



ETHER

The pursuit of an ETERNAL HERITAGE



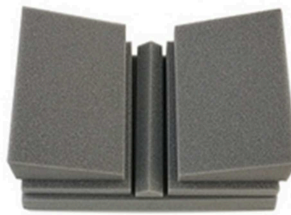
Product of the Week: Book Support

Each week ETHER Conservation will highlight one product from our conservation and preservation range in this section, as it is hard to determine what products work best for you without knowing a little about them. Product of the week will also highlight new products being developed for conservation.

This mailing will highlight the need for book supports in libraries, archives, museums, conservation areas and other heritage facilities. It will also highlight 3 different book support systems that are available in the ETHER Conservation range.



The Conservation Bookmate



The Clarkson Book Support System



Book Support Bags and Cushion Cover

Why use Book Supports?

- Books laid out flat on a table causes the most amount of damage to the binding of a book. The damage is inflicted on the weakest part of the book which is the areas where the spine of the book meets the front and the back covers.
- Once these joints have been broken it then becomes easy for sewing to unravel, text block to fall out and pages to go missing.
- Placing a book on a supporting system releases the joints on the book from the stress by transferring the stress on to itself.

The Conservation Bookmate

The Bookmate is made from high density Plastazone foam which is very light, rigid and strong. Plastazone is made from Nitrogen expanded Polyethylene and as such is an inert material which neither degrades under the influence of UV light nor emit toxic fumes in a fire. It is very stable and is strong enough to carry large and heavy books.



The design has two front lips to prevent the book from sliding forward. There is space designed to allow for hollow back and inflexible spines. Two backing stripe can be added to provide addition support. The Bookmate is designed for flat storage.

Conventional reading supports tilt the books at a too steep angle which places strain on the book. The conservation Bookmate has an angle of tilt at 20 degrees which allows the book to be read in comfort with a minimum of stressed place on the binding structure.



Book Support Bags and Cushion

A Society of Archivists Awards Winner. Proportioned to provide just the right degree of protective support for books, seal and other fragile ephemeral material on display. Neutral colour for maximum visual appeal. Machine washable, bleached calico, pillow case style cushion covers are available to extend the life of

the Book Support Bag and to keep them clean. To preserve the quality of the cushion covers cool wash and do not tumble dry.

Product available in small, medium and large.

Clarkson Book Support System

This particular book support was designed to cater for books with a wide variety of structural variations. It is built up from lightweight units of synthetic foam. synthetic foam allows books uneven board surfaces, even with bosses and the side pins, to be equally supported over their entire exterior surface. The foam used to make the Clarkson book support system was chosen for its non-slip characteristic required and



the grey colour was found preferable for a library environment. The concept of related units has dictated the use of generalised angles and dimensions in the design. Simplicity and ease of storage (impossible to achieve with combined tilt-and-wedge designs) are special features of the style. The unit consists of three basic shapes in various format size:

- Blunt Wedge - pair of wedges
- Spine Support-Strip - used when thigh back (flexible) binding is read.
- Rectangular Pad - used as place setting depending if you are reading the beginning, middle or end of a book.

The book supports are available as a 6 piece sets for each of the three sizes: Large, Medium and Small.

For more information on the products above or to order conservation materials please contact Sholeen at sholeen.sanker@ether.co.za. or have a look at our [website](#). Catalogues can be downloaded from our website.

* The ETHER Initiative is a programme of Roger Layton Associates (Pty) Ltd

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