

BHCC Mount Cutting Workshop – Thursday 11 November 2010

1) Mountboard

Some people now buy this online but the easiest place to get it (and probably cheapest) is from Seawhites:-

SEAWHITE OF BRIGHTON LTD.
STAR ROAD TRADING ESTATE
PARTRIDGE GREEN
WEST SUSSEX
RH13 8RY

Check out their website. They will cut mount-board to size for free which saves a lot of hassle.

I personally go to Glass and Mirror in Leatherhead because I like to use Arqadia acid free archival mount-board.

It is worth getting into the habit of cutting your mount-board to 40cm by 50cm. All the Club frames are this size and all National & International Print Competitions specify this size. It is also a common frame size in most shops.

2) Cutting Equipment

You can spend thousands of pounds on a mount-cutter but the one I use is around £40 and I've never felt the need to upgrade it.

It is a Logan System currently retailing at £38.80 on Amazon, which will cut at a 45° angle.

You will also need an A2 'self healing' cutting mat – you can often find these in The Works in Western Road for under £10. Ryman's do one for £7.99.

I also have a Marker Gauge which Longridge sell for £12.50 – which is very useful.

A long Perspex ruler is also very useful.

3) Fixing equipment

Don't use masking tape to hold your print on the mount. It will just come off again at some point.

Use proper mount fixing tape.

Avoid the stuff that you have to wet – it tends to then shrink and warp the mount.

I buy Dyrom tape – which you can order on the Internet from Craftyarts.co.uk for about £4 a roll.

You need to protect the back of your print from damage with just ordinary cheap card which you can also get from Seawhites. Again use proper tape to fix it to the mount.

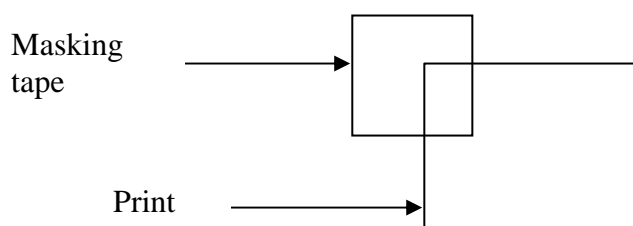
4) Mounting your Print

- i) First measure the size of the print. Lets say it is 36 cms by 24 cms and you want to print this in a 'portrait' format..
- ii) You need to allow for a white border around the print. For an A3 print I normally allow 0.75 cms.
- iii) You then add this onto your print size. The print size is now 37.5 by 25.5 cm.
- iv) You now need to do a bit of arithmetic to work out where you are marking the back of the mount-board. (see diagram at end)
- v) If the length of the cut out is 37.5 cm and the mount-board length is 50 cm then the width at the top and bottom of the mount will be 6.25 cm. Similarly the width at the sides of the mount will be 7.25 cm.
- vi) Assuming you want the print to sit in the middle of the mount you can now use the marker gauge to mark out on the back of the mount-board to show where you are cutting it.
- vii) Check the size of your marked board again before you start cutting!
- viii) Lay the mount-board on the cutting mat. It is advisable to put a strip of old mount-board under where the cutter will go – simply so that the cutter goes into the mount-board rather than the mat and therefore does not get blunt as quick.
- ix) Put the 'ruler' part of the cutter on the outside of one of the marked lines. I normally allow a 1mm gap between the ruler and the line.
- x) Starting at a cross section of the marked lines, press down firmly on the cutter and slide the cutter along the line until you get to the other cross section. Do not press too hard. You probably need 4 or 5 goes until the board is cut right through. Only cut in one direction.
- xi) Work your way round the mount-board always with the ruler on the outside of the cut line.
- xii) When you have finished it is very likely that the centre piece will not just fall out – it will probably still be attached in the corners. Use an old blade just to carefully finish off the cut.
- xiii) You now have a perfectly cut mount!

5) Fixing the print to the mount

There are probably lots of ways of doing this but this is what I do.

- i) Cut any surplus paper off your print. Leave say a 3cm border all round it.
- ii) Lay the print face up on a clean, flat surface.
- iii) Cut 4 squares of masking tape and stick these (sticky side up) under the four corners of the print.



- iv) Carefully lower the mount-board onto the print checking to see that the border round the print is equal. When you are happy press down hard so that the masking tape grips the mountboard.
- v) Then carefully turn the mountboard over and use the Dyrom tape to go round the edges of the print to properly seal it to the mount. There is a school of thought that says you should only seal one or two sides so that the print can expand and contract without buckling. However I tend to seal all 4 sides.
- vi) Then use a piece of ordinary card (slightly bigger than the print size) to lay over the back of the print and again fix this with the Dyrom tape.
- vii) You now have a perfectly mounted print!

David Gerrard ARPS 11/11/2010

40 cm

