

Mounting & Framing Pictures

By John Livernois

Equipment needed

Paper cutter – choose best for you, there are various choices.
Mat board – there are various sizes & colors.
24 in. Rafter Framing Square - Metal not Aluminum, must be heavy.
Tape measure.
Pencil.
Cotton gloves or soft cloth
3M Super 77 Multipurpose Adhesive, large can.
Old newspapers.
Medium size roller.
Mat cutter – there are various choices.
3M Adhesive Transfer Tape, 3/4 in. wide.
Frames, various styles & colors.

Mounting Procedure

Cut print to required size.
Cut mat board to required size.
Layout print in proper position on mat board using the rafter framing square & tape measure.
Lay down old newspapers. Remove the print from the mat board and lay it face down in the center of the newspaper.
Spray the back of the print with the super 77 adhesive, use a left to right motion, length wise then width wise. Turn the can upside down and spray to clear the nozzle, this is a very important step because if you don't clear the nozzle the can will not spray the next time you go to use it.
Gently lift the print from the newspaper and lay it down on the mat board, using the rafter square you previously positioned, as a guide. Gently start at the top then lower the rest of the print on the board by pressing softly on the print, with cotton gloves or soft cloth, as you go.
Remove the square from the board, lay a plain piece of paper over the print, then using the roller, go over the paper & print horizontally & vertically.
You now have a perfectly mounted print.

Cutting a Window Mat

The window should be about 1/8 in. smaller on each side of the print, an 8x10 print will have a window size of 7 3/4 x 9 3/4 . This will allow a little room for positioning.
Decide where you want to position the window on the mat.
Using a pencil, lay out the window on the back of the mat.
Use the mat cutter to cut the window. Start by cutting the pencil line to your left, continue for the other three sides always cutting the line to your left. Make sure to cut a little past the end of each line so you will have a clean corner and the window will fall right out when you have done all four sides.
Using the Adhesive Transfer Tape lay down a strip about 1/8 in. from all four sides of the window opening you have just cut.
Carefully align the window mat with the picture mat and press them together.
You can now put the mounted and matted picture in a frame of your choice.