

Illustrated Guide to Mounting A Photograph

UPDATES: July 2006. (1) With the "grey board" I used last season the 3M adhesive is not so effective. I now use it only to attach the print to the backing board; attaching the mount itself using 1" wide double-sided tape. (2) I now use self adhesive labels on the back. The nice lady in The Paper Place, 14, Hospital Street, Nantwich, will sell you individual sheets from the boxes of 100, which is the most inexpensive way of buying them. I use ones about 70mm x 100mm.



This is all you need, but buy good quality tools. Shown are (left to right)

- the 1000micron or 1500micron grey board for backing,
- the Colourmount board (already cut for you to 20"x16"),
- a good mat cutter (Logan, or similar, £20ish, this makes the 45° mitred cut),
- a trimming knife for the edges, set square (or "T" square),
- fine pencil and, last but not least,
- a good straight edge. The Adapt-A-Rule by Logan has a groove in which the mat cutter rides, ensuring a slip free, straight cut.

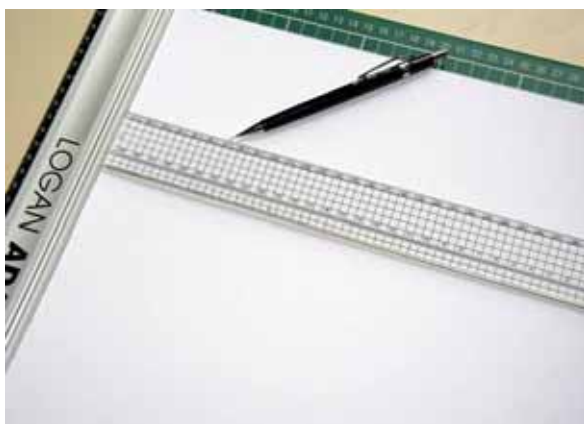


I leave just 2-3mm of border on a print.

The first step is to measure the actual image size.

W(cm)	H(cm)
50.7	40.9
<u>37.3</u>	<u>30.5</u>
13.4	10.4
÷ 2	÷ 5
= 6.7	= 2.08
≈ 6.8	≈ 2.1
	2 × 2.1 = 4.2
	3 × 2.1 = 6.3

Now do your calculations. Here I am making the borders equal on the width, but doing a 1:1.5 ratio top and bottom. I just round off, making the borders each about 1mm bigger than calculated (less on top and bottom here). This may not seem much but the cutter will run more than 1mm inside the ruler, so the borders will be another 1mm at least bigger than indicated. I find this quite sufficient.



I mark off the "window" which has to be cut out with a second ruler held up against the Adapt-A-Rule which in turn is abutted to the edge of the mat. Note that you are marking the **BACK** of the mounting board.



Join up your dots!!

Just check that the marks are square. Also try your picture against the marked out frame, just in case your Maths is wrong!





With scrap board beneath, place the ruler exactly on the marked line and hold down firmly. Engage the mat cutter guides in the groove. Note again that you are cutting from the BACK of the board. The mat cutter blade should have been adjusted so that just 1/8in protrudes. It should only scratch the scrap card underneath.

Place the marker on the cutter on your base line and push the cutter blade gently but firmly down. The blade on the cutter needs to be adjusted so that it only scores the scrap card underneath the mount. This will prolong blade life and make for easier cutting.



Just go round each side pushing the cutter until the guide mark reaches the next border mark. If the cutter is set right the window should fall out cleanly when you have finished. If you have not quite got to the corners just insert a spare blade to carefully cut the last fraction.

(2006) I now use spray adhesive only to fix the print to the backing board. Howard tacks the print to the mount with tape and then sprays the mount and print, rather than the grey board.

IN ANY EVENT THE SPRAYING SHOULD BE DONE OUTSIDE - IT MUST NOT BE INHALED



The board should be a few cm bigger than the mount you have cut

Spray as you do paint; a few inches away and in strips, the again at right angles, so the whole surface is covered.



After a few seconds (i.e. when you have carried the backing board into the house!) place the print in the centre and press down firmly using the scrap cut-out to protect the print surface. With heavy printing papers it is easy to get it flat.

Hold the mount in place over the print and place it exactly. Keeping your fingers underneath will stop it sticking until you are ready.



Press the mount firmly down and apply pressure to get it to stick. Again the scrap cut-out will protect the mount while you are doing this.

Finally just trim off the excess backing board. The print just needs labelling now and for a Club competition you just need the title, your membership number and whether colour or mono. Do not attach anything else to the back.



John Royle CPAGB, August 2005