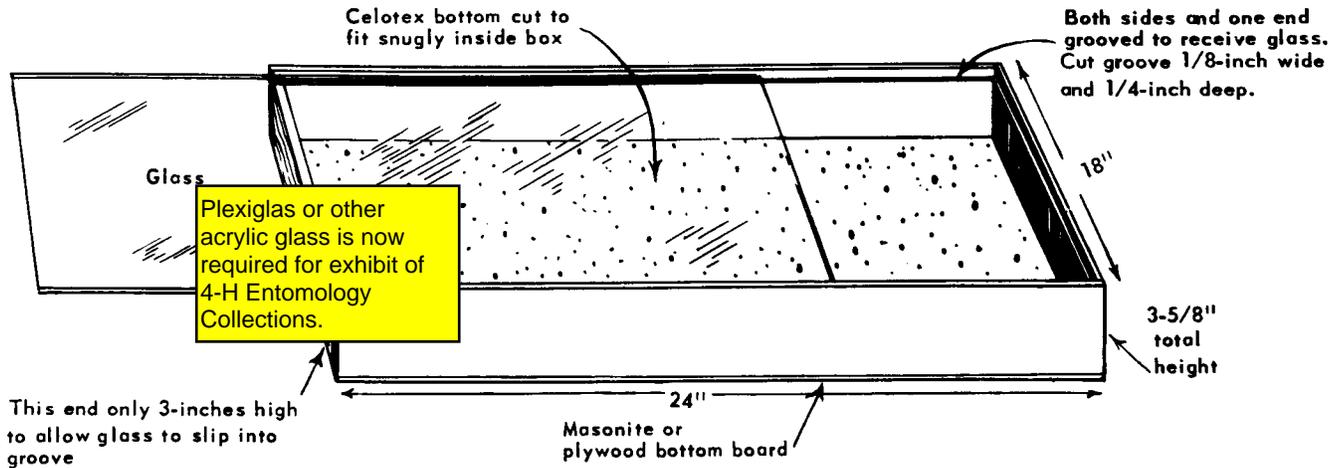


TIPS ON EXHIBITING YOUR INSECT COLLECTION

Exhibiting Your Collection

All specimens collected, pinned and properly labeled should be put into a collection box just as soon as possible to prevent damage to them. This should be done, regardless of how you intend to use your collection. For the beginner several good cigar boxes will do. However, for the more advanced student in entomology, a larger specimen case should be used (Fig. 1). For ease in pinning insects insert a 1/2 inch pincushion in the bottom of the box. This can be celotex, cork, polyethylene foam or any other soft fibrous material.



All specimens should be placed in your collection box in neat rows with the heads of the insects toward the rear of the box. Allow sufficient space between specimens and put all insects in the same Order next to each other.

To protect insect specimens from carpet beetle larvae, keep moth balls in all corners of the box. Heat the head of a common pin and press it into the moth ball.

What does the Judge Look For?

Insect collections are scored on (1) number of orders, (2) number of specimens, and (3) appearance, which includes pinning, labeling, and condition of specimens. Appearance separates the collector from the individual who sticks pins through an insect. Legs and antennae should be positioned in a lifelike position. The wings of butterflies should be expanded in order to show the interesting markings and color patterns. Remember, torn or ragged wings usually detract from the collection. Labels may be positioned to run parallel with the length of the body or crosswise in relation to the length of the body. Either arrangement is acceptable, but be consistent. Strive to achieve small, uniform, neat labels. All labels should be of uniform size and height on the pin where possible. Be selective. Before exhibiting, cull out badly damaged or broken specimens. About one-half of the total points is based on an overall appearance of the display.

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