

Textile Stabilization Using Sheer Overlays



Textile Conservation

- Repair of damaged textiles
- Preservation of structurally sound textiles
- Mitigating process that cause damage to textiles



Conservator

A conservator is a person whose primary occupation is the practice of conservation and who, through specialized education, knowledge, training and experience, formulates and implements all the activities of conservation in accordance with an ethical code.

- Conservation Administrator
- Conservation Educator
- Conservation Scientist
- Conservation Technician
- Collections Care Specialist



Treatment

The deliberate alteration of chemical and physical aspects of cultural property, aimed primarily at prolonging its existence. Treatment may consist of stabilization and/or restoration.



Stabilization

Treatment procedures intended to maintain the integrity of cultural property to minimize deterioration.



Restoration

Treatment procedures intended to return cultural property to a known or assumed state. Often through the addition of non-original material.



- Why would a textile receive treatment?
- What determines the type of treatment?
- Is every textile a candidate for treatment?



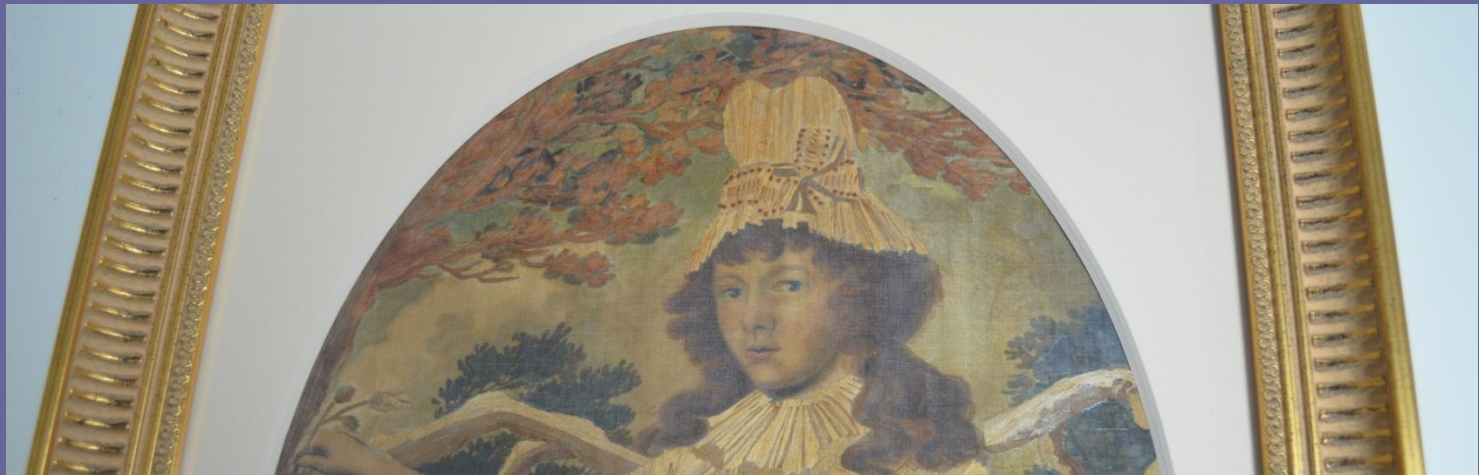
Choosing Appropriate Textiles

- Strong enough to withstand handling
- Good candidate for display/study
- Properly mounted for display
- Suitable for temporary display only



What is an overlay?

An overlay is a sheer material placed on the object surface, with the goal of changing the object's appearance and/or protecting the object.

