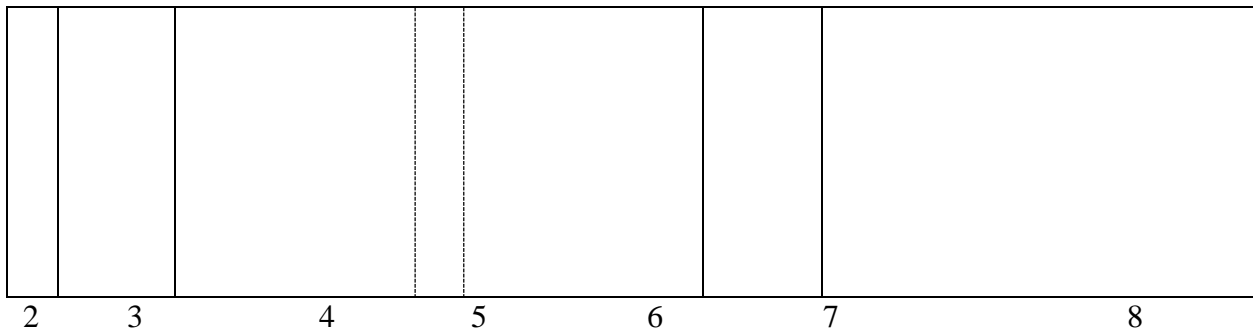
## Step 2: CUT THE MAT BOARD

Determine the grain direction on your piece of mat board. Using a board shear or a utility knife, cut a long strip of mat board to the height of the book, making sure that the grain direction runs parallel to the height of the book.



## Step 3: MARK AND SCORE THE MAT BOARD

Starting at one edge of your cut piece of mat board, mark the measurements #2 through #8 in order. Using a T-square against the straight edge of your work surface, score lines with a scalpel or utility knife at each mark EXCEPT the two center marks (after #4 and #5, represented as dotted lines below) that correspond to the spine of the book. For those cuts, transfer the marks to the other side of the board and score the lines on the reverse side. Cut off the excess board at the last mark (after #8). Erase any visible pencil marks.



When scoring, cut approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the board for a clean bend.

## Step 4: FOLD AND FASTEN THE CRADLE

Attach lengths of double-stick tape to the front of the 1-inch stub (#2) and to the back of the spine (#5). Peel and stick the folded edge of #2 to the cut edge of #8. Using a triangle to make sure the sides of the cradle are perpendicular, peel and stick the bottom of the spine (#5) to the bottom of the cradle (#8). Your finished cradle should look something like this:

