



# Matting and Framing 101

# Items Needed for Framing a Picture

- ▶ Picture (Artwork)
- ▶ Picture Frame (Wood/Metal/Other)
- ▶ Mat (Single/Double)
- ▶ Backer board (foam core board)
- ▶ Glass or Acrylic

# Choosing a Mat Size

- ▶ The artwork dimensions should dictate the frame size; you shouldn't buy a frame and then try to make the artwork fit the frame.

# Determining Mat Border Width and Frame Size

- ▶ Measure the height and width of the artwork and add the two together. For example, for a 12x18 print, add  $12 + 18 = 30$ . Using the chart below for the Window Size (United Inches), the mat border will start at 2".
- ▶ Since each border will be 2", multiply  $2" \times 2 = 4$
- ▶ Add 4" to the width of the artwork and add 4" to the height of the artwork. ( $12" + 4" = \mathbf{16}"$ ,  $18" + 4" = \mathbf{22}"$ ). The closest standard frame size will be **18" x 24"**.
- ▶ For a 12x18 print in an 18 x 24 frame, the mat border should overlap the print that it is placed under it by  $\frac{1}{4}"$  on each side.
- ▶ So, to find the mat window opening for the above 12" x 18" image, subtract  $18" - 12" = 6"$ , divide 6" by  $2 = 3"$ .
- ▶ Add  $\frac{1}{4}"$  to  $3" = 3\text{-}\frac{1}{4}"$  border on all sides.

# Chart for Choosing The Correct Mat Size and Frame Size

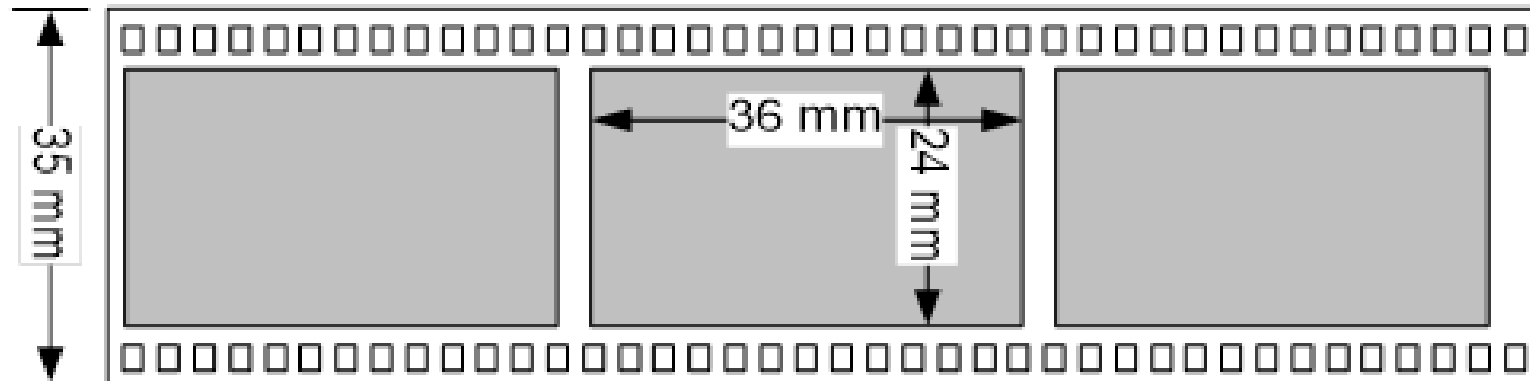
Typical Image Sizes	Window Size (United Inches)	Starting Border	Mat size (Starting)	Recommended Frame/Mat Sizes
4x6, 5x7	10" to 12"	1.5" (1-1/2")	7x9, 8x10	5x7, 8x10
8x10, 8x12, 12x12	18" to 24"	1.75" (1-3/4")	11.5x13.5 11.5x15.5	12x16, 16x16
11x14, 12x18	25" to 30"	2"	15x18, 16x22	16x20, 18x24
16x20	36"	2.25" (2-1/4")	20.5x24.5	20x24
18x24	42"	2.5" (2-1/2")	23x29	24x30
20x30	50"	2.75" (2-3/4")	25.5x30.5	24x36

# Mat Board

- ▶ Mat board typically comes in three thicknesses, 2 ply, 4 ply and 8 ply (8 ply is thicker and harder to cut).
- ▶ The mat board is used to separate the artwork from the glass. This will prevent the photograph/artwork from contacting the glass and sticking to it or damaging it.
- ▶ Border widths are determined by the size of the print which will give you the size of the frame.
- ▶ Mat board can be purchased in either a 32" x 40" size or a 40" x 60" size.

