Cost Effective Framing
and
How to Finish a Frame DIY

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

1. ## Standard Size

   When planning your art keep a simple chart available for reference. This will help your costs by avoiding custom size mats and frames which add to the overall framing expense.

Frame and mat sizes:

Standard Frame Size	Mat Opening	Print 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
20 x 24	15.5 x 19.5	16 x 20
24 x 36	19.5 x 29.5	20 x 30
30 x 40	21.5 x 31.5	22 x 32

All measurements are in inches.

2. ## Regular Glass

   Regular glass is fine for selling your work. It will keep costs down. UV and conservation glass cost much more and can be changed out by the owner. Plexiglass may be needed or required for shipping but it is more difficult to cut and can be hazy.

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 a yellow stain on your artwork from the sulfuric acid used in making the board.

4. ## Foam Core (acid free) mounting substrate
5. ## Paper dust cover for wood frames
6. ## Wire hanger, no saw tooth hangers for SVWS

Local Cost Effective Framing Sources:

Michaels Arts and Crafts

Belmont brand wood frames BOGO- Free 16 x 20 = 27.99 / 1   2 @ 14.00 ea.
** mats included are thin
Purchased Pre-cut Mat = $ 9.99
Assembly fee = $8.00 / 16x20
(Need paper back and hanging wire for SVWS)

Other stock frames at marked price
+Mat
+ Assembly Fee is according to the size of the frame

Hobby Lobby

Hobby Lobby offers you three options.

1. You can buy supplies and DIY

2. If you buy a 16 x 20 frame from their in-stock frame selection and have them assemble it with your art, the frame is then 50% off
A $34.99 frame becomes $17.00
Add a pre-cut mat to fit, (double mat, acid free, white, white core) is $9.99
(*Make sure you are getting glass in the frame and not
Plexiglass. They are not well labeled.)
My total for a 16 x 20 frame with glass included plus a mat, assembled with a free foam core substrate, wire hanger and paper dust cover, came to $36.47 plus tax added at the register of $1.93.
Total of $38.40

3. You can also bring in your own frame and they will price out a mat for the frame, add the glass, backing, dust cover, hanger and charge you separately for putting it all together.

Let them know you need it for a show and they are very nice about accommodating you. Very professional standards and knowledgeable staff. Assist. Store Manager is Randal and he did my framing. Karinn is also very good and easy to work with.

Dick Blick

Cambridge Frame 16 x 20, gold, silver, black, espresso, walnut = $50.46 + delivery
Free shipping for orders over $59.00
Includes glass, white core white mat, backing and wire assembly included.
   + Paper backing, optional

How to Frame Art Yourself, Using a Pre-cut Mat

<u>Supplies Needed</u>

- ☐ Exacto knife with long blade or single edge razor blade
- ☐ Double sided Scotch tape
- ☐ Foam core board
- ☐ Pre-cut 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

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 in the backing, mat, the art and the glass.
2. Clean the glass with glass cleaner and a soft cloth.
3. Cut the foam core backing board to fit the frame.
4. Place the art on the foam core backing board 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.
5. Tape the art to the board at the top only.
6. Place the mat back on the art. Do not tape the mat down. The mat board needs to be free to move with humidity changes.
7. Place the mat, art and backing board in the frame as a unit.
8. Clamp down the tabs that hold all in place.
9. Place double stick tape on all undersides of the frame only. No gaps.
10. Place paper backing paper over the back of the frame smoothing over the tape
11. Trim off excess tape with an Exacto blade
12. Measure ⅓ down from the top of the art on the back of the frame. Mark with a pencil.
13. Drill a small hole to start a screw eye or wire hanger on both sides of the frame.
14. Find the center of the top of the frame and mark. Measure 2 inches down from the center of the top of the frame.
15. 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.
16. Place a silicon bumper at each lower corner of the back of the frame.