



An easy way to Set and Preserve Insects

By

UniqueButterflies.com.au



1. Relaxing & Rehydrating System for all insects specimens.

Line the bottom of a plastic, sealable container with approx 6 sheets of paper towels and dampen with a mist of water



2...Add approximately 6 fresh dry towels to damp ones.



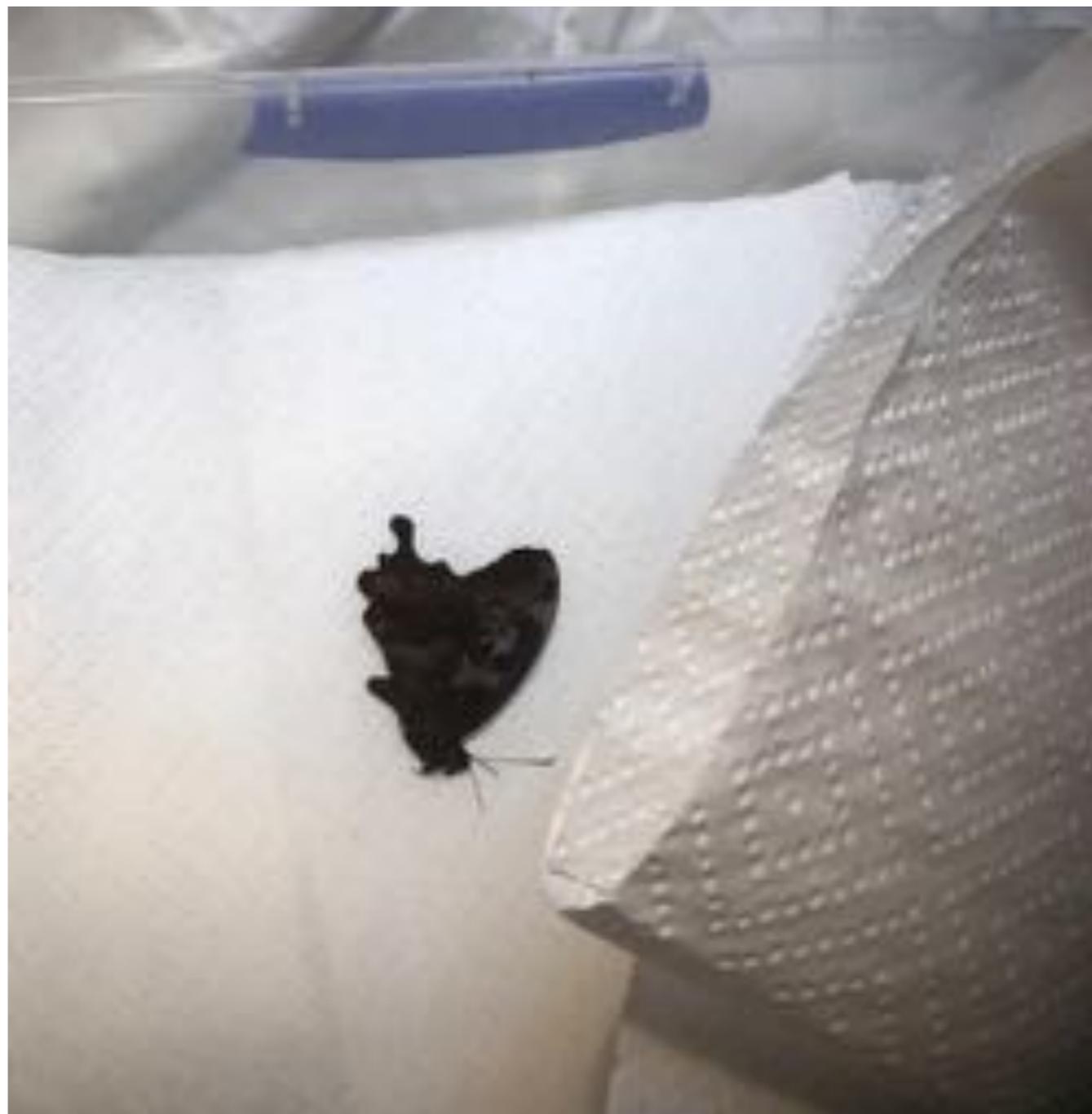
3...Unpack specimens from paper triangle packets



4...Place specimens on the added, dry paper towels.



5..Put the flat specimen on the dry paper towels with the damp paper towels underneath



6...Cover with approximately 6 more dry paper towels.



7...Now your specimen is covered with dry paper towels, ready for the lid to be placed



8...Pour boiling water into wide heat suitable container and place under the sealed plastic box.



9...Placing the sealed container over the hot water.



10....Place exactly in the centre of the box



11...Leave for around 4 hours...Change hot water a few times if many specimens are in the relax box.



12...Add boiling water to large sized wide mug.



