



How to Make a Relaxing Jar

Insects that have dried out after being killed must be relaxed or made limber before they can be mounted. Placing specimens in a moist environment increases the likelihood they will mold. The relaxing jar should be carefully monitored and specimens should be removed as soon as possible and pinned immediately. It is best practice to pin insects when they are fresh and avoid the use of a relaxing jar.

1. Relaxing Jar

Materials Needed:

- Wide-mouth jar
- 1 cup of sand
- Moth flakes
- Small piece of cardboard or screen

How to Make:

- a. Pour an inch of sand into the jar and moisten with water.
- b. Add moth flakes.
- c. Cut a screen or cardboard circle to fit over the sand.



**Cardboard
Moist Sand**

How to Use:

- a. Place insects to be relaxed gently on screen or cardboard and close the lid.
- b. Check in 6 to 12 hours to determine degree of relaxing needed.
- c. Do not permit specimens to become wet or remain in the jar for long periods. Mold may form on insects that are wet.
- d. Replace cardboard if it becomes water-soaked.