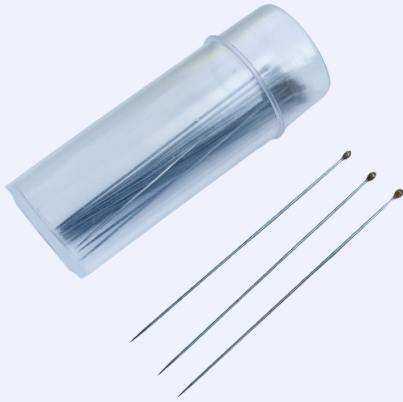


A Beginner's Guide on How to Spread a Butterfly



What You'll Need



- insect pins



- spreading pins



- spreading needles



- tweezers



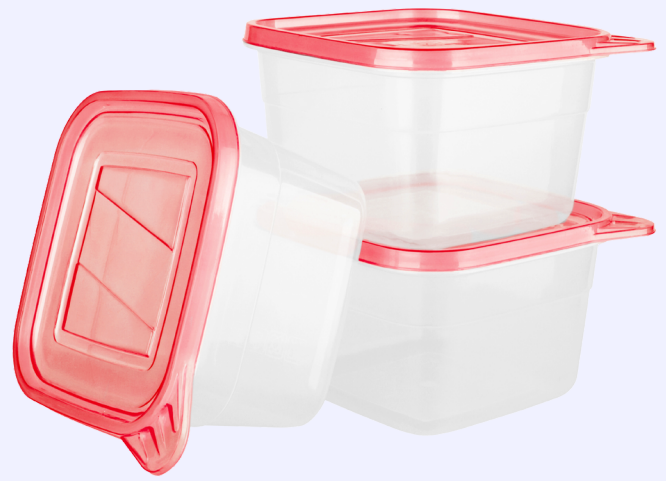
- paper tape or foil



- spreading board



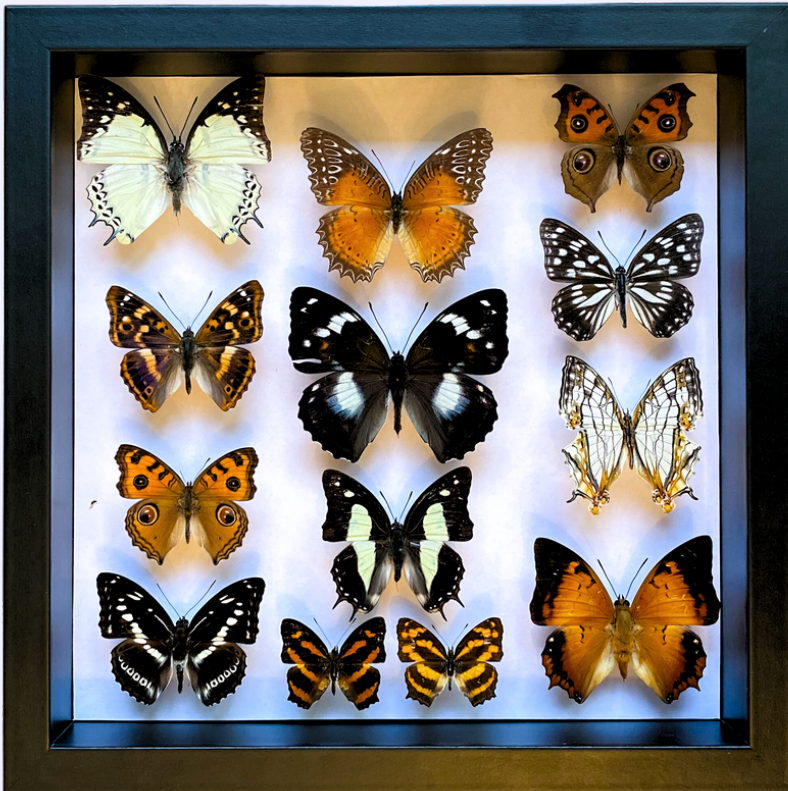
- butterflies



- plastic box



- syringe



- display frame



- spray bottle



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All in one!

Butterfly collection Kits



WOW!



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1 Rehydration

What you need:

butterfly, syringe, warm tap water, ~2L (~67oz) plastic container, spray bottle

Instructions:

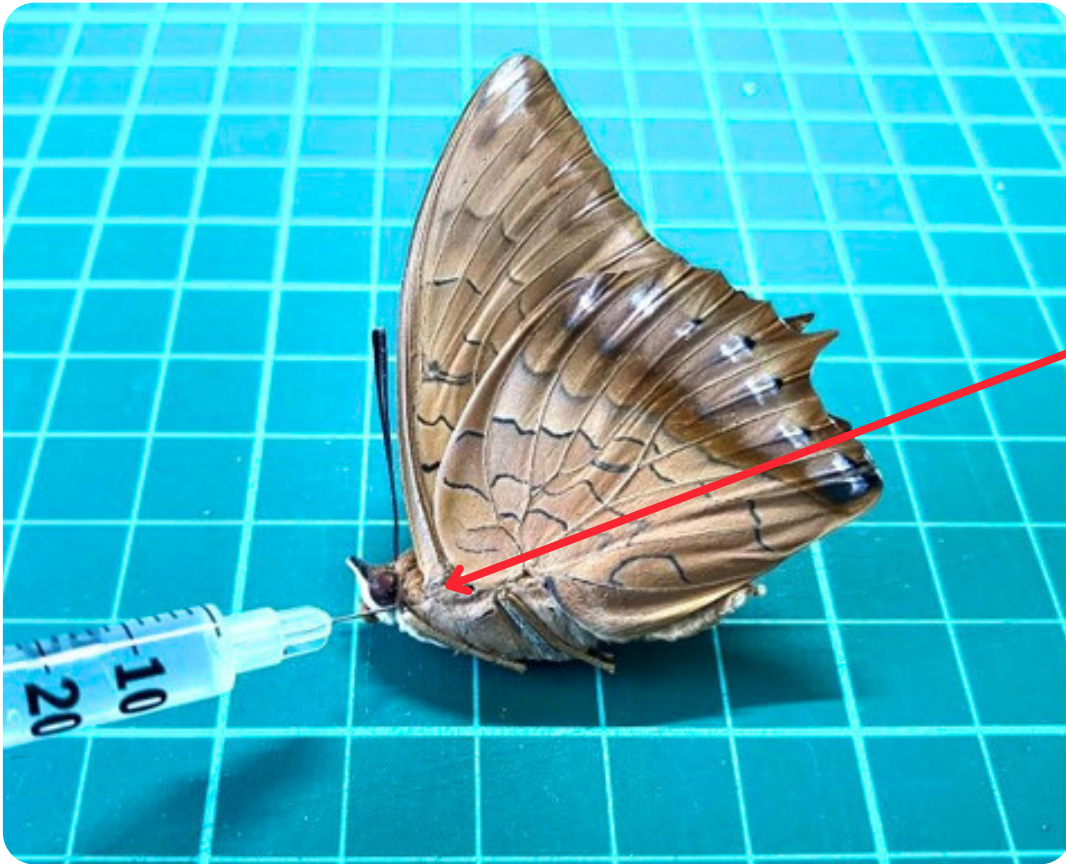
1. Fill the syringe with warm tap water.
2. Remove the butterfly from the paper bag.
3. Position the butterfly on a flat surface.
4. Use your fingers or tweezers to secure the butterfly firmly against the surface.
5. Insert the needle into the butterfly's body (as shown in picture 1).



Please be careful! The needle is very sharp, and the body of a butterfly is tough and hard. Do it slowly, and after you feel no more resistance, you are inside the body. We recommend using tweezers to hold the butterfly.

6. Inject the water into the body until you see it dripping out.
7. Remove the needle and place the butterfly on an upside-down plastic container lid (as shown in picture 2).
8. Spray the inside of a plastic container with a spray bottle until the entire area is covered with tiny droplets.
9. Cover the lid with the container so that it is closed upside down, with the butterfly on the lid (as shown in picture 3).
10. Wait at least 24 hours before the butterfly is ready to be spread.

It is crucial to moisten the wing muscles inside a body so that we can easily spread the wings without damaging them. Effective moistening is the KEY to achieving perfect results!