13 A.....Pick up specimen with flat tweezers.....



13B...Remove specimen from relaxing box after 4 to 6 hours.



14.....Fill syringe with hot water.



Handy hintsHolding specimen with pin from below
and slightly squeezing lower thorax
from below with tweezers to open wings once relaxed.



15...Place tip of syringe into the thorax (hard body which is now soft.)



16...Lift specimen with syringe and place the thorax, antennae under hot water.
Pump hot water into submerged specimen. If these are beetles simply float the beetle on top of the hot water for 20 seconds..this will relax the legs totally.



17...Carefully and gently push down on thorax with end of tweezers and remove any excess water as well as slightly crushing the thorax... very gentle on this operation.



18...Open specimen by squeezing on thorax with tweezers below and set pin to thorax centre.



19...Foam setting board. Made from recycled foam sheets obtained from any friendly electrical or white goods store. Glue with water base glue or tape with packaging tape..



19 A.....Push pin through centre of thorax at a good straight angle.



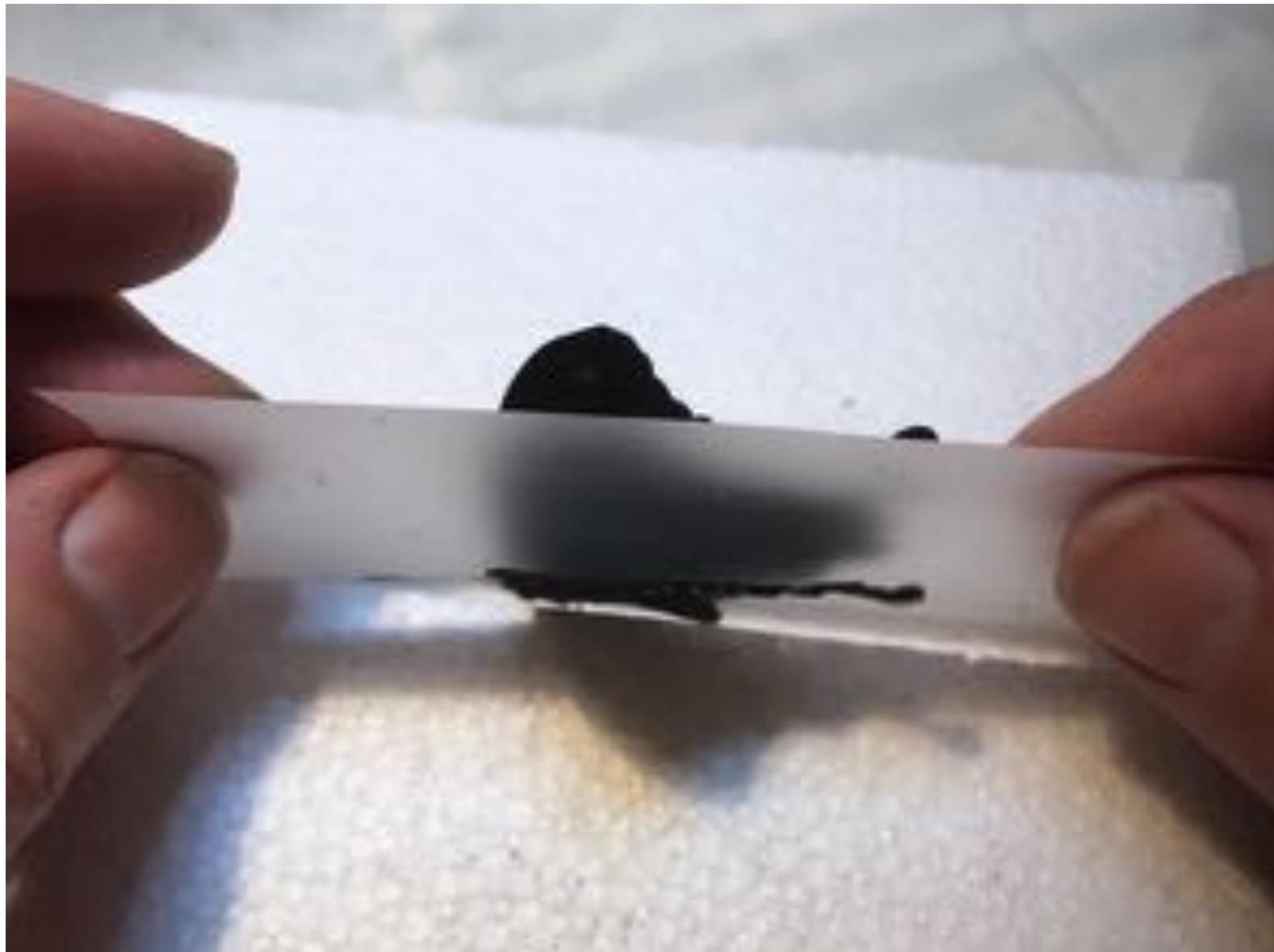
19B.....Push down with pin to centre of the setting board using flat stamp tweezers.



