

Humidification Method

Humidification is considered a treatment and should be undertaken cautiously. Metal or metallic wrapped threads usually retain memory and will not flatten successfully. Do not use this technique in areas with paint/pigment. A textile conservator can be contracted to do humidification treatments or assist you with a project. A.I.C. (The American Institute for Conservation) provides a referral service to help you locate a conservator in your area.

Materials:

Clean working surface
Blotting paper
Mylar
Cotton flannel
Goretex
Plexiglas plates w/ smooth rounded edges
Weights

Method:

Humidify—

- Place Mylar and then blotting paper directly beneath area of textile to be flattened.
- Lay piece/strip of Gortex over area of textile to be flattened. Place smooth “plastic-like” side down.
- Dampen cotton flannel piece slightly with distilled water. This piece should be slightly smaller than the Gortex. Place on Gortex.
- Cover area with Mylar and seal edges with weights.
- Check regularly-every 15 to 20 minutes. When textile feels cool to touch and creased area seems more relaxed, remove Mylar tent, flannel and Gortex.

Flatten—

- Place Plexiglas plates over area. Weights should be placed on plates to keep adequate pressure on area to be flattened. Leave until creases are completely relaxed.

Air dry—

- Allow the textile/area to air dry completely.