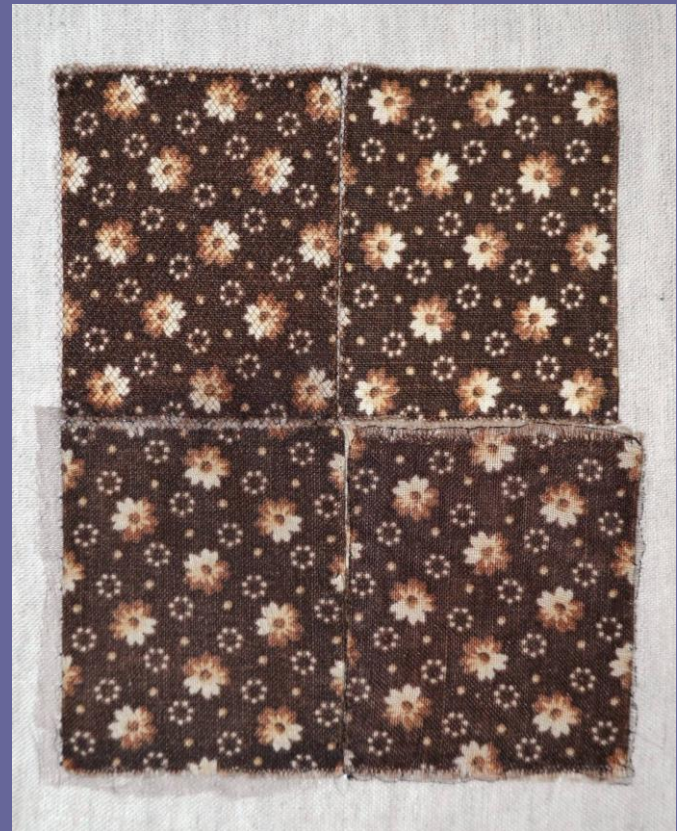


Overlay Characteristics

- Provide support with minimal intervention
- Be compatible with the textile's fiber content
- Blend well with the textile in color, sheen
- Match the drape of the textile
- Add minimal weight to the textile
- Be washfast and colorfast
- Be free of chemical finishes or additives
- Come in a wide range of colors
- Be easily dyed
- Remain physically stable with exposure to light
- Be widely available and affordable

Types of Sheer Overlays

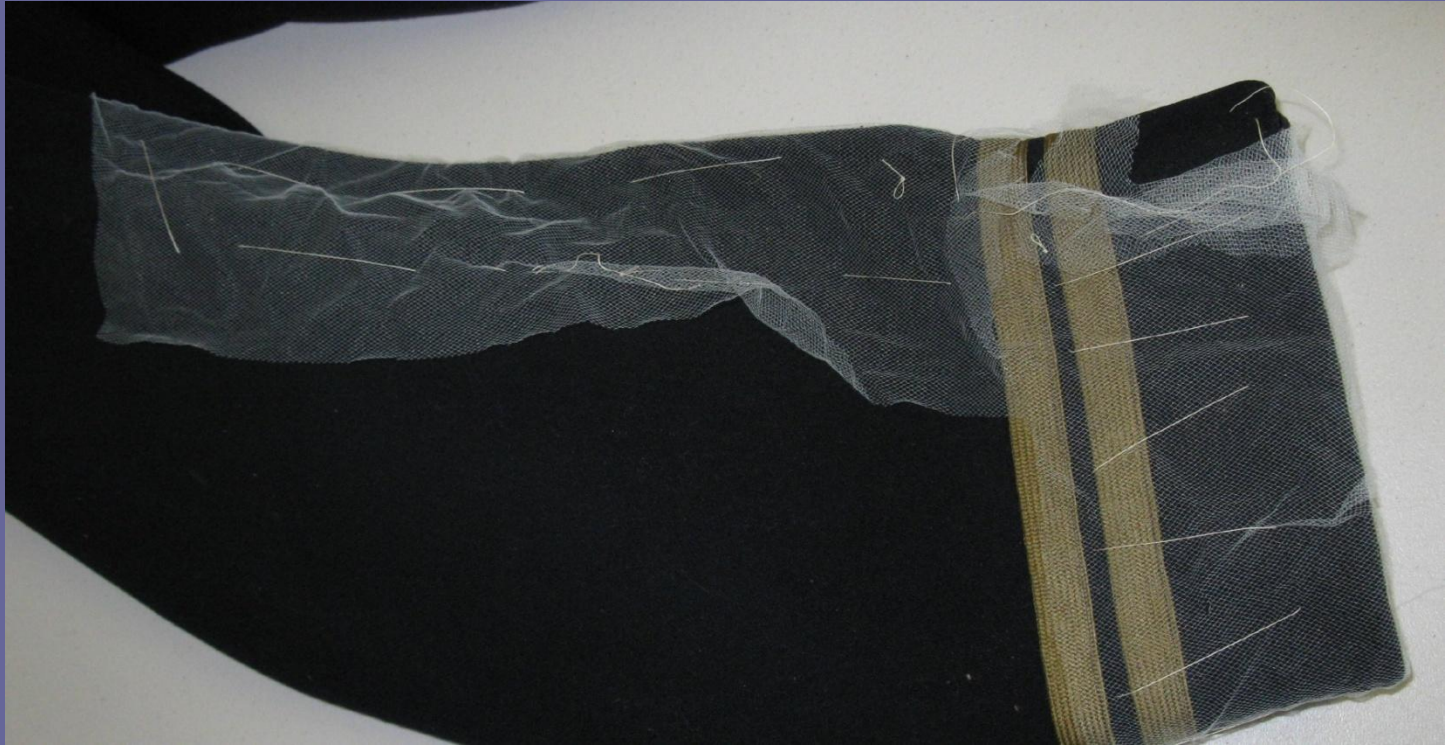
- Silk sheers, including crepeline
- Net (nylon, silk, cotton)
- Polyester sheers, including Tetex/
Stabiltex