19 C



19 D....Pin specimen to foam setting board slot with wing joints just at level with top of setting board.



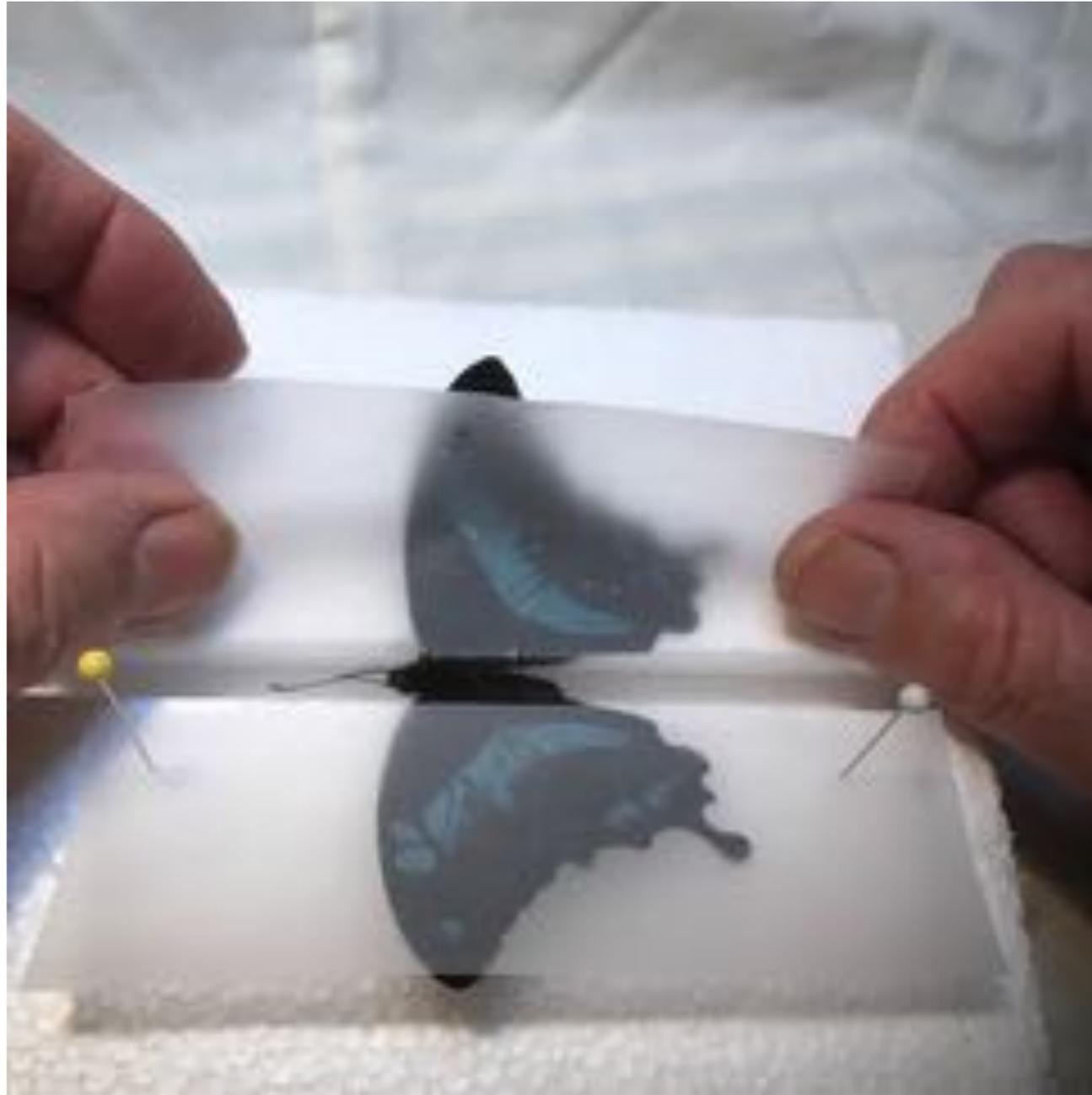
20...Flat tracing paper or clear thick plastic.....
Put this between wing and one side of body.



21.....Fold down and pin loosely.