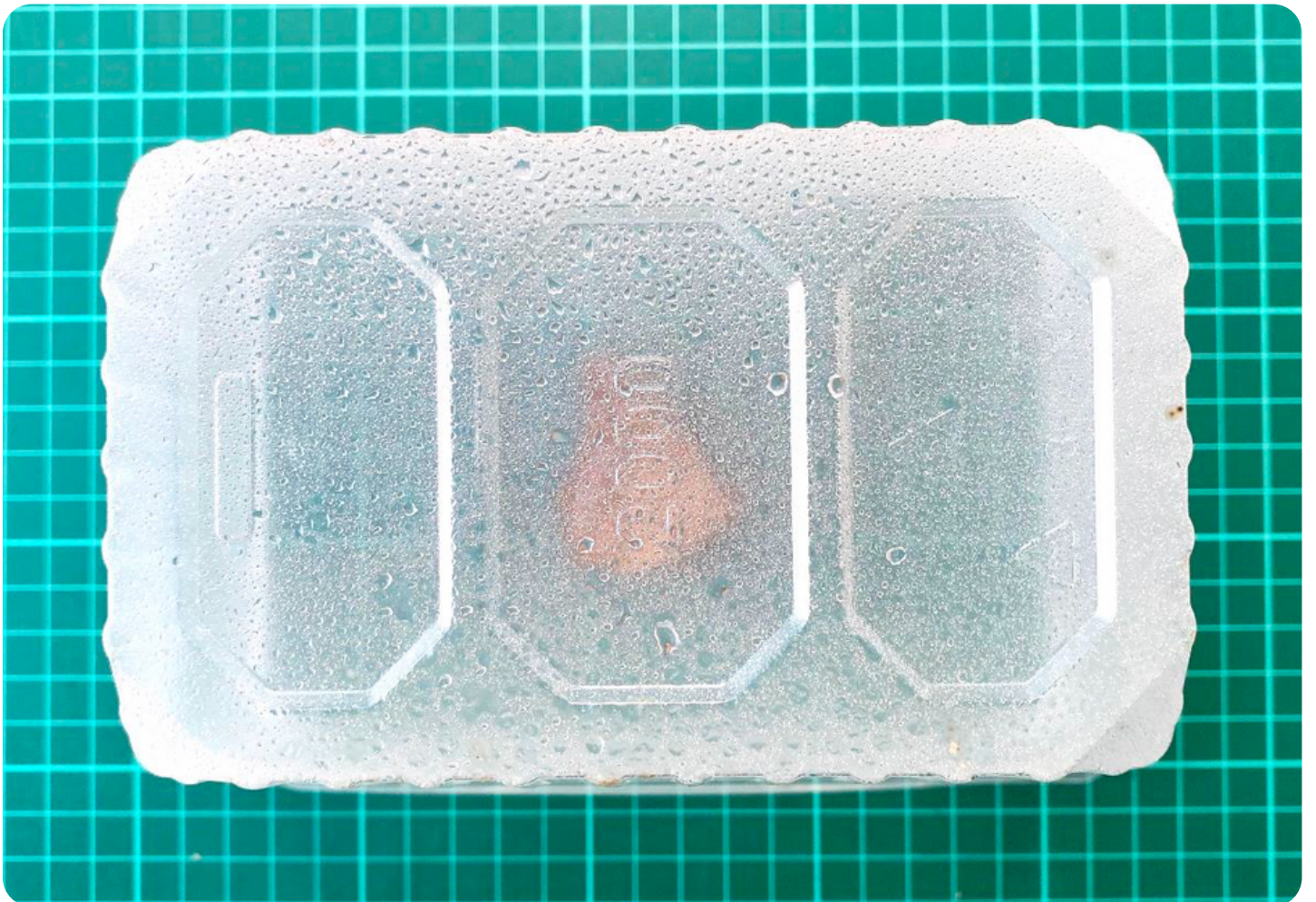
The syringe should be inserted into the middle part of the butterfly's body, known as the thorax or, if you prefer, the "chest".

1.



2.

3.



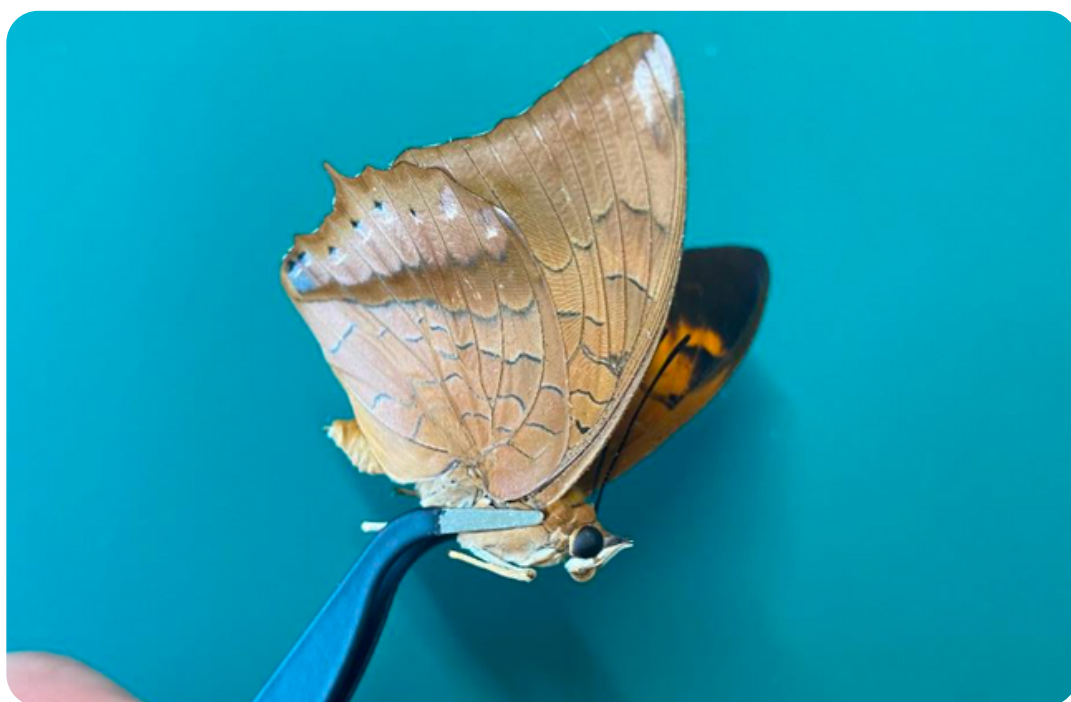
2 Spreading

What you need:

a butterfly, insect pins, spreading pins, tweezers, tape or foil strips, spreading board, spreading needles, scissors AND **a lot of patience** 😊

