

KCPS Mounting and Matting

Hints from Hugh, March, 2021

Intro

Most of what I've outlined below describes my own methods, developed over many years, and after many wasted sheets of matt board. It works for me, but other people are sure to have other methods which work perfectly for them. Perhaps use what I've suggested as a starting point to discover what works well for you.

1. Boards

Matt Board: Crescent Very White

Crescent 3343....Warm White

Backing: Card or Foam board. You can also use flute board if you put drawing paper on it so print stays flat and texture of flute board doesn't show through. (NB when preparing a print for a national salon (NATEX, North Shore, etc be aware that they usually have a maximum total thickness – matt plus backing – that they will accept)

2. Disposables

Old card for cutting base

Spare matt card off-cuts

Matt Cutter and craft knife blades

Masking tape

Double sided sellotape

3. My Tools

- * Cutting and layout table / board and clamps (Hint: Have a straight raised edge on one side of table which you can locate your matt board and square against)
- * Bricklayers Square
- * Logan Team System – it includes straight edge ruler, push style matt cutter, spare blades, and craft knife type handle for using matt cutter blades
- * Craft knife
- * Good quality eraser
- * 2H Pencil
- * Gauge for marking surrounds
- * Emery stone for sharpening blades
- * Camel hair brushes
- * Fine sandpaper
- * Tweezers
- *
- * Stainless steel rulers
- * Make your own – out of matt board – Card for placing Logan Straight Edge, Beginning and end of cut marking card. Make several practice cuts on scrap card to determine exactly how close to a ruled line the cut will be. My cutter cuts about 0.5mm on the mattside of the line. Do similar tests to determine where the actual cut will "start" and "stop".

4. **Method** *This describes my usual method but I've expressed it as "instructions"*

1. Check and Square matts
2. Measure image. If you want a small white surround add 5 – 8 mm to each side. If you want image to fit into matt cut-out subtract approx 4 – 6 mm from each side.
3. Calculate size of border. (Don't make border smaller than half length of your matt cutter – Logan Push cutter is 10cms long).

I like to have the left, top, and right borders a uniform size and the bottom border slightly (say 10cms) larger. However, there is no need to have the top border equal to the two side borders.

Example: Come, Round, Come Round

Image size = 304mm wide x 181mm high

Add a 5mm white surround – Matt "hole" = 314mm x 191mm

Matt Board = 500mm wide x 400mm high.

* Calculate side borders:

500 – 314 = 186mm so make borders 93mm.

* Calculate top and bottom borders:

Top border = 93 mm

Bottom border = 400 – (93+191) = 116mm. You could use this or reduce height of matt to, say, 387mm. Bottom border would then = 103mm. If you wish you can wait until you've marked out the matt and then decide on a suitable bottom border.

Note:

If you are mounting an image which is nearer to square in shape, or even a 3 x 2 image in a 500 x 400 matt you may need to set an arbitrary top border size and not worry about having left, top, and right borders equal. Alternatively you can make them equal and trim the matt so that they "fit".

4. Cut Matt to final size, if needed.
5. Measure and cut backing board to slightly smaller than matt board – say 4mm in each direction.
6. Mark up matt using gauge and steel ruler.
7. Cut hole in matt.

Hints: Pack area to right of matt with pieces of matt off-cuts.

One blade end per print. Sharpen after you've cut 2 sides.

Check position of straight edge before clamping it down.

A torch can be helpful to help you check position of straight edge in relation to your ruled line.

Turn Matt 90 degrees clockwise between each cut.

Try to avoid "over-cutting".

After you've cut all 4 sides of matt hole and removed straight edge etc, slide matt gently over edge of bench to check corner of matt hole. You can carefully finish off any corners which aren't completely cut with a small craft knife.

8. Attach print to matt with tape. Only attach the top of the print.
9. Attach backing board to matt. If you prefer you can do this before attaching the print. Use a "hinge" of masking tape at top and small pieces of double sided sellotape on other sides. Tweezers are useful for removing backing from the tape.
10. Seal down.
11. Admire!

Measure and check 2 or 3 times – cut once!

Practise on scrap card

Check accuracy of your matt cutter for start and finish points of cut

Pricing – from Gordon Harris web site 26 – 02 – 2021

- Crescent Very White 500 x 400mm \$6.50
- Foam board, white, 10mm, 15" x 20" \$5.91

20" x 30" \$11.99
5mm, 15" x 20" \$3.99
20" x 30" \$6.99

- Logan cuuter blades 10 pack, \$9.99, 100pack \$54.99

Note: if you mention that you are a KCPS member you should receive a discount on these prices. Gordon Harris offer a courier delivery service.

- 424 – 1 Logan Team System 61cm \$139.99
- 440 -1 Logan Team System 201 cms \$189.99
- You can buy the guide rails and matt cutters separately
- 301 – Logan Compact matt cutter \$349. This includes cutters, guide ruler with attached edge guide on a self healing cutting matt.

Extra Notes