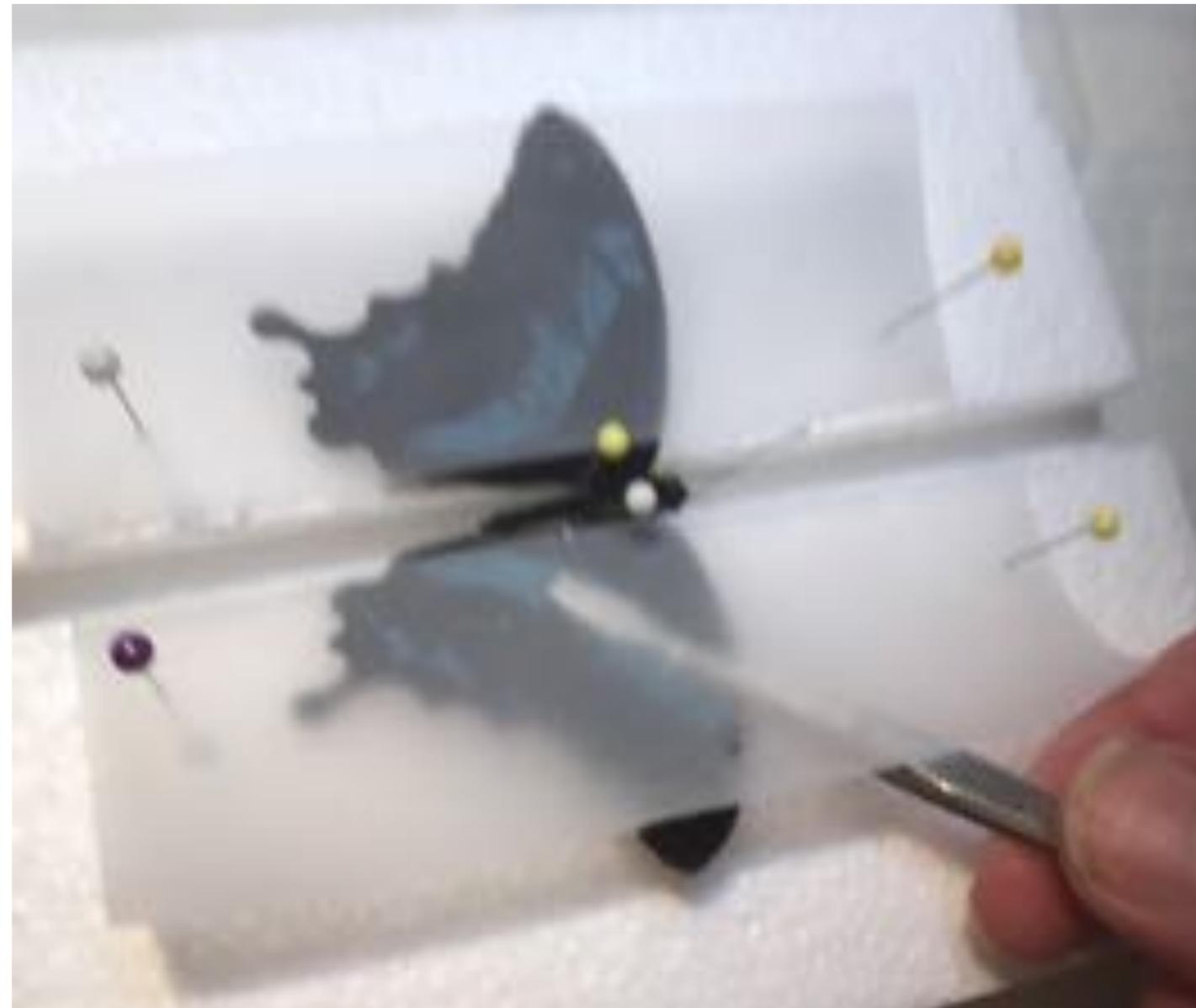
22....Lift pins with paper so there is a space between wings and board.



