

Tips

Historically, a powder trestle (Figure 8.1) was used to assist the compounder with step 10 above. The paper containing the powder was placed centrally on the top of the trestle and then the sides were bent underneath using the edges of the trestle to form neat creases. The use of a powder trestle ensured that all the powders would be of a uniform size.

9. Fold down the top of the paper until it covers about two-thirds of the width of the paper. This top edge of this fold should help to hold the contents of the paper in the centre of the paper.
10. Fold the two ends under, so that the loose ends slightly overlap, and then tuck one flap inside the other.

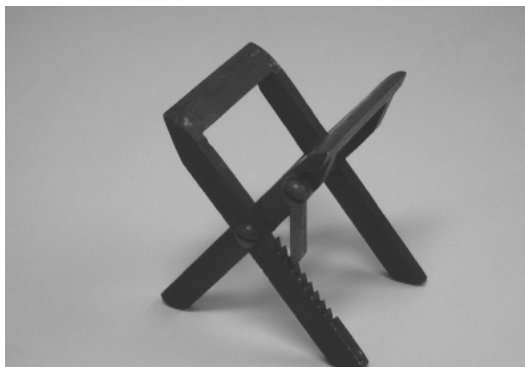


Figure 8.1
A powder trestle.

11. Wrap each powder in turn, making sure they are all the same size.
12. Stack the powders in pairs, flap to flap.
13. Tie together with a rubber band (not too tightly).
14. Place in a rigid cardboard box.
15. The label should be placed on the outer pack such that when the patient opens the box, the label is not destroyed.

General method of preparation of capsules

1. Choose an appropriate size capsule for the powder bulk. Normally a size 3 capsule would be chosen and so work on the basis of filling each capsule with 200 mg of powder.
2. Calculate quantities required and make an excess as with the manufacture of individual unit dose powders.
3. Mix using the 'doubling-up' technique.
4. Handle the capsules as little as possible as powder fill weights will be inaccurate as a result of contamination with grease and moisture. This is also important for reasons of hygiene. Fill powder into the longer half of the capsule.
5. There are at least three methods of filling capsules manually. Always work on a clean tile; remember that these capsules are to be swallowed by a patient.