

Framing Tips

Framing is an expense. In your pricing you need to consider the cost of framing. You want to keep costs low but standards high to reflect the care you put into your artwork.

****Paintings done on stretched canvas, framed in wood cradleboard or framed in metal framing do not require dust covers on the back.**

1. Standard Sizes

When planning your art, use this simple chart for reference. This will help your costs by avoiding custom size mats and frames which add to the overall framing expense. I highly recommend buying several sizes of mats for future reference. Helps to determine the size you need to paint.

Standard Frame Size	Mat Opening	Art Size
8 x 10	4.5 x 6.5	5 x 7
11 x 14	7.5 x 9.5	8 x 10
16 x 20	10.5 x 13.5	11 x 14 = ¼ sheet
20 x 24	14 x 18	15.5 x 22.5 = ½ sheet
**11 x 14 or custom	7.5 x 9.5	9 x 12 art will require a custom made frame or can be cropped by mat to use an 11 x 14 frame.

2. Regular Glass

Regular glass or plexi is fine for selling your work. UV and conservation glass cost much more and can be changed out by the owner. Plexi is often required for shipping to shows.

3. Acid free matboard

Your watercolor paper or ground surface for collage needs to be acid free and so should the mat you put on it. Otherwise you could end up with yellow stains on your artwork from the sulfuric acid used in making the paper or board. Do not re-use an old mat, unless you are sure it's acid free.

****As a guide, purchasing a sample white or cream mat is suggested. Be sure to paint beyond the opening at least ½ inch.**

4. Foam Core (acid free) mounting substrate (sits behind your artwork.)

5. Paper dust cover for wood frame finishing (brown craft paper comes on rolls.)

6. Wire hanger only, NO SAWTOOTH HANGERS for SVWS shows.

NO masonite back board with off-set hangers for wire. NOT safe for hanging.

Must be wired from the edges of the frame.

7. Wire - **ONLY multi-strand picture hanging wire, coated or uncoated.**

Local Cost Effective Frame Sources:

Locally, Michaels Arts and Crafts and Hobby Lobby both do very nice framing for a reasonable cost. Don't wait too long. Watch your deadlines. No need to get custom frames. Metal and wood frames can be ordered online from American Frames.

How to Frame DIY

Supplies Needed

- ☐ Exacto knife with long blade or single edge razor blade
- ☐ Double sided Scotch tape
- ☐ Foam core board
- ☐ Mat
- ☐ Brown craft paper
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Ruler or tape measure
- ☐ Artist tape (to secure the art to the foam core backing)
- ☐ Small drill bit and power drill
- ☐ Glass cleaner and soft cloth
- ☐ Wire cutters or needle nose pliers with cutter
- ☐ Silicon Bumpers
- ☐ Frame
- ☐ Old bath towel
- ☐ Cutting mat or used cardboard for cutting on.

How to Assemble a Wood Frame, Using a Pre-cut Mat

Directions

1. Inspect the frame for dings and check the joints for a good bond. Preferably you have a frame that includes pins or prongs that hold the backing, mat, the art and the glass in place. If the back does not include prongs, take it to a frame shop and they will insert them for you for a small fee. Rub 'n Buff can be used to touch up gold and silver painted wood frames, and Minwax markers for stained wood. Black permanent marker works on black frames.

2. Clean the glass or plexi with **ammonia free glass cleaner** and a soft cloth.
3. Cut the foam core board to fit the mat. Place the mat over the foam core board.
4. **Place the art on the foam core backing but do not tape. Place the mat on the art where you want it to appear in the frame. Then remove the mat and place it to the side. Tape the art to the board at the top only. Place the mat back on top of the art. Do not tape the mat down. The mat board needs to be free to move with changes in humidity. Place the mat, art and backing board in the frame as a unit.**
5. Clamp down the tabs that hold all in place. There should be NO MOVEMENT within the frame when lightly shaken side to side. **If movement occurs** add another thin layer of cardboard to the entire **back**.
6. Place double stick tape on all undersides of the frame. No gaps.
7. Place paper backing paper over the back of the frame smoothing over the tape. Trim off excess tape with an Exacto blade.
8. Measure $\frac{1}{3}$ down from the top of the art on the back of the frame. Mark with a pencil on both sides of the frame.
9. Drill a small hole to start a wire hanger on both sides of the frame.
10. Find the center of the top of the frame and mark. Measure 2 inches down from the center of the top of the frame.
11. Insert wire into the hanger eye and fold over 5 inches. Go through the eye 2x. Pull up wire to a point two inches down from center. Crimp wire to mark. Insert wire into the other hanger eye. Repeat winding 2 times through the eye. To secure the wire, twist around the remaining tails about 6 times and cut off excess.
12. (Optional) Place a silicon bumper at the lower corners of the back of the frame.
13. (Optional) Attach a business card or personal label on the back.
This gives the buyer a way to contact you about purchasing more of your art!