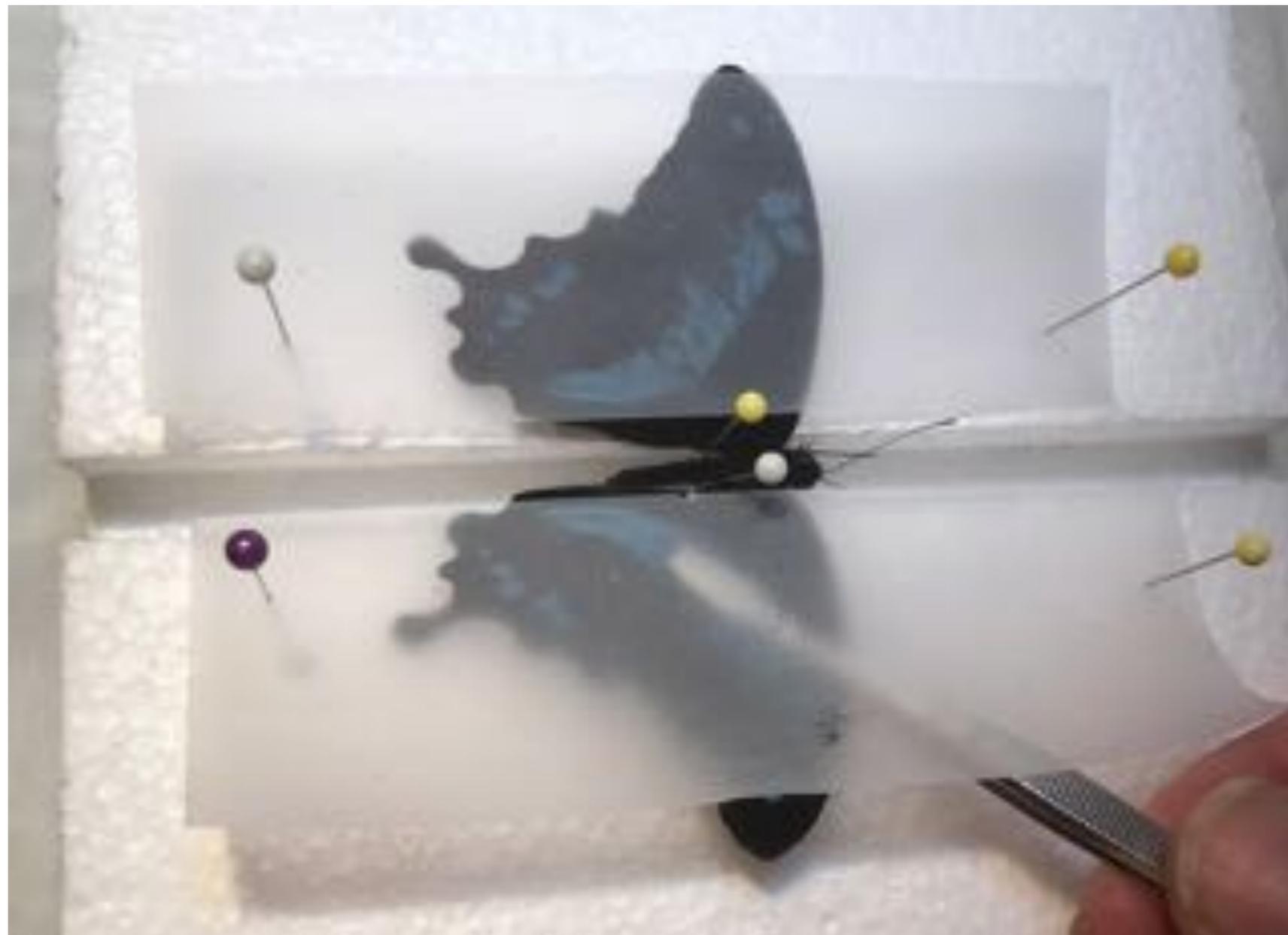
22 A.....Do the same for other side.



23 2 pins each side of thorax (body) to prevent movement



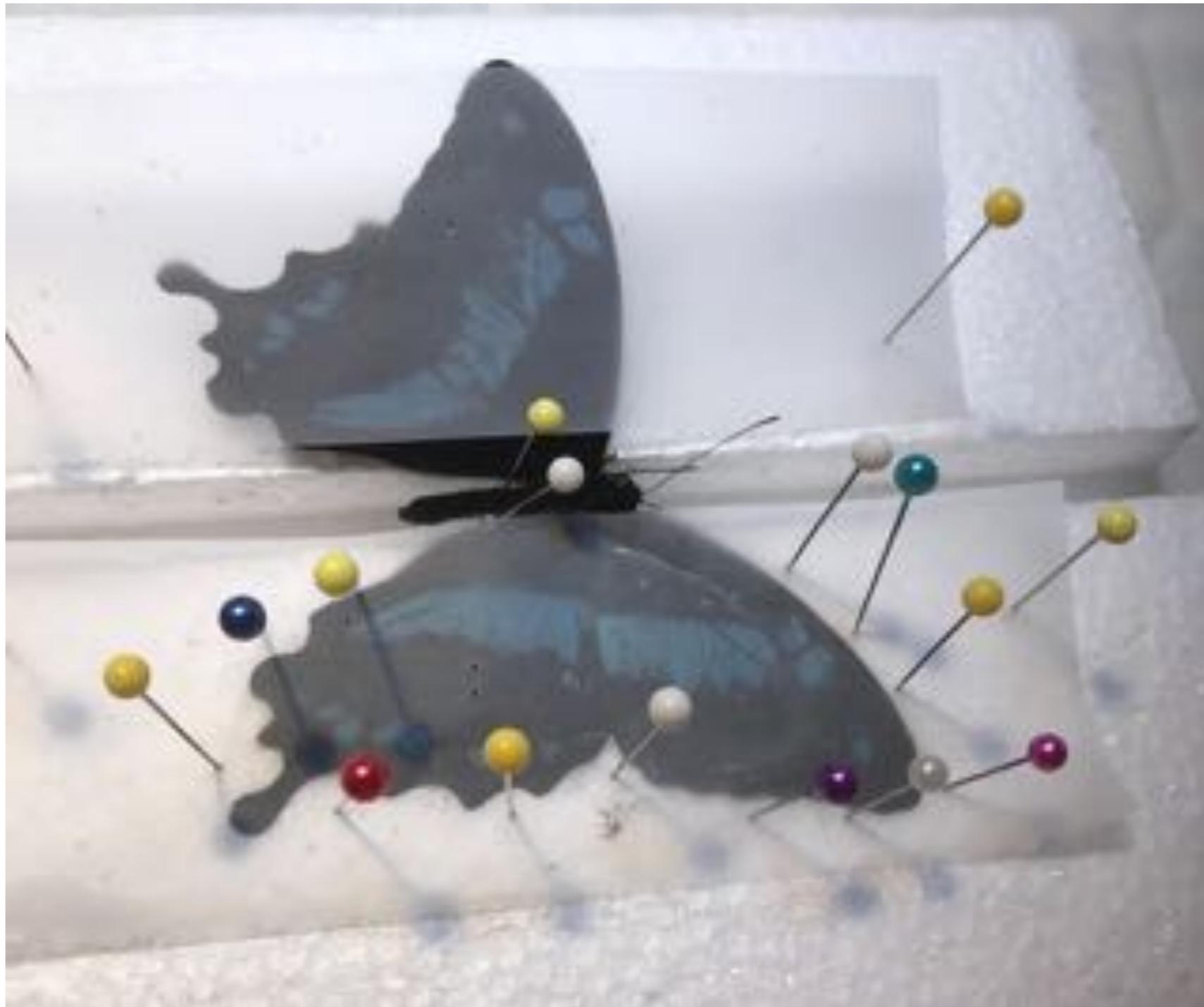
24 A...Do the same for other side.