Underlay



Uses for Sheer Overlays



Temporary Netting



Uses for Sheer Overlays



Encapsulation





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Bridging



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Wrapping



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Full overlay



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Prevention



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Underlay alone





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Overlay with sheer underlay



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Overlay with underlay



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Color compensation



Uses for Sheer Overlays



Sheer “restoration”









Uses for Sheer Overlays



Combining materials and techniques



Comparing Sheer Overlays



Silk Crepeline

- Pros:
 - Very low sheen
 - Good transparency
 - Good drape
 - Good “tooth”
 - Comes in 3 colors
 - Easily dyed



Silk Crepeline



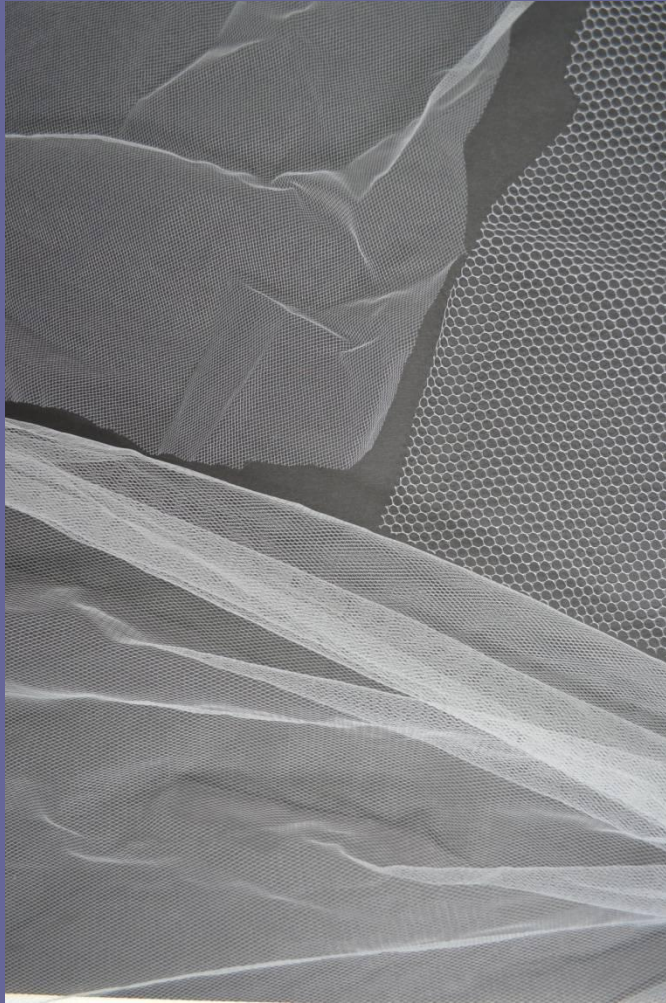
- Cons:
 - Deforms easily
 - Must be hemmed
 - Susceptible to light damage
 - \$60/yard
 - Comes in 3 colors
 - May attract insects