Instructions:

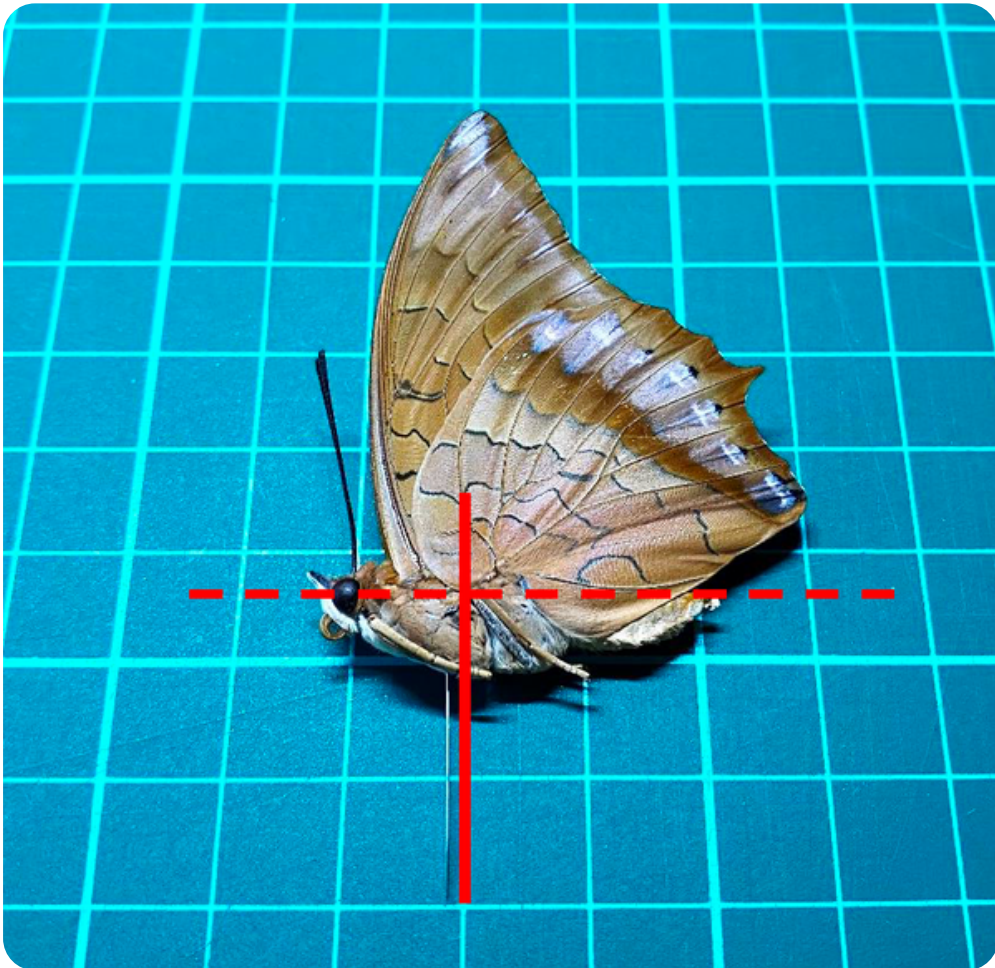
1. Remove the butterfly from the moistening container and gently squeeze the body with tweezers just under the wing joints (as shown in picture 4). If the wings open easily, the butterfly is ready to be spread. If not, add more warm water, inject it into the body, and wait for another 1-2 hours.



4.

2. While gently squeezing the butterfly's body, insert a stainless steel thin, long pin through the center of the butterfly's body (as shown in picture 5). Ensure that the pin is inserted at a 90-degree angle (as depicted in picture 6) - perpendicular.

5.



6.