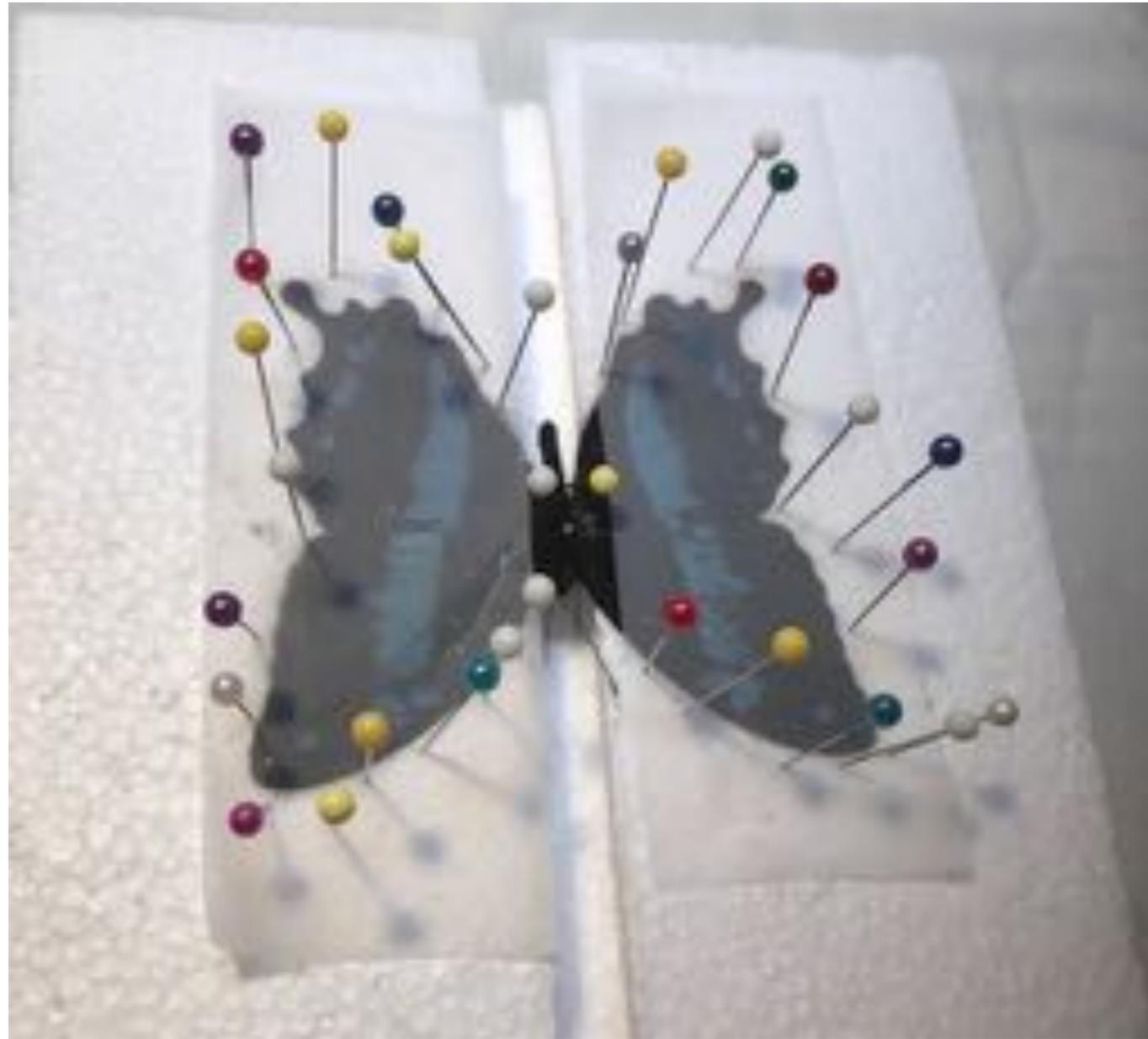
24 B....Using your flat tweezers gently slide wings into required setting using the thumb to hold in place as you finish.