Nylon Net

- Pros:
 - Very good transparency
 - Very good drape
 - Does not unravel
 - Comes in endless colors
 - Easily dyed
 - Available in wide widths
 - \$2/yard

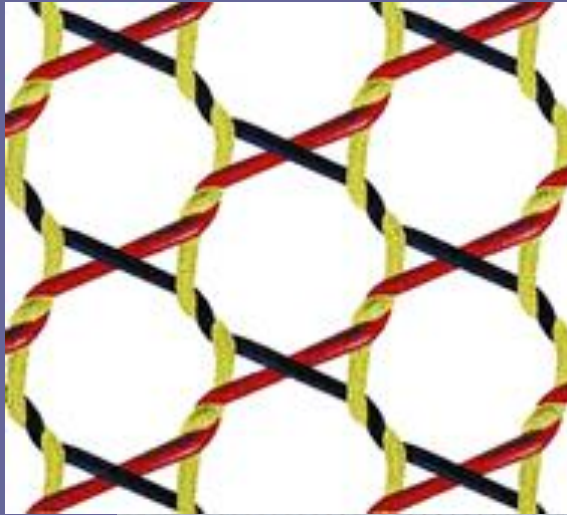


Nylon Net



- Cons:
 - Moderate sheen
 - Stretches more in one direction
 - Can be abrasive
 - Susceptible to light damage

Bobbinet



Polyester sheer

- Pros:
 - Can be hot cut
 - Very good drape
 - Heavier weights have many colors
 - Resistant to light damage
 - Available in wide widths
 - \$10/yard



Polyester sheer



- Cons:
 - Moderate to high sheen
 - Causes moiré effect
 - Moderate to low transparency
 - Not easily dyed
 - Tetex/Stabiltex is very difficult to buy

Break

Evaluating Sheer Overlays











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Sheer Overlay Score Card

Score each type of overlay you are considering for your project from 1 to 3, with 1 being the lowest score and 3 being the highest. If the answer is yes, write in 3. If the answer is no, write in 0.

Object : _____

	Nylon net	Polyester sheers	Silk crepe line
Variable factors:			
Transparency/weight			
Sheen/finish			
Drape/dimensional stability			
Matching color available? (no need to dye)			
Matching fiber content?			
Sub total			
Non-variable factors:			
Ease of dyeing	2	1	3
Ease of cutting/finishing	3	2	1
Lightfastness/colorfastness	2	2	1
Availability	3	3	2
Cost	3	2	1
Sub total	13	10	8
Final score			

Add both sub totals together to get the final score for each category. The overlay with the highest score is often the best choice.

NB: In some cases there is a single consideration that outweighs all others when choosing an overlay, such as availability or the need for custom-dyeing.

http://www.museumtextiles.com/uploads/7/8/9/0/7890082/blank_sheer_overlay_score_card.pdf

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Nylon net

Polyester sheers

Silk crepline

Non-variable factors:			
Ease of dyeing	2	1	3
East of cutting/finishing	3	2	1
<u>Lightfastness/colorfastness</u>	2	2	1
Availability	3	3	2
Cost	3	2	1
Sub total	13	10	8
Final score	23	21	19



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Sheer Overlay Score Card

Score each type of overlay you are considering for your project from 1 to 3, with 1 being the lowest score and 3 being the highest. If the answer is yes, write in 3. If the answer is no, write in 0.

Object: Quilt with brown squares

	Nylon net	Polyester sheers	Silk crepline
Variable factors:			
Transparency/weight	2	3	2
Sheen/finish	2	2	3
Matching color available (no need to dye)	3	3	3
Matching drape	3	3	3
Matching fiber content	0	0	0
Sub total	10	11	11
Non-variable factors:			
Ease of dyeing	2	1	3
Ease of cutting/finishing	3	2	1
Lightfastness/colorfastness	2	2	1
Availability	3	3	2
Cost	3	2	1
Sub total	13	10	8
Final score	23	21	19

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