

Insect Collection Supplies, Links, Tips & Tricks!



Cornel Box

A wooden case with a glass lid to safely store and display your collection.

The cheapest option works just fine! <https://www.bioquip.com/search/DispProduct.asp?pid=1012AM>

Trays

Trays go inside of your Cornel Box to separate your insects based on order, family, etc. Note that they fit together like a puzzle. A mix of **AA**, **A**, **B**, and **C** is what I usually stick to! Make sure you plan ahead so all the pieces fit into your Cornel Box. Keeping extra trays on hand is a good idea, as well.

<https://www.bioquip.com/search/DispProduct.asp?pid=1025A>

Pins

Any of the pins offered on BioQuip will work well! I always have a pack of size 0, 2, and 3 on hand. The smaller the number, the smaller the thickness of the pin, but the length stays the same.

Black Enameled 1208B Insect Pins: <https://www.bioquip.com/search/DispProduct.asp?pid=1208B000>

Pin Holder

To organize your pins.

<https://www.bioquip.com/search/DispProduct.asp?pid=1146S>

Pinning Block

Use the pinning block for consistent insect and label heights on your pin.

<https://www.bioquip.com/search/DispProduct.asp?pid=1144>

Spreading Board

Use a spreading board to spread the wings of butterflies, moths, etc.

Adjustable 2" Spreading Board: <https://www.bioquip.com/search/DispProduct.asp?pid=1023E>

Tracing Paper or Parchment Paper

Use tracing/parchment paper for spreading butterflies, moths, etc. Place the transparent paper over the wings to flatten them, and then pin around the wing. With this method, you will get a nice, flat shape and avoid ripping the delicate wings with pin holes.

Nets

For collecting insects in the field.

See all net options here: <https://www.bioquip.com/Search/WebCatalog.asp?category=18000&prodtype=1>

Pocket nets are handy, too! <https://www.bioquip.com/search/DispProduct.asp?pid=7112CP>

Collection Containers

I use small plastic portion cups and baggies for collecting insects. I keep plastic portion cups from when I go out to eat at restaurants. I hate throwing them away, so I reuse them for insect collecting!

After you collect the insects you can simply pop them freezer to kill them and keep them until your ready to pin another day (this is what I do).

You can also use glass collection jars charged with ethyl acetate ("Kill Jars") to kill the insects on site. These are available on BioQuip.

If you do want to make homemade kill jars, they're easy to make and you can reuse glass jars from food instead of throwing them away. Use ethyl acetate as the killing agent.

Here's a how-to: <https://thedragonflywoman.com/2010/10/05/killjars/>