Preparing your challenge piece for the touring exhibition

It is important to prepare your Challenge piece in a way that makes it easy for volunteers to hang the pieces and for venues to display our exhibition to best advantage.

Stitching and Beyond provides A3 Portrait plastic boxes to transport each submission safely and easily, so your piece absolutely must slide easily into its box which is 15mm thick.

Note:

- A piece applied to pre-stretched canvas is too thick and struggles to slide into the box. The surface of your work may be damaged as we try to insert it into the box.
- We recommend making your piece rigid by enclosing stiff card, buckram or rigid plastic within your work.

This is A3 Portrait.

Maximum dimensions: 297 mm x 420 mm x 10mm

The 10mm depth has to take into consideration the hanging device, which needs to be strong, not stretchy and flat.

Hanging devices

It is this aspect that many people struggle with, so here are some suggestions that may help.

All of these ideas give some rigidity or support to the piece, which helps enormously when setting up the display and gives your work a really professional finish. Almost every venue has a different

hanging system, and so these suggestions will definitely make the task of our volunteers much easier. It is preferable, but not essential, that the string or wire is not visible above the piece.

Please consider and respect the time and effort your volunteers put into preparing, travelling, mounting, demounting and sending on our exhibition.

Pieces submitted that are not portrait, not able to fit in the boxes, not labelled with your name and the name of the work, and do not have a hanging device that is sturdy enough to last the rigours of eight exhibitions will sadly and reluctantly be returned to you, their creator.

Below are some member examples to give you ideas:

	Horizontal pocket, flat dowel, fishing line stabilised in grooves. The fishing line is tied across as tightly as possible and doesn't have much stretch, so does not extend above the textile when hung.
	Perspex flat rod (or ruler), flat pocket, drilled holes in perspex, fine wire. NB: No rod must be wider than the A3 measurement.

	Strong card to stabilise, D rings, picture wire , clear 450 Quick Dry Adhesive (Artery).
	Neat little corner pockets added when the binding is added. Do think ahead and make them long enough in the vertical direction for the flat dowel OR old wooden ruler OR old plastic ruler cut to length. This example still needs to have tiny holes drilled to take the fishing line, or V shaped sections filed out of top and bottom edges at each end to keep the line in place.

Try to avoid the following:	
	Great pocket, but...better if lower. Really important to use a much stronger hanging thread without so much "give" in it.
	A chopstick or wooden ruler make inexpensive, stronger rods that won't drag these excellent hanging corners out of shape so easily If the hanging thread extends above the art work, fishing line is better as (being invisible) it doesn't draw the eye away from the detail of your piece.
	Again, great use of pockets, but round dowel does distort the piece. Use a cheap wooden ruler instead, or perhaps even a chopstick?