

# Utah Bug Club

<http://www.utahbugclub.org>



## Mounting Butterflies and Moths:

<http://www.utahbugclub.org/starting-a-collection.php>

Once you have obtained the basic collecting and mounting materials reviewed during our first UBC meeting, also see the Getting Started web page, you are now ready to start hunting butterflies and building a collection. One thing to remember with studying insects with all of the equipment and supplies that are available is that it can be a very expensive undertaking, or, with a little ingenuity and creativity, it can be quite inexpensive--it depends upon you and your own unique situation.

The best way to kill any insect is to place it in a killing jar that has been charged with ethyl acetate. To charge a jar, pour about 1 oz. of ethyl acetate into jars, screw on lid and wait 20 minutes until plaster is fully saturated, then drain off any remaining liquid.

If you have collected a butterfly or moth, another method is to gently but firmly pinch the thorax and place it into a glassine envelope. This will stun the butterfly or moth. Later on, place the glassine envelope into a protective rubbermaid-type sandwich container and place the container in a freezer. Keeping dead specimens in a freezer helps to maintain their moisture for as long as possible making it easier to mount them later.

When you are ready to mount your specimen, make sure that you have A) a syringe filled with water to loosen up the specimen B) a mounting board C) mounting pins D) 1.5 mil laminating film cut into small rectangular pieces [loose scrap from your school laminator works fine] E) an insect pin and F) your specimen. Note: All of these (except the specimen) are provided as part of your basic starter kit.



A video and MS PowerPoint presentation on mounting are available online:

<http://utahlepsociety.org/v.mov>

<http://www.utahlepsociety.org/thebigshow2.pdf>

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