# Aspect Ratios

- ▶ The standard ratio for a 35mm film (frame size 36mm x 24mm) is 3:2 (width to height) and corresponds *directly* to the following standard photo sizes on the next slide (note: 35mm refers to the total width of the film).
- ▶ DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) full-frame and crop sensor aspect ratios are the same, 3:2. Same as 35mm film
- ▶ Most compact cameras are Micro four thirds (4:3)



# Standard (3:2) Photo Sizes

- ▶ 4 x 6 inch
- ▶ 8 x 12 inch
- ▶ 10 x 15 inch
- ▶ 12 x 18 inch
- ▶ 16 x 24 inch
- ▶ 20 x 30 inch
- ▶ 24 x 36 inch



# Mounting and Framing Photographic Artwork

- ▶ Do not mount photographs in direct contact with glass, it does not allow the image to breathe and can stick to the glass, especially with glossy print paper.
- ▶ Inkjet prints must be fully dry before mounting them.
  - ▶ Ink off gassing can transfer to the glass after a period of time and fog the glass.
  - ▶ The surface of the inkjet dries very fast but the ink below the surface and the paper takes time to dry.
  - ▶ Placing newly printed inkjet prints between sheets of paper can speed up the drying process.
  - ▶ Also, inkjet prints should not be hung where sunlight can contact them as the sunlight can fade the print. This is true of regular photographic prints as well, but inkjet prints are more susceptible.
- ▶ Use a mat or spacers to keep the photograph from contacting the glass.

# Backer Board for Photographs

- ▶ The photograph should be mounted to a backer board to prevent curling or warping from humidity using the following methods:
  - ▶ Dry mount – the photograph is mounted to a backer board, typically Foam core, using either dry mount tissue (which melts under temperature and pressure) or a heat activated backer board such as MontCor or Gilman heat activated foam board. Pressure sensitive foam board may also be used with a press.
  - ▶ Adhesive spray (e.g., Scotch Photo Mount) Note: This technique can be very messy and needs to be done in a well-ventilated area.
  - ▶ Repositionable self-adhesive foam board.
  - ▶ T-hinge mounts (Note: this method will not prevent a photograph from curling or warping).
  - ▶ Photo corners. Note: This will hold the photo to the backer board but will not prevent it from curling or warping.

# Mounting, Matting and Framing Process

- ▶ Cut the backer board to the frame size
- ▶ Clean the backer board and the back side of the artwork.
- ▶ Mount the artwork to the backer board (dry mount, adhesive spray, t-hinge, self adhesive backer board).
- ▶ Cut the mat board to the frame size
- ▶ Measure and mark the back of the mat board with the correct window size
- ▶ Cut the mat board window
- ▶ Place the mat board over the image mounted on the backer board
- ▶ Place the glass over the mat board
- ▶ Check for any dust between the glass and the mat board and image
- ▶ Insert the glass, mat board and backer board into the frame.

# Preparing Artwork for Mounting and Framing

- ▶ Thoroughly clean any dust from the mounting surface and the back side of the artwork before mounting the artwork to the backer board. Canned air is not recommended; use a dusting brush to sweep away dust.
- ▶ Thoroughly clean the glass on both sides using a good glass cleaner (I recommend Sprayway, P/N SW-050, available at Picture Perfect Frames in Bayport, Décor Moulding, Home Depot or BJ's) and cheesecloth. Wear white cotton gloves to prevent getting fingerprints on the glass. Glass can be laid on brown paper or a clean cloth. I use a board with rubber bumpers spaced 2 inches apart to support the glass and keep dirt and dust away.
- ▶ Using a brush, clean the surface of the picture mounted on the backer board to remove dust and dirt. Do the same for surface of the cut mat.
- ▶ Stack the glass, mat and backer board (with the picture) together and inspect for any dust or dirt before inserting into the frame. (Note: the stack can be taped together around the perimeter which will help prevent dust and dirt from getting into the stack.)