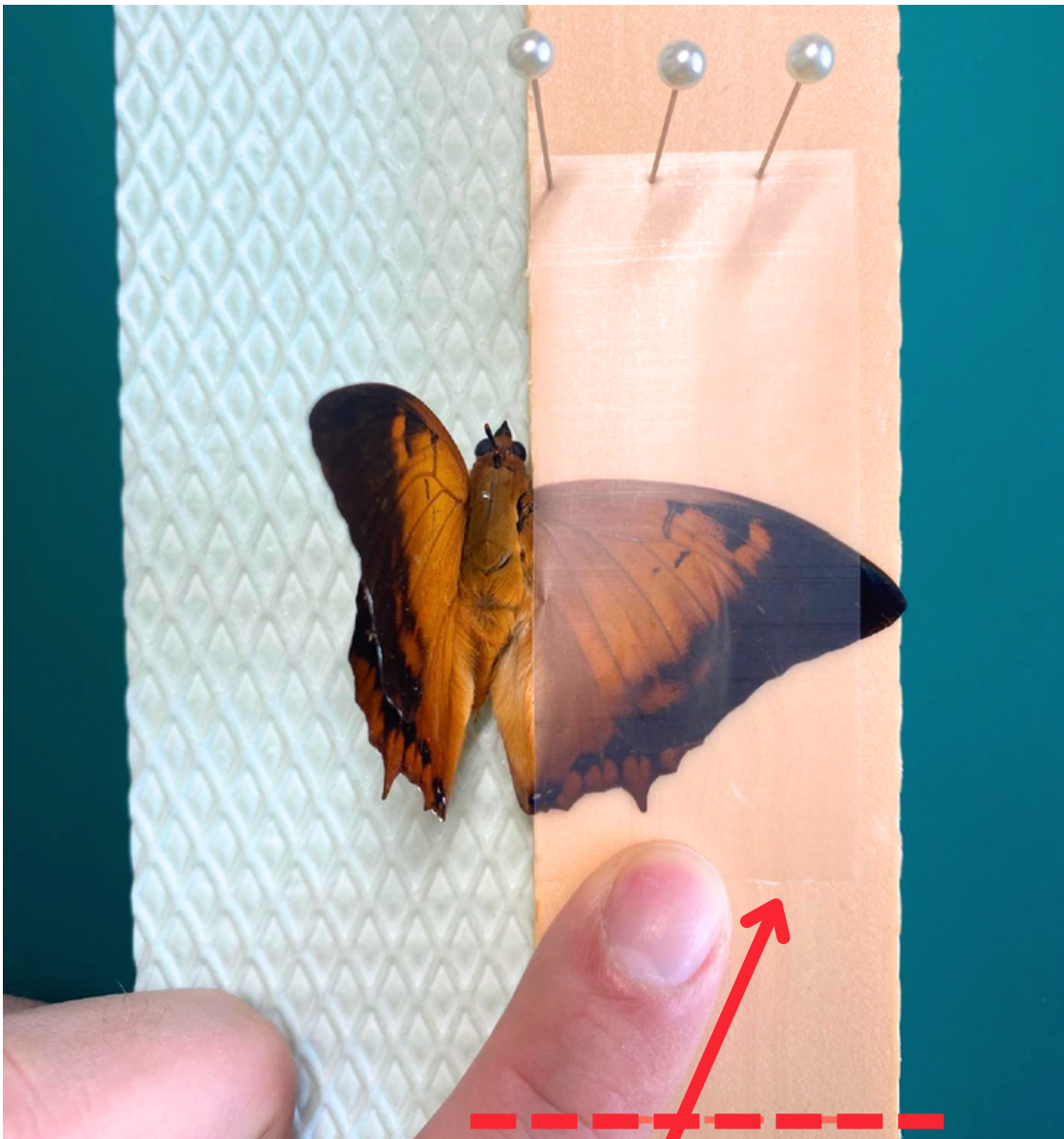
3. Grasp the pin at the top using tweezers or your fingers, and gently insert it into the gap of the spreading board. For larger butterflies, use the larger board; for smaller ones, choose the smaller board. Insert the pin at a 90-degree angle, as shown in picture 7. Ensure that the pin is inserted deeply enough to allow you to gently open the wings with tweezers and position them against the side of the spreading board without risking damage to the wing joints.

7.



Ensure that the wing joints are positioned at the correct height, parallel with the board panels. This alignment allows the wings to rest and spread easily on the board. Additionally, take note that the pin is inserted at a 90-degree angle with the spreading board. These steps are crucial for the process.

4. Cut the foil to create two identical strips, each at least twice as long as the longest part of the wings, as shown in Picture 8. Lay one of the strips on the board and secure it in place by pinning it down using three spreading pins, the ones with the larger heads, as demonstrated in Picture 8.