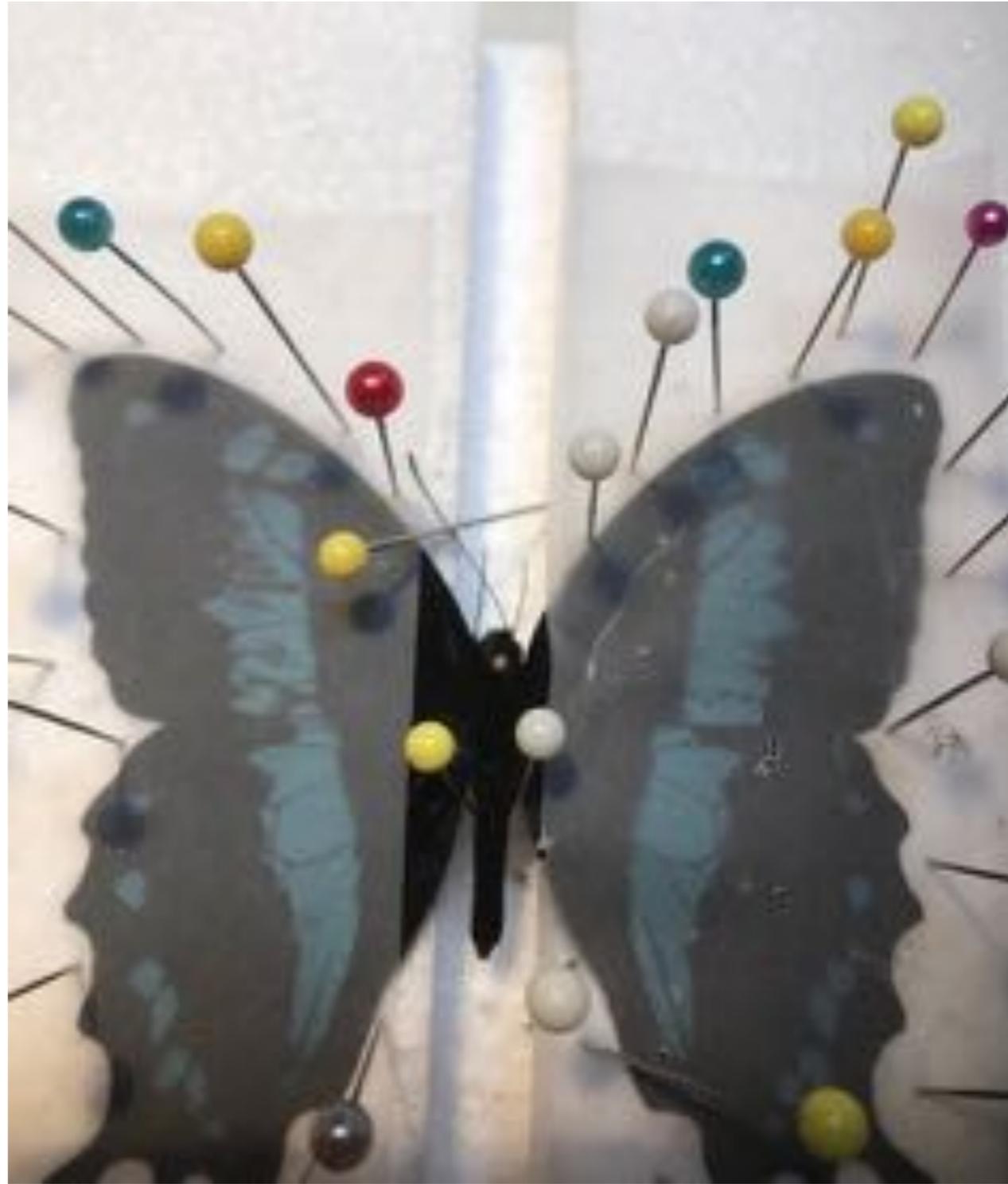
24 C.... Using thumb and finger to slightly add pressure while setting wings to required shape.



