

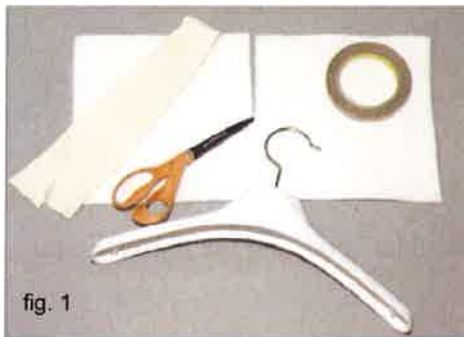


The Philadelphia Museum of Art
Costume and Textile Conservation Dept.
Creating a padded hanger

Padded Hangers:

Our method of making padded hangers was adapted from that of Deborah Bede of Stillwater Textile Conservation in Bradford, New Hampshire.

Padded hangers give extra support to hanging garments by distributing the weight of the garment over a broad area particularly at the shoulder. The fabric-covered surface also provides some friction to prevent slipping. We chose polystyrene plastic hangers as a base as they are archival and their broad shoulder surface is a particularly good shape for many of the historical garments in the collection. They can be used for a quick and easy padded hanger that fits many costumes. We used needlepunch polyester felt batting to cover the hangers as there are no adhesives or other chemicals incorporated into it, and 2" wide washed surgical stockinette over the entire hanger to provide a smooth archival surface which provides enough friction to control the garments.



Materials (fig. 1):

- White polystyrene hangers
- 3M #415 double stick tape, 1/2" width
- Polyester needle-punched felt
- 2" cotton surgical stockinette

Preparation:

Wash the stockinette in a washing machine using the regular cycle with hot water and a small amount of detergent, then repeat the wash cycle with no detergent.

Cut the stockinette to the appropriate size;

- for a 15" hanger – 27" long
- for a 12" hanger – 26" long
- for a 10" hanger – 24" long

Clip a thread at one edge at the center of the stockinette strip, the hook will come through this hole (fig. 2).





Cut the felt to rectangles of the appropriate size (a rotary cutter works well for this);

- for a 15" hanger – 9" x 19"
- for a 12" hanger – 9" x 18"
- for a 10" hanger – 9" x 17"

Cut a slit in each piece of felt, centered on the long edge and extending just to the center of the rectangle (fig. 3).



Covering the hanger:

Cut three 1" pieces of tape, place one strip at each "shoulder" end, and the third strip on the back "neck" area to hold the felt in place (fig. 4).



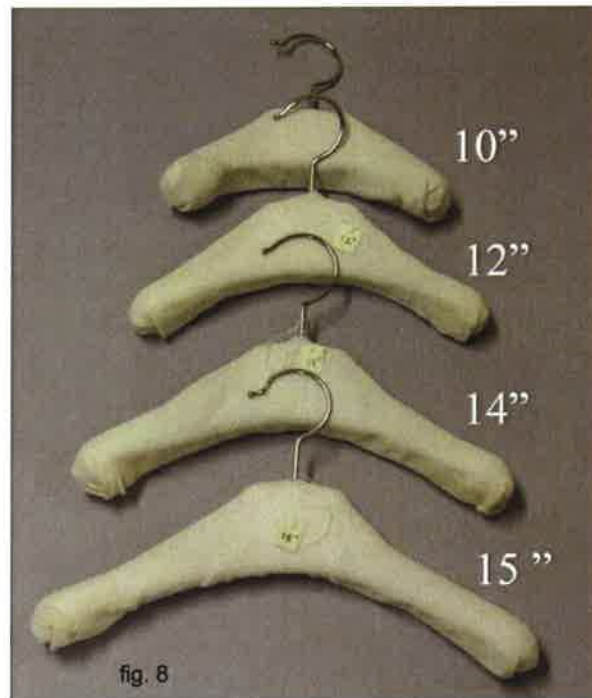
Wrap the felt tightly around the hanger being sure to cover the tape with at least two layers of felt (fig. 5).





Pull the stockinette over the hanger, carefully pulling the hook of the hanger through the pre-cut hole, and tuck the ends in the underside of the hanger (figs 6 and 7).

Various sizes of the padded hanger may be created as demonstrated in fig. 8.





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Creating a padded skirt hanger

Garments on standard clip-type of hanger can be damaged from the pressure created by the clips (fig. 1). Wide plastic clamp-type hangers, padded with needlepunch polyester felt batting hangers provides gentle and adequately distributed support for hanging skirts and pants (fig. 2).

fig. 1



fig. 2