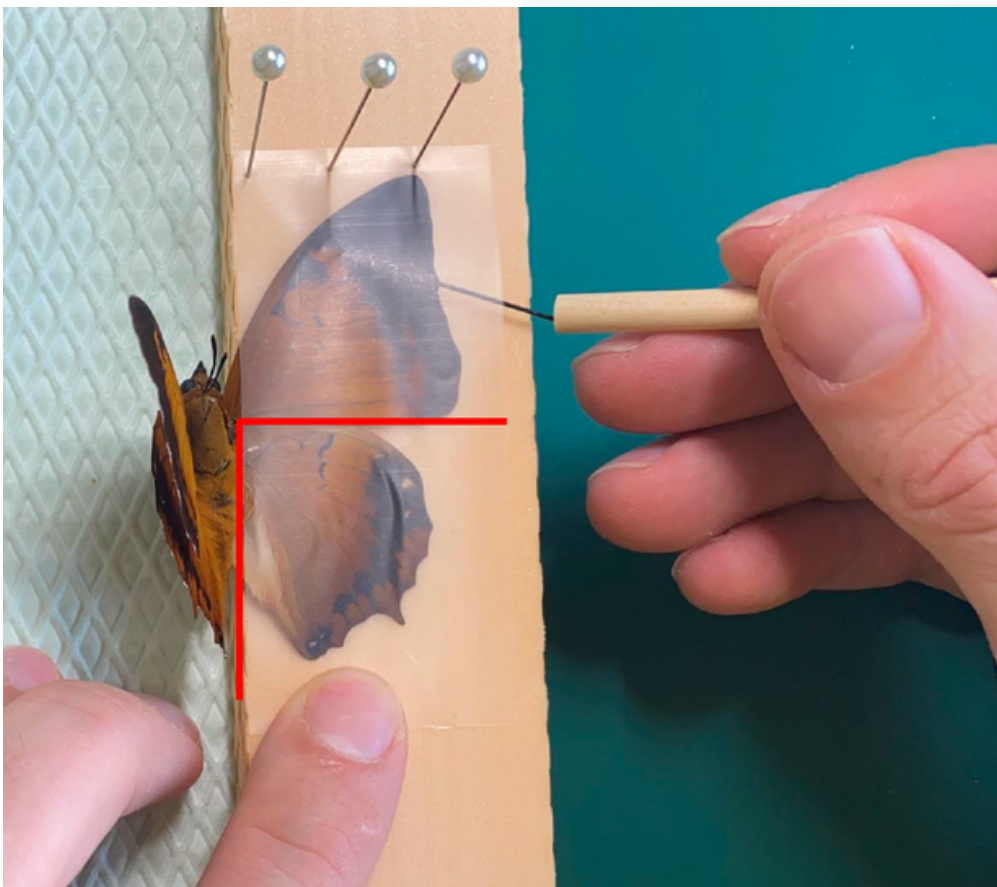


8.

If you are a beginner, consider using a longer foil strip (as indicated by the dashed line) than the one shown in the picture. This will make the manipulation process easier.



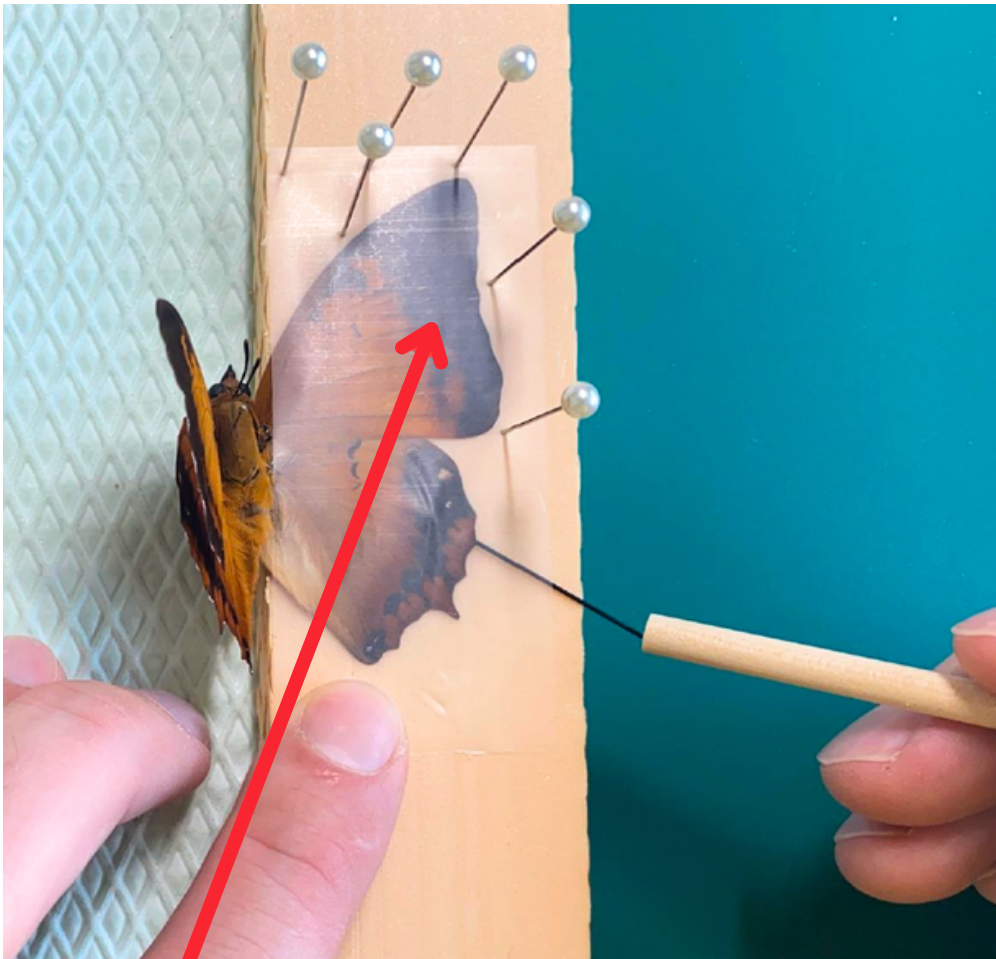
5. Position both the front and back wings beneath the foil, as shown in Picture 8, and gently pull the end of the foil toward you using your finger against board surface. You'll observe that as you pull the foil, it gently presses the wings downward. This pressing action is the technique used for manipulating the wings during the spreading process. Take some time to practice this movement until you become comfortable with it.
6. Use the preparation needle to gently lift the front wing upwards on the board. You can use one of the larger veins in the wing as a guide, being careful in your approach. It's essential to exercise patience during this step, as it's often the most challenging aspect of spreading a butterfly. It may require some practice, and you may unintentionally damage some wings, but don't be disheartened. Stay focused, and remember to pull the foil so that the wing rests against the board, and then gently push it upwards, as illustrated in Picture 9.



