Displaying Three-Dimensional Textiles
Methods of attachment

- Passive
- Pinned
- Stitched
- Pressure
- Magnetic
Passive
Forms of display

• Board / Slant board
• Rod / Manikin
• Frame
• Shadow box
• Slat
Pinned
Stitched
Variables of Support

- Angle
- Pressure
- Attachment
- Padding
Break
All recent anonymous examples of costume mounting from small museums, historic houses, and societies across the New England region.
Commercial Options

Store Supply Warehouse
$54–95
Non-archival/non customizable or quite costly to do so

University Products
$826.75
Archival/customizable

Dorfman
$625–1,845
Archival/customizable
# Display Systems Checklist

For each garment you wish to display, it is critical to weigh the following factors as you choose the best display system for your collection of historic dress.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Question</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost Effectiveness</td>
<td>What is the budget for your costume mounting project?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What funding is needed for conservation treatments in order to stabilize and ready pieces for display?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archival Safety</td>
<td>Are the costume mounts made of archival safe materials that will not harm the garment?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What level of care is necessary for the garment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garment Condition</td>
<td>Does the garment have any tears, weak areas, unstable elements, stains, or fading that might make them unsuitable for display?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garment Silhouette</td>
<td>Does the size and shape of your mount support the historic silhouette of the garment? If not, how easily can it be manipulated to correctly support it?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does the garment have a relatively simple silhouette that is straightforward to research and mount, or does it have more intricate details that require expert handling and knowledge?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Versatility</td>
<td>Is the costume mount intended for one time use or can it be repurposed for other exhibitions and garments?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What size, shape, or gender is the costume mount compatible with?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>What kind of timeline does your exhibition need to meet?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How much time can your staff set aside to safely dress each garment for display?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Expertise</td>
<td>Does your museum staff have working knowledge of handling textiles and basic sewing skills?</td>
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<td>How much curatorial research will be needed to accurately interpret the garments for an engaging display?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition Space</td>
<td>Will your exhibition space accommodate a full 3D form or do you require a solution for a shallow space?</td>
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Cost Effectiveness

What is the budget for your costume-mounting project? What funding is needed for conservation treatments in order to stabilize and ready pieces for display?
Archival Safety

Are the costume mounts made of archival-safe materials that will not harm the garments?

What level of care is necessary for the garment?
Garment Condition

Does the garment have any tears, weak areas, unstable elements, stains, or fading that might make them unsuitable for display?
Garment Silhouette

Does the size and shape of your mount support the historic silhouette of the garment?

If not, how easily can it be manipulated to correctly support it?
Garment Silhouette

Does the garment have a relatively simple silhouette that is straightforward to research and mount, or does it have more intricate details that require expert handling and knowledge?
Versatility

Is the costume mount intended for one-time use or can it be repurposed for other exhibitions and garments?

What size, shape, or gender is the costume mount compatible with?
Time (and Space)

What kind of timeline does your exhibit need to meet?

How much time can your staff set aside to safely dress each garment for display?
Staff Experience

Does your museum staff have working knowledge of handling textiles and basic sewing skills?

How much curatorial research will be needed to accurately interpret the garments for an engaging display?
Exhibition Space

Will your exhibition space accommodate a full 3D form or do you require a solution for shallow space?
Suspension Form
Manikins