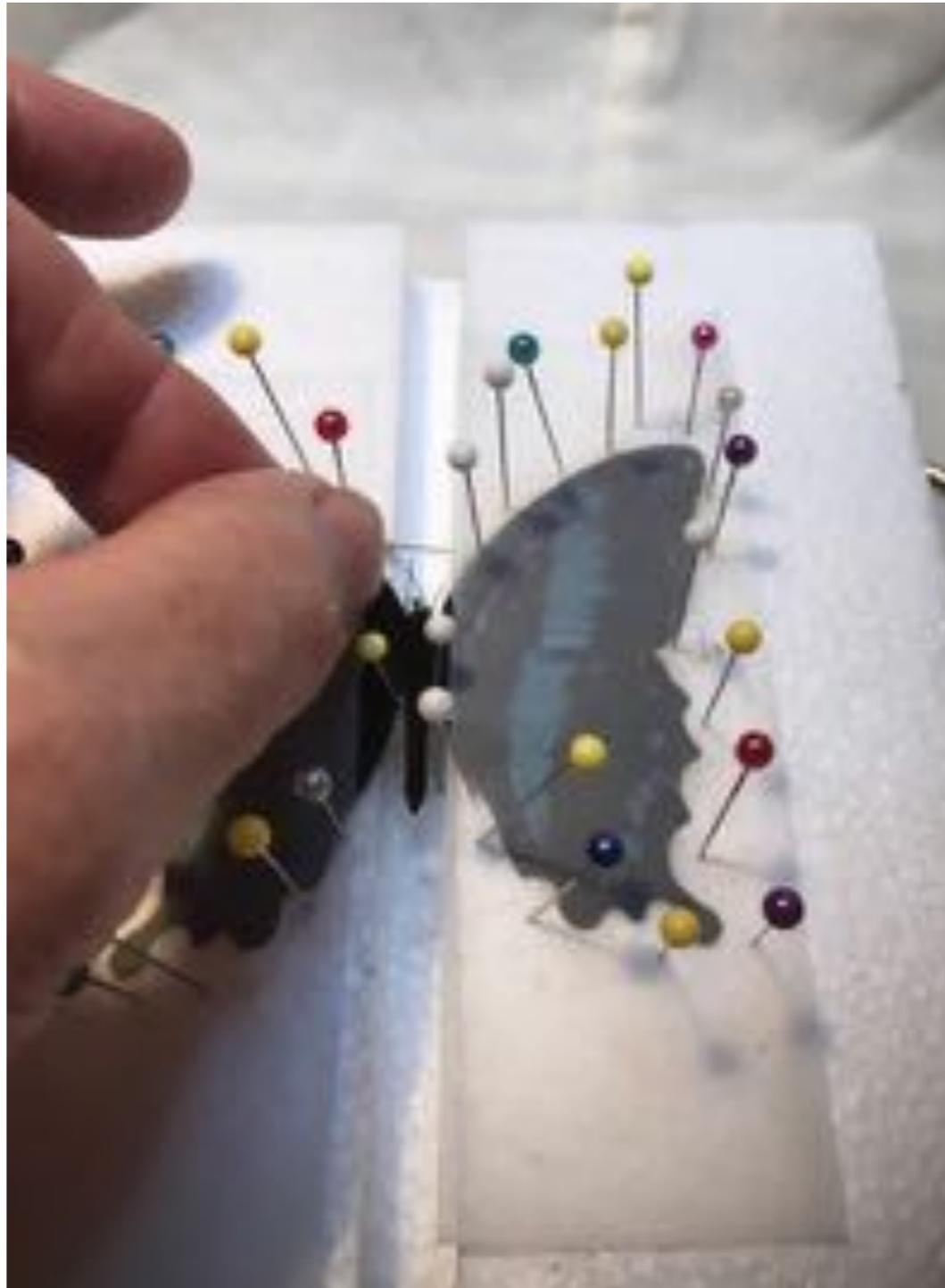
25....Push tracing paper down and then pin around paper to the shape of the insect below.



26....Finished specimen with pins around wing shape.



27



27 A...Support antenna with pins carefully to shape required.
Usually in line with wing angle.



27 B



27 C



Drying cabinet with 45 w globe place in middle bottom.



Set/spread specimen is placed as above and then door closed.
Leave for 6 hours with globe on then 12 more hours with globe off.

After 12 hours remove specimen from the drying cabinet and carefully remove pins, paper and gently lift specimen with entomology pin

Store your set specimen in display cabinet with mothballs (naphthalene)
or similar if naphthalene is not available.

**I hope this has been helpful to you, enjoy collecting and
preserving the wonderful world of insects.**