In case you accidentally pierce the wing due to the spreading needle being too sharp, you can blunt the tip by using sandpaper.

9.

7. Once you've positioned the wing at a 90-degree angle with the body, as shown in Picture 9, make an effort to stabilize it further. You can achieve this by pulling the foil even tighter or by using your free fingers to hold it in place. Then, utilize additional pins to secure the wing firmly in this position, as demonstrated in Picture 10. Repeat this process for the back wing as well.

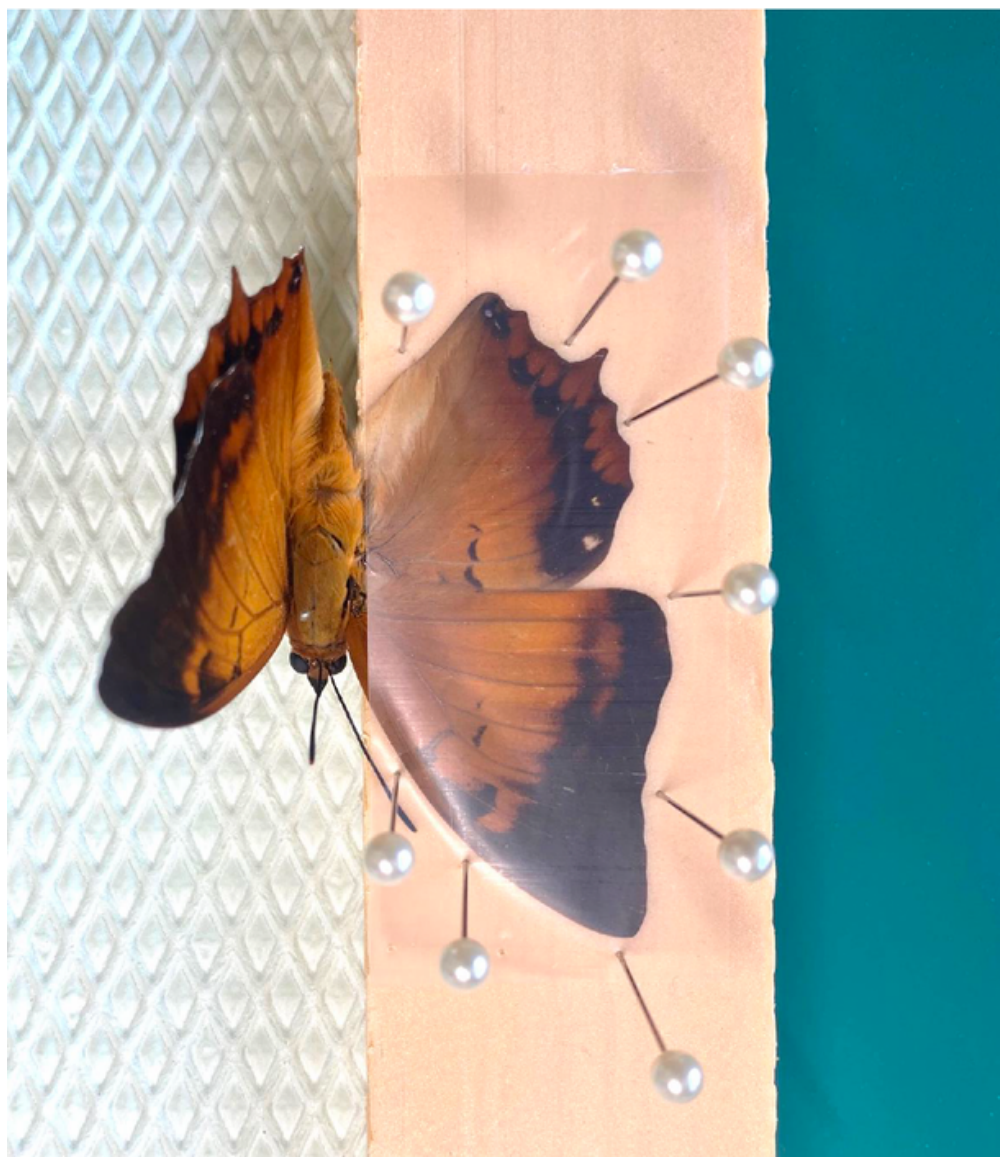


10.