# Framing Process -Metal Frames

- ▶ If using a metal frame:
  - ▶ Install the spring clips between the back of the metal frame and the mounting board.
  - ▶ Add hanging wire to the back of the frame.
    - ▶ Usually the anchors for the hanging wire are secured  $1/3$  of the way from the top of the frame.
    - ▶ For example: on an 18 x 24 frame that is mounted in *landscape* mode, divide 18 by 3 = 6". Measure 6" down from the top of the frame to locate the wire anchor.

# Framing Process - Wood Frames

- ▶ If using a wood frame:
  - ▶ Use a point driver to secure the back of the mat board to the sides of the frame.
  - ▶ Once the assembled artwork is secured in the frame, a dust cover can be attached.
    - ▶ Using an ATG gun place the double sided tape around the perimeter on the back of the frame
    - ▶ Take a piece of brown wrapping paper and cut it to be about an inch oversize
    - ▶ Carefully place the wrapping paper over the back of the frame so that there aren't any wrinkles in it. Press down on the wrapping paper around the perimeter to secure the paper to the frame
    - ▶ Lightly wet the back of the wrapping paper with a spray bottle and water
    - ▶ Using a hair dryer, dry the back of the wrapping paper. The wrapping paper will shrink and provide a smooth dust seal on the back of the artwork.

# Framing Resources

## ▶ How To

- ▶ **Mat, Mount, and Frame it Yourself – M. David Logan** Note: This book is no longer in print but can be purchased from EBay or Amazon. Good basic book on framing. The Logan link below has **free** book downloads about picture framing and matting and have many of the same steps as the book for mat cutting and framing.
- ▶ <https://www.logangraphic.com/learning-center/complete-picture-framing-guide/index.php/> The Logan Graphic site has a lot of information and/or videos for picture framing.
- ▶ <https://www.reframingphotography.com/>
- ▶ <https://framing4yourself.com/>
- ▶ [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=matting+and+framing+photos](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=matting+and+framing+photos) Search for picture framing, some are good, others are not that good, use your judgment!

# Framing Supplies

- ▶ Michaels ([www.michaels.com](http://www.michaels.com)) (Gateway Plaza and other locations) look for sales and coupons, sometimes up to 70% off.
- ▶ Dick Blick ([www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)) (there's one in Carl Place on Glen Cove Road)
- ▶ Picture Frames ([www.pictureframes.com](http://www.pictureframes.com))
- ▶ Décor Moulding and Supply ([www.decormoulding.com](http://www.decormoulding.com)) This is my source for picture framing supplies.
  - ▶ 300 Wireless Blvd, Hauppauge, NY 631-231-5959 – Ask for Nancy Caputo in the showroom. (Note: This is a wholesale supplier, if you want to order from them you will need a NY State Tax ID number) they also have a “seconds” room of frames in various sizes, cash only.
  - ▶ **Note:** Décor Moulding and Supply has purchased United Manufacturer's Supply web site (<https://www.unitedmfrs.com/>) and carries all of United Manufacturer's Supply products.



# Picture Framers (Local)

- ▶ **Picture Perfect Frames**, 613 Montauk Highway, Bayport, NY 11705
- ▶ <https://www.pictureperfectframesinc.com/> Phone: 631-472-4261
- ▶ Email: [Customframe2000@aol.com](mailto:Customframe2000@aol.com)
  - ▶ Kevin is the owner; he will give a 15% discount if you mention that you are with PAC. He is very good at what he does and very helpful. Hours vary, check his website: <https://www.pictureperfectframesinc.com/>
- ▶ **Bellport Arts & Framing Studio**, 137 South Country Road, Bellport NY 11713
- ▶ [www.bellportarts.com](http://www.bellportarts.com)
- ▶ Phone: 631.803.6076
- ▶ Email: [iframe@optonline.net](mailto:iframe@optonline.net)
  - ▶ LuAnn is the owner and is supportive of local artists.

# Shipping Framed Artwork

- ▶ FedEx has a very nice frame packaging system that supports the artwork, frames up to 28" x 21" x 2-1/2", \$16.00, for frames up to 44" x 32" x 2-1/2" \$18.00.
- ▶ <https://www.fedex.com/en-us/shipping/packing/supplies/boxes.html> (scroll down under Specialty Boxes).