Use additional pins as necessary to ensure that the wing is securely fastened in place.

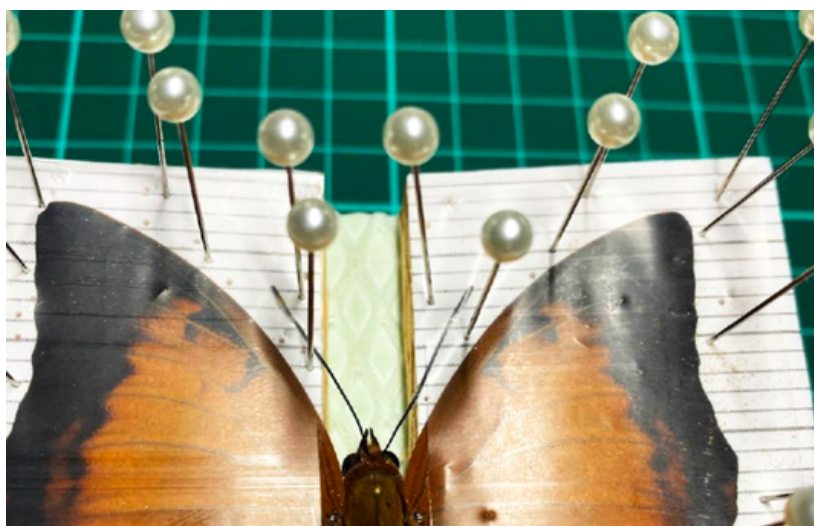
8. Repeat this process on the other side of the butterfly. However, this time, consider flipping the spreading board upside down so that you can use the same hands to perform the task, as shown in Picture 11.

In this position, you can use your left hand to pull and your right hand to manipulate the wings. If you're left-handed, you'll perform the same actions but on the opposite side.



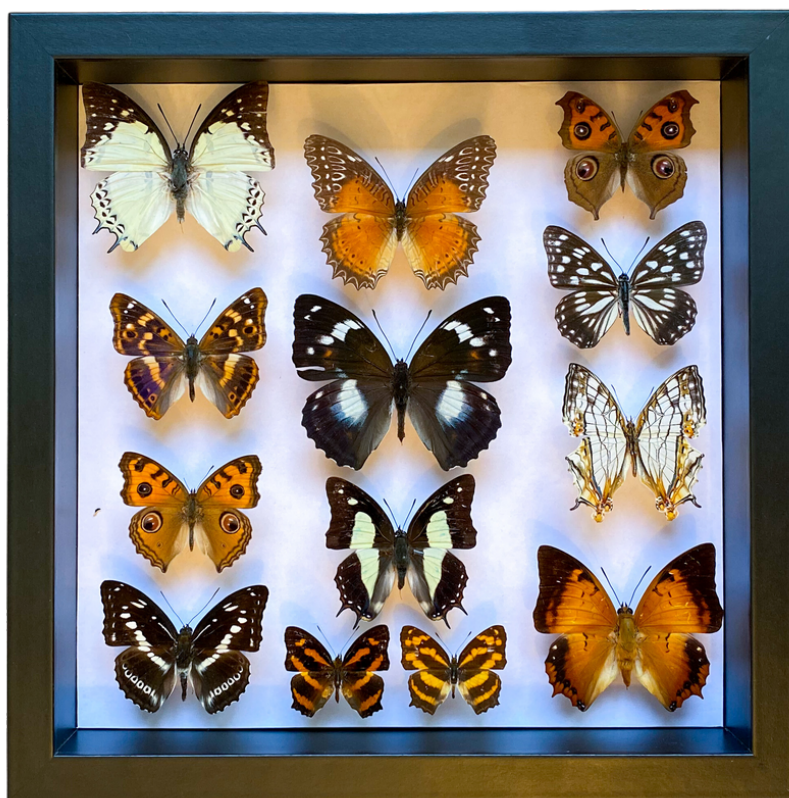
11.

9. Now, carefully remove the first three pins that have been securing the foil. Gently lift the foil upward, and place the antenna under the foil. Secure it in place by inserting a pin, and then repeat the same process for the second antenna, as shown in Picture 12.



12.

10. Once you have completed both sides of the butterfly, you can proceed with another butterfly on the same board. When the spreading board is full, find a suitable location that is dark and dry, and let the butterflies remain there for 3-4 weeks to allow the body to fully dry. After this period, you can remove the pins and foil. Carefully use a pin inserted into the body to gently detach the butterfly from the board and then place it into a display frame.



Developing the skills for spreading butterflies may take some time and practice. It can be a bit frustrating in the beginning, but with perseverance, you will improve – trust me. Don't be disheartened if you accidentally damage a few specimens along the way; it's part of the learning process 😊

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to me at info@entomoboxes.com

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